

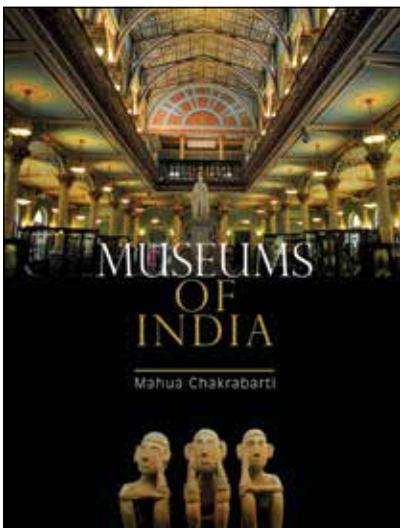
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International Yoga Day



PICK OF THE MONTH



Museums of India

Mahua Chakrabarti

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On 21 June 2016, around 50 crore people across the world came together to mark and celebrate the second International Yoga Day. An ancient Indian gift to humanity, this universal science supports a health system that combines exercise, meditation and *pranayama*. Leading the call for Yoga celebrations in Chandigarh, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said, "Yoga is a preventive health care measure that comes free of cost."

The UN declared 21 June as International Yoga Day. This was following Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's call for a day dedicated to Yoga during his address at the UN General Assembly in 2014. The first International Yoga Day

was celebrated on 21 June 2016.

This year too, over 135 countries across the world – Argentina to US to Britain to Europe to China and Malaysia embraced Yoga with fervor. Across these places people came out in thousands to display and demonstrate yogic exercises for the benefit of humanity, urging people to make Yoga as part of their life.

Today, over 250 million people from across the world practice Yoga. In India, following the government's initiative, the percentage of Yoga practitioners is up by 30 per cent. This year, from the President to Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers, bureaucrats, institutions, professionals from all walks of life and general public took active part in Yoga celebrations.

Yoga Day at NBT

On the occasion of 2nd International Yoga Day, National Book Trust, India organized a workshop on Yoga for its employees at the NBT premises.

The session was conducted by Shri Rahul from Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, New Delhi.

While inaugurating the workshop, Dr. Rita Chowdhury, Director, NBT said that we all are under a lot of stress which is an outcome of our day to day activities and lifestyle. Because of stress, our body has also becomes toxic. To lead a healthy life, we need to detoxify our body as well as mind and soul, and yoga is the best medium for the same.



Defining *asana*, Shri Rahul said that *asana* is a posture in which one can

breathe effortlessly and keep his mind in a peaceful state. During the session, Shri Rahul introduced various *asanas* (postures) including *Vrajasana*, *Tadasana*, *Savasana*, *Bhujangasana* among others. He informed that these *asanas* can be practiced regularly as they are helpful for the people suffering from stress-related diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure, cervical, etc.

An International Seminar on Yoga was also organized by NBT at Sagar, Madhya Pradesh from 20th to 21st June 2016. The seminar was organised in collaboration with Department of Yogic Studies, Dr Harisingh Gour University, Sagar.



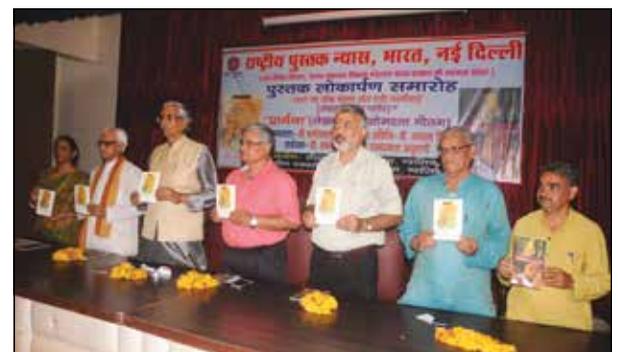
Book Release at Gwalior

“India had never been completely under foreign rule, it has always fought against it,” said Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, NBT at a book release function held at Galav auditorium, Jiwaji University on 19th June 2016. On this occasion, two NBT books in Hindi, titled *1857 Ka Lok Sangram aur Rani Laxmibai*, authored by Shri Pramod Bhargav and *Prathana*, authored by Dr Somdutt Gautam were released.

Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma added that it is important to conserve history. It is not merely a collection of figures or a document but a source of inspiration for the nation. Shri Sharma also informed about the publishing programme of the Trust. He also said that books are usually expensive and inaccessible, which makes it difficult for the readers to develop reading habit.

