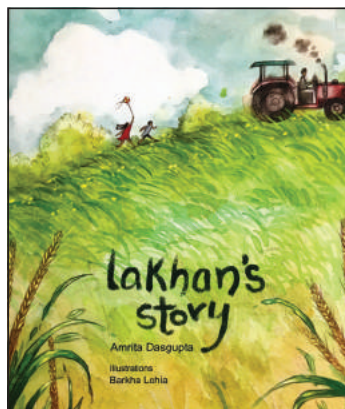


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## PICK OF THE MONTH



**Lakhan's Story**

Amrita Dasgupta

Illustrations by Barkha Lohia

978-81-237-9272-9; Rs 35

## NBT Celebrates FIT INDIA Movement



### *Hum Fit Toh India fit!*

So runs the slogan encouraging people to follow a fitness regime for the health of each individual and the nation. Following the call of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for 'Fit India Movement', National Book Trust, India is organizing a month-long NBT's Fit India campaign.

The campaign began with a 'Freedom Run' competition on 1 October 2020. The participants had to complete a distance of 2.5 kilometers within Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, starting from the NBT premises to Biodiversity Park and back. The event saw the participation of over 100 NBT



employees. The age, gender or physical disability did not deter the enthusiasm of the participants.

The winners were awarded NBT publications like *Quest of Olympic Gold*, *Adventure Sports*, *Cricket aur Bharat*, etc.

The month-long campaign will feature various sporting events like Badminton, Volleyball, Table Tennis and Cricket. The campaign is also being complemented with the videos of encouraging words by NBT officials to spare at least half-an-hour daily for exercise. These videos are being posted at various social media platforms by NBT.



## Online Training Course in Book Publishing



National Book Trust, India is organising the second edition of its three-month long online training course in book publishing from 26 September 2020 to 20 December 2020.

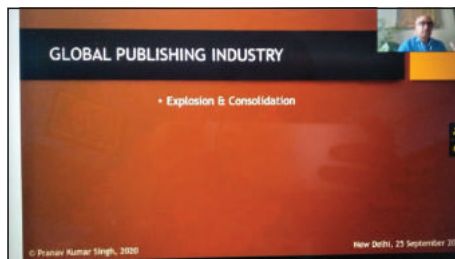
“This online course by NBT will encourage and help in developing skills of the publishing aspirants,” said Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, NBT at the virtual inauguration of the programme.

While addressing the participants about the Course, Prof. Sharma said that the course will make them academically sound and aware of the technicalities involved in various aspects of the publishing. He also talked about how the publishing industry has grown in India with the development of education and printing technology. He also observed that writings in different Indian languages have

played a crucial role in the development of the industry. “The Publishing Course of today will create skilled publishing professionals for tomorrow,” said Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT.

To create a pool of trained professionals for the publishing industry, said Shri Malik, National Book Trust, India is organising its annual Training Course in Book Publishing, and with the changing times, the digital version has been able to involve more participants from across the country in a bigger format.

Interacting with the participants, Shri Malik said that regular online assignments will form part of the course and study material will be provided to students before the scheduled online lecture. He also said that participants can serve as interns at NBT after the completion of the course.



The leading professionals who are part of the faculty include Shri Yuvraj Malik, Shri Pranav Singh, Shri Manish Arora, Shri Sridhar Balan, Shri Vivek Mehra, Shri G S Jolly, Shri Prabhat Kumar, Ms Sumita Mukherjee, Prof. Nandini Sahu, Shri Kalyan Banerjee, Shri M A Sikandar, Shri Kumar Vikram, Shri Himanshu Giri, Shri Balendu Dadhichi, Shri D Sarkar and Ms Arunima Roy.

Concluding the session, Ms Neera Jain, Chief Editor & Joint Director, NBT urged the participants to benefit from this course and be the publishing professionals that they wish to be.

The session was moderated by Ms Carolyn Pao, English Editor and the course is being coordinated by Shri Narendra Kumar, Production Officer, NBT.

## Webinar on Children's Literature

National Book Trust, India was the knowledge partner at a two-day Webinar on Children's Literature, organised by Salila Sanstha, Salumber from 10-11 October 2020.

“The importance of children's literature is like a child at home,” said Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, NBT at the inaugural of the webinar. Prof. Sharma said that a literature is not complete without children's literature. He added that while one can feel the varied emotions in literature for adults, whereas children's literature is simple and pure. One can find positivity and inspiration from the words, emotions and thoughts expressed in children's literature.



