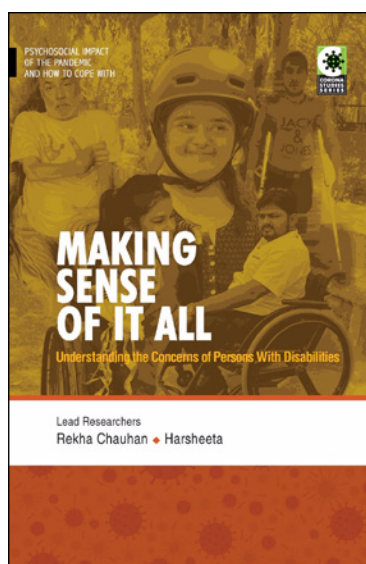


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## PICK OF THE MONTH



**Making Sense of it All:  
Understanding the Concerns of  
Persons With Disabilities**  
Rekha Chauhan & Harsheeta  
978-81-237-9189-0; Rs. 160

## Online Certificate Course in Book Publishing



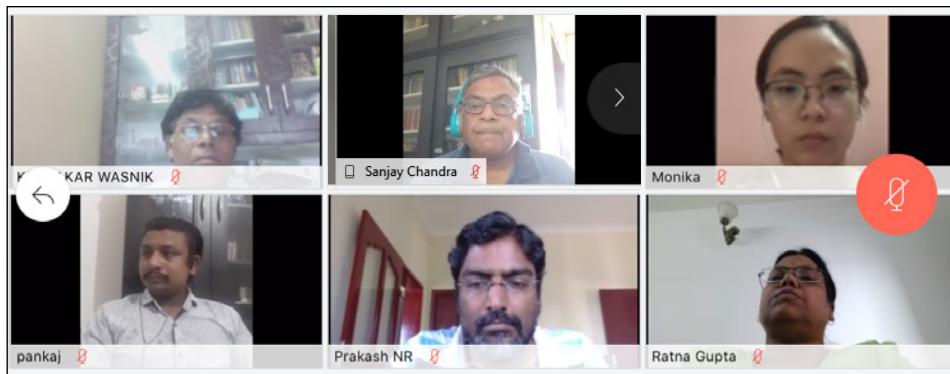
“As part of its initiatives to promote books and the habit of reading during corona pandemic, National Book Trust, India is organizing its first ever online certificate course in book publishing,” said Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, NBT at the inaugural of the three month certificate course in book publishing in New Delhi on 26 June 2020.

Prof. Sharma added that NBT is a premier organization which has been successfully organizing the course across the country for the last two decades, where participants learn about the various aspects of publishing like copyright, royalty, printing, editing, writing, sales and marketing, etc. He hoped that this

course would be beneficial to participants and would help them grow in this field.

Talking about the changes that have been taking place across different fields, Prof. Sharma said that publishing industry has not been untouched by these changes and to survive in the market one needs to be completely aware of the changing trends in publishing including sales & marketing, printing, technology, etc.

Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT said that the most beautiful thing about the publishing is that everything starts with a concept until the book is printed.



He said that the process involved in publishing a book is entirely scientific. From the cover of the book, to the content, printing and packaging, we need to understand the process in order to bring out a quality product.

Speaking of the current trends in publishing during corona pandemic, Shri Malik said that according to a recent survey, around 15 per cent of the ebook readers are switching back to the printed books. He added that the printed books will remain relevant and ebook industry will grow at its own space.

Shri Malik highlighted the role of

National Book Trust, India in publishing books in Indian languages and promoting culture of reading in India. He also spoke of the various activities of NBT including

organizing book exhibitions, book fairs, and especially New Delhi World Book Fair; participating in domestic and international book fairs; its collaboration with organizations like Prasar Bharti; and new initiatives like Corona Studies Series, etc.

Shri Kumar Vikram, Editor, NBT focused on the role and responsibilities of an editor, who brings out latent energy hidden in the work.

The programme was coordinated by Shri Narendra Kumar, Production Officer, NBT.

