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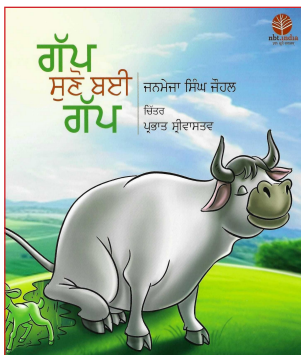
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### PICK OF THE MONTH



**Gapp Suno Bai Gapp (Punjabi Original)**

Janmeja Singh Johal  
ISBN 978-93-6719-101-9

Rs 80.00

## Kashi-Tamil Sangamam 4.0: A Confluence of Languages

The sacred banks of the River Ganga at Namo Ghat, Varanasi, came alive with words, ideas, and cultural exchange as Kashi-Tamil Sangamam (KTS) 4.0 unfolded from 2nd to 15th December 2025. Celebrating the deep civilisational and linguistic bonds between Tamil Nadu and Kashi, the event once again emerged as a powerful platform for dialogue between traditions, languages, and generations.

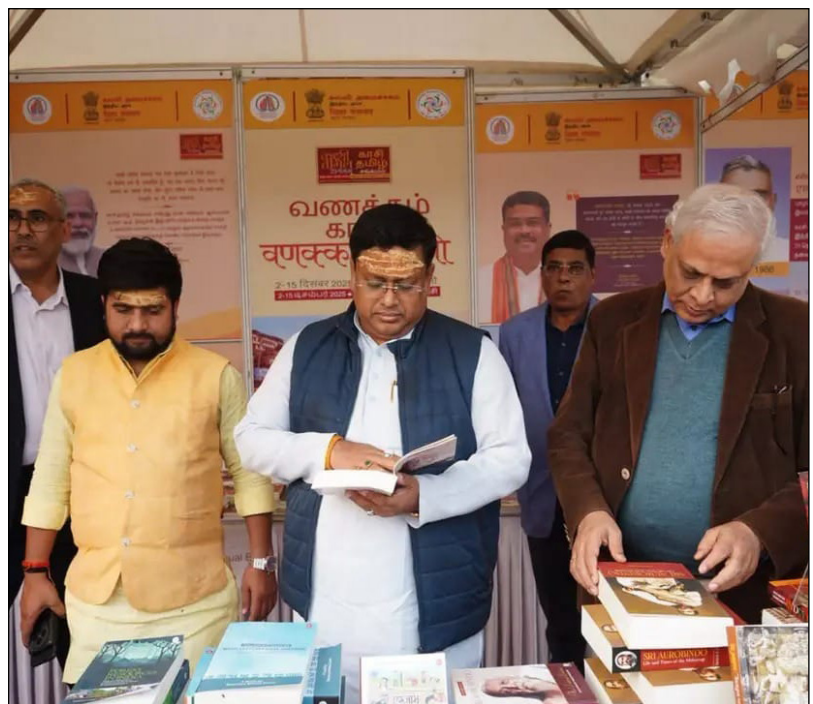
NBT-India showcased a rich and diverse collection of titles reflecting the country's

literary heritage, from translations and classics to children's literature and informative books. Visitors flocked to the NBT stall, making it one of the most vibrant

spaces at the event.

A major highlight of Kashi-Tamil Sangamam 4.0 was its strong emphasis on translation as cultural bridge-building, culminating in both the release of translated works and the Hindi-Tamil Translation Workshop.

On 3rd December, NBT-India unveiled twenty-four Hindi-Tamil translated titles, the outcome of the KTS 3.0 Translation Workshop. The release marked a significant milestone in NBT's sustained efforts to



strengthen India's translation ecosystem. The books were launched by Prof. Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi, the Vice Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University and bestselling author Shri Amish Tripathi.

