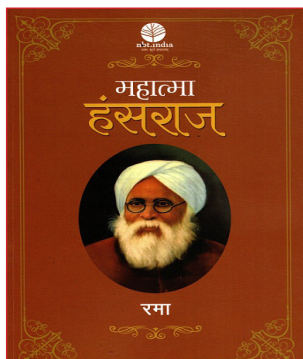


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PICK OF THE MONTH



Mahatma Hansraj
Rama
ISBN 978-93-5743-332-7
Rs 215.00

Thousands Throng to Chinara Book Festival at Srinagar

The much-anticipated second edition of the Chinara Book Festival opened on 2 August, 2025 to an inspiring start on the sunlit lawns of the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar with a resounding response from the people of Kashmir. Enthusiastic readers, students, teachers, cultural leaders, and families

thronged to the venue in large numbers to participate in what is now emerging as Jammu & Kashmir's leading literary and cultural celebration.

Organised by the National Book Trust (NBT), India, under the aegis of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, and supported by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, the Chinara Book Festival aims to nurture a robust reading culture, foster literary engagement, and reconnect communities with India's rich intellectual and cultural traditions.

The festival was inaugurated by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Education, Government of India, in the presence of Shri Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir. The inaugural ceremony was also



graced by eminent dignitaries including Prof. Milind Sudhakar Marathe, Chairman, National Book Trust, India, Prof. Raghuvendra Tanwar, Chairman, Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR); Shri Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT; Dr. Md. Shams Equbal, Director, National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL); and Dr. Amit Wanchoo, Chief Convener of the Chinara Book Festival.

In his keynote address, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan underscored the transformative role of books and education in shaping contemporary literature and culture. He noted that books not only preserve cultural memory but also shape the aspirations of a society. Highlighting the vision of Prime

Minister Shri Narendra Modi, he spoke of rediscovering India's intellectual heritage and integrating traditional knowledge systems with modern education.

The Education Minister urged the National Book Trust, India, and the Jammu & Kashmir administration to establish the Chinara Book Festival as a permanent cultural fixture in the region. He suggested that, alongside the Srinagar edition, a Jammu edition should also be organised annually. He expressed confidence that this initiative could evolve into an NBT-led library and reading movement across Jammu & Kashmir, dedicated to promoting books, literature, languages, learning, and cultural engagement. He also appreciated the efforts of Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya in providing free digital access to books for children and youth, promoting equitable reading opportunities across regions like Jammu & Kashmir.

Deeply appreciating the initiative of organising the Chinara Book Festival, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the importance of reconnecting the younger generation with India's ancient intellectual, cultural, and scientific heritage. He noted that India has long been a cradle of global knowledge systems to which Kashmir has historically contributed immensely. He called for the revival of traditional knowledge systems and their inclusion in mainstream academic discourse. Emphasising the role of books in shaping thought, he underlined their value in developing critical perspectives and awareness among the youth.

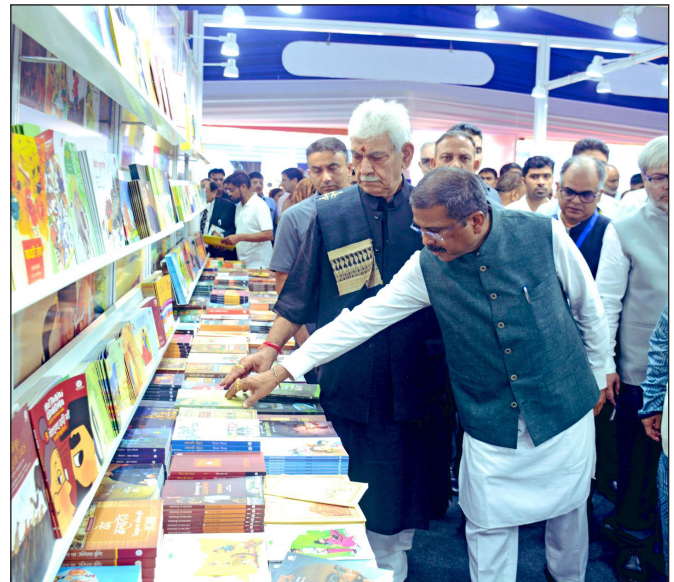
Prof. Milind Marathe, the Chairman of NBT, India, in his welcome address, emphasised that the festival is a vibrant platform for connecting authors, publishers, and readers, to establish dialogue and knowledge together. He reiterated NBT's commitment to making books accessible in multiple Indian languages and supporting initiatives that promote lifelong reading

to continue reading as a culture in our Indian society.

