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NBT Newsletter

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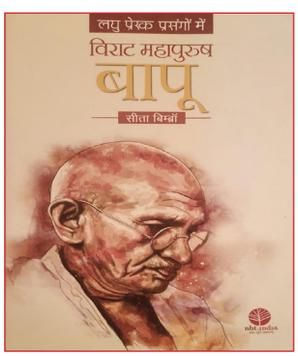
PICK OF THE MONTH



Virat Mahapurush Bapu
Sita Bimbraun
ISBN 935- 7436-16-2
Rs 410.00

Home Minister Amit Shah Releases NBT Title on Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh

The book, *Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh - Through the Ages* published by the National Book Trust, India was released by Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Union Home and Corporation Minister in the presence of Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Education. The function was held at Dr. Ambedkar International Center, New Delhi on 2nd January 2025. The book highlights the cultural, historical, and civilisational richness of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh, serving as a vital document tracing their timeless legacy and knowledge traditions.

While lauding the efforts of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) and the National Book Trust (NBT), Shri Amit Shah stated, "India is the only country in the world that is a geo-cultural nation, made by the boundaries of culture." He further added, "I urge historians to document India's ancient cultural history with verifiable facts and evidence to present it to the world." The event saw an enthusiastic participation from scholars, historians and cultural enthusiasts, reinforcing the book's significance in bridging the past and present of these historically rich regions. With its deep insights and well-researched narratives, the book stands as a testament to the historical continuity and civilizational connections of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Through this book, Shri Amit Shah reiterated that the truths about Kashmir have been established, dispelling myths surrounding the region. He remarked that India has emerged as a geo-cultural entity, with its history rooted in culture, not through diplomatic measures or warfare. Various regions of India are interconnected with Kashmir through culture, language, art, and ideas, with these ties existing for over thousands of years.

The Union Home Minister lauded the work for its exploration of Kashmir's interconnections with Buddhism, its analysis of the region's literary and intellectual fields, and the proof that Kashmir has always been a part of India. Shri Amit Shah quoted RSS ideologue Syama Prasad Mukherjee, stating, "Kashmir is not only a part of India, but it is a part of the Indian spirit."

Union Education Minister, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, emphasised on the alternative argument presented by the book. In his speech, he recalled the contribution of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, highlighting the "emancipation from the colonisation of mental and intellectual spheres." He also pointed out the use of factual evidence, including radiocarbon dating and archaeological findings from the Neolithic age. He noted that this book debunks the historical myths and rumours surrounding the region, positioning it rightly within the rich cultural and historical framework of India. The book exemplifies the unbreakable tie between India's ancient and modern cultural history.

Prof. Raghuvendra Tanwar, Chairman, ICHR, appreciated the Union Home Minster for his knowledge and inquisitiveness of history, and Union Minister of Education for his special guidance for developing this book. This book is a detailed documentation of exhibitions on the topic and took 2-3 years. Prof. Tanwar said that this book reflects the civilisation aspects. He quoted many contemporary chroniclers and writers to stress how Kashmir is associated with India. He stated that Kashmir's history reflects the interrelationship between culture, historical literary writings and collection of poems. He described this book as more of civilisational,

cultural and spiritual history and a bit of political story. It is the revival of spiritual and cultural history. He defined that this is a national project contributed by many scholars. It is a national narrative, but also designed for the international audience.

Earlier, Prof. Milind Sudhakar Marathe, Chairman, NBT delivered the welcome address and enumerated the achievements of the Trust and felicitated the dignitaries present on the dais.

Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT addressed that India is not merely a nation but a civilisation. He added that Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh has more than 500-year-old tradition, and referred as 'Kohinoor'. This region is land of ancient Hindu scriptures where many scriptures were composed. He further said that this book is an attempt to reach its history, culture and spiritual aspects to the common folk. The book has documented and persevered intellectual traditions of Kashmir.

A short video about the history of Kashmir, abrogation of Article 370 and a brief journey of making of the book was also presented on the occation.

