

CONTENTS

Bogotá International Book Fair (FILBo) 2026 Concludes 1-3

First leg of Jammu–Haryana–Punjab Pustak Parikrama Flagged off Book Exhibition in INS Chilka 4

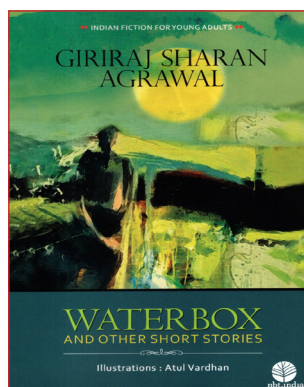
NBT Books on National Biographies of Interest 5

Latest and Forthcoming Titles 6

Gleam of Summer Camp: Nurturing Young Minds 7-8

Book Publishing Course 8

PICK OF THE MONTH



Water Box and Other Short Stories
Giriraj Sharan Agrawal
Atul Vardhan (Illustrator)
ISBN 978-93-6719-427-0
Rs 115.00

Bogotá International Book Fair (FILBo) 2026 Concludes

The Bogotá International Book Fair (Feria Internacional del Libro de Bogotá, or FILBo) 2026 was held from 21st April to 4th May 2026 at Corferias, Bogotá, Colombia. India was accorded the distinction of being the Guest of Honour Country at the fair; offering a prestigious recognition that provided a remarkable platform for showcasing the country's literary traditions, cultural heritage, and publishing landscape to an international audience.

The Bharat///India Stage hosted an ambitious schedule of programmes ranging from literary, cultural, and intellectual

sessions to documentary and film screenings, conversations about the changing landscape of the publishing world, and much more, throughout the run of this book festival. The month of May saw an equally exciting and full calendar of events.

The eleventh day of the book fair at the Bharat///India Stage opened with 'Education in Changing Times,' a panel discussion moderated by Mr Alex Sierra Moncada, board member of La Asociación Amigos de India, who set the tone by reflecting on how education must constantly adapt to social and technological transformation.



Shri Shiv Prasad, Director of Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, emphasised that a student's passion for learning is the most important element in education, saying, "the highest level of education is wisdom, the ability to truly know oneself". Shri Rajesh Kumar Tripathy, author and columnist writing in English and Odia, spoke about India's approach to global educational development and the modernisation of its curriculum, explaining that India works to preserve people's mother tongues while integrating English, ensuring that cultural identity is not lost. Prof Milind Sudhakar Marathe, Chairman of NBT, India highlighted India's efforts towards strengthening of higher education through international collaboration and the student-centred flexibility of its education system.

The screening of a documentary with Spanish subtitles on Vishnu Vaman Shirwadkar, a distinguished Marathi litterateur, brought the joy of Indian literature to Spanish readers at Bogota. This 50-minute cinematic tribute, provided courtesy of Doordarshan, offered a deep dive into the life and works of one of India's most celebrated literary icons.

The literary sessions for the day ended with 'Stories We Owe the Society: Why I Write.' It was moderated by the Joint Director and Chief Editor of NBT, India Shri Kumar Vikram. Venturing into the duality of social responsibility and personal interest as motivation for writing, Shri Vikram drew on George Orwell's famous essay "Why I Write" (1946) to set the premise of how the inherent self-interest of a writer keeps them going in their pursuits. The panellists Shri Rajesh Kumar Tripathy, Mr Emilio A. Rodriguez, Shri Swarnjit Savi and Mr David Fernández took this morsel of witticism from Orwell and added their thoughts on it.

The evening was decked with a



performance of Bharatnatyam by Ms Nicole Tenorio Polo and an entertaining cinematic experience of *Rustom* accompanied with Spanish subtitles so that this tale of honour and suspense could reach everyone gathered at the fair.

The Bharat /// India Stage at FILBo 2026 continued to be a vibrant hub for global intellectual and cultural exchange on 2nd May as well. The day began with a digital presentation from Mr Juan Alfredo Pinto Saavedra, Former Ambassador of Colombia to India. Drawing from his diplomatic career, Saavedra reflected on the importance of strengthening political and cultural ties with India. He discussed his book *Flor de Loto: Stories from Asia*, which has been translated into English and Hindi. He emphasised that translation is not only a linguistic act but also a deeply cultural one,

requiring constant dialogue to preserve the literary essence of the text. He reflected on how his international experiences as an ambassador have enriched his perspective and deepened his appreciation for different cultural contexts.



