

# NBT newsletter

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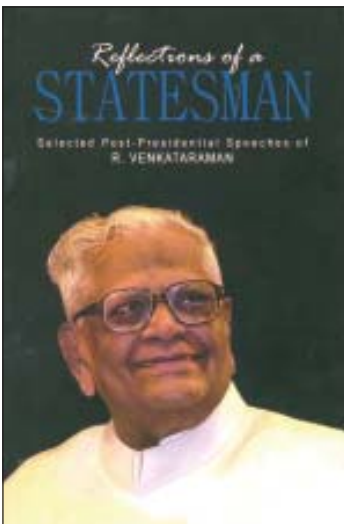


Volume 27 No. 12 March 2012

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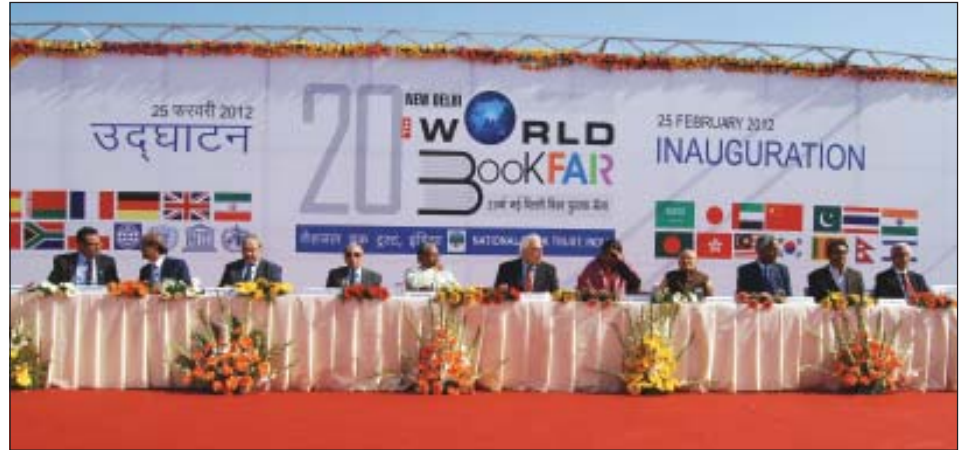
### PICK OF THE MONTH



#### REFLECTIONS OF A STATESMAN *Selected Post-Presidential Speeches of R. Venkataraman*

Ramaswamy R. Iyer (Comp.)  
ISBN 978-81-237-6346-0; Rs. 195.00

## 20TH WORLD BOOK FAIR INAUGURATED



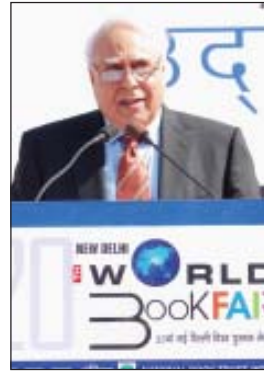
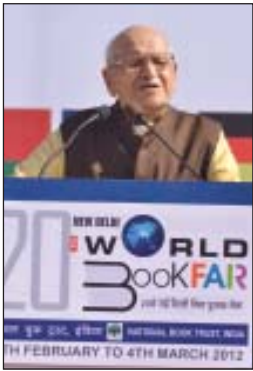
“In a free, democratic and equitable society like ours, along with inclusive growth, what we need today is an inclusive learning society. Books are the best medium towards that end,” said Shri Kapil Sibal, Hon’ble Union Minister of Human Resource Development while formally declaring open the 20th New Delhi world Book Fair at Pragati Maidan. The function began with an invocation song by the students of Department of Music, University of Delhi.

Recalling the beginnings of the WBF in 1972 at a time when the nation was passing through difficult times particularly in the wake of oil shock and liberation of Bangladesh, Shri Sibal was delighted to

note that the Fair today has become bigger and better than ever before. “NBT today has the professionalism and organizational ability to make the New Delhi World Book Fair an annual event,” he added.

