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NBT Newsletter

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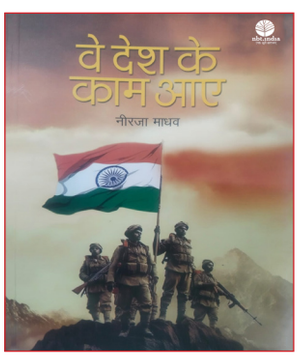
PICK OF THE MONTH



Vo Desh ke Kaam Aaye (Hindi)
Neeraja Madhav
ISBN 978-93-5743-642-7
Rs 165

Union Education Minister Releases NBT Title on Martyrs of Kudopali

Union Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan released the book, *The Saga of Kudopali: The Unsung Story of 1857* at Tapaswini Hall in Sambalpur, Odisha on 29th December 2024. The launch served as a tribute to the forgotten heroes of the 1857 freedom struggle, particularly commemorating the martyrdom of 57 revolutionaries at Kudopali Ghat. This event underscored the government's commitment to recognising and documenting the lesser-known chapters of India's fight for independence.

At the launch event, the Union Education Minister emphasised on the historical significance of the Kudopali incident, stating, "The Kudopali killings of 1857 in Sambalpur is in no way less than the Jallianwala Bagh massacre." He also paid tributes to Veer Surendra Sai and 56 other martyrs who sacrificed their lives fighting against the British.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan acknowledged the efforts of the National Book Trust India and the Indian Council of Historical Research in researching and publishing the book, which pays tribute to the remarkable bravery of the Kudopali martyrs. He also announced plans to translate the book into 10 major Indian languages, including Hindi and Odia, to ensure wider accessibility.

The event was attended by notable dignitaries, including Shri Jayanarayan Mishra, MLA of Sambalpur; Shri Mahadev Jaiswal, Director of IIM, Sambalpur; Prof. Bidhu Bhushan Mishra, Vice-Chancellor of Sambalpur University; and several senior officials from the police and administrative services.

The launch of *The Saga of Kudopali: The Unsung Story of 1857* was more than just a book release—it was a celebration of India's rich, multifaceted history. Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT was also present on the occasion.

Pune Book Festival 2024
A Grand Celebration of Literature, Culture and Records

Pune Book Festival 2024, held from December 14 to 22 at the Fergusson College Amphitheatre in Pune, was a spectacular literary extravaganza that blended the magic of books with the vibrancy of culture and intellectual discourse. Organised by the National Book Trust (NBT), India, in collaboration with the Sakal Media Group and Savitribai Phule Pune University, the Festival brought together eminent authors, scholars, and cultural icons, creating an unforgettable experience for bibliophiles and literature enthusiasts alike.

The Festival was inaugurated by Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra on December 14.

The Book Festival witnessed the participation of several distinguished guests, including Hon'ble Union Minister of Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan; esteemed business leader and author Govind Dholakia; senior police officer and writer Meeran Chadha Borwankar; veteran journalist Upendra Rai; historian Dr. Sadanand More etc. Their presence elevated the Festival's stature, making it a significant milestone in India's literary landscape.

Throughout its eight-day journey, the festival hosted an impressive lineup of thought-provoking sessions, engaging discussions, and captivating book launches. The inaugural day saw a session by motivational speaker and author Shiv Khera, 'Live While You Are Alive,' left audiences inspired. Literary enthusiasts were treated to insightful sessions, such as 'RSS @100' by Shri Sunil Ambekar, which traced the evolution of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh over the past century, and 'Ayodhya to Ayutthaya: A Socio-Cultural Perspective' by Lt. Cdr. Neeraj Vashisth, which explored India's deep-rooted historical ties with Thailand.

