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Literary Festival at Cuttack



National Book Trust, India celebrated National Book Festival in March 2017 across the country. During the Festival special exhibitions of NBT's publications, book release functions, seminars, workshops for children, storytelling sessions for children, cultural programmes, etc. were organised across the country. The programmes were organised in New Delhi, Odisha, Punjab, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.

"NBT plays an important role not only in promoting reading habit and popularising books, but also by bringing out quality Odia books, both originals as well as translations," said Dr. Pratibha Ray, noted litterateur and Jnanpith awardee while inaugurating the three-day literary festival held at

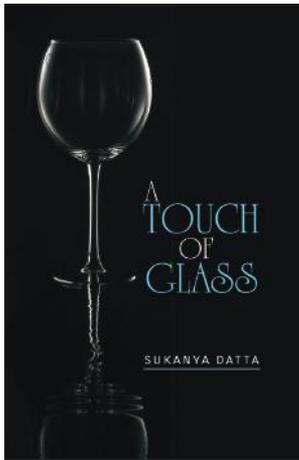
Sriramchandra Bhavan, Cuttack from 23 – 25 March 2017. "In the process," she said, "NBT has been instrumental in enriching Odia language and literature."

"Bringing in quality books to readers at their doorstep," Dr Pratibha Ray added, "NBT has been able to create a large readership."

Dr. Ray also expressed her happiness over NBT's role in promoting the mainstream Odia writers at national level and bringing out an exclusive anthology of short stories by young women writers of Odisha.

On this occasion NBT books in Odia language viz. *Faturanandanka Shrestha Hasyagalpa*, *Biography of Binod Kanungo*; *Nabalekhan: Odia Lekhikanka Kshudragalpa* and Odia

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translation of *Nabalakhan: Bangla Galpa Sankalan* and *A Simple Life of Swami Vivekananda* were released.

Prof. Sanghamitra Mishra, the compiler of the *Nabalekhan: Odia Lekhikanka Kshudragalpa*; Dr. Dhaneswar Sahu, eminent educationist; Shri Jagabandhu Mishra, a prominent journalist and member of NBT's Odia Advisory Panel; Prof. Nityananda Swain, well-known writer also spoke on the occasion. Dr. Bijayananda Singh, President, Utkal Sahitya Samaj presided over the programme.

On the second day of the festival, a symposium on 'Odia Children's Literature: The Flight of Imagination' was held on 24th March 2017. Shri Nadia Behari Mohanty, Sahitya Academy awardee was the chief guest on the occasion. Noted writers in contemporary Odia children's literature including, Dr Sunamani Rout, Shri Manas Ranjan Samal, Smt Minakshi Devi, Smt Anasuya Nanda, Shri

Birendra Mohanty and Dr Govind Chandra Chand participated in the symposium. The speakers observed that imagination is the lifeline of the children's literature as it develops creativity in children. Dr Maheswar Mohanty, noted children's litterateur and Sahitya Akademi presided over the function. Shri Pradipta Kishore Mohanty, Programme Assistant, Cuttack BPC proposed the vote of thanks.

Four Odia translations of the NBT books for children including *From Pumpkins to Pickles*, *Aankho Dekhi*, *Rintu and His Compass* and *The Lost Ant* were released on the occasion.

On the concluding day, a symposium on 'Odia Lyric: A Quest for Musical Beauty' was held in collaboration with Odia Geetikabi Samaj, an organisation of Odia lyricists of the state. Prof. Santanu Kumar Acharya, an eminent Odia author was the chief guest on the occasion. The

other speakers on the occasion included well-known Odia writers including Shri Nanda Kishore Singh, Shri Goura Pattnaik, Dr Sricharan Mohanty, Shri Manoj Pattnaik among others. The speakers talked about the inherent music of Odia poetry and talked about rich poetic tradition of Odisha since ancient times.

The function was presided over by Shri Gourahari Dalei, President, Odia Geetikabi Samaj.

