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59th Foundation Day Celebrations



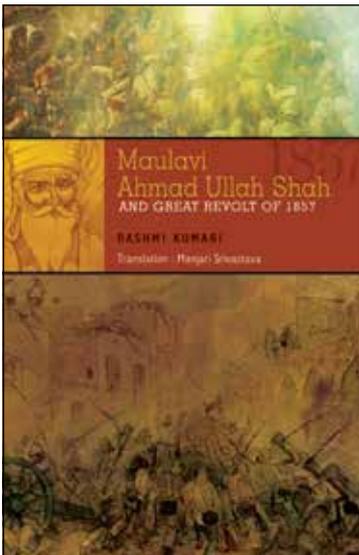
“In present times, our society reflects poor collective consciousness as the literacy rate of our country is not high,” said Dr N K Singh. He was delivering the fifth NBT Foundation Day Lecture on ‘Books and Reading in Today’s India’ organised at NBT premises in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi on 17 August 2016.

“Lack of knowledge and literacy has made our society vulnerable,” said

Dr N K Singh. He felt that market forces are at an advantage because of ignorance of people. They use this weakness to block the thought process of the people to promote their products.

Speaking of the reading habits of the people, especially youth in India, Dr N K Singh said that people hardly read books but like to read small pieces posted at different platforms of social

PICK OF THE MONTH



Maulavi Ahamad Ullah Shah and Great Revolt of 1857
Rashmi Kumari
Tr: Manjari Srivastava
978-81-237-7848-8; Rs 120





media like Facebook and Whatsapp. He added that the information provided through these platforms is not credible as it is incomplete and vague.

“Such incomplete information and knowledge,” Dr N K Singh observed, “has made our society susceptible to ignorance and lack of reasoning.” Therefore, we are easily carried away by this wrong information giving way to conflicts in the society. He emphasized that we need to acquire right knowledge to rationalize our thoughts. He observed that institutions like NBT can continue to play a larger role in creating awareness among people by providing good books at affordable price.

Dr N K Singh opined that books provide knowledge which help in enhancing the quality of life and reasoning ability of the people in a society. To enhance knowledge in the society, government institutions can play a significant role. They are the knowledge vendors of our society. He added that this task is difficult for private publishers as they are influenced by the market forces.

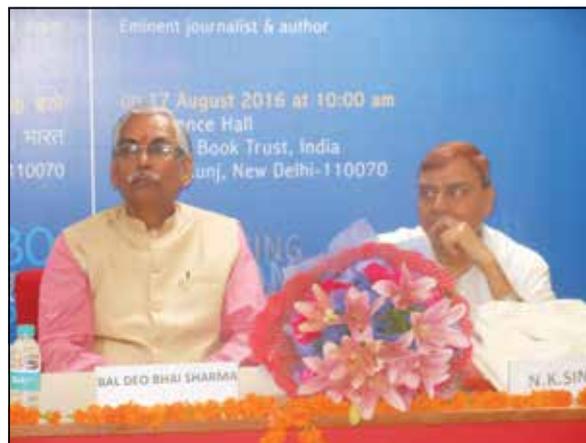
To reach out to readers who are tech-savvy and use smartphones etc., Dr N K Singh said that NBT may also bring out ebooks at affordable prices.

He also shared his experience as a journalist and a role that media can play in the betterment of society. He said that the electronic media for example disseminate important issues related to society through discussions and debates with eminent speakers to

bring out right facts to the viewers and help them understand these issues.

During the session, he also brought to light the changes that are taking place in the Indian value system. He said that nowadays our value system is being driven by the market forces and consumerism. He said that Indian value system is a strong system and good for the society. We need to preserve it. Books are one of the ways to impart knowledge. And hence we need to promote reading of good books.

Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, NBT, in his presidential remarks said that the future of a society depends on its knowledge base. A true knowledge is one that brings a feeling of oneness among people. He also said that National Book Trust, India has a



significant role in creating awareness among the people of the country, which can be achieved through commitment and urge to serve the country.

Earlier, Dr Rita Chowdhury, Director, NBT welcomed the guests present on the occasion. She said that



books will provide new perspective and a new India where people will not only be able to read but also understand the goodwill of Indian tradition and contribute towards the betterment of the society.

On this occasion, the employees of the Trust who completed 25 years of their service were also felicitated.

This is the fifth 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 personality from among women and men of letters, scholars, intellectuals and others 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 and Prof. Kapil Kapoor.

