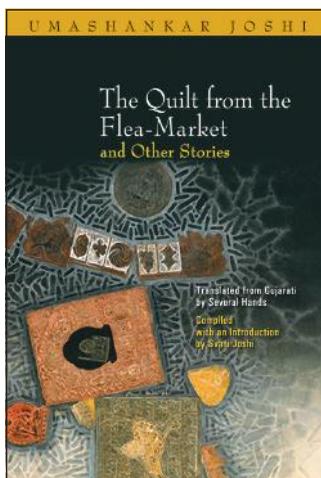


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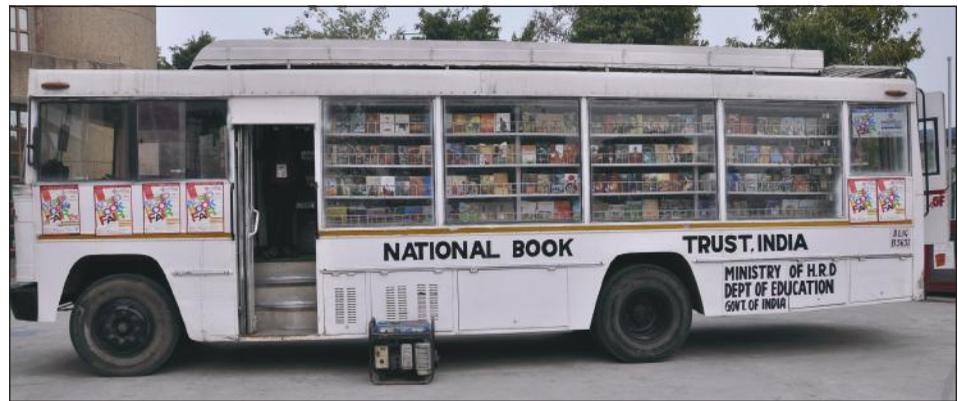
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PICK OF THE MONTH



The Quilt from the Flea Market and Other Stories
Umashankar Joshi
(Translated from Gujarati original)
978-81-237-8016-0; Rs 215

Panchayat Pustak Mela



National Book Trust, India is set to launch Panchayat Pustak Mela (Panchayat Book Fair) programme to bring people of remote and rural areas of the country closer to the books. Under this project, the Trust would be organising book fairs at panchayat levels across the country. The Trust will collaborate with the respective state governments for this programme, and also invite panchayat representatives to these book fairs.

In these book fairs, books published by the NBT in Hindi, English and respective regional languages of the state would be displayed. Books on a wide range of topics including biographies of freedom fighters and heroes will be displayed, as the aim is to instill a sense of pride among rural youth. Children's books will also be displayed. The Trust would also request the state governments to establish libraries at the panchayat level.

In its endeavour to encourage reading habit in remote areas of the country, the Trust has been taking books through its mobile exhibitions, and publishes books in minor languages and regional dialects. Over the years, the Trust has brought out a number of books in Bhili, Bhatri, Halbi,

Himachali and some in north-eastern languages like Ao Naga, Bhutia, Boro, Garo, Khasi, Kokborok, Lepcha, Limboo, Mising, Mizo and Newari.

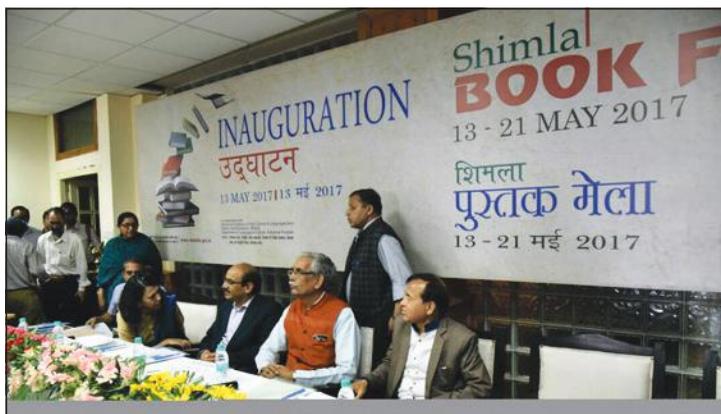
Recently, the Trust has brought out eight books in dialects used in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh in Devanagri script. Besides, the Trust has brought out books on Mahatma Gandhi and on children's themes in Maithili, Magahi and Bhojpuri – all spoken in Bihar – in Devnagri script. In the process of developing books in minor languages, the Trust also organizes workshops in which writers and translators participate to bring out these books. Thus, the Panchayat Pustak Mela programme would provide a platform to the Trust to promote these languages and connect with the rural audience of these regions.