# WE ARE OPEN

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## Excerpts: The Hero of Many Battles

NBT India has published a book titled *Braja Kishore Prasad : The Hero of Many Battles*. Herein we reproduce excerpts from the chapter 'Leader of the Champaran Affiliation.'

**H**ow did Braja Kishore Prasad get involved and, that also, deeply involved in the Champaran agrarian imbroglio? As a pleader, he would have got opportunities to argue for cases against the European planters of Saran, Champaran and Darbhanga. His reputation as a successful vakil would have been of great help.

After moving to Darbhanga in 1906 to practice in the court of District and Sessions Judge, he had established his commitment to his profession and his fearlessness in matters of professional requirement by insisting in the Court that he must be heard before any orders could be passed. For the British Judge that was a new experience and for the Darbhanga Bar and the clients, it was a new record, which had imparted a new dignity to the Bar.

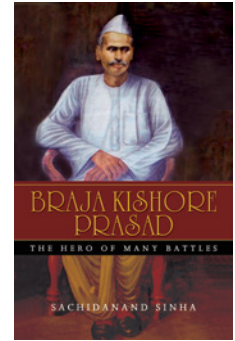
Braja Kishore Prasad, we may also say, was a man with a heightened social conscience. He was always restless about the progress of society. He wanted to participate actively in all achievements by members of the society. For example, when Rajendra Prasad had stood first among all the successful candidates of Matriculation Examination of Calcutta University, he had thrown a large party at the Chhapra Bar Association. He had never met Rajendra Prasad before that episode. Likewise, when Dr. Ganesh Prasad had come back from Cambridge University, he had persuaded members of his community to participate in the community dinner at his house against all odds. He had also arranged for a debate over antediluvian rituals like ex-communication after foreign travel. Braja Kishore Prasad had encouraged both his daughters Vidyavati and Prabhavati to disregard the purdah system. He would particularly encourage the young Prabhavati to dress like a boy till 9 to 10 years and participate in public meetings. He had indeed allowed Prabhavati to join Sabarmati Ashram when JP had gone for

higher studies to the USA. Braja Kishore Prasad and Rajendra Prasad had taken the lead in the anti-purdah movement in 1928...

Prasad was, we tend to underplay, a genuine leader and opinion builder since his student days at Calcutta when Poor Boys' Fund was established in collaboration with Dr. Rajendra Prasad. His foresight and vision distinguished him at many a crucial occasion. The most significant move was yet to come from this Councillor who would not hesitate to report a proposal like the constitution of an Enquiry Committee to look independently, thoroughly and carefully into the relationship of peasants and their ryots simply because he could be severely criticised. No, that was too casual a charge, whereas his charge against the Government was serious—we have to look at the very root of the problem expounding a relationship, normal working relationship, normal life pattern and peace of the poor farmers, surely because such a committee of officials and non-officials for a thorough independent enquiry has not been constituted and thus all facts have not come to light. Luminge almost ridiculed him for asking over and over again for the constitution of a committee for public enquiry. The public spirited man was at a loss to find that the Government, the public Ombudsman, the saviour of public from predators, should look for dilatory tactics for undertaking its well-defined charter of duties and responsibilities to its people. He could understand all these only when he could remember that even the Governor – General Lord Canning was more concerned about the safety of the indigo factories and their oneness than about ordinary citizens during 1857, when the Blue Mutiny of Bengal was just knocking at the doors of Calcutta and Lord William Bentick, as we have noted, turned a deaf ear and blind eye to all entreaties of ryots, who were clueless, helpless, resourceless at the virtual enslavement camps of the European planters.

Prasad would have got exposed to problems associated with indigo cultivation at the initial stage of his professional

*Braja Kishore Prasad*  
Sachidanand Sinha  
298 pp  
Rs 260.00  
978-81-237-8176-1



career as well as public life at Darbhanga, sometime perhaps in 1901 itself. Though he had started practice at Srinagar, Siwan in 1901, he was, almost one of the blue boys, selected as the first president of the Governing Body of a newly established school, M. L. Academy, Laheriasarai, Darbhanga. Even in those early days, at a meeting of Darbhanga Boys Association, it was decided to start a new school for poor students. This was decided in the context of the change taking place in Raj High School, Darbhanga, where after the death of Maharaja Kameshwar Singh, tuition fees were being charged from all students resulting in the discontinuation of studies of poor students.