Expressing satisfaction with the right blend of business and pleasure through various special pavilions, Shri Sibal specifically mentioned the Fair’s theme commemorating one hundred years of Indian Cinema as a tribute to the world of cinema from the world of books. While mentioning about his continuous urge to learn as much as he can from the printed world, he described NDWBF as one of





the unique events of its kinds throughout the world for its ability to fulfil the aspirations of both the general readers as well as the book trade.

Shri Kapil Sibal also released *Point of View : An Annotated Rights Catalogue of Books on Indian Cinema* and three books in Braille titled *Cinema of Satyajit Ray*, *Balraj My Brother* and *Dada Saheb Phalke* on the occasion.

Prof Manoj Das, in his address as the Guest of Honour, said, “At the background of a book fair, we see the monuments of human quest for light and delight for thousands of years. Here we hear the vibration of Socrates who used common sense for uncommon knowledge. We hear the words of wisdom from Marco Polo to Einstein, from Christ to Krishna, and from Vivekananda to Sri Aurobindo.”

Referring to the developments in the production of the books, Prof. Das said, “When I see the progress made by technology in book production my heart goes out to Newton and Carlyle who lost their manuscripts forever, by Diamond, the dog, and a maid servant respectively. Sometimes I feel like going to the past and giving them a computer to preserve their manuscript in hard copy.”



Exhorting people to undertake more and more translations between languages he invoked the biblical story of the Tower of Babel, “Translators are the people who are undoing the mischief done thousands of years back by demigods. Translators are the ones who transfer consciousness of one language into another language. I greet them and wish that their tribe increase very fast.”

Taking the audience through the history of India’s struggle for independence, Professor Mridula Mukherjee of Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, said that many of the great leaders of the freedom movement were also great writers and scholars. “It was their writings on which the foundation of Indian nationalism was laid” she added.

Earlier, Prof Bipan Chandra, Chairman, NBT, welcomed the participants, dignitaries and guests present on the occasion.

Thanking the dignitaries, participants, other stakeholders and members of the media, Shri M.A. Sikandar, Director, NBT, expressed his gratitude to the Hon’ble Minister of HRD for encouraging NBT in its efforts towards promotion of books and reading habit in India.

On the occasion, Shri Kapil Sibal released a bunch of colourful balloons symbolising the spirit of freedom.

Shri Sudhir Malhotra, President, Federation of Indian Publishers, Shri Ramesh Mittal, Chairman, CAPEXIL, Shri Kailash Balani, President, The Federation of Publishers’ & Booksellers’ Association in India, Shri A.K. Sharma, General Secretary, Akhil Bhartiya Hindi Prakashak Sangh, Dr P.C. Bhanu, President, Association of Indian Publishers and Booksellers, Shri Kamal Arora, President, Federation of Educational Publishers in India and Shri Parmil Mittal, President, Delhi State Booksellers’ & Publishers’ Association were also present on the occasion.

About 1500 students from various schools of Delhi and NCR region and from various NGOs participated in the Book March from Children’s Pavilion to the Hamsadwani Theatre in the sidelines of the inauguration of New Delhi World Book Fair. Organised by National Centre for Children’s Literature (NCCL), the children were seen adorning the orange caps of 20th New Delhi World Book Fair carrying placards, posters and banners. Some of the slogans which attracted public attention were:

- BOOKS OPEN PATHWAYS TO A NEW WORLD
- READ FOR PLEASURE
- MAN IS KNOWN BY THE BOOKS HE READS
- THE GREATEST GIFT IS A PASSION FOR READING
- TODAY A READER TOMORROW A LEADER





## BARIPADA BOOK FAIR

A nine-day book fair organised by National Book Trust, India, in collaboration with District Administration, Mayurbhanj and Odisha Publishers and Booksellers' Association was inaugurated by Dr. Ramachandra Behera, the president of Odisha Sahitya Akademi on 17 December 2011 at Chhaupadia, Baripada. In his inaugural address

Dr. Behera said, "Books exude a unique charm. They can not only change the individual, but they can also transform the society at large." The meeting was presided over by Dr. Ratnakar Chaini, President, Utkal Sahitya Samaj. Addressing the audience as the Chief Guest of the evening Shri Adhyapak Biswarajan said, "Books are the greatest friends of mankind."

