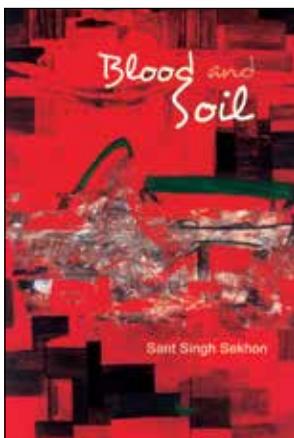


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### PICK OF THE MONTH



**Blood and Soil**  
Sant Singh Sekhon  
978-81-237-7710-9; Rs 220

## Chennai Book Festival



A 10-day book festival, Chennai Puthaga Sangamam, was organized at the YMCA grounds, Royapettah, Chennai from 18-27 April 2014. The Festival was organized by the National Book Trust, India in association with Periyar Self-Respect Propaganda Institution (PSRPI).

The Festival was inaugurated by Dr. M.A. Sikandar, Director, National Book Trust, India. Prior to the inauguration, a Press Meet was organized, wherein Dr. Sikandar, Shri S. Rajarathinam, Tax Consultant and Shri V. Anburaj, President of SRPI shared their views.

In the press meet Dr. M.A. Sikandar briefly spoke about various activities organized by the Trust to promote books and the habit of reading. He said, "In India, NBT collaborates with various

organisations and institutions to organise book fairs not only in big cities but in smaller towns as well. Recently similar book fairs were conducted at Ramanathapuram, Kanyakumari and Perambalur. On seeing the response to these fairs and exhibitions, we can be sure that book reading habit continues to be popular among all age-groups in our country. Many publishing houses from around the world outsource their publishing partly to India. Today, India is emerging as a big player in publishing industry and lot of employment opportunities are available for the youth. Keeping in view the need to create a pool of talented professionals, NBT India is organizing books publishing courses independently as well as in collaboration with various universities."





who delivered lectures. Pollachi Nasan, collector of literary magazines, Shri P. Srinivasan, numismatist, Shri T.M. Saravanan and Shanmugavel were awarded for their contribution in collecting and preserving rare materials.



The inaugural session was chaired by Shri S. Rajarathinam. Shri V. Anburaj welcomed the gathering. Earlier, Buddha Troupe presented 'Parai Isai', traditional music performance. Prof. M. Nannan delivered a lecture on What to Read.

Cultural Events, variety shows, debates, dramas, folk performances, speeches by celebrities were conducted throughout the Festival. Eminent writers, poets, journalists, took part in the events. Avamaanam, a drama based on a story by Sadat Hassan Manto and directed by Sreejith Sundaram was staged on the second day. Other events included a comedy show by Boopalam troupe from Puducherry, Bommalaattam by M. Kalaivaanan and his troupe, Tamilisai by Shri Panneerselvam, Violin concert by Suha Paavalan and folk performance by Thenral Art Troupe.

Poet Arivumathi, artist Drotsky Marudu, writer S. Ramakrishnan, actor Ilavarasan, poet Manushyaputhiran, poet Nellai Jeyantha were a few

A discount of 15 per cent was offered to the buyers on 23 April, i.e. World Book and Copyright Day. On the same day morning a walkathon from Marina Beach Labour Statue to Gandhi statue was organised. This walkathon was held to bring awareness on reading of books, wherein thousands of students actively participated.

A special feature of this Festival was a separate stall where 50 per cent discount was offered on select books. The stall was managed by the organizers, and where publishers had sent select books from their list. Another feature of the Festival was

Book Donation Movement. In this event, under one-lakh books target scheme, people donated large number of books from their personal collection. These books are being arranged to be sent to rural schools across the state. To encourage the donors, coupons were offered to the donors with which they could avail special discounts for their purchases of new books.

The Festival received a huge response in 2013 when it was conducted for the first time. More than 100 publishers took part in that festival. This second edition, with more than 200 publishers and booksellers divided into three sections—English publishers, Children's Publishers and Tamil publishers—proved to be a bigger success. On the sidelines of the Festival, NBT also organized a Certificate Course in Book Publishing. The Festival found good response from not only people of Chennai but also from neighbouring districts too.