Prof. Raghuvendra Tanwar highlighted the academic significance of such festivals, particularly in reclaiming and amplifying regional historical narratives. He noted that Jammu & Kashmir's deep intellectual traditions must be brought into the national discourse and preserved for future generations.

Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, National Book Trust (NBT), commended the indomitable spirit of the people of Kashmir, whose enthusiastic participation made the first edition of the Chinara Book Festival a resounding success. He said the return of the festival reflects a growing hunger for knowledge and literary engagement across the region. He underlined that books can be powerful bridges - linking communities, sparking conversations, and encouraging critical engagement with the world.

A key highlight of the day was the launch of the Kashmiri translation of "*Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh – Through the Ages*", published by NBT. A video presentation introduced the book, and the launch marked a significant step





towards making regional history accessible to local readers in their mother tongue.

On this occasion, the Education Minister digitally announced the results for Amrit Kaal Mahotsav, a story writing competition for children organised by Rashtiya-e-Pustakalaya.

A major highlight of the day was the unveiling of the first-ever National Exhibition on the Sharda Script, a scholarly and visual journey into Kashmir's ancient linguistic legacy. The exhibition attracted considerable footfall, with the inaugural delegation taking a guided walkthrough of the curated panels.

The Children's Corner was abuzz with colour and imagination. Budding artists participated in a drawing competition on

the theme 'Bharat in Space', while traditional storytelling came alive through a delightful puppet show that captivated young and old alike.

The literary segment of the day included a thought-provoking discussion on the Sharda script and engaging sessions on Sufi traditions, organised by NCPUL and the Khusro Foundation, highlighting the evolving landscape of Indian literature and linguistic traditions.

The day ended on another high note with 'Kala-e-Kashmir', a spectacular cultural showcase of Kashmiri music, dance, and theatre, featuring mesmerising performances by Waheed Jeelani, the Saznawaz Sufiyana

and Group, and the Kashmir Valley Theatre Group. Set against the stunning backdrop of the Zabarwan hills, the evening brought alive the soul of Kashmir.

With over 200 publishers showcasing titles in multiple Indian languages across sprawling pavilions, the Chinara Book Festival is not merely a gathering of readers; it is a celebration of ideas, memory, and the written word.

As the festival continued till 10th August, each coming day promised another enriching day filled with workshops, author interactions, student-focused activities, and cultural performances, continuing the journey of literature, culture and creativity.

Care of Newborn Baby Released

Dr. Vinod Paul, Hon'ble Member, NITI Aayog, released the National Book Trust, India's latest publication, *Care of Newborn Baby: A Handy Guide*, at NBT headquarters in New Delhi, on 7 August.

Authored by Dr. Shankar Narayan and Dr. Subhash Chandra Shaw, the book was lauded by Dr. Paul as a timely, scientifically grounded guide for new mothers, parents, and caregivers.

Presented in an easy-to-understand Q&A format, it addresses key aspects of newborn care, including breastfeeding, vaccination, sleep, crying, and common myths.

Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT - India, commended the authors' contribution and announced plans for translation into Indian languages. The authors shared that the book was inspired by real-life queries from mothers,

while Shri Kumar Vikram, Chief Editor &



Joint Director, delivered the vote of thanks.

First-ever Exhibition on Sharda Alphabets at Chinara Book Festival

Sardaksarani means letters sacred to Goddess Sharada, i.e. Saraswati, or letters which are Saraswati, the visible speech. And to her is this script dedicated, which is known as Sharada. The script is believed to have developed in Kashmir between 8th and 9th century. The Sharada script is peculiar to Kashmir.

Sardaksarani exhibition, organised by the National Book Trust, India jointly with Nityanand Shastri Kashmir Research Institute, New Delhi; Paannyaar Kashmir Research Foundation, (NCR); and Ansh Publications and Distributors, New Delhi during Chinara Book Festival at Srinagar from 2-10 August, was the first national exhibition to display the rare manuscripts and popular historical documents in Sharada script. The exhibition was inaugurated by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan the Education Minister and Shri Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor, Jammu Kashmir.