While releasing the books, Dr Anand Mishra, noted historian and Registrar of Jiwaji University wondered why the British questioned the legitimate connection of Indian history with its faith. He added that it is a matter of concern that some anti-nation people were given high regard. He also talked of the significance of prayer in life.

Talking about the freedom struggle of 1857, Shri Pramod Bhargav said that it was not solely a rebellion of soldiers or of rulers. It was a revolt by farmers and labourers as well. He added that Gopulpur Fort at Shivpuri was of paramount importance in the life of Rani Laxmibai but the historians have overlooked its importance. He said that the history of Indian freedom



struggle needs to be rewritten with a new perspective.

Dr Somdutt Gautam said that without humility one cannot obtain knowledge. Humility comes from prayer.

Shri Ramprakash Anuragi, noted lyricist; Dr Sandhya Bhargav, Head of History Department; and Shri Dev Shreemali, well-known journalist also spoke on the occasion.

Shri Pankaj Chaturvedi, Hindi Editor, coordinated the programme.

Asian Festival of Children's Content

Asian Festival of Children's Content was organized at the National Library Building, Singapore from 25 to 29 May 2016. The festival aims to celebrate children's books and content focused on Asian themes.

Japan was the Country of Focus at the AFCC. Singapore and Japan celebrated the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between them. A delegation of 17 authors, translators, illustrators and other industry experts from Japan gave an insight into the history of Japanese children's literature, and the latest trends and developments in the publication of children's books. A special exhibition entitled 'The History of Japanese Picture Books: From E-inkakyo to The Family of Fourteen' (in cooperation with the Chihiro Art Museum in Japan) displayed beautiful examples of Japanese pictorial storytelling from early Heian period (8th century) to modern day picture books.

A special stall was dedicated to India in which more than 150 books in English and Hindi published by various publishers



across the country were displayed. A large number of booklovers visited the stall and showed keen interest in the children's literature of India.

During the five-day festival several programmes were organized especially for

children including sing-along session with Japanese stars, workshop on illustrations and story wall activity etc. The works of local and regional artists were displayed at the Book Illustrators Gallery. Featuring 130 beautiful children's book illustrations, the exhibition was held at the Central Public Library from 14 May to 3 June 2016.

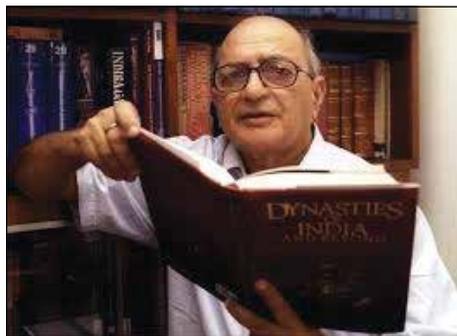
At AFCC, Indian author Aditi Krishnakumar's manuscript 'Codex: The Lost Treasure of the Indus' won the Scholastic Asian Book Award (SABA) 2016.

Exhibitors from countries including Japan, Australia, China, Malaysia, Philippines, and Indonesia among others participated in AFCC. Several new children's titles were launched at this year's AFCC. These include *Monster Day on Tabletop Hill*, written by Japanese author Akiko Sueyoshi, translated by Cathy Hirano, and illustrated by David Liew; *Benji, Yumi, Origami!* by Emily Lim-Leh among others.

Shri Dwijendra Kumar, English Editor, represented NBT at the Festival.

Obituary

Shri Inder Malhotra, well-known journalist, political commentator and author, passed away on 11th June 2016. He was 86.



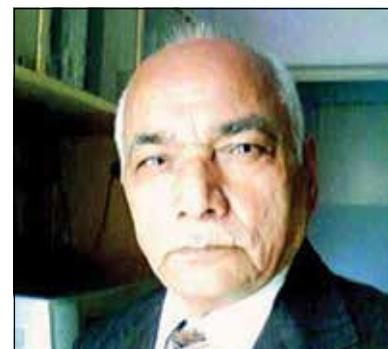
Shri Malhotra was born on 1st February 1930 in Chandigarh. After completing his graduation from the Punjab University, Shri Malhotra began his career as a journalist at the United Press of India news agency. He held important editorial positions at the leading dailies

including *The Times of India* and *The Statesman*. He also wrote for *The Guardian* and *The Indian Express*.