All the speakers unanimously appreciated the efforts of NBT in organising a book fair in a remote and tribal area like Mayurbhanj. Dr. Bijayanand Singh was present in the function as the compiler of the original Odia title *Odia Hasyagalpa* that was released on the occasion. The Odia translation of *Kamaleshwar kee Shrestha Kahaniyan* was also released in the function.

Several literary programmes were also organised during the Fair. On 19



December, a discussion on the books released took place where Prof. Bijay Kumar Satpathy, Prof. Manoranjan Pradhan, Dr. Durga Prasanna Panda and Dr. Kabita Barick were the speakers and Prof. Baishnab Charan Samal presided.

At the Meet-the-Author programme, Noted Odia poet Prof. Soorindra Barik spoke on 'My Life My Poetry' followed by a lively interaction with the audience. Shri Bijay Kumar Barik presided over the meeting.

On 23 December, Odia translation of *Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar*, published by NBT, was released and there was a discussion on the book by Dr. Brajamohan Mishra, Dr. Balaram Mishra, Prof. Shyam Sundar Acharya and Dr. Aurobindo Giri. Shri Brajanath Rath, well-known Odia poet and translator, presided over the meeting.

Many literary programmes were organised by literary organisations like Pujya Puja, Mayurbhanj Sahitya Parishad added charm to the evenings of the Fair.

At the valedictory function Dr. Pramod Tripathy, an eminent playwright and Shri Rabindra Kumar Nayak, District PRO, Mayurbhanj, joined as speakers.

Dr. Pramod Sar, Odia Editor at NBT, coordinated the Fair.

## OBITUARY



Sukumar Azhikode, award-winning writer, scholar and probably the most influential Gandhian intellectual in Kerala, passed away on 24 January 2012.

Professor Azhikode had been fighting cancer for nearly a year.

He was the Chairman of National Book Trust, India from 1993 to 1996. An intellectual giant, a great humanist, a cultural guru, a committed secularist and a champion of human rights, Azhikode was honoured with several awards including Central and Kerala Sahitya Akademi Awards, prestigious Vayalar Award, etc.



Eminent Punjabi writer Kartar Singh Duggal passed away at the age of 94 on 26 January 2012.

As the Director of National Book Trust, India from 1966 to 1973, he was responsible for starting many new series of books and their outreach programmes. To promote Indian publishing at an international platform, he organised NBT's first World Book fair in 1972 at Windsor Place, New Delhi.

A master story-teller, Duggal, was honoured with many major literary prizes including the Sahitya Akademi Award, Ghalib Award and the Padma Bhushan.



Prithviraj Monga, former editor with NBT, passed away on 19 February 2012.

A well-known writer, Prithviraj Monga was a fine editor, who built up a strong publishing profile of Hindi books at NBT. A collection of his short stories, *Prithviraj Monga Sankalit Kahaniyan* has been published by the Trust. A prolific children's writer, his other works include *Andhere Mein*, *Master Ji*, *Raksha Bandhan*. He was also a good translator and some of his translations include *Be Prepared*, *Chupa Rustam*, *Sabse Pyaaraa Kaon* and *Anandi ka Indradanush*.

The Trust is publishing a biography of Rameshwari Nehru written by Kamlesh Mohan. Herein we reproduce an excerpt from a chapter 'Crusade for Women's Rights'. —*Editor*

Between 1909-1966, Rameshwari Nehru had graduated from her commitment to change of women's location in family, society and polity in uplift terms to the demand for equal rights for them as human beings. One of the salient features of her thinking and campaigns was the call for rectification of the 'faulty construction of society' and institution of a single moral standard of judging men and women for their behaviour and actions. In her view, existing double moral standard was responsible for many anti-woman social customs and practices, for example, *pardah*, early marriage, polygamy, *devdasi* system and commercialisation of sex. The second notable feature was the shift from her exclusive concern with women's problems and reform to broad concerns of social and national development and human relationships across narrow boundaries of caste, religion, race and gender.

