



शिक्षा मंत्रालय  
भारत सरकार  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
Government of India

75  
आज़ादी का  
अमृत महोत्सव

# Sargya

## PUSTAK PARIKRAMA

03<sup>rd</sup> Oct to 22<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022



राष्ट्रीय पुस्तक न्यास, भारत  
शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार  
**NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA**  
Ministry of Education, Government of India



Knowledge  
PARTNER of  
THE  
NATION  
देश का नॉलेज पार्टनर



# Ganga Pustak Parikrama

न चोर हार्यं न च राज हार्यं  
न भ्रातृ भाज्यं न च भारकारि ।  
व्ययं कृते वर्धत एव नित्यं  
विद्याधनं सर्वधन प्रधानम् ॥

The Ganga is rightly called 'Maa' by Indians as the river plays a major role in the development of Indian civilisation. Life has blossomed along the river, and the Ganga has played an integral part in the development of the literary heritage of the country. The Upanishads were composed in a region by the river, Tulsidas composed the Ramcharitramanas on the banks of the river, and many great modern poets have come from cities by the river. The Ganga is mentioned several times in the Vedas, the Puranas, the Ramayana, and the Mahabharata. Literature, be it in oral or written form, has always flowed along the river. However, in recent times, we seem to have lost our connection with this great river and forgotten the literary heritage it carries with it. In doing so, we have lost out on literature in not just Hindi, but also Garhwali, Kumauni, Maithili, Urdu, Bhojपुरी, Magahi, Khortha, Santali, Surjapuri, Tharu, and Bengali.

We, at NBT, understand the importance of diverse voices in literature and aim to promote and support regional as well as mainstream authors with the thought of encouraging reading habits in the country. With this goal in mind, we have launched the **Ganga Pustak Parikrama**.

**Following the course of the Ganga, from Gangotri to the port of Haldia, visiting 20 cities with our book van to promote books written by local authors and celebrate the literary figures of the city. We aim to help people understand the literary heritage they come from.**

The Ganga has played an instrumental role in changing the spiritual lives of many, and helped people reevaluate their

lives and live in a better way. This has been recorded in many books written by people- fiction and non-fiction with the Ganga predominantly symbolising change and rejuvenation in many books. However, the holy river and all who depend on it are now threatened by pollution. Despite multiple efforts to fight the pollution, we still have a long way to go.

The **Namami Ganga Project** is the largest effort made yet to preserve the life-line of our country. It has launched multiple schemes for restoration in order to save our lifeline.

Under the **Gyan Ganga** initiative, NBT aims to preserve, celebrate, and encourage the flow of knowledge along the river. The river has had many eminent writers and personalities living by it and the Ganga Pustak Parikrama aims to combine the literary heritage of the Ganga along with its cultural heritage.

Under the **Jan Ganga** initiative we wish to spread awareness about the rivers heritage and the urgent need for its conservation to as many people as possible by hosting events in the cities we visit.

Join us as we flow along and discover the hidden literary gems embedded by the banks of the river.

“

I am convinced that everything has come down to us from the banks of the Ganga – astronomy, astrology, spiritualism, etc.

- Francis M. Voltaire

”

## *Events and Activities*

The Ganga Pustak Parikrama will make its way to each city as per the itinerary outlined in this brochure. Besides providing a treasure trove of books for all to read, we will also host events and activities for every age group at each destination in the following format:

**Day 1: Story-telling session and discussions on literature written on the Ganga**

**Day 2: Drawing and quiz competitions for students**

**Day 3: A spirited marathon and book donation drive**

We are also inviting environmentalists, spiritual leaders, professors, and academics to share their views on the cultural significance of the Ganga in India and the need to conserve it.

With these events we hope to capture the unique spirit of each city and the deep bond they share with the holy river. A few special drawings prepared by the students will be featured in a commemorative book published by NBT titled, “**Voyage of the Ganga**”.

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**As the Knowledge Partner of the Country**, we will fulfil our role in creating a fun environment of learning and awareness as we flow along on our journey by the river.