Darbhanga brought Prasad to a cause close to his heart – education. Darbhanga, then being an important centre of indigo agriculture and industry must have drawn the young lawyer. It may be mentioned that indigo cultivation, importantly in vogue since the days of Permanent Settlement, had spread over the entire district by the turn of the 19th century.

“By 1874 Darbhanga had the largest indigo concern in India. Thus the educationist and the lawyers and peasants’ “guide” found himself suddenly where he was welcome and what he would have equally welcomed. While trying to understand the mystique of Champaran and Braja Kishore Prasad, both as an associate of Gandhi and in close company with Gandhi, we should also do well to remember the continuous flowering of his social consciousness, foresight for the future of the country. This could take us to the next milestone in the country’s move towards freedom—the non-cooperation movement of 1920. ..



## Excerpts: The Code of Life

NBT India has published a book titled *The Code of Life: Revolutions in Genetics*. Herein we reproduce excerpts from the chapter 'Epigenetics in Command.'

*That which makes the mind think but cannot be thought of by the mind, that is the self indeed. That self is not someone other than Brahman, which has no attributes but appears as if endowed with attributes.*

—Brahma Sutra Bhashyam of Adi Shankaracharya.

Nearly 65 years after Watson, Crick, Franklin and Wilkins, the DNA plot today continues to thicken! There has been a U-turn in the flow of ideas about the genes. Genes are no longer considered independent actors determining our life and functions. Some hidden force seems to be in control of the genes, somewhat like the Self in Brahma Sutra.

Hailed rightly as one of the greatest human achievements, the decoding of the language of life evoked a lot of expectations such as finding a cure to many diseases but soon posed new puzzles.

In the days before the structure of the genetic code was revealed, a French naturalist, Jean -Baptiste Lamarck noted that evolution of life depends on variation and accumulation of small gradual changes. On the other hand, Charles Darwin held that natural selection by a species gives it an advantage in survival.

These ideas were revived when the double helix structure of human DNA was announced and described in 1953. It was then pointed out that DNA could not be altered by one's way of life or by the environment. It was held that only mutations, errors at random, could change one's genetics. Proteins, called histones, wrap around DNA molecules. Histones are affected by chemical changes, which can influence the offspring for several generations. Genes vary in complexity. In humans, they range in size from a few hundred DNA bases to more than two million bases.

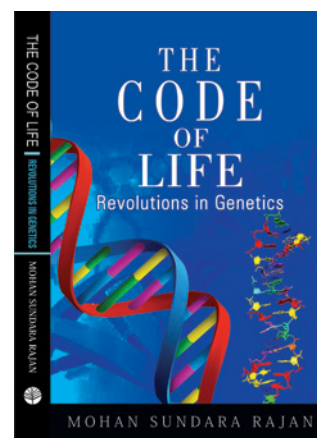
Different living things have different shapes and numbers of chromosomes. Every cell in a person's body has the same DNA, but each person's DNA is differently sequenced. This is what makes every one of us unique.

### Environmental Factors

Environmental factors, it is claimed, do have an effect on one's genes. The DNA sequence is subject to selection and interpretation. Experts point out that DNA is not our destiny; it is only a tool to understand how we are designed. That tool is not a blueprint, but a script to be interpreted. The hype which hailed the decoding of the language of life as a genetics revolution soon melted away. It was discovered that the genetic code is dynamic, not a template producing the same copy every time, but a script that can be varied. In other words, genes do not control but are controlled by cellular activity.

Genes are off or on without undergoing any alteration themselves. A collection of molecules that surrounds the genes appears to control gene expression. The process which controls the gene functioning is called epigenetics. It is the study of the mechanisms that switch genes on or off. It is in fact a universe of chemical compounds that are attached to DNA influencing how and when parts of the genome are used by cells. Epigenetics is involved in every aspect of life. It affects the way we live and as well as our future generations.

