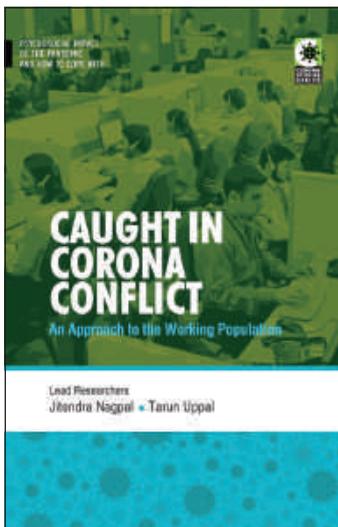


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### PICK OF THE MONTH



**Caught in Corona Conflict: An Approach to the Working Population**  
Jitendra Nagpal & Tarun Uppal  
978-81-237-9199-9; Rs 170

## NBT Celebrates 63rd Foundation Day



“NBT has played a major role in the growth of Indian publishing industry,” said Shri Prabhat Kumar, distinguished publisher and member of Board of Trustees, NBT, while delivering the ninth NBT Foundation Day Lecture on ‘Books and Reading in Today’s India.’ Organised virtually, the lecture marks NBT’s 63rd Foundation Day on 1 August 2020.

Shri Prabhat Kumar said that NBT has been publishing quality content for readers of all age-groups and in different Indian languages, which other publishers would not publish as such books are commercially not viable. He also appreciated NBT’s initiative in bringing out books on psychosocial impact of COVID-19 on different segments of the society.

Talking of the various activities of NBT, Shri Prabhat Kumar said that through its emphasis on reaching books to readers across the country in remote areas, NBT organises book fairs, book exhibitions, literary programmes and mobile exhibitions. He further added that NBT has the resources to bring together

the literature of all States and the expertise to publish our glorious history.



In his address, Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, NBT said that NBT was established in 1957 as an institution solely for the promotion of books among common people and to encourage them to read. He further said that NBT is publishing books not only in major Indian languages but also in various minor languages as well as dialects. He added that NBT also publishes books in Braille, and books for other special needs readers. He also congratulated the employees of the Trust for its successful journey.

Speaking of the role of NBT in the publishing industry, Shri Yuvraj Mailk, Director, NBT said that, “National Book



Trust, India is not just a premier national institution, rather our mandate makes our reach possible to the international forums where we are able to showcase and represent the Indian publishing industry and its achievements.” He also said that book fairs organised by NBT, especially the annual New Delhi World Book Fair provides a common platform to authors, readers and publishers from India and abroad to interact with each other.

Shri Yuvraj Malik said that “During

the global corona pandemic, we continued to remain engaged with our readers and come up with programmes and initiatives that represents our commitment to promote book-mindedness and the culture of reading in the country.” Shri Malik remarked that NBT’s major focus is on mentoring children as future authors, illustrators and editors and to create a better ambience of reading in the society and the values attached to it.

The session was coordinated by Ms Neera Jain, Chief Editor & Joint Director, NBT India. On this occasion, the employees of the Trust who completed 25 years of their service were also felicitated.

This is the ninth in the series of NBT Foundation Day Lectures. This annual lecture series was initiated in the year 2013. The lecture series aims



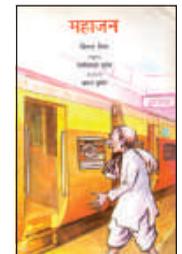
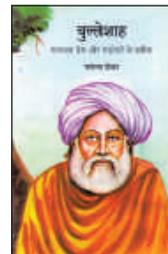
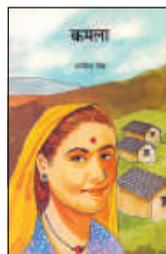
to bring about the importance of books and reading in today’s context and bring in critical thinking by inviting eminent personalities from among women and men of letters, scholars and intellectuals who have made significant contributions to the world of publishing. The earlier lectures were delivered by Dr Shashi Tharoor, Prof. Andre Beteille, Ms Shashi Deshpande, Prof. Kapil Kapoor, Dr N K Singh, Prof. Makarand Paranjape, Dr K Sreenivasarao and Shri B K Sharma.

## International Literacy Day

International Literacy Day (ILD) is celebrated annually around the world on 8 September. In 1966, UNESCO at its 14th General Conference declared 8 September as International Literacy Day to remind the public of the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights, and to advance the literacy agenda towards a more literate and sustainable society.