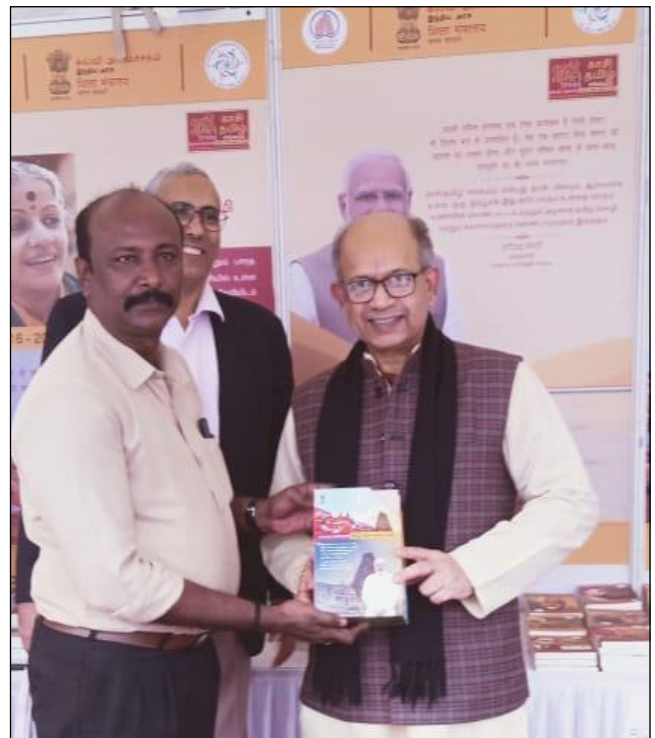
Subsequently, the Hindi-Tamil Translation Workshop, inaugurated on 5th December, became the intellectual cornerstone of KTS 4.0. The ceremony was graced by Ms Kanchan Wanchoo Sharma, Deputy Director, NBT-India, Ms Jayanthi Murali, great-granddaughter of Mahakavi Bharathiyar, and Dr Jagadeesan from the Tamil Department, BHU.

The workshop offered an intensive, hands-on learning environment. On Day 2, guided by expert mentor Dr Jayanthi Murali, participants worked closely on selected texts, engaging deeply with questions of structure,

tone, idiomatic accuracy, and cultural nuance. Translators shared insights from previous editions of the programme, reflecting on how the initiative had sharpened their skills and strengthened their confidence. The collaborative discussions reinforced a shared goal of bringing Hindi literature to Tamil readers with authenticity and clarity.

Parallely, the Children's Corner at Namoo Ghat remained a lively space throughout KTS 4.0, welcoming hundreds of students from schools across the region.

Set beside the eternal currents of Ganga,



KTS 4.0 reminded visitors that India's diversity is best celebrated not by keeping languages apart, but by allowing them to speak to one another.

## Ahmedabad International Book Festival 2025

The Ahmedabad International Book Festival (AIBF) 2025 transformed the Riverfront Event Centre into a vibrant hub of books, ideas, creativity, and culture, drawing thousands of visitors over eleven eventful days from 13th to 23rd November 2025. Jointly organised by the National Book Trust (NBT), India, and the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), the festival stood out as one of the most dynamic literary gatherings, seamlessly blending literary and cultural celebration.

The inaugural day of the festival was graced by the presence of Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Education, and Shri Bhupendra Patel, Chief Minister of Gujarat. The presence of Smt. Pratibhaben Rakeshkumar Jain, Mayor of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, further

underlined the collaborative spirit of the event.

Inspired by the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the festival aimed to strengthen India's reading culture and library movement. Spread across multiple zones, the festival featured hundreds of book stalls, literary platforms, and cultural spaces. The inauguration concluded with a



powerful mass singing of 'Vande Mataram', commemorating 150 years of the iconic song and filling the venue with patriotism.

One of the most popular attractions of the fair was the Children's Corner which buzzed with energy from start to finish. The festival opened with a drawing competition, where young participants were encouraged to let their imagination fly around the themes of 'Ahmedabad: UNESCO World Heritage City', 'अहमदाबाद पुस्तक महोत्सव में एक यादगार दिन' ('One memorable day at Ahmedabad Book Festival') and 'किताबें हमारी दोस्त.' ('Books, ours friends')

Over the following days, the Children's Corner welcomed thousands of students from numerous schools, offering a rich mix of storytelling, science, art, dance, and theatre. Renowned storytellers such as Anita Shah, Avni Katakkar, Vidushi Parekh, and Kavita Shah captivated young audiences with tales ranging from Gujarati folklore to Japanese Kamishibai.

Hands-on learning was a recurring highlight. The Vikram A. Sarabhai Community Science Centre conducted multiple 'Fun with Science' workshops, where children explored concepts through activities involving gliders, optical illusions, DC motors, water rockets, and everyday scientific wonders. Moreover, the Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya orientation, accompanied by the beloved mascot 'Cheetah', introduced children to digital reading in a playful and interactive way.