**In this voyage, spanning 20 cities and 80 days, we will reach out to more than a thousand schools, and we are expected to host over 1.5 lakh students as well as over 3 lakh general attendees.**

# 1. Uttarkashi (Gangotri)

03 Oct to 06 Oct 2022

**Uttarkashi**, the site where the river originates in the city of Gangotri, is a place of great importance in Hindu culture. Many people visit the town on pilgrimage. It also has many lakes.

The Government District Library, founded in 1964, and renovated in 2021 contains over 45,000 books.

It is also home to **Bachendri Pal**, who in 1984 became the first Indian woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest. She chronicles her journey in her autobiography Everest – My Journey to the Top.



Bachendri Pal

# 2. Rishikesh

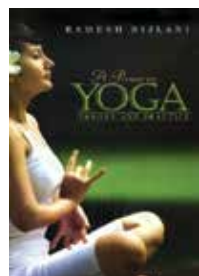
08 Oct to 10 Oct 2022

**Rishikesh** is known as the spiritual capital of India and has appropriately birthed many spiritual leaders like **Chidananda Saraswati** and **Swami Krishnananda Saraswati**, whose involvement in the Divine Life Society and subsequent works have inspired countless people.

Rishikesh is known as a centre for yoga and meditation. A Primer On Yoga Theory And Practice by Dr. Ramesh Bijlani is the perfect recommendation by us for readers interested in Yoga.



Chidananda  
Saraswati



A Primer On  
Yoga Theory  
And Practice  
by Dr. Ramesh  
Bijlani

# 3. Haridwar

11 Oct to 13 Oct 2022

**Haridwar** is a sacred place where many pilgrims come to worship the Ganga, and there are nightly aartis on the various ghats along the river. Home to many famous personalities like **Bhikku** and **Prem Pal Singh Rawat** (also known as Maharaj).

The **Gurukula Kangri University** or Gurukul Kangri Vishwavidyalaya is located on the bank of the Ganga. It was founded on 4 March 1902, with the sole aim to revive the ancient Indian gurukul system of education.



Bhikku

# 4. Bijnor

14 Oct to 16 Oct 2022

**Bijnor** is home to many poets like **Abdur Rahman Bijnori** and **Dushyant Kumar Tyagi** and distinguished writers like **Rasheed Ahmad Siddiqui**. Here, we can also find the Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary which is a protected area in the Gangetic plains of Uttar Pradesh, to preserve the biodiversity of the region.

Books like **Uttar Pradesh: The Land and the People** by Subhodh Nath Jha celebrate the heritage of the state.



Dushyant  
Kumar Tyagi

## 5. *Meerut*

17 Oct to 20 Oct 2022

**Meerut** is a place of budding literature, hosting many events to encourage young voices to emerge and many colleges host literary festivals. Meerut is also the hometown of **Zahida Zaidi**, an Indian scholar, professor of English literature at Aligarh Muslim University, poet, dramatist, playwright, and literary critic. **Ved Prakash Sharma**, a writer with over 178 novels to his credit, and **Om Prakash Sharma**, who was a pioneer in Hindi detective fiction.



Zahida  
Zaidi

## 6. *Aligarh*

21 Oct to 23 Oct 2022

**Aligarh**, with the prestigious **Aligarh Muslim University** which hosts the AMU Literary Festival, an annual literary festival. The event has had many notable attendees like Keki M Daruwala, Rajdeep Sardesai, and Jerry Pinto. AMU has also had many notable lecturers, most of whom are featured in our list. Many award-winning authors like **Ismat Chughtai**, **Jainendra Kumar**, **Syed Fazl-ul-Hasan**, and **Rashid Jahan** are from Aligarh.



Aligarh Muslim  
University

## 7. *Farrukhabad*

25 Oct to 27 Oct 2022

A city of great historical relevance, the history of Farrukhabad can be traced back to the Bronze age. The traditional history of the district from the earliest times till the end of The Mahabharata war is gleaned from the Puranas Mahabharata. It is the birthplace of **Mahadevi Varma**, who is considered one of the four major pillars of the Chhayawadi era in Hindi literature. She was a poet, essayist, sketch story writer and an eminent personality of Hindi literature. **Dr. Zakir Husain**, the 3rd President of India, also hails from Farrukhabad.