Sambalpur Book Fair 2025: A Grand Celebration of Literature, Culture, and Creativity

The Sambalpur Book Fair 2025, organised by National Book Trust (NBT) India in collaboration with Society of Education, Tradition, and Unity (SETU) Sambalpur, turned out to be a vibrant literary festival, uniting book lovers, authors, and publishers. Held at P.H.D. Ground, Ainthapali, Sambalpur, the fair was held from 18 to 26 January 2025. It featured exciting events, cultural performances, literary discussions, and engaging activities for children and youth.

The fair was formally inaugurated by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education, in the esteemed presence of Shri Rabi Narayan Naik, Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, and Drinking Water, Government of Odisha, along with other dignitaries.

In his inaugural address, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan highlighted the rich literary and cultural heritage of Sambalpur, describing it as a hub of art, culture, literature, music, and tradition. Highlighting the importance of books and reading, he described the Sambalpur Book Fair as a commendable initiative that fosters a culture of knowledge-sharing and literary appreciation.

The nine-day festival opened its doors to visitors daily from 11 AM to 9 PM, with free entry, allowing access to a diverse collection of over 200 book stalls from across India.

The Fair catered to a wide audience, offering something for every literary enthusiast. It showcased books in Odia, Hindi, and English from publishers across Cuttack, Sambalpur, Phulbani, Bhubaneswar, Delhi, and provided a rich collection for readers of all interests. Visitors had the opportunity to engage with renowned writers and poets through author interactions, literary discussions, and book signing events.

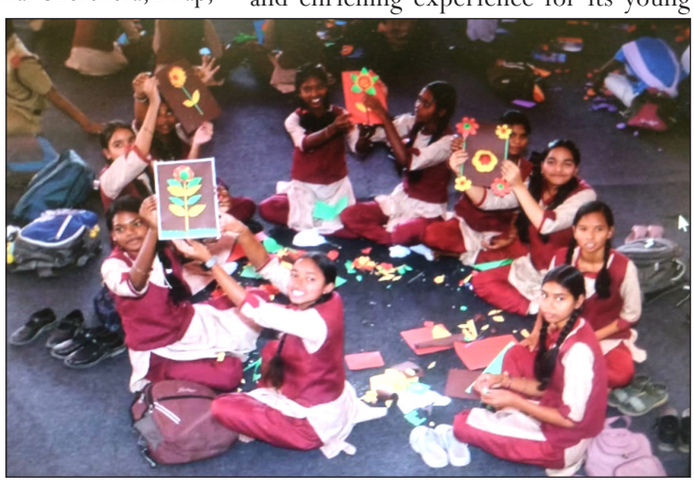
The Author's Corner hosted insightful sessions covering fiction, poetry, history, and science, fostering meaningful conversations. Additionally, the vibrant Children's Corner offered interactive workshops on origami, storytelling, elocution, ikkat art, bookmark designing, and creative writing, ensuring an enriching experience for young minds.

Beyond books, the Cultural Stage at the Fair turned into a lively platform showcasing Odisha's rich folk traditions and contemporary performances.

Renowned UKIA Dance Group mesmerised the audience with its performance of traditional Cherchera, Dhap,

and Dalkhai folk dances, encapsulating the vibrant spirit of Western Odisha. The Jaipur-based band YUGM, famous for their music in Netflix's Mismatched, enthralled the crowd with performances of their popular songs like *Doley All Alone, Musafir,* and *Dhakke*. Each day of the fair brought a fresh set of cultural delights, keeping audiences engaged with theatrical plays, poetry recitations, musical evenings, and folk dance performances.

Children also explored Odisha's cultural heritage through an Odissi dance workshop and embraced mindfulness and well-being in dedicated yoga sessions. With an engaging mix of creativity, tradition, and learning, the Children's Corner ensured a vibrant and enriching experience for its young



visitors. These interactive sessions aimed to nurture creativity and curiosity among young learners, made the fair an enriching experience beyond books.

The 2025 edition of the Sambalpur Book Fair stood out for its inclusive approach to literature, featuring not just Odia books, but also a diverse selection of titles in Hindi and English.