Dr N K Singh is an eminent journalist and currently, General Secretary of Broadcast Editors' Association (BEA). With over three decades in journalism, Dr N K Singh held various important positions in leading newspapers and news channels. He worked for *National Herald*, *The Pioneer* and *Newstime/Eenadu* (English and Telugu dailies) in various capacities like reporter, senior reporter, chief reporter, chief sub-editor and senior special correspondent. He also worked as bureau chief and political editor of ETV—an organization with 12 regional channels including four Hindi channels. He was also the editor of *Sadhna News*.



Translation Workshop in Assam

National Book Trust, India organised a 3-day translation workshop in collaboration with Bodo Writers' Academy from 29 to 31 July 2016 at Sarupathar, the Headquarters of the Dhansiri Subdivision of Golaghat District of Upper Assam. The workshop was organised to translate some NBT children's publications brought out under Nehru Bal Pustakalaya Series



into Bodo language. The workshop was part of a special literary festival organised by BWA where Bodo writers and intellectuals from all over Assam were assembled.

Inaugurating the workshop at Sarupathar College Auditorium on 29 July 2016, eminent writer and translator and also the SDO (Civil) of Dhansiri subdivision Shri Naren C. Basumatary, ACS appreciated the Trust for organising workshop to enrich Bodo children's literature. He urged participants of the workshop to help facilitate literary exchanges between Bodo and other Indian languages. Shri Basumatary also discussed in detail

some of the challenges involved in the art and science of translation.

Earlier, Shri Deep Saikia, Asamiya language editor of the Trust welcomed the distinguished guests and the workshop participants. Shri Rajen Basumatary, Vice President, Bodo



Writers Akademi also spoke on the occasion.

Eminent educationist, writer and first ever Sahitya Akademi award winner for Bodo language, Dr Mangal Singh Hazowary was the Resource person of the translation workshop. While explaining the need for extreme care in transferring culture to the target language without doctoring the text in the source language, he

guided the participants in finalising the Bodo translation of the books from English, Hindi and Asamiya languages.

Around 30 participants from across Assam like Kokrajhar, Dhupguri, Bijni, Dangarigaon, Dhemaji, Uriamghat, ghoramari, Barama, Maharipara, Udalguri etc. participated in the workshop. Around 25 translated manuscripts including *Ban Ban Namar Gar Powalito* (Asamiya), *Dhanesh Powalitowe Uribolo* (Asamiya), *Ek Yatra* (Hindi), *Nanhe Suraj* (Hindi) and *The Stowaway* (English) were finalised in the workshop and will soon be published by NBT.

Valedictory Function

National Book Trust, India organised the valedictory function of the Training Course in Book Publishing at its premises in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi on 8 August 2016.

Dr Rita Chowdhury, Director, NBT welcomed the guests, participants and faculty members present on the occasion. She said that it was very good experience for us that we met participants from different parts of the country. She was hopeful that after this training on book publishing, the participants would do something to promote books and contribute for the well-being of the society.

Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, NBT India, said the future



of printed books is not bleak. Even though digitalization has influenced the lives of people, people like to read printed books. He also felt that the book distribution system needs to be developed to make books accessible to the readers in large numbers. He said that there are a good number of opportunities for new entrants to

make career in publishing.

Ms Richa Anirudh, well-known journalist was the special guest on the occasion. She urged participants that in their professional journey, they need to do things that give them satisfaction.

During the programme, certificates were distributed to more than 40 participants from across the country for successful completion of the course.

In the month-long publishing course, well-known professionals from leading publishing houses provided an overview of publishing scenario in India and publishing skills such as editing, production, marketing, sales promotion, copyright, design, etc.

NBT Publications on Creative Learning

Every year September 5, birthday of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, educationist, philosopher and also the former President of India, is celebrated as Teachers Day in India. 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 Human Rights

Arjun Dev (Ed.)

The book provides the texts of international covenants on Human Rights. Besides, it also provides a comparative chart describing correspondence of different articles of Universal Declaration of Human Rights with the provision of the Indian Constitution and law.

81-237-4038-7

A Handbook of Puppetry

Meena Naik

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

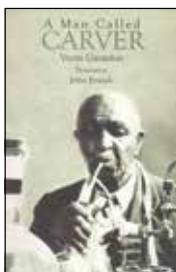
978-81-237-4206-9; Rs 45.00

A Man Called Carver

Veena Gavankar

A fascinating saga of the making of George Washington Carver, a black US scientist born at the fag end of the American slavery era who struggled his way up to become a renowned agronomist and an educationist with a progressive vision.