Dr. Zakir  
Husain



Mahadevi  
Varma

## 8. *Kanpur*

28 Oct to 30 Oct 2022

**Kanpur** boasts of many universities, and has produced great people like **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** and **Muhammad Abul Khair Kashfi**, an author, researcher, critic, linguist and scholar of Urdu literature and linguistics.

30th Oct is the day of Chhat Puja, and on the first day, worshippers take a dip in the Holy river and clean the ghats of the river. We encourage people to join in this collective activity to clean the surrounding areas of the river.



Atal Bihari  
Vajpayee



Muhammad  
Abul Khair Kashfi

9.

## Prayagraj

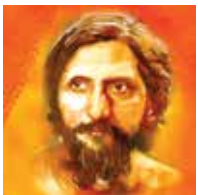
31 Oct to 02 Nov 2022

**Prayagraj** is home to many notable authors who are part of the Chhayavad movement, like **Harivansh Rai Bachchan**, **Suryakant Tripathi "Nirala"**, **Subhadra Kumari Chauhan**, and **Pandit Narendra Sharma**. It is also home to poets like **Syed Akbar Hussain**, and **Ibn-e-Safi**.

Prayagraj also celebrates his literary heritage with The **Allahabad Public Library**. The **Allahabad Museum** was opened to the public in 1954. The Museum has 16 galleries with various displays including textiles, modern Indian painting, armours and bronze, as well as a gallery for the Freedom Struggle.



Hariivansh Rai Bachchan



Suryakant Tripathi 'Nirala'

10.

## Mirzapur

04 Nov to 06 Nov 2022

**Mirzapur** is known for Chunar Fort, which sits on a hill beside the Ganga River. Many people visit the historical site to appreciate the Ganga. The city of Vindhyachal is an important site of pilgrimage near the Ganga and is home to many temples.

Mirzapur is also home to many scholars and academicians like **Dr. Naheed Abidi**, **Amar Goswami**, and **Lakshmi Raj Sharma**.



Dr. Naheed Abidi



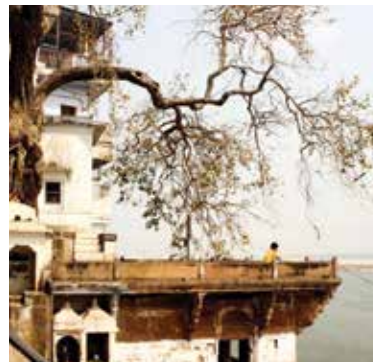
Amar Goswami

11.

## Varanasi

08 Nov to 11 Nov 2022

**Varanasi** has been associated with learning and spiritualism for ages. There is no better example of the connection between the river and literary output than **Tulsidas**, who composed his masterwork the Hanuman Chalisa and the epic Ramcharitmanas on the banks of the river, which resulted in the ghat being aptly named **Tulsi Ghat**. Another renowned poet is **Kabir Das** whose writings influenced Hinduism's Bhakti movement and his verses are found in Sikhism's scripture Guru Granth Sahib, Satguru Granth Sahib of Saint Garib Das and Kabir Sagar.



Tulsi Ghat

**Premchand**, who was a pioneer of Hindi and Urdu social fiction, Bharatendu Harishchandra who is often considered the father of Hindi literature and Hindi theatre are also from Varanasi, and **Jaishankar Prasad**, a Chhyavadi poet are also from Varanasi.

The **Ganga Mahotsav** which happens every year on the ghats of the Ganga attracts many artists and performers who showcase the cultural heritage of the country through their performances.

The **Kachhua Sanctuary** is home to many water animals like turtles and the Gangetic dolphin. These creatures are also at risk of extinction and learning about them is a crucial step in saving them.



Tulsidas



Premchand

## 12. *Chhapra*

13 Nov to 15 Nov 2022

**Chhapra** is situated near the junction of the Ghaghara River and the Ganga River and has nurtured many Bhojpuri writers like **Bhikhari Thakur**, **Mahendar Misir**, and **Raghuveer Narayan**.



Bhikhari Thakur



Raghuveer Narayan

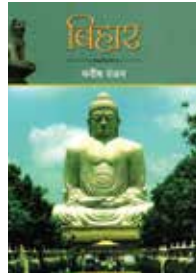
## 13. *Patna*

17 Nov to 20 Nov 2022

**Patna** can be called the perfect mix of nature and literature with two national parks. and was the site of Nalanda University was considered to be among the greatest centres of learning in the ancient world. It played a vital role in promoting the patronage of arts and academics during the 5th and 6th century CE.