Dr Vikas Dave, Chairman, Madhya Pradesh Hindi Sahitya Akademi presided over the function. He focused on the importance of the one-act plays. He said that one-act plays are very popular as they have all the elements of acting.

Dr Vimla Bhandari, chairperson and founder, Salila Sansthan; Shri Anil

Jaiswal, well-known editor, Dr Renu Srivastava among others also spoke on the occasion.

During the second session, the panelists discussed about the various aspects of one-act plays. The panelists included Shri Govind Sharma Sangria, Shri Umesh Chaurasia, Shri Rajnikant Shukl and Shri Rakesh Chandra. In the third session, the children who participated in one-act play writing competition, presented their stories.

On the concluding day, various discussions on different forms of stories in children's literature like environment, biographies, fairy tales, among others were held.



## Mahatma Gandhi and Swachchata

National Book Trust, India was the Knowledge Partner at an event on 'Mahatma Gandhi's Experiments with Swachchata - Key to Prosperity'. The event was organised by Kendriya Bhandar and Centre for Strategy and Leadership at Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 2 October 2020.

In his inaugural address, Dr Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region and Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office talked about the importance and relevance of Cleanliness in today's times. He also shared many lesser-known anecdotes of Mahatma Gandhi's life.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri



Yuvraj Malik, Director, National Book Trust, India talked about Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy on Cleanliness and Swachchata, and how Cleanliness in our everyday lives by each individual will ensure the rise of our Nation as a premier country in the world. He also said that Cleanliness is a journey... We have to keep doing it. Healthy surroundings, healthy body, healthy mind leads to productivity and prosperity. He shared the many initiatives of National Book Trust, India, and the steps taken in following Mahatma Gandhi's thoughts and philosophies; in addition to publishing books on and by Gandhiji.

Other Speakers at the event

included Ms Parmeshwari Bagri, Chairperson, Kendriya Bhandar; Shri Mukesh Kumar, Managing Director, Kendriya Bhandar; Shri Mayank Agarwal, Director General, Doordarshan; and Shri Vikas Sharma, Director & CEO, CSL.

A bouquet of books published by NBT on Mahatma Gandhi were presented to all the dignitaries.

NBT has published about 25 titles on and by Mahatma Gandhi in more than 22 languages. An exhibit of these books was also on display at the Vigyan Bhawan for the benefit of the visitors.

The event was aimed at celebrating and appreciating the visionary ideas of Mahatma Gandhi on various aspects of cleanliness.



## Workshop on Hindi

National Book Trust, India organised a workshop on 'How to Use Standard Hindi in Official Work' (Sarkari Karya Mein Manak Hindi Vartani Ka Prayog) at NBT Conference Hall, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi on 8 October 2020.

Dr Kumud Sharma, well-known educationist and Principal, Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Shamli, Uttar Pradesh conducted the workshop, where she highlighted several



common errors that usually creep in the usage of Hindi.

Talking about the common errors, Dr Kumud Sharma said that India being a multilingual country, one can see the varied influence of different languages and dialects, etc. while using the Hindi. Over the years, she added, there is a tendency to forget the various nuances of the language.

Because of which there came a need to standardize Hindi among its users.

The workshop was organized in the presence of Ms Neera Jain, Chief Editor & Joint Director, NBT.

Earlier, Shri Rakesh Kumar Yadav, Deputy Director and Rajbhasha Adhikari, welcomed the guests.

The programme was conducted by Shri R K Singh, Hindi Consultant.



## Model United Nations Conference 2020

National Book Trust, India was the Knowledge Partner at the Model United Nations (MUN) Conference 2020. The virtual conference was organised by the University Law College, Bengaluru, from 2 - 4 October 2020. Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT, was the Chief Guest at the inaugural function where he also launched the Event Booklet.

In his address Shri Yuvraj Malik, spoke about the concept of 'Global Citizen' as propounded by Mahatma Gandhi, and as a messenger of non-violence, justice and peace. Shri Malik also talked about the role of United Nations and associate organisations in the world working towards



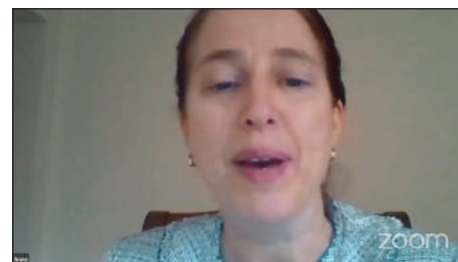
peacekeeping, peace-building, nation building and above all - that of working for humanity and individuals as a whole and not for any particular nationality.

