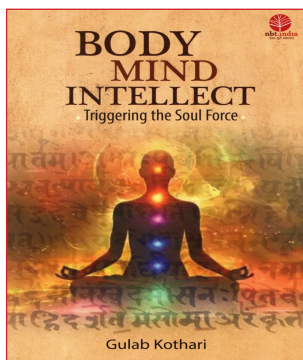


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### PICK OF THE MONTH



**Body Mind Intellect**  
Triggering the Soul Force  
Gulab Kothari  
ISBN 978-93-6719-740-0  
Rs 350.00

## Book Releases, Discussions mark Guest of Honour Presentation at Moscow International Book Fair

India was the Guest of Honour Country for 38th edition of the Moscow International Book Fair at the historic Soviet-era VDNKh Exhibition Grounds in Moscow held from 3 to 7 September, 2025. The Book Fair inaugurated on 3 September was addressed by Shri Vinay Kumar, Ambassador of India to Russia and Shri Govind Jaiswal, Joint Secretary, MoE.



To mark the occasion, National Book Trust, India set up the India Pavilion, aesthetically designed by National Institute of Design (NID), which showcased around 2500 books brought out by approx. 50 Indian publishing houses, across Indian languages, including English, Hindi, Bengali, Tamil etc. The Pavilion also showcased Russian translations of several children's books, under the theme 'Read and Explore India'.

NBT-India as the nodal agency for the Guest of Honour Presentations, released 22 Russian translations of its selected titles at the India Pavilion. More than 60 delegates

comprising of authors, scholars, publishers, officials etc. from India participated in the event.

Spread over 382 square meters, the India Pavilion at the Moscow International Book Fair 2025 stood prominently near the entrance. Artistically conceived to display a shared love of nature, the Pavilion drew its inspiration from two national symbols: the Indian Lotus and the Russian Chamomile. In addition to publisher booths, it hosted an interactive "Experience Zone". A small performance stage, carved into the central area, was the place for dialogue, storytelling, and live cultural exchange.

The India Pavilion was inaugurated

on September 3, 2025 in the presence of Shri Alexander Alimov, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russia; Shri Vinay Kumar, Ambassador of India to Russia; Shri Govind Jaiswal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education (MoE) and Shri Vladimir Viktorovich Grigoriev, Director, Ministry of Digital Development, Russia.

The inaugural programme began with a welcome address by Prof. Milind Sudhakar Marathe, Chairman, National Book Trust, India, along with other dignitaries. Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT, India, delivered a vote of thanks at the event. The Pavilion also hosted the launch of Russian translations of 22 NBT-India titles after the ceremonial ribbon untying.

Various dignitaries visited the book stalls at the India Pavilion to interact with authors and publishers. The guests also immersed themselves in the Virtual Reality (VR) Experience Zone. More than 60 delegates including authors, scholars, publishers and officials from India participated in the event. The day progressed with a roundtable discussion on 'Enriching Children's Literature through Translation'.

The inaugural day also witnessed a formal meeting of high-level Indian and Russian government officials to discuss the possibilities of long term collaborations through an MoU which was further deliberated during the Publishers' Roundtable. Shri Vinay Kumar, Ambassador of India to Russia; Shri Govind Jaiswal, Joint Secretary, MoE; Prof Milind Sudhakar Marathe, Chairman, NBT; Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT, besides other delegates from the Indian side; and the Russian delegation led by Shri V V Grigoriev participated in the discussions and laid a broad roadmap for book trade and education related collaborations.