In 2013, he was awarded prestigious Ramnath Goenka Lifetime Achievement award. He was a Nehru Fellow (1986-87) and a Woodrow Wilson Fellow (1992-93). He authored several books including *Indira Gandhi: A Personal and Political Biography* (1989), published by the National Book Trust, India.

Shri Jagdish Joshi, noted illustrator and author passed away on 27 May 2016.

Born in 1937, Shri Jagdish Joshi studied fine arts at the Indian College of Arts and Draftsmanship, Dum Dum, Kolkata and later worked for the *Hindustan Times* and Children's Book Trust. In 1998, he was nominated for the prestigious Hans Christian Andersen Award, also known as the 'Nobel Prize for children's literature.' It



is an international award given biennially by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) in recognition of the 'lasting contribution to children's literature.'

Shri Joshi illustrated and authored a number of books for children and young adults. Some of the books he illustrated for NBT, India include, *How Munia Found Gold*, *One Day*, *Search*, *The Puzzle*, *A Journey*, *Fu-Ku*, among others.

NBT Book Shops: Celebrating Indian Languages

Over four decades old, NBT Book Shop is one of the largest multilingual book shops in the country. Located at NBT's Headquarters in Vasant Kunj, the book shop is visited by school children, university students, teachers and librarians as well as by general readers in large numbers.

In this two-storey building, the ground floor is dedicated to the books in English and Hindi, while at first floor there is a collection of the books in other Indian languages like Asamiya, Bangla, Gujarati, Marathi, Malayalam, Punjabi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Odia and Urdu.

Translation is one of the prominent areas of NBT's publishing profile. A wide range of books on a variety of topics translated into various Indian languages cater to diverse readers from



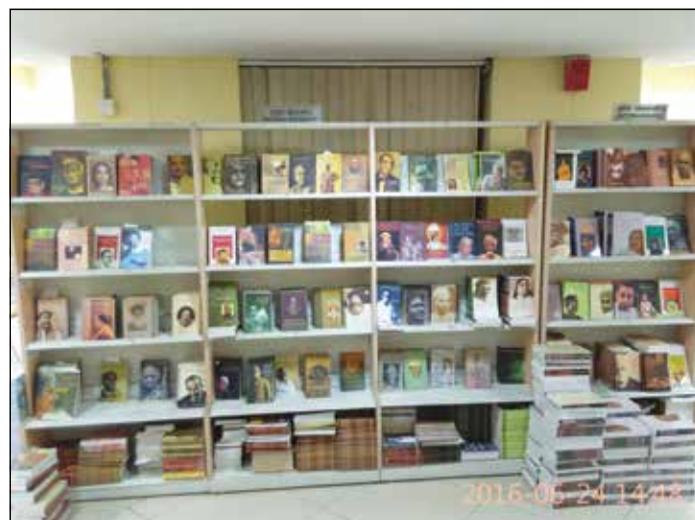
For the convenience of the visitors, the books have been kept in different sections according to the series under which they are published including,

Folklore, General, India Land and People, Indian Literature, National Biography, Nehru Bal Pustakalaya, Popular Science, Popular Social Science, Young India Library and World Literature series.

From time to time, the book shop offers special discounts on the purchase of NBT books.

To provide information to the visitors about the books published by NBT, the catalogues of books in different Indian languages are kept at the book shop. The publicity material about NBT including *NBT Newsletter*, *Readers' Club Bulletin* (bilingual magazine for children), *NBT at a Glance* etc. are also kept for the information of visitors.

For the booklovers, NBT has a special scheme of NBT Book Club. The members of this Club can avail a special



children to neo-literates. The visitors at book shop are delighted to see the diversity of Indian languages that too at one place.

Autobiography, Aadan Pradan, Afro-Asian Books, Books for Neo-literates, Creative Learning Series, Continuing Education,

discount on purchase of NBT books and also a discount on postal charges on the receipt of the books through VPP. The life



membership fee for the Club is only Rs 100/- for individuals and Rs 500/- for institutions.

The NBT books can also be purchased online. Readers interested in buying books online can visit www.nbtindia.gov.in.

NBT has entered into an MoU with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation to open book shops at select metro stations in Delhi. Two such NBT book shops have become operational at Kashmere Gate metro station and Vishwavidyalaya metro station and attract a large number of commuters who travel by Metro daily.



book shops at book promotion centres are playing a major role in promoting books in Indian languages as they not only sell books in the language of the state at which these book shops are located but in other Indian languages also.