The third session of the day featured the launch of the Spanish translation of *Sultana's Dream*, originally written by Begum Rokeya in 1905 in Calcutta. *El Sueño de Sultana* was released by Mr Juan David Reina-Rozo and Ms Alejandra Cala, the book was described by them as “one of the earliest works of science fiction addressing feminist struggles, using a satirical narrative to question power, the body, and women’s freedom.”

In the midst of such invigorating conversation, a glimpse of Indian literature reached Bogota through the screening of a documentary exploring the life of Fakirmohan Senapati, the distinguished Odia litterateur, and his immense contributions.

The final literary session, ‘Stories that Resonate: Writing for Gen Z Readers,’ moderated by Shri Bhushan Bhawe, featured Shri Bibhudatta Pramod Kumar Mishra and Ms Laura Natalia Reina Gómez. Ms Gómez reflected on how writing has become more accessible through digital platforms, while Shri Mishra emphasised that young readers want honesty and authenticity, and that writers must earn their trust by addressing relevant issues while helping them stay connected to their roots.

On 3rd May the Bharat /// India Stage featured even more profound conversations.



The first session itself set the tone for the day being a transformative experience. ‘Women Saint Poets: Lal Ded, Meera Bai, and Akka Mahadevi,’ was moderated by Shri Shantanu Gupta, and brought out insightful contributions from Ms Usha Upadhyay and

Shri Shiv Prasad. Shri Prasad argued that, “society should not separate ‘women poets’ from ‘poets’, but rather recognise all of them as contributors to culture, literature, and spiritual thought.” Ms Upadhyay took this point further and said that, “the soul has no gender.”

The second session, ‘Music: The Elixir of Life,’ moderated by Ms Rosa Cárdenas, explored the universal language of music. Mr Gustavo Angarita explained that Colombia is a naturally festive country where everything is transformed into song, and noted the cultural connections between Colombia and India’s vibrant colours, rhythm, and dance. The speakers discussed the strong relationship between music and cinema, while also noting that in India, films have always revolved

around music, while Gustavo observed that in India, songs are often promoted before the film itself.

The third session, ‘Changing Dynamics of the Creative Economy,’ was moderated by Shri Kumar Vikram. Mr Harold Trompetero



opened the conversation by sharing his personal journey with dyslexia and how it led him to visual storytelling through cinema. Deepak Karanjikar emphasised that the creative economy has become one of the most influential forces today, connecting strongly with younger generations and extending beyond artists to entire communities. The day’s concluding session, ‘Decoding the Digital Diaspora Community,’ moderated by Ms Rochelle Miranda, explored how migration no longer means complete separation, as technology bridges identity, culture, and relationships across borders. Taking these cultural exchanges forward, the evening saw a screening of the Hindi-language *Jolly LLB* with Spanish subtitles.

The concluding day at the Bharat /// India Stage was summation and reaffirmation of the ties between India and Colombia. Both the sessions for the day ‘Beyond Guest of Honour Project: Discussing India–Colombia Relations and Future Pathways,’ moderated by Shri Deep Saikia and ‘Experience Sharing,’ moderated by Ms Carolyn Pao reflected in depth and celebrated the mutual respect and cultural diplomacy which is the foundation for the continued relationship between the host and guest nation.

Jammu-Haryana-Punjab Pustak Parikrama Flagged Off

The Jammu-Haryana-Punjab Pustak Parikrama was flagged off on 19th May by Deputy Commissioner Samba, Ms Ayushi Sudan along with Chief Education Officer Shri Yash Paul Sharma. This mobile book exhibition would tour throughout the region bringing the joy of books to one and all. The aim of the Books-on-Wheels scheme is to promote reading culture and lifelong learning among students and book lovers everywhere.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the rich collection of books displayed in the Mobile Exhibition Bus. She interacted with officials and visitors present and lauded the initiative by National Book Trust, India for making quality books accessible to readers at their doorstep.

