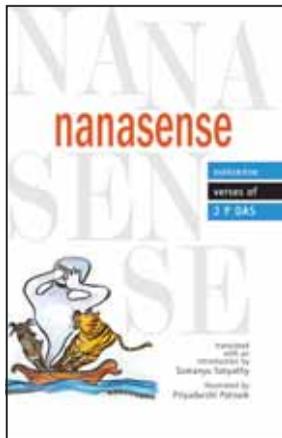


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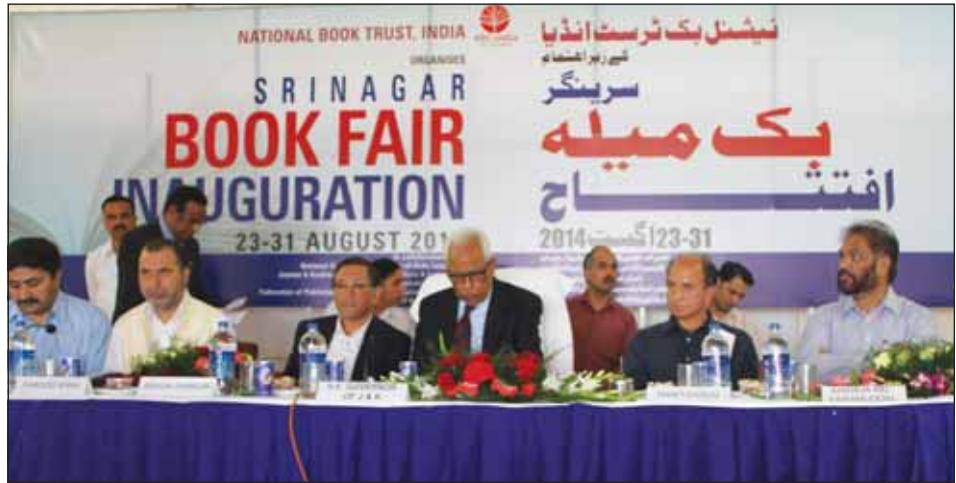
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PICK OF THE MONTH



Nanasense: Nonsense Verses of J.P. Das
Sumanyu Satpathy (Trans)
978-81-237-7194-6; Rs 100

Srinagar Book Fair



The National Book Trust, India organized a nine-day book fair in Srinagar at Kashmir Haat from 23 to 31 August 2014 in collaboration with the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL); Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, and Federation of Publishers and Booksellers Association in India.

Inaugurating the Fair, Shri N.N. Vohra, Hon'ble Governor of J&K congratulated NBT and urged that such events should be made an annual feature. He suggested that similar book fairs need to be organized in other areas of the State besides Jammu, Srinagar and Leh. "To make book reading popular and cost effective among youth, the State could consider supporting these events so that the organizers are enabled to offer significant discounts in the prices of the books bought by the students and members of the society at large," he added.

Emphasising the importance of good books in life, Shri Vohra said that a valuable book, once bought, enlightens several generations in the family. He said that wisdom, which comes from knowledge, lays the basis for advancement

of civilization and culture of a nation. While appreciating NBT for publishing quality books and making it available to readers on moderate prices, he asked the officials of the education department to encourage schools and give due publicity to the Fair so that the largest possible number of school, college and university students, from all over the Valley, are able to visit and benefit from the Fair.



The first copies of Kashmiri translations of the NBT titles for children, *The Day the River Spoke* and *Udan Khatola* were also presented to the Governor. The Governor also visited various book stalls put up by the publishers from across India, took keen interest in the books displayed and even purchased a number of books.

Shri Ashok Thakur, Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, was the Guest of Honour at the function. He said that the Fair was being organized with the objective of promoting book reading and writing among youth. He assured that the Book Fair will be an annual feature from this year onwards and the demand for organizing similar fairs in far-off areas will also be taken care of. Dr Thakur also assured that the Ministry will also promote publishing and printing of books and AICTE could be asked to run



a skill development programme in the State to train young population in various vocations relating to publishing, as India is a leading player in the field offering immense job opportunities.