The event also featured "The Art of Mythological Storytelling" by Akshat Gupta, offering fascinating insights into writing mythological fiction, and 'Tu Shayar Hai: Geet Sameerana' by legendary lyricist Sameer Anjaan, who took the audience on a journey through the world of Bollywood music and poetry. Acclaimed actor and author Akhilendra Mishra led a riveting discussion on 'Abhinay, Abhineta Aur Adhyatma,' where he delved into acting as a spiritual discipline. Meanwhile, 'Business, Ethics, and Values' by Govind Dholakia, moderated by NBT Director Yuvraj Malik, emphasised the importance of integrity in professional life, leaving the audience with valuable takeaways.

The Pune Book Festival was more than just a literary gathering—it was a grand celebration of India's cultural heritage. Audiences were mesmerised by 'Mi Marathi – Abhijat Marathi,' a performance that highlighted Maharashtra's rich literary traditions.

The Children's Corner proved to be a major attraction, with young readers participating enthusiastically in storytelling sessions, creative workshops, and activities like 'Let's Design a Book Cover' and the 'Folk Fest,' fostering a love for literature among future generations. The Festival also hosted an impressive lineup of short film screenings, featuring thought-provoking titles, such as 'The Tongue-tied, Waiting for Sea Serpents,' and 'Lidong's Summer.'

Adding to the Festival's glory, a Guinness World Record was set for the Largest Online Album of Books, an astounding collection of 11,11,238 books, reflecting India's deep-rooted love for reading. Another historic achievement was the creation of the largest structure of the Indian Constitution, crafted from over one lakh books, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Constitution's adoption. These record-breaking feats added a sense of pride and achievement to the festival's already rich legacy.

With over ten lakh visitors and twelve lakh books sold, the Pune Book Festival 2024 was a resounding success, reaffirming Pune's reputation as a hub of literature, intellect, and cultural vibrancy. As the curtains closed on this literary spectacle, book lovers departed with cherished memories, newfound inspirations, and a longing for the next edition.

Pune Book Festival has once again proven that literature has the power to unite, inspire, and transform, and its legacy will continue to shine bright in the years to come. Stay tuned for more literary celebrations!

NBT Books Translated into Bodo at a Workshop held at Baksa

A five-day Bodo translation workshop was held at Manas National Park, Baksa, Assam, with a goal of translating over 200 NBT titles. Fifty Bodo translators from various parts of Assam participated in this workshop.

During the inauguration of the workshop on 14 December 2024, Shri Kumar Vikram, Chief Editor and Joint Director of NBT-India, delivered a welcome address in which he emphasised on the importance of the Trust's multilingual publishing programme. He highlighted how translations play a crucial role in establishing a vibrant connection among different linguistic communities.

Shri Rajan Basumatary, President Bodo Writers' Academy, appreciated the Trust for its efforts in promoting the publication of book and language.

Shri Deep Saikia, who oversees the Asamiya and Bodo language programmes at the Trust, noted that this is the third translation workshop dedicated to the Bodo language organised by NBT in collaboration with the Bodo Writers Academy.

He also mentioned that the Trust has already published 50 Bodo titles till date.

During the event, PM-YUVA 1.0 Bodo author Ms. Anila Swargiary and PM-YUVA 2.0 Bodo author Shri Guneshwar Wary, both of whom participated in the translation workshop, were honoured and introduced to the audience.

NBT Organises Ahmedabad International Book Festival

The National Book Trust (NBT) organised the inaugural edition of Ahmedabad International Book Festival (AIBF) at the River Front Event Center, Ahmedabad, from November 30 to December 8, 2024. Formerly known as the Amdavad National Book Fair, the event was rebranded in 2024 to attract local, national, and international book lovers and enthusiasts.

Organised by NBT in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Government of India (GoI), and the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), the event was part of the ongoing "Vanche Gujarat" initiative, which was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during the Gujarat's Golden Jubilee Celebration Year (2010-2011). This festival marks a new milestone in the literary and cultural history of modern-day Gujarat.

The festival was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel, in the presence of Minister of Higher Education, Shri Rushikesh Patel; Mayor of Ahmedabad, Smt. Pratibhaben Jain; Municipal Commissioner of AMC, Shri M. Thennarasan; NBT Chairman Prof. Milind Sudhakar Marathe; and NBT Director Shri Yuvraj Malik.