The DC also purchased some books for herself, setting an example of healthy reading habits for the people of her district.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appealed to students, teachers, parents and book lovers to visit the exhibition and explore books according to their interests. She remarked that books play a vital role in preserving knowledge, heritage, culture and the collective wisdom of society while connecting readers from ancient India to the modern world.

The exhibition offering a wide range of books at affordable prices across diverse subjects matters reached IIT Jammu on 25th May. In collaboration with the Central Library, IIT Jammu, it traversed through various locations within the campus attracting many young readers.



Book Exhibition in INS Chilka

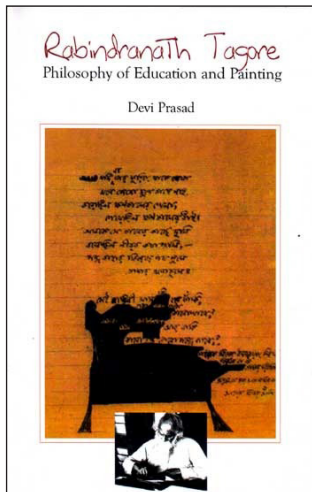
On 9th May NBT's Cuttack wing showcased over 2,000 books in INS Chilka, Indian Navy's premier training establishment. The initiative meant to nurture stronger, sharper minds of tomorrow through the power of books, featured diverse titles in Hindi, English and Odia. The event witnessed enthusiastic



participation from the station community, reflecting a commitment towards intellectual growth.



NBT Books on National Biographies of Interest



Rabindranath Tagore: Philosophy of Education and Painting

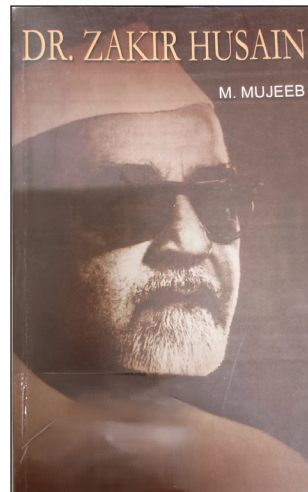
Devi Prasad | 117 Pages | Rs 135

The book presents Tagore's approach into the realm of education and art right from the inception of Santiniketan in 1901.

A strong critic of specialisation, he espoused maintaining of the unity and harmony of humankind with its social atmosphere and nature.

The author, Shri Devi Prasad was a student of Santiniketan, had

been a close witness to Tagore's creativity as a painter.

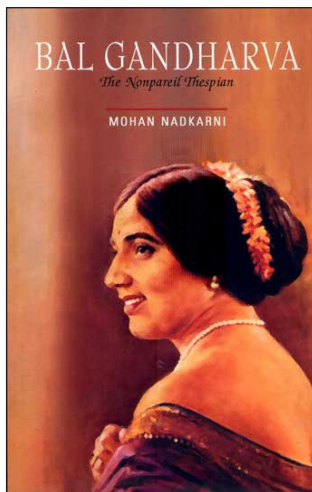


Dr Zakir Husain

M Mujeeb | 248 Pages | Rs. 230

A scholar, educationist, philanthropist and the President of India from 1967 to 1969, Dr Zakir Husain endeared himself to men of different religious communities through his secular and democratic outlook.

This illuminating biography provides an intimate glimpse into the life of this great man and his work.



Bal Gandharva: The Nonpareil Thespian

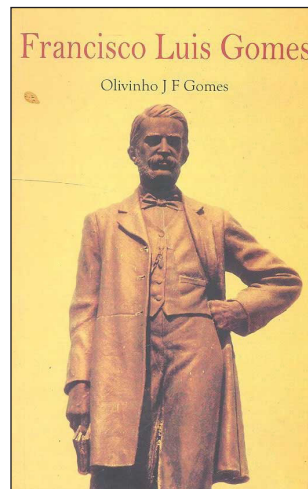
Mohan Nadkarni | 77 Pages | Rs. 125

An actor-singer Bal Gandharva reigned supreme in the world of Marathi musical drama.