Beyond children's activities, AIBF 2025 offered a robust line-up of literary and intellectual sessions that drew big crowds. Discussions ranged from education and culture to mental health, leadership, and history. Sessions such as 'The New Education Policy and its Connection with Indian Culture' and 'Emotional Well-Being is the Core of Health: Understanding Roots of Stress, Anxiety, Depression and Healing,' encouraged reflection on contemporary challenges and future directions.

The festival also served as a platform for



global and cross-cultural dialogue. A session titled 'Poetry Beyond Borders: Cultural Diplomacy through the Works of Neruda, Mistral, and Tagore,' featuring Mr. Nicolás Tota, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Chile in India, delved into the poetic worlds of these celebrated writers and the cultural threads connecting Chile and India.

Authors and speakers including Rahul Bhattacharya, Nitin Seth, Neerja Chowdhury, Utpal Kumar, Akhilendra Mishra, and Shiv Khera offered insights into storytelling, politics, motivation, history, and creative journeys, keeping the conversations at AIBF

timely and relevant.

On 22nd November, during his visit to the festival, Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Union Minister of Home Affairs, toured various stalls, distributed books to children, and visited the Vande Mataram Exhibition displayed as a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the song. He appreciated the diversity of programmes and remarked that such initiatives play a vital role in encouraging reading habits and strengthening the intellectual and skill development of children and youth.



## Pune Book Festival 2025: When Reading Became a People's Movement

The third edition of the Pune Book Festival, organised by the National BookTrust (NBT), India, took place at Fergusson College, Pune, from 13th to 21st December 2025 as a landmark celebration of books, ideas, and people's participation. Over nine days, the festival reaffirmed Pune's identity as a literary capital while demonstrating how reading, when nurtured collectively, becomes a cultural movement rather than a solitary habit.

The festival commenced on a deeply symbolic note with the free distribution of *Anandamath* to students across Pune. Marking the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram, the national song that emerged from Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's seminal novel, the initiative underscored the role of literature in shaping India's freedom movement. Shri Sachindra Singh, Education Commissioner, Shri Kumar Shankar, MNGL Managing Director and actor-director Shri Praveen Tarde highlighted how access to meaningful literature strengthens a nation's cultural foundations.

The formal inauguration of the Pune Book Festival 2025 brought together an august gathering of policymakers, educationists, and literary figures. Shri Murlidhar Mohol, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Cooperation Shri Chandrakant Dada Patil, Hon'ble Minister of Higher and Technical Education, Government of Maharashtra, Prof. Milind Sudhakar Marathe, Chairman, NBT, India and noted author Shri Vishwas Patil, set the tone for a festival that placed knowledge, inclusivity, and civic participation at its core. Their presence reinforced the idea that books remain central to intellectual and social progress, even in a rapidly digitising world.



From its opening day, the Children's Pavilion emerged as the heart of the festival. On Day 1 alone, over 1,500 students participated in storytelling sessions, creative writing workshops, and collaborative art experiences. The pavilion transformed learning into a joyful, immersive process, combining storytelling with puppetry, art, and international cultural exchanges. This momentum continued through subsequent days, with musical storytelling, Marathi calligraphy, multilingual narratives, cartoon-making, clay modelling, and folk-art workshops engaging thousands of young minds.

Each day of the Children's Pavilion built upon the previous one, both in scale and imagination. By Day 6, participation crossed 2,000 in number, reflecting the festival's growing reach. Sessions such as quiz challenges, mask-making, origami workshops, and science-based activities ensured that creativity and curiosity coexisted seamlessly. The consistent orientation sessions on Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya introduced children to digital reading resources, reinforcing the bridge between traditional books and

contemporary platforms.

Parallel to children-centric programming, the Pune Book Fest was also intellectually engaging. The inauguration of the festival at the historic Fergusson College Amphitheatre by the Hon'ble Governor of Bihar, Shri Arif Mohammad Khan, marked the beginning of a rigorous literary and cultural discourse. Sessions featuring voices such as Booker Prize winner Ms Banu Mushtaq offered profound reflections on gender, society, and the transformative power of literature. Equally compelling was the intergenerational dialogue between Shri Sachin Pilgaonkar and Ms Shriya Pilgaonkar, which explored creative legacy and artistic evolution.