Other dignitaries who spoke on the occasion included Farooq Ahmad Shah, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Tariq Ganie, Director Handicrafts, Kashmir; Prof Khawaja Muhammad Ekramudin, Director, NCPUL; S.C. Sethi, President, Federation of Publishers' & Booksellers' Associations in India; and Prof Shafi Shauq, Kashmiri writer.

Earlier, Dr M.A. Sikandar, Director, NBT, India welcomed the dignitaries,

guests and the audience and talked about the various activities of the NBT, and expressed hope that the Fair would be a huge success.

The Book Fair was spread over 140 stalls with about a hundred publishers and booksellers having exhibited their books over various genres. Local print and electronic media also covered the events and played an important role in popularizing the Fair.

A number of literary and book related events were also organized in collaboration with National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages and Radio Kashmir during the Fair. The programmes included Panel Discussions, Illustration Workshops for children, Inter-School competitions, Poets' Meet and Meet-the-Author programmes.

Shri Dwijendra Kumar, English editor, NBT coordinated the various activities held during the Fair.

Interactive Session for School Children

On the occasion of International Literacy Day, the National Centre for Children's Literature (NCCL) of National Book Trust, India organized an interactive session for school children at the premises of the Trust on 8 September 2014. Dr Tomoko Kikuchi, noted author and translator of the NBT title in Hindi *Hiroshima Ka Dard* interacted with the school children.

Dr Tomoko Kikuchi narrated using audio-visual aid; describing the most horrific incident in the history of the

world that took place in Hiroshima, a city with seven rivers in Japan, inflicted with atom bomb on 6 August 1945.

Dr Kikuchi showed the place at which the bomb was thrown. She told children that the site has been kept as a memorial since, and that every year on 6 August people gather in Hiroshima to pay tribute to those who were killed in the bombing. Through the character of the story in the book *Hiroshima Ka Dard*, Michan, a seven year old girl, she made them aware about the harmful effects of the radiation caused

by an atom bomb. She opined that to save mankind such incidents should not be repeated.

Earlier, Dr M A Sikandar, Director, NBT welcomed the guests and spoke about the importance of International Literacy Day and how books make our life beautiful. He said that the books echo the

fact that each and every human being should live and let others live. He also talked about the cultural and traditional relationship that India maintains with Japan. He also urged children to read more and more books.

More than 120 school children participated in this session. They asked several questions related to the book and atomic bombing. They also visited NCCL Library and NBT Bookshop. Shri Manas Ranjan Mahapatra, Editor (NCCL) coordinated the programme.



Workshop-cum-Interactive Session

National Centre for Children's Literature (NCCL) of National Book Trust, India in association with India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) and Federation of Indian Publishers (FIP) organized a workshop 'Let's Review a Book' and an interactive session with an illustrator, for school children during Delhi Book Fair 2014 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on 29 August 2014.

The first session on book review was conducted by Prof. Nandini Sahu, Associate Professor of English, IGNOU and creative writer.

While giving details on how to write a book review, Prof. Sahu said that, "the role of reviewer is very important as the reviewer tells the reader what the book is all about." She further added that, "since the reviewer has the freedom to write about the book, his mind should be open and should not have negative approach towards the writer, especially towards the new writer." She also informed that the reviewer has the freedom to give his opinion on the conclusion of the book and if he does not like the end of the book, he may suggest an alternative.



In the second session, Shri Subir Roy, renowned illustrator and Art Director at Children's Book Trust, gave an insight into designing a cover of the book. He said that in our country there is no



dearth of good artists. He informed children about the young Indian artists who have won several awards at international levels. He shared his experience as an illustrator and gave tips to children on how to draw good illustrations.

The children showed keen interest in both the sessions and interacted with the resource persons. They asked several questions related to reviewing a book and designing the cover.

More than 150 children from various schools of Delhi and NCR including Ahlcon International School, Mayur Vihar, DAV Public School, Paschim Enclave, DAV Public School, Shreshtha Vihar, Rama Public School, Najafgarh, Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya, Anand Vihar, Shraddha Mandir School, Faridabad, among others participated in this programme.