Endowed with a melodious voice and charismatic looks he played a variety of feminine roles with charming impersonations.

This brief biography discusses his contribution to the enrichment of Marathi musical drama in particular

and Indian music in general.

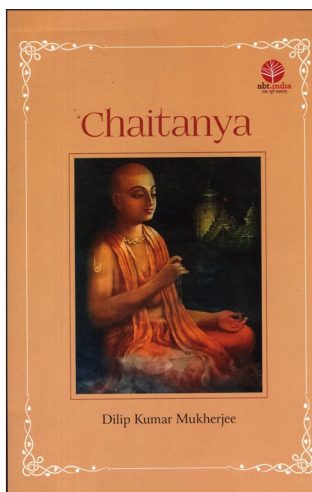


Francisco Luis Gomes

Olivinho J F Gomes | 261 Pages | Rs. 245

Dr. Francisco Luis Gomes was a versatile personality. A thinker, master of several European and Indian languages, doctor, writer, orator, economist, social activist, politician and a freedom fighter, he represented the voice of the people in Lisbon parliament, Portugal.

This book aims to shine some light into the life and legacy of this pioneering man.

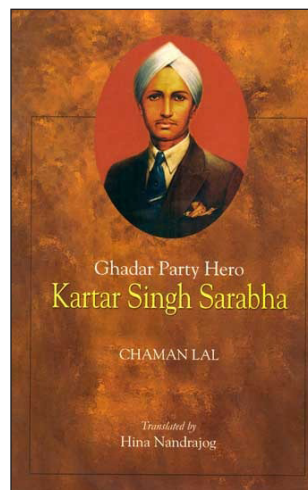


Chaitanya

Dilip Kumar Mukherjee | 118 Pages | Rs. 185

Chaitanya (b. 1486) appeared when the country was going through one of the darkest periods of its recent history.

His Bhakti movement which was soon to have a deep and pervasive influence in many parts of the country carried within it a tremendous social force.



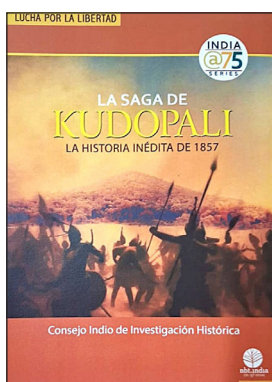
Ghadar Party Hero: Kartar Singh

Sarabha Chaman Lal | 95 Pages | Rs. 130

The martyr Kartar Singh Sarabha worked to unite the Indians living abroad in order to uproot the British Raj that had enslaved India.

He was the prop of the Ghadar Party and therefore acclaimed as the Ghadar Party Hero.

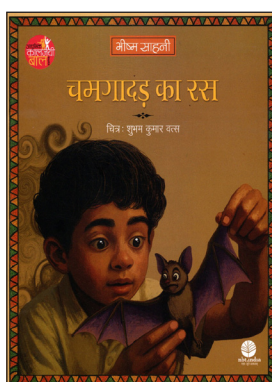
Latest and Forthcoming Titles



The Saga of Kudopali: The Unsung Story of 1857 (Spanish)

This trailblazing exploration ventures beyond the established narratives of 1857 to illuminate the Kudopali insurgency, a defiant yet eclipsed chapter of India's anti-colonial resistance. Illuminating the obscured battles waged by Sambalpur's hidden champions and silenced narratives, the book challenges the monolithic frameworks of historical discourse, reframing history as a living

dialogue with diverse, uncharted narratives.

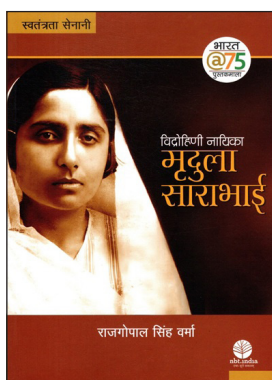


Chamgadad Ka Ras

Bisham Sahni

Nature has endowed every creature with certain special powers that aid them in their survival. However, these very powers can also become a source of trouble for others—and this is precisely what happens to Madhwa in Chamgadad Ka Ras. Through this tale, children can learn that not every power is meant for everyone, and that sometimes, some powers can even rob you of your peace

and happiness.



