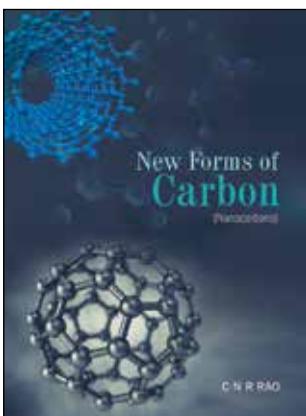


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PICK OF THE MONTH



New Forms of Carbon: Nanocarbon
C.N.R. Rao
978-81-237-7759-7; Rs 105

India China Translation Programme



In a significant initiative in cultural diplomacy, the Government of India and the Government of People's Republic of China have put forward an ambitious translation programme that includes translation of 25 each of classical and contemporary literary works from Chinese into Hindi and Indian literary works into Chinese.

The External Publicity and Public Diplomacy Division of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and the National Book Trust, India, are collaborating to take forward this programme. The programme involves

close involvement of language scholars from India and China in this translation effort.

An introductory workshop on 'Translation and Publication of Classic & Contemporary Chinese Literature' was held at NBT Conference Room on 19 February 2016.

Addressing the participants at the workshop, Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, NBT said that translation is a medium through which people of different culture and languages get connected and understand each other in a better way. Though we would be reading





the Chinese works in Hindi we would get an opportunity to understand the literature, tradition and culture of China. He hoped that this endeavour would bring the two countries closer. He also thanked the scholars/translators for supporting the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Rita Chowdhury, Director, NBT said, "India China Translation Programme is not only about translating books but rather it is a cultural exchange between the two countries." She added, "Through this work we can create an image of the two countries sharing philosophy and culture." Sharing her experience as an author, she said that it is difficult to give soul to the creation while translating it into other languages. Reflecting on her novel *Makam*, which looks at the lives and times of the Chinese in India, she said that the Chinese were brought to India especially to work in the tea gardens of Assam by the East India Company and they later became a greater part of the integrated Indian society. She hoped that this project would create an environment of attachment.

Shri R Masasuki, Director, XPD Division said, "This project comes to us as part of intensified bilateral exchange between India and China. Referring to the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to China and the visit of Chinese President Mr Li Keqiang's to India, he said that with their visits, the cultural contacts between the two countries have enhanced. He remarked that this programme is in continuation to the growing cultural contacts between India and China. He also said that, "Translation is not an easy task. It is difficult to translate Chinese language to Hindi and vice versa. We belong to rich cultural society and therefore translation has many nuances of culture, language, tradition etc. He also hoped that the

translators involved with the programme would translate the works without diluting the text of Chinese works.

Prof. B R Deepak, Centre for Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies (CCSEAS), JNU in his introductory remarks said that this programme is part of MoU signed between India and China. He said that some of the best known works of Chinese literature from Confucius to Mo Yan need to be translated into Hindi and later in other Indian languages under this project.

Wing Commander Nikhilesh Dixit Officer on Special Duty, MEA also spoke on the occasion.

The participants in the workshop included Prof. B R Deepak; Prof. N M Pankaj, Nalanda University; Ms Dayawanti, Assistant Professor, CCSEAS; Shri Kaushal Kishore, Assistant Professor, CCSEAS; Shri Madhurendra Kr. Jha, Assistant Professor, Doon University; Ms Tanvi Negi, Assistant Professor, Doon University; Shri Uday Kunwar, Assistant Professor, Aligarh Muslim University; Shri Prashant Jain, Assistant Professor, SFL, New Delhi; Shri Prashant Kaushik, Assistant Professor, NDA, Pune; Ms Arpana Raj, Assistant Professor, Central University of Jharkhand; Shri Irfan Ahmed, Assistant Professor, Sikkim University, Sikkim and Ms Severin Kuok, Ph.D candidate and HYI Fellow.