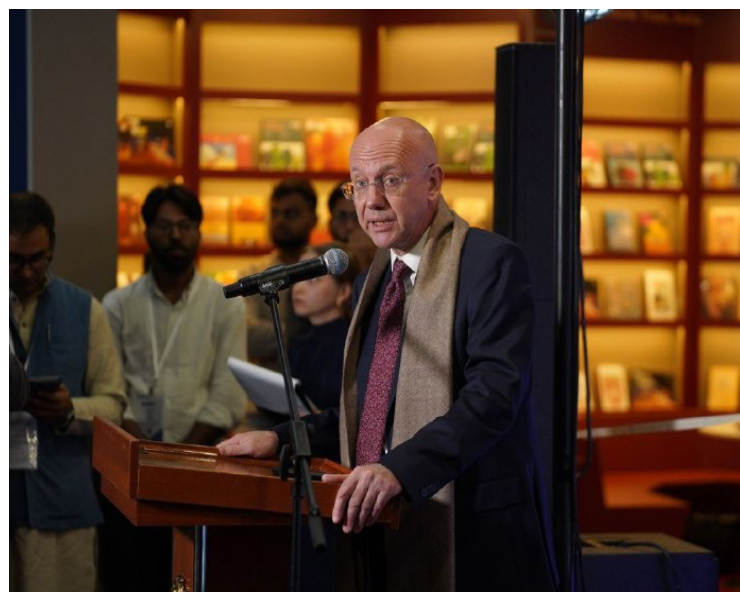
Led by Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education, Shri Govind Jaiswal; NBT India Chairman Prof. Milind Sudhakar Marathe

and Director Shri Yuvraj Malik, the Indian delegation comprised noted litterateurs, authors and intellectuals who participated in discussions on a variety of topics ranging from literature, translation, digitisation, art, design, cultural and

social values etc. The delegation comprised noted academicians, subject experts and writers such as Shri Acharya Balkrishna, Prof. Ajai Kumar Sonkar, Prof. Dipak Kumar Panda, Prof. Kumud Sharma, Shri Akshat Gupta, Shri S N Pandita, Shri Anil Zankar, Ms. Jaya Mehta, Shri Mohit Suneja, Prof. Sonu Saini and Shri Kalindi Charan Samal. A number of speakers from Russia also participated in the deliberation held on a range of topics.

As part of the celebrations, the India Pavilion hosted around 50 events on a variety of themes to engage global audiences and offer a vibrant showcase of India's literary and cultural heritage. Few notable themes on which Indian and Russian intellectuals addressed the gathering of book lovers and academicians included: enriching children's literature through translation; digital publishing, audiobooks, and the changing readers; Gandhi-Tolstoy exchange: unity in diversity ; reading across borders: how bilingual books foster global understanding; women's writing in postcolonial and contemporary India etc.

The Guest of Honour presentation also featured the first-ever India-Russia Publishers' Roundtable held on the second day of the fair with the participation of 15 publishers



each from both sides. The Roundtable had Shri V V Grigoriev, Director, Ministry of Digital Development of Russian Federation and Prof. Milind Sudhakar Marathe, Chairman, National Book Trust, India. As the co-chair, Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, National Book Trust, India gave a talk on the Indian book market on the occasion. From the Russian side, Shri Evgeny Kapyev, CEO, Eksmo Publishing House gave a presentation on Russian Book Market.

Shri Kumar Vikram, Chief Editor & Joint Director, NBT, India moderated the session on behalf of the Indian side, while Ms. Ekaterina Kozhanova, Publisher, moderated the session on behalf of the Russian side. All participating publishers of the India Pavilion, viz, ICSSR, Sahitya Akademi, Atlantic, Om Books, Rupa, Actwitty, BPB, etc. attended the Roundtable and interacted with their Russian counterparts and discussed avenues for trade collaboration.

The evenings at the India Pavilion witnessed a variety of cultural programmes which included classical Odissi dance, folk dances from Rajasthan, classical Carnatic music etc. organised by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), Government of India.



## Second edition of SCO Young Authors' Conference in New Delhi

The second edition of SCO Young Authors' Conference was inaugurated on September 2 in New Delhi, marking a significant milestone in fostering literary and cultural cooperation among the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states. More than 40 young authors from India and other SCO nations participated in the conference to discuss and explore the dynamics of creative space in the digital age. The conference provides a powerful platform for fostering dialogue, friendship, and collaboration among a promising cohort of young authors. The organisers anticipated a series of productive sessions aimed at enriching the literary landscape of the SCO region.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by several distinguished dignitaries, including the Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, who delivered a keynote address.

Shri Alok A. Dimri, India's SCO National Coordinator and Additional Secretary, MEA; Shri Varun Bhardwaj, Director – Higher Education, Ministry of Education and Ms. Rakhanova Minara, Advisor, SCO Secretariat, also addressed the gathering, emphasising the role of cultural and literary exchange in strengthening regional ties.

