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## Kashi-Tamil Sangamam: Shared Knowledge, Shared Traditions

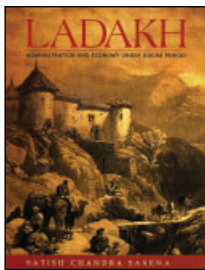
“The sacredness of Benares is both a fact and a matter of faith. . . The true Ganges is within you.”  
-Ramana Maharshi

Home to myriad languages, cultural traditions and geographical landscapes, India has always been known as the quintessential melting pot. Shared heritage was and continues to be the defining feature of Indian society with developments in trade, travel and science further enhancing this process through the ages. One such aspect is the centuries old ties between Kashi and Tamil Nadu, currently being celebrated at the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam, being organised by the Ministry of Education, Government of India from 17th November to 16th December 2022. This significance was emphasised upon by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his inaugural address—“Confluence plays a very vital role in our country, from the confluence of rivers, knowledge and thoughts. This Sangamam is the celebration of India’s diverse cultures.”

It provides the roadmap for other states to explore similar cultural connections and amplify the message of *Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat*. The connection between the two ranges from the ancient times of the Pandyas to as recent as the foundation of BHU, one of the premier educational institutions of Kashi and to the present times where both exist in popular imagination as venerated seats of learning.

Rabindranath Tagore once said, “If God had so wished, he would have made all Indians speak with one language . . . the unity of India has been and shall always be a unity in diversity.” More than 19500 dialects are spoken today in the country with Kashi and Tamil Nadu being centres of the world’s oldest languages—Sanskrit and Tamil. Luminaries like Subramania Bharati stayed in Kashi, learned Sanskrit and Hindi and enriched the local

### PICK OF THE MONTH



Ladakh

Administration and Economy under Dogra Period

Satish Chandra Saxena

Rs. 540.00

ISBN: 978-93-5491-480-5



culture thereby delivering lectures in Tamil. This kind of assimilation of different vibrant traditions enabled the making of a syncretic whole that characterises the cultural ethos of India.

The civilisational history of India places both Kashi and Tamil Nadu on a high pedestal for their contribution towards knowledge building, development of a vibrant linguistic tradition and the spread of spirituality. In the 15th Century, King Adhiveera Pandiyan, descendant of the dynasty which established Sivakasi, built the Shiva Temple in Tenkasi, south-western Tamil Nadu, for those devotees who couldn't visit Kashi. Much later in time, the revered Saint Kumaragurupara, born in Tirunelveli in the 17th century, wrote the Kashi Kalambakam, a grammatical composition of poems on Kashi and established the Kumaraswamy Mutt. This exchange not only introduced the people of the two regions to different customs, it also made boundaries between traditions fluid and dynamic with parts of one flowing into the other. Kashi and Tamil Nadu have emerged as major temple cities, home to some of the most magnificent temples like the Kashi Vishwanath Temple and the Ramanathaswamy Temple. Renowned writer and businessman, S.M.L. Lakshmanan Chettiar (1921-1986) was born in Sivaganga and compiled about 20 Kumbabishekam volumes on major temples in India ranging from Kashi to Rameswaram. This feat was achieved after years of extensive travelling and absorbing the traditions of a hitherto foreign land. The National Education Policy of 2020 aspires to create a learning environment along these lines where learning is informed by traditions on one hand and scientific developments on the other, firmly rooted in indigenous knowledge and keeping pace with global advancements.

The linkages between the two regions span across realms and there has been a history of active academic, literary and artistic discourse between them. While Kashi exemplified Pandita Parampara, Tamil Nadu saw the rise of Tamil ilakkiaparambarai (Tamil literary tradition). Eminent personalities like CV Raman were present at the Foundation Ceremony of Banaras Hindu University and the former President of India, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was its Vice-Chancellor. Both Kashi and Chennai have been recognised by UNESCO as Creative Cities of Music and this illustrious connection can be seen in how the legendary singer, actress and recipient of the Bharat Ratna, M.S. Subbulakshmi was trained by Kashi's celebrated Hindustani singer Siddheshwari Devi. The culture of a place can be best studied and defined by its aesthetic traditions and both these places have preserved and nurtured a rich corpus of shared art and literature.