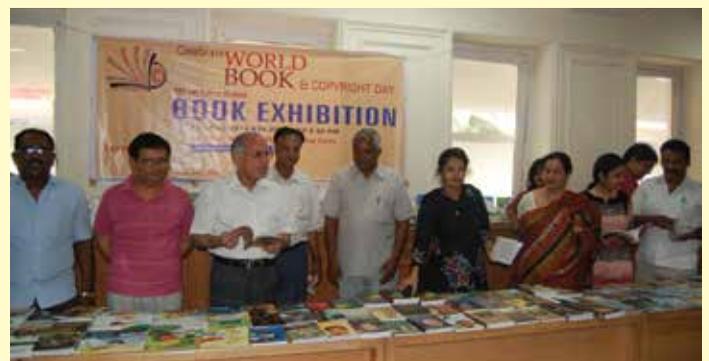
The Festival was coordinated by Shri Mathan Raj, Tamil Editor, NBT India.



## World Book and Copyright Day

National Book Trust, India and Sahitya Akademi together organized an Exhibition of Books at Rabindra Bhawan, New Delhi on 23 April 2014 on the occasion of World Book and Copyright Day. Conceptualised and coordinated by UNESCO since 1995, this day is celebrated worldwide and seeks to promote reading, publishing and protection of intellectual property including books through the laws of copyright.

Organised jointly for the first time at Rabindra Bhawan premises by the two premier publishing and reading promotion organizations of the country, the exhibition got accolades from many a quarter.



## Seminar on Copyright

On the occasion of the World Book & Copyright Day, the National Book Trust, India organised a seminar on Copyright and Piracy on 23 April 2014 at Kolkata.

Speakers from the Centre for Studies in Book Publishing, Calcutta University, publishers from Delhi and Calcutta and a lawyer from the Alternative Law Forum, Bangalore, exchanged views at the seminar.

The session began with a discussion on the Delhi University photocopy lawsuit where Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Taylor & Francis and Routledge slapped a case of copyright infringement on the university and Rameshwari Photocopy Service for alleged unauthorised photocopying and distribution of course material.

“Photocopy allowed people to access books that are priced high and out of print, and books that are not available. It popularises books among readers, increases circulation of books among students. That’s what piracy is for you,” said Smarika Kumar of the Alternative Law Forum.

Like the students protesting the lawsuit against the photocopier, Kumar made a case for piracy much to the horror of the publishers.

Arguing that the price of books made piracy thrive, she said: “It’s a myth that the Indian edition of books is cheap. Nelson Mandela’s *Long Walk to Freedom* costs more in India than in the US.”

She said Indians spend a higher percentage of their income on books —



0.117 per cent for Arundhati Roy’s *God of Small Things* against an American’s 0.0002 per cent for the same book.

Kumar illustrated how piracy helped spread literacy in the US in the 19th century. “*A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens was priced at 2.5 pounds in 19th-century UK but the book was available for 6 cents in the US. The US pirated the book on a large scale. There was no international regime of copyright then and the US was the biggest pirate of copyrighted books,” she said.

Publishers refused to buy the piracy-literacy argument, saying free books are distributed in the country under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Indian language books are often fairly priced and accessible to readers, they pointed out.

When Amitava Sen of Central Book Agency said copyright and anti-piracy laws “protect the right of both authors and

publishers”, Kumar said piracy has actually jacked up legal sales.

Online piracy was eating into the sales of British author Neil Gaiman’s *American Gods*. In Russia, where people were downloading copies of Gaiman’s books, Russian translations were being published. “Thereafter, Gaiman persuaded his publisher to release a free digital copy of *American Gods*. Soon enough, legal sale of his book shot up by 300 per cent,” said the lawyer, stressing the need to “interpret the copyright law liberally”.

Arpita Das of Yoda Press nodded in agreement. “In this age of free digital downloads, we publishers need to smell the coffee. We cannot be as protectionist as we used to be,” said Das, citing Paulo Coelho whose free digital copy in Russia increased legal “sales by 1 million”.

Calling for a more liberal approach, both cited Creative Commons, a non-profit organisation that enables sharing and use of creativity and knowledge through free legal tools that offer the right to distribute copies and modified versions of a work.

Speaking on the freedom in publishing, Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, former director, NBT India, called “for a fine balance between protection of intellectual property rights and dissemination of knowledge”.

Mandira Sen of Stree proffered a case against the banning and withdrawing of Wendy Doniger’s *The Hindus: An Alternative History*.

- Excerpted from *The Telegraph*



## Perambalur Book Fair

National Book Trust, India in collaboration with the BAPASI, Perambalur District Administration, Perambalur People's Cultural Association, and Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan Trust, organized the Perambalur Book Fair from 31 January to 8 February 2014. The Fair was inaugurated by Dr. M. Thirumalai, Vice-Chancellor, Tanjore Tamil University. Dr. Tares Ahamed, IAS, Perambalur District Collector, who was actively involved in all the events of the Fair, presided over the inaugural function. Smt. Sonal Chandra, DSP, and Shri Madhusudan Reddy, Sub-Collector, Perambalur, were also present on the occasion. Shri Suki Sivam and Shri Iraianbu IAS were the main speakers on the inaugural session.

