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NBT Newsletter

Annual Subscription Rs 5.00; 50 paise per copy

August 2026 • Vol 44 • No. 8

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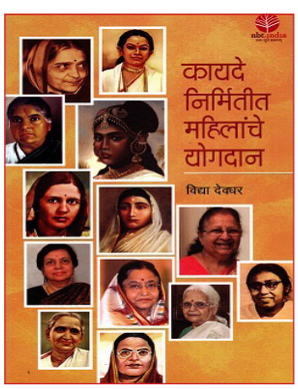
PICK OF THE MONTH



Kayade Nirmitit Mahilanche Yogdan
Dr. Vidya Deodhar
ISBN 978-93-5743-580-2
Rs 390.00

Book Lovers Thronged Chinar Book Festival in Srinagar

The 3rd edition of the highly acclaimed Chinar Book Festival was inaugurated on July 18 at SKICC, Srinagar by Shri Manoj Sinha, the honourable Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir. On this occasion he released the Urdu translation of *Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh Through the Ages* and 24 bilingual Gojri translations. Other titles released included books in Hindi based on characters from the Kashmiri epic *Rajatarangini* and an English translation of *The City of Seven Bridges*, originally authored by Kashmiri writer Shri Gauri Shankar Raina.

Shri Manoj Sinha in his address described the Chinar Book Festival as 'a symbol of change, peace and self-belief,' adding that, "no power is greater than the might of the pen and the written word." He also urged every student to read one book beyond their academic curriculum each month and write at least two pages every week. Prof. Milind Sudhakar Marathe, Chairman, National Book Trust, India, said the festival reflects the vision of NEP 2020 by promoting lifelong learning. He encouraged young people to embrace the message, "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Books," and highlighted the importance of reading as a timeless pursuit of knowledge.

Dr Amit Wanchoo, Chief Convenor, Chinar Book Festival, invited readers, students and families from across Jammu & Kashmir to participate in the festival's literary sessions, cultural programmes, workshops and interactions with eminent authors, scholars and artists. Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, National Book Trust, India, thanked all partner organisations and described the Chinar Book Festival as a brand ambassador of Kashmir's literary and cultural heritage, noting its growing role in promoting literary tourism and attracting visitors from India and abroad.

The books based on *Rajatarangini*

released on the occasion were meant to familiarise the youth of Jammu and Kashmir with the history of the state. These books are a outcome of the Rajatarangini Workshop, an initiative of the National Book Trust, India, organised during last year's Chinar Book Festival to reinterpret Kalhana's 12th-century chronicle for young readers

Shri Atal Dulloo, IAS, Chief Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir; Shri Ram Niwas Sharma, IAS, Secretary, School Education Department & Administrative Secretary, Higher Education Department, Jammu & Kashmir; Shri Akshay Labroo, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar and Dr Shams Equbal, Director, National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) were also present on the occasion.

Shri Manoj Sinha also flagged off the 'Reading Marathon' from the scenic banks of Dal Lake, Srinagar. Organised by the National Book Trust, India in partnership with Bisleri International under Shiksha Saptah, marking six years of the National Education Policy (NEP 2020), the event brought together thousands of students from colleges and universities across Jammu & Kashmir in a unique celebration of reading, fitness, and environmental responsibility.

With the inspiring message "Run for a Green Future," the Reading Marathon encouraged participants to make reading a daily habit, contribute towards environmental conservation, and become agents of positive change in society—reinforcing the idea that education extends beyond classrooms and into everyday life.

The readers explored the vibrant stalls, discovering new titles, and immersed themselves in the world of books. The festival drew book enthusiasts of all age groups, fostering a shared love for reading and learning.

Literary Sessions

The literary session on 'Young Voices of Kashmir: Bright Minds, Bold Futures' celebrated the power of preserving cultural roots while embracing new opportunities and shaping a brighter future. An inspiring conversation with leading personalities on leadership, creativity, entrepreneurship, and the evolving aspirations of Kashmir's youth was also held.