978-81-237-5838-1; Rs 110.00

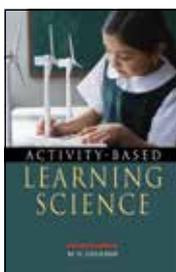


Activity-Based Learning Science

M H Ghufriani

Learning Science becomes a creative exercise only when the theoretical aspect is supported by actual experiments. This book advocates the importance of activity based learning 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 learning science for parents and school managers.

978-81-237-7102-1; Rs 125.00

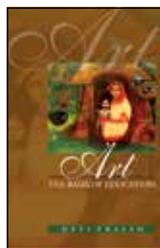


Art: The Basis of Education

Devi Prasad

A pioneering study on the importance of art as a foundation for the education of the individual. The book also takes a detailed look at the various stages of its expression in a child, its importance in shaping the individual's thinking and cognitive faculty, the role of teachers and parents and most importantly its role in an angst-ridden society.

978-81-237-2314-3; Rs 85.00

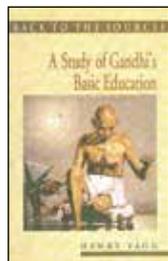


Back to the Sources: A Study of Gandhi's Basic Education

Henry Fagg

The title of the study indicates a dissatisfaction on the part of its author with much of the material that has so far been written on Gandhi on education. The present writer has attempted to construct a detailed contextual study of the most decisive period in the evolution of Gandhi's beliefs on education.

81-237-3969-9; Rs 50.00

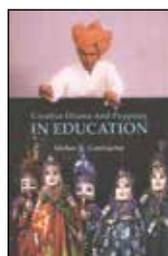


Creative Drama and Puppetry In Education

Meher R Contractor

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.

81-237-3422-0; Rs 60.00

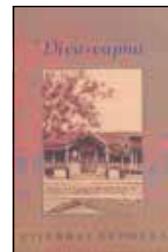


Divasvapna

Gijubhai Badheka

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.

978-81-237-1237-6; Rs 45.00

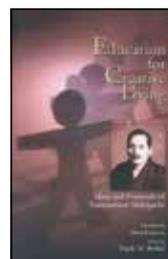


Education for Creative Living

Dayle M Bethel (Ed.)

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.

978-81-237-3650-1; Rs 95.00

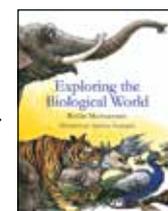


Exploring the Biological World

Rohini Muthuswami

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

978-81-237-6165-7; Rs 135.00



Learning Science

Indumati Rao & CNR Rao

This book in 4 parts contains various aspects of science in simple language. Part 1 explores the universe, solar system and the earth. Part 2 is about the world of physics and energy. Part 3 deals with the world of chemistry of molecules and materials, air around us and all about water. Part 4 is the section on biology and life.



Part 1 - 978-81-237-4774-3; Rs 135.00

Part 2 - 978-81-237-4775-0; Rs 230.00

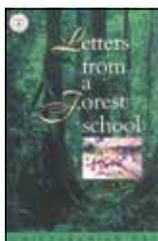
Part 3 - 978-81-237-4776-7; Rs 240.00

Part 4 - 978-81-237-4777-4; Rs 175.00

Letters from A Forest School

Chittaranjan Das

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.



81-237-4877-9; Rs 75.00

Little Toys

Arvind Gupta

A step-by-step, well-illustrated manual which children can use to prepare innovative, low-cost and eco-friendly toys from materials like discarded tetra packs, camera roll cases, soda straws and other junk.

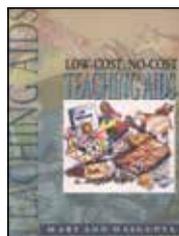


81-237-2060-2; Rs 45.00

Low-Cost, No Cost Teaching Aids

Mary Ann Dasgupta

Teaching aids, an essential component of activity based learning, is a lively and interactive educational tool. This book with its clearly illustrated step-by-step instructions serves as a practical guide for making a wide variety of many such useful and inexpensive classroom materials out of articles of everyday use.