The 10-day Fair witnessed a number of literary discourses, debates, poets meets, book releases and cultural programmes in which eminent writers, artists, film personalities, activists,



political leaders and students participated. Speakers in the sessions included: Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Scientist, CECRI; Shri Stalin Gunasekaran, President of Makkal Sinthanai Peravai which organizes the Erode Book Fair; Nandalala, eminent poet; Sahitya Akademi award winners Shri Jo De Cruz, Shri Ponnellan, Shri Su. Venkatesan; Shri K. Gnanasambandan, eminent orator; Shri Nelson Xavier, journalist; Shri M.P. Vijayakumar IAS; Prof. Vijayasundari, Dhanalakshmi College; Shri Thamira and Shri Ram, film directors; Shri Badri Sheshadri, Kizhakku

Pathippagam; well-known Tamil writers Shri Tamilselvan, Shri Azhagiya Periyavan, Kanmani Gunasekaran, Bava Selladurai, Shri Lakshmana Perumal, S. Ramakrishnan; Parveen Sulthana, eminent speaker; Drotsky Marudhu and Pugazhendi, artists; Lena Thamizhvaanan, Editor, Kalkandu. Cultural events included Paraiyaattam, light music, mime act, etc. performed by college students and artistes from South Zone Cultural Centre.

More than a hundred publishers and booksellers displayed their books in the Fair. To promote buyers, a daily lucky draw was held and three winners were presented with gift coupons worth Rs. 500, Rs. 300 and Rs. 200.

In addition, films of world repute and important documentaries were also screened. The Fair's success could be gauged by the regular stream of thousands of visitors every day. Shri Raman represented the Fair from NBT India.



## Roll of Honour to France

In keeping with the tradition of presenting the Roll of Honour to the Guest Country at the New Delhi World Book Fair, Shri A. Sethumadhavan, Chairman, NBT India, presented the Roll of Honour to France, which was the Guest Country at New Delhi World Book Fair 2013. It was presented to HE Mr. Francois Richier, Ambassador of France to India.

The Roll of Honour for the Guest Country 2014 was presented to Poland.



## Training Course in Book Publishing

A five-day short term training course in book publishing was held from 21-25 April 2014, at Synod Hall, Chennai. Shri T. Mathan Raj, Tamil editor, NBT India welcomed the gathering at the inauguration of the Course. Ms Farida M. Naik, Jt. Director, NBT India was present in the concluding session and distributed the certificates to the students.

Organised as part of the Chennai Book Festival, the course gave an overview of the important departments of publishing. These included a history of publishing and an overview of the industry, acquisition and editing of a manuscript, children's books, production and printing, marketing, and Rights management.

Faculty of the course included Sridhar Balan, Dr. A.R. Venkatachalapathy, CreA Ramakrishnan, Radhika Menon,



Shobha Vishwanath, Olivannan, Ramesh, Prof. Avasthy, Mini Krishnan and Shri Satyanarayana. Sahitya Akademi awardee Shri Jo De Cruz also shared his knowledge with the audience.

Around 50 participants including students, publishers and teachers from various colleges took part in the five-day course.

Taking into account the demand for trained professionals, National Book Trust, India (NBT) has been organising courses in publishing in Delhi as well as in other parts of the country, keeping in view the needs of the language publishing. Hands-on experience and interactive sessions form an important segment of the course. Visits to publishing houses, library and printing press are also arranged to enhance the practical knowledge of the participants.

Besides, the Trust is also collaborating with Calcutta University and Ambedkar University to offer Post-graduate Diploma courses in publishing. In furthering this objective, the Trust is soon to collaborate with the Madras University to offer similar courses.

Shri Benny Kurian, English editor, NBT India, coordinated the event.



### Proforma for Updation of Mailing List

In order to update our mailing list for the NBT Newsletter, we request all the readers to send their details in the prescribed format and post it to: **Asst. Director (PR)**, National Book Trust, India, Nehru Bhawan, 5 Institutional Area, Phase-II, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070 or email to: **nbtipsection@gmail.com** latest by **30 June 2014**.

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10. Why do you like to read *NBT Newsletter*? (Not more than 100 words):
11. Name five of your favourite NBT titles:
12. Any suggestion for improvement of the *NBT Newsletter* (Not more than 100 words):

## Not Merely a Medical Book

It is with extreme reluctance I pick up a book about medical matters, particularly, if it has been written by a doctor. As it is, doctors face enough illness and issues associated with it, that leisure moments are better spent on some other matters. For the lay person it is different. Doctors and their lives are fascinating – be it a book, a TV serial or a movie.