The best twenty students in the workshop were presented NBT books as awards as well as certificates. All the participants were given NBT books as gift. Shri Manas Ranjan Mahapatra, Editor, NCCL-NBT coordinated the programme.

Leh Book Exhibition

The National Book Trust, India organised a Book Exhibition in collaboration with District Administration, at Polo Grounds, Leh, from 2 to 8 August 2014.

Inaugurating the Book Exhibition, Rev. E.S. Gergan said that being an avid reader of books he felt that a reader will never feel bored or be alone. Looking at the life scenario of Ladakh, Gergan felt that people have ample reading time especially during winters when there is almost nothing to do and to break the intellectual paucity there should be reading rooms at walking distance, with good books at affordable price to help create a platform for promoting reading habits. Talking about the importance and



effect of a learned person, Gergan said that a well-read person positively influences his next three generations and he hoped that this would be the future of Ladakh.

In his welcome speech, Mohd. Imranul Haque, Deputy Director, NBT told the gathering that their aim for organizing this book exhibition was to promote the habit of reading among Ladakhi society which is considerably lesser as compared to other places.

With about 1500 titles on display in English, Hindi and Urdu, the books were on wide range of subjects including life stories, autobiographies, geography, science, history, culture, agriculture, creativity, folklore, regional, religious, illustrated books for children, etc.

Colloquium on History of North-East

The Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research at Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi, and ICSSR-NERC at North East Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, organized a two-day colloquium at ICSSR-NERC, NEHU, Shillong on 27 & 28 August 2014, in collaboration with the National Book Trust, India.

Concerned over the knowledge gap about the North-East over decades that has created stereotypes and increased misunderstandings, historians and scholars from various universities discussed on the development of a syllabi and teaching tools on the region for under graduate and post graduate students across the country. They deliberated on the gaps in history teaching as well as broader areas of knowledge about the region in university curricula and in schools. Existing literature and curricula in universities including teaching of the North East region within the region were also reviewed.

The historians and social scientists widely expressed the



need for inclusion of its history in curricula across India, plug gaps where possible, put correctives in places where needed and create opportunities for developing and



teaching a history of the region in the general curricula.

The meeting stressed that modest, 'do-able' goals needed to be set. This is in the background of decades of neglect of the region's history and different perspectives about these histories. The proposed areas include developing Readers and the framing of an 'Introduction to the History of the North East'. This could be a basic foundation course for universities across the country, starting with Central universities under the aegis of the University Grants Commission.

The Colloquium ended with the commitment that future meetings would be held in the North East region and Delhi to finalize the work in progress. The University Grants Commission was represented by Dr. Mohammad Arif, Joint Secretary.

The National Book Trust, India was represented by Shri Deep Saikia (Asamiya editor), Ms Carolyn Pao (English editor).

Kargil Book Exhibition

The National Book Trust, India organised a book exhibition in collaboration with Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), District Administration, District Youth and Sports Department of Kargil at

Indoor Stadium, Kargil from 5 to 10 August 2014.

Inaugurating the Exhibition, Advocate Mohammad Amir, acting chairman of LAHDC Kargil, appreciated the efforts of NBT for organizing the Fair for the benefit of the people of Kargil.

He explained the benefit of books which have produced great thinkers and scholars who contributed immensely to the society. "This book fair will help the students, scholars and intellectuals to

contribute more towards the society," he added.

More than 1,000 titles in Urdu, English, Hindi and Kashmiri languages were exhibited at the exhibition.

Shri Imran-ul-Haque, Dy. Director, NBT coordinated the book exhibition.



Sagacious Voices of Modern India

With the passing away of Prof. Udupi Rangacharya Ananthamurthy and Prof. Bipan Chandra within a span of a few days, the NBT has lost two of its most beloved and respected chairmen and the nation two sagacious chroniclers of modern India. While Ananthamurthy delved deep into the social consciousness of modern India, Chandra explored the complexities of historical narratives to tell the story of modern India. Scholar and writer as they were, both at the helm of affairs at NBT brought in their varied perspectives to provide a direction in its publications and activities.