As part of UNESCO’s initiative, the Government of India set-up the National Literacy Mission to eradicate illiteracy in the country by imparting functional literacy to neo-literates.

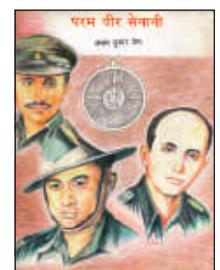
To strengthen this initiative of Government of India, NBT brought out books for neo-literates in various Indian languages. Most of the books published in this series are developed at workshops organised in rural areas with the active participation of the people of that area.



The books are written in an idiom familiar to them and are field tested. These are also extensively illustrated. Short stories, biographies, novelettes, folktales, presentations of contemporary issues and functionally useful information relevant to the needs of the neo-literates are brought out in a style which attracts them to read at their own initiative.

To sustain the habit of reading among neo-literates, NBT also brought out books under its Continuing Education Series in all major languages of India. The books in this series include collections of

freedom songs, books on Indian culture, polity, industry, agriculture, etc. Besides, the series also comprises biographies and major novels of Indian literature abridged for the target readership.



### NBT India Regional Offices and Book Promotion Centres

Kolkata – 700 009 • Phone: 033-22413899	New Delhi-110070 • Phone: 91-11-26707700
Mumbai- 400025 • Phone: 022-23720442, 24320380	Bangalore – 560070 • Phone: 080-26716303
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Cuttack-753009 • Phone: 0671-2308799	Chennai-600006 • Phone: 044-28252663
Ernakulam, Kochi • Phone: 0484-2367702	

## Remarkable Set of Books: HRD Minister

“To counter the difficult circumstances that the world today is facing, NBT has brought out these remarkable and unparalleled set of books,” said Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Hon’ble Minister of Human Resource Development, while releasing a set of seven titles on the psychosocial impact of pandemic and lockdown, published under NBT’s Corona Studies series. The programme was organised through video conferencing at New Delhi on 15 May 2020.

Observing that preventive mental health is an important area that we need to focus during these times, Dr Pokhriyal said that every single effort is necessary to go ahead and fight the pandemic as warriors.

Dr Pokhriyal congratulated both NBT and the authors for their unique efforts to bring together this significant material in book form for easy reading.

*Mann ke haare har, mann ke jeete jeet,* said Dr Pokhriyal emphasising that our mind and psychological well-being decides our actions.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman NBT said, “In my times, I have seen many epidemics and diseases affecting the world, but what we are facing today is challenging because it is affecting the mental health of even those who are not corona-affected. Hence the need for these books is of utmost importance, and they will serve the needs of the readers not only in India but abroad as well.” Prof. Sharma also thanked the Hon’ble Minister for his guidance and his efforts in ensuring that children across India are not affected by this pandemic by making e-learning possible for all.

Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT, under whose leadership the entire project was conceived and executed, thanked the Hon’ble HRD Minister and Chairman, NBT for their continuous guidance, and



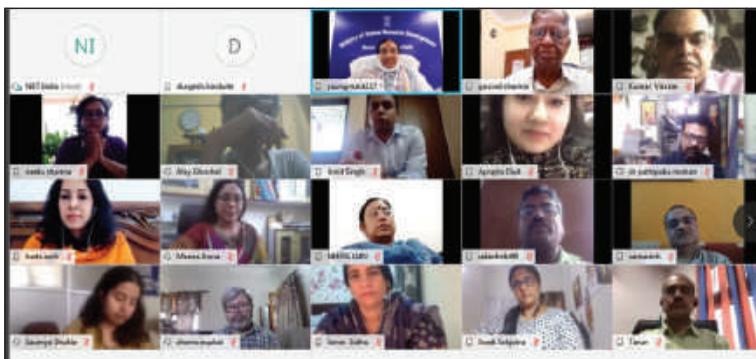
also congratulated the entire NBT team as well as the researchers and illustrators for completing the project in record time of four weeks. He said that more new content will be brought out by NBT in due course of time to meet the reading needs of the post-Corona readers.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Jitendra Nagpal, eminent psychiatrist and one of the authors emphasised on

the unprecedented value addition that these books have made to the area of psychological research and counselling in times to come, since very rarely in India a series of handbooks focused on Preventive Mental Health has ever been brought out’.

The other authors including Ms. Meena Arora, Lt. Col. Tarun Uppal, Dr. Harsheeta, Ms. Rekha Chauhan, Ms. Sonie Sidhu and Ms. Aprajita Dixit, shared their experience of writing the books while working from their respective homes and also the unique experience of coordinating through technology.

