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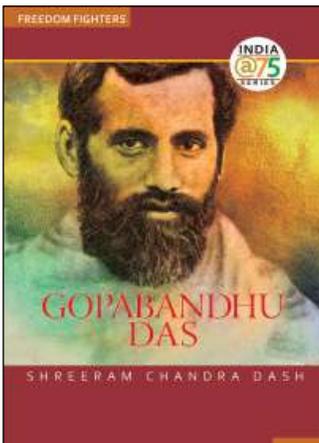
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PICK OF THE MONTH



Gopabandhu Das

Author: Shreeram Chandra Dash

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Hon'ble Education Minister of Himachal Pradesh Inaugurates NBT's Shimla Book Fair



Shimla Book Fair 2022, organised by National Book Trust, India in association with the Department of Language Art & Culture, Himachal Pradesh was inaugurated on 25 June 2022 by Shri Govind Singh Thakur, Hon'ble Education Minister, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh. The Shimla Book Fair was organised from 25 June to 3 July 2022 at Gaiety Theatre and Padam Dev Complex, Shimla.

Inaugurating the fair, Hon'ble Minister Shri Govind Singh Thakur said that knowledge is the greatest gift that can be given to human beings and books are certainly the best means of knowledge. Appreciating the efforts by NBT-India, the Hon'ble Minister said that the organisation of such fairs and exhibitions by NBT is a very important step in the direction of promoting the habit of reading books.

In his opening address Prof Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman NBT, said that in the journey of development that started with the independence of the country, National Book Trust, India has been working towards making





every section of the society knowledgeable and aware. He further added that organising book fairs is an important means for making books accessible to the common readers, and they not only make different types of literature accessible but also provide a platform for exchange of culture and social integration.

Shri Rakesh Kanwar, Secretary, (Language & Culture, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh) encouraged the children to take full advantage of the books displayed in the fair. He said that reading different genres of books along with curriculum books is very essential for personality development.

Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director NBT said that as the Knowledge Partner of the Nation, NBT has been contributing to nation building by

providing good quality literature to the readers in over 55 Indian languages across the country. He urged the visitors to the Shimla Book Fair to gift at least one book to their loved ones. He added that special discounts on books will be provided to school students and school administrations who visit the fair.

Hon'ble Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar also visited the fair 01 July 2022 and interacted with the children. While addressing the students and guests present in the session 'Discourse with writers - acquainting children with the culture of Himachal Pradesh', he said that there is always a possibility of increasing the intellectual potential of a person by being in the company of books. He urged the students present in the

session to read books on subjects other than those prescribed in the curriculum. Appreciating the work of National Book Trust, he said that the book fairs and book exhibitions organised by NBT across the country are proving to be effective in bringing a culture of reading books among the masses.

Several literary, cultural and children's programmes were organised during the fair. For the children various sessions and competitions were held. A poster making session on the theme *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav* was conducted by Shri Uday Shankar, noted illustrator. The students also participated in Storytelling and Story Writing Workshops where they learnt the techniques of writing a good story, and then wrote a story each. An Open Mic contest

was also organised where the participating children recited poems and sang songs on the theme of *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*. Drawing competitions were organised on the themes 'Save the Environment' and 'My Favourite Monument in India'. Hundreds of students from some prominent schools across Shimla, including St. Thomas School, Monal Public School, Government Senior Secondary School, Sanjauli



and Auckland House School participated in the various workshops and competitions and were presented with books as gifts from National Book Trust, India.

As part of the literary events during the fair, many seminars and discourses were organised. In the sessions 'Lok Sahitya: Pahaado ke sandarbh mein' and 'Lokgeet, Lolkatha, Lokvarta - Kitni sahay kitni durlabh', popular writers and litterateurs from Himachal Pradesh including Dr. Devendra Gupta, Ms. Uma Thakur, Dr. Surat Thakur, Dr. Gautam Sharma 'Vyathit' and Dr. Pratyush Guleri talked about literature focusing on the state. A session on 'NEP-2020 and future of the youth' was also organised.