*From a Doctor's Diary*, published by the National Book Trust, India, is an exception. The book had been lying on bedside table for long. In an idle moment with nothing else to read I picked it up and then it was spellbinding. It was full of instances which relate to the unusual circumstances and dilemmas that a good doctor faces during his career. Dr. Gopal and Dr. Narang are just like us and the book becomes more readable as they question and answer each other. The issues often arising from simple issues become complicated by legal implications. In this book Dr. S.G. Kabra, with his legal background, has not only brought the matters discussed to forefront but also made the reader think along with him as to how to resolve the issues.

I find the 'Ethical Issue' impressive. In

India, the confidentiality between patient and doctor is one of the most poorly kept contracts. So many unrelated people are privy to intimate details about the patient's condition without consent. The plight of the unmarried pregnant woman has been very tactfully explained in that story. Many loose lipped doctors have a lesson to learn from it.

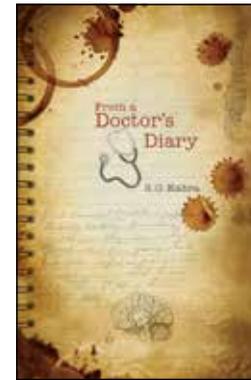
HIV has been rampant in our country. The issues related to the care of such patients has been dealt with very well. The 'stigma' is often unbearable. The incidence of inadvertent infection due to poor medical practice and careless medical staff has been highlighted with concern. Dealing with HIV patients with understanding and respect is the need of the time.

The eternal question of medical negligence, living will and euthanasia are issues which need to be discussed openly and frequently. Whether a patient who is dying of terminal cancer should be 'put away' or allowed to live has been well depicted in the case of Ved Prakash. Switching off the ventilator of a terminal patient is a constant ethical issue amongst all concerned doctors.

I find the chapter where the young unmarried woman who demands abortion as her right very absorbing. A sonography of an abortion should be shown compulsorily to every one who asks for abortion for frivolous personal convenience. The vivid images of the fetus struggling when being destroyed will make many change their casual attitudes towards abortion.

*From a Doctor's Diary* should be read by every concerned doctor and medical personnel. It would not only add to their knowledge but also make them better people.

Dr. Goutam Sen  
Consultant Cardiovascular and  
Thoracic Surgeon, Jaipur



**From a Doctor's  
Diary**  
Shri Gopal Kabra  
978-81-237-  
6928-8  
Rs 70

## Excerpts

A 17-year-old young, unmarried girl, was brought to a surgeon. She was brought to the hospital by her parents. She had sudden acute pain in the abdomen with vomiting sensation and while rushing to the wash-basin she fainted. She recovered from fainting but when her general condition continued to worsen she was rushed to the hospital.

On examination, she was very pale, her pulse rate was high, she had laboured breathing, and her blood pressure was low. Her menstrual history was equivocal. After examining her abdomen, the surgeon suspected internal bleeding and advised admission and immediate operation.

On operation, the surgeon found her abdomen full of blood, on removal of which, it was found that she was bleeding from ruptured tubal pregnancy. The girl was pregnant. The fertilized ovum,

unable to travel to the uterine cavity, had implanted in one of the uterine tubes, leading to, what in medical parlance is known as ectopic pregnancy i.e. pregnancy at a site other than the usual site of uterus. As the pregnancy grew, the thin walled tube ruptured, leading to severe internal bleeding—a grave medical emergency.

The surgeon's diagnosis of internal bleeding was correct and his decision to immediately operate on the patient saved the life of the girl. However, because of an equivocal menstrual history in an unmarried girl, ectopic pregnancy had not been suspected to be the cause of internal bleeding. Since the girl was 17 years of age, not legally an adult, consent to operate was taken from the parents.

The surgeon was now on the horns of ethical dilemma. The first dilemma was whether the fact that this unmarried

girl was pregnant should be disclosed to the parents or not, who were present and waiting outside the operation theatre? The next dilemma was posed by the assisting surgeon. The assistant was to write the operation note. He asked the surgeon whether the fact of pregnancy of the patient should be mentioned in the note or not. The reason he asked this question was because the operation note remained in the case-file, which while lying in the ward, may be accessed by a third party, resulting in disclosure by default. To prevent this eventuality, the surgeon advised that while the note be written faithfully, the same may be handed over to him instead of being attached to the case file.