Earlier, Prof. Suresh V. Nadagoudar, Principal, University Law College welcomed the guests.

On this occasion, Shri Naman Vankdari President, ULC-MUN,



introduced the Conference 2020. In addition, Ms Anne Lee Seshadri, Public Affairs Officer, Consulate of the USA, Chennai gave the inaugural Address; Shri Samarth Pathak, Communications Officer for South Asia, UNODC and Shri Kiri Atri, Assistant External Relations Officer, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees delivered their addresses as Guests of Honour; Prof. Dr. Venugopal K.R., Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Bangalore University delivered the Presidential Address; and Prof. Dr. V. Sudesh, Former Principal, Dean & Chairman, University Law College proposed the vote of thanks.



## Colombo International Book Fair

The 22nd Colombo International Book Fair was held at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, Colombo from 18 – 27 September 2020. Shri Vidura Wickramanayake, State Minister of National Heritage, Performing Arts & Rural Arts Promotion, Sri Lanka inaugurated the Fair. Over 150 publishers, both local and foreign participated in the Fair and displayed their books in over 400 stalls.

National Book Trust, India also participated in the Fair and displayed over 200 publications from different publishers across the country at its stall. Books of different genres including science & technology, social science, educational books, children's books, biography, art & culture were displayed.



### Pledge to Fight Against Covid-19

As part of Jan Andolan for Covid-19 Appropriate Behaviour Campaign launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, the employees of National Book Trust, India took the pledge to follow Covid-19 safety norms on 8 October 2020. The pledge was administered by Ms Neera Jain, Chief Editor & Joint Director, NBT. Several banners have been displayed at the NBT premises to encourage employees to wear masks, follow social distancing and wash hands with soap at regular intervals.





## Book Review

National Book Trust, India, has published a book titled *The Code of Life: Revolutions in Genetics* written by Mohan Sundara Rajan. *Gyan Vitaranam*, a magazine for teens and youth, has published its review by Shri S.S. Pillai in its September-October 2020 issue. Herein we reproduce the review. - Editor

This book in the Popular Science series of NBT, tells the story of fascinating revolutions in the study of genetics. This is a timely publication, as it lucidly provides the biological background for a lay reader to understand human immunity and the efforts Involved In producing a vaccine against Covid-19.

The author, one of our regular contributors, is an acclaimed national award-winning science writer with numerous popular science books to his credit.

The manual deals with the chemical language of life and its functions, known as genetics. Genes, indicated by the code, control everything, be it our skin colour or blood sugar. They determine which proteins are made and when, which is the very basis of our life.

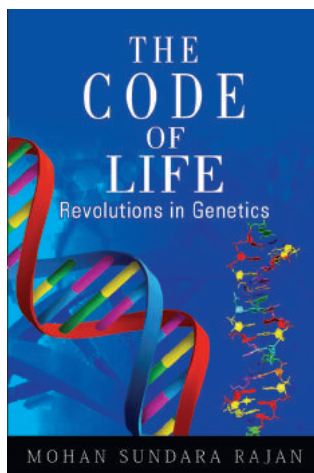
The title traces the discoveries in genetics from the experiments on plants done by Gregor Mendel, an Austrian monk in the 17th century. Several remarkable insights into the human genes were revealed in the following centuries; the most notable being the discovery of the double helix shape of human DNA by Watson and Crick in 1953. The publication highlights the remarkable contribution of Rosalind Franklin, whose first X-ray diffraction image was 'used' by her colleague, Crick, to announce the discovery, which was recognised for a Nobel Prize. Rosalind remained 'the wronged heroine of DNA', unrecognised in a male-dominated evaluation system. It is good to remember her contribution, when her 100th birth anniversary is celebrated this year.

After the human genome was sequenced in 2003 in the ten-year 'Human Genome Project', several revolutionary discoveries were made. The Project led to a realistic revision of the number of human genes. This, in turn, threw up a puzzle viz., the genes that code for proteins were found to occupy less than two per cent of

the total genome, a finding which initially led to the mistaken idea that most DNA is junk. Further discoveries debunked the junk theory and showed that the so-called junk is in fact an intricate web of control over the genetic code.

