

CONTENTS

Bharat /// India Pavilion at FILBo Bogotá International Book Fair 2026	1-3
Doon Book Festival 2026 Concludes on a Promising Note	4
Creative Workshops for School Students Spread Joy and Learning	5
Books on Bhartiya Gyan Parampara	6
Latest and Forthcoming Titles	7
Celebrating the Love for Books on World Book and Copyright Day	8
NBT Participates in Bhim Jyoti Utsav 2026	

Bharat /// India Pavilion at FILBo Bogotá International Book Fair 2026

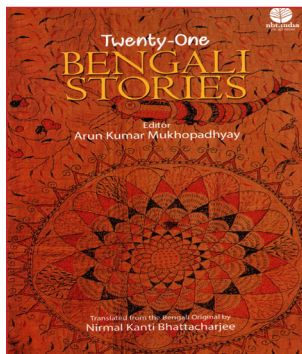
India was designated as the Guest of Honour Country at the Bogotá International Book Fair (FILBo) 2026, held from April 21 to May 4 at Conferias, Bogotá, Columbia. The Bharat /// India Pavilion, spread over an impressive 3,000 metres saw a number of literary, cultural and educational activities being organised by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, in association with the Embassy of India in Colombia. National Book Trust, India, was the implementing agency of the Guest of Honour project.

NBT-India Chairman Prof Milind Sudhakar Marathe led the Indian delegation, accompanied by Shri Shreyansh Mohan, Deputy Secretary, MoE and Shri Kumar Vikram, Chief Editor and Joint Director, NBT. Prior to the fair's inauguration, the delegation invited the Honourable Ambassador of India to Colombia to brief him on India's Guest of Honour activities and to present him with the Guest Country Kit.

The pavilion, designed in view of the evocative slogan 'Read and Explore India' (पढ़ें और explore India)



PICK OF THE MONTH



Twenty-one Bengali Stories
Arun Kumar Mukhopadhyay (Editor)
Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee (Translator)
ISBN 978-93-6719-957-2
Rs 350.00

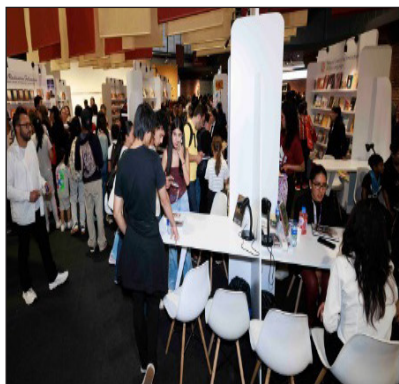
और जाने भारत | Lee y explora la India), drew inspiration from iconic Indian architecture such as the Amber Fort and the Hampi Bazaar. The pavilion featured seven exhibitions, over one hundred events, more than seventy-five speakers, over three thousand book titles, documentary screenings on masters of Indian literature, Indian film screenings with Spanish subtitles, cultural performances, a Kid's Zone, audio-visual booths, a bookstore, Indian cuisine, and AI selfie points.

Inauguration: April 21, 2026

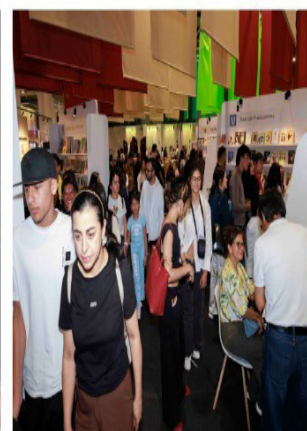
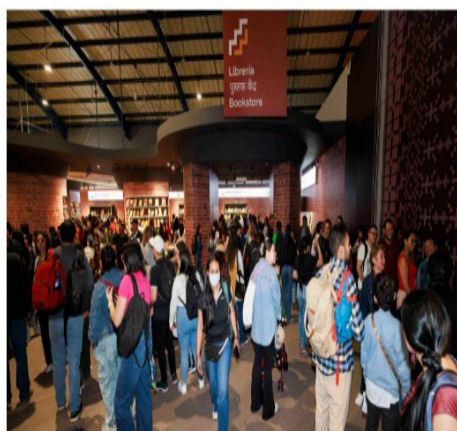
The India Pavilion was officially inaugurated on April 21, 2026. The ceremony was led by Ms Yannai Kadamani Fonrodona, Minister of Culture, Arts and Knowledge, Colombia; H.E. Vanlalhuma, Honourable Ambassador of India to Colombia and Ecuador; and Prof Milind Sudhakar Marathe, Chairman, NBT India and Leader of the Indian Delegation. In her remarks, the Colombian Minister highlighted the rich cultural and linguistic heritage of India and expressed confidence that India's participation would deepen literary and cultural understanding between India and Latin America. The Ambassador invited visitors to experience India's multilingual and rich cultural ethos through the pavilion. Shri Shreyansh Mohan observed that the pavilion 'represents not merely a sharing of books but the weaving of a shared cultural horizon.' The inauguration also featured the release of ten books translated into Spanish and a traditional Odissi dance performance.