From anime and science to history and poetry, the fair had a book for every literary yearning. Publishers and exhibitors from across India displayed an impressive range of books, ensuring that visitors could find titles catering to their varied interests.

The event had successfully fostered a stronger literary culture in the region, leaving an indelible mark on book lovers, aspiring writers, and cultural enthusiasts. With its blend of books, art, discussions, and performances, the fair not only promoted reading, but also celebrated the rich heritage of Odisha, making it an unmissable annual event for literature and culture aficionados.

NBT Pustak Parikrama in Telangana

The NBT Pustak Parikrama - Telangana was inaugurated at the VCI Women's University, Hyderabad on 20 January 2025. Prof. Surya Dhananjay, Vice Chancellor of the university, inaugurated the event. Shri G. Valliswar, one of the BOT members of NBT and Dr. N. Balachary, Secretary of Telangana Sahitya Academy were also present during the event. The event will embark on an epic 1980-km long journey, covering 21 districts of Telangana, promoting literacy, literature, and a love for reading across the state.

Ganga Pustak Parikrama

The Ganga Pustak Parikrama drive reached its latest stop at Neotia University and Diamond Harbour Women University and engaged 900-1000 students. Celebrating the joy of reading, the initiative inspired students to explore books as a pathway to knowledge and action.

Along with promoting the importance of conserving the Ganga, the campaign emphasised sustainable practices, encouraging young minds to contribute meaningfully towards environmental preservation. The journey continues, carrying forward its mission to blend the power of books with the message of sustainability.

NBT Organises Gorakhpur Book Fair

National Book Trust, India organised Gorakhpur Book Fair as part of Gorakhpur Mahotsav. The event was organised from 10 to 16 January, 2025 at the Champa Devi Park, Ramgarhta, Gorakhpur.

The Fair was inaugurated by Shri Jaiveer Singh, Minister of Tourism & Culture, Government of Uttar Pradesh, and MP of Gorakhpur Shri Ravi Kishan. Shri Awanish Kumar Awasthi, Advisor to the Chief Minister, Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director of the National Book Trust, India and Shri Rakesh Kumar, Joint Director, National Book Trust, India were present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath also visited the Book Fair. During his visit, the Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of National Book Trust, India in putting up the exhibition. He also interacted with the children present at the fair and motivated them by interacting with them.

The presence of the Chief Minister reflected his strong commitment towards the promotion of literature and culture.

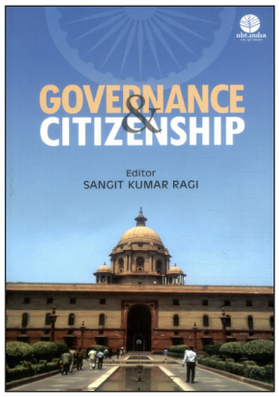
NBT Celebrates Republic Day

On the occasion of 76th Republic Day of India, Prof. Milind Sudhakar Marathe, Chairman, National Book Trust, India hoisted the national flag at the programme organised at National Book Trust, India headquarters on 26 January 2025. On this occasion, Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, National Book Trust, India, Shri Kumar Vikram, Chief Editor and Joint Director, Shri Rakesh Kumar, Joint Director (Admn. & Finance) and other members of the Trust were present.

The Chairman mentioned eleven values enshrined in the Constitution, with the special emphasis on the values of equality, parity and justice. He urged the citizens to follow the constitutional duties.

The Director extended greetings on the occasion of Republic Day and urged to follow the constitutional ideals. The celebration of 75 years of Republic of India is to continue in the upcoming World Book Fair with the theme, 'We, the People of India,' in which a special display of books based on the values of the Indian Republic will be held.