A great public intellectual, novelist, short story writer, essayist and poet, Ananthamurthy's tenure at NBT was only for a year. He moved on to become the President of Sahitya Akademi. Aware of the importance of bhashas, he believed that in Indian languages lay some of our greatest writings, a long tradition and a great literary lineage. Initiating a few discussions, Ananthamurthy gave shape to a series of books on radical writings in India. Through this he wanted to bring to a multilingual readership the thoughts that shaped the modern India.

It was a time when the nation was celebrating the golden jubilee year of

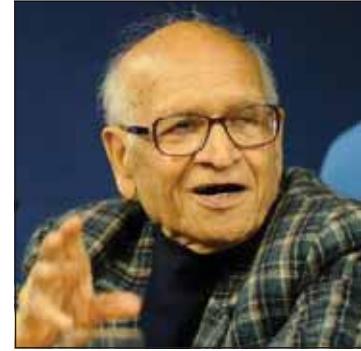


Prof. U.R. Ananthamurthy

quit India Movement, Ananthamurthy organised a three-day seminar on Indian literature bringing together some of the finest writers of country across genre. The seminar later produced one of NBT's best known publications, a unique multivolume *Masterpieces of Indian Literature*.

About a decade later Prof. Bipan Chandra, country's foremost modern Indian historian, took charge as Chairman, NBT. His long tenure in NBT was marked by a spurt of publications that brought in some of India's wellknown scholars and writers into the publishing list of NBT.

Realising the importance of reaching the story of India to a vast readership in a simpler way, Chandra initiated the Popular Social Science series which became immensely popular among



Prof. Bipan Chandra

scholars, students as well as general readers. Aspects of the economics, history, governance, foreign policy, diaspora etc, all found a place in this list. Together these books brought about a radical change in the publishing programme of the Trust.

In his condolence message, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble President of India, said, "Prof. Bipan Chandra was one of the foremost scholars in our country on modern India. For his immense contribution towards the study of Indian history, he was honoured with a Padma Bhushan. He will be missed by his large number of friends, colleagues and students."

Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India also expressed grief on the passing away of the noted historian.

Beijing International Book Fair

The Beijing International Book Fair (BIBF), continues to uphold its principle of "introducing excellent books from around the world into China and leading Chinese books to the world".

Over the past twenty years, the BIBF has been an event of the utmost importance to publishers, and has received major support and participation from domestic and overseas book and publishing industries, gradually confirming BIBF's international brand status, and turning it into a major international publishing event incorporating copyright trade, book trade, cultural events, displays, consultation services and professional networking.

The 21st Beijing International Book Fair was held from 27 to 31 August, 2014 at the China International Exhibition Centre, Beijing.

The exhibition area was spread over

53,600 square meters, which included the Fair features of General Publishing Zone, Digital Publishing Zone, the Children's Book, Cartoons & Animation Zone, Periodical Zone, Publishing on Demand Zone, the Rights Center and the Library Acquisition Zone. The Republic of Turkey participated as the Country of Honor this year.

In line with its objective of showcasing books from India, NBT participated in the Beijing International Book Fair 2014, and put up a collective exhibit of Indian books in English, and Hindi in Hall E2. The NBT stall was visited by many dignitaries, publishers as well as book lovers.



Taking Environment to Children

TERI Press, the publishing wing of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), released a book, *Why Should I Recycle?* on 27 August 2014. The book helps children understand the principle of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle, and how these principles can make the world a cleaner, healthier and better place.

The launch of the book was followed by a panel discussion. Dr M.A. Sikandar, Director, National Book Trust, Ms Lata Vaidyanathan, Former Principal, Modern School, Vishwajyoti Ghosh, author & graphic novelist, and Ms. Livleen from TERI took part in the discussions.

Lack of availability of environmental literature for children, creating interesting books on green issues for kids, National policy perspective on environment and children literature,



environmental education and the role of schools were some of the issues that came up for discussion.

Speaking at the book launch, Mr Prabir Sengupta, Distinguished Fellow and Director, TERI, said "The overall perception about what is sustainable and what is not, what is ethical and what is not can only be taught through books."