One of the most significant milestones of the festival was the launch of *Guinness Gatha* by Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra. Authored by Shri Rajesh Pande, the book documented the extraordinary journey of the Pune Book Festival and its Guinness World Record achievements. The launch highlighted how citizen participation, particularly by the youth, can transform a literary initiative into a globally recognised movement. The presence of ministers,

academicians, and cultural leaders lent the occasion both authority and inspiration.

The festival also witnessed moments that connected literature with national aspiration and scientific achievement. Group Captain Shri Shubhanshu Shukla, the first ISRO astronaut to visit the International Space Station, drew enthusiastic audiences as he shared his journey from fighter pilot to space explorer. His interaction with young readers at the Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya stall embodied the festival's underlying message: that books ignite dreams which, when pursued with discipline, can take a person to extraordinary heights.

As the festival progressed towards its conclusion, participation only intensified. The final days of the Children's Corner saw over 2,500 students engaging with puppet storytelling, young author interactions, and comic creation workshops. These sessions celebrated imagination while subtly reinforcing reading as both a matter of pleasure and practice.

The Pune Book Festival 2025 concluded not merely as an event, but as a statement. It demonstrated that in an age of fleeting attention spans, books continue to command relevance when supported by thoughtful programming and collective ownership. By bringing together policymakers, writers, educators, children, and citizens, the festival reaffirmed that reading remains a powerful, unifying force to one capable of shaping informed individuals and a culturally resilient society.

At Pune Book Festival reading did not whisper from the margins. It spoke confidently, collectively, and with purpose.

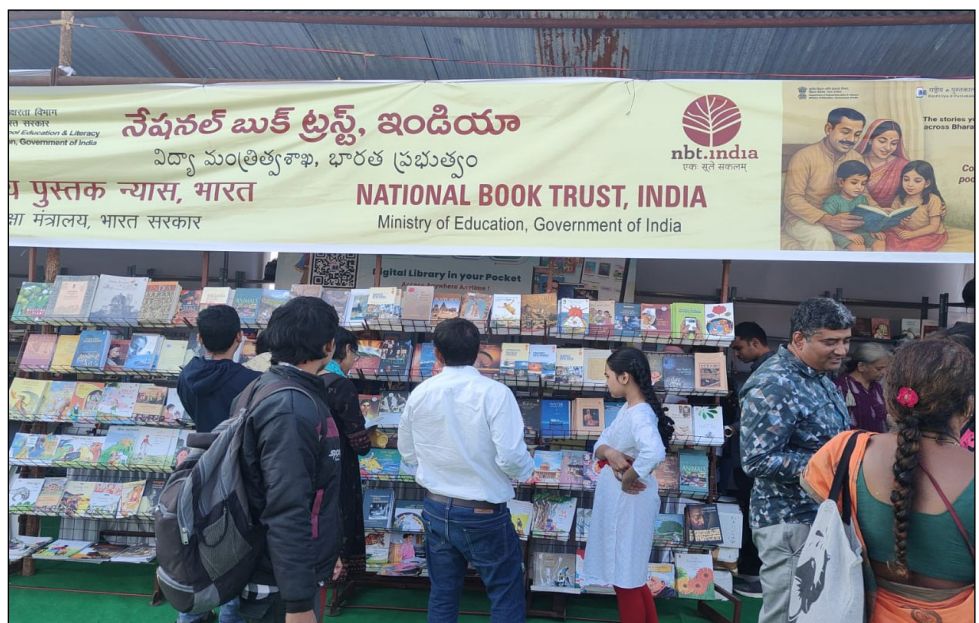


## 38th Hyderabad Book Fair

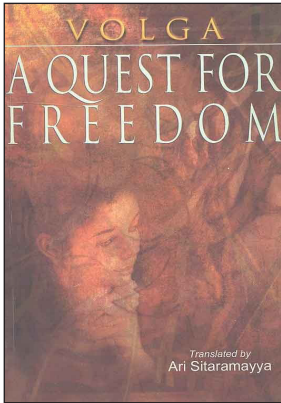
National Book Trust, India organised the 38th Hyderabad Book Fair from 19th to 29th December, 2025. For these eleven days, Telangana Kala Bharathi (NTR Stadium) in Hyderabad was decorated with a vibrant collection of English and Telegu books for readers of all ages.