The vital issue for consideration is the nature of her contribution to the ideology of woman's movement, its strategies and success or failure of its campaigns for securing political status for women as citizens. For this purpose, it is relevant to refer to Rameshwari Nehru's evaluation of the Indian women's movement. In her view, its major contribution was to enable women to shoulder full responsibility for the promotion of their own educational and social advancement. The women's movement, directed and guided by themselves, had facilitated coordination of hundreds of women's societies and activated them to agitate for the removal of wrongs and injustices perpetrated upon them. While acknowledging the role of a number of social and religious reform agencies, political and constructive work of the Congress, exposure to the outside world, spread of education and, last but not the least the spirit of the times to the emancipation of women, she highlighted

the contribution of All India Women's Conference to awakening of their sisters and change in their outlook especially of the backward classes. The desire for change gripped the *pardah-nashin* (veiled) Marwari women who showed a spirit of defiance by organising their procession leading it on horseback in 1940s. Rameshwari Nehru regarded this example as an evidence that how "the women's movement is penetrating into and transforming various strata of society" (Presidential Address to the Annual Session of All India Women's Conference in 1940).

As one of the prominent members of



All India Women's Conference, she accelerated the pace of women's movement and gave it a definite direction. At the collective level, the AIWC's organisational machinery was utilised for formulating authentic views on women's problems, consolidating and presenting their demands regarding suitable age of marriage, right to vote and Hindu Law reform to the public and various official bodies. Rameshwari Nehru's work of creating 'spiritual family relationship' initiated through *Stree-Darpan* and Prayag Mahila Samiti, reached its culmination through the annual conference of the AIWC.

The task of cultivating minds of women in the middle classes, who found its agonising to adjust with their western-

educated husbands, had been geared to enable them to form their own opinions on social and national issues without being dogmatic. *Stree-Darpan* had provided such a forum for intellectual interaction. The AIWC had carried the mission forward through its annual conference of different branches and sub-branches, particularly, in small towns. In these meetings, women were urged to develop the habit of toleration of differences, appreciating each other's good point, and of working together. In Rameshwari Nehru's estimation, "it (AIWC) has given them their first lessons in democracy, which from the success achieved, seems to be more suited to the feminine temperament than to the masculine" (Presidential Address to the All India Annual Session of Women's Conference, 1940).

One of the salient features of Rameshwari Nehru's contribution to the Indian women's movement was the enlargement of the AIWC's goals and activities. On her initiative, removal of untouchability was placed on the agenda of the Conference's annual session in 1940. It was to be discussed and integrated with the long-term programme of the AIWC in the coming years. Another subject chosen for discussion and implementation was communal unity. In her view, its achievement "for our national advance is as fundamental as the removal of untouchability". Believing that both these problems had adverse effect on national unity, she urged the members of AIWC to take up the onerous task of removing these weaknesses. The major step for promoting communal amity was to enlist more Muslim women as members. Thus, Rameshwari Nehru enabled the AIWC to broaden its social base and bridge the gap between Hindus and Muslims....

Rameshwari Nehru's appeal to fight against social injustice and economic exploitation was her commitment to the amelioration of the living conditions of the deprived segments especially the rural poor and *Harijans*.



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day is celebrated on the 8th of March every year. It is a major day of global celebration of respect, appreciation and love towards women to a celebration for women's economic, political and social achievements. The year 2011 was celebrated as the centenary year of International Women's Day. Listed below are a few titles published by the Trust on women and on issues related to women.

## REACHING WOMANHOOD

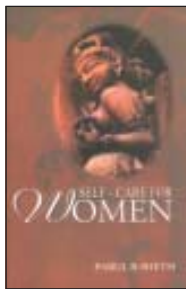
Tarala Nandekar & Medha Rajadhyaksha  
130 pp; Rs 40.00  
ISBN 978-81-237-2763-1

Provides answers to questions on transition of young girls into the adult world while stressing on the need for knowing about their body, their sexuality, their reproductive health and their rights and responsibilities.



## SELF-CARE FOR WOMEN

Parul R Sheth  
156 pp; Rs 50.00  
ISBN 81-237-2804-2  
Provides knowledge on the complex female body, its organs and systems, how they work and can be taken care of both externally and internally.