During the workshop, the

participants in three different sessions discussed about the various aspects of the Chinese literary works to be translated into Hindi including Confucius and Confucian Classics; Xuan Zhang and *Journey to the West during Great Tang*; Ba Jin and his representative work *The Family*; Lao She and *The Camel Boy*; Mao Dun and his *Midnight*; Selected Works of Guo Moruo; Bing Xin and her representative works; Xu Zhimo and his selected works; Wang Meng and *Long Live the Youth*; Liu Zhenyu and *Looks Beautiful*; A Lai and *Red Poppies*; Ji Xianlin and Sino-Indian Cultural Interaction; and Chen Zhongshi and *The White Deer Plain*.

They also discussed about various technical aspects for bringing out the Chinese literary works in Hindi like the font to be chosen, font size, size of the book etc.

Besides, the works of Indian authors including Surdas, Kabir, Munshi Premchand, Bharatendu, Jaishankar Prasad, Vrindavan Lal Verma, Ram Kumar Verma, Mahadevi Verma, Agveya, Bhishm Sahni, Phaneswar Nath Renu, Mohan Rakesh, Shrilal Shukla, Nirmal Verma, Manu Bhandari, kashinath Singh, Kamleshwar, P C Bagchi, R K Narayan, Gulzar, Raja Rao, Sunil Gangopadhyaya, U R Ananthamurthy and Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai are being translated into Chinese.

Chinese Translation of Surdas' Sursagar Released

As part of India China Translation Programme, the Chinese version of Surdas' Sursagar, authored by Prof. Jiang Jingkui, Head of Hindi Department, Peking University was released at Vivekananda International Foundation Auditorium, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi on 8 January 2016.

Mr Tarun Vijay, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha released the book. Mr Sun Shoushan, Vice Minister, State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film & Television of the People's Republic of China; Mr TCA Rangachari, former Ambassador to France & Germany and General N C Vij, Director, Vivekananda International Foundation were also present on the occasion.

Kolkata Book Fair

National Book Trust, India participated in 40th International Kolkata Book Fair held at Milan Mela Compound, Kolkata from 27th January to 7th February 2016.

The Fair was inaugurated by Smt. Mamata Banerjee, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal. This year Bolivia was the Focus Country. Around 30 countries participated in the book fair showcasing their rich literary heritage, culture and literature.

During the Fair, several literary programmes were organized including a book release function of children's book in Bangla titled *Ek Kathure Ar Bagher Gape*, authored by Shri Pracheta Gupta. Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, NBT,



released the book. Expressing his happiness for being a part of the Fair, Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma said that Kolkata Book Fair is 'Maha Kumbh of Books'. He added that Bengal is the place of distinguished personalities including social reformers, writers and thinkers like Rammohun,

Vidyasagar, Bankim Chandra, Madhusudan, Tagore, Ramakrishna, Vivekananda and Sarat Chandra. While talking about the importance of book, he quoted the lines of a poem by Gulzar echoing the fact that books are the only medium through which one can communicate with others.

Later, Shri Baldeo Bhai was felicitated by the organizers of the book fair, the Publishers & Booksellers Guild. On this occasion Shri Tridip Chatterjee said that Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma is a veteran journalist who has written a number of articles on issues of national importance in major Hindi dailies like *Dainik Bhaskar*, *Amar Ujala*, *Dainik Jagran* among others.

Training Course in Book Publishing

National Book Trust organized a week-long training course in book publishing in Ranchi, the capital city of Jharkhand from 28 January to 4 February 2016.

Shri Dinesh Oraon, Hon'ble Speaker, Jharkhand Legislative Assembly inaugurated the course. He said that more and more books on cultural heritage needs to be written in regional languages in order to widen the scope of readership across different sections of the society. He also said that though Jharkhand is far



behind in publishing but provides ample opportunities for the professionals in the field.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman,

NBT said that books play a significant role in the overall development of human beings. He added that publishing industry is developing in India. It offers good employment opportunities in various streams of the industry. He also informed about the activities being undertaken by the NBT for the promotion of books and reading habits.

Dr R K Pandey, Vice Chancellor and M. Raizuddin, Pro Vice Chancellor, Ranchi University also spoke on the occasion.