The term, epigenetics (a Greek word meaning at or in addition to or as well as or upon), less familiar than genetics, is defined as the study of the impact of environmental factors and causes outside the genetic code and refers to the set of processes that determine which genes are switched on or 'expressed' rather than to the DNA sequence of the genes. Epigenetics may be compared to metadata in computing, which describes the underlying data. The epigenome is not a rigid manual. It responds to the changes in the environment



*The Code of Life: Revolutions in Genetics*

Mohan Sundara Rajan

978-81-237-9118-0; Rs. 270.00

### Two Components of DNA

DNA has two components: one is genetic, which is old, evolved over millions of years and is hard to change; and the other, epigenetic, which is open, dynamic and is reprogrammed and even interactive. The latter shows that the DNA is not simply a sequence of letters but has our early experiences written into it. Experiments on mice and monkeys have shown this to be true.

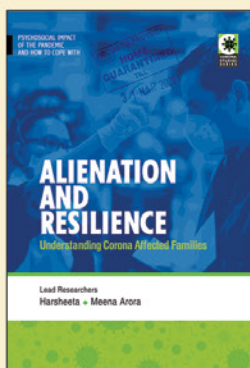
In one experiment, mice which were licked well by their mothers or even by foster mothers grew up normally with hardly any stress in their later life. What mattered was not their genetic make-up but the way in which it was influenced. The mother has reprogrammed the genome of the offspring. The grooming has released a cascade of biochemical signals that have gone into the DNA and programmed it differently. The epigenome is rearranged.

We can now map the chemical marks of the epigenome. It is also possible to rearrange the epigenome. Efforts are under way to see how far the chemical marks of epigenome can be increased or decreased so that behavior patterns like drug addiction may be erased.

It has been found that the environment experienced by pregnant mothers affects the health of their children. It was recalled that children born to mothers who endured the hardships of one of the most severe winters in Canada suffered mental and physical problems in their adult life.

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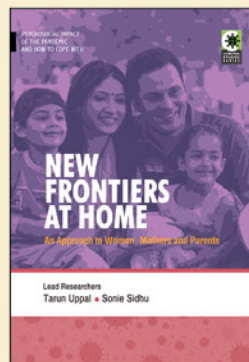


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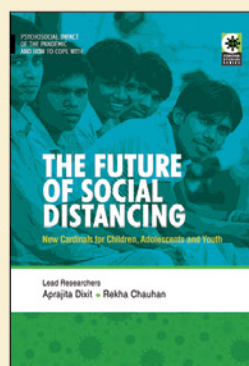


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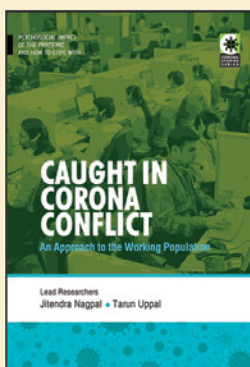


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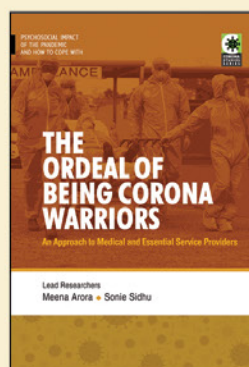


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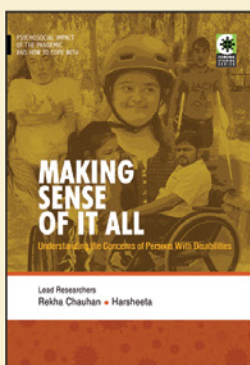


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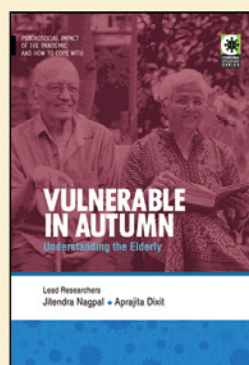