In the session titled 'Page, Production, Performance: Bringing Stories to Life (Film and Artist Meet)', guests Ashwath Bhatt, Kapil Mattoo, Pt. Harish Krishan Langoo, Mushtaq Bala, and Mehmeet Syed spoke with Waheed Jeelani, and explored the evolving relationship between literature, theatre, and cinema in Kashmir while sharing insights on preserving Kashmiri language, music, theatre, and storytelling. The session was meant to inspire the next generation of artists to stay rooted in their culture and embrace authentic creative expression.

Another session on July 25th explored how literature, books, MICE and digital innovation can redefine the future of tourism in Jammu & Kashmir. The session titled 'Beyond the Postcard: Redefining Tourism Through Literature, Books, MICE and Digital Innovation' brought together experts to discuss the shift from conventional sightseeing to immersive, culture-led travel experiences. The panel highlighted how storytelling shapes destinations, while AI, hyper-personalisation, sentiment analysis and startup-led innovations can create a smarter, more sustainable tourism ecosystem.

The session on 'Language, Literature & Legacy: Words of the Valley,' moderated by G.N. Shakir, featured Shri S.K. Bhan, Dr Shaista, Prof. Shad Ramzan, Shri Aejaz Mohammad Sheikh, and Dr Satish Vimal, who reflected on Kashmir's rich literary traditions, the preservation of its diverse languages, and the enduring role of literature in safeguarding the valley's cultural legacy.

'From Soil to Soul: Culinary Traditions and Sustainability' saw Chef Yaseen Reshi, Ms Rajni Wanchoo and Ms Khair Ull Nissa Sheikh conversation with moderator Tripurari Singh. The discussion celebrated Kashmir's rich culinary heritage, highlighting indigenous ingredients, zero-waste cooking, seasonal produce and traditional food preservation practices. A thought-provoking conversation that showcased how age-old food traditions

continue to inspire sustainable living.

In the session on 'Journalism as Storytelling', senior journalists and editors like: Sanjeev Gupta from Dainik Jagran, Naresh Kaushik (PTI), Prashant Asthana from Navbharat Times, and Nayanika Sengupta from Hindustan Times Digital shared their inspiring journeys into journalism during an engaging session moderated by Javaid Malik, Senior Journalist and Advocate. The discussion explored journalism as a career, taking the audience behind the scenes of how news is gathered, verified, and published.

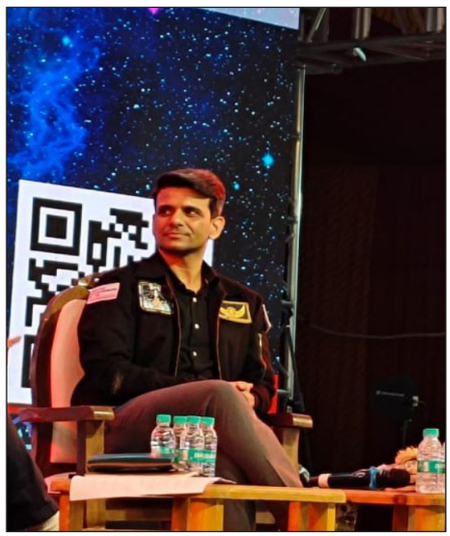
The speakers also reflected on the changing media landscape, comparing traditional and digital journalism, and discussed the growing impact of social media on news reporting. Students from BHSS Mujgund, Sultan ul Arefeen, Kashmir Harvard Educational Institute, Blue Bells, GHSS Rainawari, Government Polytechnic College Bemina, and Government Degree College Kulgam enthusiastically interacted with the panel, asking them about career opportunities, essential skills, and the qualities required to succeed in the profession. Drawing from their own experiences, the speakers encouraged young aspirants.