NBT Books on Indian Constitution



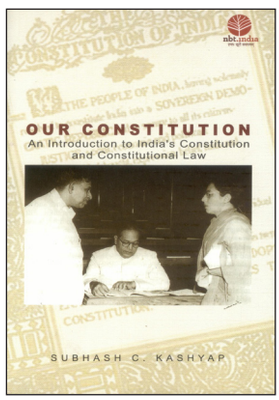
Governance and Citizenship

Sangit Kumar Ragi

228 pp

The book explores the relationship between the citizen and governance. It rejects the state centric approach to governance and holds that good governance is not possible despite good policy framework and institutional arrangements in absence of citizens' active participation and cooperation. The book departs from the traditional style of writing as the concepts flow from the case studies and examples have been taken from day to day lives of individuals and their surroundings.

ISBN 978-81-237-8824-1 Rs. 260.00



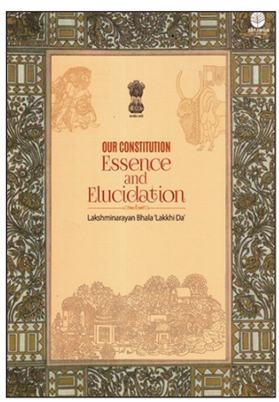
Our Constitution: An Introduction to India's Constitution and Constitutional Law

Subhash C. Kashyap

444 pp

Factual, objective and analytical, this highly readable book is a handy, but authoritative study of our Constitution. It is useful not only for students and scholars of political science and constitutional law, but also to lawyers, teachers and others wanting to understand the Constitution and the political system under which we live.

ISBN 978-81-237-0734-1 Rs. 310.00



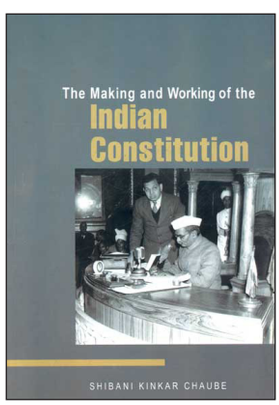
Our Constitution: Essence & Elucidation

Lakshminarayan Bhala

90 pp

This book on the decoration of the Constitution brings to light the illustrations given in the book. The work was completed under the supervision of eminent painter, Nandlal Bose. In our Constitution, five thousand years of India's civilization and culture have been incorporated through selected 28 instructional paintings along with 234 artistic frames.

ISBN 978-93-5743-890-2 Rs. 600.00



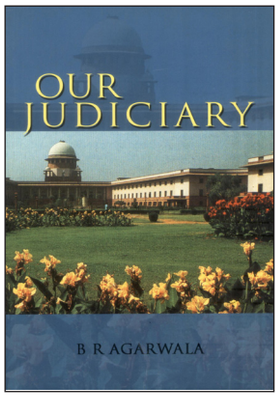
The Making and Working of the Indian Constitution

Shibani Kinkar Chaube

286 pp

A work written from the perspective of a political scientist, it integrally underlines the 'expectation of permanence' on which a constitution is based and in its analysis lays as much emphasis on the making of the invaluable document called Constitution of India as on its 'working'.

ISBN 978-81-237-5548-9 (PB) Rs. 250.00
978-81-237-5549-6 (HB) Rs. 300.00



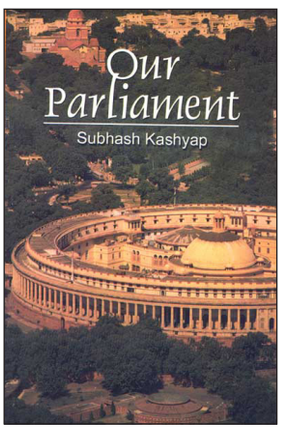
Our Judiciary

B. R. Agarwala

204 pp

This book traces the development of the judiciary in India from ancient times to the present day and examines the different courts, commissions and tribunals in detail. A handy reference tool for the layman interested in our judicial system and the processes of the law.

ISBN 978-81-237-0635-1 Rs. 195.00



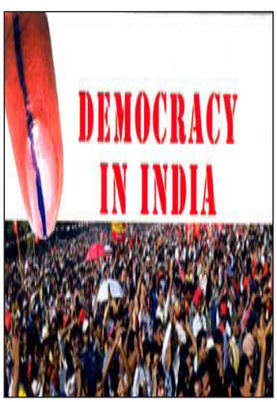
Our Parliament

Subhash C. Kashyap

288 pp

A study of the Parliament in its proper historical perspective describing its multifarious activities, the working of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha, the role of the presiding officers, the Question Hour and other various procedural devices like the different types of motions, the budgetary committee and legislative processes, etc.