Literary Sessions at the Bharat /// India Stage

Day 1: Three sessions marked the



Over 50,000 people visiting everyday
India Pavilion at FilBo 2026!



opening day of programmes. The first, 'India on the Move: Civilisation, Knowledge and Future Pathways,' examined the significance of Indian civilisation, its cultural continuity and diversity, and the global impact of the Vedas, yoga, and meditation. Speakers were Shri Anant Vijay and Mr Andreás Barragán, and the event was chaired by Prof Milind Sudhakar Marathe. The second session, 'Sustainable Publishing: Challenges and Opportunities,' saw Shri Ramanand Pandey and Mr. Alex Sierra Moncada discuss the need for stronger copyright frameworks in India and the importance of balancing digital and print media for the future sustainability of publishing. In the third session, 'What to Expect from Literature in the Digital Times,' Shri Kumar Vikram observed that digital platforms have made publishing quicker and

access to knowledge easier, while emphasising that physical books retain an irreplaceable value and that artificial intelligence cannot replicate human experience. The conversation, compered by Ms Laura Natalia Reina Gómez, touched on digital habits in literary creation, authenticity, dialogue among societies, and the art of translation.

Day 5 featured a session on 'Science, Aspiration and India's Expanding Frontiers,' a conversation between Prof Milind Sudhakar Marathe and Ms Juanita Blandón, examined India's scientific trajectory under the Atmanirbhar Bharat framework. Prof Marathe noted India's shift from energy security concerns to becoming a growing leader in innovation across space, defence, digital infrastructure, electronics, and

telecommunications, with carbon neutrality as a long-term goal.

Day 7 saw a session about 'Multilingual India: Writing Across Languages and Audiences,' moderated by Manorama Mishra, brought together Shri Kumar Vikram and Shri Anant Vijay to explore how language creates cultural connection. Shri Vikram noted that NBT's mandate includes translating books so that readers across India can access stories in their own languages, and stressed that translators bear the responsibility of preserving the original essence of a work.

Day 8: The session 'Tagore as a Global Citizen: A Dialogue,' moderated by Shri Humayun Khan (Kabeer), examined Rabindranath Tagore as a visionary who transcended cultural boundaries. Shri Biswadip Chakraborty highlighted Tagore's and Gandhi's shared commitment to peace, dialogue, and non-violence in shaping India's identity. The session 'Indian Knowledge Systems: Continuity in Change,' moderated by Mr David Fernandez, saw Shri Bhushan Bhawe discuss India's traditional knowledge systems. Shri Shiv Prasad connected this knowledge to the idea of continuity in change, observing that Indian thought allows progress while preserving core identity and values.

Kid's Zone at the India Pavilion

The Kid's Zone at the India Pavilion was a vibrant hub of cross-cultural learning throughout the fair. Activities began with a short film on Indian astronaut Shri Shubhanshu Shukla, followed by a session titled 'A Space Adventure,' led by Colombian author and illustrator Ms Sindy Elefante. Writer Ms Irene Vasco used participatory storytelling to connect Indian and Colombian narratives in the session 'From the Ganges to the Andes: Stories We Share.' Prof Milind Sudhakar Marathe personally engaged with



the young visitors, encouraging them and their families to explore Indian literature and culture.

On subsequent days, the workshop 'Dream it, Draw it, Cover it,' led by Ms Neetu Sharma and Ms Sindy Elefante, encouraged over seventy children to express narratives purely through illustration, culminating in them designing their own book covers. 'Cuentos de la India: Stories that Travel' saw Ms Antonia Sanin captivate audiences with tales inspired by Indian traditions, while Ms Ruchita Rajan followed with visually rich narratives rooted in Indian mythology. Throughout the fair, the India Quiz served as a bridge between cultures, with children in Bogotá demonstrating surprising knowledge of figures such as Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore.