978-81-237-2054-8; Rs 110.00

Play Activities for Child Development

Mina Swaminathan & Prema Daniel

The book provides nearly two hundred play activities for young children. It is useful for both the parents and the teachers. Tips on making teaching aids and materials are also given in the book.



81-237-4270-7; Rs 130.00

Rabindranath Tagore: Philosophy of Education and Painting

Devi Prasad

The book presents Tagore's approach to education and art. Views of Tagore on education and painting have been supplemented by a comprehensive and critical evaluation of his philosophy.



978-81-237-3318-X; Rs 85.00

Romping in Numberland

P K Srinivasan

The book attempts to show how children can enter the threshold of fascinating world of numbers by using simple skills and imaginative faculties. In this book the children discover varied and interesting properties of numbers in a friendly setting.

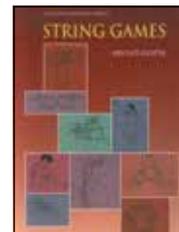


81-237-3648-7; Rs 40.00

String Games

Arvind Gupta

The book provides step-by-step instructions with illustrations for making diverse and interesting string figures. The fun-filled figures created by using strings of all sorts not only augment memory and imagination of young children but also enrich their eye-hand coordination.

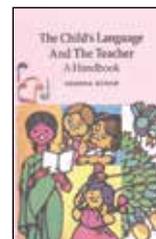


81-237-1721-0; Rs 40.00

The Child's Language and the Teacher: A Handbook

Krishna Kumar

Language plays an important role in the overall development of a child's personality and abilities. While exploring some of the basic functions like talking, reading and writing that any language performs in the lives of children, this little handbook also suggests various activities and games to hone their cognitive skills.



81-237-2863-8; Rs 50.00

Ten Little Fingers

Arvind Gupta

This book is a collation of innovative toys and science activities. It is all about cleaning up the earth of all the modern junk and recycling them into joyous toys for children. Each activity is illustrated in detail and children can themselves conduct several scientific experiments using waste materials in the household.



978-81-237-3421-7; Rs 135.00

Duishen

Chingiz Aitmatov

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.

978-81-237-3848-2; Rs 35.00

Writing Competition

Children's Book Trust (CBT), founded by Shankar in 1957, invites manuscripts for the 'XIX Competition for Writers of Children's Books 2016' in English and Hindi in the following categories:

- **Category I Fiction: Above 12 years:** 25-30,000 words; First Prize Rs 25,000; Second Price Rs 20,000
- **Category II Science Fiction: Above 12 years:** 20-25,000 words; First Prize Rs 25,000; Second Price Rs 20,000
- **Category III Creative Non-Fiction: 9-12 years:** 3,000 words; 10 Prizes of Rs 5000 each
- **Category IV Short Stories: 9-12 years:** 3,000 words; 20 Prizes of Rs 5000 each
- **Category V Get Ready for a Magical Time: 9-12 years:** 5,000 words; First Prize Rs 8,500; Second Price Rs 6,000
- **Category VI Short Plays, Dramas: 9-12 years:** 3,000 words; 5 Prizes of Rs 5000 each
- **Category VII Read-aloud Books/Picture Books: 5-8 years: 500-600 words;** First Prize Rs 9,000; Second Price Rs 7,000

- **Category VIII Concept Books: 3-5 years** 250 words max; First Prize Rs 6,500; Second Price Rs 5,000

This competition is open to persons above 18 years. A participant may submit no more than three entries under a category except in Category IV (Short Stories) where up to five entries can be sent, each manuscript being treated as separate. Entries submitted for any earlier competition held by CBT will not be considered. Each manuscript should indicate the number of words it carries. A departure from the given length, beyond a marginal limit, would disqualify the manuscript.

The last date for receipt of entries is September 30, 2016.

For details, please contact:

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Excerpts

NBT India is publishing a book titled *Mercury in Medicine*, written by Abhijeet Kulkarni. Herein we reproduce an excerpt from the chapter 'The Story of Mercury'

Mercury was mined more than 2000 years ago in the Spanish mines at Almaden. These mines were one of the largest producers of mercury till 2003. The Chinese used Cinnabar, the main ore of mercury, more than 3000 years ago, as a pigment for red ink. Mercury has also contributed to major scientific discoveries, chiefly among which are the early laws of Physics. It was used in experiments to measure temperature and pressure. It is currently, but decreasingly used in a range of industrial applications, including its very varied uses in the healthcare sector.