The genetic code is no longer considered merely as a template for producing exact copies of itself but a script controlled by 'epigenetic' markers. Further explorations showed that inheritance is not DNA-centric and that features like intelligence are not pre-determined. Ideas of racial superiority based on skin colour were also demolished.

Other discoveries exposed the vast range of inherent differences among individuals, though not all differences are harmful. The differences between man and woman are only biological, which do not support any comparisons in terms of superiority between the sexes. Describing these developments, the book goes on to show how genetic differences extend to one's immunity as well.



978-81-237-9118-0  
Rs 270

The pioneers of gene-editing, Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier, whose work is highlighted in the book, have won this year's Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

The work traces the ongoing efforts to discover genetic links to diseases such as cancer in the hope of getting correct and timely diagnosis and finding cures.

### Most recent innovation

The book then takes up the most recent innovation viz., gene editing, which is considered a biological breakthrough of this century. For the first time in history, it was discovered that humans can not only sequence and read the genetic code but rewrite it as well to fix malfunctions.

The book describes the gene-editing technique, called CRISPR-Cas9 as well as its risks and hastens to explain the follow-up discoveries of less risky technologies. Equally mind-boggling is the remarkable discovery of regeneration of human organs using one's own stem cells. The opus highlights the historic first achievements that have successfully exploited the potential of stem cells to re-grow desired body parts, promising a new life to many victims of age and accident.

Another chapter explains the Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning in rediscovering the genome for better health care. Another chapter explains the work of Craig Venter, a pioneer of genome sequencing, of creating synthetic biological parts for constructive purposes.

The last chapter calls for a comprehensive study of India's genetic variety, with safeguards in the use of personal genetic data. It provides an overview of the wide range of world class institutions in the country that could undertake research in genetics in line with the latest trends.

The developments reported are up-to-date, even as several basic concepts are explained. The illustrations, including many in colour, are well chosen and presented with detailed captions. In short, the chronicle is a masterpiece of science writing useful to a wide range of readers including students, researchers, health managers and journalists.

## Excerpts

Manoj Das is one of India's best loved storytellers. Born in 1934, he started to write in Odia when he was just 14 years old, and the very first short story he wrote (1950) is considered a classic in that language. NBT India has recently published a book titled *Legend of the Golden Valley*. Herein we reproduce an excerpt from the book. - Editor

### Star-fruit on the Blue Mountain

Raju stopped singing and looked at the smiling girl, no less amazed than she was.

"Please go on, please!" said the girl impatiently.

Raju gazed at the girl, almost unable to take his eyes off her.

"Is it not rather strange?" he murmured at last.

"What is strange?"

"I see you for the first ever time, but your smile seems so familiar to me! Did you ever visit my land known as the Golden Valley?" asked Raju.

The girl laughed. "No. I have never had any need for going out of my own valley. Don't you find this valley quite beautiful?" she asked in her turn.

"I could not have imagined a more beautiful land. Wait, I have just remembered something interesting. I often escaped into the forest and passed hours playing there amidst bushes and brooks. A very colourful bird would come down as though tearing through the clouds and perch on a tree. It would go on repeating: 'In a faraway land there is a princess—a princess!' At last that is what its trill meant to me. At once a smiling face would float before my vision. You remind me of that vision."

"Of course, I am the princess of this land. But I have often heard in my sleep the kind of sound you were making with your voice now. How much have I wanted to do something similar! But I am told that in the land beyond there is a deity. Unless we receive a boon from her we just cannot do it. And none of us can cross over there to obtain the boon!" she said with a sigh.

"But I was only singing!"

"Only singing? I wish I could do that only once—for all my worth!" cried out the princess.

"I don't understand why you don't sing! Your voice is so sweet!"

"We cannot sing! That virtue is not

given to us! Perhaps nobody else in our land yearns for it either. But I'd love to sing."

He suddenly remembered that they were not human beings, after all! He also remembered what the hermit had once told him. "No animal can ever talk. And look at men. They can talk; but instead of truly talking, some of them hiss like serpents, some gibber on like apes and some like to bark—all in the name of talking!"

Raju now realised how lucky human beings are. They can smile, they can sing, they can dare do wonders. But something renders all their powers and virtues meaningless. The hermit said—that is ignorance.

"O Princess, to tell you in confidence, I am out to meet the deity of the land beyond. But I do not know the way. Will you please show it to me? I promise to bring for you the boon that would enable you to sing!" said Raju.