A celebration for the joy of reading the book fair was meant to help visitors dive into stories, ideas and knowledge.

The bright winter sun brought several hundreds, to throng this book-filled bonanza.



## NBT's Indian Classics

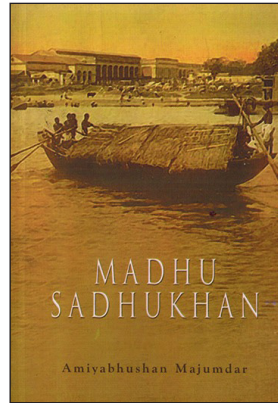


### A QUEST FOR FREEDOM

Volga | 188 pp | ₹ 175

Aruna, the protagonist of the novel, is an educated, financially independent middle-class woman in modern society. Suppressed at her parental home, she seeks her freedom in her eloped marriage with Prakasam. However, Aruna soon becomes disillusioned. She has to relinquish her individuality. One of the most controversial novels of its time, it offers for the first time a feminist perspective to Telugu literary discourse. A significant novel from modern Telugu literature.

ISBN 978-81-237-3877-2

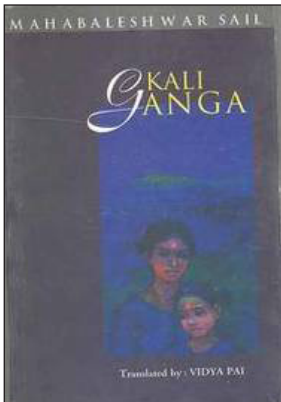


### MADHU SADHUKHAN

Amiyabhushan Majumdar | 45 pp | ₹ 80

One of the earliest and finest pieces of original writings in Bangla, *Madhu Sadhukhan* is a novella that has the meandering movement of a boat journey crossing several rivers, making it thematic as well as symbolic.

ISBN 978-81-237-5131-3

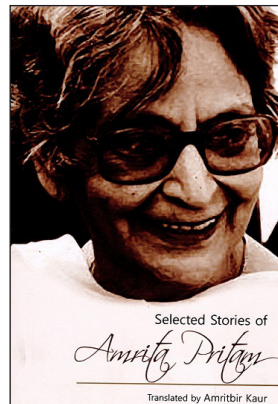


### KALI GANGA

Mahabaleshwar Sail | 261 pp | ₹ 80

One of the finest novels to have emerged from Konkani literature. The novel, translated by Vidya Pai, tells the tragic story of a young girl Suman, growing up in a small village on the banks of the river Kali Ganga.

ISBN 978-81-237-3857-4

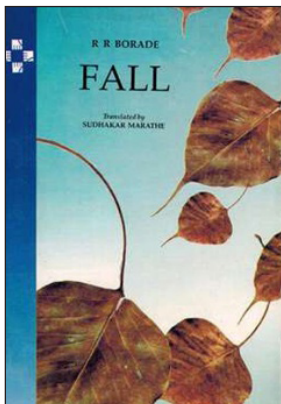


### SELECTED STORIES OF AMRITA PRITAM

Baldev Singh Baddan (Comp.) | 382 pp | ₹ 400

An attempt has been made by this anthology to shed some fresh light on Amrita Pritam's character, and the precision with which she has written the stories.

ISBN 978-81-237-9985-8

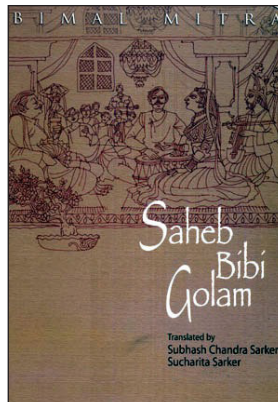


### FALL

R R Borade | 106 pp | ₹ 130

Through the monologic narration of Parvati, the protagonist, the novel unfolds the struggles of a family, particularly women, caught in the matrix of change that rapid urbanisation brings to rural India. One of the finest writings in modern Marathi literature.