Shimla Book Fair

National Book Trust, India organized Shimla Book Fair at Gaiety Theatre, Mall Road, Shimla from 13 to 21 May 2017. The Fair was organised in collaboration with Himachal Academy of Art, Culture & Languages and Shimla District Administration.

While inaugurating the Fair, Shri R D Dhiman, IAS, Secretary, Education, Government of Himachal Pradesh, said that books have a significant role in imparting knowledge. However, with the progress that the modern technology has made, the reading habit among children and youth has diminished. In this changing scenario, it is necessary that the children should be encouraged to



read books. He hoped that the people of all age group, especially children would visit the book fair in large numbers and glance through a wide range of books being exhibited at the Fair.

Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, NBT was also present on the occasion. He said that National Book Trust, India has widened its publishing programme and is bringing out books in minor languages as well. Talking about the books being displayed at the Fair, Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma said that book lovers would get an opportunity to browse books of all genres on topics like the history of India, biographies of freedom fighters,

children's literature among others.

Shri Shreekant Baldi, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary (Finance); Dr Prem Sharma; Vice President, Himachal Academy and Ms Anuradha Thakur, IAS, Secretary, Language and Culture Department, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh; Shri Srinivas Joshi, well-known author; and Shri Shrinivas Shrikant, noted author and recipient of Shikhar Samman also spoke on the occasion.

A number of literary programmes were organised during the Fair which included poets' meet, creative writing workshop, storytelling session, panel discussions and conference on young authors, etc.



Amritsar Book Fair

National Book Trust, India in collaboration with the Khalsa College, Amritsar organised the Amritsar Book Fair at Khalsa College Ground, Amritsar from 22 to 30 April 2017. The Fair was inaugurated by Sardar Rajender Singh Chhina, Honorary Secretary, Khalsa College Governing Body, Amritsar. Dr. Mehal Singh, Principal, Khalsa College, Amritsar, presided over the function.

More than 50 publishers, distributors and booksellers participated in the Fair. A large number of books of different genres were displayed at the Fair. Several literary programmes such as 'Kavi Darbar', 'Panel Discussion on Punjabi Kahani Srijan Prakriya', 'Punjabi Natak Te Rangmanch', etc. were organised during the Fair.

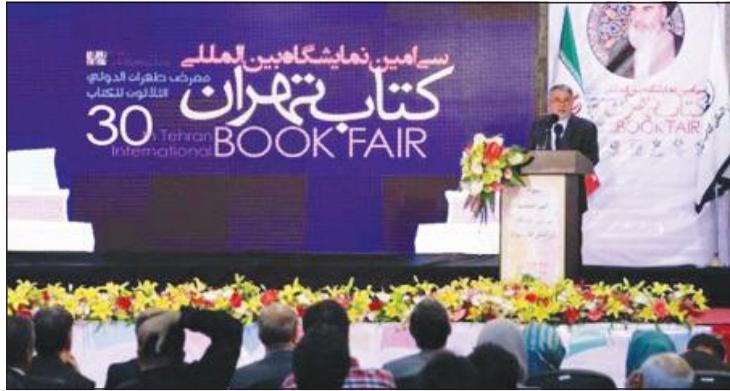
Speaking at the session on Punjabi stories, Sahitya Akademi awardee Baldev Singh Sadaknaama said that writers have to use simple language to express their ideas and complex writings never get recognition as a classic literature. Mukhtiyar Gill, Jinder, Dr Sarghi, Shyam Sunder Dipati and Deep Davinder Singh expressed their views about storytelling. Many literary personalities took part in the discussions.

A large number of students from schools and colleges as well as general public visited the book fair and bought the books.



Tehran International Book Fair

National Book Trust, India participated in the 30th edition of Tehran International Book Fair held at Shahr-e Aftab International Exhibition Complex, Tehran from 3-13 May, 2017. The opening ceremony for the massive annual event was attended by Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani as well as Culture Minister Seyyed Reza Salehi Amiri.



of eight members including Turkey's outstanding writers, such as İlber Ortaylı and Derya Örs participated in various programmes of the Fair.

