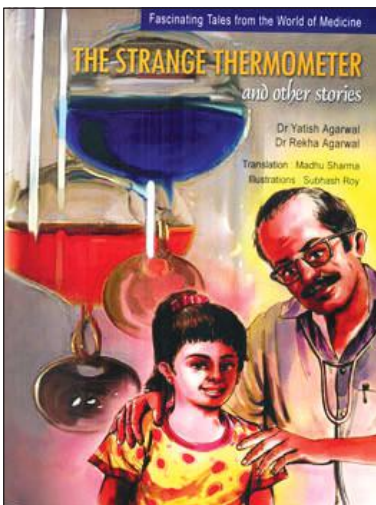


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### PICK OF THE MONTH



#### The Strange Thermometer and Other Stories

Dr Yatish Agarwal & Dr Rekha Agarwal  
978-81-237-7959-1; Rs 120

## Asian Festival of Children's Content 2017



Over the years, the Asian Festival of Children's Content, has shaped up well to become an important event in the calendar of events meant for children. The event is organized by the National Book Development Council Singapore (NBDCS) in collaboration with the National Library. The Festival was held at National Library Building, Singapore, from 17 to 21 May 2017. NBDCS is a non-profit organization and registered charity founded in 1968 with the objective of nurturing the literary scene of the country through book related activities and events. Through AFCC, NBDCS endeavours to 'influence and impact the educational growth and development of approximately two billion children in Asia.'

AFCC 2017 kick-started on 16 May 2017 with a cultural evening where there was a storytelling session accompanied by music and illustration making. The Festival with its objective to promote children's content was inaugurated by

Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth. The major highlight was the announcement of the winner of the biennial Scholastic Picture Book Award which was given to *The Little Durian Tree*. The book was chosen from 137 entries across Asia. The award acknowledges outstanding, unpublished picture book that incorporates distinctly Asian themes.

Eighteen exhibitors, 159 speakers and 532 delegates from 21 countries including India, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Netherlands, Israel, Switzerland, Thailand and Pakistan participated in the Festival. This year, Indonesia was the Country of Focus. Indonesia showcased its children's publishing and content creation through exhibition of books, talks, storytelling sessions and performances on Indonesian literature, folktales and culture. The programmes included featured Indonesian speakers.

The regular activities of the Festival included some pre-festival events; a

number of programmes and sessions by the country of focus; writers and illustrators conference; BOP Bologna prize; illustrator's exhibition 'celebrating our stars', a networking event for registered international and local delegates; Rights Exchange forum; 'Edutour' visit to primary schools; pre-school and primary teachers' congress; parent's forum; book launches; performance and activities. The noticeable feature of the event was the participation and presence of parents at various forums.

National Book Trust, India participated at AFCC 2017 where it showcased over 150 titles in Hindi, Tamil and English representing the works of 16 publishers from India including NBT. The main objective of participating in the Festival was that India is representative



country in the Board of Advisers (BOA) for AFCC. The BOA committee has members representing different Asian countries viz. China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines,

Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The meeting which took place 19 May 2017 was chaired by Ms Claire Chiang, chairperson of AFCC.

The annual meeting is a good platform to share experiences of the different Asian countries to deliberate on various issues/ ideas which could further not only the book promotion activity at large but the publishing fraternity of the respective countries as well. During the meeting, the members talked about various book related activities to promote children's content. While concluding the meeting, Ms Claire Chiang declared Singapore as the Country of Focus for AFCC 2018 to mark the 50th year or golden jubilee year of the NBDCS.

Ms Neera Jain, Chief Editor & Joint Director represented NBT at the Fair.

## NBT Book Shops: Celebrating Indian Languages

Over four decades old, NBT Book Shop is one of the largest multilingual book shops in the country. Located at NBT's Headquarters in Vasant Kunj, the book shop is visited by school children, university students, teachers and librarians as well as by general readers in large numbers.

In this two-storey building, the ground floor is dedicated to the books in English and Hindi, while at first floor there is a collection of the books in other Indian languages like Asamiya, Bangla, Gujarati, Marathi, Malayalam, Punjabi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Odia and Urdu.