## UNDERSTANDING ADOLESCENCE

Neerja Sharma  
136 pp; Rs 45.00  
ISBN 81-237-2766-6  
The book describes the difficult transition period between childhood and adulthood, particularly the physical and sexual maturation, changes in emotions and personality, parent-child conflicts, identity crisis, delinquency and other problems keeping in view the different socio-cultural environments.



## WOMEN FARMERS OF INDIA

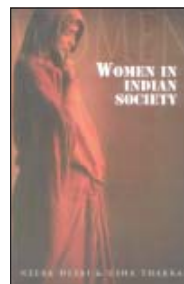
Maithreyi Krishnaraj & Aruna Kanchi  
161 pp; Rs 45.00 (PB); Rs 250.00 (HB)  
ISBN 978-81-237-5319-5 (PB)  
978-81-237-5320-1 (HB)

The book is a significant study that brings to light the ever increasing role that women are playing in the agricultural and allied sectors in India, while the stake of the men folk has been dwindling day by day. The book is likely to trigger a debate about 'the invisibility of women farmers' in India and the resultant social, economic, political and cultural complexities—the issues that have largely remained outside the mainstream intellectual discourse.



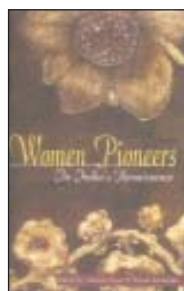
## WOMEN IN INDIAN SOCIETY

Neera Desai & Usha Thakkar  
221 pp; Rs 60.00  
ISBN 81-237-3677-0  
Confined to women and women related issues, the book makes a concerted effort to present the status of Indian women against the ever-changing social, economic, political and academic backgrounds.



## WOMEN PIONEERS IN INDIA'S RENAISSANCE

Sushila Nayar & Kamla Mankekar (Eds.)  
447 pp; Rs 115.00  
ISBN 81-237-3766-1  
Indian renaissance which coincided with the rise and growth of Indian nationalism and its culmination in freedom for the country,

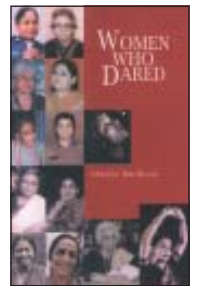


is singularly marked by the active role of a large number of women. Each of these women pioneers discussed in the book have, in their chosen mission, brought to it all the energy, mission and quality of service and sacrifice which lay within her.

## WOMEN WHO DARED

Ritu Menon (Ed.)  
282 pp; Rs 85.00  
ISBN 978-81-237-3856-7

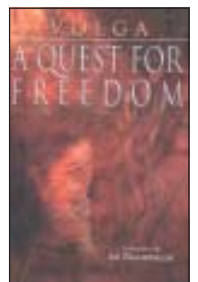
The present book records the contribution of a few representative women who have engineered the socio-cultural landscape of the country over the last fifty years. The readers will get a glimpse of the nation's own biography as it is reflected in the lives of women through their brief cameo autobiography.



## A QUEST FOR FREEDOM

Volga  
188 pp; Rs 100.00  
ISBN 81-237-3877-3

Aruna, the protagonist of the novel, is an educated, financially independent middle class woman in modern society. Suppressed at her parental home, she seeks her freedom in her eloped marriage with Prakasam. However, Aruna soon becomes disillusioned. She has to relinquish her individuality. Her space and body become a casualty. One of the most controversial novels of its time, it for the first time offers a feminist perspective to Telugu literary discourse. A significant novel from modern Telugu literature written by a well-known writer and activist.