Members of Odia Geetikabi Samaj, Shri A Maheswar Rao, Shri Shekhar Ghosh, Sushree Deepti Dash, Shri Paramananda Sahu and Shri Sukant Pradhan presented some Odia lyrics with music. The function came to an end with a vote of thanks by Smt Sandhya Mitra of Odia Geetikabi Samaj.

The Festival was organised in collaboration with Utkal Sahitya Samaj. Dr Pramod Sar, Odia Editor, NBT coordinated the event.

Storytelling for Children

As part of National Book Festival, National Book Trust, India organized a session on storytelling and creative writing for children at Pragati Maidan on 23 March 2017.

Shri Prakash Manu, well-known children's writer, and Ms Fouzia, well known storyteller, were the special guests on the occasion. During the programme they interacted with the children and shared their experience in storytelling and story writing.

Recalling his childhood days, Shri



Prakash Manu said, "He was fascinated towards books since his childhood and always looked for an opportunity to read books." "However," he said, "Unlike these days, books were not available easily. We could find only a few books with black & white illustrations in school library." He remarked that good reading habit which he developed in the childhood helped him become a writer.

Shri Prakash Manu appreciated that now a large number of books on

wide range of topics in beautiful formats and colour illustrations are available for the young minds. He added that children must take advantage of this fact and read more and more books as reading helps in becoming a good writer. He also told children that they can create their own stories by observing people and situations around them.

Later, Ms Fouzia, the first woman Dastango of modern times, narrated a story titled 'Kajari Gayen Phisalpatti Par' to the children. The people present on the occasion were mesmerized by her performance of Dastangoi, an interesting form of storytelling which dates back to the 16th Century.



Sharing her experience as a storyteller she said, "To become a storyteller, one need not be a writer. One has to read a story over and over again to understand the characters of the story well and how they express themselves in different manner." She added that before presenting a story, the storyteller must read the story loudly at least four to five times.

More than 200 students from Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pitampura; Sarvodaya School, Anand Vihar and from various NGOs participated in the event.

Shri Dwijendra Kumar, Dr Kamlesh Kumari and Ms Surekha Sachdeva, Editors at NBT coordinated the programme.

Bologna Children's Book Fair

National Book Trust, India participated in the 54th edition of Bologna Children's Book Fair organised at Bologna, Italy, from 3-6 April 2017.

The Fair provides platform to the publishing industry for B2B activities like the trade in copyrights, etc. The Fair also provides unique opportunity to the participants and the visitors to discover the latest developments in the sector, meet the leading illustrators and authors and the winners of the most prestigious awards.

The Trust displayed over 150 select books in English and Hindi from various publishers across the country. The visitors including publishers at the Fair showed keen interest and appreciated the books representing children's content of India. Publishers from USA and UK expressed their desire to buy NBT's Punjabi books; and rights of two NBT books titled *My Umma's Sari* and *Ravan* respectively.

This year, 1300 exhibitors from over 75 countries



participated in the Fair. Catalonia and the Balearic Islands, were the Guests of Honour at the Fair which have a long tradition of publishing books for children and young people since 15th century.



Entitled 'Sharing a Future: Books in Catalan in Bologna 2017' and organised by the Institut Ramon Llull with the collaboration, the guest of honour presentation highlighted the quality of illustrations in Catalonia and the Balearic islands and a wide range of books in the Catalan language for children and young people.

The other highlights of the Fair were the Illustrators' Exhibition where the works of 75 illustrators, from 26 different countries, representing diverse cultures, sensibilities and styles were displayed; Bologna Digital Media where international brands like Google and Amazon discussed about augmented reality, creative technology and the new printing and digital services; a number of workshops, seminars and debates were organised in which noted publishers, authors, illustrators, and translators participated.

Shri Kamal Ahmed, Hindi Editor and Shri Samaresh Chatterjee, Senior Artist, represented NBT at the Fair.