The event featured more than 100 literary and cultural sessions, with over 1,000 regional, national, and international publishers showcasing their works. The fair also hosted more than 100 events, including various pavilions that added distinct flavours to the gathering.

Key highlights included Pragya Shivir (Children's Pavilion), Shabad Samsara (Author's Corner), Gyaan Ganga (Creative Workshops), International Literary Stage, Rangmanch (Cultural Stage), Mohikalp (Design +), and Rasoi aur Kitab (Culinary Literature Stage).

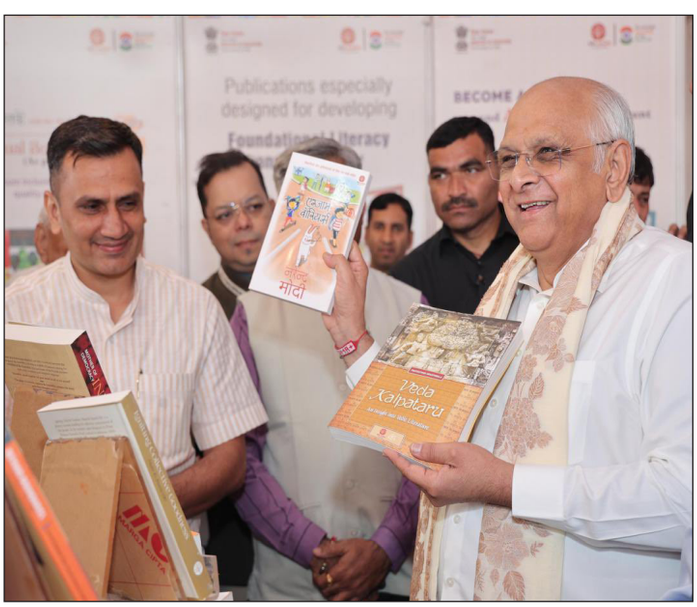
The festival attracted numerous authors, literary personalities, and other eminent figures from the literary and non-literary world. Notable guests included authors Kajal Oza Vaidya, film critic Utpal Borpujari, author Nona Uppal, motivational speaker Sanjay Rawal, and bilingual English-Malayalam writer, poet, and literary critic E.V. Ramakrishna.

The event was further enriched by the appearances of executive producer and co-author Monika Szumowska-Kawaleczko, who contributed to the interactive documentary, 'Maharaja's Children: Brave Bunch in India,'

and best-selling author and leadership speaker Mette Johannson, among others.

AIBF offered a wide range of engaging sessions, including talks, seminars, children's film festivals, and cultural activities.

Among the most notable events were a talk by Dr. Guillermo Rodríguez, a distinguished scholar and cultural ambassador a session by celebrity chef Harpal Singh Sokhi, known for his catchphrase *Namak Shamak,* who shared his management skills in the culinary arts; and performances by artists like ImnaYaden & TribalCreed, who energized the stage with their lively performance, as well as musical Bal Kavita by Archan Trivedi, Gujarati Folk Fusion by Taarika Joshi, and Gujarati folk dances by Bhavin Patel among others.



India Pavilion at Sharjah International Book Fair

National Book Trust, India participated in the 43rd Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) held from November 6 to 17, 2024, at the Expo Centre Sharjah. Organised by the Sharjah Book Authority (SBA), under the theme, "It Starts with a

Book," the India's pavilion was inaugurated by His Excellency Ahmed bin Rakkad al-Ameri, CEO of SBA, and Prof. Millind Sudhakar Marathe, Chairman, NBT.

The occasion was graced by Mansour al-Hassani, Director of Publishing, SBA, Shri Rakesh Kumar, Joint Director, NBT, and the esteemed authors and publishers from both India and the UAE. The fair was inaugurated by Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed al-Qasimi, who reiterated Sharjah's commitment to the promotion and preservation of culture and literature.