The session was conducted by Prof Niranjn Kumar, a professor of Hindi at University of Delhi and a member of NEP-2020 Cell. He said that one of the highlights of the National Education Policy 2020 is that the framework implemented under the policy will help India's higher education keep up with international standards. He further said that the primary vision of NEP 2020 is the all-round development of the students with Indian values. At the end of the session he also addressed some questions from the audience. Along with children's activities, programs based on literature are also being organised daily at the fair. In a session specifically focusing on children's literature 'Let's learn - How to Write Stories and Poetry', senior litterateur Dr. Kshama Sharma and Dr. Suryanath Singh, Literary Editor, Jansatta, shared some beneficial techniques related to writing stories and poems with the children.

The fair saw participation from more than 43 reputed publishers from the country across 63 stalls. Apart from Hindi and English, books published by NBT and other noted publishers in Himachali, Punjabi, Urdu and other Indian languages were also available at the fair.

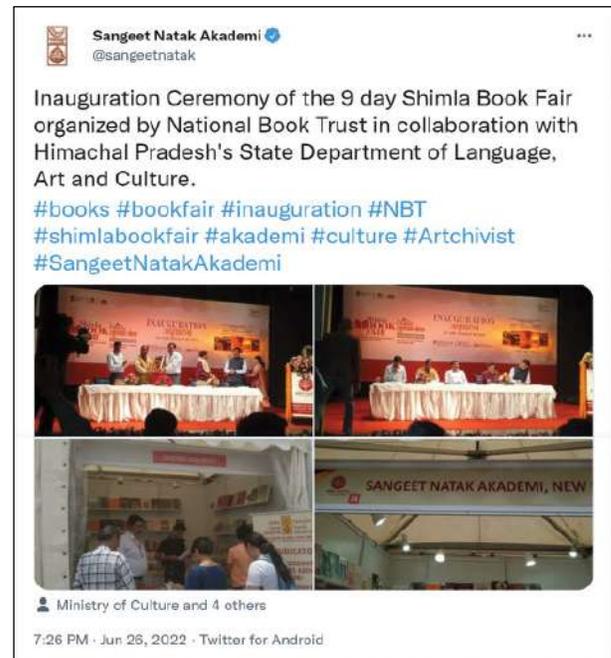
Booklovers had the opportunity to browse through and buy cost-effective quality books across genres for readers of all age groups on subjects such as popular science, popular social science, national biographies, autobiographies, folklore, Indian & world literature,



and much more. NBT-India also displayed its bilingual titles for children published as per the guidelines of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 along with its new series India@75 which acquaints readers with the lives and struggles of our freedom fighters.

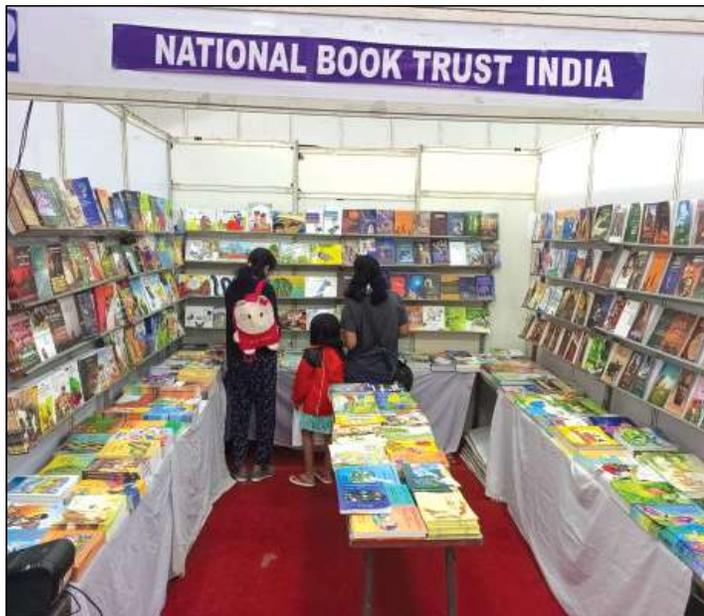


Shimla Book Fair 2022 featured



NBT at Hosur Book Fair

NBT participated in the 11th Hosur Book Fair which was organised by the Krishnagiri district administration and the Tamil Nadu Science Forum at Hotel Hills in Mookandapalli Sipcot on the Hosur-Bengaluru National Highway.



The fair was organised from 8 - 19 July 2022. NBT had set up a stall at the fair displaying cost-effective quality books across genres for readers of all age groups on subjects such as popular science, popular social science, national biographies, autobiographies, folklore, Indian & world literature, and much more.