## A Baby Hornbill Learns to Fly

Dilip K Barua

16 pp; Rs 25.00

This story very scientifically tells the tale of a pair of hornbills. How they build their nest, breed and rear their young. Visuals are by Partha Sengupta. (Age-group 6-8)  
ISBN 978-81-237-6167-1

*Also published in Asamiya and Hindi.*



## A House of Bamboo

Neera Jain

16 pp; Rs 25.00

Small children usually feel secure in the familiar surroundings. This book prompts them to be adventurous and promotes the spirit of exploring beyond. Visuals are by Debasish Deb. (Age-group 6-8)  
ISBN 978-81-237-6134-3

*Also published in Hindi and Punjabi*



## An Ancient Tale from Andaman

Anvita Abbi

16 pp; Rs 25.00

The story is a creation of myth which talks about how human life began on Andaman Island. An out of the ordinary tale narrated by Nao Jr., a tribesman, in Andamanese language. Eloquent illustrations by Partha Sengupta enliven the text. (Age-group 8-10)

ISBN 978-81-237-6351-4



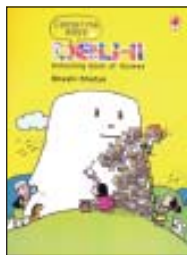
## Colour Me Says Delhi: Colouring Book of Rhymes

Shashi Shetye

16 pp; Rs 25.00

Brought out on the occasion of the centenary year of Delhi, this book highlights certain features which are integral to the city of Delhi in a very interesting manner. Both the concept and illustrations are by the author himself. (Age-group 8-10)

ISBN 978-81-237-6341-5



## Granny's Day Out

Debashish Majumdar

16 pp; Rs 25.00

This is a hilarious tale about a Granny who decides to have fun. It finally becomes too much to digest and she returns tired and famished. Visuals are by Ratnakar Singh. (Age-group 8-10)  
ISBN 978-81-237-6196-1

## Ravan

Anjani Sharma

16 pp; Rs 25.00

Originally written in Hindi, this story is about making of effigy of Ravan for the festival of Dussehra. Illustrations are by Mistunee Chowdhury. (Age-group 8-10)  
ISBN 978-81-237-6248-7

## Red and Blue Pencils: The Same But Not the Same

ICLC

16 pp; Rs 25.00

This beautiful story tells the different lives and experiences of two pencils—Red and Blue—which they share when they meet at the end. Illustrations are by Mistunee Chowdhury. (Age-group 6-8)  
ISBN 978-81-237-6375-0



## Sheebu-the Sheep

Neetu Sharma

12pp; Rs 25.00

This story is about a sheep who loses her bell and how the fire flies help her search for it in the dark. Illustrations by Partha Sengupta elucidate the text. (Age-group 8-10)  
ISBN 978-81-237-6365-1

(Age-group 8-10)

ISBN 978-81-237-6365-1

## Tit for Tat

Kengsam Kenglang

12 pp

Rs 25.00

An interesting tale about four dogs and how the inherent wilderness of one surfaces when he tries to



act smart with his peerage. To be eventually defeated by an even smarter bear. Delightful visuals by Durlabh Bhattacharya add colour to the text. (Age-group 6-8)  
ISBN 978-81-237-6376-7

*Also published in Asamiya and Hindi.*

## Torn Quilt Tales

Amarendra Chakravarty

64 pp; Rs 65.00

A collection of five enchanting tales for children with colourful illustrations by Surojit Bhattacharya. (Age-group 12-14)

ISBN 978-81-237-6200-5

## Uncle Moon Forgets Counting

Sanjeev Jaiswal 'Sanjay'

32 pp; Rs 40.00

This is an interesting fantasy tale which entertains and promotes the importance of number counting. (Age-group 6-8)

ISBN 978-81-237-6199-2

*Also published in Hindi, Odia, Punjabi and Telugu.*



## What Happened?

Jagdish Joshi

24 pp; Rs 30.00

There is commotion amongst the inhabitants of a tree as a monkey suddenly falls down. As they look around, they discover their tree lying upside down. An interesting story on conservation of trees with visuals by the author himself. (Age-group 8-10)

ISBN 978-81-237-6182-4

*Also published in Hindi and Punjabi.*

## Why?

Meenakshi Swami

20 pp; Rs 25.00

This story is about an inquisitive child who floods his mother with a foray of questions, like why don't the trees run, why we can't fly, etc. (Age-group 6-8)