Prof. Milind Sudhakar Marathe, Chairman, National Book Trust (NBT), India, opened the event with a welcoming address, calling the SCO the “powerhouse of Asia.” Ms. Rakhanova Minara, who traveled from Russia for the event, expressed her admiration for how India supports young and creative talent. Shri Alok A. Dimri also expressed his gratitude, noting that this was his first SCO engagement. Chief Guest Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh highlighted the political and economic relevance of the SCO, noting that it embodies a collaborative spirit between countries

and ministries. He added that the present “Amrit Kal” period is an opportune time to explore the creative landscape through the convergence of culture and digital democratisation.

The event concluded with a summing up and formal vote of thanks delivered by Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT, India, who underlined the various opportunities that the digital revolution has brought about in various creative spaces. Shri Kumar Vikram, Chief Editor & Joint Director, NBT, India moderated the inaugural session.

The first literary session of the SCO Conference 2025, chaired by Milind Sudhakar Marathe, Chairman, NBT-India, delved into the theme “The Digitalisation of Literary Cultures and the Reconfiguration of Authorship.” Speakers from across the SCO nations shared their perspectives on how technology is transforming the literary landscape.

Zhan Zhicai from China highlighted digitalisation's potential for cultural exchange via video message. Javlon Jovliyev of Uzbekistan traced the evolution of Uzbek literature since 1944, noting how digital



platforms have expanded readership and creative freedom. Anna Babina from Russia discussed the role of AI as a tool, emphasising that it cannot replace human creativity. Representing India, Saloni Mittal of Penguin Random House spoke on the importance of traditional publishing in maintaining quality and standards amid the rise of online platforms. The session concluded with the chairman affirming that while AI can assist with retrieval and storage, the creative human impulse remains irreplaceable.

The second day of the conference kicked off with an insightful first session, “Art: A Cultural Phenomenon,” moderated by Dr. Subir Dey. The discussion explored how art shapes identity and community and navigates the digital landscape. Debtoroti Chakraborty

highlighted the power of everyday rituals and storytelling in the South Asian context, emphasising that the use of digital spaces in art must be guided by the essential questions of why, what, and how.

Artem Ragimov emphasised the need to nurture the growth of artists and recognise how environments shape artistic development. Simer Preet Sokhi commended digitalisation's crucial role in preserving endangered Indian art forms, drawing a parallel to the invention of the printing press and noting how the Indian government's NEP is ensuring the protection of cultural heritage in the digital era. The session affirmed art's role as a living practice, while underscoring that digitalisation is both a vital tool for preservation and a space demanding critical reflection.

The second powerful session on the theme of "Radio and the Rise of Podcasting" was chaired by Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director,

National Book Trust, India and moderated by Prof. Ranjana Saxena.

The Valedictory Session was presided over by Prof. Milind Sudhakar Marathe, Chairman, NBT, India, which began with a welcome address and featured inspiring experience sharing from several young authors. The Chief Guest, Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary (SE&L), MoE, addressed the gathering and delivered the main Valedictory Address. Other dignitaries, including Shri Alok A. Dimri, India's SCO National Coordinator and Additional Secretary



(SCO), MEA, and Ms. Rakhanova Minara, Advisor, SCO Secretariat, also addressed the conference.

## UP CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurates Gomti Book Festival

Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the fourth edition of the Gomti Book Festival at Lucknow University on 20 September. The Guest of Honour, State Education Minister (Higher Education) Shri Yogendra Upadhyay was also present. This festival continued till September 28, during which a huge number of booklovers and readers were able to experience this grand congregation of knowledge and literature.

Shri Yogi Adityanath emphasised the importance of connecting with books more than smartphones and making them a part of one's life. Quoting Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, he said that when citizens read, the nation advances on the path of progress. He stated that "reading and moving forward has been a part of India's traditions."

Citing examples of Indian sages, Maharishi Valmiki and Goswami Tulsidas,

he remarked that original creations not only become immortal but also render their creators immortal. The Chief Minister appealed to all students to purchase at least one book. On this occasion, he gifted the book 'Exam Warriors' written by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to schoolgirls and Anganwadi Didis.

In his address, Prof. Milind Sudhakar



Marathe, Chairman of the National Book Trust, India, advised conducting collective reading sessions once a week to promote the culture of reading. Renowned writer,



filmmaker, and historian Dr. Chandraprakash Dwivedi discussed Vedic literature and the importance of literature, and citing the example of Nalanda, said that “the flames of fire cannot destroy knowledge.”