Interaction with Superhero Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla also visited Chinar Book Festival 2026 where over 2,200 children were captivated as he shared his extraordinary journey from the Indian Air Force to becoming the first Indian to visit the International Space Station. Through inspiring stories, space experiences, and an engaging interaction with students, he encouraged young minds to dream big, stay curious, and believe that "Sky was never the limit, not for me, not for you".

Muzaffar Ali and Imtiaz Ali at the Book Festival

Cinema became a bridge between culture, language and heritage when an eminent filmmaker Muzzafar Ali joined renowned playwright and director Prof. Danish Iqbal for an engaging conversation on the session titled as "Indian Cinema: Urdu and the Treasure of Cultural Values." The insightful session explored the enduring influence of Urdu on Indian cinema and highlighted the vital role of storytelling in preserving the nation's rich cultural legacy.



Renowned filmmaker Imtiaz Ali visited the Fair and shared his deep personal connection with Kashmir, reminiscing about his childhood memories, the Valley's timeless beauty, and the inspiration it has provided throughout his filmmaking journey. In conversation with Dr. Amit Wanchoo, he reflected on cinema, storytelling, and the experience of filming in Kashmir, while engaging in an inspiring interaction with students, answering their questions and encouraging young minds to pursue their creative dreams.

From Laughter to Life Lessons with Rakesh Bedi

Veteran actor Rakesh Bedi paid visit to Chinar Book Festival 2026 on July 22. He participated in the vibrant session on "Drama, Dhamaal, & Dialogue!" In conversation with Dr. Amit Wanchoo, he shared engaging stories, insights, and experiences from the world of theatre and cinema. He also talked about inspiring stories from his acting journey, reflected on the magic of theatre, encouraging young minds to pursue their passions, and highlighted how literature shapes personalities beyond careers. The session ended with a powerful message for the youth: "No to Drugs, Yes to Books."

NBT India at 35th International Publishers Congress, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

An NBT-India delegation, headed by Prof. Milind Sudhakar Marathe, Chairman and comprising Shri Kumar Vikram, Chief Editor & Joint Director, and Shri Mayank Surolia, Joint Director (a&f), took part in the 35th International Publishers Congress held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 5th to 9th July. IPA President Ms. Gvantsa Jobava inaugurated the Congress, which brought together leading publishers, editors, designers, artists, and publishing professionals from around the world to exchange ideas and discuss contemporary publishing issues.

As part of the Congress, Team NBT-India presented a session titled 'Beyond the Booth: How Book Fairs Become Year-long Growth Engines' on 7 July.

The presentation drew upon international reports and surveys conducted by the World Bank, UNESCO, IPA, WIPO, OECD, and the Market Impact Survey of the New Delhi World Book Fair conducted by National Book Trust, India through a third-party research agency,

highlighting the social, economic, and cultural impact of book fairs in local and global contexts.

It also provided insights into the multi-dimensional impact of the New Delhi World Book Fair, domestic book fairs, and the projection of Indian books abroad through Guest Country presentations by NBT-India, as the Nodal Agency for book publishing and book promotion under the Ministry of Education, Government of India. Shri Kumar Vikram, delivered the presentation on behalf of NBT, India.

The NBT team also met Ms. Gvantsa Jobava, President, International Publishers Association (IPA), and Mr. Giovanni Hoepli, Vice-President, IPA, on the sidelines of the 35th International Publishers Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The biennial Congress was attended by more than 500 delegates over 50 countries, including 20+ delegates from India, with the Indian delegation being coordinated by the Federation of Indian Publishers (FIP).

Exposure through Internship: Book Publishing Course 2026

After the six-week long offline Book Publishing Course organised by National Book Trust, India at its New Delhi headquarters, numerous attendees with their newly acquired knowledge and skills ventured into the publishing world.

As interns at various publishing organisations, including NBT, a practical insight into the behind-the-scenes editorial functioning of book-making is being doled out to them.

They are receiving guidance and exposure about copyediting, proofreading along with all the administrative effort required to publish a book.