India's participation in the 2024 edition of the Sharjah International Book Fair made an indelible impact, reflecting both the strength of its publishing industry and its rich cultural heritage.

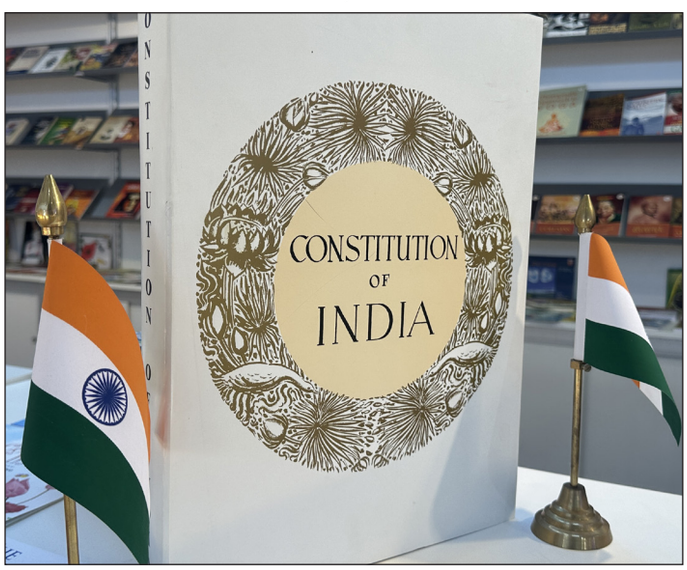
NBT also showcased a prestigious A3 replica of the original handwritten manuscript of the Indian Constitution. Certified by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, this exhibit highlighted India's historical and literary legacy at the fair.

India's publishing industry made a significant mark at the fair with the participation of 52 major publishers. This strong representation positioned India as one of the leading countries in the global mix of over 2,500 publishers from 112 countries.

Several programmes like Meet the Author and Literary Sessions were held on the sidelines of the Book Fair. Chetan Bhagat, a renowned Indian writer hosted the "An Evening with Chetan Bhagat" event on November 10, offering insights from his latest work and engaged with a wide audience. Another notable session, "From Screen to Page: An Evening with Huma Qureshi," featured the celebrated Bollywood actor -turned-author Huma Qureshi, discussing her debut novel and creative journey. These sessions provided platforms for Indian authors to connect with both local and international audiences.

In collaboration with FICCI, a special Rights Catalogue focused on Indian writing was also published. This catalogue invited entries across multiple genres—fiction, non-fiction, children/young adult writings, and regional Indian languages—thereby creating an avenue for Indian literary works to gain global visibility.

India's participation at SIBF 2024 was multifaceted and it reinforced its status as a powerhouse in the publishing world and showcased its commitment to cultural exchange and literary excellence. The combination of landmark exhibits, active publishing participation, and engaging literary events contributed significantly to the overall success and diversity of the fair.



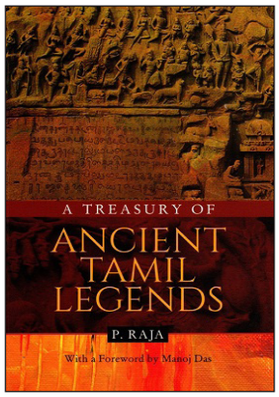
Mobile Van reaches Kolkata

As part of the National Book Trust initiative in collaboration with Namami Gange and in alignment with the BSF plan, the Ganga Pustak Parikrama drive reached Dai Ghat, Kolkata on 21 December.

The Mobile Book Exhibition Van was flagged off by Sh. Bhaskar Dasgupta, Executive Director (Finance), NMCG. With the presence of 600-800 individuals, the event highlighted the significance of river restoration, eco-friendly practices, and water conservation.

Through the power of books and awareness, the campaign inspired communities to actively participate in preserving the Ganga and nurturing a sustainable future.