Man has been acquainted with the heavy metal since a very long time and it was not in the recent past that man realised the toxic nature of mercury. Recently, its adverse impact on biological and environmental health has been emphasised by overwhelming evidence. Mercuric chloride or

mercuric bichloride, has been used as a poison for a long time. It is corrosive to mucous membranes and used as a topical antiseptic and disinfectant. It is potently poisonous and an excellent antisyphilitic.

Another known mercurial compound is mercurous chloride, better known as Calomel, the mild chloride of mercury. It is yellowish white in colour, insoluble and tasteless, and has been used extensively in medicine as a strong laxative as well as to treat malaria and yellow fever.

Equally well known is the term 'mad as a hatter' originating from the nervous disorder known as 'hatter's shakes'. These were caused by the use of mercury salts in the production of felt for hats, and the dust generated in the badly ventilated workshops, during the subsequent drying processes, lead to the intoxication.

Environmental mercury, whether occurring naturally or due to human activity, affects animal and human life. Mercury readily vaporises at room temperature, and is readily inhaled as a vapour. It is easily absorbed through the lungs and can cause ailments ranging

from headaches, tremors, inflammation of the bladder and loss of memory. As a liquid, it can be absorbed into the skin and mucous membranes. Moreover, it has a very long half life, believed to be close to 55-70 days and therefore takes a long time to be removed from the human body. Methylmercury has a life of approximately 80 days. A single drop of mercury, if left uncovered can vaporise and contaminate an entire room. Approximately one gram of mercury, the amount of a single fever thermometer, is deposited to a 20 acres lake each year from the atmosphere. This small amount, over time, can contaminate the fish in that lake. ...

Mercury occurs in varying quantities naturally, and is released from its natural reserves due to a range of human activities, which contribute to modern human existence. Chief among these is the burning of fossil fuels, for our energy guzzling lifestyles. Typical concentrations of mercury in air vary considerably with atmospheric mercury concentrations averaging 0.002 mg/m³ (micrograms per meter cube) to as high as 1.5 mg/m³ near stationary sources such as mines.

Obituary

In the last few months, the nation has lost four major writers. They include Mahasweta Devi from West Bengal, Gurdial Singh from Punjab, Mahim Bora from Assam and Mohapatra Nilamoni Sahoo from Odisha. They were the part of modernist movement in the respective languages be it in novels, short stories, poetry or essays. Their contribution to Indian literature is immense and have enriched Indian literary landscape with their writings.

Gurdial Singh

Noted Punjabi novelist and story writer Gurdial Singh passed away on 16 August 2016. He was 83. Gurdial Singh was born on 10 January 1933



in Jaitu near Bathinda, Punjab. He did B.A. in English and History, and later M.A. in Punjabi in 1967. He retired as a professor from Punjabi University, Patiala, in 1995. He wrote his first story 'Bhaganwale' in 1957. Recipient of all major literary awards of the country, including the Bharatiya Jnanpith Award (1999), Padma Shri (1998), Bhai Veer Singh Fiction Award (1992), the Soviet Land Nehru Award (1986) and the Sahitya Akademi Award (1975), he contributed profusely in the genres of novels, short stories, drama and children's literature. His major works included *Anhe Ghore Da Daan*, *Dukhiya Daas Kabir Ha*, *Adh Chanini Raat*, among others. Many of his works have been translated into English and different Indian languages. NBT, India has published the English translation of his much acclaimed novels *Parsa*, *The Last Flicker (Marhi Da Deeva)* and *A Handful of Sand (Ret Di Ikk Muthi)*.

Mahasweta Devi

Eminent writer and social activist Mahasweta Devi, passed away on 28 July 2016 in Kolkata, West Bengal. She was 90. Mahasweta Devi was born on 14 January 1926 in Dhaka

(Bangladesh). She had her schooling in Dhaka, but after the partition of India she moved to West Bengal in India. Later, she studied at Santiniketan and Calcutta University. In 1964, she started her teaching career at Bijoygarh College. Along with teaching, she was a regular columnist in major newspapers. Her first novel titled *Jhansir Rani*, was published in 1956. She was awarded Sahitya Akademi award in 1979 for her novel *Aranyer Adhikar*. She was also awarded with Padmashri (1986), Jnanpith (1996), Ramon Magsaysay (1997) and Padma Vibhushan (2006). She authored over 120 books, comprising 20 collections of short stories and around 100 novels, and contributed innumerable articles and columns to newspapers and magazines, a large number of them woven around tribal life. Her important works include *Hajar Churashir Maa*, *Rudaali*, *Choti Munda evam Tar Tir*, *Titu Mir* among others. Besides, she has also written for children, which includes *Ek-Kori's Dream* and *Etoa Munda Won the Battle*, both published by the Trust. The Trust has also brought a collection of her short stories.