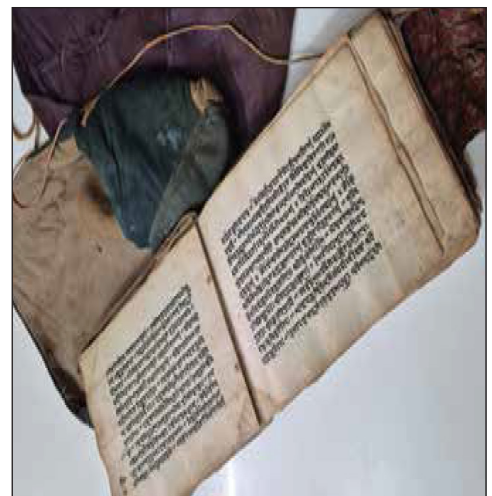
The exhibition, unique in its kind, showcased a selection of Sharada documents aimed at sensitising the general public to the

importance of preserving existing documents held in private collections. It also sought to draw the attention of scholars to these rare and sacred relics of Kashmir's heritage and culture. Furthermore, the exhibition endeavoured to reintroduce this rich literary legacy-virtually unknown to the younger generation-and thereby pass on the baton to posterity.

Featured in the exhibition were 54 panels containing themes related to the codicology and palaeontology of the Sharada script, which indicate how manuscripts were written in different inks, writing styles, and materials, and how it was preserved by the scribes, priests, and scholars over the period of time.

The panels also reflected the famous historical documents which were written in Sharada script tracing from ancient to postmodern period.

A panel discussion was also organised on the topic of the exhibition.



Children's Corner at Chinar Book Festival

The Children's Corner at Chinar Book Festival witnessed a vibrant celebration of creativity, imagination, and regional heritage, offering engaging and interactive sessions that kept young minds joyfully involved.

The events included Akh Kath – Kashmiri Folktales, an enchanting storytelling session by Vinita Zutshi, where children were introduced to folk stories from the Valley, filled with magical creatures, clever animals, and age-old wisdom.

In the event, Mural Art Magic, children worked on a canvas depicting library shelves. The session blended brush strokes with the power of imagination, where children created inspiring book covers for their ideals.

A calligraphy workshop was also conducted by the renowned artist Malik Mukhtar, where children explored the art of beautiful writing in Urdu, with many experiencing the elegance of calligraphy for the first time. The session bridged language learning with artistic exploration, leaving a lasting impression on the young participants.

Cultural Evenings

As the evening set in, talented artists lit up the cultural stage with its celebration, continuing the festival's cultural spirit. With musical performances by artists like Ustad Gulzar Ganai and Ghulam Ahmad Sofi, and an engaging theatre play by Saquib and his group, each evening was a rich portrait of Kashmiri art, music, and theatre.



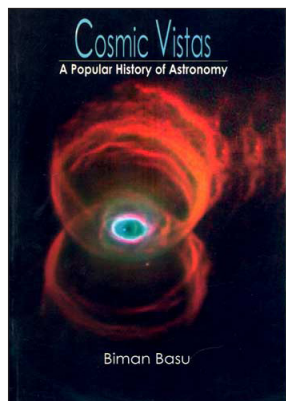
India Announced as the Guest of Honour Country at Bogota International Book Fair 2026

The Feria Internacional del Libro de Bogotá (FILBo) on 7 August announced India as the Guest of Honour Country for its 2026 edition, marking a significant milestone in Indo-Colombian cultural relations. Ambassador H.E. Vanlalhuma expressed gratitude on the occasion, emphasising that literary exchange serves as a bridge fostering deeper understanding and people-to-people connections between the two nations.

The announcement ceremony was graced by the Culture Minister, Ms. Yannai Kadamani; Deputy Minister for Multilateral Affairs, Mr. Mauricio Jaramillo, Ms. Adriana Cecilia Ángel Forero, Director of FILBo; Mr. Andrés López Valderrama, President of Corferias; and Mr. Emiro Aristizábal, Executive President of the Colombian Book Chamber.