The merit of the seminars from the course is truly being tested in the real world.

Events at Children's Corner

The Children's Corner at Chinar Book Festival opened with loud cheers, colourful dreams, and creative imagination. The day began with a storytelling session, "Tales Under the Chinar," by Ambreen Rasool, where the heartwarming story of friendship, "Hangul & Haput," came alive through a delightful puppet show, captivating young minds in Kashmiri language. This was followed by a mesmerising theatre performance titled "Short Cut," organised by S.R. Theatre. The inaugural day concluded with a Drawing Competition on the theme *"Sare Jahan Se Accha*: India's Journey from ISRO to ISS," where budding artists explored India's space journey through colours, creativity, and imagination. Students also recieved books by NBT-India. The day came to a close, leaving students with smiles, cherished memories, and beautiful stories to tell.

The children's Corner remained drenched with creative energy, artistic expression, and beautiful lettering throughout the Fair. On the second day over 2,500 students from across Srinagar and neighbouring areas participated in a series of fun-filled learning activities. The morning session began with "Art Safari" organised by Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya, where young crafters tried their hands at creating adorable paper crafts, bringing colours, sparkles, and bringing paper to life through vibrant paper butterflies . Students were also introduced to Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya, a digital library initiative of the Ministry of Education that offers free access to more than 7000 e-books in 23 languages through its mobile and web applications.

Dr. Shams Equbal, Director of NCPUL visited the Children's Corner and praised the students for their creativity. The workshop was followed by a captivating cultural performance by Dilshad Cultural Group. The final session of the day, "Harf-o-Hunar: English Calligraphy Workshop," conducted by Malik Mukhtar, gave students a special opportunity to learn the elegant art of English calligraphy. They were delighted to create beautiful letterforms on their own, making it a unique learning experience. The engaging session brought the day to a creative, insightful, and inspiring conclusion.

On 21 July, an interactive storytelling session was organised by Shivani and Saurabh. Title of their session was 'Kabir for Kids'. Through engaging stories, soulful music and *dohas* (couplets) they introduced children to the timeless wisdom of Kabir. This was followed by a financial literacy session organised by SEBI, led by Chartered Financial Analyst Amit Mawai, who introduced young minds to the basics of savings and investments, explaining key financial concepts in a simple and engaging manner. In the next session, a lively 'Quiz Competition' was conducted by Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya, where students tested their knowledge while learning about the Ministry of Education's free digital library, which offers access to more than 7,000 books in 22 Indian languages.

The flow of creativity, learning and imagination continued at the Children's Corner. On the following day, over 2500 students participated in a variety of engaging activities, filling the Children's Corner with loud cheers, colourful stories and creative aspirations. The morning chirped with the delightful sounds of the Kashmiri folktale "Akah Katha", led by storyteller Maleha Liaq. Young minds were captivated by an engaging narration of the Kashmiri folktale "Shalakh Malakha", celebrating the region's rich stories, characters and cultural heritage.

This was followed by an interactive literary session with renowned film, theatre and television actor Shri Rakesh Bedi, which received immense applause and cheers from students and adults alike. Words of wisdom and learning came alive during the "Think and Write with Kabir" session conducted by Shivani Mehta and Saurabh Mehta.

The celebration of stories, creativity, literature, and culture reached its crescendo on the final day. Nearly 2,000 young minds came together to celebrate learning through fun, curiosity, and creativity.

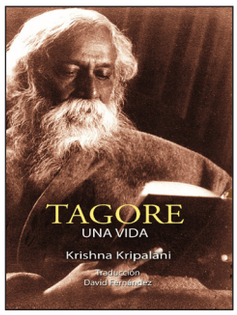
Books in Spanish

Holidays Have Come

Rabindranath Tagore

2026 | 16pp | ₹580.00

Originally written in Bangla, this is a very touching tale about a boy who due to his aggressive disposition becomes a victim of circumstances.