Ten literary agencies, publishers, writers and professional translators active in translating works in the Persian language into other international languages were granted scholarships which included publishers and writers

from countries like Egypt, Armenia, Japan, Italy and Afghanistan.

Spread over an area of 135,000 square meters, the Fair ground included a global trade center, hotels, public park and central square. With 15 halls and as many as 7,000 stands, the Fair showcased more than 4,000 titles by over 2,700 domestic and foreign publishers. The publishers from 110 countries including India, Germany, Italy, Russia, France, Mexico, Austria, Japan, China, Finland, Sweden, Chile, Serbia among others participated in the Fair.

'Let's Read One Book More' was this year's promotional motto. Italy was the guest of honour at the Fair. Italy's pavilion was designed by Iranian architect Leila Aragghian, famous for her award-winning design of Tabiat Bridge. The 300 sq. meter pavilion included a section dedicated to Italian titles, a section to translated titles, and a saloon for holding meetings on book trades. Fifteen Italian writers, poets, and illustrators including Alessandro Barbero, Michela Murgia, and Luca Novelli participated in the event. Istanbul was the first Special City Guest. A delegation

from countries like Egypt, Armenia, Japan, Italy and Afghanistan.

NBT's participation included a collective exhibit of over 100 books, both in Hindi and English, brought out by publishers across the country. Indian fiction, children's books as well as books on Gandhi and text books for higher education attracted a large number of visitors to the NBT stall.

Shri Mayank Surolia, Assistant Director (Exhibition) represented NBT at the Fair.

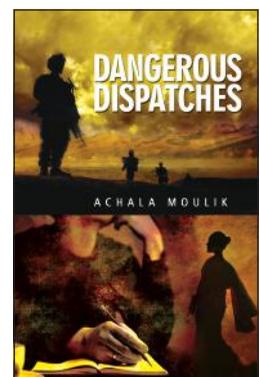


Discussion on NBT Book in Mumbai

National Book Trust, India and Mumbai Press Club organized a discussion on the NBT book *Dangerous Dispatches*, authored by former bureaucrat Achala Moulik on 28 April 2017. During the programme, Paranjoy Guha Thakurta, Editor, *Economic and Political Weekly*, and Sarosh Bana, Executive Editor, *Business India* interacted with the author. The discussion was followed by a question-answer session.

Set against the backdrop of 20th Century's conflicts in the contested lands of Afghanistan, Middle East, Iran and Bosnia, *Dangerous Dispatches* is a story of love, dream and betrayals. The events not only shape the destiny of the characters in the novel but also the fate of nations.

Ms Moulik has also written a number of books including *Pushkin's Last Poem* published by NBT. She is recipient of Pushkin Medal and Sergey Yesenin Prize.



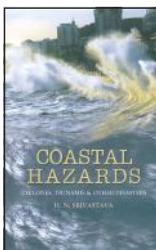
Books on Environment

World Environment Day is celebrated every year on 5 June to raise global awareness to take positive environmental action to protect nature and the planet Earth. Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972, it is run by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). NBT India has published a number of books on environment and pollution to spread awareness among people belonging to different age-groups. Some of those books are listed below.

Coastal Hazards

H N Srivastava

Written in a simple language, the book not only describes the coastal environment but also the many hazards, as well as the technological advances in forecasting and the early warning systems being used. 978-81-237-5452-9; Rs 70



Our Environment

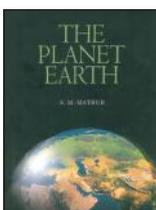
Laeq Futehally

Written in an easy and lucid style, the book looks at the varied natural environment of our country in all their contours of utility and aesthetic appeal. The author emphasises, without being averse to the needs of man's dependence on Nature, that most of the damage inflicted on the environment is unwittingly done. 978-81-237-0036-6; Rs 90

The Planet Earth

S M Mathur

The book, besides giving physical data of the Earth, gives a concise account of the broad physical features of the globe such as oceans, mountains, rivers and lakes. 978-81-237-5858-9; Rs 45