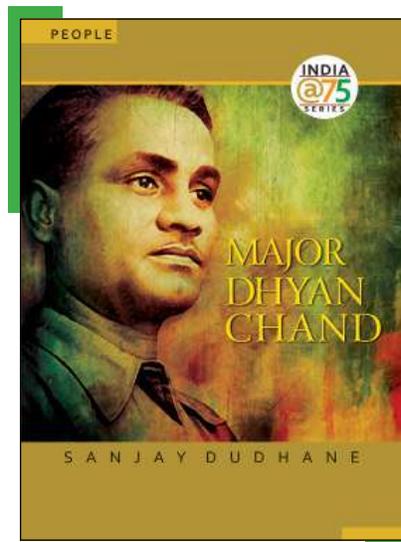
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Book Review

Major Dhyan Chand by Sanjay Dudhane

Major Dhyan Chand is a name synonymous with sporting prowess in India, specifically in the sport of hockey. It is even more evident by the fact that his birthday, 29 August, is celebrated as National Sports Day in India. This book takes the reader along on a journey through the life of Major who took the game of Indian hockey to the Olympic height and yet this humble gentleman was fully devoted to his motherland and always tried his best to keep India's glorious flag flying high. Indian hockey was acknowledged as the best in the whole world mainly owing to the magic of Dhyan Chand's way of playing.

Dhyan Chand, is regarded as one of the greatest hockey players of all time. Known as the 'Hockey Wizard' or 'the Magician of



Author: Sanjay Dudhane

ISBN: 978-93-549-1176-7

Price 190/-

Hockey', this book recounts his incomparable goal-scoring feats and dribbling skills, which made India win three consecutive Gold medals in Hockey at the Olympic Games of 1928, 1932 and 1936. He incessantly strove for the glory of his country, choosing to stay in relative anonymity in his own country than move to Australia to coach the national hockey team there. Written by Sanjay Dudhane, this book also chronicles Indian Hockey, both in the pre and post Independence era. Dhyan Chand had become a household name for hockey lovers.

National Sports Day is Celebrated every year on 29 August to commemorate the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand.

Book Excerpt

To commemorate the 75 years of India's independence, National Book Trust, India under the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav programme has launched a new publishing series India@75 for young and general readers.

Baba Kharak Singh and India's Struggle for Freedom

The Gurudwara Reform Movement, popularly known as the Akali Movement (1920-25) was a turning point both in the history of Panjab's struggle for freedom and also in the Sikhs' relations with the Raj. While the struggle had initially been launched for reforming Sikh shrines, a purely religious issue, it were the nationalist leaders like Baba Kharak Singh, who helped Akali leadership broaden the base of the religious struggle by launching a frontal attack on the Mahants and other pro-British interests in the Sikh shrines on the one hand, and their supporter, the British Government in the province, on the other. Mahatma Gandhi appropriately expressed this shift delivering a speech in the Golden Temple, "If the Sikhs strove to free the bigger Gurudwara – the Motherland, they could free their own shrines without much ado." Under the changed programme which received consent of Mahatma Gandhi and other Congress leaders, the Akali struggle for Gurudwara Reform became a synonym for the larger struggle for country's independence.

In the non-violent Akali agitation for Gurudwara Reform, the Congress leadership found a regional manifestation of the larger movement of non-cooperation launched by Mahatma Gandhi. It was during the Gurudwara Reform Movement that the Congress leadership came into contact with the Sikh masses and succeeded in carrying the Congress programme to rural Panjab. It was, moreover, the result of the Akali Congress cooperation forged during the struggle that the two leaderships came closer to each other and the Sikhs became inextricably involved in Congress activities. In fact, there were two groups among the Sikh – (i) the Akali advocates of purely religious reform and (ii) the others, who looked upon the Gurudwara Reform only as a part of the larger programme of country's freedom remained united, until Baba Kharak Singh was in the driving seat of Akali politics. It was the captivating personality of Baba Kharak Singh that was greatly responsible in bringing a close liaison between the Central Sikh League, the Akali Dal and the Indian National Congress.