International Mother Tongue Day Celebrated

On the occasion of International Mother Tongue Day, a panel discussion on 'Regional Languages of Bihar' was held at Hajipur, Bihar on 20 February 2016 as a part of the events organised at the Hajipur Book Fair.

Speakers shared their views on the need to preserve the regional languages by using the words, phrases and idioms which are hardly spoken in day-to-day conversation. Referring to the role that language plays in the development of literature, they observed that literature is a medium of expression and it further strengthens the culture and tradition of a region. They also felt that to save mother

tongues from getting extinct, it is necessary that we should respect our languages and work collectively for the development and promotion of languages.

The session was presided over by Prof. Ramvachan Rai, Member of the Bihar Legislative Council and noted litterateur. He talked about the role that literary



organizations are playing in the promotion of languages.

The other speakers on the occasion included Prof. Virendra Jha, Head of Maithili Department, Patna University; Shri Chandrabhusan Rai, Chairman, Bhojpuri Academy; Shri Udai Shankar Sharma, Chairman Maghi Academy; Shri Mushtaq Ahmad Noori, Secretary, Bihar Urdu Academy; Shri Chandrakishore Prashar, well-known author; Dr Jai Krishna Mehta, Director, Bihar Rashtrabhasha Parishad.

The programme was coordinated by Dr Kamal Ahmad, Programme Officer of NBT's Book Promotion Centre in Patna.

Readers' Club Orientation

Readers' Club Movement, one of the flagship programmes of National Book Trust, India, coordinated by its National Centre for Children's Literature, has over the years reached the remote corners of the country. Over 36,000 primary schools and reading promotion centres including libraries run by NGOs have been covered under this programme.

With a view to promote this movement, two orientations were recently held. The first one was held as a part of "Kartavya Pustak Mela" at Shamli (UP) on 28 November 2015. Shri Prempal Sharma, eminent author and educationalist and Shri Rajnikant Shukla, author and teacher interacted with local school teachers, rural library coordinators and NGOs on the occasion. The programme was attended by over 40 enthusiastic reading promotion activists from the district.



In the second one, organized on 28-29 January 2016 at SCERT, Chhattisgarh,

Raipur, over 75 Master Trainers and State Resource Group Members were oriented on "How to run a Readers' Club". With the active cooperation of UNICEF, Pratham, Room to Read and several other organizations working at grass-roots level, NBT is setting up Readers' Clubs in 1134 Govt. Primary Schools in this state with adequate tribal concentration.

Dr. Mahendra Kumar Mishra, Ms. Jessy Kurien and several faculty members from SCERT, Chhattisgarh, Raipur and DIET, Raipur interacted on the occasion with the participating master trainers who will train the coordinator of Readers' Club in various parts of the state with regular monitoring by SCERT, Chhattisgarh.

Both the orientations were coordinated by Shri Manas Ranjan Mahapatra, Editor and Head, NCCL(NBT).

NEW DELHI WORLD BOOK FAIR

January remained a hectic month for the National Book Trust, India as it organised the 24th edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 9 to 17 January 2016. A number of events took place at Theme Pavilion of the Fair in which a number of authors, scholars and booklovers

participated with great enthusiasm. We covered many of the happenings in the *Fair Daily*, a bulletin published every day during the Fair. We are reproducing some of the write-ups published in the *Fair Daily* that gives a ringside view of the New Delhi World Book Fair 2016.

Many Languages One Nation

A panel discussion on 'Many Languages One Nation' was organised at the Theme Pavilion. Panelists at the session included Prof. Kuldeep Chand Agnihotri, Shri Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee and Prof. K.N Tiwari. The conversation was moderated by Shri Baldev Bhai Sharma, Chairman, NBT India.

Speaking on the many languages in India, Prof. Kuldeep Chand Agnihotri said that its unity is the essence of this diverse nation. The multicoloured hues of languages is the source of its strength and unity. He was of the opinion that an individual is best able to think and imagine his mother tongue. Lack of education in the mother-tongue is leading to a gradual shift away from its usage.