Tagore: A Life

Krishna Kripalani

2026 | 280pp | ₹695.00

Written by a close associate of Tagore himself, this biography impressively records the development of the personality of the man through the various influences, the ordeals he faced in life and his zest for life. This is one of the best known biographies of Tagore.

A Friend Forever

Aindrila Mitra

2026 | 24pp | ₹260.00

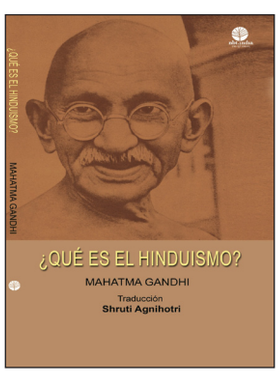
This is a beautiful story about a lonely tree and his only friend, a little blue bird. The bird flies away with a promise to come back. Will she ever visit the tree again? Beautifully illustrated, this story is about a unique friendship.

My Little India

Manoj Das

2026 | 256pp | ₹258.00

Written by a major contemporary writer, the book, by taking us on an exclusive journey through India, offers a rare glimpse of the resplendent Indian psyche through descriptions of legends, myths, folklore, etc.

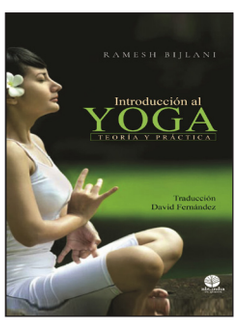


What is Hinduism?

Mahatma Gandhi

2026 | 120pp | ₹235.00

A selection of Gandhiji's articles drawn mainly from his contributions to Young India, the Harijan and the Navajivan on Hinduism. Written on different occasions, these articles present a picture of Hindu Dharma in all its richness, comprehensiveness and sensitivity to the existential dilemmas of human existence.

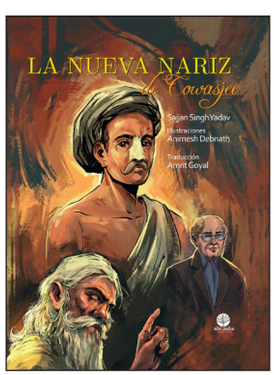


A Primer on Yoga: Theory and Practice

Ramesh Bijlani

2026 | 132pp | ₹380.00

This book on yoga clarifies what yoga is, explains the distinguishing features of different schools of yoga, and gives a complete guidance on the physical practices of yoga as is possible through a written text and a DVD.

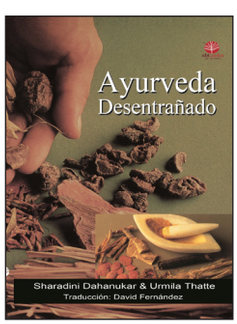


Cowasjee's New Nose

Sajjan Singh Yadav

2026 | 20pp | ₹235.00

In 1792, the Anglo-Mysore War takes place. Tipu Sultan's forces mutilate the nose of Cowasjee, a bullock cart driver working for the British army. When the British doctors see the injured Cowasjee, they are perplexed. Upon learning about Chhagabhai Bijabhai Rathod, a venerable native from a family that has long practised the ancient art of 'Nasika Sandhana', the British visit the remote village of Kumbharwada in Poona to inquire about him. Rathod agrees to reconstruct Cowasjee's nose and the British surgeons observe a miracle unfolding in front of their eyes.



Ayurveda Unravelled

Sharadini Dahanukar & Urmila Thatte

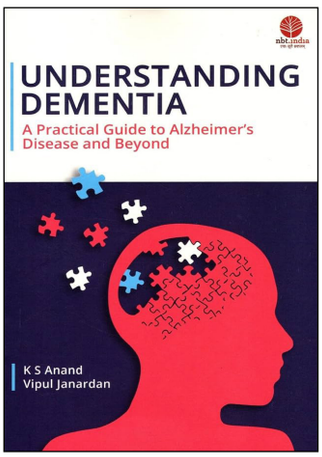
2026 | 138pp | ₹415.00

The science of Ayurveda is surrounded by mystery. It elicits different reactions, ranging from romantic revivalism to West-oriented rejection, from complete acceptance to total rebuttal. This book unravels some of the mysteries surrounding it, its basic concepts and governing principles as also simple homemade herbal remedies.