NBT also has an innovative scheme namely, *Pustak Parikramas* or sale of books through mobile vans. These specially designed mobile vans travel across the country to make books accessible

to the public at large in remote, rural and difficult areas. These mobile vans have become an integral part of India's reading

Mizo, among others. Through this multilingual publishing, NBT has been bringing diverse contents to readers in



NBT has its regional offices in Bengaluru, Kolkata and Mumbai. The regional offices also have book shops. These regional offices have been working extensively towards the mandate of NBT to promote books and the habit of reading. NBT publishes books not only in Hindi, English and major Indian languages but minor languages as well including Bhili, Bhatari, Halbi, Gondi, Himachali, Maithili, Santhali, Ao Naga, Garo, Khasi, Kokborok, Lepcha, Limboo, Mising,

various languages. The books in a way help to bridge cultures and share the knowledge of different regions of the country.

Besides, NBT has book promotion centres at Agartala, Guwahati, Chennai, Hyderabad, Patna, Kochi and Cuttack. The centres have designated areas for organizing literary events, programmes for children and book release functions. They also house the NBT book shop, complemented by a mobile van to cover the rural areas in the states. The

culture as they offer a unique service by making books both accessible and affordable to readers.

The sale of books through various modes has helped NBT in its endeavour to promote books and bringing all Indian languages closer to the booklovers. Searching quality books in their own mother tongue was a difficult task for the booklovers. Now they can read books in the language of their choice and that too at affordable prices.



Excerpts: My Tale of Four Cities

NBT India has published the title *My Tale of Four Cities: An Autobiography* by Jayant V. Narlikar. Herein we reproduce excerpts from the chapter 'Summer Vacations in Kolhapur'. - Editor

The summer months of May and June being very hot in Banaras, our school as well as the B.H.U. would be effectively closed during this period. It was possible, therefore, for all of us in the family to be on a long vacation outside Banaras. Although we could have visited hill stations or other sight-seeing spots in the country, my parents preferred to visit their home town, Kolhapur. Since 1932, my father had moved to Banaras and so he was anxious to keep his contacts in Kolhapur active. My mother had been in Banaras since 1937 and she too had strong attraction towards her family in Kolhapur. For us kids, the adoring aunts and uncles and a host of cousins to play with, made it fun to be in Kolhapur, especially away from the scorching heat of Banaras. ...

Typically we would start in late April or early May and travel to Bombay by the Bombay Mail. We would break journey at Bombay, as my father had many friends there. Then we would proceed by train (the Deccan Queen or the Poona Mail) to Pune, where too there might be a halt. The last lap of the journey would be on the overnight Pune-Kolhapur Mail, reaching Kolhapur by mid-morning. While Tai, I and Anant would stay in the Huzurbazar-wada at the foot of Bhende Galli, Tatyasaheb would stay in the ancestral Narlikar Bhavan on Mahadwar Road. Some eight weeks later, we would start our return journey to Banaras reversing the sequence of trains mentioned above. ...

Since we were going to be away for two months, it was necessary to make some arrangement for locking up the house and ensuring that it was periodically inspected. ... The second major activity prior to departure was, of course, packing all the stuff that we needed for the trip. In these days of 'travel light', it is difficult to visualize the extent of our luggage. I recall counting all items on one such trip and reaching the number 17! Typically there

would be four trunks, four suitcases, four hold-alls (these were foldable mattresses that also stored other items), two large earthenware water containers, and an assortment of smaller 'hand luggage'. ...

There was of course no question of the passengers carrying their own luggage. One needed 4-5 porters or coolies, and to keep track of them rushing ahead with our bags on the crowded platform must have been an ordeal. I do not recall, however, there being any panic at any time. We mostly travelled by the second class, whose get up in the 1940s was better than today's first class carriages. Nor was it necessary to have prior reservation. When the train arrived, we simply looked for a reasonably empty carriage. Those days, there was no corridor connecting compartments; each compartment, with its attached toilet stood isolated on its own. It was generally possible to find one, or, at worst, we would have fellow-travellers bound for Allahabad.