ISBN 978-81-237-6024-7

*Also published in Hindi and Telugu.*

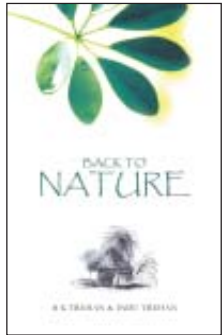


## Back to Nature

B K Trehan & Indu Trehan

ISBN 978-81-237-6381-1; Rs. 105.00

Our highly consumptive lifestyle is putting tremendous pressure on the natural resources. The reckless economic development is poisoning the air we breathe, the water we drink and the soil



we live on. Besides, the oceans are becoming acidic, the mountains garbage dumps and the felling of trees leading to environmental disaster! The turbo lag between the pace of growing global hunger and we

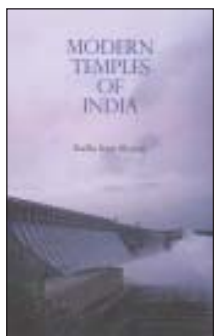
finding alternatives has led us to tipping point of global warming where our very survival on the planet is being jeopardised. It is time we go back to Nature and think to do things differently. This does not mean that we annihilate the progress made and literally start living like pre-historic man, but change our lifestyle to make it simple and socially viable. This book tells us how to make this happen.

## Modern Temples of India

Radha Kant Bharati

ISBN 978-81-237-6335-4; Rs. 90.00

India is said to rank third in the world in dam building. The purpose of these dams chiefly has been to keep the floods in control as also to ensure proper water supply and generate hydroelectric power. These dams have also been called 'Modern Temples of India'. The present book is a detailed study of major embankments and its contribution



to the progress of the country in general and the welfare of those living in neighbouring regions in particular. The last chapter however discusses the controversies

surrounding these dams and their social, economic and environmental ill effects.

## Primer on Sustaining Agrobiodiversity for Food Security

P.S. Ramakrishnan

ISBN 978-81-237-6362-0; Rs. 60.00

To the scientific community, agrobiodiversity implies crop diversity at the species level and arising there from is the sub-specific level



biodiversity often referred to as crop cultivars. Traditional farmers, on the basis of their intuitive experience in managing traditional systems, do selective weeding leaving a certain weed biomass

on the plot, which play a nutrient conservation role within the system. A wide range of traditional agricultural typologies are still available in the tropical world, all sustained largely by traditional farming communities. Therefore it is time to ensure dynamic conservation of this rich heritage with concerns for enhanced food security for all sections of the society, but with special emphasis on 'traditional societies' who are the largest custodians of agrobiodiversity.

Part of a series of primers on biodiversity, this volume discusses designing sustainable pathways for sustainable agriculture for ensuring future food security for all.

## Primer on Forest Biodiversity

P. S. Ramakrishnan

ISBN 978-81-237-6301-9; Rs. 65.00

India has a rich cultural/spiritual tradition of valuing forests, and sustainable use of forests for livelihood needs, an expression of which is still prevalent in the remote forested regions of the country where traditional societies live. However, with a variety of external pressures leading to large-scale deforestation and land degradation, much of what is left with us now are extensive secondary forest formations. This



is the context of a two-pronged approach wherein foresters' sylvicultural knowledge has to be appropriately blended with traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) available with the forest dwellers to

have site-specific 'hybrid technologies' for forest biodiversity conservation.

Part of a series of primers on biodiversity, this volume emphasizes upon ecological, social, economic and cultural dimensions of forestry, taking a trans-disciplinary approach towards forest biodiversity conservation and linked sustainable forest management. In this, India has had a pioneering role to play, both through the scientific leadership provided as well as promotional activities largely through non-governmental activism.

## Groundwater Resources of India

Subhajyoti Das

ISBN 978-81-237-6355-2; Rs. 110.00

Realisation of the growing importance and role of groundwater development in India,



to meet the ever increasing demand for drinking water and from industries and irrigation sector, has prompted publication of this book covering various aspects of groundwater. It is a compilation and

synthesis of voluminous information, lying scattered in various departmental publications, books, seminar proceedings, reports, articles etc. It gives a concise overview of groundwater occurrence, development, conservation, management and related issues in India and argues strongly the importance of conservation of groundwater.



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