Translation is one of the prominent areas of NBT's publishing profile. A wide range of books on a variety of topics translated into various Indian languages cater to diverse readers from children to neo-literates. The visitors at book shop are delighted to see the diversity of Indian languages that too at one place.



For the convenience of the visitors, the books have been kept in different sections according to the series under which they are published including, Autobiography, Aadan Pradan, Afro-Asian Books, Books for Neo-literates, Creative Learning Series, Continuing Education, Folklore, General, India Land and People, Indian Literature, National Biography, Nehru Bal Pustakalaya, Popular Science, Popular Social Science, Young India Library and World Literature series.

From time to time, the book shop offers special discounts on the purchase of NBT books.

To provide information to the visitors about the books published by NBT, the catalogues of books in different Indian languages are kept at the book shop. The publicity material about NBT including *NBT Newsletter*, *Readers' Club Bulletin* (bilingual magazine for children), *NBT at a Glance* etc. are also kept for the visitors.

The NBT books can also be purchased online. Readers interested in buying books online can visit [www.nbtindia.gov.in](http://www.nbtindia.gov.in).

NBT has entered into an MoU with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation to open book shops at select metro stations in Delhi. Two such NBT book shops have become operational at Kashmere Gate metro station and Vishwavidyalaya metro station.

NBT has its regional offices in Bengaluru, Kolkata and Mumbai. The regional offices also have book shops. Besides, NBT has book promotion centres at Agartala, Guwahati, Chennai, Hyderabad, Patna, Kochi and Cuttack. They also house the NBT book shop, complemented by a mobile van to cover the rural areas in the states.

The sale of books through various modes has helped NBT in its endeavour to promote books and bringing all Indian languages closer to the booklovers.





## NBT Celebrates International Day of Yoga

On the occasion of International Day of Yoga, National Book Trust, India organized a workshop on Yoga at NBT Conference Room, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi on 21 June 2017.

While inaugurating the workshop, Dr Rita Chowdhury, Director, NBT said that Yoga has countless benefits as it helps in balancing the mental and physical health. She also urged the NBT employees to practice yoga everyday to lead a healthy and peaceful life.

The workshop was conducted by Shri Chandra Shekhar of Bhartiya Yog



Sansthan. He mentioned that these asanas shall be performed slowly, in a relaxed manner, with awareness of the body and breath. He added that yoga should be practiced according to one's capacity

and to achieve good results regular practice is very essential.

During the workshop, several asanas including neck bending, truck twisting, knee movement, standing postures, triangle posture (trikonasana), hands to feet posture (pāda Hastāsana) were described. The asanas in yoga are beneficial in combating various ailments like depression, stress related problems, knee pain, back ache, etc.

The workshop was attended by a large number of NBT employees. Shri Dwijendra Kumar, English Editor, NBT coordinated the programme.



## NBT Chairman Awarded

Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman NBT was awarded the prestigious Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi award 2015. The award was presented by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble President of India at an award ceremony held at the Darbar Hall of the Rashtrapati Bhawan. He was presented with a certificate, a shawl and cash prize of Rs. 5,00,000.

Senior media personality and thinker, Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, was the former Editor of the National Duniya and the national weekly Panchjanya. Besides he has served in various editorial capacities at well-known Hindi newspapers like Dainik Swadesh, Dainik Bhaskar, Amar Ujala, etc. He has contributed numerous articles on issues of national and social importance to major magazines and newspapers. A noted figure on various Hindi news channels for his participation in socio-political



discourse, Shri Sharma has also been associated with Akashwani through its numerous programmes for a long time.

Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Award was constituted by Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication and is given every year to a journalist for setting a high standard of journalism and making outstanding contribution in the field.

Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi (26-10-1890 – 25-3-1931, Kanpur) was an Indian journalist and a freedom fighter. An important figure in the non-cooperation movement, he led the first strike of textile workers in Kanpur. He launched the daily edition of *Pratap* and was sentenced to two years rigorous imprisonment for championing the cause of peasants. His short life was a constant struggle against oppression and inhumanity.