Latest and Forthcoming Titles

Understanding Dementia: A Practical Guide to Alzheimer's Disease and Beyond

K S Anand and Vipul Janardan



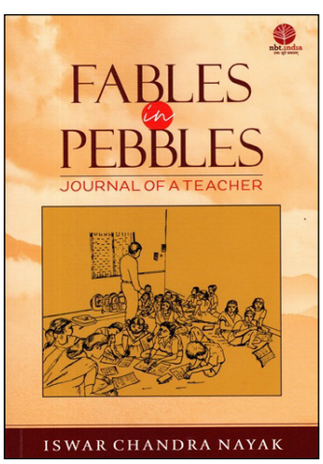
This book offers a comprehensive, compassionate, and evidence-based overview of dementia. Dementia is a neurological condition that results in cognitive deterioration and hinders an individual's ability to carry out daily activities.

Alzheimer's disease is the predominant type of dementia, accounting for around 60-70 percent of the cases. Covering clinical, emotional, and ethical aspects, this book explores Alzheimer's disease and related conditions, diagnostic advances, treatments, and caregiver support. It also incorporates the global trends, AI in dementia care, and India-specific challenges. This accessible guide blends scientific insight with lived experience, making it invaluable for healthcare professionals, families, and policymakers.

With practical tools and emotional depth, it equips readers to navigate dementia with clarity, connection, and care.

Fables in Pebbles: Journal of a Teacher

Iswar Chandra Nayak



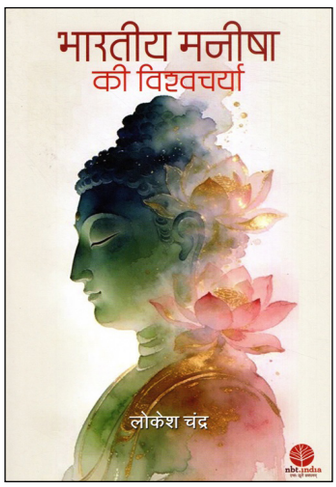
Translated from the Odia original titled *Aliaru A Aa*, this book is an inspiring reflection on the transformative power of teaching.

Drawing from real classroom experiences, especially from rural schools in India, the book shows how a sensitive and imaginative teacher can turn everyday incidents like from children's lives into meaningful learning opportunities.

Rooted in empathy, activity-based learning, and a deep understanding of childhood, it celebrates teaching as a creative, humane, and sacred profession that shapes both minds and lives.

Bharatiya Manisha Ki Vishvacharya

Lokesh Chandra



This book illuminates the various dimensions of the global reach of Indian culture.

Seven millennia ago, Indian trade extended far and wide driven by the invention of cotton textiles and sugar.

The Ikshvaku lineage, to which Lord Rama also belonged, was prosperous due to the export of sugar.

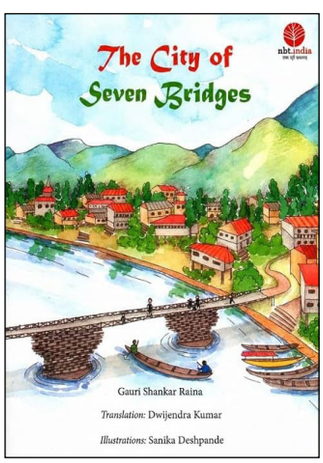
The colossal statues at Bamiyan and Kakrak in Afghanistan stand as testaments to this heritage, and the practice of Vedic worship persisted in the region until 1900.

Similarly, the vast body of Indian knowledge has left an indelible mark across China, Korea, Japan, Tibet, Bhutan, Mongolia, and Vietnam.