National Book Festival at Hyderabad

To commemorate 60 years of its foundation, National Book Trust, India in association with Dept. of Language and Culture, Govt. of Telangana organized several programmes during National Book Festival at Ravindra Bharathi, Saifabad, Hyderabad from 22-27 March, 2017.

Prof. N. Gopi, Sahitya Akademi awardee and Member, NBT Telugu Advisory Panel inaugurated the Festival. He appreciated NBT's efforts in organizing special book exhibitions. He also suggested that such exhibitions may also be organised in every district and remote area of the state for fostering reading culture.

During the festival a number of



NBT books were released including *Navalekan Telugu Short Story Anthology*, *Jhoot Ka Thaila* and *Nanhe Kargosh Ki Buddhimani*. The special guests at the release functions included, Shri BS Ramulu, noted writer and Chairman, Telangana Commission for Backward

Classes; Shri D Prabhakar Rao, Chairman, Official Language Committee, Telangana; Dr B Sayanna, Director, State Resource Centre, Telangana and well-known authors like Sh. Jukanti Jagannatham, Dr Shajahana, Sh. Reddi Ragavaiah among others.

Besides, a workshop on book review for university students; essay and painting competitions for school children were also organized. Over two hundred students from various schools and colleges participated in these events.

Dr. Pathipaka Mohan, Telugu Editor, NBT, coordinated the events organized during the Festival.

Seminar on Children's Literature

National Book Trust, India in collaboration with Kamla Nehru Women's College, Phagwara organized a seminar on children's literature at Phagwara, Punjab.

During the seminar, the panelists discussed about the different aspects of the children's literature and its status in contemporary times. They also spoke about the need to bring out books reflecting the changes that the society is going through.

The speakers were also of the view that today children have many options for recreational activities, which is diminishing their interest in reading



books. They stressed on the need to bring children closer to books. They observed that parents can play an active role in inculcating the habit of reading amongst children.

Dr Kiran Walia, Principal, Kamla Nehru Women's College; Shri Darshan

Singh Asht, noted children's writer; Shri Anil Jaiswal, Associate Editor, *Nandan*; Ms Rashmi Khurana, former Assistant Station Director, AIR, Jalandhar; and well-known litterateurs including Ms Renu Chauhan, Dr Kamlesh Bharti, Dr Preet Arora; Ms Rupika Bhanot and Shri Devendra Mewari, were the special guests on the occasion.

Two NBT books for children authored by Vishnu Prabhakar and Amar Goswami were also released on this occasion.

The programme was coordinated by Shri Pankaj Chaturvedi, Hindi Editor, NBT.

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Literary Programme at Ranchi

National Book Trust, India organized a 2-day literary programme during Ranchi Book Fair from 6 to 7 March, 2017. The programme comprised of a discussion and a poets' meet.

The discussion titled 'Significant Role of Libraries in Developing Reading Culture' was organized on 6 March 2017. Dr Ramesh Kumar Pandey, Vice Chancellor, Ranchi University was the chief guest on the occasion. He said that libraries play a significant role in creating readership, therefore more and more libraries should be established to promote reading culture.



Padam Shri Balbir Dutt presided over the discussion. He remarked that in recent times, there is a need to establish libraries in large numbers as with the development of new technologies, the youth is more inclined towards Internet and electronic media than

reading books.

The other speakers on the occasion were Shri Shruvan Kumar Goswami, Ms Mahua Maji, and Shri Ashok Priyadarshi, all well-known authors. Later, NBT's recent publication titled *Jo Khud Kasauti Ban Gaye*, authored by Shri Prakash Manu was released.