Introducing the book, Ms Aanchal

Broca Kumar, author of the book *Why Should I Recycle?* said, "Teach the child not what to think but how to think, to bring about a difference."

Ms Lata Vaidyanathan, Former Principal, Modern School, said: "Attitudinal change is necessary to bring about a turnaround. Reading should be encouraged without testing or competition."

Dr M.A. Sikandar, Director, NBT India, said,

"Promoting reading and inculcating the habit in children at a very young age is required." He reiterated that there is a greater need to focus on book promotion outreach to non-metro and small towns where there is more interest among the readers of regional language. He also underlined the need for more sensitivity towards environmental concerns in books for children.

NBT Book Promotion Centre at Patna

"The society is facing a severe shortage of fearless writers. Today they are more inclined to praising people close to power, and thus ignoring the real heroes, who contribute more to society than those claiming to serve it," said Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar. He was addressing a select audience at the inauguration of NBT Book Promotion Centre at Patna.

In his address, Shri Manjhi acknowledged the pioneering role of NBT in promoting reading habit among the people. He urged NBT to take



special efforts to bring out books on folk culture and traditions of Bihar. He also emphasised on the importance of reading value-based books. "The books of Indian values should also be

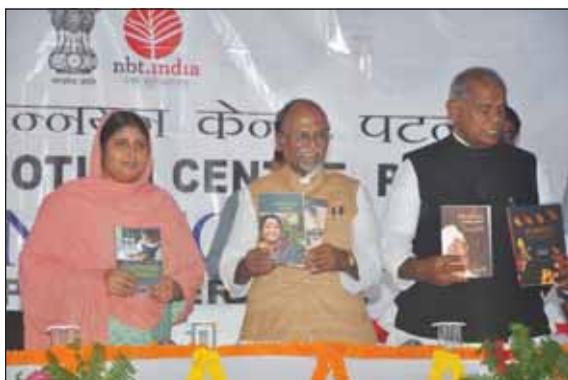
read for development of intellectual consciousness. Reading of cheap books which intend to create tensions on religious or linguistic lines should be avoided," he added.

On the occasion, Shri Manjhi released nine NBT books written by

Jameel Akhtar, Usha Kiran Khan, Santokh Singh Dheer, M.H. Gufran among others.

Presiding over the function, Shri Ram Vachan Rai, MLC, drew a parallel between the opening of Nalanda University and the opening of NBT Book Promotion Centre. He requested NBT to encourage writings on real heroes of the state by local leaders.

In his address, Dr. M.A. Sikandar, said that the Trust has published over 18,000 books on various topics in different languages. Besides, "we want to publish more books in Maithili and Bhojpuri," he added.



Delhi Book Fair 2014

The 20th edition of Delhi Book Fair was held from 23 to 31 August 2014 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Organized by the Federation of Indian Publishers (FIP) and India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), the Fair went hi-tech this year with an exclusive mobile application designed to guide visitors through the malls.

The nine-day fair, revolved around the theme 'Literature in Cinema', saw the participation of more than 225 publishers, booksellers, manufacturers and dealers of teaching aids and computer software, who exhibited their books in over about 170 stalls.

The Fair was inaugurated by Ms Rita Menon, Chairperson ITPO. "With a view to make the fair more convenient to visitors, the ITPO has introduced a mobile application through which visitors can access details of exhibitors, products on display, location details, washrooms



and essential amenities," said Shri Ashok Gupta, President, FIP.

The fair provided a unique platform



for business-to-business transactions, establishing new contacts, entering into co-publishing arrangements, translations and copyright arrangements, reprinting of old and rare books and also retailing opportunity to the multitude of visitors who come to visit the fair.

The Fair was well-attended by booklovers, librarians, researchers, academicians, students, general public,

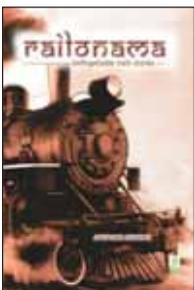
media, etc.

The NBT also participated in the Delhi Book Fair 2014, and put up a big stall with a large exhibit of books in English, Hindi and all other Indian languages, showcasing a wide range of subjects and genres, for all age groups.