Mahasweta Devi was associated with NBT as a member of the governing body and member of Editorial advisory Board of Bangla publications.

Mahim Bora

Eminent Assamese litterateur Mahim Bora passed away on 5 August 2016. He was 92. Born on 6 July 1924 at Sonitpur district, Assam, he obtained MA in Assamese literature from Guahati University. He also worked as lecturer at Jorhat's JB College and Nowgong College during 1954-1987. He was the president of the Asom Sahitya Sabha during 1989-



90. His first short story *Havanar Surot*, was published in the *Moloya* when he was in Class VII. He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi award for his novel *Edhani Mahir Habi* in 2001. He received Padma Shri in 2011, Assam Valley Literary Award in 1998 and Sahityacharya honour in 2008. His literary works include *Rati Phula Phul*, *Barayatri*, *Chakravat*, *Much aru Manuh*, *Top*, *Tinir Tini Gol*, *Putala Ghaiz* and *Herowa Digantara Maya*. He was associated with NBT in many advisory capacities. NBT has also published his magnum opus *Kathanibari Ghat* in Hindi and other Indian languages.

Mohapatra Nilamoni Sahoo

In the passing away of Mohapatra Nilamoni Sahoo, the country has lost one of its major writers. He died on 25 June 2016. A fine exponent of the art of short story writing, Nilamoni, brought to modern Odiya short story, a synthesis of modernity and the ancient Indian tradition of storytelling. He embellished the genre with a distinct beauty of wit, irony and humor. His important works include *Prema Tribhuja*, *Michha Bagha*, *Ganjei O Gabasana*, *Andha Ratira Surya* and *Akasha Patala*.

Prof. Sahoo was born on 26 December 1926. After completing his high school, he joined Ravenshaw College, Cuttack where he completed his Post Graduation. Prof. Sahoo served in various government colleges of Odisha as a teacher of Odia language and literature. He was also the President of Odisha Sahitya Academy. He was the recipient of several prestigious literary honours including Odisha Sahitya Akademy Award and Central Sahitya Akademi Award. He was closely associated with NBT in several advisory capacities. NBT has also published a volume of his selected short stories under Aadan Pradan series.

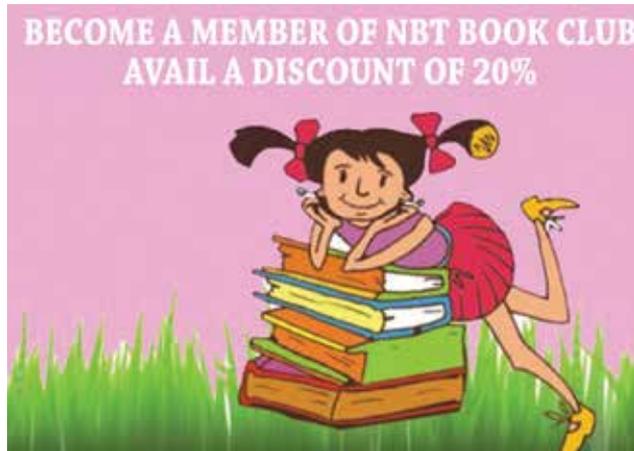


Farewell

Smt Lily Puri, Assistant, retired from the Trust after serving for 37 years. She joined the Trust on 29 May 1979 as LDC and worked in Establishment and Accounts section of the Trust.



We wish her a very happy retired life.



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Forthcoming Book Fairs

Kalburgi Book Fair	Karnataka	10-18 Sep 2016
Bhopal Book Fair	M.P.	4-11 Sep 2016
Patiala Book Fair	Punjab	3-8 Oct. 2016
Goalpara Book Fair	Assam	Nov. 2016
Varanasi Pustak Mela	U.P.	Oct. 2016
Goalaghat Book Fair	Assam	Nov. 2016
Aizawl Book Fair	Mizoram	Feb./Mar. 2017
Udaipur Book Fair	Tripura	Feb./Mar. 2017
Ranchi Book Fair	Jharkhand	Feb./Mar. 2017

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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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