This monumental scholarly work attempts to capture the scope of this very cultural expanse.

The City of Seven Bridges

Gauri Shankar Raina



The city of Srinagar in Kashmir is also known by the name of city of seven bridges — Amira Kadal, Habba Kadal, Fateh Kadal, Zaina Kadal, Aali Kadal, Nava Kadal and Safa Kadal.

This and other features of Srinagar have been portrayed in detail by Kashmiri litterateur Gauri Shankar Raina in his Hindi book, titled *'Saat Pulon Ka Shehr'* and published by the National Book Trust and now translated into English.

The author has stressed on the excellent craftsmanship that has been used to build these seven wooden bridges on the river Jhelum centuries back. The work of art stands out even after concrete and cemented bridges have been built adjacent to these.

RNI-39456/82
Date of Publication: 01/08/2026
Total number of pages: 8

Cultural Extravaganza

The cultural celebrations at the Chinar Book Festival showcased Kashmir's rich performing arts. Theatre and clubs like Gulistan Bhagat Theatre, Azad Dramatic Club, Mehak Dramatic Club, and Yusmarg Folk Theatre captivated audiences with powerful performance. Their performances reflected the Valley's vibrant theatrical heritage. The evening also featured an engrossing Dastangoi performance, reviving the timeless tradition of oral storytelling, followed by soulful musical performances by Aijaz Sahir, Zubaida Ali, and the duo Asif and Tanzeeb, bringing the celebrations to a memorable close.

Performances by Rashida Akhter, Aabid Aly, Dr. Shazia Hameed, Pompoush Folk Theatre, Dilshad Cultural Forum, Kalidas Theatre Group, and Raja Art & Culture were also held. A Mushaira was organised where renowned poets contributed with their presence. Poets who participated were Rafiq Raz, Popular Merithi, Rukhsana Jabeen, Prof. Shafaq Sopoori, Noman Shoq, Prof. Ahmed Mahfouz, Prof. Satish Vimal, and Dr. Shafi Ayub. They mesmerised the audience with their poetic expressions.

The cultural evenings were further enriched by vibrant performances of various theatres. Theatres groups which participated in this celebration were: Vitasta Folk Theatre, Kashmir Valley Theatre, Malik Badshah Folk Theatre and Young Dramatics Society. Shazzia Bashir, Dr. Deepali Watal, and Ishrat Hussian Shah also captivated the audience with their melodious voices.

A Delightful Mix of Reading and Spirituality: *Sahitya Wari*

For promoting the upcoming Pune Book Festival to be held from 12th to 20th December, 2026, *Sahitya Wari*, a mobile book exhibition was launched. Carrying forward the timeless legacy of saint literature, its inspiring journey to Pandharpur began on 15th July 2026.

This voyage is meant to pay homage to the annual foot pilgrimage of Maharashtra popularly known as Pandharpur Wari where hundreds of thousands of devotees *(warkaris)* walk to the temple town of Pandharpur in Maharashtra to worship Lord Vitthal.

Jointly organised by the National Book Trust, India, Savitribai Phule Pune University's NSS, and the Maharashtra Sahitya Parishad, this unique venture aims to promote reading alongside the messages of a clean, healthy, pure, and green *wari* or pilgrimage.

Through the *Pandharichi Wari, Pustake Aplya Dari,* books will reach thousands of *warkaris*—a true celebration of the enduring bond between literature, devotion, and knowledge.

You can also find the e-Newsletter on our website www.nbtindia.gov.in

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

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

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

Printed and published by Anuj Kumar Bharti on behalf of National Book Trust, India and printed at First Impression Corporate Services Private Limited, E-114, Sector-63, Noida-201301, Uttar Pradesh and published at National Book Trust, India, 5 Institutional Area, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070.

Typeset and designed by First Impression, Noida

If undelivered please return to:
National Book Trust, India, 5 Institutional Area, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110 070