The fifty-member Indian delegation representing the country, brought together authors, thinkers, illustrators, translators and cultural practitioners for the numerous

literary sessions designed to introduce India to the Colombian audience. Amongst these distinguished persons were Shri Anant Vijay, Ms Neetu Sharma, Shri Kulpreet Yadav, Shri Bibhudatta Pramod Kumar Mishra, Shri Biswadip Chakraborty, Shri Humayun Khan, Ms Manorama Mishra, Shri Shantanu Gupta, Shri Partha Sengupta, Shri Deepak Karanjikar, Shri Rajesh Kumar Tripathy, Shri Ramanand Pandey, Shri Swarnjit Savi, Shri Bhushan Bhawe, Shri Siva Prasad and Ms Usha Upadhyay who collectively represented the richness of India's literary and cultural heritage.

Accompanying these delegates was the design team comprising of Ms Nijoo Dubey, Ms Ruchita Rajan, and Ms Prathima M Raghavendra. Further NBT officials coordinating the Guest of Honour project and present on-ground at the book fair were Shri N Sampath Kumar, Shri Deep Saikia, Ms Vasundhara Lal, Ms Carolyn Pao and Shri Sachin Kudtarkar.

Doon Book Festival 2026 Concludes on a Promising Note

The National Book Trust, India, under the joint aegis of the Ministry of Education and the Government of Uttarakhand, organised the Doon Book Festival 2026 from April 4 to 12, 2026, at Parade Ground, Dehradun. The nine-day festival was conceived as a unique confluence of books, ideas and culture, bringing readers, writers and artists from across the country onto a single platform. Entry was kept free for all visitors to ensure that literature remains accessible.

The festival was inaugurated on 4th April by the Honourable Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami. Distinguished guests in attendance included Acharya Balkrishna, CEO of Patanjali; Prof Milind Sudhakar Marathe, Chairman of the National Book Trust; and other invited dignitaries. More than 300 stalls were set up across the venue, displaying millions of books in various languages.

The book festival brought together writers, scholars, media professionals, and public intellectuals for sustained conversations on literature, history, governance, cinema, and emerging technologies. Prominent participants included Shri Nitin Seth, Shri Kulpreet Yadav, Shri Acharya Prashant, Shri Advaita Kala, Shri Vaibhav Purandare, Shri Sanjeev Chopra, Shri Chandrachur Ghose, and Shri Anuj Dhar. Among the most discussed sessions were those featuring filmmaker Shri Imtiaz Ali and astronaut Shri Shubhanshu Shukla, whose personal journeys and professional insights proved especially resonant for younger attendees.

The festival also placed strong emphasis on regional languages and literary traditions. Over fifty Garhwali and Kumaoni writers participated, and twenty-six new titles in

Garhwali and Kumaoni were released, marking a significant step in supporting regional publishing. Discussions on translation and multilingual writing illuminated both the challenges and opportunities of bringing regional literature to wider audiences and poetry recitations by local writers added a distinctly cultural dimension to the programme.

Children's Corner

The Children's Corner opened to an enthusiastic response, with over one thousand students participating from the very first day. The programmes began with an engaging storytelling session by Ms Abha Massey, in which children followed the character "Chiku" on an inspiring journey of sustainability centred on the three R's: Reuse, Reduce, and Recycle. Honourable Chief Minister, Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, visited the Children's Corner, warmly interacting with the children and distributing books published by NBT, India.

Creativity was further channelled through a Poster Making Fun Competition organised by Team Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya (ReP), themed around 'Digital India.' Participants discovered the ReP digital library platform, which hosts over seven thousand e-books in twenty-three languages. The top fifteen participants received books and goodies as recognition. Activity zones including the Aipan Art Corner, Colour Me Corner, Art and Craft Corner, and ReP Corner were abuzz throughout the day.

Across the nine days, the dedicated children's area maintained high levels of participation. Activities included storytelling, puppetry, visual arts, dance-based exercises, and hands-on workshops. Traditional art



forms such as Aipan were introduced to younger audiences, aimed at fostering creativity, confidence, and curiosity. Parallel sessions for teachers focused on innovative pedagogical approaches.