ISBN 978-81-237-0147-9 Rs. 290.00



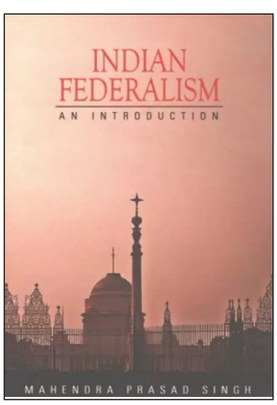
Democracy in India

Chander Prakash Bhambhri

103 pp

This thought-provoking primer essays the working of India's democratic experiment of creating myriad avenues for popular political participation. The book also provides a balanced overview of its multiple facets—the opportunities and challenges facing Indian democracy today.

ISBN 978-81-237-8392-5 Rs. 200.00



Indian Federalism

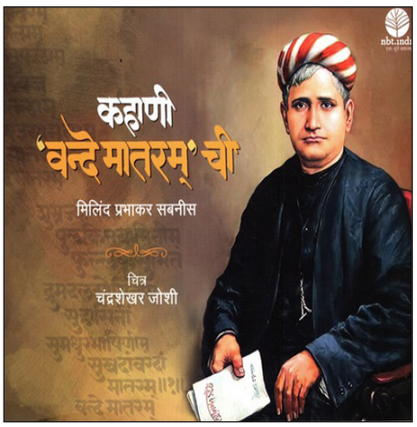
Mahendra Prasad Singh

192 pp

The book attempts to introduce and analyse the federal structure as enunciated in Indian Constitution from the theoretical as well as practical perspectives and how it has been able to put in place and evolve mechanism to meet the various and varied aspirations of different regions, communities and classes.

ISBN 978-81-237-6187-9 (PB) Rs. 185.00
978-81-237-6188-6 (HB) Rs. 225.00

Recent Publications and Forthcoming Titles



Kahani Vande Mataram Chi

The poetic line 'Vande Mataram' had a profound effect on the Indian mindset.

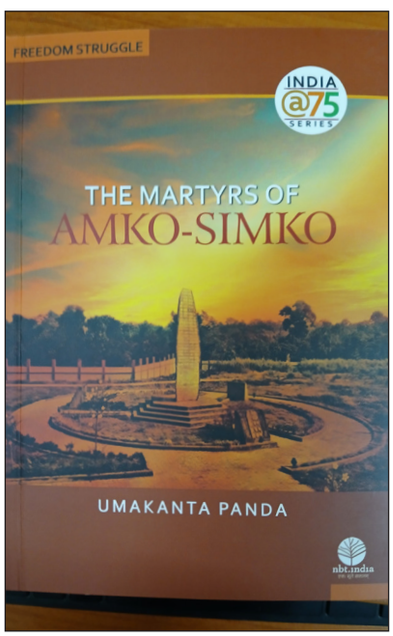
It is the responsibility of every Indian to reach this line to its pinnacle.

The Indian freedom struggle had got immense inspiration for chanting of Vande Mataram and people got ready to sacrifice everything to ensure freedom for the country.

It has been further developed into a patriotic song and will continue to instil the feeling of patriotism in many generations to come. Towards nation, consciousness, this song will continue to make its contribution.

The book has been written by Milind Prabhakar Sabnis.

Published in Marathi.