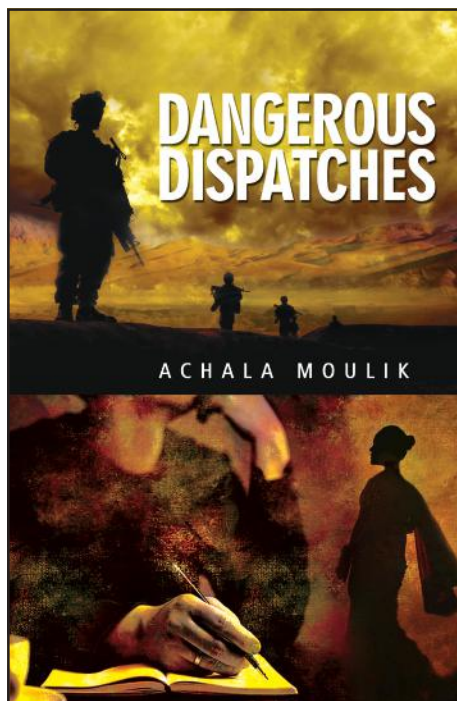
## Interplay of Destinies

**The book presents historical facts beyond the knowledge of the general public.**

An erudite and informative book from a retired bureaucrat and accomplished author, Achala Moulik, former Education Secretary of India, *Dangerous Dispatches* is the result of six years of extensive research. The central figure here is Shivan Khamboj, an LSE alumnus, who becomes a frontline journalist to brave the conflict areas and political upheavals in late 20th century Iran, Afghanistan and Bosnia and report the truth. By his side is Romona, his faithful wife, muse and archaeologist. The 379-page novel weaves his and his colleagues' lives with the defining events of the time, and the joys and anguish that come their way.

Moulik draws upon factual history to portray the interplay of individual destinies and the fate of nations. The lives of Khamboj and Romona cross the paths of their friends, journalist Alexei Rumyan Stev and his wife Ludmila, the affable Afghan Prince Farid and his wife Anahita, and the English writer Julian Ashford and his beloved Vinita, Romona's sister. In her foreword, Moulik notes Leo Tolstoy's assertion that he created his stories within a scaffolding of actual events and characters that helped heighten the realism of his novels. "In this novel, I have set the characters against the backdrop of dramatic geopolitical events of the late 20th century," she writes of *Dangerous Dispatches*. "Some of the characters partially resemble those I have known."

Bangalore-based Moulik held important posts in both the Karnataka and Union governments till her retirement in 2001 and has also authored three other novels, a play, and 11 non-fiction works on culture, art, literature and Indian monuments. There is an element of personalisation by her in *Dangerous Dispatches* as she characterises Khamboj as one who has always looked upon his late father – a daring foreign



### **Dangerous Dispatches**

Achala Moulik

Pages: 379

Rs 410

ISBN 978-81-237-00000

correspondent who covered East Asian campaigns during the Second World War – as his role model. Moulik's own father, Moni Moulik, was one of India's earliest foreign correspondents who had covered momentous events from the years 1936 to 1946, such as Subhash Chandra Bose's negotiations with Benito Mussolini for arms, the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia, and the bombing of Warsaw.

Even after joining the Indian Foreign Service, Moni Moulik continued an easy rapport with the media, including his friends in London's Fleet Street, as well as those in Washington, New York, Tokyo and Rome. Achala Moulik had attended schools in Washington and New York and had taken an honours degree in Economics and International Relations from London University.

"My childhood memories are of illustrious and dedicated journalists – like Unni Nair, James Prescott, Francis Williams, Stewart Hensley, Guy Wint,

Michael King and S. Mulgaokar – discussing world events in our home late into the night and I read their memoirs and letters while doing research for *Dangerous Dispatches*," she remarks. "As an under-graduate at London University, I used to spend free afternoons at Fleet Street with a friend who was training to be a journalist and meditated on joining this exciting profession." She says she had an idea of what it might be like to be a frontline journalist when she visited the Pakistan-Afghanistan frontier some years ago.

Unlike Khamboj, Moulik's destiny took her to be an IAS officer, serving also as Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India and Additional Chief Secretary to the Karnataka government. She also married a fellow-bureaucrat, Mohandas Moses, who had held such portfolios as Finance, Planning, Education and Food Distribution, and had also served as Advisor to the governor of Jammu & Kashmir during the years of militancy, from 1994 to 1996.