Shri Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee on our remarkable diversity said that conflicts due to language differences come



about due to political reasons. English is necessary for growth and development but not at the cost of losing our mother-tongue. Language is sustained by usage and this only begins at home even if major languages are required to function in the world outside. However, it is remarkable to note that there is a common thread of connectivity that runs through most of our literature. The same story may be narrated in different languages and the same festival may be celebrated across various regions

and communities and also referred to by different terms but the essence and belief runs same across this diverse nation.

Prof. K.N Tiwari recounted that many languages are spoken across India. The underlying sentiment that runs through all the different languages is the core that binds this diverse country together. The story of *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* is found in almost all languages of the country. This is how this diverse country has one soul. The common belief of the people of the country in spite of the differences in languages is the binding force of the nation.

Shri Baldev Bhai Sharma in his remarks said that the Theme Pavilion showcases the art, linguistic and cultural heritage of this diverse nation which is the living proof of our multifaceted heritage with a common connected history.

Science through Sanskrit: Exploring Possibilities

A panel discussion on the treasure trove of ancient Indian knowledge of science and medicine took place at the theme pavilion to the delight of the audience. Many rare and unknown facts were brought forth by the panelists. The discussion and participants were introduced by the Chairman of NBT, Shri Baldev Bhai Sharma who welcomed this opportunity to raise awareness and renew the interest of the people, particularly the youth, on this topic.

Moderating the event, Shri Shreeshji Devpujari emphasized on the importance of Sanskrit which is the essence of the Indian historical tradition. He lamented the fact that the importance of Sanskrit diminished in usage and that after the British colonization, the scientific temper and thinking only came to be appreciated if it came from the West which led to the abatement of the rich knowledge and heritage of our own country. The scientific and large scale industrial Western methods are often detrimental to the environment. However, Indian traditional processes advocate the usage of environmental resources in adequate amounts to sustain the



natural environment and what it provides.

The panelists Dr. C.S.R. Prabhu and Shriram Jyotishi spoke at length about the scientific instruments and implements and more than 200 materials described in the *Viman Shastra*, which contains rare information about Indian scientific machines. Shri Prabhu articulated that

Indian scholars were more advanced in the ancient time as there is evidence of a more advanced technology in the creation of the Pushp Viman or the 'flying chariot', the creation of the rock cut caves of Ajanta-Ellora and many temples carved out of an entire mountain. There was also the description of more than 5000 aesthetic products described in the Gandhashastra or 'study of aromas' which contains accounts of many cosmetic and aesthetic products. Shriram Jyotishi, a scholar of Ayurveda, spoke about the innumerable cures Ayurveda can provide. He talked about how ancient Indian scholars had carefully classified the body components and the kind of treatments that would be administered for each ailment. They classified the external environment and their properties to treat the illness in relation and conjunction to the inner as well as external elements.

The moderator concluded the session by mentioning that the ancient scientific knowledge is not totally lost on us. We can access this knowledge of the ancients by consulting the Sanskrit texts which hold this knowledge.



Indian Epics in Regional Languages and Literature

Indian literary epics *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana* transcend into cultures and languages of various regions. A session at the Theme Pavilion on the subject was moderated by Shri Sanjiv Kumar, and the panelists included Dr. Avaniresh Avasthi and Ms. Thanuja Bhattathiri.

Thanuja Bhattathiri spoke about Malayalam literature which is highly influenced by the epics. She said that Puranas and epics are two different things – Puranas are stories of Gods and Goddesses while epics depict

these great characters with human flaws. In each and every character we can derive our own interpretations and with each

reading of the text we can decipher new connotations and meanings of the story and character. Epics give us the liberty to make our own interpretations. Like the features in old black and white photograph some facts are clear, some are unclear and some are left to the reader's interpretation. The Kathakali dance form was exclusively accessible to only the priests and higher castes until Kunjan Nambiar in deviance of these hegemonic hierarchies brought out his own version of the dance



form which was accessible to the masses. The tale of Madhavi narrates the story of a princess whose father married her off to four kings consecutively for supply of 800 black horses each with a white left ear. Yet the king was unable to get the required number of horses. A sage then comes to his rescue whose divine intervention fulfilled the condition and also restored the virginity of the princess. Later, she decided to marry a forest and disappear

into oblivion. Epics can be interpreted in relation to certain events in today's world like Kauravas who were born in pots and these days there are babies being born from test-tubes.

