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Mail Today	Delhi	03-08-2012	14

# POWERSCAPE RINGING IN CRITICAL THINKING



THE National Book Trust (NBT), India, an apex body established by the Government of India, celebrates its Foundation Day on August 1 every year. Several literary, cultural and other book-related activities are organised to mark the occasion.

On its 55th Foundation Day, the NBT has initiated an annual lecture series with eminent scholars, intellectuals, litterateurs and the others, who have made significant contributions to the world of publishing. It is hoped that this series of lectures will extend the debate on the importance and promotion of books and reading in today's context to the public domain and bring in critical thinking.

Shashi Tharoor, acclaimed

author and member of Parliament, delivered the first lecture on books and reading in today's India at Speaker Hall, Constitution Club, New Delhi on August 1, 2012. "I'm no stranger to the joy of words. I read voraciously. It is important to read for pleasure. Books have an important place in my life," said Tharoor.

Reflecting on his evolution as writer, he said that he started writing when he was eight years old and published his first book when he was 12. He further said his parents encouraged him to writing.

Looking at young India with growing competition in the industry, books which are appealing to youngsters are pulp fiction and books for discerning

Acclaimed writer and member of Parliament Shashi Tharoor delivered NBT Foundation Day Lecture on books and reading in today's India

readers should be published. He also talked about the challenges faced to instill reading habits among youngsters. He said they should make an attempt to read.

"Language is a vehicle and not destination," he added, while appreciating NBT's effort in translating books in other Indian languages. He said writings do have an impact on the society.

Tharoor is an award-winning author, United Nations peace-keeper, refugee worker, activist, a former minister of state for external affairs and now an elected member of the Indian Parliament from the Thiruvananthapuram constituency, Kerala. Besides, he is a renowned speaker on India's recent transformation and future prospects, globalisation, freedom of the press, human rights, literacy, culture, and India's present and potential influence in world politics and is a youth icon.

Born in London in 1956, Tharoor was educated in India and the US, completing a PhD in 1978 at the age of 22 at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. He was also awarded an honorary D.Litt. by the University of Puget Sound and a Doctorate Honoris

Causa in History by the University of Bucharest.

Tharoor has authored several non-fiction books, novels and a collection of short stories, including *Reasons of State, India: From Midnight to the Millennium, Kerala: God's Own Country, Nehru: The Invention of India, Bookless in Baghdad, The Elephant, the Tiger and the Cellphone: Reflections on India in the 21st Century, The Great Indian Novel, Riot, Show Business*

**"I'm no stranger to the joy of words. I read voraciously. It's important to read for pleasure," said Shashi Tharoor**

and *The Five-Dollar Smile*. He has also written hundreds of op-eds, articles and book reviews for various publications.

Ashok Thakur, IAS, secretary (HE), ministry of human resource development, presided over the function. Earlier, M A Sikandar, director, NBT, India welcomed the guests present on the occasion.

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## लेखक के लिए भाषा सवारी हो सकती है, मंजिल नहीं : थर्सर



एनबीटी के स्थापना दिवस पर सांसद शशि थर्सर, एनबीटी के निदेशक एम.ए.सिकंदर व मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय के विशेष सचिव अशोक ठाकुर।

जागरण

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली: जिस प्रकार एक चित्रकार अपनी भावनाओं व विचारों को रंगों से कैनवास पर उतारता है, ठीक उसी तरह लेखक शब्दों के माध्यम से किताबों की शक्ल में अपने विचारों को पाठकों तक पहुंचाता है। लेखक के लिए भाषा एक सवारी हो सकती है लेकिन मंजिल नहीं। नेशनल बुक ट्रस्ट (एनबीटी) के 55वें स्थापना दिवस के मौके पर कांस्टीट्यूशन क्लब में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में सांसद व लेखक शशि थर्सर लोगों को

संबोधित करते हुए यह बात कही। वर्ष 1957 में देश के पहले प्रधानमंत्री जवाहर लाल नेहरू के कार्यकाल में एनबीटी की स्थापना की गई थी।

स्थापना दिवस के इस कार्यक्रम के मौके पर शशि थर्सर ने कहा कि आज के दौर में युवाओं के लिए ऐसे लेखन की आवश्यकता है जिसे पढ़कर युवा अपने देश को जान सकें। युवा लेखक चेतन भगत की सराहना करते हुए थर्सर ने कहा कि वे आज के दौर के युवाओं की पसंद का पूरा ध्यान रखते हैं।