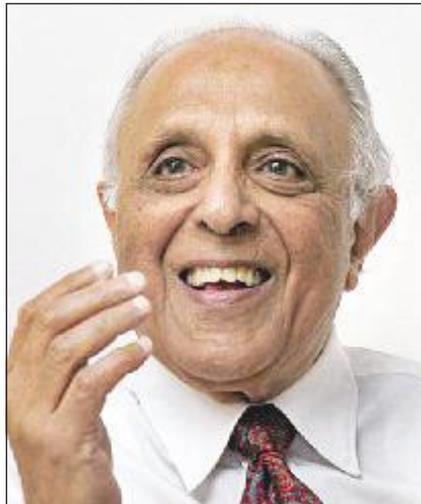
On 7th March 2017, a poets' meet was organized in which well-known poets from across the state participated, including Sarvashri Kumar Brijendra, Praveen Parimal, Naresh Banka; Siyaram Jha 'Saras', Vijay Ranjan, Veena Srivastav; Sarika Bhushan and Rashmi Sharma.

Obituary

Veteran anti-apartheid activist, Ahmed Kathrada passed away on 28 March 2017 after a brief illness. Born on August 21, 1929, to Indian immigrant parents in the small northwestern farming town of Schweizer-Reneke, also known as the City of Sunflowers, Kathrada was the fourth of six children. Owing to their Indian heritage and the policies of the time, Kathrada could not attend either the European or African schools in the area.

Beginning his political career at a very young age, Kathrada took part in many protests. At the age of 34, he was imprisoned for life along with fellow revolutionaries Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki and seven other defendants. He spent 26 years and three months in prison, serving 18 of those years on Robben Island off the coast of Cape Town.

After his release from prison in 1989, he was elected as a member of parliament and served as parliamentary counsellor to President Mandela. In 1994, he was elected chairperson of the Robben Island Council. He was



awarded Isitwalandwe, the highest award bestowed by the ANC, and the Presidential Order for Meritorious Service; Class 1: Gold. He was made a Freeman of the City of Johannesburg.

His published books include *A Free Mind: Ahmed Kathrada's Notebook* from Robben Island, which is a collection of poetry, novels, songs, sayings and letters that Kathrada transcribed and kept while a prisoner on Robben Island; *Dear Ahmedbhai*, *Dear Zuleikhabehn* which

is a compilation of the beautiful letters sent between Rivonia trialist and political prisoner Ahmed Kathrada and Zuleikha Mayat, a self-described housewife, during apartheid's last decade among others.

Besides, he had authored the book, *No Bread for Mandela: Memoirs of Ahmed Kathrada*, published by the National Book Trust, India, which gives a vivid picture of Kathrada's lifelong battle for justice in South Africa.

Nelson Mandela wrote in his Foreword to this book: "Ahmed Kathrada has been so much part of my life over such a long period that it is inconceivable that I could allow him to write his memoirs without me contributing something, even if only through a brief foreword. Our stories have become so interwoven that the telling of one without the voice of the other being heard somewhere would have led to an incomplete narration."

"Delightful and often amusing anecdotes of the life of a very self-effacing and yet deeply committed freedom fighter," wrote Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

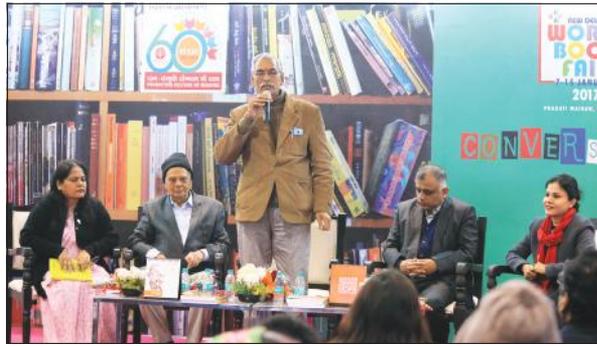
Self-help Books @ NDWBF

Excel Books whose motto is “Helping individuals make a greater amount of their lives through learning”, two new books namely *The Ethical Compass* by Bansi Dhar Singh and Sanshipt Gita Gyan were released by the Chairman of the National Book Trust, Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma in the presence of Director Rita Chowdury, Binny Goel and Rajiv Thakur (Jaipuria Institute of Management, Noida), at an event held at the New Delhi World Book Fair.