Sharing his experience of coordinating the publication of the Series, Shri Kumar Vikram, Editor, NBT said that, “NBT’s role of a national body for book publishing and promotion in these times has become all the more important since well-organised information in the form of books have long-term impact on the readers and the same is being provided by the Trust through these initiatives.”



# Obituary

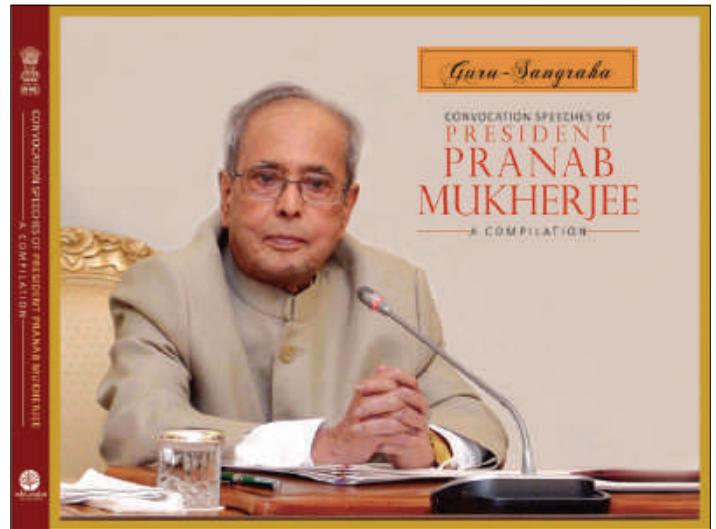
## Former President of India Pranab Mukherjee Passes Away

National Book Trust, India deeply mourns the death of Former President of India Pranab Mukherjee. Known for his contribution in the field of politics and social work, Pranab Mukherjee served as the thirteenth President of India. He held a number of key cabinet portfolios including commerce, defence, finance and external affairs during his tenure as a parliamentarian.

He was born in a small village of Mirati in Birbhum District of West Bengal on 11 December 1935. His father Kamada Kinkar Mukherjee actively participated in the freedom struggle of India. He acquired a Master's degree in History and Political Science as well as a degree in Law from the University of Kolkata. He then embarked on his professional life as a college teacher and journalist. In 1969, he entered into full time public life following his election to the Rajya Sabha of the Parliament.

Several awards and honours were conferred on him including Bharat Ratna in 2019, Padma Vibhushan in 2008, the Best Parliamentarian Award in 1997 and Best Administrator in India Award in 2011. A prolific reader, Pranab Mukherjee authored several books, including *Beyond Survival: Emerging Dimensions of Indian Economy*; *Thoughts and Reflections*; *The Dramatic Decade: The Indira Gandhi Years*; *The Turbulent Years – 1980-1996*; *The Coalition Years: 1996 – 2012*; and *Challenges Before the Nation*.

He was closely associated with the Trust. During his tenure as Finance Minister, he released the NBT book titled *Bagha Jatin: Life and Times of Jatindranath Mukherjee*, authored by Prithwindra Mukherjee. One of NBT's major event, the annual



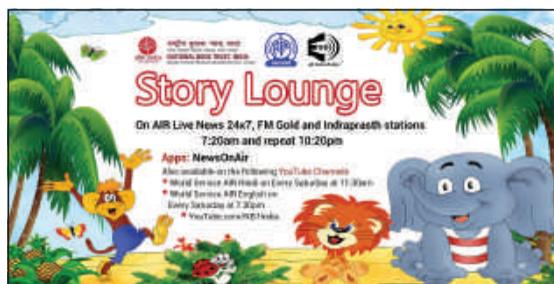
New Delhi World Book Fair was inaugurated by the former President in 2014.

Besides, NBT has published a compilation of his convocation addresses at various universities, *Guru-Sangraha: Convocation Speeches of President Pranab Mukherjee*. The compilation includes his convocation addresses delivered at Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur; All India Institute of Medical Science; Indira Gandhi National Open University; University of Mumbai; University of Delhi; Defence Institute of Advanced technology; Jamia Milia Islamia and Manipur University.

## NBT Story Lounge for Children

National Book Trust, India in collaboration with Prasar Bharati's External Services Division of All India Radio, has launched - Story Lounge - a unique storytelling festival. The programme features celebrated children's authors reading from their stories published by NBT.