The emergence and development of societies have since time immemorial taken place around the presence of rivers. Be it modes of transportation, trade and commerce or poetry, rivers occupy a central position in all realms. Kashi and Tamil Nadu are particularly distinct because of two of the mightiest rivers, Ganga and Kaveri, with the latter being popularly known as Dakshin Ganga. These riverine societies are centred around the sacredness of the rivers that flow through them, encompassing them in a kind of cultural and philosophical unity. It has not just shaped them socio-economically but has also resulted in major works of art and literature.

When the legacy that we inherit is one with such vibrant history and connection, the preservation of it assumes paramount importance. It is imperative that the knowledge of this shared heritage is passed down to the younger generations and they are provided with a perspective about India's cultural and civilisational ethos.

Mahatma Gandhi rightly said, "Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilization." The Kashi-Tamil Sangamam is an effort to achieve this ideal. It is symbolic of the meeting of the two ends of the country, North and South. It is a place where students, teachers, professionals from all fields, and experts of culture and heritage come together and endeavour to keep alive the essence of this shared heritage and find avenues to create new ones.

This is being done through seminars and tours of Kashi, Ayodhya and Prayagraj for guests from Tamil Nadu on literature, archeology, history, music et cetera and book translations. Staying true to the artistic and cultural heritage of the two cities, the events also include Bharatanatyam and folk dance performances, exhibitions on art-culture, music and books and festivals based on South Indian food and Tamil films. India's identity is a result of centuries worth of assimilation and like the Kashi-Tamil strands, there are thousands of strands that make it the vital union that it is today.

- Shri Yuvraj Malik  
Director, NBT-India



## Know More About NDWBF 2023

New Delhi World Book Fair, is back in its in-person format from 25 Feb to 05 March 2023 in ITPO's new International Exhibition Centre at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Organised by National Book Trust, India since 1972, NDWBF is celebrating its 50 years' journey.

This edition will showcase special pavilions on *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsava*, G20, Award-winning books, Yuva authors, India@75, Sri Aurobindo, as well as various photo exhibitions, Army band and Open-mic events at the Amphitheatre, and much more.

With France as the Guest of Honour Country, the specially designed Guest Pavilion will have a delegation of about 60 authors, publishers, illustrators, dignitaries, etc. Book lovers will get a unique opportunity to enjoy French literature and culture at the Foreign Pavilion along with a variety of literary activities at the International Events Corner.

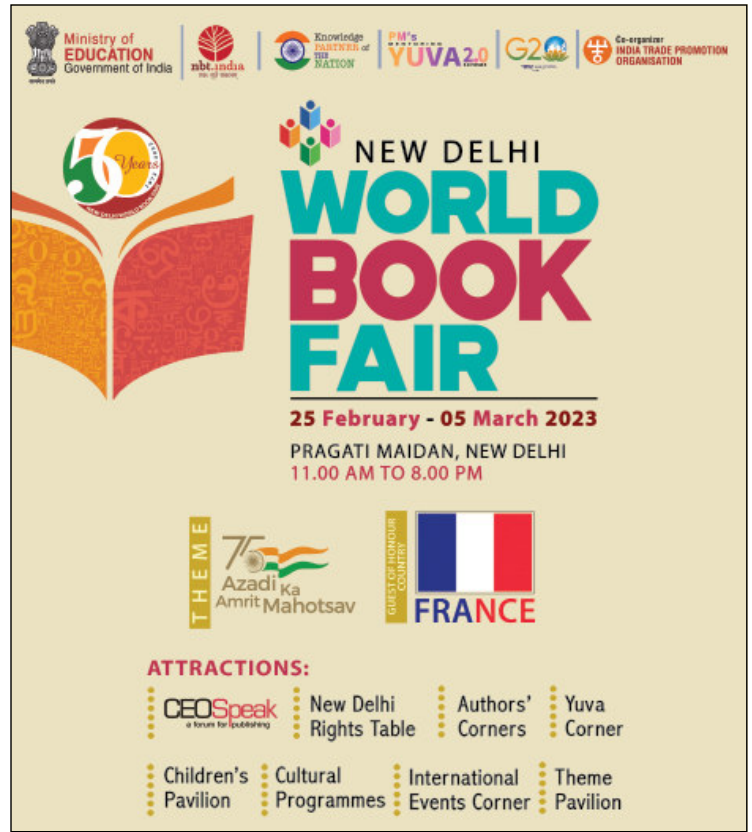
In addition, there will be B2B conferences – the New Delhi Rights Table (in a new format), re-launch of translation grant assistance scheme, CEOSpeak, and the regular Author's Corners, Children's Pavilion, cultural performances – all in all a treat for booklovers!