The NBT stall was also awarded the best stall for its unique design and decoration. Shri Imranul Haque, Dy. Director, Northern Regional Office, received the award on behalf of the Trust.

Books Received

Railonama: Unforgettable Train Stories; Anupama Sharma (ed.); Good Times Books Pvt. Ltd., H-13 Bali Nagar, New Delhi-110015; 978-93-806197-9-8; Rs 250



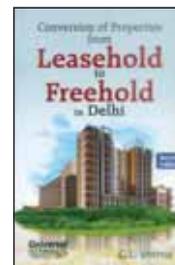
Travelling by the Indian Railways is a journey in itself. A quintessential Indian experience. Where you get to meet people from all over the country, taste a variety of cuisines and soak up a plethora of different cultures and languages. All of that, and more may come in just one train journey. Railonama is a collection of heart-warming, inspiring and surprising stories of train journeys in India. Stories have been selected from a pool of submissions from people all over the world who have travelled in India.

Perspective on Current Affairs: 2014; Sohan Lal (Ed.); Natraj Publishers, 17 Rajpur Road, Dehra Dun-248001, Uttarakhand; 978-93-8158-199-0; Rs 250



This half-yearly publication is a source of comprehensive information on the latest happenings around the globe with a special emphasis on India. The book covers a range of subjects like sports, science, economics and defence. It also has a political section that critically examines national and international politics and contains an interesting synopsis on people who have been in the news. An ideal companion to current events, it explains the background to events and the implications of their outcome.

Conversion of Properties from Leasehold to Freehold in Delhi, G.L. Verma; Universal Law Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd., C-FF-1A, Dilkush Industrial Estate, G.T. Karnal Road, Delhi-110033; 978-93-5035-308-0; Rs 450



The unprecedented rise in construction activity in and around NCR Delhi has led to the emergence of grey areas relating to conversion of property from leasehold to freehold, legal status of transaction, misuse of properties and their regularisation, etc. While several circulars, notifications and orders have been issued by authorities like DDA, Delhi Government; judgements by courts on the similar subjects have added to the complexity of the arena. The book aims to identify the grey areas and address the points useful for owners and buyers.

Advisory Panel Meetings

Maithili: The Advisory Panel Meeting of the Maithili language was held on 5 September 2014 in the newly inaugurated Book Promotion Centre in Patna. Chaired by



Dr M.A. Sikandar, Director, NBT, the meeting was attended by Gangesh Gunjan, Prof. Bhimnath Jha, Ushakiran Khan, Dr Umakant Jha, Ramlochan Thakur and Vibhuti Anand. From the NBT, Kumar Vikram, Editor and Dr. Kamal Ahmad and Deepak Gupta, Hindi editors were also present.

Urdu: The Meeting of the Advisory Panel for Urdu language was held at the Nehru Bhawan, NBT India, on 27 August 2014. Chaired by Shri Sethumadhavan, Chairman, NBT, the meeting was attended by



Ratan Singh, Prof. Shiram Moosi, Prof. Eijaz Ali Arshad, Prof. Irteja Karim, Chandrabhan Khan, Jeelani Bano and Prof. Khwaja Mohd Ekramuddin. Dr. M.A. Sikandar, Director, NBT and Dr Shams Equbal, Urdu Editor, NBT were also present.

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

Editor: Binny Kurian

Editorial Associate: Kanchan Wanchoo Sharma

Production Officer: Narender Kumar



NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA

Nehru Bhawan, 5 Institutional Area,
Vasant Kunj, Phase-II New Delhi-110 070
E-mail: office.nbt@nic.in

Website: www.nbtindia.gov.in

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NBT Book Awarded

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee presented the Indira Gandhi Rajbhasha Award 2014 to the book *Gram Niyojan*, published by NBT in Hindi, on 14 September 2014, on the occasion of National Hindi Diwas, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. Shri Rajnath Singh, Home Minister was also present on the occasion. Dr Mahipal, author of the book, received the award. He is presently Director in the Ministry of Rural Development.



On India Government Service