The book discusses the use of ethics in various walks of life and that it is the conscious choice of an individual to practice it. When human morals are degrading steadily nowadays, it is a very timely arrival, a treasure-box of wisdom from the older generation who has harnessed the knowledge of ethical and moral values to be inculcated in our day to day lives. The programme was organised by Excel Books at Author’s Corner, Hall No. 18.

The authors of the book *Navigating the Maze*, Bharat Wakhlu, Savita Bhan Wakhlu, were in conversation with Brahmachari Purushottam and Saloni at an event organised by Sage Publishing, at Authors’ Corner, at the Fair. The book is about living a meaningful life while achieving success. Focusing on three key ideas: Self-mastery, Interpersonal Excellence and the World of Work, the book introduces the right skills and capabilities in these three areas of life for professionals primed for fast-tracking success.

Using a non-jargon, no-nonsense approach, Bharat and Savita use their cumulative experience of over five decades in coaching and mentoring to help professionals navigate their way to success. A useful tool for leaders of businesses, professionals of all stages, the book contains anecdotes, stories, questions and answer to help the reader get an easy understanding of the concepts.



The authors stressed on the need for an individual to find time to reflect in solitude; many answers come to us from silence. All pain, fear and anger, is from within. It is crucial to know what is happening within oneself as it helps one to relate to what is happening around.

Fingerprint Publishing organised a discussion on ‘Practical Wisdom—How to Lead through Satisfying Relationships’ with Shubash Vilas, the author of the book *Open Eyed Meditations*. The book is a compilation of practical lessons of life from the stories of *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*.

According to the author, we can maintain good and satisfying relationships in life by following a few small but vital steps in our day to day life. The first and foremost tenet to observe in any relationship is the line of respect. Once that line is crossed, the relationship starts breaking down. He cited the story of Krishna and Shishupala from *Mahabharata* as a point of reference. Regarding decisions that we take at every point of life, the author said, “it is imperative not to make decisions induced by extreme



happiness, grief or fear because when we are emotional we cannot focus clearly and think logically at the same time.”

Referring to the grief of Gandhari as an example, the author said that it led her to take two wrong decisions that brought even more grief into her life. Lack of communication or bad communication is one of the key reasons that lead to breakdown of relationships. Communication is about speaking the same language as the need of the hour. It is important to first to connect and then communicate, added the author.

In an event organized by Sage Publishing, Sameer Dua discussed his book, *Declaring Breakdowns*, while in conversation with Parag Aggarwal and Lt. General Sharma. The book provides a simple 6-step framework to actively create a future of one’s choice and is about mastering the art and science of generating breakthroughs in each area of our lives. One should take control of one’s future by taking correct decisions to bring about positive changes, says Sameer Dua. He reflected about the time when his wife walked out on him because she had reached the end of her patience.

On the other hand the author had not realized the disconnect that prevailed in the relationship. But instead of blaming the external cause that he could not handle, he took it upon himself to reform and repair the relationship by forming a 5 AM Club comprising of people who took decisions that completely transformed

the trajectory of their current life. Instead of playing the blame game, one should take responsibility for the betterment of their own life. Time is a fixed entity and we have to become aware of what matters and prioritize our commitments over time spent doing meaningless things that do nothing for things we care about.

Excerpts

NBT India has recently brought out the revised edition of *Nano: The Next Revolution*. The book under Popular Science series, written by Mohan Sundara Rajan, explains the basics of the new technology, its historical development and the ongoing advances, including the pioneering work done in India. Herein we reproduce an excerpt from the chapter 'Nanomaterials: Wonders Unlimited'. - *Editor*

The Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore is actively involved in the study of nanotechnology in its various departments. The Solid State and Structural Chemistry Unit of the Institute is engaged in research on semiconducting nanoparticles since the early 1990s. Researchers of the Unit have been able to control the size of nanoparticles and study their electronic and optical properties, as a function of the size of the nanoparticles.