State Education Minister (Higher Education) Shri Yogendra Upadhyay spoke on the New National Education Policy and inclusive reading materials, emphasising the need for the use of printed books.

The closing speech and vote of thanks were presented by Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director of National Book Trust. He stated that with the cooperation of the National Book Trust and the state government, Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in the country to acquire the maximum number of books and reach people with them. Uttar Pradesh is also at the forefront in the campaign to establish libraries in every village.

He also shared information about the Gorakhpur Book Festival to be held in November. On this occasion, Vice-Chancellor of Lucknow University Prof. Manuka Khanna; Advisor to the Uttar Pradesh Government Avnish Kumar Awasthi; along with many other dignitaries, were present.

As part of literary events, a book discussion on “Kim and Krishna” by Neeraj Vashisth was organised who spoke about an Indian boy and a North Korean girl falling in love in Thailand. In conversation with Shobha Kapoor, the author discussed the similarities in culture between India and Thailand that inspired the story of his book.

As part of literary dialogues, senior storyteller-critic Prof. Pragya, presented her thoughts on the subject of Hindi in the era of daily changing trends. The dialogue with her was conducted by Dr. Lalit Kishore Mandora. During the session, there was of an engaging discussion on the challenges and possibilities of the Hindi language, and dialogues with millennials and Gen Z.

A discussion on the book “Woman: Beyond the Body” was also held in which Yogita Yadav engaged in conversation with the author of the book, Gulab Kothari. During the conversation, senior writer and editor Gulab Kothari spoke in detail about the process of creating the book and its content. Taking quotes from Vedic literature, there was also an in-depth discussion on their relevance in the present time.

A discussion on the topic “Audio Stories: A Modern Medium for Ancient Storytelling” saw the presence of Shri Ramavatar Bairwa, Assistant Director of All India Radio, Delhi; Shri Vijay Kripalani, Content Head of Radio Fever, Lucknow; and the renowned storyteller Sabaahat Afreen. The session was coordinated by Ms Ketki on behalf of the National Book Trust, India. The discussion covered the origins of audio stories, the surge in their listenership during COVID, the subsequent challenges, and their evolving popularity in society.

The session, titled “Awadhi ki Baat,” held on September 21



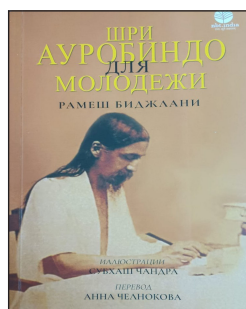
featured Padma Shri Dr. Vidyavindu Singh, Dr. Surya Prasad Dikshit, and Dr. Ram Bahadur Mishra which was coordinated by Dr. Rakesh Pandey. Notably, all the speakers began the session in Awadhi itself, which the attending audience welcomed with applause. The session featured an enchanting discussion on the history of Awadhi speakers, its expanse, folk songs, the fire of revolution, challenges, the global scenario, and possibilities.

The children’s corner set up there was all about fun, stories, and creativity with events such as “Round the Riddle” being organised for them, where children played musical chairs–style game on giant paper rolls, filling them with colours and riddles. This was followed by a storytelling session, where Ranjeeta Sachdeva brought to life a Bundelkhand folk tale. The Drawing Competition saw young artists express their imagination on the theme “नदियाँ बचाएँ, गोमती की चारा सजाएँ”. The sessions concluded with an engaging orientation on the Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya, giving children a peek into the treasure of digital books.

Padma Shri Malini Awasthi Ji’s musical performance captivated the audience. She began her programme with a Ganesh Vandana. Ahead of the conclusion of Pitru Paksha and the start of Navratri, she presented the devotional song “Mai Ke Bhaave Laal Chunariya” along with auspicious greetings for Mahalaya.

At Chitrotsav, an art fest organised by NBT-India and Team Doodle on September 22, children dived into creativity with Shri Ajit Narayan’s cartoon-making session of about learning to create 3D cartoons from simple shapes. Ms Suvidha Mistry introduced colourful paper circle art, while Vandana Bist taught a unique blend of oil pastels and watercolours.