(This is an excerpt from the Chapter 'Ethical Dilemma' from the book *From a Doctor's Diary*)

## Shiksha Shivir at Kurukshetra

As part of its efforts to promote books and reading particularly at schools in tribal and rural areas, the Trust has been organizing Shiksha Shivirs for children.

One such Shiksha Shivir was organized at Government Senior Secondary School, Kharindwa, Kurukshetra, Haryana, on 6 May 2014. About 250 students from classes VI-IX participated in various competitions like drawing, creative writing and elocution.



Kaushik, Principal, Government Senior Secondary School, Shri Rajiv Ranjan, writer and Shri Randhir, Head Elementary Education.

All the guests and children were felicitated and prizes were distributed to the winners of the competitions. The NBT also donated books to the school library.

The Shiksha Shivir was coordinated by Shri Sunil Khokhar and Ms Sunita Narotra from NBT India.



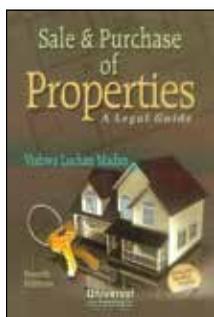
Speaking at the inaugural session Dr Ashok, District Elementary Education Officer, commended the efforts of NBT and said that this is the first ever such programme in this block. He hoped that NBT would organize more such events every year.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Ms Namita Kaushik, Dy. DEO, Shri Satnam Singh, Dy. DEO, Mrs Indu



## Books Received

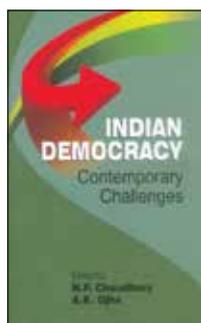
**Sale & Purchase of Properties: A Legal Guide**, Vishwa Lochan Madan; Universal Law Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd., C-FF-1A, Dilkush Industrial Estate, G.T. Karnal Road, Delhi-110033; 978-93-5035-283-0; Rs 450



The book covers a whole spectrum of legal concepts of sale and purchase of immovable properties. It deals with the properties which can be sold and which cannot be sold; methods of valuation of

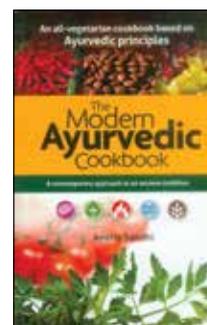
immovable property and the need thereof; the rights and obligations of sellers as well as of the purchaser; and the formalities for a proper sale transaction. Concepts like defective title, possessory title, earnest money note, ownership, co-ownership, benami ownership, de-facto and de-jure possession have been considered.

**Indian Democracy: Contemporary Challenges**, N.P. Chaudhary & A.K. Ojha; Shipra Publications, LG-18-19, Pankaj Central Market, I.P. Extn., Patparganj, Delhi-110092; 978-81-7541-666-6; Rs 295



India has completed more than six decades as a democratic republic. However, India is facing a number of problems, some of which have been of longstanding endurance, while others are of more recent origin. This volume seeks to encompass several dimensions of contemporary politics in India in five parts—the system and its functioning; challenges to Indian state; corruption and criminalisation; decentralisation and empowerment; and parliamentary democracy in the era of coalition.

**The Modern Ayurvedic Cookbook: A Contemporary Approach to an Ancient Tradition**; Amrita Sondhi; Orient Publishing, 5A/8, Ansari Road, Darya Ganj, New Delhi - 110002; 978-81-222-0533-6; Rs 295



Ayurveda considers food an integral part of its healing process, some of the oldest and most time-tested principles of healthy eating originated in it. It divides food into six essential tastes and explains how these influence our doshas, our constitution. To help balance your unique constitution with food, each of the 150 recipes is tagged to indicate whether it increases or pacifies a particular dosha. The result is a harmony in constitution and a sense of holistic health. The book also introduces you to eating differently according to the season.

## Adieu

Shri Ranjan Kumar retired from the Trust on 30 April 2014 from the post of Assistant Director after serving for 40 years. Shri Ranjan Kumar had joined NBT in 1974 and was promoted twice during his tenure. He worked in various sections of the Trust.



We at NBT wish them a happy retired life.

Ms. Farida M. Naik, Joint Director (Admn. & Finance) was given a warm farewell, following the completion of her term of deputation at NBT. Ms. Farida's tenure coincided with major initiatives that the Trust took towards promotion of books and reading.



We at NBT wish her a prosperous career.

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#### GUWAHATI

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Libraray (Pura Granthagar) Agartala  
Ground Floor of AMC, Agartala

#### PATNA

73/40 Officers' Flat, Baily Road  
Patna

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

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