As the journey would take us through the sweltering heat of U.P. and C.P. (Central Provinces, now Madhya Pradesh), we ordered a slab of ice to be placed in the compartment. This would be an enormous piece weighing twenty kilos or so. It would gradually melt, but in the process produce a cooling effect. The water so formed from melting would evaporate soon too. All the 17-odd pieces miraculously found place in the compartment, the hold-alls duly opened out on the upper and lower berths, the trunks and suitcases shoved under the seat, and so on. It was desirable to have the toilet cleaned too, as we boarded. This service as well as carriage cleaning service would be readily available at a trivial cost. Tatyasaheb would then get down and look for some reading matter at the A.H. Wheeler book stall, or get into conversation with some friend or acquaintance whom he would chance upon to meet on the platform, while Anant and I would peep out of the window anxious if he would return before the train started. But, of course, for one who was so particular about time, the chance of that happening was negligible. He would be back well in time, much to our relief. Finally, when the train did move, we would experience the

thrill of starting epic journey.

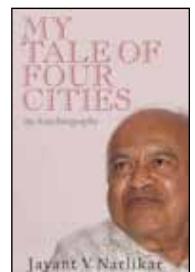
During the four hour run to Allahabad, we would start our picnic in the train. Usually we would eat puri-bhaji and some sweets, out of disposable earthenware plates and drink water out of similar beakers (called 'koolhars'). Allahabad had a special attraction for us because of the bridges over the Ganges and Yamuna that the train went on. Also, at Allahabad, the engine was detached and reattached to the opposite end. It took me some time to figure out why this reversal of direction did not bring us back the way we came!

By now it would be very hot. To avoid dust, we would have put up the glass shutters when leaving Moghalsarai. Now it would be necessary to put up the wood shutters too. Thanks to the ice block, the temperature in the compartment would be tolerable, although, the block would clearly not last very much longer. We would now stretch ourselves on the beddings in the hold-alls and catch a long siesta.

At Jabalpur station in the late afternoon we would have tea with some snacks. Soft soda drinks like orangeade, ginger beer, etc. were very much welcome, especially as they were from bottles stored in ice. Dinner would be available around 8-9 p.m., depending on how big the station was. Then we would stretch out again in our hold-alls. The next morning would find us in Maharashtra. Those days the engines were mostly powered by steam and smoke would be plentiful. So it was wise to keep the windows shut. However, at Igatpuri, the electrical locomotives would take over, and the route would also become more scenic. The ghat section with tunnels and bridges was a great source of thrill to us both. After having our breakfast delivered at Nasik, we would settle down for sightseeing.

My Tale of Four Cities

Jayant V. Narlikar
978-81-237-7845-7
Rs 595



Excerpts: Maulavi Ahamad Ullah Shah

NBT India has published the title *Maulavi Ahamad Ullah Shah and the Great Revolt of 1857* by Rashmi Kumari (Tr.: Manjari Srivastava). Herein we reproduce excerpts from the chapter 'An Introduction'. - Editor

Maulvi Ullah Shah was a Sunni Muslim and belonged to an affluent family. He had a good command over the alien English language. Sayyad Jahir Jafry, on the basis of the biography of Maulavi "Tawareekh-e-Ahmedi" written by Fateh Mohammad Taiyab, says that Sayyad Ahmad Ali alias Jiauddin who is also known as Dilawar Jung was the son of the Nawab of Chinnapattam (Madras) Mohammad Ali Khan. He was born in the second decade of the 19th century. He had acquired education like a prince.

After getting his traditional Islamic education, Maulavi had got training in warfare. The writer of this Mathnavi, Mohammad Taiyyab was a Talluqedar of Lucknow. He became a disciple of Maulavi in 1856. During their stint in Lucknow, British officers have mentioned in their speeches the personal qualities and organizational capabilities of Maulavi in their own words and with respect. Apart from this, the communication sent every day at that time by the Britishers on the activities in 1857-1858 are a proof of Maulvi's courage and valour.

He had gone to Hyderabad as a guest of Nizam for some marriage proposal, but due to some delay in that purpose he had to stay back in the city for some time. His writer tells us that the Raja had invited Maulavi for a secret proposal of suppressing some revolting kings. This campaign elucidates his knowledge of warfare.