The Story Lounge is broadcast daily at 7:20 am and repeat broadcast at 10:20 pm on All India Radio Channels including AIR FM Gold, AIR LiveNews 24x7, AIR Indraprasth. The stories can also be accessed on mobile apps viz. NewsOnAir and on All India Radio Live. In addition, Story Lounge is also telecast every Saturday at the YouTube channel of World Services AIR Hindi at 11.30 am and World



Services AIR English at 7.30 pm.

The stories will also be available on NBT's website [www.nbtindia.gov](http://www.nbtindia.gov) in as well as on its YouTube channel — YouTube/NBTIndia and other social media platforms of NBT.

The stories broadcast are in English and in Hindi, and soon the stories will be aired in all Indian languages across various stations of AIR.

With over 20 crore listeners, this initiative by National Book Trust, India and Prasar Bharati aims to reach children as a unique but tested method of learning and also as a constructive and positive step in the fight against the pandemic that has affected young and old alike.

### For the Subscribers of NBT Newsletter

Dear Subscribers,

Following the government's special focus on digitisation and growing demand for online reading material, National Book Trust, India will also provide its Newsletter digitally.

We request you to kindly share your email address at [prnbtindia@gmail.com](mailto:prnbtindia@gmail.com) so that the e-newsletter may be delivered to you.

## From the Archives

An avid reader and a prolific writer, Late Pranab Mukherjee was delighted to inaugurate New Delhi World Book Fair 2014. In his address, he spoke of the importance of books, book fairs and NBT. Herein, we reproduce his address at the inaugural function held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on 15 February 2014.

In a brief and rousing address, the President spoke on the importance of books and book fairs and their contribution to the development of humanity and the creation of a knowledge-based society. “There is a great hunger for knowledge,” he said and further added that our motto should be “All for knowledge and knowledge for all.” Happy to be inaugurating the New Delhi World Book Fair 2014, the President said that the “The New Delhi World Book Fair has played the twin role of cultural and business admirably,” and added, “No human society can develop in all its dimensions without books. They carry the wisdom of generations. Book fairs are a source of multiple inspirations and remind us that history and tradition have celebrated the argumentative India and not an intolerant India.”

On the growing perception that the presence of internet and digital media books may take a backseat, “I believe the habit of reading books and printed material is inherent in human civilization and therefore they are here to stay,” he said to a thunderous applause. Also with the



book industry recording a growth of 25–30 per cent every year, reflects the growing importance of books.

Welcoming the Polish delegation, the President said, “It is heartening to note that Poland is the Guest Country—a country and culture with which we have close relations.” He was happy to note that an illustrated book for children, ‘Little Chopin’, on the legendary musical genius of Poland has been published by NBT India in association with Polish Institute.

Observing that the focus of the fair is on Children’s Literature, he said that, “India has a long and rich tradition of literature as manifest in our folk and oral storytelling traditions, Panchatantra, mythologies, Puranas, Jataka tales. Even

in the 20th century, our most eminent writers like Rabindranath Tagore and Premchand have all written for children.” “Children”, the President said, “are the best readers because they have no patience for pretence.”

The other guests on the occasion were: Ms Chandresh Kumari Katoch, Minister of Culture, Government of India; Ms Katarzyna Kacperczk, Secretary of State, Public and Economic Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland; Ms Malgorzata Omilanowska, Secretary of State and Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Republic of Poland; Shri Ashok Thakur, Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of HRD; and Ms Rita Menon, CMD, ITPO.



# NBT Publications on Creative Learning

Every year, the nation celebrates September 5, birthday of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, educationist, philosopher and also the former President of India, as Teachers Day. Under its Creative Learning Series, NBT brings out books on new educational concepts and tools, specially designed for the needs of teachers and other professionals working in the field of education. Many of these books are also available in Hindi and other Indian languages.

## A Handbook of Puppetry

Meena Naik

Rs. 75.00 53 pp

The book introduces the children to the fascinating world of puppetry.

ISBN 978-81-237-4206-9



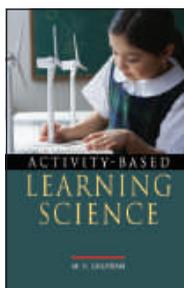
## Activity-based Learning Science

M H Ghufan

Rs. 125.00 116 pp

Learning Science becomes a creative exercise only when the theoretical aspect is supported by actual experiments. This book advocates the importance of activity based leaning science, for it prepares learners to become self-reliant critical thinkers and knowledge constructors. It can serve as a guide to monitor the quality of teaching leaning science for parents and school managers.