Ecology and Sustainable Development

P S Ramakrishnan

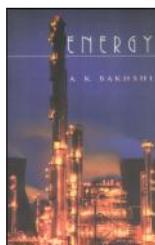
Discusses community participation in natural resource management, which is linked to sustainable management of natural and humanmanaged ecosystems, with concern for sustainable livelihood of rural societies in the short-term, and sustainable development of the region as part of a long-term plan. 978-81-237-5257-0; Rs 145



Energy

A K Bakhshi

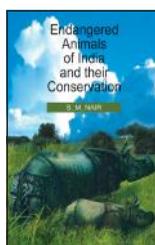
The importance of energy in our daily life can never be overemphasised particularly in today's world when fossil fuels are in danger of being depleted. There is practically no activity which does not involve the transfer or transformation of energy. This book discusses its various aspects including the consequences of production and utilisation of energy on our environment. 978-81-237-1458-5; Rs 55



Endangered Animals of India and their Conservation

S M Nair

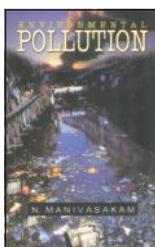
Public awareness about the rich wildlife heritage of our country, the factors affecting the survival of the species and an understanding of how we can contribute to their well-being are the keys to successful conservation. This edition provides basic information on the rare and endangered animals of India and their conservation. 978-81-237-0187-5; Rs 65



Environmental Pollution

N Manivasakam

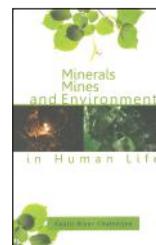
This book, while discussing the general nature of pollution, also examines in detail some of the major areas of pollution like air, water and soil, including thermal radiation and noise pollution and their deleterious impact on man and environment alike. 978-81-237-1034-1; Rs 100



Minerals, Mines and Environment in Human Life

K K Chatterjee

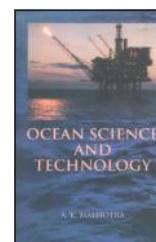
Minerals are essentially a part of nature, used for making various industrial products, as well as required in the technologies for protecting and preserving the environment. However, there is an endless conflict between the industries and the environmentalists. This book seeks to bridge all the gaps between the mining industries and the environmentalist groups and clear the confusion in the minds of all the stakeholders by treating the subject through a blend of geology, social science and environmental science. 978-81-237-6733-8; Rs 90



Ocean Science and Technology

A K Malhotra

An introduction to the basic principles, techniques and methods involved in offshore oil and gas production and explanation of how offshore platforms and terminals, harbours and ports are designed and operated, apart from the problems encountered in laying submarine pipelines and controlling oil pollution. 81-237-0140-3; Rs 80



Our Water Resources

Rama

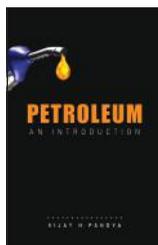
This book provides information on India's water resources derived largely from rainfall, which is generous but uneven in its distribution over time and place. This necessitates the need for gigantic projects for the control, storage and transfer of the available supply. 978-81-237-0803-4; Rs 45

Petroleum: An Introduction

Vijay H Pandya

The book is an introduction to the

world of petroleum, its history and formation, the methods of drilling, various petroleum products, its benefits to humankind, its impact on environment, and the search for alternate fuels.

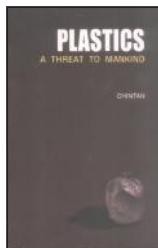


978-81-237-5998-2; Rs 60

Plastics: A Threat to Mankind

Chintan

This book explains the impact of plastics on the environment, human health and economy, and describes what all is being done to reduce our dependence on the plastics, which will eventually be beneficial to the mankind in the long run.



978-81-237-4629-6; Rs 45

Primer on Characterising Biodiversity

P S Ramakrishnan

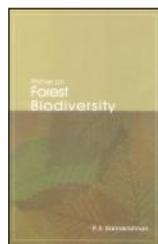
Biodiversity is all about understanding Nature and being a part of it. This volume looks at its transdisciplinary dimensions which real-life examples from the rural and tribal traditional ecological knowledge on conserving biodiversity and revering Nature through traditional practices, which the modern world is ignoring or trying to modify.