His emphatic success had raised the number of his enemies. So it was no surprise that the jealous courtesans had made plans to attack him but fortunately he escaped from that place unhurt. The British officers of Hyderabad had formally requested Maulavi's father to send Maulavi to visit England. He went to England where he had an opportunity to meet the king and his feudal-lords. He learnt to use

some weapons from their soldiers. Besides visiting England, Soviet Union, Iran, Iraq, Arab countries and Mecca-Madina, he also got an opportunity to perform Haj.

On the way back to India, he stayed in Mecca and Madina and then by crossing Iraq, he reached Iran where the king wanted to induct Maulavi in his service. But he refused his offer and proceeded towards India. On his return to India, he got influenced by mysticism and after much deliberation became a disciple of a Sufi Saint Sayyad Furkan Ali Shah of "Kadiri Branch" of Sambhar, Rajasthan. On the direction of this Pir, he went to Gwalior. His Pir had renamed him AHMAD ULLAH SHAH, by which he became famous later on.

After completing his education, Maulavi became a fakir (mendicant monk). He never settled in a family-life and remained a warrior. Unlike other leaders of the Revolt, he was uniquely distinct because he did not have any personal grudges against the Britons, nor did he have any dispute over estate or wealth. He was a rebel in true sense. He was a rebel leader of his own kind and with his own courage and valour. Maulavi's persona had a natural charm and people were attracted towards him spontaneously. It is said his speeches spewed fire.

In Gwalior, he came in contact with another Pir of "KADIRI LINE", Mehrab Shah. He became his follower and stayed with him for four-and-a-half years. The teachings of this new Pir made him a "Jihadi". Inspired by it he came to Agra. While going to Agra, Mehrab Shah gave Maulavi a new name - "Wajiullah" but this name could not bring him that recognition. He became a disciple of Gaus Shah, a famous fakir of Agra, and after taking lessons of patriotism from him, he became a true patriot. While giving proof of his programmes in Agra, some contemporary writers have said that Ahmad Ullah Shah used to reach Agra with a huge gathering of his followers. He had taken on rent a large house on the door of which a Nakkara was kept and it was beaten up five times a day. His name and fame brought more and more disciples

to his fold. He also used to arrange for gathering of co-travellers.

Generally it was believed that no fire could burn Maulavi's hate pangs, nor could any sword hurt him. According to the audience of his meetings, he used to hold his breath for a long time. At this occasion, he had told the writer of Qawarikhe-Mastan that there would be a great revolt six months from hence. ...

Among the rebel leaders of 1857, Maulavi was in regular touch with Rana Venimadhav Buksh through mail. They had written many letters to each other concerning the preparation of the Revolt.

It is inferred from these letters that the war of 1857 against the British was well-planned and the rebels had tremendously prepared for its success. By touring the whole country Maulavi had infused enthusiasm in every village so much so that people in leaps and bounds agreed to rise-up in arms against the foreigners. We have certain proofs that before the eruption of Revolt, bread and lotus were distributed in army-camps and 'distribution of bread was a brainchild of Maulavi Ahmad Ullah Shah'. According to G.B. Mallison - "It is beyond doubt that behind the conspiracy of 1857 Revolt Maulavi's brain and efforts were significant. Distribution of bread during the campaigns was actually his brainchild."

The year 1857 started with the distribution of bread throughout the country, and this distribution of bread hardly gave anyone a chance for any suspicion. ... Immediately after this, the 'incident of cartridges' took place in Barracpore which gave an indication to everyone as if some kind of Revolt is about to erupt. In reality, popular hearsay campaigns had almost announced the probable date of this revolt in the entire North India.

Maulavi Ahamad Ullah Shah and the Great Revolt of 1857

Rashmi Kumari

Tr.: Manjari Srivastava

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Rs 120



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For further information contact : Kumar Samresh, Dy. Director, NBT, India, 5 Institutional Area, Phase II, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi – 110 070

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Greater Noida Book Fair	U.P.	Aug. 2016
Kalburgi Book Fair	Karnataka	10-18 Sep 2016
Bhopal Book Fair	M.P.	4-11 Sep 2016
Patiala Book Fair	Punjab	3-8 Oct. 2016
Goalpara Book Fair	Assam	Nov. 2016
Varanasi Pustak Mela	U.P.	Oct. 2016
Goalaghat Book Fair	Assam	Nov. 2016
Aizawl Book Fair	Mizoram	Feb./Mar. 2017
Udaipur Book Fair	Tripura	Feb./Mar. 2017
Ranchi Book Fair	Jharkhand	Feb./Mar. 2017

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