Evening Cultural Performances

The evenings at Doon Book Festival 2026 were animated by diverse cultural performances. The opening evening featured the fusion folk ensemble Pandavaas. Over the course of the festival, artists such as Shri Narendra Singh Negi and Ms Priyanka Meher, along with contemporary groups Rehnuma Live and Colors of India, presented programmes blending folk traditions with modern styles. Manganiyar musicians from Rajasthan further enriched the cultural offering with their distinctive heritage. The festival concluded with a high-energy performance by the fusion band ShankaTribe.

Instagram Creative Content Contest

An Instagram Creative Content Contest added a contemporary, interactive dimension

to the festival. Participants shared short creative videos interpreting the fair and reading culture. The winner received book vouchers redeemable at the NBT India stall, along with certificates.

Festival Impact and Footfall

The Doon Book Festival 2026 concluded successfully, having attracted an estimated 3.5 lakh visitors over its nine-days-long schedule. People from diverse backgrounds—students, educators, families, and literary enthusiasts—came together to celebrate the written word. The wide-ranging book selection, spanning regional narratives, folklore, literary fiction, poetry, and inspirational works, reflected a broadening reading horizon among visitors. The festival underscored the continued relevance of books as tools for learning,



cultural continuity, and social connection, and laid a strong foundation for its growth in scale and impact in the years ahead.

Creative Workshops for School Students Spread Joy and Learning

National Book Trust, India, through NCCL, organised a series of creative literary sessions across schools in the Delhi NCR region, aimed at nurturing imagination, storytelling skills, and digital literacy among young readers.

East Point School, Vasundhara Enclave

Students of classes 6 to 8 at East Point School, Vasundhara Enclave, participated in a three-part programme. The morning began with the 'Meet the Personality and Cartoon Making Workshop,' led by cartoonist, illustrator, and author Shri Ajit Narayan. Students were introduced to the fundamentals of cartoon creation such as drawing simple images based on geometric patterns and capturing facial expressions and emotions on paper. This was followed by a 'Creative Writing Workshop' conducted by storyteller Ms Neeta Joshi, in which young writers explored the journey from storytelling to story creation, learning to construct settings, characters, conflicts, and resolutions before designing their own stories from given cues. The day concluded with an orientation on Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya (ReP), where students were introduced to the Ministry of Education's digital library platform, offering over seven thousand free e-books in twenty-three languages.

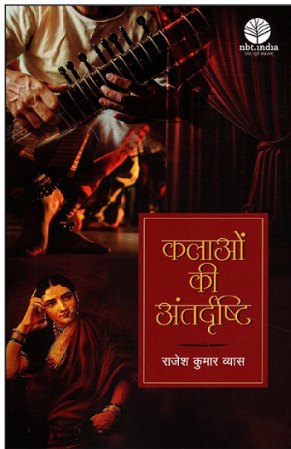


G.D. Goenka Global School, Gurugram at NBT Headquarters, New Delhi

Students of Class 9 from G.D. Goenka Global School, Sector

50, Gurugram, visited NBT's headquarters for a literary session. The morning opened with a 'Kabir for Kids' session by Ms Shivani and Shri Saurabh from Little Kabir, which introduced students to Saint Kabir's philosophy and teachings through music, stories, and couplets (*dohe*). Students enthusiastically sang Kabir's *dohe* set to familiar nursery rhyme tunes and went on to compose original two-line poems. This was followed by an orientation on Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya, where students discovered the platform's collection of over seven thousand e-books through a video presentation and interactive quiz. Quiz winners received ReP goodies featuring QR codes for easy app download.

NBT Books on *Bharatiya Gyan Parampara*



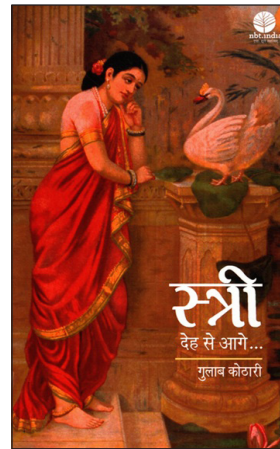
Kalaon Ki Antardrishti (Hindi)

Dr Rajesh Kumar Vyas | 164 Pages | Rs.230

This book explores the philosophical foundations, aesthetic principles, and cultural significance of Indian art from an indigenous perspective. Covering sculpture, painting, music, dance, drama, architecture, and folk traditions, the book investigates concepts of beauty, artistic expression, spirituality, and cultural continuity.

Through thoughtful essays and original insights, it highlights the interconnectedness of the arts and their role in shaping Indian civilisation.