NBT Books on India's Folklore



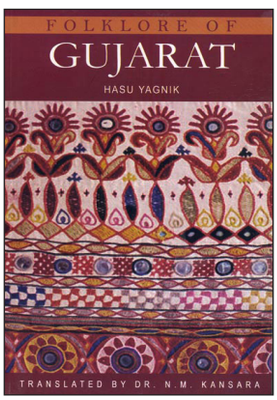
A TREASURY OF ANCIENT TAMIL LEGENDS

P Raja

360 pp Rs.335

A collection of stories told to generations of people who have listened with rapt attention and pondered over their timeless wisdom. The restless splendour of the ancient Tamil is captured here for the first time in English. Kings and princes, hermits and harlots, poets and warriors come alive in these stories from an ancient age.

ISBN 978-93-549-1025-8



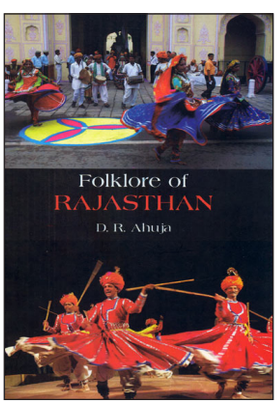
FOLKLORE OF GUJARAT

Hasu Yagnik

209 pp Rs. 230

The book provides a comprehensive introduction to the region and the people, myths and mythology, religion and popular beliefs, customs and traditions, fairs and festivals Gujarati language, dialects and literature, oral literature, folk music and dance, etc.

ISBN 81-237-3782-3



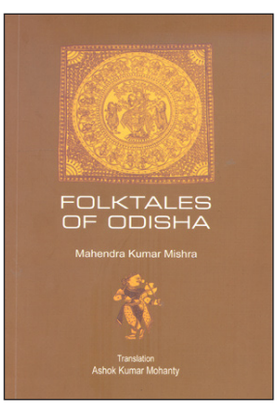
FOLKLORE OF RAJASTHAN

D R Ahuja

233 pp Rs. 225

This thoroughly revised edition of the book has not only updations in terms of data and statistics, but also looks at the folklore through changed socio-cultural perspectives.

ISBN 978-81-237-5793-2



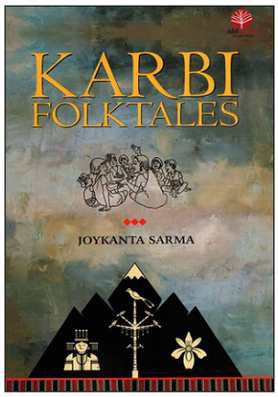
FOLKTALES OF ODISHA

Mahendra Kumar Mishra

102 pp Rs. 265

This book is a collection of fifty-one oral tales and narratives collected from different parts of Odisha. The tales represent the diverse land, people and culture of Odisha encompassing the coastal, rural and tribal communities. Filled with moral values, these tales instruct common people as to how they should conduct themselves.

ISBN 978-81-237-7998-0



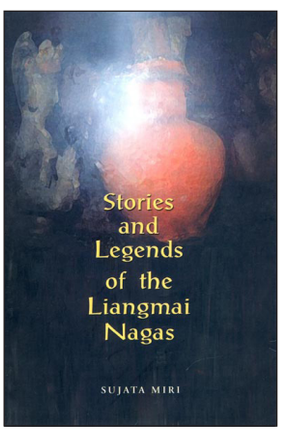
KARBI FOLKTALES

Joykanta Sharma

86 pp Rs.150

Karbi folktales, as those of other ethnic groups, are an invaluable ingredient of folklore. These tales also reflect their old cultural ways such as social and religious rites, social systems, thought-process, folk-belief, traditional agriculture system, birth-marriage-death, love-envy abandonment, moral idealism and religious life. The tales of Karbis who live in the north east region of the country reflect people's simplicity, beliefs, feelings and emotions.