Nalanda University



Bihar by Manish Ranjan

## 14. *Begusarai*

22 Nov to 24 Nov 2022

**Begusarai** is the birthplace of rashtrakavi **Ramdhari Singh Dinkar** who emerged as a voice to be reckoned with during the Freedom Struggle and **Balmiki Prasad Singh** who was the 14th Governor of Sikkim and has written a number of books and articles relating to Indian culture.

The Kanwar Lake Bird Sanctuary or Kanwar Taal, is formed by a tributary of the Ganga and is home to 60 migratory birds and around 106 species of resident birds.



Ramdhari Singh Dinkar



Balmiki Prasad Singh

## 15. *Sultanganj*

26 Nov to 28 Nov 2022

**Sultanganj** is thought to be the abode of the sage Jahnu. The hill that contained the Ashram of Jahnu is still present in the middle of the Ganga and at present the famous Shiva temple of **Ajgaivinath** is situated on the summit.

The Ganga ghat in Sultanganj is a site of great importance to the city. It also has the **Vikramshila Dolphin Sanctuary**, home to the Gangetic dolphin, the National Aquatic Animal of India.



Ajgaivinath Shiva Temple



Vikramshila Dolphin Sanctuary



16.

## Bhagalpur

30 Nov to 02 Dec 2022

Situated on the banks of the Ganga, Bhagalpur was the site of historic Vikramashila University, one of the three most important Buddhist monasteries in India during the Pala Empire, along with Nalanda and Odantapuri. Till now, it has been the birthplace of many literary personalities like, Saratchandra Chattopadhyay, a famous Bengali novelist whose novel Srikanth is based on Bhagalpur, Dr Lutfur Rehman, and Dibyendu Pal. It is also where Kadambini Bose Ganguly, one of the first Indian female doctors who practised with a degree in modern medicine, hails from. She was also the first woman speaker in the Indian National Congress.



Nabraun  
Bhattacharya

17.

## Sahibganj

04 Dec to 06 Dec 2022

Mentioned in the notes of Megasthenes in 302 BC and Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang in 645 AD, Sahibganj is a place of historical and cultural importance. This is seen in the great forts of Teliagarhi Fort and Rajmahal Fort. Sahibganj is also a place of environmental importance as it has the Udhwa Lake Bird Sanctuary.



Rajmahal  
Fort



Udhwa  
Lake Bird  
Sanctuary

18.

## Baharampur

08 Dec to 11 Dec 2022

**Baharampur** is a place of historical, religious, and cultural significance, with many palaces, temples, and mosques. Baharampur is a city where knowledge of art forms is encouraged from a young age and hence, unsurprisingly it is home to three Sahitya Akademi Award Winners, **Nabarun Bhattacharya, Mahasweta Devi,** and **Syed Mustafa Siraj.**



Mahasweta  
Devi



Nabraun  
Bhattacharya

19.

## Kolkata

14 Dec to 17 Dec 2022

Literature is an integral part of everyday life for Kolkata residents. From huge events like the International Kolkata Book Fair, to heritage sites like **Jorasanko Bari** and **The National Library**, Kolkata is the perfect city for a Literary tour. This city has produced great authors like **Rabindranath Tagore, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Amitav Ghosh, Vikram Seth, Satyajit Ray,** and many more and has featured in many stories as the perfect backdrop for many tales to unravel.



Rabindranath  
Tagore

20.

## Haldia

19 Dec to 22 Dec 2022

**Haldia** is where our journey ends and we bid farewell to the Ganga as it merges into the sea. Like, in the legend where the Ganga liberated the souls of sixty thousand souls before meeting the sea, our 3 month long journey will hopefully end with a rejuvenated interest in native Indian literature across the country.

Origin of  
GangaGanga  
meets the  
sea

### The Ganga Pustak Parikrama is open to anyone with a love for books.

We invite everyone from these cities to join us in our endeavour to raise awareness about the heritage of the river as well as the best ways to conserve it.