The novel begins on an autumn afternoon in 1962 where Khamboj and his fellow students at the London School of Economics are dumbfounded by US President Kennedy's ultimatum to Soviet Premier Khrushchev to dismantle missiles in Cuba or face nuclear Warfare. As a seasoned journalist many years later, Khamboj learned that unknown to both the leaders, Soviet submarines with nuclear torpedoes had been cruising under the Caribbean Sea. This had also been the same year, 1962, when China had attacked India after having misled Nehru who had always championed its admission to the United Nations.

Moulik's *Dangerous Dispatches* at times presents historical facts beyond the knowledge of the general public, allowing the reader to understand deeper the origins and consequences of the events that substantially influenced the global political situation in the late 20th century.

—Sarosh Bana

Courtesy: *Business India*

May 2017



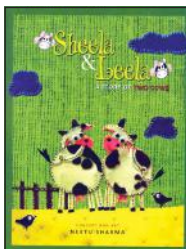
## Recent NBT Publications

### Sheela & Leela: A Story of Two Cows

Neetu Sharma

978-81-237-8001-6; Rs. 45.00

A delightful tale of two friends, Sheela and Leela, who live on yellow, pale meadows. Sheela is coy, Leela is a bit daring! Let's discover where their unique bonding leads them to! Some COW



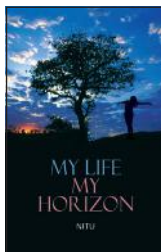
FACTS run along with the story and add interest to the whole narrative, which the parents and teachers can explain to the young readers as they explore the story...

### My Life My Horizon

Nitu

978-81-237-7998-0; Rs 110.00

Stories from the hinterlands of the country where each woman is fighting a battle. Fighting a battle against all odds faced with negativity and criticism and yet has now managed to change the tide in her favour. She has forced the society to not just sit up and take cognizance, but also change age-old practices and ingrained habits.

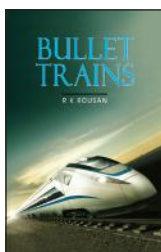


### Bullet Trains

R K Rousan

978-81-237-7974-4; Rs 150.00

Bullet trains are the modern technological wonder which has revolutionized the concept of transportation. The book covers the history and background of bullet trains. It examines the current status and future prospects of bullet trains in different parts of the world with special emphasis on India.



### A Lesson from Grandma

Debashish Majumdar

978-81-237-8003-0; Rs 35.00

The story highlights how the rival cousins

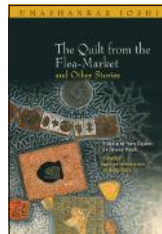
learn the art of appreciating the other with the Grandma playing the role of an ingenious peacemaker!

### The Quilt from the Flea-market and Other Stories

Umashankar Joshi

978-81-237-8016-0; Rs 215.00

This collection of short stories offers a glimpse of the life of the disadvantaged village people of North Gujarat at the beginning of the twentieth century. The stories depict the response of a young writer to the social issues of his time such as the plight of the widows and their struggle for survival in an orthodox society, lives of tribal women, exploitation of poor farmers, class and caste conflict, etc.



### Music of the Hills

Ranjita Biswas

978-81-237-8029-0; Rs 60.00

Mysterious circumstances happening in an abandoned house in Shillong makes Jocelyn and June, the two sisters, fearful but curious too. And soon they stumble upon a dark secret lurking behind the beautiful hills of Meghalaya. A thrilling story that introduces young readers to the concept of bio-piracy and how it affects environment.

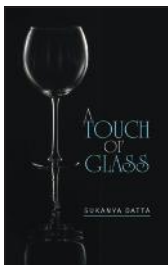


### A Touch of Glass

Sukanya Datta

978-81-237-7960-7; Rs 235

Glass is a conglomerate of contrasting characteristics... it shatters if dropped but can stop bullets. This book explains the 'hows' and the 'whys' of glass, in an extremely lucid way. From fantasy to fantastic facts, this book reveals all about gorgeous glass.