ISBN 978-81-237-7102-1



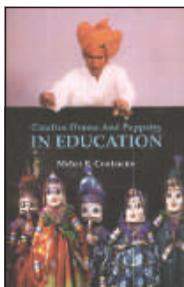
## Creative Drama and Puppetry in Education

Meher R Contractor

Rs. 100.00 122 pp

The book provides a general guide to help those who want to conduct training courses in puppetry and creative drama or to use these techniques in education, social work, recreation, occupational therapy and audio-visual education for communicating ideas to both children and adults.

ISBN 81-237-3422-0



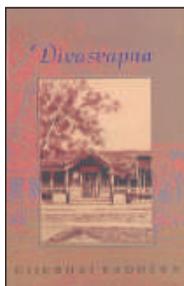
## Divasvapna

Gijubhai Badheka

Rs 45.00

Written by Gujarat's famous educationist and teacher, this minor pedagogical classic is the story of a teacher who rejects the orthodox culture of education but remains enthusiastic towards children and continues to experiment while consciously neglecting the traditions of teaching through prescribed textbooks. First published in Gujarati in 1932, the book propounds a new theory on child's education by emphasising the need for an atmosphere of independence and self-reliance.

ISBN 978-81-237-1237-6



## Duishen

Chingiz Aitmatov

Rs. 55.00 71 pp

The book tells the story of Altyani, a teacher, who, inspired by the great Russian leader Lenin, decides to open a primary school in his native village and holds his forte despite resistance from all.

ISBN 978-81-237-3848-2



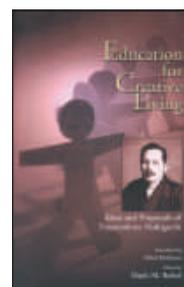
## Education for Creative Living

Dayle M Bethel (Ed.)

Rs. 160.00 260 pp

The book outlines Japanese educational philosopher of the early 20th century Tsunesaburo Makiguchi's inspiring philosophy and revolutionary proposals for reforms. The basic idea of Makiguchi that students must experience happiness in school and that school must be directly relevant to their lives is pertinent to the present day education system.

ISBN 978-81-237-3650-1



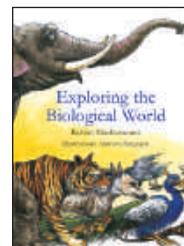
## Exploring the Biological World

Rohini Muthuswami

Rs. 135.00 60 pp

An interesting manuscript that explains biological concepts through various streams of science, for example why the honey comb cell is hexagonal and so on.

ISBN 978-81-237-6165-7



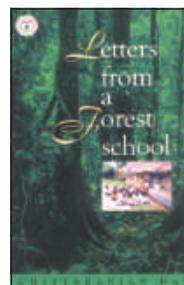
## Letters from a Forest School

Chittaranjan Das

Rs. 75.00 168 pp

A passionate account of an educational experiment carried out in the 1950s in a school established in a forest in Orissa. Written in the form of letters to a newspaper, it records the joys and difficulties accompanying the founding of an ideal in a world rotten with prejudice, mired in bureaucratic apathy and burdened with a mindset that is suspicious of any kind of change. The experiment continued for four years, but its significance continues to be relevant as it dramatizes the courage to be different and the passion to transform human fate through education.

ISBN 81-237-4877-9



## Some Recent NBT Titles

### A Visit to Kumbh

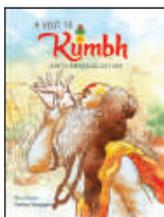
Anita Bhatnagar Jain

Illustrator: Partha Sengupta

Rs 50

978-81-237-9031-2

An interesting story that speaks about one of the largest human congregations on the Earth, at major pilgrimage and festival – Kumbh Mela and introduces the same to children.



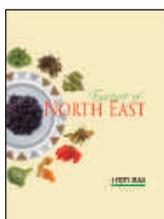
### Essence of Northeast

Jyoti Das

Rs 640

978-81-237-9118-0

The north eastern part of India is a region of numerous undocumented surprises. One of the least explored aspect is its cuisine. The commonalities of the region's cuisine end with the ingredients used. But each recipe is unique in its expression. This book, one of the very few of its kind, is an eclectic work of documentation that brings together some of the traditional recipes of the region. Delectable and easy to execute, the book, a collector's edition, is a gourmet's delight.