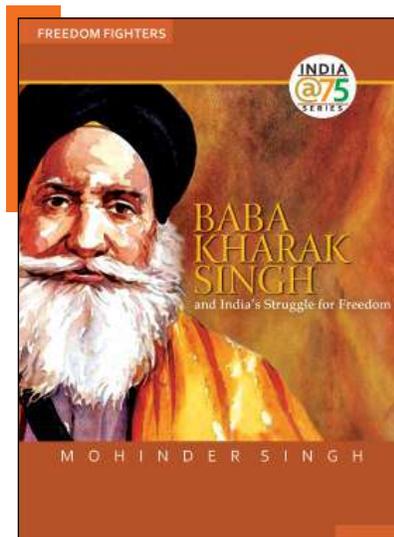
The Akali movement began with the Sikh reformers' anxiety to restore their Gurudwaras to original glory. Sikh shrines were established by Guru Nanak, the founder of the Sikh faith as a centre of religious activities, social and moral discourses and institutions which provided food and shelter to the poor and needy. In the initial

days, they were managed by pious persons who, following the advice of Guru Nanak, did not look upon the offerings as their personal property. They utilized the same for running free community kitchens and for other works of social welfare. But during the days of the persecution of the Sikhs at the hands of the Mughal Emperors and their governors in Panjab, control of the Sikh shrines passed on to the Udasi Mahants, though Sikhs did not affirm the five external symbols of Sikhism. Therefore, during the dark days when Sikhs were being persecuted, the Udasis carried on the management of the Sikh shrines quite well. However, increasing income in the Sikh shrines as a result of the endowment of large revenue-free jagirs by Maharaja Ranjit Singh and other Sikh misaldars resulted in some of the Mahants and their chelas (disciples) misusing the sacred funds for their personal gains.

After the defeat of the Sikhs in the two Anglo-Sikh wars and annexation of Panjab to the British empire in 1849, the British Government took control of the Golden Temple and other shrines in Amritsar and used them to promote imperial interests. Under the new arrangement, the manager of the Golden Temple was appointed by the British Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar and could be removed from his position by the appointing authority at will. It was not surprising therefore to find the government nominated priests often supporting the official policies. When some of the patriot Indians abroad decided to create unrest among the Indian soldiers thus giving impetus to rebellion popularly called as Ghadar, the manager of the Golden Temple described the Ghadarite heroes as thugs and

called upon the Sikhs not to give any shelter to them. As mentioned earlier, a very audacious instance of the misuse of the Sikh shrines was that of General Dyer being invited to the Golden Temple and being declared a 'Sikh' after being 'honoured' with Saropa.

The perfidious and sacrilegious action of Arur Singh and other priests of the Golden Temple, greatly shocked Baba Kharak Singh and other Sikh leaders who were already unhappy with growing evil practices in the holy places. Rather than fighting legal battles to oust the corrupt Mahants, they thought the best thing was to launch peaceful agitation for the reform of their sacred places. The beginning of the agitation for reform was made by the local Akali Jathas in their respective areas.

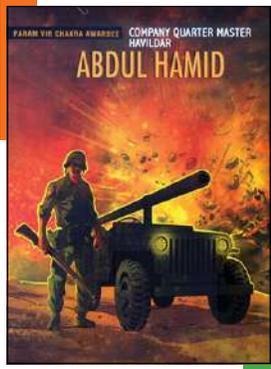


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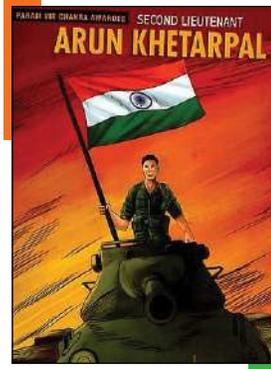


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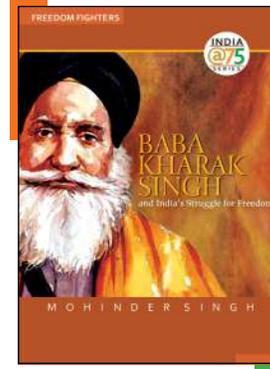


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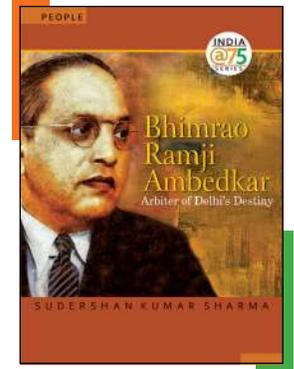