"Let me also tell you in confidence that atop the blue mountain yonder there is a unique plant that bears only one fruit in a year called the star fruit. If one eats that, one can cross into the land beyond," said the princess.

"Why haven't any of you ever eaten the fruit?" The princess laughed. "We do not eat as you human beings do," she revealed with a smile.

"Don't you say so! How do you grow? How do you get strength for walking and

talking?" asked Raju, rather puzzled, for he knew that the princess would never lie.

"We grow just as flowers grow; we derive strength from the sunlight and the breeze. Why, do you feel hungry here?"

"Indeed I don't. In any case, you can eat the fruit even though you did not feel hungry!"

"We cannot. In this land one just cannot do what one ought not to do," explained the princess.

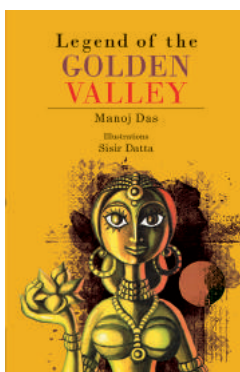
A deer was running by. The princess shouted at it, "O sweet, sweet deer, will you find out if the plant on the blue mountain has borne its fruit for the year?"

The deer at once climbed the nearest hillock. It stood on its hind legs, yet its eyes did not reach the plant on the blue mountain. At a hint from it, a rabbit climbed onto its head and stretched its neck to survey the plant, but in vain. At a signal from it, a squirrel climbed onto its head, but since it too could not see the plant, it called up a bird on a tree at hand. The bird trilled the message out to an eagle that was circling above. The eagle dived towards the star plant and sent down the information, "The fruit should be ripe in a day!"

"Excellent. You can be here for a day and then eat the fruit and brave into the land beyond," the princess told Raju.

Raju had amazing experiences during his short stay there. He understood that it was the land of the ever-content. No doubt, the dwellers of the land had surprising powers. They could command the hue of the moonlight—whether it should be bluish or greenish or golden or silvery. They dreamt of charming things only and if they painted their dreams and if they so wished, the paintings sprang to life. Thus they had novel castles, beautiful lakes surrounded by trees abounding in flowers, and any number of strange things.

But Raju felt rather bored... Raju got the impression that they did not even know what hope is.



ISBN 978-81-237-9140-1; Rs 70

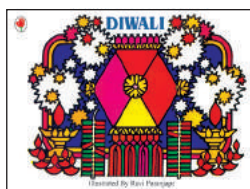
# NBT Publications for Children

## Diwali

Ravi Paranjape

Rs 20.00 12 pp

This book is about the festivities associated with Diwali, the festival of lights, decorating the house, exchange of sweets, wearing new clothes, puja, fireworks and Bhai Duj.



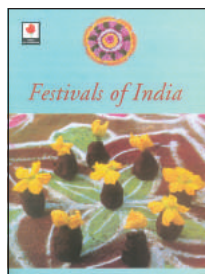
## Festivals of India

(A compilation)

Rs 65.00 92 pp

A compilation of the major festivals celebrated in India. Profusely illustrated with colour photographs.

ISBN 978-81-237-2248-1



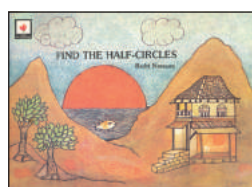
## Find the Half Circle

Badri Narayan

Rs 35.00 16 pp

A concept book, beautifully illustrated, teaching a child to find the semi-circular shapes.

ISBN 978-81-237-8830-2



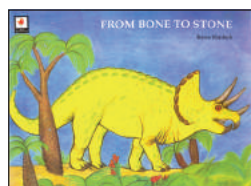
## From Bone to Stone

Karen Haydock

Rs 60.00 28 pp

An illustrated story of the fossilisation of a dinosaur which was killed around 67 million years ago in a fight with another dinosaur. The book also has many activities for children besides a chart showing the evolution of life on earth.

ISBN 978-81-237-2665-6



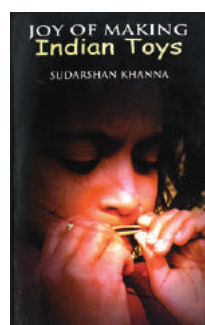
## Joy of Making Indian Toys

Sudarshan Khanna

Rs. 85.00 126 pp

This simple activity book teaches two things, namely, how to make 101 handmade toys which are playthings even today in remote corners of our country and how toys, simple in design and based on science and technology, can be made at home with discarded materials.