NBT Books on Popular Science



COSMIC VISTAS: A Popular History of Astronomy

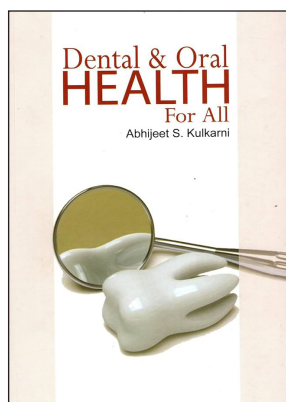
Biman Basu

131 pp

Rs. 210

This book on celestial objects explains how with advances in technology, the telescope and other observation tools can reveal the real nature of celestial bodies like the moon, the planets and Milky Way and how the refined techniques of observation can reveal gas clouds, quasars, pulsars and radiation.

ISBN 978-81-237-3942-7



Dental & Oral Health For All

Abhijeet S Kulkarni

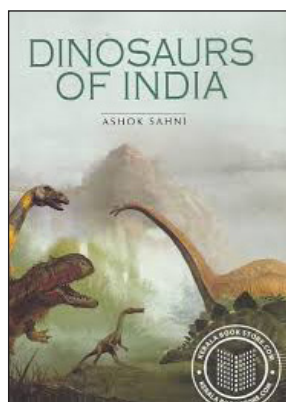
106 pp

Rs.170

Dental and oral health require awareness and significant public health measures. The low priority given to oral health, and the neglect of dental and oral diseases are among several important factors of concern.

The book, in a revised and updated edition, aims at providing practical information to readers about dental and oral diseases, the available treatment options and contemporary preventive strategies to maintain and improve oral health.

ISBN 978-81-237-6931-8



Dinosaurs of India

Ashok Sahni

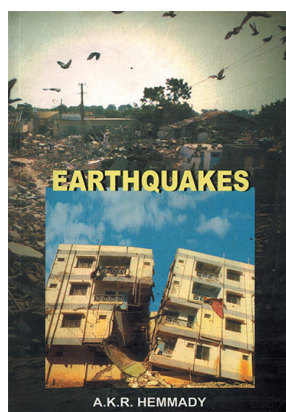
125 pp

Rs.200

The book aims to acquaint the reader about the rich natural heritage of Indian dinosaurs about which many of us may be unaware. The recorded story of the discovery of Indian dinosaurs goes back to nearly 190 years ago. Since then, several types of dinosaurs have been scientifically described from several states of India, and many more discoveries are still expected.

This revised and updated edition adds a few more interesting details to the story of Indian dinosaurs.

ISBN 978-81-237-3109-4



Earthquakes

A K R Hemmady

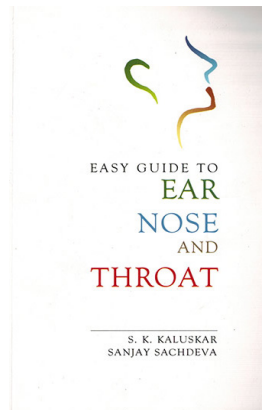
114 pp

Rs. 175

This revised edition presents a geologist's perception of earthquakes, their cause (plate tectonics), methodology of investigation, principle behind instruments, prediction, precautions and economic implications.

Few basic principles related to the design of earthquake-resistant structures, Bhuj earthquake and the controversy over the Tehri dam and reservoir-induced seismicity have been briefly dealt with.

ISBN 978-81-237-4207-6



Easy Guide to Ear, Nose and Throat

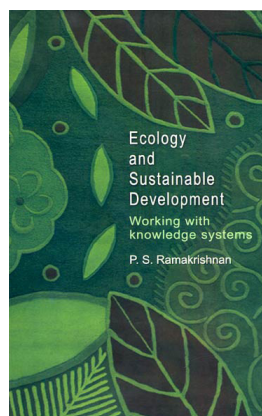
S K Kaluskar & Sanjay Sachdeva

86 pp

Rs. 160

This book is a reader-friendly guide to various ear, nose and throat problems, with an aim to create awareness on these delicate organs. It also helps to identify the various problems and their symptoms at an early stage, perceive them in proper light, and know the right time to seek help of a specialist.