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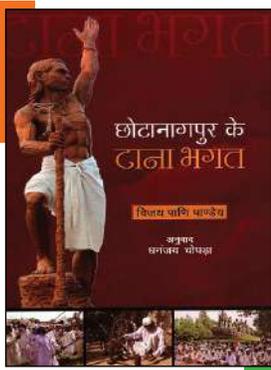


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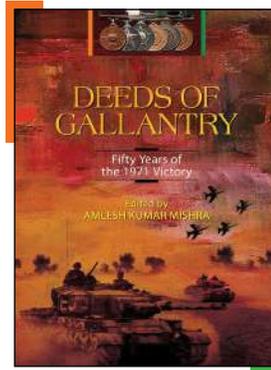


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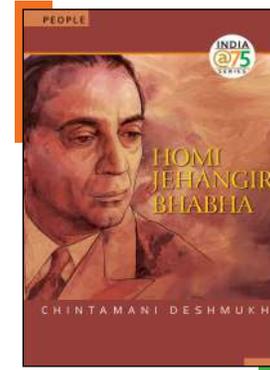


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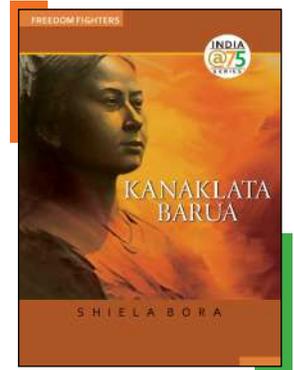


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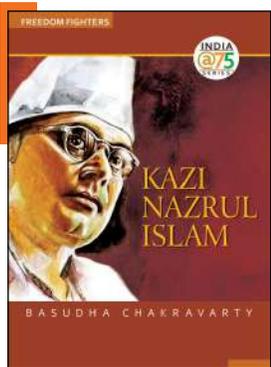


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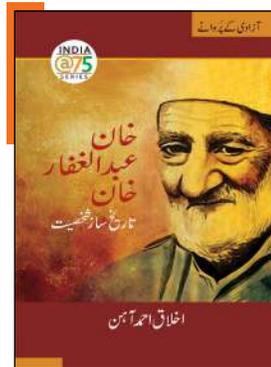


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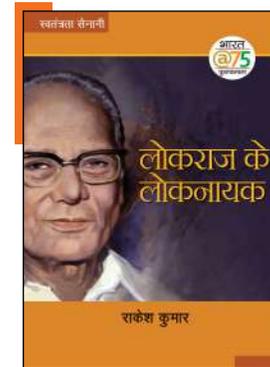


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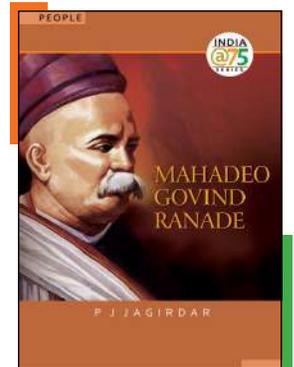