NDWBF 2023 will have a centrally-placed, specially designed Theme Pavilion

on *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*, commemorating 75 years of Indian Independence and the glorious history of its people, culture, and achievements put-up across 1000 sq.m. with special exhibits, exhibition of more than 750 titles on Freedom Fighters, National Movement of India, etc. in all major Indian languages and in English.

There will be a Digital Exhibition of India's achievements during the last 75 years, an Events Corner for hosting panel discussions, books, and photo exhibitions, book releases, cultural events, etc.

The aesthetically-built Theme Pavilion is being designed by National Institute of



Design, Ahmedabad - the Design Partner of NDWBF.

Visitors to the fair will be able to browse through a number of books in many foreign languages put up by about 20 international exhibitors.

## NBT-India's Book Exhibition at NOMA, Kota House

On 19 November 2022, National Book Trust, India set up a book exhibition at the Naval Officers' Mess Annex (NOMA), Kota House, Delhi. An engaging storytelling session with

Dr Payal Chaudhary was also organised for the children visiting the exhibition. Through the storytelling, Dr Payal Chaudhary encouraged children to get into the healthy habit of reading. Visitors and book lovers

took immense interest in the variety of titles displayed. NBT-India's bestselling titles as well as titles published under the newly launched publishing series, India@75 were put up in addition to books in all Indian languages.





## NBT-India Participates in Ganga Utsav – The River Festival

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) initiative under the Ministry of Jal Shakti organised Ganga Utsav-The River Festival 2022 on 4th November 2022 across 75 locations around the country to celebrate the rivers of India to align with *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav* initiative of the Government of India to celebrate 75 years of India's independence. The main event was organised at Major Dhyan Chand Stadium

in New Delhi. The main objective of this event was to celebrate the rivers of India and spread awareness on the significance of river rejuvenation across the river basins in India.

National Book Trust, India put up a collective exhibit of titles published in various genres and multiple Indian languages. A special display of NBT-India's new publishing series, *India@75* was also put up. Delegates from Namami Gange as

well as visitors enthusiastically browsed through various titles. Multiple interactive story-telling sessions by Ms Shivani Kanodia on books published by NBT-India - 'Story of our Rivers' and 'A Journey to Gaumukh' was held for students visiting the NBT-India stall at the event. Activities such as puppet shows, film screenings, painting, pottery and nest-making workshops were also organised at the event.



## NBT-India's Brahmaputra Pustak Parikrama

As part of its various activities to promote books and reading, National Book Trust, India has launched the Brahmaputra Pustak Parikrama from 7 November to 24 December 2022. Visiting 17 cities on the banks of the Brahmaputra river NBT-India's Mobile Exhibition Van encouraged healthy reading habits by spreading awareness about the literary of the area by organising talks with prominent literary figures and hosting events in collaboration with schools.

The Brahmaputra Pustak Parikrama was flagged-off from Army Public School, Basistha, Guwahati on 7 November 2022 by Sri Arup Kr Dutta, Smt. Bandita Phukan, Sri Paresh Malakar, Sri Dudulmoni Sarmah and Sri. Debojit Patowari. The students of the school enthusiastically participated in activities such as storytelling, creative writing and drawing competitions organised by NBT-India.