Awareness and learning is the first step in any journey, and as the Knowledge Partner of the Country, we would like to take the initiative to encourage people to learn as much as they can about the rich history of our sacred river. Our Book Van is stocked with books across various genres and subjects for all age groups, including books on the Ganga, its conservation, and special books about each city we visit.

The NEP encourages a diverse education base, and so we wish to promote traditional art forms that are seen by the river, like the Jhumar dance, Rasleela, or oral storytelling. We would like to especially invite schools and colleges to send their students for the various competitions and events that will be hosted by us.

Competitions will include essay writing contests, creative writing contests, and art competitions. Events will include talks by various personalities as well as cultural programmes.

## NBT's Reading List

- A Journey To Gaumukh By Sheila Sharma
- Abanindranath Tagore by Alokendranath Tagore
- Amarkant Sankalit Kahaniyan
- Bagha Jatin by Prithwindra Mukherjee
- Bengali Theatre by Kironmoy Raha
- Dwarkanath Tagore: A Forgotten Pioneer by Krishna Kripalani
- Everest – My Journey To The Top by Bachendri Pal
- Folklore Of Bengal by Asutosh Bhattacharya
- Folklore Of Bihar by P C Roy Chaudhury
- Guldaan by Ismat Chughtai
- Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar by Sunil Kumar Bose
- Jagadish Chandra Bose by Sachindranath Basu
- Jatindra Mohan Sengupta by Sachin Dutt
- Lekhikaon Ki Drishti Mein Mahadevi Verma by Chandra Sadayat
- Madhu Sadhukhan by Amiyabhushan Majumdar
- Mahasweta Devi's Short Stories
- Mere Priye Natak by Surendra Varma
- Motilal Ghose by S L Ghosh
- Nandlal Bose by Dinkar Kowshik
- P C Ray by J Sen Gupta
- Rabindranath Tagore: Philosophy Of Education And Painting by Devi Prasad
- Sahib Bibi Golam by Bimal Mitra
- Subhadra Kumari Chauhan ki Shreshth Kahaniya by Anand Prakash
- Tagore: A Life by Krishna Kripalani
- The Cinema Of Satyajit Ray by Chidananda Das Gupta
- The Jorasanko House by Lila Majumdar
- Upendra Kishore Roy Chaudhury by Lila Majumdar
- Uttar Pradesh: The Land And The People by Subhodh Nath Jha
- Women Scientists In India By Anjana Chattopadhyay
- Water by Rama
- Water: The Matrix Of Life by K K Mishra
- Understanding Climate Change by M A Haque

### CHILDREN'S BOOKS:

- A Baby Lion Learns To Roar by Indu Rana
- A Helping Hand by Samaresh Chatterjee
- A Visit To Kumbh by Anita Bhatnagar Jain
- A Voice In The Jungle by Jagdish Joshi
- Adventures of a Wildlife Warden by E R C Davidar
- Animal World by Aurobindo Kundu
- Boond by Ramendra Kumar
- Joy In The Jungle by Santanoo Tamuly
- Little Elephant Throws a Party by Meenakshi & Tanmay Bharat
- On a Tiger's Trail by Trail Geetika Jain
- One Day... by Jagdish Joshi
- Stripes in the Jungle by Geetika Jain
- The World of Turtles and Crocodiles by Zai & Rom Whitaker and Indraneil Das
- Tyltyl's Adventure by Swapna Dutta
- Who's Who At The Zoo by Ruskin Bond

### BOOKS ON GANGA AND RIVERS

- The Ganga Rejuvenation Of A Glorious Past by B D Tripathi
- Ganga Teerey by Amrendra Kumar Rai
- Ganga Ki Or
- The Story Of Our Rivers (Part-1) by Lila Majumdar
- A Story About Water by Ravi Paranjape
- Environmental Renaissance by Niranjan Dev Bharadwaj
- Pollution by N Seshagiri
- Rivers Of India by Radha Kant Bharati

“ When citizens read,  
country leads ”

“ In this land of the Ganga,  
there was education  
of culture. But more  
importantly, there was a  
culture of education. ”

- **Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister



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**NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA**

Ministry of Education, Government of India

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

Phone: **011-26707780/81/88**

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



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