ISBN 978-93-5491-479-9



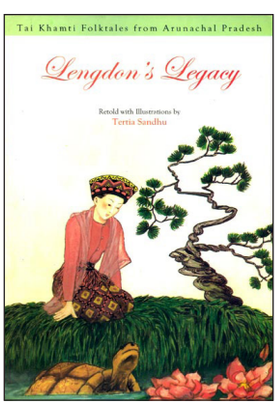
STORIES AND LEGENDS OF LIANGMAI NAGAS

Sujata Miri

95 pp Rs.115

The Liangmais are a sub-tribe of the Zeliangrong Nagas. The Zeliangrong region straddles the present day Nagaland, Manipur and Assam. Permeated by an earthy wisdom, the stories in this collection, bring out a sturdy sense of humour amidst life's deadly twists and turns. Available for the first time in English, these stories directly narrated by the village elders, were recorded, transcribed and later rendered into English.

ISBN 978-81-237-4840-5



LENGDON'S LEGACY:

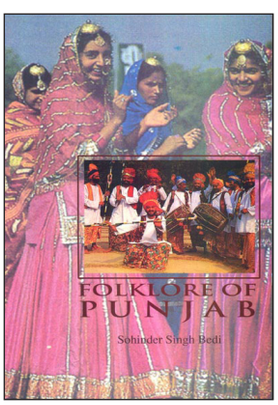
Tai Khamti Folktales from Arunachal Pradesh

Tertia Sandhu

234 pp Rs. 205

A collection of folktales from one of the ancient tribal communities of Arunachal Pradesh, the book is complimented with some beautiful illustrations done by the author.

ISBN 978-81-237-5795-7



FOLKLORE OF PUNJAB

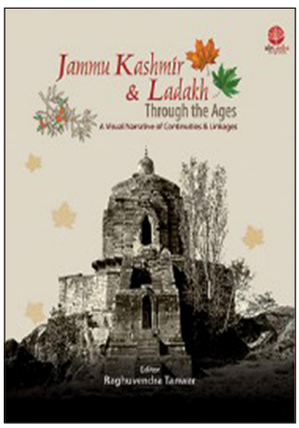
Sohinder Singh Bedi

170 pp Rs. 185

The Land of Five Rivers, Punjab has been a cradle of Aryan civilization. The people of the state are known for their rich and colourful traditions. The book provides a wide-ranging account of myths and mythology, customs, folk dances, music, as well as oral traditions of Punjab.

ISBN 978-81-237-4672-2

Books: Latest and Forthcoming



Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh Through the Ages: A visual narrative of continuties & linkages

Raghuvendra Tanwar (Editor)

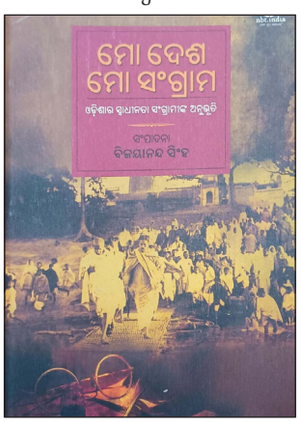
Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh have been termed as the "Crown of Bharat", the Head of Bharat Mata, the spiritual and cultural cradle of India's unique evolutionary civilization. It has through the ages remained deeply integrated with Bharat.

This bonding over the millennia stands manifested in scripts, languages, literature, temple architecture, spiritual and religious beliefs and practices, destinations of pilgrimages, trade and commerce. It has been the home of poets, grammarians, musicologists, philosophers, many of whom were familiar names all over ancient India. It was like Bharat's window to the world, that enabled the exchange and spread of ideas and India's spiritual and cultural legacies.

The volume unfolds this fascinating story through illustrations, visuals, photographs and well researched narratives, a story spread over 3000 years. It is a story that draws attention to the grandeur of this ancient land, evolving as it did in sync with the rest of Bharat, a story that also takes the reader through its eventful political history.

It ends with the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution of India (August 2019), a significant point in a long and fascinating historical narrative.