ISBN 978-81-237-2244-3



## Jungle Fun

Priya Nagarajan

Rs 120.00 38 pp

A fun filled activity book—full of games, brain teasers, stories and puzzles—that will keep children occupied for hours on end.

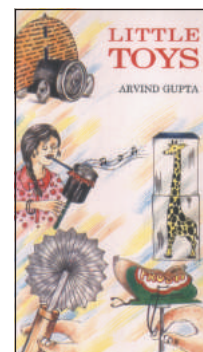
ISBN 978-81-237-3547-4

## Little Toys

Arvind Gupta

Rs 65.00 60 pp

A step-by-step, well-illustrated manual which children can use to prepare innovative, low-cost and eco-friendly toys from materials like discarded tetra packs, camera roll cases, soda straws and other junk.



## Some Street Games of India

Mulk Raj Anand

Rs 45.00 32 pp

A recapitulation of some of the common games played on the streets of India by young children.

ISBN 978-81-237-1099-0

## String Games

Arvind Gupta

Rs 45.00 64 pp

The book provides step-by-step instructions with illustrations for making diverse and interesting string figures. The fun-filled figures created by using strings of all sorts not only augment memory and imagination of young children but also enrich their eye-hand coordination.

ISBN 81-237-1721-0



## The Voyage of Trishna

T P S Chowdhury

Rs 18 79 pp

The book is an interesting and detailed account of the voyage of ten members of the First Indian Expedition which sailed around the world in a yacht, Trishna, covering 55,000 km in 470 days. The text is complemented with photographs, sketches and maps.

ISBN 978-81-237-1694-7

## Tricky Topical Ultimate Crosswords

Neeru Das & Saikat Das

Rs. 135.00 164 pp

Educating and entertaining, this unique book of crosswords is designed to engage and challenge some of the best crossword aficionados, word game enthusiasts as well as those interested in word meanings and usage.



## We Indians

Mehroo J Wadia

Rs 30 24 pp

This small attractive workbook emphasises national integration. It describes the dress, language and interests of people belonging to the various states of India.

ISBN 978-81-237-1097-6



## Obituary

**Kapila Vatsayayan**, renowned scholar and cultural administrator passed away on 16 September 2020. An exponent of classical dance forms, Vatsayayan wrote 20 books including *Traditional Indian Theatre* published by NBT. Besides, she was an active participant at several literary events including book releases, panel discussions, etc organized by the Trust.



Eminent litterateur and critic **Bauribandhu Kar** passed away on 19 September 2020. He wrote several books on Odia literature. His compilations including *Chandrasekhar Rathanka Shrestha Galpa*, *Krishna Prasad Mishranka Shrestha Galpa* and *Dagarathi Dasanka Shrestha Prabandha* have been published by National Book Trust, India.



Eminent Cardiologist, **Padmavati Sivaramakrishna Iyer** passed away on 29 August 2020. She was the first woman cardiologist of India. She was director of the National Heart Institute, Delhi, and the founder president of the All India Heart Foundation. An author of many research articles, one of her most popular books



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*Heart Disease and the Layman* published by National Book Trust, India.

**ANP Ummerkutty**, former Director of the Kerala Language Institute and former Vice Chancellor of Calicut University passed away on 9 September 2020. A Sahitya Akademi award winner, Dr Ummerkutty had written over 50 books in English and Malayalam on science, education, oceanography, biology, biography, current events, regional studies, culture etc. His book *Science of the Oceans* has been published by NBT.



*Just Read*

*NBT Newsletter* is the house magazine of the National Book Trust, India — an autonomous organisation of the Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education, Government of India.

The views expressed in the signed articles do not necessarily reflect the official views of the Trust.

**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

Readers are requested to write to the editor expressing their views about the NEWSLETTER.

Printed and published by Anuj Kumar Bharti on behalf of National Book Trust, India and printed at Aravali Printers and Publishers Pvt. Ltd., W-30 Phase-II, Okhla Industrial Area, New Delhi-110020, and published at National Book Trust, India, Nehru Bhawan, 5 Institutional Area, Phase-II, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070. Editor: Binny Kurian.

Typeset and designed at Capital Creations, Subhram Complex, Munirka, New Delhi-110 067.

*If undelivered please return to:*

National Book Trust, India, Nehru Bhawan, 5 Institutional Area, Phase-II, New Delhi - 110 070

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