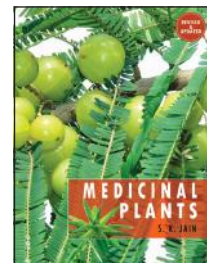


### Medicinal Plants

S K Jain

978-81-237-7943-0; Rs 310.00

Even though reference to the curative properties of some of our indigenous herbs abound in ancient Indian texts, and also in folklore prevailing in many parts of our country, till recent times no systematic efforts were made to subject these to dispassionate scientific scrutiny and separate fact from fiction. According to current estimates, nearly three-fourth of the drugs used for curing human ailments in India are of plant origin. Based on his own research in the field over a number of years and that of others before him, the author in this profiles of over 100 such plants in our country, with colour illustrations.

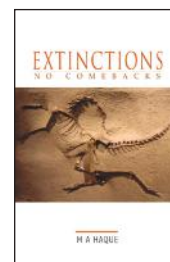


### Extinctions: No Comebacks

M.A. Haque

978-81-237-7951-5; Rs 140

Several plant and animal species are on the verge of extinctions due to human activities like illegal trade of endangered species, habitat destruction, pollution, etc. The book discusses about the impact of extinctions on Earth's diversity and gives some idea about measures that need to be taken to save Earth from further degeneration.



### Physics in Ancient India

Narayan Gopal Dongre & Shankar

Gopal Nene

978-81-237-7973-7; Rs 150

The book primarily deals with the impact of ancient Indian science, particularly in the field of physics, thereby presents evidence which shows that scientific concepts like Newton's Laws of Motion were already prevalent at that time in India. Moreover, the book brings to fore the systematic and scientific methodology followed by ancient Indian philosophers.

## Books on Health and Medicine

In India, National Doctors Day is observed on 1 July. Given below are some of the important titles published by NBT on health, various ailments and treatments.

### Asthma: How to Control It

M P S Menon

This book provides a contemporary account of a common though baffling ailment, which has been an enigma for thousands of sufferers who need help in handling their disability to their best advantage before seeking medical help.

81-237-2179-X; Rs 35



### Ayurveda Unravalled

Sharadini Dahanukar & Urmila Thatte

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 home-made herbal remedies.

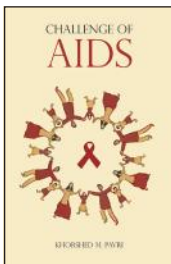
978-81-237-1676-3; Rs 60

### Challenge of AIDS

Khorshed M Pavri

AIDS research has attracted some of the finest brains among doctors and scientists of the world and yet an effective cure eludes us. This revised edition imparts knowledge about the disease and a realisation of the challenge that the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) poses to mankind.

978-81-237-0175-2; Rs 80



### Dental & Oral Health for All

Abhijeet S Kulkarni

The low priority given to oral health, and the neglect of dental and oral diseases are among several important factors of concern. The book, in a revised and updated edition, aims at providing practical information to readers about dental and oral diseases, the available

treatment options and contemporary preventive strategies to maintain and improve oral health.

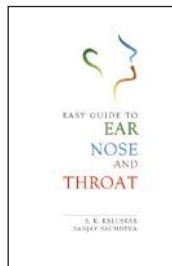
978-81-237-6931-8; Rs 100

### Easy Guide to Ear, Nose and Throat

S K Kaluskar & Sanjay Sachdeva

This book is a reader-friendly guide to various ear, nose and throat problems, with an aim to create awareness on these delicate organs. It also helps to identify the various problems and their symptoms at an early stage, perceive them in proper light, and know the right time to seek help of a specialist.

978-81-237-5451-2; Rs 95



### Epilepsy

M C Maheshwari

This book provides scientific information about the diagnosis, treatment and care of epileptics in our country where superstitions, false beliefs and misconceptions about the disease are widely prevalent and prove an obstacle in its effective control.

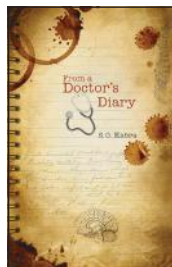
81-237-0554-9; Rs 30

### From A Doctor's Diary

S G Kabra

A delectable collection of true stories, presented here are knowledge-based medical case studies put together in a book form. The book discusses the medical, legal, ethical and social issues that arise therein, and how to deal with the dilemma that they pose. The stories provide contextual appreciation of law and ethics to physicians; to the lawyers they provide the specific medical context in a case; and to the lay person, provide knowledge for proper understanding of complex situations.