## A few NBT Books in Russian Translation

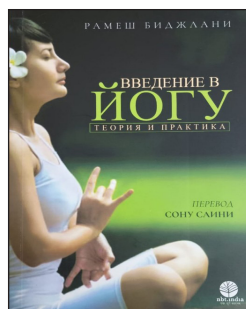


### Sri Aurobindo for the Young

Ramesh Birlani Translator-Anna Chelnokova

2025 98 pp  
Sri Aurobindo was a freedom fighter, a writer and a philosopher, but above all, he was a spiritual master. This book published as a part of the celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo and the 75th anniversary of India's independence is a highly readable blend of his life, works and vision.

ISBN 978-93-6719-267-2



### A Primer on Yoga: Theory and Practice

Ramesh Birlani Translator- Dr. Sonu Saini

2025 134 pp  
This book on yoga clarifies what yoga is, explains the distinguishing features of different schools of yoga, and gives a complete guidance on the physical practices of yoga as is possible through a written text and a DVD.

ISBN 978-93-6719-837-7

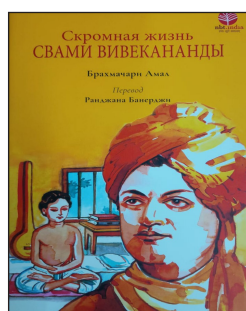


### Gandhi's India: Unity in Diversity

2025 113 pp  
Translator-Kiran Singh Verma

Gandhi's basic ideas underwent no change during the forty years of his active public life, but their expression and application varied according to circumstances. This brief anthology of Gandhiji's utterances have been compiled by the National Integration Sub-Committee of the National Committee for Gandhi Centenary.

ISBN 978-93-6719-238-2

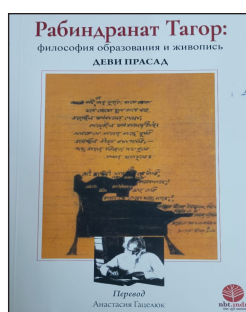


### A Simple life of Swami Vivekananda

Brahmachari Amal Translator-Ranjana Banerjee

2025 60 pp  
Written in simple English by an American, this book tries to introduce the life of Swami Vivekananda to young readers in the hope that when they grow up, they will want to know more about this great man.

ISBN 978-93-6719-515-4



### Rabindranath Tagore: Philosophy of Education and Painting

Devi Prasad Translator-Anastasia Gatselyuk

2025 120 pp  
The book presents Tagore's approach to education and art. Views of Tagore on education and painting have been supplemented by a comprehensive and critical evaluation of his philosophy.

ISBN 978-93-6719-711-0

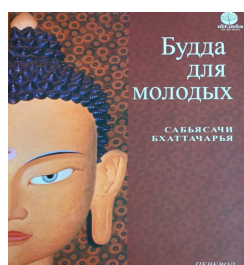


### Indian Painting

C Sivaramamurti Translator-Pragati Tipnis

2025 129 pp  
Beautifully illustrated, the book narrates in a comprehensive style, the story of Indian painting through the ages, enumerating the salient features of the various schools.

ISBN 978-93-6719-006-7

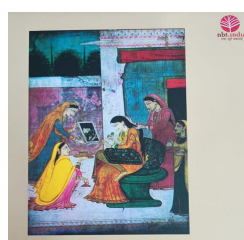


### Buddha for the Young

Sabyasachi Bhattacharya Translator-Dr. Sonu Saini

2025 47 pp  
To be able to judge what is relevant today in the life of Buddha, one has to read this slim volume which puts together Buddha's life in his own words.

ISBN 978-93-6719-462-1



### Ancient Indian Costume

Roshen Alkazi Translator-Ksenia Lesik

2025 149 pp  
A study of ancient Indian costume from the earliest times to the end of the Gupta period, supplemented with a number of illustrations of sculptures and drawings.

ISBN 978-93-6719-895-7



### Balraj, My Brother

Bhisham Sahni Translator-Ranjana Saxena

2025 165pp  
A fascinating portrayal of the life of Balraj Sahni, the famous Indian film and theatre personality. This biography by his brother—a well-known Hindi writer—acquaints the reader with the versatile personality of this great actor.