978-81-237-5975-3; Rs 60

Primer on Forest Biodiversity

P S Ramakrishnan

This volume emphasizes upon ecological, social, economic and cultural dimensions of forestry, taking a trans-disciplinary approach towards forest biodiversity conservation and linked sustainable forest management.



978-81-237-6301-9; Rs 70

Primer on Sustaining Agrobiodiversity for Food Security

P S Ramakrishnan

To the scientific community, agrobiodiversity implies crop diversity at the species level and arising therefrom is

the sub-specific level biodiversity which in common parlance is often referred to as crop cultivars. Part of a series of primers on biodiversity, this volume discusses designing sustainable pathways for sustainable agriculture for ensuring future food security for all.

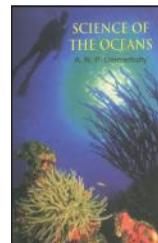


978-81-237-6362-0; Rs 60

Science of the Oceans

A N P Ummerkutty

The sea and the oceans, in spite of man's onslaughts on them, remain as mysterious, unknown and awe-inspiring as ever. This book introduces us to the science of oceanography and the immense potentialities of water around our shores for exploring and utilising them for the prosperity of our people.

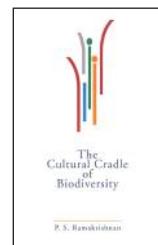


978-81-237-0468-5; Rs 75

The Cultural Cradle of Biodiversity

P S Ramakrishnan

The book considers a range of issues based on the concept of the 'sacred' in an eco-cultural context, emphasising upon the role of natural cultural landscapes as the basis for humans to have a cultural identity of their own.

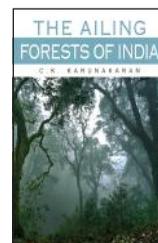


978-81-237-5361-4; Rs 150

The Ailing Forests of India

C K Karunakaran

In pre-historic days, the forests extended over the entire country. The original inhabitants mostly lived as denizens of the forest. Later on, greed and a growing population led to progressive shrinkage of our forest cover and to inevitable consequences in the form of erosion, floods and drought. This book analyses the human interference leading to the highly degraded status of



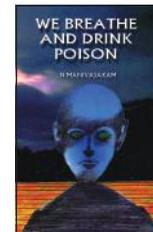
the same today and suggests measures for its eco-restoration.

978-81-237-6568-6; Rs 145

We Breathe and Drink Poison

N Manivasakam

Beginning with the general nature of pollution, the book discusses the major areas of pollution like air, water and soil and how thermal radiation and noise pollution are casting an impact on man and his environment, posing a danger to all living beings.

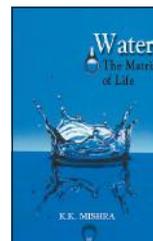


978-81-237-1488-2; Rs 90

Water: The Matrix of Life

K K Mishra

The astonishing properties and role of water as the 'matrix of life' have been presented in a semi-technical style. This book provides a deeper understanding of the most ubiquitous marvel of Nature.



978-81-237-3314-2; Rs 50

Wind Energy

Suneel B Athawale

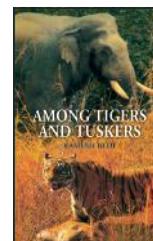
This book, through diagrams and illustrations, introduces the readers to this non-conventional source of energy and explains how wind energy can be converted into mechanical and electrical energy by windmills for supplementing our energy needs.

978-81-237-0679-5; Rs 75

Among Tigers and Tuskers

Ramesh Bedi

In 1973 preservationists launched the Project Tiger and in 1991-92 the Project Elephant to protect these two crowning glories of our forests. This book describes the habits and habitats of these animals and their relations with each other as also with human beings.



81-237-3107-8; Rs 50

Training Course in Book Publishing

A job-oriented certificate course in book publishing was held at Sri Venkateshwara College, University of Delhi from 18 to 25 April 2017.

The course was inaugurated by Dr. Mahesh Chand Sharma, former Rajya Sabha Member and Chairman of Research and Development Foundation for Integral Humanism, Delhi and Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, NBT.

While inaugurating the course, Dr. Mahesh Chand Sharma, former Rajya Sabha Member and Chairman of Research and Development Foundation for Integral Humanism, Delhi said that the way Shri Hanuman Poddar played the significant role in the establishment of Geeta Press and promotion of books, National Book Trust, India too is playing a pivotal role in creating reading culture across the country.

Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, NBT said that people have a notion that the reading habit has declined. However, a large number of people visiting New Delhi World Book Fair and book fairs organized across the country by NBT, shows that the reading habit has not declined.

Dr P Hemlata Reddy, Principal, Sri Venkateshwara College, presided over the function. She observed that the



course would help participants find career opportunities in publishing. She also urged NBT to increase the duration of this course for at least six months.

Welcoming the guests, Dr Rita Chowdhury, Director, NBT said that it is the first time that the Trust has conducted the course in the University of Delhi. She hoped that the course would be helpful to participants in gaining knowledge about publishing.

Shri Ali Ahmad Khan, Joint Director (Admin & Finance), NBT; Dr Arun Kumar Bhardwaj, Assistant Professor and Dr Mukul Sharma, Associate Professor were also present on the occasion.

The certificates to the participants were distributed at the valedictory programme held on 25 April 2017. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Kamal

Kishore Goenka, Vice Chairman, Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra, said that the scope of publishing has widened and provides ample career opportunities. He also appreciated the fact that young people are showing keen interest in publishing. Prof. Akhilesh Tyagi, Head of Plant Molecular Biology Department, University of Delhi presided over the function. He remarked that awareness about different aspects of science can be

created among large number of readers if more and more books on science are brought out in Hindi language. Dr P Hemlata Reddy, Principal, Sri Venkateshwara College was also present on the occasion.

Fifty students across disciplines were enrolled for the course including a visually challenged student. During the programme, the experts provided insights into various aspects of book publishing including editing, copyright, production and marketing. The faculty included Shri B D Mendiratta, former Principal, Pusa Polytechnic; Shri Sridhar Balan, Consultant, Ratna Sagar; Shri G S Jolly, former faculty, College of Vocational Studies, Delhi among others.

Shri Narendra Kumar, Training Officer, NBT, coordinated the programme.



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Excerpts

NBT India is to publish a book entitled *Sufism in India: An Overview* written by Naresh. Herein we reproduce an excerpt from the chapter 'Sufism: Its Origin and Growth'.

- Editor

Origin of the Word 'Sufi'

So far as the origin of the word 'Sufi' is concerned, the academics have different opinions. Some believe that it originated from the word 'Safa' meaning 'purity'. They argue that the Sufi is a person who has a clean heart and is bereft of all mundane temptations. Some say that it came into being from the word 'Saf' meaning 'a row'. They understand that on the doomsday, when all the souls will stand in front of God to receive His verdict on the actions performed during their lives, the Sufis will get a place in the front row as they did nothing but remember Him all their lives. Some claim that it has been derived from the word 'Suffa' meaning 'a platform'. They contend that the word 'Sufi', for the first time, was used for those noble persons who had joined Prophet Mohammed in his flight from Mecca to Medina and sat all the day on a platform outside his mosque. Hence, they were called 'Ahl-e-Suffa', the platform sitters. Others are of the opinion that the word originated from the word 'Suf' meaning 'wool'.

Academics of the last category contradict others from a grammatical standpoint as well. Grammatically speaking, had the word 'Sufi' been derived from the Arabic word 'Safa', its form, according to Arabic grammar would have been 'Safavi' not Sufi. Similarly, had it originated from 'Saf', its form would have been 'Safi' and if from 'Suffa', its form would have been 'Suffi', not Sufi again. Etymologically as well as grammatically, its derivation from the word 'Suf' is convincing and that is what makes them reject the other three theories. Many Sufi scholars like Khaldun and Hujveri also held the view that the word 'Sufi' originated from 'Suf'.

This author is also of the opinion that the word 'Sufi' has been derived from the word 'Suf', which meant 'wool'. Much before the advent of Islam, hermits used to

wear woolen gowns. Even Saint John, who baptized Lord Christ, is said to have worn woolen attire. In Arabic literature, persons disenchanted with the world were termed as Sufis. The story of Abu Bakr, wearing a 'Gileem' (woolen garment) also endorses this theory.

Background of Sufism

To get disenchanted with the world and to look disenchanted are two different positions. The available explanations of the word 'Sufi' indicate that this word was used as a term for those who looked disillusioned. Almost all the scholars of Sufism are unanimous in admitting that in the beginning, the Sufis had no sect or clan of theirs, meaning thereby, that Sufis were the persons who voluntarily denounced mundane comforts and established distinct identity because of their dress and noble behaviour.