Published in English.



Mo Desha, Mo Sangram

Bijayananda Singh (Compiler)

It is a compilation of autobiographical writings by 21 Freedom Fighters from Odisha which include highly respectable names such as Gopabandhu Das, Nilakantha Das, Godabarish Mishra, Gopabandhu Choudhary, Harekrushna Mahtab, Ramadevi Choudhary, Sarala Devi, Pabitra Mohan Pradhan, Binod Kanungo, Annapurna Maharana, Chittaranjan Das etc.

These memoirs bring to light the contribution of Odisha to India's freedom struggle.

Being published in Odia.

Kathakowa Putala

Jayanta Madhab Bora

This is an anthology of nine stories for children written by Jayanta Madhab Bora.

With gripping narratives and breathtaking illustrations by Rip Kumar Saikia, the stories will surely catch the imagination of our young readers.

A renowned short story writer and novelist of Assamese literature, Shri Jayanta Madhab Bora received the Central Sahitya Akademi award in the Assamese language in the year 2013 for his novel *Moriahola*.

Being published in Asamiya.

Dharati Ka Rona

Shantanu Kumar Acharya

In this autobiographical novel *Dharti Ka Rona,* Odia storyteller Shantanu Acharya has examined the vast question facing the entire country through fictional and real characters on the pretext of Odisha.

What happened that with independence on 15 August 1947, the entire Indian society was so inundated with a strong consumerist and individualistic mindset that the pre-independence Indian consciousness, its devotion towards duty and compassion not only vanished, but the love for the motherland and the human mindset also suddenly changed.

This novel also describes the schools becoming political playgrounds, the destruction of the culture of villages and cities, the ideological changes of the old and new generation, along with the consciousness of living beings, non-living beings, water, land, mountains, trees, creepers, and among all these, soil, man, culture, science, and research towards God, the experience of the soul and Brahma, spiritual consciousness and the sanskars of previous births in an indescribable way.

Being published in Hindi.

Focus on Promoting Reading Habits among Children

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Various programmes dedicated to children were held at book fairs organised in Ahmedabad and Pune as also across the country.

NBT organised special events for children at Ahmedabad International Book Festival (31 November-8 December, 2024) at the Pragya Shivir pavilion. Events like a workshop held by the author Swati Sengupta on 'War, Peace and Independence', singer Chinmayi Tripathi engaging with children, storytelling by Seema Wahi Mukherjee on Gujarati folk tales to children and an interactive session by Raksha Dave on children's entrepreneurship were the main attraction.

Pune Book Festival was filled with stories, art, laughter, and movies . A 4-day Children Film Festival was conducted at Fergusson College Auditorium. It hosted screening of Children's Films like Dharan Dam Wali (Marathi), Peepal (Hindi), Lost (Lithuanian), Chota Bheem, Mission Mangalyan (Hindi) and many more. The event was marked with success with storytelling and interactive sessions held to develop reading skills, and also various theatrical shows conducted at Children's Corner.

Apart from book festivals, there were several other events organised by NBT for children. NBT conducted a creative writing workshop at NBT headquarters. Ms. Anju Kumari was the resource person and the students from the East Point School, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi took part in it with great enthusiasm.

Ganga Pustak Parikrama aimed at school students and rural households to promote eco-friendly practices continued its journey organising various events. Also, the Department of PWD participated in Divya Kala Mela 2024 to provide free Braille books to the children.

You can also find the e-Newsletter on our website www.nbtindia.gov.in

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Editor: Kanchan Wanchoo Sharma

Executive Editor: Dwijendra Kumar

Assistant Editors:

Surekha Sachdeva, Vasundhara Lal & Carolyn Pao

Production Officer: Narender Kumar

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NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA
Ministry of Education, Government of India
5 Institutional Area, Vasant Kunj
New Delhi-110 070
E-mail: office.nbt@nic.in
Website: www.nbtindia.gov.in

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