ISBN 978-93-6719-193-4



### Himalayan Travels: Sketch Book of a Painter

Ram Nath Pasricha Translator-Hem Chand Pandey

2025 108 pp  
This book is a beautiful and intimate description, with equally vivid drawings from the author's sketchbooks, of peaks and valleys, people and places, moods and moments of one of the most enchanting mountain ranges of the world—the Himalayas.

ISBN 978-93-6719-228-3



### Medicinal Plants

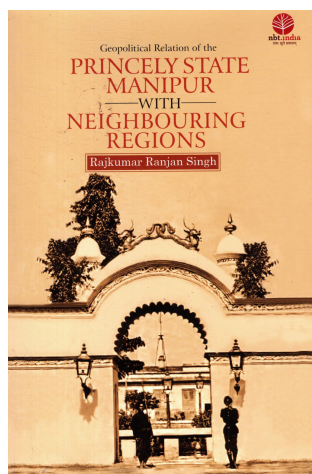
S K Jain Translator-Ekaterina Beliltseva

2025 136 pp  
This book is a selection of 100 plants which have been tested and authentically proved to be of medicinal use. Sketches and colour photographs facilitate easy identification of these plants commonly found in our surroundings and kitchen gardens.

ISBN 978-93-6719-592-5



## Latest and Forthcoming Titles

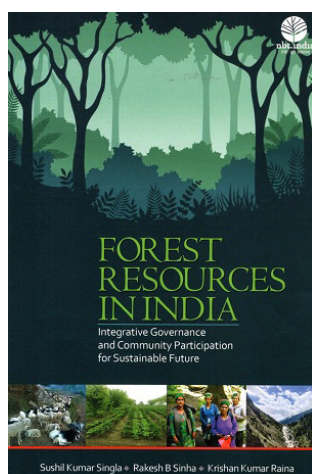


### *Geopolitical Relation of the Princely State Manipur with Neighbouring Regions*

Rajkumar Ranjan Singh

The book explores how Manipur navigated its geopolitical relationship with neighbouring regions, including the Tekhao/Ahom (present-day Assam), Takhel (present-day Tripura), and various indigenous communities in the region. It also examines the influence of external powers, particularly during the British colonial era, when the state's political landscape was significantly altered.

The study covers various periods, from ancient times when Manipur had established relation with neighbouring kingdoms, through its interactions during the medieval period, to the colonial era when the region became a focal point in the contest between British India and Burma.



### *Forest Resources in India: Integrative Governance and Community Participation for Sustainable Future*

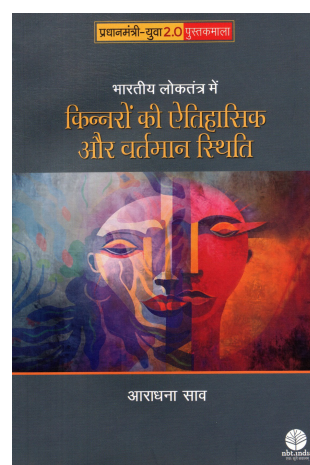
Sushil Singla, Rakesh Sinha and Krishan Raina

The conservation of nature is deeply ingrained in the ethos of Indian society at large through scriptures, folk tales, the Indian Knowledge System and wisdom, community beliefs and religious rituals. However, the policy of the government sets the tone in every aspect of life, and

forests and related issues are no exception to this. Nevertheless, policies are dynamic in nature and depict the vision of the government at any particular point of time in that particular sector. But the policies need to be within the boundary of the nation's constitution.

Once a policy is made, the acts, rules, guidelines need to be aligned in such a way as to achieve the objectives of the policy. Additionally, governance mechanism also plays a very important role in achieving policy goals. Any policy has direct impact on a major chunk of population including local communities and women. And it is well established that in any change, which is aspirational, women as a stakeholder group play a very crucial role as part of local governance. Especially in the field of natural resource management and only then the change is sustainable and long lasting which is what any policy aims at.

It is also known that subjects of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Horticulture, Tribal Development, Environment, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Forestry and Climate Change, etc. are inherently interwoven and have symbiotic relationship. While rest of the subject matters are in the State List of the Indian Constitution, Forestry is in the Concurrent.