The work serves as a valuable resource for readers, artists, scholars, and cultural practitioners.



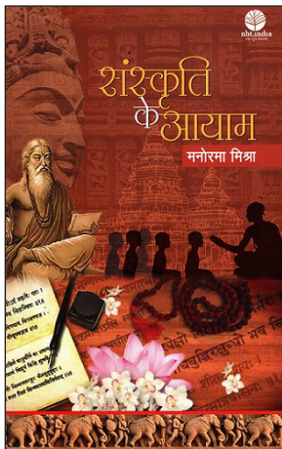
Stree Deh Se Aage

Gulab Kothari | 356 pp | Rs. 525

This book explores the concept of the divine feminine in Indian philosophy, culture, and spirituality. Drawing upon ancient scriptures and traditional wisdoms, it presents women not merely as social beings but as manifestations of sacred creative energy.

The author examines the roles of mother, daughter, sister, and wife through the lens of Indian thought, while challenging modern misconceptions shaped by external intellectual influences.

Combining scriptural interpretation with cultural analysis, the work seeks to restore an appreciation of feminine divinity and its importance in shaping society, civilisation, and national life. It offers a thoughtful reflection on womanhood and spiritual identity.



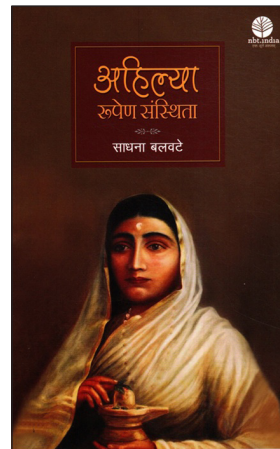
Sanskriti Ke Aayam

Dr Manorama Mishra | 150 pp | Rs. 215

Through a series of reflective essays, this book explores how traditions, folklore, literature, and collective memory shape social and cultural life. The author argues that authentic culture emerges from the people and remains meaningful only when rooted in folk consciousness.

Addressing contemporary cultural challenges, the book highlights the importance of self-respect, continuity, and community in preserving civilisational identity.

Combining cultural analysis with philosophical reflection, it offers valuable insights for readers interested in Indian society, culture, literature, and heritage.



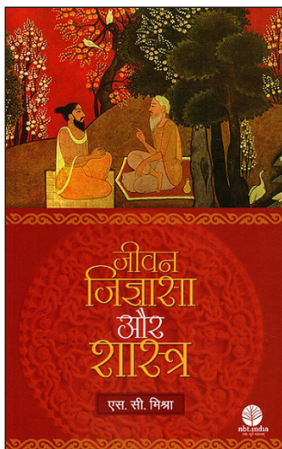
Ahilya Rupen Sanstitha

Sadhna Balvate | 110 pp | Rs. 120

Based on the life of Queen Ahilyabai Holkar, this play presents the remarkable journey of one of India's most respected rulers.

It highlights her commitment to justice, compassion, discipline, and public welfare while portraying her struggles and achievements as a woman and sovereign. Beyond celebrating her historical legacy, the play explores the values that shaped her leadership and enduring influence.

Through dramatic storytelling, the work introduces readers to a ruler whose life exemplified wisdom, courage, empathy, and responsible statecraft.



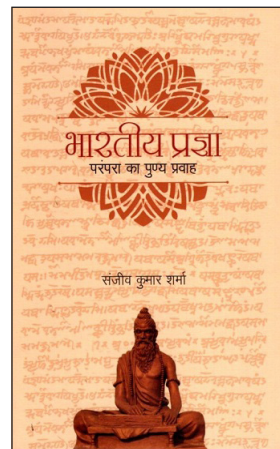
Jeevan, Jigyasa Aur Shastra

S.C. Mishra | 98 pp | Rs. 165

Drawing upon ancient Indian texts and intellectual traditions, this book re-evaluates India's civilisational heritage and cultural achievements.

It challenges historical misconceptions that have diminished India's contribution to world thought and seeks to present a balanced, evidence-based account of its intellectual, philosophical, and cultural legacy.

Beyond celebrating India's past, the book explores overlooked aspects of life, ethics, spirituality, and social thought embedded in classical sources. The work offers a thoughtful reassessment of India's historical and civilisational significance.