Vidrohini Nayika Mridula Sarabhai

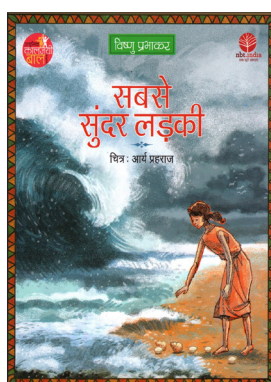
Raj Gopal Singh Verma

Vidrohini Nayika: Mridula Sarabhai traces the life and legacy of a remarkable yet lesser-known freedom fighter and social reformer of India.

Born into the distinguished Sarabhai family of Ahmedabad, Mridula Sarabhai devoted herself to the service of the nation.

A close associate of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, she played an active role in the Indian freedom struggle. Her courage and commitment were made visible during the Partition of India, when she worked tirelessly to rescue and rehabilitate abducted women and assist families displaced by violence and upheaval.

The book explores her contributions to the struggle for independence, her humanitarian efforts during Partition, and her principled interventions in post-Independence political and social issues, including her advocacy for peace and civil liberties.



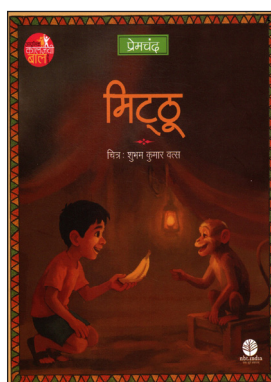
Sabse Sunder Ladki

Vishnu Prabhakar

Beauty is less about a person's appearance and more about their innate nature. Sabse Sunder Ladki teaches its readers how those who provide necessary help without being asked to are the most beautiful people.

The reader will accompany Kanak, Harsh and Manjari as they go on this adventure of learning the truth about

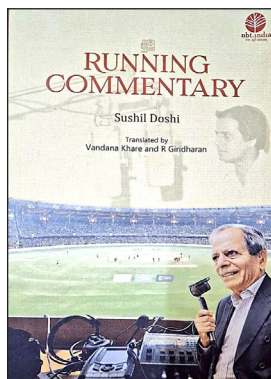
beauty.



Mitthu

Premchand

Mitthu tells the tale of a pure and innocent friendship between Gopal, a young boy, and Mitthu, a monkey he befriends. Their friendship gets tested but they stay true to each other and always show up to help the other. The story depicts what genuine friendship entails.



Running Commentary

Sushil Doshi

Over the last five decades, Padma Shri Sushil Doshi has been a household name on account of his cricket commentary in Hindi. His autobiography Running Commentary is replete with interesting anecdotes both on and off the field, some of which are little known. The book traces the evolution of the game, and

brings the readers face-to-face with certain exciting events related to World Cups, interesting anecdotes involving famous cricketers and some inside stories. The book also describes the unique symbiotic relationship between Hindi Language and the sport of cricket and how each helped in popularising the other. This book is a mini-digest that describes in a lively fashion, stories related to legends like Sunil Gavaskar, Vivian Richards, Keith Miller, Sachin Tendulkar and Mahendra Singh Dhoni. Running commentary is a contemporary history of cricket and a travelogue of the author's multiple foreign assignments as a commentator. It is a must-buy for all cricket lovers.

Gleam of Summer Camp: Nurturing Young Minds

In its endeavour of bringing the pleasure of reading to children, National Centre for Children's Literature (NCCL), the children's wing of National Book Trust, India, organised collaborative summer camps with schools around Delhi.

Sanskriti School, Chanakyapuri

From 20th to 25th May students of Sanskriti School had their summers days filled to the brim with engaging and challenging activities. More than eighty students enthusiastically participated in the five-day Summer Camp. It featured a rich variety of engaging sessions including musical storytelling, puppet storytelling, Kamishibai storytelling, 'Kabir for Kids', read-aloud sessions, creative writing, caricature making, origami, bookmark making, dance and movement activities, art and craft workshops, and quiz sessions. These activities encouraged imagination, creativity, teamwork, and self-expression among children in a joyful learning environment. Children who performed best were awarded storybooks published by NBT, India, and participants in Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya activities received goodies and ReP badges.