The basic aim of the Unit is to study the fundamental processes through experiments. The researchers have prepared and controlled the size of cadmium sulphide, zinc sulphide, lead sulphide, cadmium selenide, zinc selenide and zinc oxide nanoparticles.

The size of the nanoparticles can be varied from 1.5 nm to 7 nm. The Unit has the distinction of being one of the first to report on the details of the electronic structure of nanoparticles. The detailed electronic structure has been elucidated.

A group in the Unit has been able to combine high-quality chemical synthesis and experimental skills with extensive theoretical investigations. The group has synthesised various doped nanoparticles by mixing the materials with cobalt, copper, manganese, etc. Doping has been found to yield useful electronic and optical properties.

The group uses a wide range of techniques based on transmission and scanning electron microscopes, low and wide angle X-ray diffraction, Raman and infrared spectrometers.

Using photoelectron spectrometer, the researchers have studied the pattern of electronic structure in nanoparticles. The pattern is studied when the electrons are ejected under ultraviolet light or X-rays. The researchers could estimate and control not only the individual particle size but also the electronic structure of different materials. Based on their findings, the researchers alter the composition of their samples and evaluate the variation in size, shape and inter-particle separation distance in materials.

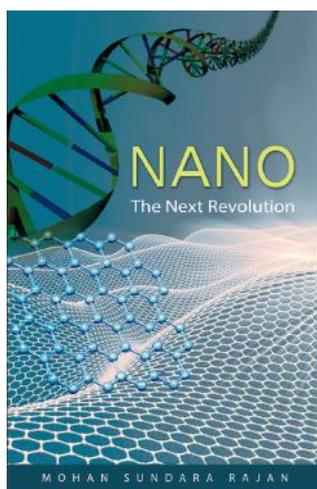
It is known from basic quantum mechanics that the energy level spacing or the band gap in materials increases as their dimension is reduced. There is no band gap in a metal between the conduction band and the valence band. In a semiconductor, (silicon) the electrons need enough energy to cross the band gap for electrical conduction. It is possible to 'tailor-make' materials with varying band gap as a function of size. The research is significant because electronic devices with different band gaps have different applications. For example, telecommunications need very low band gap in the infrared region; biological applications require fluorescence in the green region (avoiding the ultraviolet rays that may destroy biological molecules). Similarly,

fluorescent displays in ultraviolet, visible and infrared need different band gap materials. Manipulation of the band gap of certain materials would make them suitable for use in solar cells.

Following the preparation and analysis of various nanoparticles, the group has demonstrated their utility in devices such as a photon (light) sensor based on cadmium sulphide. Basically they shine light on certain materials and get current. Research in this field is continuing. Some of the projects are aimed at preparation of high luminescent nanoparticles with different luminescence wavelengths, understanding the growth mechanisms of the nanoparticles and preparation of different shapes of nanoparticles such as spheres, rods and pyramids.

The Department of Physics of the Indian Institute of Science is also actively engaged in the study of nanoscience. It reviews the structural, electronic, vibrational and mechanical properties of single-wall carbon nanotube bundles. Its studies and experiments have validated the predicted remarkable mechanical resilience of the nanotubes. The Department has also conducted studies using an atomic force microscope. The Metallurgy Division has done several experiments on nano-sized particles dispersed in a matrix, called nanoembedded materials or nanocomposites. They represent a new class of nanoscaled materials. It was found that the reduction of length scale and introduction of interfaces greatly influence the stability and transformation behaviour of metals. Many industrially useful processes have made use of this feature.

The Centre for Nano Science and Engineering (CeNSE) was established at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru in 2010 to pursue interdisciplinary research across several disciplines with a focus on nanoscale systems. A state-of-the art nanofabrication facility is located at the centre.



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Farewell



Shri Syed Haider M Rizvi, Manager (Sales & Marketing), retired from the Trust after serving for 20 years. He joined the Trust on 21 June 1996.

We at NBT wish him a happy retired life.

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