Written in a simple language, the book also includes tips on first-aid measures and home remedies. ISBN 978-81-237-5451-2



Ecology and Sustainable Development

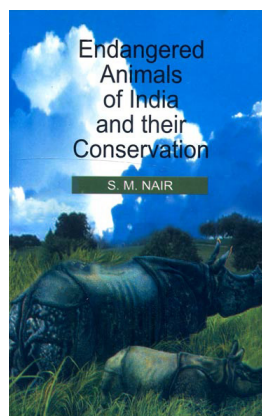
P S Ramakrishnan

217pp

Rs. 255

This revised edition discusses community participation in natural resource management, which is linked to sustainable management of natural and human-managed ecosystems, with concern for sustainable livelihood of rural societies in the short-term, and sustainable development of the region as part of a long-term plan.

ISBN 978-81-237-5257-0



Endangered Animals of India and Their Conservation

S M Nair

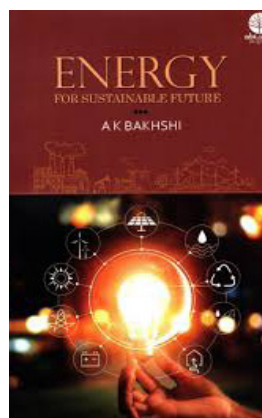
110 pp

Rs. 160

Public awareness about the rich wildlife heritage of our country, the factors affecting the survival of the species and an understanding of how we can contribute to their well-being are the keys to successful conservation.

This edition provides basic information on the rare and endangered animals of India and their conservation.

ISBN 978-81-237-0187-5



Energy

A K Bakhshi

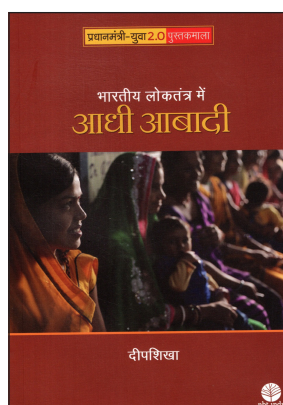
100pp

Rs.155

The importance of energy in our daily life can never be overemphasised particularly in today's world when fossil fuels are in danger of being depleted. There is practically no activity which does not involve the transfer or transformation of energy. This book discusses its various aspects including the consequences of production and utilisation of energy on our environment.

ISBN 978-81-237-1458-5

New and Forthcoming Titles



Bharatiya Loktantra Mein Aadhi Abaadi

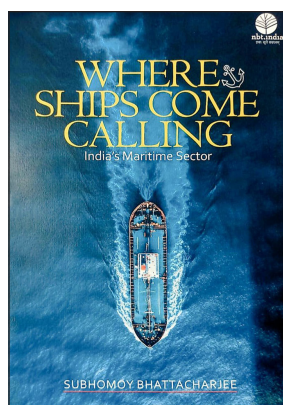
Dipshikha

From the creation of the Constituent Assembly to the formation of India's first cabinet, women have been a prominent figure in Indian politics.

They have served as the Prime Minister, the President, or heads of major ministries like the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Railways.

Also, they have made significant contributions to rural and urban local bodies.

It is a matter of great concern that even today, women face numerous problems and challenges in these areas. This book addresses all related aspects.



Where Ships Come Calling: India's Maritime Sector

Subhomoy Bhattacharjee

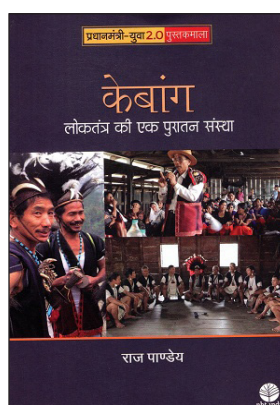
The maritime sector is a new entrant in the Indian policy-making space. This sector is vast, but the literature on it is minuscule. For decades, the maritime space did not elicit much interest from a relatively closed economy.

Yet, as the Indian economy has become globally connected, the demands to understand the maritime sector, and consequently take advantage of its immense possibilities, have now become evident. Indian policy-making has come to realise that no sizable economy can truly take off without a deep investment in the maritime sector.