DPS Vasant Kunj

The Summer Camp organized by NBT, India in collaboration with Delhi Public School, Vasant Kunj was held at the DPS Campus, Vasant Kunj from 25 May to 5 June 2026, catered to two batches comprising Classes 1–3 and Classes 4–6. The camp became an instant hit with a variety of engaging children's activities across its multiple days.

The first day of the camp opened on a musical note with 'Kabir for Kids' by Ms Shivani and Mr Saurabh for Classes 1–3, introducing young minds to the teachings of the fourteenth-century saint through the character of Little Kabir, transformed into engaging sing-along rhymes. For Classes 4–6, storyteller Ms Jaishree Sethi enthralled students with the tale of Garbar Ram, a puncture maker whose search for drinking water taught young listeners about the importance of water conservation.

A 'Voice-Over Workshop' by Shri Himmat Singh Negi then guided Classes 1–3 in techniques of vocal modulation, pacing, and enunciation; meanwhile, students of Classes 4–6 explored the art of origami with paper flower bouquets in the 'Origami Club with Sejal'. The day concluded with 'Bookmark Making Fun' for Classes 1–3 and 'All About You' for Classes 4–6, both facilitated by the Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya team, encouraging creativity, self-reflection, and an introduction to the digital library's collection of more than seven thousand e-books in twenty-three languages.

On the subsequent day, the joyride of summer continued with exciting activities for both batches. For Classes 1–3, the day began with 'Storytelling with Puppets' by Ms Shikha Garg, in



which children travelled to the magical world of Cloud Nine and enjoyed the inspiring story of Ging Gang, the mighty dragon who overcame his insecurities through friendship and self-confidence. This was followed by an energetic 'Zumba Fun' session by Ms Priyanka Saini and a 'Poster Making Competition' by Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya on the theme 'Digital India.' For Classes 4–6, a creative 'Doodle Art Workshop' by Team NCCL saw children transform the letters of their names into imaginative doodles,

where the best entries were awarded children's books published by NBT, India. A session on 'Fun with Vedic Maths' by Shri Vipin Setia followed, and the day concluded with a poster-making competition on the theme 'Me and My Digital Library.'

The joint NBT and DPS Vasant Kunj Summer Camp successfully bridged traditional arts and digital literacy. By intersecting physical movement, mental mindfulness and literary appreciation, the camp provided a holistic environment where young minds could flourish with eagerness to learn more.

The following days also unfolded with creativity, imagination, movement, and self-expression. For Classes 1–3, there was 'Storytelling with Puppets' by Ms Amrita Jolly, where children entered a whimsical world and met Dinku, the musically gifted. This was followed by an 'Origami Carnival' by Sejal, where children crafted



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colourful paper fishes. The day concluded with a slogan writing session by Team Kath via Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya, where young minds created meaningful slogans on themes such as water conservation, tree plantation, national unity, and peaceful co-existence.

For Classes 4–6, 'Dance and Body Movement Workshop' by Shri Akbar Ali offered deep breathing exercises and joyful dancing, followed by a creative writing workshop by Ms Usha Chhabra in which children created imaginative stories

inspired by props and illustrations. A colourful 'Bookmark Making Workshop' by the Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya team using ice cream sticks, colours, pom-poms, and stickers rounded off the day.

More such interesting and hands-on events were put together making the summer days of students from DPS Vasant Kunj more vibrant. A Mandala Art workshop; a Kamishibai storytelling session by Ms Archana Chandel, who narrated a Bihari folktale using illustrated story cards; greeting card and mascot designing sessions; and loads more.

Book Publishing Course

National Book Trust, India is organising a six-week long, offline course in book publishing at its Delhi headquarters in Vasant Kunj. A one-of-its-kind initiative the programme is meant to allow attendees the

opportunity of learning from experienced professionals the art of publishing books, through practical insights and real-world exposure. It will be conducted from 1st June to 10th July.

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

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