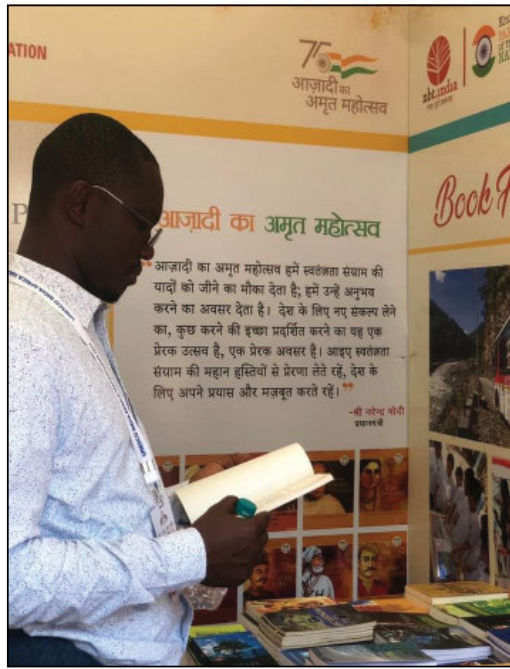


# NBT-India Participates in UNESCO India-Africa Hackathon

The UNESCO India-Africa Hackathon was brings together students, educators, and the research community of India along with its African partners to tackle the common challenges faced by their countries and serves as a facilitator for cultural amalgamation.

This year, the Hackathon was organised at Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida from 22-25 November 2022. It provided a suitable platform allowing young innovators to come together and find solutions for social, environmental and technical problems faced by the collaborating nations.

At the event, NBT-India set up a display of its best-selling and recently published titles showcasing the literary and cultural amalgamation of India and Africa through books. Visitors got to browse through books across genres published by NBT-India.



NEW DELHI  
FRIDAY  
NOVEMBER 18, 2022

Hindustan Times

KALEIDOSCOPE

03

## NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA BOOKLIST

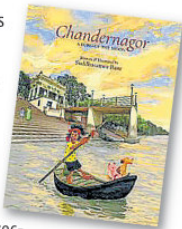
### ENTHRALLING TALES THAT WILL TEACH US A LOT TOO

This week list brings fun and interesting titles to suit the varied taste of children. Get acquainted with the quaint culture and beauty of the town of Chandernagor, which was a French colony. Learn about the life of the spiritual master Sri Aurobindo who has touched uncountable lives for over a century. Explore India like never before: through her incredible dance forms! And enjoy a virtual deep dive to meet Octi that will teach you about aquatic animals.

#### CHANDERNAGOR – A BURG OF THE MOON

Author: Sudhasattwa Basu

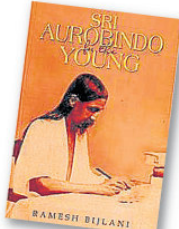
This book presents an illustrated chronicle of the quaint yet historical city of Chandernagor, a former French Colony. It is now a popular site for enthusiasts of the Indo-French architecture, festivals, cuisine and culture. The book's plot manoeuvres its way through the unique heritage of the titular city as a French colony and connects it to India's freedom movement, while being interspersed with the childhood memories of the author. This informative narrative, accompanied with striking illustrations, promises to keep the readers engrossed. Sudhasattwa Basu is a renowned illustrator, painter and animation filmmaker.



#### SRI AUROBINDO FOR THE YOUNG

Author: Ramesh Bijlani

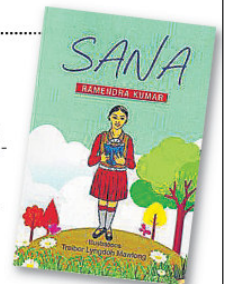
Sri Aurobindo was a freedom fighter, writer and philosopher, but above all, he was a spiritual master. His teachings were rational and radical. He had futuristic vision and believed that having hope and optimism would lead to a bright world in a not so distant future. He also gave a blueprint for the bright future that awaits mankind. Sri Aurobindo for the Young has been published to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of this great visionary. The book is filled with his teachings and lesser-known facts about his life. It is a highly readable blend of Sri Aurobindo life, works and vision written in a way that the little ones would enjoy.