The Martyrs of Amko-Simko

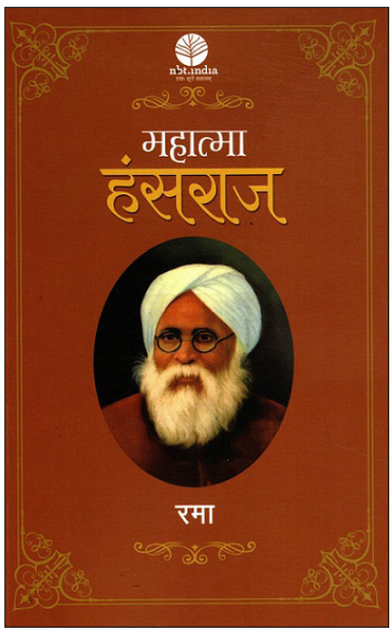
This book is related to the bloodiest tribal massacre happened in the 20th century in Amko-Simko, situated in the Sundargarh district of modern day Odisha.

The massacre, similar to the Jallianwala Bagh and Chauri Chaura killings, is an undocumented history of assassination of Odia tribesmen by the British army followed by the arrest of Munda leader, Nirmal Munda.

The book also throwes light on the subsequent changes in the socio economic structure and the customary land ownership system, *Khuntkatti,* which caused immense suffering of the tribes living in the Chottanagpur region.

The book has been written by Umakanta Panda.

Being published in English.



Mahatma Hansraj

A biography of Lala Hansraj, known as Mahatma Hansraj who was an Indian educationist and a prominent Arya Samaj activist.

Inspired by Swami Dayananda Saraswati's ideals, he was one of the pioneer founders of DAV educational institutions.

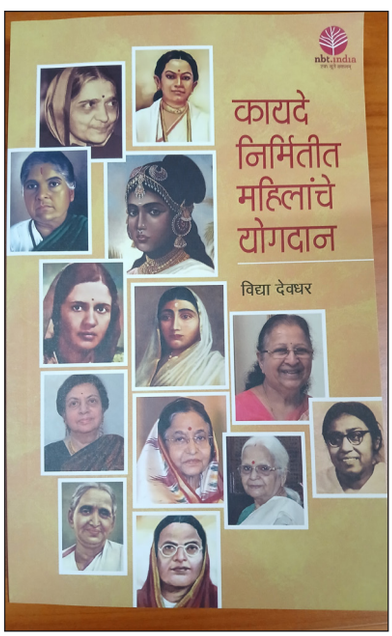
With his sheer hardwork, he established various DAV educational branches and conducted various social services.

The book also covers the development of Arya Samaj under his aegis, the role of Arya Samaj in the independence of India and Arya Samaj affiliated educational institutions.

The book talks about the interrelationship between Arya Samaj and Mahatma Hansraj through his speeches, statements and sermons.

The book has been written by Rama.

Published in Hindi.



Kayde Nirmitit Mahilanche Yogdaan

This book is about the achievements of the eminent women lawmakers of India and their significant contribution towards the Indian lawmaking.

This book has covered the profiles of famous lawmakers like Hansa Mehta, Sarojini Naidu, Sucheta Kriplani, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Najma Heptullah, Margaret Alva, Menaka Gandhi, Sushma Swaraj, Smriti Irani and Anupriya Patel etc.

The book has been written by Vidya Deodhar.

Published in Marathi.

NBT Celebrates National Youth Day

NBT celebrated the National Youth Day ovserved on 12 January 2025, to mark birth anniversary of Swami Vivekanand, by paying tribute to the visionary who took Indian culture and wisdom to the global stage. His teachings will always inspire us to empower youth through knowledge and learning.

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J & K L-G Visits Pustak Parikarma

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha visited and appreciated the Maha Kumbh Pustak Parikrama (Mobile Book Exhibition) of National Book Trust, India at Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 on 23 January.

On this occasion, Shri Manoj Sinha was presented with the latest publications 'Jammu-Kashmir & Ladakh: Through the Ages; A visited Narrative of Continuites and rinkages', authored by the Indian Council of Historical Research and published by NBT.

NBT at Kolkata Book Fair

The National Book Trust, India marked its presence at the Kolkata Book Fair 2025 by putting up exhibits of books at the fair at Boimela Centre, Salt Lake, Karunamoyee, Kolkata.

Exciting variety of books across genres were displayed at the fair.

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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