Bhartiya Pragya: Parampara Ka Punya Prawah

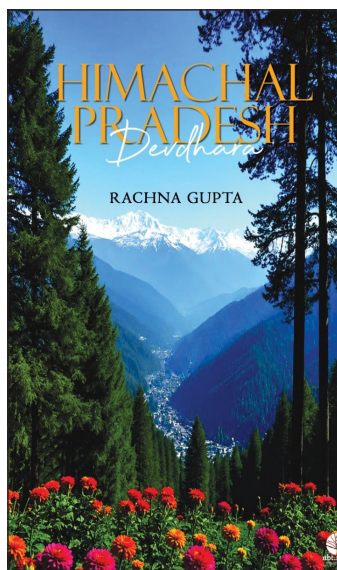
Sanjeev Kumar Sharma | 161 pp | Rs. 225

This book offers an accessible introduction to the intellectual, spiritual, and cultural foundations of Indian wisdom.

Drawing upon the Vedas, Upanishads, epics, and diverse philosophical traditions, it explores the ideas that have shaped India's civilisational identity for centuries.

The author examines the relationship between knowledge, spirituality, ethics, literature, arts, and social life, showing how these elements contribute to a holistic worldview. It serves as a thoughtful guide to India's enduring philosophical heritage.

Latest and Forthcoming Titles

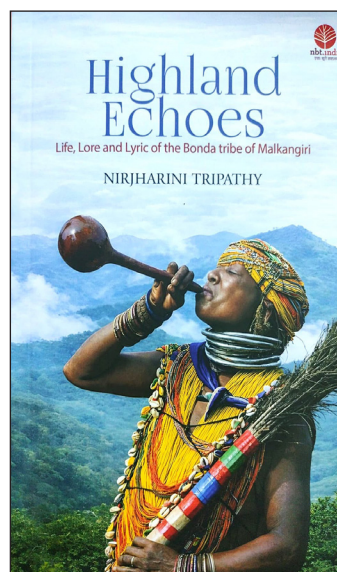


Himachal Pradesh Devdhara

Rachna Gupta

This book traces the remarkable journey of India's Himalayan state from its formation to its emergence as a model of development, governance, and cultural vitality. Published on the occasion of the state's golden jubilee, the book offers an objective examination of Himachal Pradesh's geographical identity, natural wealth, administrative achievements, educational progress, tourism

potential, and developmental milestones. It explores how the state has balanced tradition with modernity while drawing strength from its rich cultural heritage and natural resources. Combining historical insight with contemporary analysis, this volume presents a comprehensive portrait of a state whose growth, resilience, and vision continue to inspire both its people and the nation.

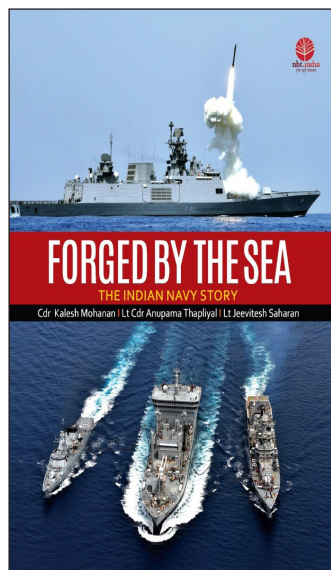


Highland Echoes: Life, Lore and Lyric of the Bonda tribe of Malkangiri

Nirjharini Tripathy

From the forested highlands of Odisha's Malkangiri district come seventy-one folktales and twenty-one folksongs of the Bonda, which is one of India's oldest and most secluded indigenous communities. Preserving voices passed down through generations, the book offers a rare glimpse into the beliefs, memories, traditions, and

worldview of this storied indigenous community. More than a collection of oral narratives, it is a testament to the resilience, imagination, and cultural wisdom of the Bonda people. Through stories of creation, courage, faith, and everyday life, the book celebrates a living heritage that continues to thrive and inspire.