#### SANA

Author: Ramendra Kumar

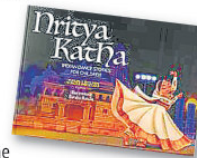
Sana, the protagonist of this gripping novella, is a shy and sensitive 14 years old who suddenly finds herself at a new school, surrounded by new faces. This is a tale of her dilemma as she contemplates if this change would be like a living nightmare or an adventure worth undertaking. Experience the various emotions involved in the relationships the children share, in this interesting read. Ramendra Kumar is a writer for children with 35 books in English. They are also available in 15 Indian and 14 foreign languages. He has also written satire, poetry, travelogues, adult fiction and non-fiction.



#### NRITYA KATHA: INDIAN DANCE STORIES FOR CHILDREN

Author: Jaya Mehta

Nritya Katha: Indian Dance Stories for Children is a wonderful collection of stories about the colourful world of dancing. This book talks about the dance forms of India, the dance capital of the world with its eight classical and hundreds of regional dances! Filled with beautiful illustrations that support the stories, this book provides children a chance to learn new things about Indian dance forms in a fun way. The dance stories take us through the world of children today, on a roller-coaster of holidays, shifting homes, watching performances, learning new art forms and finding out how technology meets culture!



#### AMAZING OCTI

Author: Viky Arya

Octi the octopus lives in a deep sea. He wants to be your friend and play 'Hide & Seek' with you. Are you ready? For this you have to go deep down under the sea. And remember... our Octi is amazing. He can change colours to hide. To play with him just count 1-10 and open the book. When you find him, speak aloud "I SPY OCTI!" Viky Arya is a poet, sculptor, illustrator, lyricist, writer and advertising professional. She is also a specialist in social communication and a national award winner for children's literature. Her large portfolio of diverse artwork spans several styles. This is just the kind of story that little children would enjoy reading because it is really engaging.





## NBT-India at Sharjah International Book Fair

National Book Trust, India participated in the Sharjah International Book Fair organised by Sharjah Book Authority from 2-13 November 2022.

NBT-India put up an India stall representing more than 200 books of over 30 Indian publishers at the fair. The India literature put on display got a tremendous response from book lovers visiting the fair as delegates and visitors browsed through the books across genres, depicting India's cultural and literary heritage. The visitors to the stall especially appreciated the Bilingual titles under NEP 2020 guidelines, and the newly published titles under India@75 series.



## NBT-India Organises Book Exhibition in Mumbai

A two-day Book Exhibition was organised by National Book Trust, India in Mumbai on 18 and 19 November 2022. The exhibit was set up at the Dr Homi J. Bhabha Hall, Atomic Energy Junior College, BARC Campus by NBT-India's Western Region Office.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Shri P. Govardhan, Secretary, Atomic Energy Education Society, Mumbai.



## Pariksha Pe Charcha 2023: Save the Date

*Let's celebrate exams like festivals*

**Pariksha Pe Charcha 2023**  
*is back....*

Save the date  
**27<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 (Friday)**

Venue  
**Talkatora Indoor Stadium, New Delhi**

Total participants registered **38.80 lakh**

Students	Teachers	Parents
31.24 lakh	5.60 lakh	1.95 lakh

From **150+ countries**



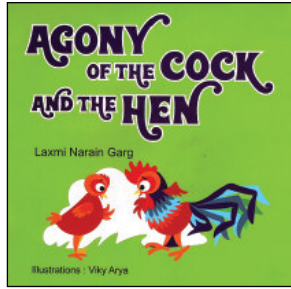
# NBT-India's Favourite Children's Reads of 2022

## Agony of the Cock and the Hen

Laxmi Narain Garg

ISBN: 978-93-5491-310-5

The village of Tablapur is home to a cock and a hen. The cock always used to flaunt his crown and boast about his flawless cock-a-doodle-doo skills. Living a life of competition and boastfulness, one day something happened that made their lives utterly miserable. Read on to find out the mystery of what caused the hen and the cock this agony.