Dr. Avaniresh Avasthi emphasised that every piece of literature is the mirror of the time and context it is written in, and the epics are the best examples of this fact. It should be interpreted to understand its wisdom and relevance in relation to today's

world. There are often protests when Hindi is said to become Sanskritized. However, being closer to Sanskrit only links the language to Indian languages. In numerous versions of the Ram-Katha that is ingrained in many cultures across Southeast Asia, Ram is seen in the light of an ideal exemplar human being and not as a God. It is important to not blindly follow the ideals mentioned in the epics but to interpret them according to the context.

India's Secular Literary Tradition

There are numerous ways of narrating literature. As much as there are in transmitting and interpreting the truth in texts. Moderated by Dr. Krishna Sharma, Dr. Chandrakanta and Dr Nand Lal Mehta discussed 'India's Secular Literary Tradition' as in its literary heritage. The truth about the Shakta, Vaishnav and Shakti sects, Buddha, Mahavir Jain and other leaders are interpreted in different ways in different cultures and languages.



In her observations, Dr. Chandrakanta emphasised on the importance of the topic because secularism can often be misinterpreted to stand against religion. Traditions are like an ever flowing river that encompasses everything in its path, amalgamating things as they evolve in time. The Puranic verses contain small parables which have messages of wisdom and moral lessons. Gita is the ultimate truth – it gives us the knowledge of

'Karma' or the deeds. Buddha's teachings primarily speak out against exploitation and injustice. *Mahabharata* is the fight for justice and truth. Kalidasa wrote about beauty – the beauty of nature, the beauty of love. These stories have however evolved in the context of its interpretation, the mode and the medium. Literature has always mirrored the events in time.

The truth is one but the narrator has the power to infuse new meanings through

interpretation, observed Dr. Nand Lal Mehta. The critic of the words does not intend to criticize in order to construct but to cause troubles and unrest. The common man of India is aware of the term Dharma (Religion) which in itself is an expansive and profound term. The meaning of the term has been restricted by a few people and came out with the term *Dharma Nirpaiksha* (secularism in terms of religion) and later came the terms *Sampradaya nirpaiksha* and *Panth nirpaiksha* (creed) for secularism. Talking about the term literature, he said that literature comprises a meaning and essence and can be comprehended easily.

The panelists were of the view that there is a need to preserve our tradition and culture as found in our ancient texts. While scholars tried to seek solutions to the social dilemma, we can learn from their experiences and understand what India's Secular Literary Tradition stands for.

India's Plurality as expressed in Indian Literature

A very interesting panel discussion on the 'Plurality of India as Expressed in Indian Literature' was held at the Theme Pavilion. The panelists included Dr. Sukrita Paul Kumar, Shri Narendra Kohli and Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, NBT India.

Dr. Sukrita Paul Kumar initiated the discussion by focusing on the identity of India which is defined by its linguistic

plurality. The whole baggage of language is culture, dialects, idioms and metaphors. Cartography of our country reveals the dynamic diversity of our country. There is a physical space and a cultural space that forms an identity. Wherever people move and settle they carry their culture and language with them. When people living in a common space side by side, they start forming a unified mosaic which

is beautiful because they are together and distinct from one another at the same time. The culture of India from the past times until the present has largely been to 'accept and accommodate'. This does not mean assimilation into the larger culture, but negotiation, which means to understand the differences and accept it and allow it to exist. If we do not appreciate the beauty of our differences, we will not be able

to live in harmony. Hence it is necessary to read and explore one another's literature to understand each other. Literature is the way to overcome these differences and live in harmonic understanding of one another.