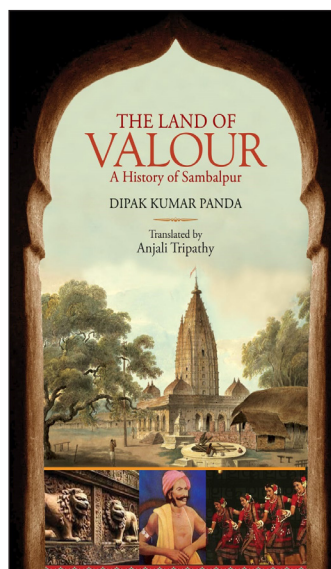


Forged by the Sea :The Indian Navy Story

Cdr Kalesh Mohanan | Lt Cdr Anupama Thapliyal | Lt Jeevitesh Saharan

This book traces the remarkable evolution of the Indian Navy from its ancient maritime roots to its emergence as a modern, technologically advanced naval force. Covering shipbuilding traditions, naval operations, maritime strategy, and the development of India's surface, submarine, and air arms, the book

highlights the courage, innovation, and professionalism that have shaped the nation's maritime legacy. Rich in historical research and brimming with insight, the book makes a compelling case for why maritime strength is central to India's future. It is essential reading for military history enthusiasts, strategic affairs watchers, and anyone who has ever wondered how a nation claims its place on the world's oceans.



The Land of Valour: A History of Sambalpur

Dipak Kumar Panda

This book presents a compelling account of Sambalpur's rich historical and cultural heritage, tracing its journey from ancient times to the era of Veer Surendra Sai's resistance against British rule. Moving beyond conventional historical narratives, it explores the region through its people, traditions, and collective memory.

Drawing upon archaeological evidence, inscriptions, coins, and archival records, the book uncovers overlooked chapters of Western Odisha's past and brings them to a wider audience through translation. Informative and engaging, it offers readers valuable insights into a region whose enduring spirit has shaped its unique place in Indian history.

Celebrating the Love for Books on World Book and Copyright Day

RNI-39456/82

Date of Publication: 01/05/2026

Total number of pages: 8

On the occasion of World Book and Copyright Day, NCCL, the children's wing of the National Book Trust, India, organised a series of lively literary sessions for students from Nursery to Class 6 at Lovely Public School, Priyadarshini Vihar. The sessions were designed to instil a love for books, foster imagination, and celebrate the joy of reading.

The morning opened with a musical 'Storytelling Session' by storyteller Ms Swati Goyal, who transported young listeners to a magical farm of stories, narrating the tale of the 'Little Red Hen' with the aid of props, puppets, and musical instruments including the ukulele, tambourine, and rain chime. Children sang, acted, and laughed along in active engagement. This was followed by a 'Stories and Puppet' session by puppeteers and storytellers Ms Astha Chaddha and Ms Tasneem Sundd, featuring puppet friends 'Minnie and Tinnie' narrating the tale of 'Golu and His Friends,' which brought a cast of animal characters to life on stage. The session ended with children creating their own finger puppets, painted with cheerful faces and their initials.

The day concluded with an orientation on Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya by Team ReP, which opened by highlighting the significance of World Book and Copyright Day and explored ways to cultivate a lifelong reading habit. Students were introduced to the digital library platform and its collection

of over seven thousand e-books in twenty-three languages. The programme reinforced that books, whether in physical or digital form, are gateways to knowledge, imagination, and lifelong learning.

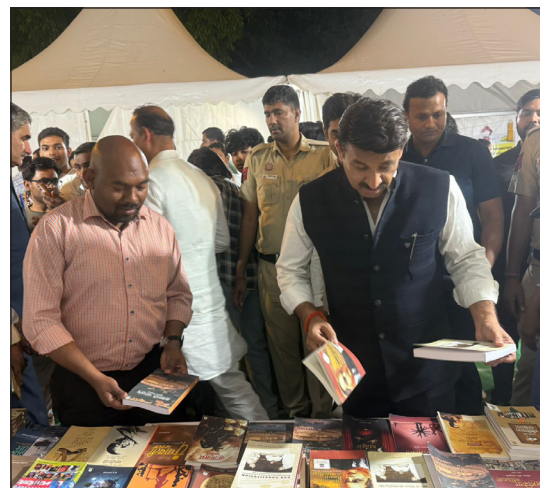


NBT Participates in Bhim Jyoti Utsav 2026

National Book Trust, India participated in Bhim Jyoti Utsav 2026, held at India Gate

reaching diverse audiences and promoting the culture of reading across significant national observances.

from 10 to 14 April. The Bhim Jyoti Utsav organised by the Department of Social Welfare at India Gate, New Delhi, was attended by Shri Manoj Tiwari, Member of Parliament from North-East Delhi. On this occasion, Shri Manoj Tiwari also visited the stall of the National Book Trust, India, where he was warmly welcomed and presented with a book as a token of recognition. NBT's participation in this event underscored its commitment to



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

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