These possibilities are no longer limited to search for estimates of mineral wealth under the seas, fishing wealth, or even offshore renewable energy. Those are all important, but a huge global dimension involving trade dominance and consequent geo-strategic concerns has come to occupy the forefront.

India has just started to put in place a shipping industry, after decades of neglect. The building blocks include building up of shipyards with adequate capacity to build these ships, then construct these ships with the latest technology which too is rapidly shifting towards a green economy.

The book covers various aspects related to India's maritime industry excluding and including the abovementioned.

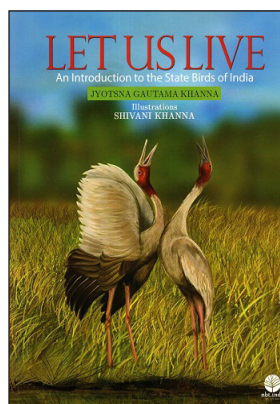


Kebang

Loktantra Ki Ek Puratan Sanstha

Raj Pandey

The Kebang is a versatile customary institution of the Adi tribe residing in Arunachal Pradesh. It embodies the ideals of democracy within traditional values. The core values and ethos have permeated the Adi community for a long time, and even today, the Kebang system holds sway over the Adi community.



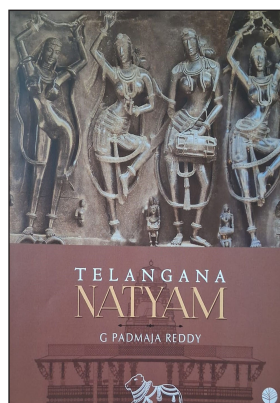
Let Us live

An Introduction to the State Birds of India

Jyotsana Gautama Khanna

This book is a delightful and entertaining introduction to the habits and character of birds in general and to the state birds of India in particular. In a manner that charms young and old alike, it dwells upon the noble lives birds lead, untainted by the shortcomings of character that ail mankind.

Accompanied by beautiful illustrations, it emphasises the pressing and imperative nature of our obligation to protect and provide an environment in which they can flourish. Some of us may not know that these brave and beautiful creatures play a vital role in the well-being and survival of our planet by helping to maintain the delicate balance of nature without which life on Earth would perish.



Telangana Natyam

G. Padamaja Reddy

This work draws inspiration from the grandeur of the Kakatiya temples at Warangal, Ramappa, and other sacred sites. The sculptures, etched in stone, whisper timeless stories of rhythm, grace, and devotion awaiting revival.

Telangana Natyam is thus not merely documentation of a dance tradition—it is an offering to our ancestors, our temples, and our students

The book serves as a bridge between textual tradition, performance, and contemporary understanding—inviting dancers not only to perform but also to preserve and innovate.

Author-Reader Dialogue Conducted at Pune

RNI-39456/82

Date of Publication: 01/09/2025

Total number of pages: 8

The 18th Author-Reader Dialogue was organised at the Navalmal Firodia Auditorium, Pune on 1 August, jointly by the Pune Book Festival, Neelkanth Prakashan, and Maharashtra Times.



The event brought together the book-loving citizens of Pune for a stimulating literary evening featuring a candid conversation between renowned film actress Mrs. Mrinaltai Kulkarni and author Dr. Medhatai Khasegiwale.

The engaging questions posed by Prof. Ganeshji Raut and the guests' open heartfelt responses lent a distinctive warmth and charm to the dialogue, making it a memorable literary celebration.

National Book Trust, India on its part would organise a number of book promotional activities in Maharashtra including book fairs at Nagpur and Pune in coming months.

NBT, India at the Erode Book Fair 2025

The National Book Trust, India, participated in the Erode Book Fair 2025, held from 1 to 12 August at

Chikkaiah Government Arts and Science College, Veerappanchatiram, Erode.

Showcasing books in Tamil, English, and Hindi across diverse genres and age groups, NBT, India received an enthusiastic response from children, students, and local readers.

Visitors eagerly explored Stall Nos. 111 and 112, discovering inspiring children's stories and thought-provoking literary works.

The fair also highlighted the growing demand for regional language books, underscoring Tamil Nadu's rich linguistic and cultural diversity. The event served as a vibrant celebration of books and reading, nurturing a lasting love for literature.



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The views expressed in the signed articles do not necessarily reflect the official views of the Trust.

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