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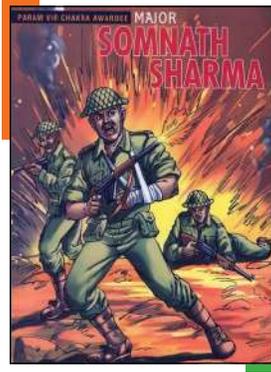
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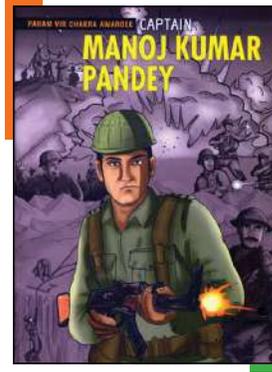
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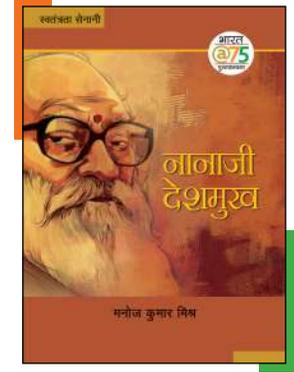
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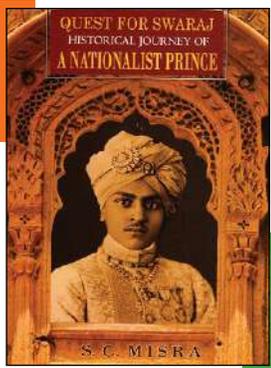
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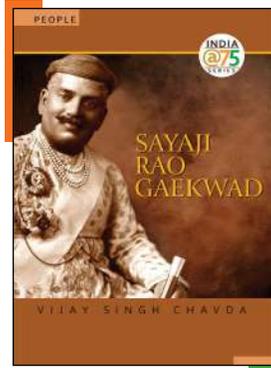
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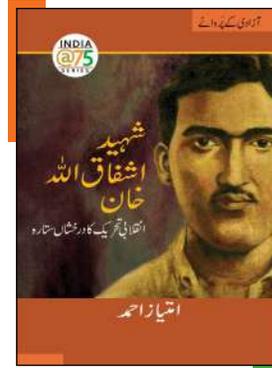
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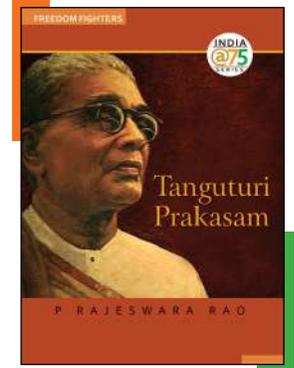
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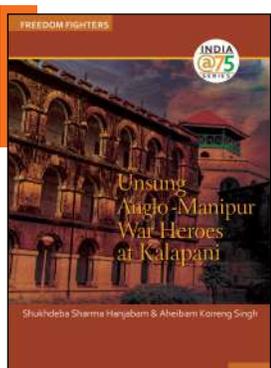
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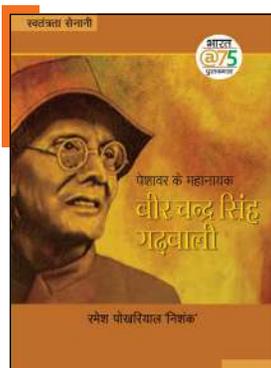
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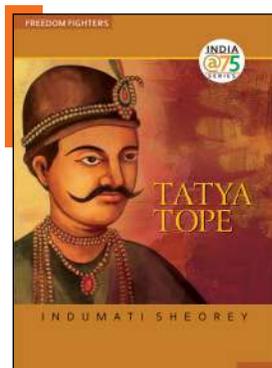
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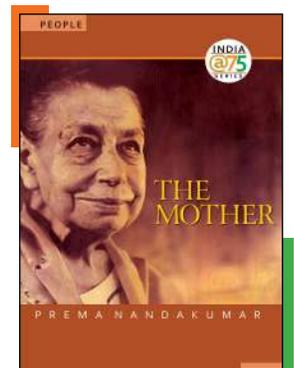
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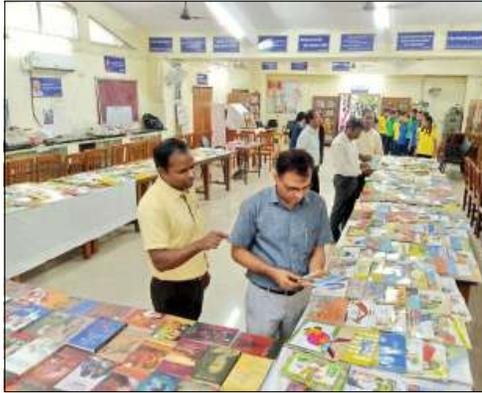
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Book Exhibition at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Ambarnath

A book exhibition was organized at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Ambarnath, Maharashtra from 13 to 15 July 2022. The book exhibition was organized by National Book Trust, India for the students as well as for general readers.

The exhibition was inaugurated on 13 July in the presence of Shri Deepak Singh Bhatine, Principal Kendriya Vidyalaya, Shri Deepak Gurjar, Vice Principal and Shri Tribhuvan Ram, Headmaster. The main objective behind organising the exhibition was to develop an interest in books among the students and to promote a healthy reading habit.

Various titles published by NBT under its best-selling series were displayed, such as the Veergatha series, India@75 series, Women Pioneers series among others, along with a variety of titles in Marathi, Hindi, English and other Indian languages.



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Launch of **Nritya Katha** book was organised at The Gandhi Centre under #AmritMahotsav. Amb @reenat_sandhu launched the Indian Dance Stories **Book** for Children written by Odissi dancer Jaya Mehta. Indeed a wonderful **book!** reached upto the hearts of audience. @nbt_india @IndianDiplomacy



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

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