In the history of the Arabs, pre-Islamic period has been called an age of ignorance. The southern part of Arabia had established contact with a large number of nations prior to the birth of Islam and its Himyarite speaking populace was familiar with quite a few languages and religions of the world. But the Arabic speaking people, living in North Arabia, a complete desert, lived as nomads. The conditions in North Arabia were altogether different. No social norms existed there. Country-made liquor was their favourite drink and indiscriminate sex a favourite game. They were fond of plundering and were ever-ready for scuffles and fights. Since South Arabia had remained under Abyssinia and Iran for quite some time, a civilized culture was taking shape there but the North Arabian tribes were absolutely devoid of any culture and had no sense of nationalism.

Much before the advent of Islam, the North Arabians had come in contact with the Jewish and the Christian religions. They had seen the Christian ecclesiasts dressed in long woolen robes as well as the Buddha Bhikshus in their loose saffron clothes. They had encountered the Hindu Yogis too. In spite of this, their life continued to be that of scuffles and

snatchings. Responsible for this was the geographic condition of North Arabia and the circumstances prevailing at that time. A common Arab, living in make-shift tents on the sun-scorched sand, had neither sufficient food to satiate his hunger nor any permanent dwelling. He would goad his sheep and goats to the site where he found greenery. But he had plenty of dates to fill up his stomach as well as to sell.

Islamic signs and symbols also seem to be a product of these peculiar geographical conditions. Green is the favourite colour of the Islamic world. It is not difficult to imagine how valuable and fascinating the sight of greenery would have been for the nomads roaming under the burning sun and sand. For them greenery did not mean just green; it meant availability of water and dates for themselves and grass for their live stock. Hence, green alone could be a lovable colour for them. Take the Islamic architecture, what else could they have conceived from the ever available sight of huge sandy mounds and tall date trees other than the domes and minarets. As a result, 'Charagh-o-Masjid-o-Mehrab-o-Mimber' (earthen lamp, mosque, minaret and raised preaching platform) became the basic signs of Islamic architecture.

Anyway, those who were awakened to the cries of their souls ran for solitude, abandoning the prevailing atmosphere of fighting and plundering. They declared their retirement from the devilish society through their dress of woolen gowns. The only basis for the infightings was procurement of worldly comforts. Once they decided to forego mundane allurements, they could easily break off the society. It may be surmised that such persons must have been very few. And the nasty, ever quarrelling, greedy Arab nomads might have termed them as 'Sufis' out of their indignation for them, while mocking their woolen attire.

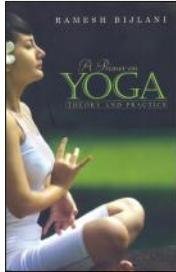
The Sufi Tenor

These recluses, already influenced, in one way or the other, by the Jewish, Christian, Buddhist and Hindu faiths, got attracted towards Prophet Mohammad, the founder of Islam.

International Yoga Day

The International Yoga Day will be observed on 21st June. In his address to the United Nations General Assembly, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi urged the international community to celebrate 21st June as Yoga Day. Following his initiative, UN General Assembly on 11th December 2014 unanimously passed a resolution to celebrate 21st June as International Yoga Day.

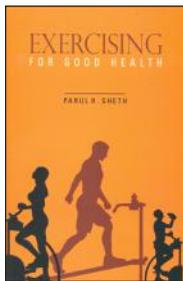
NBT publications on Yoga and exercise:



A Primer on Yoga: Theory and Practice

Ramesh Bijlani
978-81-237-4228-1; Rs 130

This book on yoga clarifies what yoga is, explains the distinguishing features of different schools of yoga, and gives a complete guidance on the physical practices of yoga as is possible through a written text and a DVD.



Exercising for Good Health

Parul R Sheth
978-81-237-6364-4; Rs 85

In the present modern world, convenience gadgets have made us cut down on our physical activities. Physical exercise together with a controlled nutritious diet as part of our daily routine can take us a long way in living a healthy life. This book aims to explain the various types of physical and mental exercises and how these exercises can help to control certain diseases and get other benefits.

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