Narendra Kohli drew the audience's focus to the Indian epics which are available in many languages and form an integral part of many cultures of this country but it is important to remember the context and the setting of these texts. The time and the context that they were set in are most relevant in incorporating that knowledge in today's world. Literature is the very reflection of the times as seen in the works of Bengali writers Tagore and Bankim



Chandra. All writings are influenced by time and context. Difference in language and style can affect the content. Kohli observed that the plight of women in India are better than the women in the West. India has a tradition of respecting

women as the core of life and the worship of the Mother goddess (es) is prevalent throughout the country. They had voting rights as soon as the colonial shackles were overthrown unlike the Suffragettes who had to fight for their equal rights in other countries.

Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma concluded the session by stating that all is well that ends well. Debate and discussion is an ancient tradition of addressing social reforms and issues. The equality of genders has been prevalent in our scriptures as seen in the story of Shiv Shakti and Adi Shankaracharya and through discussions we can bring about a better understanding of these issues.

Bharata's Natyashashtra and India's Performance Tradition

The *Natyashastra*, attributed to Sage Bharata, is an ancient Indian treatise on the performing arts, encompassing theatre, dance and music. It is a complete work in itself because what it contains is relevant and practiced even today unlike other texts and traditions that fade away in time.

Introducing the discussion on Natyashashtra and India's Performance Tradition, Shri Bharat Gupta observed that Natyashashtra was not only written for temple adoration but to record the performing arts. There is no document in the world which has detailed information about dance and performing arts of India as this work. It continues to inspire creativity even today. Due to the influences from the West, many of these forms are in conflict with itself inducing changes in the way they are performed. For example, overtly sexual overtones in performances are increasingly becoming the order of the day. This is not appreciated. The art of theatre and dancing evolve



with time and we can find inspiration and create forms from our traditions.

Natyashastra is one of the great writings on the cultural traditions of

India, said Shri Radhavallabh Tripathi. Its importance lies in the fact that the sage Bharata compiled together what were the scattered traditions and prepared a compendium for the future generations. It is one of the greatest treasures of our nation. Even the ones who are not aware of the knowledge enshrined in the *Natyashastra* use the concepts described in it. The living traditions have been impeded by the modern lifestyles but technology has also given it a new life for practice and propagation in the recent times. Many foreign scholars have researched and written on this treatise.



Today, the modern world is beginning to realize the importance of this valuable gem, and are drawing inspiration from it. The philosophy of the sage Bharata in this aesthetic pursuit is unsurpassed. There are many artists across the various cultures of India who practice these performing arts with regional variation but keep these traditions alive.

FAREWELL



Ms Uma Bansal, retired in January 2016 as Editor of NBT's Hindi Publishing Programme.

In over three decades of her service, Ms Bansal was instrumental in furthering the development of Hindi publications under the many series she was responsible for. Ms Bansal infused a new energy and widened the scope of publications by developing new themes and introducing new writers and translators. Ms Bansal was also the founding editor of Pustak Sanskriti, the literary magazine brought out by NBT. Besides, she has translated novels and short stories from English, Punjabi, Urdu into Hindi.

As a writer of repute, Ms Bansal's writings include collection of poetry, satirical write-ups as well as short stories and essays.

Shri Asoke Kumar Bag, Assistant, retired from the Trust after serving for more than 33 years. He joined the Trust on 30 July 1982 as LDC and worked in Eastern Regional Office of the Trust in Kolkata.

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Smt Prabha Kapoor, Superitendant, retired from the Trust after serving for more than 36 years. She joined the Trust on 10 May 1979 as LDC and worked in various sections such as Editorial, Production and Subsidiy Section of the Trust.



Shri Ashwin Kumar Gupta, Assistant, retired from the Trust after serving for more than 36 years. He joined the Trust on 10 May 1979 as LDC and worked in Production, Accounts and Editorial Section of the Trust.



We wish them all a very happy retired life.

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