ISBN 978-81-237-2764-6

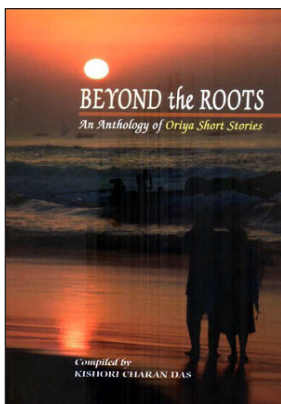


### SAHEB BIBI GOLAM

Bimal Mitra | 636 pp | ₹ 485

This is the story of the Bengal of the late 19th century and early 20th century. This is also the story of the house of Chowdhurys. Through the eyes of the narrator, Bhutnath, whose life is inextricably linked to the Chowdhury household, the novel not only tells us the story of its gradual decline but also the disintegration of a feudal system. A profound statement on life and its destiny, this finely evoked translation brings to us a classic of modern Indian literature.

ISBN 978-81-237-4068-3

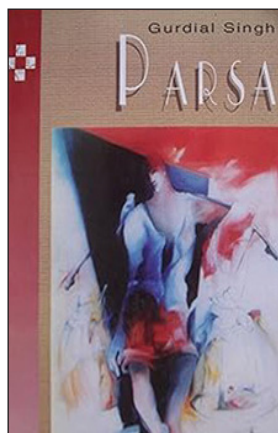


### BEYOND THE ROOTS: An Anthology of Oriya Short Stories

Kishori Charan Das (Comp.) | 320 pp | ₹ 265

This is a representative collection of 34 Oriya short stories rendered into English. While the volume traces the phenomenal growth and development of the genre in the last hundred years, each story celebrates the genius of its practitioner moulding the medium's flexibility to suit their narrative needs. A scholarly introduction places the stories in their social and literary context.

ISBN 978-81-237-2246-7



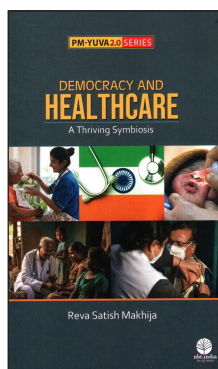
### PARSA

Gurdial Singh | 323 pp | ₹ 175

Written by Jnanpith awardee writer, Gurdial Singh, *Parsa* is a unique portrayal in Punjabi fiction. A widower at forty is estranged from his two elder sons. He loses his most beloved son in a police encounter and invokes the wrath of his community by his defiance to abide by the death rituals. *Parsa* is a celebration of the indomitable human spirit. One of the finest novels of modern Punjabi literature.

ISBN 978-81-237-2787-5

## Latest and Forthcoming Titles

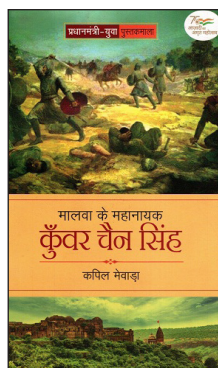


### Democracy and Healthcare: A Thriving Symbiosis

Reva Satish Makhija

The book is an attempt to investigate the relationship between two seemingly independent concepts, 'healthcare' and 'democracy.' It questions whether the two have a symbiotic, bundled relationship, one that is able to cohesively accommodate a host of external factors. It also hypothesizes

this interlinkage in the backdrop of legislative and administrative structures, the federalist set-up, political competition, public-private partnerships, gender, caste and judicial action and how governance and socio-political institutions influence individual and community healthcare outcomes, in a country as uniquely diverse as India.

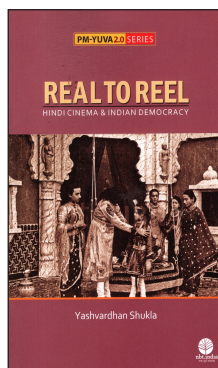


### Malwa Ke Mahanayak: Kunwar Chain Singh

Kapil Mewada

Kunwar Chain Singh was the prince of the Narsingharh kingdom, located near Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh. During the freedom struggle, he sacrificed himself for preserving the historical significance of his lands, family heritage, and the country. He sounded the conch of revolt thirty-three years before the

First War of Independence in India. On July 24, 1824, he was martyred along with his trusted companions Himmat Khan and Bahadur Khan as well as forty-nine other soldiers while fighting against the British.