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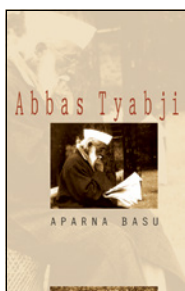
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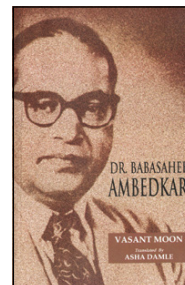
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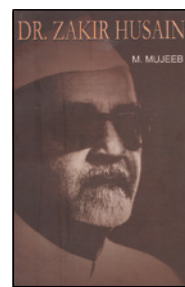
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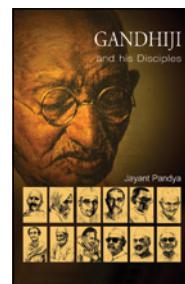
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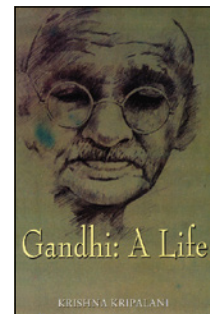
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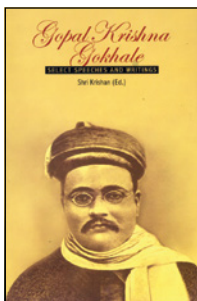
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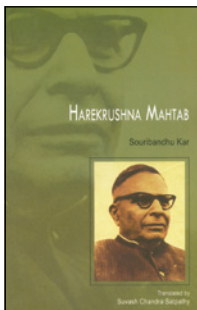
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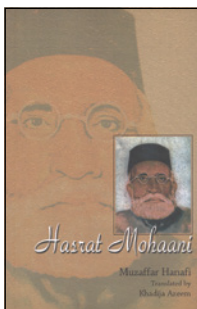
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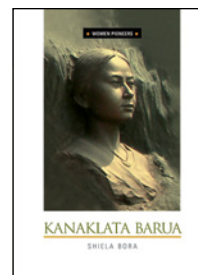
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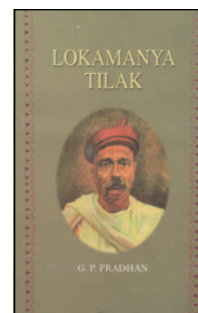
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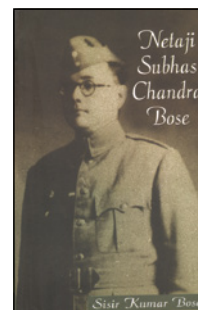
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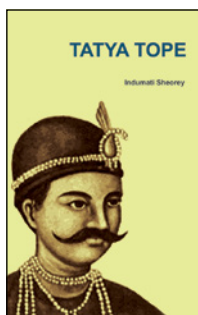
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## #MyBookMyFriend

Among the interesting initiatives that Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development took, especially for children and the young during Lockdown is #MyBookMyFriend campaign. As part of this campaign, we request young readers (Age groups: 6-8, 9-11, 12-14) to share with us the books they read during Lockdown. Select reviews of such books will be published in the columns of our NBT Newsletter. The reviews along with passport size photographs and the cover page of the book may be sent to Editor, NBT Newsletter at nbtnewsletter06@gmail.com or by post to Editor, NBT Newsletter, Nehru Bhawan, 5 Institutional Area, Phase II, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi – 110070.



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## Redefining Education

NBT India partnered with CII Education for the summit on 'Redefining Education for the Emerging World'. The 10-day summit began from 25 June 2020.

Organized on virtual platform, the summit was inaugurated by Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development, Government of India in the presence of Shri BVR Mohan Reddy, Chairman, CII Education Council; Shri Chandrajeet Banerji, Director General, CII; and Ms Radhika Bharat Ram, Co-chair, CII Education Council.

The objective of this summit was to discuss the disruption of conventional education system at school and university levels as well as its impact on the technology landscape, learning outcomes, academic calendars and industry recruitments. A large number of experts from various fields including educationists, academicians, psychiatrists, among others participated at the event.

NBT India setup a virtual booth at the summit to showcase its publications and other events organized by it.

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**Editor:** Binny Kurian

**Editorial Associate:** Surekha Sachdeva

**Production Officer:** Narender Kumar



**NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA**

Nehru Bhawan, 5 Institutional Area,  
Vasant Kunj, Phase-II New Delhi-110 070

E-mail: office.nbt@nic.in

**Website:** www.nbtindia.gov.in

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