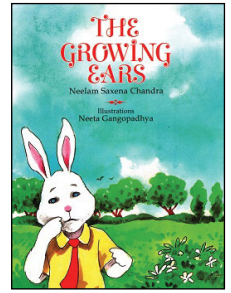


## The Growing Ears

Neelam Saxena Chandra

ISBN: 978-93-5491

Telling lies is bad or so we have always been told. Meet Rimi the Rabbit who never listens to her parents and has a habit of lying and playing pranks on all her friends. Her parents and teachers try their best to tell her why it's not right but all in vain. Read and find out how Viola the fairy's efforts will affect Rimi, will she finally become good or stay the same?

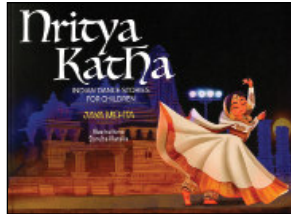


## Nritya Katha: Indian Dance Stories for Children

Jaya Mehta

ISBN: 978-93-5491

This book is a wonderful collection of stories about the colourful world of Dancing. India is the dance capital of the world with eight classical dances and hundreds of regional dances! Filled with beautiful illustrations supporting the stories, the children will get to learn a lot of things about these Indian dance forms.

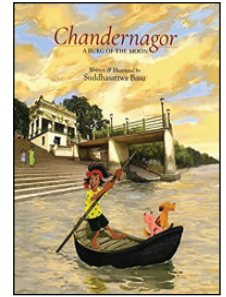


## Chandernagor

Suddhasattwa Basu

ISBN: 978-93-549-1222-1

This book presents an illustrated chronicle of the quaint yet historical city of Chandernagor, a former French Colony. It is now a popular site for enthusiasts of the Indo-French architecture, festivals, cuisine and culture. The book's plot manoeuvres its way through the unique heritage of the titular city as a French Colony and connects it to India's freedom movement, while being interspersed with the childhood memories of the author. This informative narrative, accompanied with striking illustrations, promises to keep the readers engrossed.



## Amazing Octi

Viky Arya

ISBN: 978-93-5491

Octi the octopus lives in the deep sea. He wants to be your friend and play a game of Hide & Seek with you. Let us go deep down under the sea. To play with him just count from 1 to 10 and open the book. When you see him, say "I SPY OCTI!"

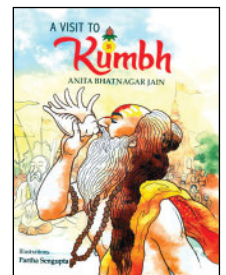


## Kumbh

Anita Bhatnagar Jain

ISBN: 978-93-5491

An interesting story that speaks about one of the largest human congregations on the Earth, at major pilgrimage and festival – Kumbh Mela and introduces the same to children.



## Birds Laughing

Viky Arya

ISBN: 978-93-5491

This fascinating book for kids shows how various birds laugh through its vibrant colours and cheerful illustrations. The children get introduced to a fun-filled world in this book as it comes with interesting and engaging drawing and colouring exercises.

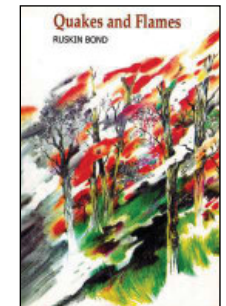


## Quakes and Flames

Ruskin Bond

Illustrator: Subir Roy

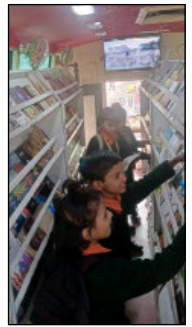
Grippingly written by the well-known children's author, this book consists of two stories which depict two natural calamities which frequently afflict 139 India—earthquakes and forest fires. The drama of the events is evoked by the powerful black and white pencil sketches.





# Glimpses from NBT-India's Ganga Pustak Parikrama

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Editor: Binny Kurian

Editorial Associates: Swati Malik & Hitakshee Malik  
 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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