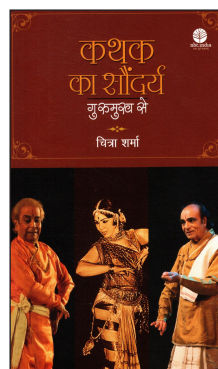
### Real to Reel: Hindi Cinema & Indian Democracy

Yashvardhan Shukla

The book is a comprehensive examination of how Hindi cinema has engaged with and portrayed democratic ideals over its century-long history. The book traces this complex relationship from the nationalist awakening depicted in early films like *Raja Harishchandra*

(1913), through the socially conscious cinema of the 1950s, to contemporary critiques of democratic institutions in films like

*Newton* (2017) and *Sherni* (2021). Drawing on extensive research and theoretical frameworks, this incisive work offers a nuanced exploration of how India's largest film industry has both reflected and shaped public understanding of democratic principles, making it an essential read for anyone interested in the intersection of cinema, politics, and society in India.

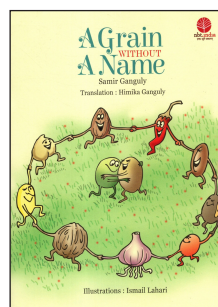


### Kathak Ka Saundarya: Gurumukh Se

Chitra Sharma

In this book, author Chitra Sharma—who writes on Kathak dance, art criticism, and the interrelationship of the arts has included interviews with leading figures of Kathak, from Pt Birju Maharaj and Sitara Devi to many contemporary male and female Kathak dancers and contemporary figures of art criticism. The book also covers the lives and personalities

of leading dancers from various gharanas of Kathak dance, such as Lucknow, Jaipur, Banaras, Raigarh, etc.

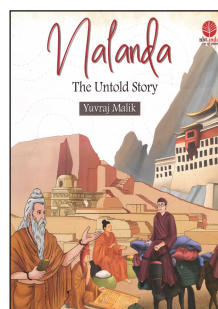


### A Grain Without a Name

Samir Ganguly

Himika Ganguly (trans.)

In Lala Dhaniram's shop, a sparrow encourages a seed's journey to find its identity. With colourful illustrations by Ismail Lahari, the story unfolds a powerful message about the interconnectedness of nature.



### Nalanda: The Untold Story

Yuvraj Malik

Join Veer, an eager young student, as he embarks on a memorable field trip to the historic Nalanda University. Through his eyes, explore the story of this ancient seat of learning, renowned for its wisdom, culture and groundbreaking education that attracted students from all corners of the world. From its glorious beginnings to its tragic destruction, this journey is filled with inspiring tales, captivating facts, and rich illustrations.

## From Cockpit to Cosmos: Shubhanshu Shukla Inspires Young Minds

RNI-39456/82

Date of Publication: 01/01/2026

Total number of pages: 8

IAF Group Captain Shri Shubhanshu Shukla, astronaut-designate for India's Gaganyaan mission, visited the Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya stall at the Pune Book Festival, drawing wide interest from visitors and young readers. Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Education, implemented

by the National Book Trust (NBT), India, to promote access to quality reading resources across the country.

During his visit, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla appreciated the initiative for its role in nurturing curiosity, encouraging scientific temper, and inspiring young minds to pursue knowledge and innovation. Prof. Milind Sudhakar Marathe, Chairman of National Book Trust, India welcomed him and highlighted the organisation's commitment to fostering a strong reading culture.

Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT-India, briefed Shubhanshu Shukla about the digital library for children and young adults, outlining its growing reach and impact. He later engaged in a thoughtful conversation with the astronaut-designate during an interactive session at the festival.

An Indian Air Force fighter pilot with an exceptional professional journey, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla shared insights from his career, underscoring the values of discipline, perseverance, and excellence. His presence at the festival reinforced the message that reading, learning, and imagination remain central to shaping future innovators and leaders.



## NBT-India Observes National Unity Day

The National Book Trust (NBT), India observed National Unity Day 2025 on October 31 at its headquarters to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, revered as the 'Iron Man of India.' The occasion was commemorated with a joint programme that brought together officers and employees of the trust in a collective reaffirmation of national values.

in the political integration of India after Independence.

The observance of National Unity Day at NBT India reinforced the organisation's commitment to fostering national consciousness and promoting the ideals of unity and integrity through knowledge and collective action.

During the programme, all officials and staff members took an oath to preserve and uphold the unity, integrity, and security of the nation. The observance paid tribute to the life, vision, and enduring contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, whose leadership played a pivotal role



You can also find the e-Newsletter on our website [www.nbtindia.gov.in](http://www.nbtindia.gov.in)

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