### Legend of the Golden Valley

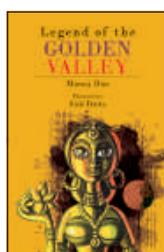
Manoj Das

Illustrations: Sisir Datta

Rs 70

978-81-237-9140-2

Once upon a time, a happy young prince had a nice little Valley for his Kingdom. The good folks were ruled by their own goodness. Leaving the Prince to pursue his own inspiration. There was a turmoil, and a tyrant usurped the Kingdom. The people were unhappy. But again, how nice it is that nothing lasts! Here is a fairytale with a difference. While you travel with the hero



into strange unusual adventures, you also begin to wonder about the very purpose of life and the goal of human quest.

### Not Fooled by Furphies

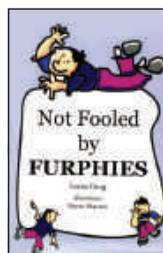
Leena Gurg

Illustrations: Neetu Sharma

Rs 30

978-81-237-9104-3

The Internet can be wonderful for kids—and interesting informative tool, a guide and what not. But, at times, it is misused to spread fake news, dis-information, Internet rumours and the like. Naturally, all this raises the issue of digital safety or digitally safe environment for kids. Through the character like Mohak and his friends, the story weaves interesting episodes to clear air on handling Internet rumours. In the process, they learn many new words like Furphies! Find out what do they mean!!



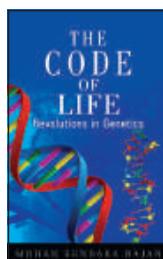
### The Code of Life: Revolutions in Genetics

Mohan Sundara Rajan

Rs 270

978-81-237-9118-0

The book tells the fascinating story of revolutions in the study of genetics — the chemical code of our life. It looks at some of the pioneering discoveries like epigenetics, gives new insights into the vast range of differences among individuals and the nature of our immunity against disease, new techniques in medical diagnosis, emerging new brave world of regeneration of our body parts, among others.



### The Fascinating World of Biology

Rohini Muthuswami

Illustrations: Atul Vardhan Srivastav

Rs 85

978-81-237-9074-9

Nature is endowed with creativity, so are wonderful the phenomena which we see around us. From the flight of birds to

the light emitted by glow worms to the chameleons changing their colour, they have always captured the imagination of humans. The book explores the fascinating world of insects, birds and animals, and explain in a lucid manner the principles of science and mathematics behind these various phenomenon. An interesting read for young and curious readers who not only admire Nature, but also wish to know more about it.

### The Fourth Friend

Manoj Das

Rs 55

978-81-237-8850-0

Illustrations: Sisir Datta

It was evening. The three village lads had just witnessed the miracle of their life—a movie courtesy a touring enterprise, when, on their homeward journey yet another strange experience engulfs them in the form of a flash flood, pushing them up to two entangled trees. Dawn breaks and the three friends are joined by an unusual companion—awful but so gentle—who becomes their new friend. Amazing and amusing, the book is a wonderful gift from one of India's best loved storytellers.



### The Ganga: Rejuvenation of Glorious Past

B D Tripathi

Rs 195

978-81-237-9138-8

The Ganga is not only a River but and integral part of India's civilizational and cultural ethos. Naturally, the environmental pollution and erosion of the River have caught the attention and concerns of not only the government, but the society at large. The present book presents a historical context of various schemes and action plans launched to clean Ganga while emphasising on the various geological, and environmental dimensions of this important discourse.



## #MyBookMyFriend

Among the interesting initiatives that Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank,' Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development took, especially for children and the young during Lockdown is #MyBookMyFriend campaign. As part of this campaign, we request young readers (Age groups: 6-8, 9-11, 12-14) to share with us the books they read during Lockdown. Select reviews of such books will be published in the columns of our NBT Newsletter. The reviews along with passport size photographs and the cover page of the book may be sent to Editor, NBT Newsletter at nbtnewsletter06@gmail.com or by post to Editor, NBT Newsletter, Nehru Bhawan, 5 Institutional Area, Phase II, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi – 110070.

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## NBT Celebrates 74th Independence Day



National Book Trust, India celebrated 74th Independence Day at its premises in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi on 15 August 2020. On this occasion, Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT hoisted the National Flag. The flag hoisting ceremony was followed by the rendering of the National Anthem by the officers of the Trust.

*NBT Newsletter* is the house magazine of the National Book Trust, India — an autonomous organisation of the Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education, Government of India.

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

**Editor:** Binny Kurian

**Editorial Associate:** Surekha Sachdeva

**Production Officer:** Narender Kumar



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Readers are requested to write to the editor expressing their views about the NEWSLETTER.

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