978-81-237-6928-8; Rs 70

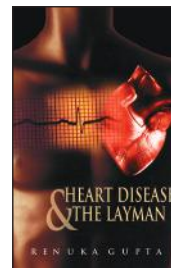


### Heart Disease and the Layman

S Padmavati

This book puts into proper perspective what heart disease means, its signs and symptoms, methods of examination and treatment and explains the changes that occur when a heart becomes deranged in structure and function.

978-81-237-1217-8; Rs 45



### Learning to Live with Diabetes

M M S Ahuja

Explains how diabetes can be controlled and how reduction in complications can be achieved by consuming foodstuffs with correct nutritive and caloric contents, keeping in mind the economic constraints of a country like India.

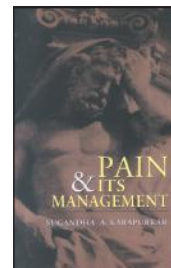
978-81-237-0704-4; Rs 90

### Pain & Its Management

Sugandha A Karapurkar

Pain is such a vast subject that it is difficult to understand its exact physiology, yet this book provides answers to many common problems regarding pain, in a simple and lucid style.

ISBN 978-81-237-4362-2; Rs 40

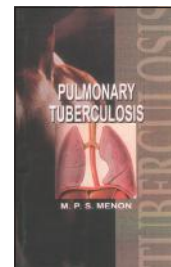


### Pulmonary Tuberculosis

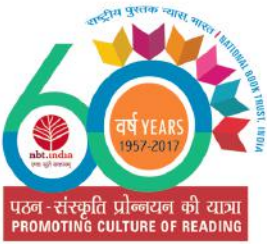
M P S Menon

This book will be of interest to those involved in detection and control of tuberculosis as well as patients and their relatives whose understanding and cooperation are essential for the success of the Tuberculosis Control Programme.

ISBN 81-237-2810-7; Rs 65





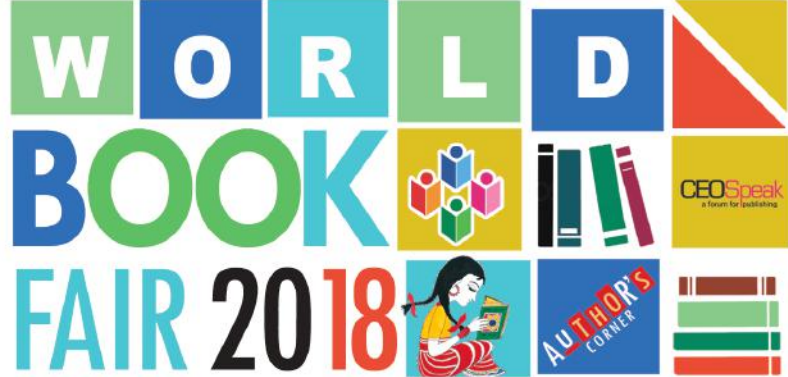


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## Books on Population

World Population Day is observed on 11 July. Given below are some of the titles published by NBT on the subject.

### India's Changing Population Profile

Mahendra K Premi / 978-81-237-5510-6; Rs 135

The book covers the dynamic processes of fertility, mortality and migration and describes demographic transition in India and in major states.

### India's Quest for Population Stabilisation

Ashish Bose / 978-81237-5853-4; Rs 85

The book traces the evolution of population policies ever since India became free in 1947. Above all, it discusses critical issues of population and development, like the growing north-south demographic disparity and the spread of female foeticide in India.

### The Inevitable Billion Plus

Vasant Gowariker (Ed.) / 81-237-0632-4; Rs 62

A book that seeks to understand the magnitude of India's population problem and the need to harness the tools of science and technology for resolving the problem.

### Population of India in the New Millennium

Mahendra K Premi / 978-81-237-4861-0; Rs 160

The book provides data on population of India upto 2005 based on the census released by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner. The data has been presented in a simpler manner providing comparisons with earlier censuses without loading it with complex formulae and technical terms.

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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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