### *Bhartiya Loktantra Mein Kinnaron Ki Aetihāsik aur Vartaman Stithi*

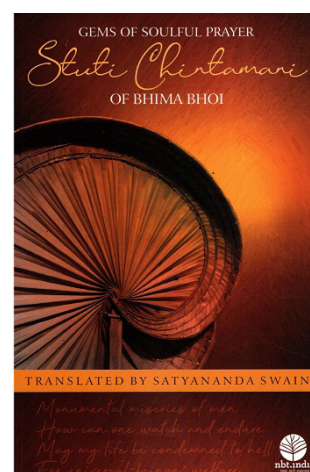
Aradhana Saav

It is known to everyone that our democracy has been inclusive in nature. People belonging to all castes, classes and religions live together. Still a section of media in Western countries has consistently posed question about our ethos and ideals.

In democracy, the situation of the most marginalised sections need attention and their issues addressed. Perhaps no other community in Indian society has been neglected more than transgender people.

However, things are changing for the better for them in India with a number of revolutionary changes and developments taking place. All these indicate that Indian democracy has become even more inclusive now. But we must also be aware of the reasons which worsened the condition of transgender people in our society?

All these questions find answer in this book.



### *Gems of Soulful Prayer: Stuti Chintamani of Bhima Bhoi*

Stuti Chintamani, Bhima Bhoi & Dr. Satyananda Swain

Stuti Chintamani, composed in poetic form by Bhima Bhoi, is considered a masterpiece of devotional literature. The work consists of 100 cantos, each containing 20 stanzas in which the poet sings the glory of *Mahima Alekha*; the concept of the creation of the world and socio-cultural conditions of society.

In this collection of poems, the poet prays to God to end the suffering and injustices that humanity experiences in Kaliyuga. The poet conveys how best benignity and goodness can be brought in and people can live with compassion and peace, away from destitution and intolerance.

## Book Exhibitions in West Bengal

The Eastern Regional Office (ERO), NBT-India, started its school exhibitions at Arambagh High School (H.S.), Hooghly district, West Bengal on September 2. On the same day, a two-day Book Exhibition also began at Hooghly Girls' High School which was inaugurated by Shri Arijit Mukhopadhyay (S.I.) and Smt. Gargi Mitra (Principal of the school).

These events marked the beginning of a vibrant celebration of books, knowledge, and learning.

## Sriganganagar Book Exhibition

The National Book Trust, India organised the Sriganganagar Book Exhibition in the first week of September where the National Centre for Children's Literature conducted children's activities.

Students from Sri S.D. Convent School enthusiastically participated in the bookmark designing competition held on the inaugural day. Following this, in the drama workshop led by Shri Vijay Kumar Bhatia, children from Bharati Convent School and Jain Public School stepped into the fascinating world of acting and learned the technical aspects of theatre.

Certificates were awarded to all participants for their enthusiasm and participation.

On the second day, The National Centre for Children's Literature held a special programme for children. Renowned writer Shri Krishna Kumar 'Aashu' engaged in an inspiring conversation with the children. He shared his journey of reading, teaching, and writing, which sparked the children's interest in literature.

In the second session, a drawing competition was held on the theme, My Education - My Right. In this, the children brought their imagination to life on canvas through colours. All participants were honoured with certificates. District Collector Dr. Manju was also present at the Children's Pavilion, where she met the children and boosted their enthusiasm.

On the third day, as part of children's activities, a creative writing workshop for



children in Hindi and English was held. Children from various schools wrote stories and poems on the given topics and gave shape to their hidden imaginations through words.

## Orientation on Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya

An engaging orientation session on Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya (ReP) was conducted for school children at the Tuticorin Book Fair on September 2.

Hundreds of students participated enthusiastically, learning how to access a world of books right from their phones through the ReP app. The Deputy Collector,

Tuticorin, graced the occasion and appreciated the efforts of NBT-India in spreading the joy of digital reading. He personally distributed ReP bookmarks to the children, encouraging young minds to download the app and begin their reading journey. With ReP, every child carries a library in their pocket—any time, anywhere.

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

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Editor: Dwijendra Kumar

Assistant Editors:

Surekha Sachdeva, Vasundhara Lal & Carolyn Pao

Production Officer: Narender Kumar



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](mailto:office.nbt@nic.in)

Website: [www.nbtindia.gov.in](http://www.nbtindia.gov.in)

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