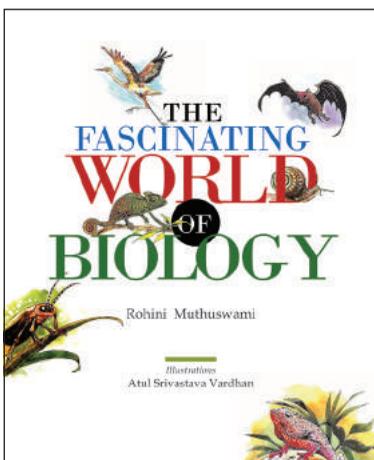


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### PICK OF THE MONTH



**The Fascinating World of Biology**  
Rohini Muthuswami  
Illustrations: Atul Srivastava Vardhan  
ISBN 978-81-237-9074-9; Rs 85

## Chandigarh Book Fair



“Books guide us and tells us how to live life,” said Dr Raj Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Panjab University at the inaugural of Chandigarh Book Fair. He added that books develop our ability to think, reflect and analyse.

On developing the habit of reading, Dr Raj Kumar said that books give us complete knowledge and therefore, young readers should make it a habit to read more and more books. He also expressed his

desire that the book fair may be organized annually.

Dr S.P. Singh Oberoi, Guest of Honour; Shri Gurbhej Singh Goraya, Secretary, Punjabi Akademy, Delhi and Dr Shankar Ji Jha, Dean, University Instructions were also present on the occasion.

While welcoming the guests, Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT talked about the various activities of the Trust





to promote books in different Indian languages and the culture of reading across the country.

Several literary, cultural and children's programmes were organized during the fair including a poets' meets, musical programmes, interactions with authors and discussions on topics like challenges in translation, Punjab, through the eyes of



historians, punjabiyaat, among others.

Over 70 publishers from across the country participated at the Fair and displayed books across genres like novels, books on cookery, health, motivational books, children's books, in various Indian languages including Hindi, English, Punjabi and Urdu. Over two lakh visitors of all age groups especially, teachers



and children from different schools and colleges visited the Fair and participated in numerous literary and cultural programmes held at the Fair.

The Fair was organized by National Book Trust, India in collaboration with Panjab University. The Fair was held at Panjab University campus from 1 to 9 February 2020.

## Cairo International Book Fair

National Book Trust, India participated at the Cairo International Book Fair held at the new Fair Grounds, al-Tagammu al-Khamis, Cairo from 22 January to 4 February 2020.

The Fair was inaugurated by Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouli; Culture Minister Ines Abdel-Dayem; and Haitham al-Haj, Head of General Egyptian Book Organisation (GEBO) which organises the CIBF.

This year, Senegal was the guest of honour at the Fair. At the guest of honour pavilion, books on Senegalese literature as well as novels and short stories for children were displayed.

This year, the Theme of the Fair was 'Egypt –Africa, A Culture of Diversity.' Over 900 cultural events including seminars, workshops, art shows, interactions between authors and readers, discussion forums on topics like cinema, filmmaking and animation, fine arts, folk arts, heritage, and African culture were organized.

The event also celebrated Egyptian geographer Gamal Hamdan, who wrote "The Description of Egypt," an important series of books about Egypt's place in modern history.



The Fair attracted publishers from 40 Arab and other foreign countries, turning the event into a major venue for cultural exchange and dialogue.

Special pavilions including Africa



Hall, Cultural Café, Children's pavilion, creativity confluence, Cairo Calling—a programme concerned with the publishing industry and translation rights were the major highlights of the Fair.

The special feature this year was the the large number of young and up-and-coming writers at the fair. A sizeable portion of the books showcased this year were written by first-time authors or by upcoming writers.

NBT's participation included a collective exhibit of over 300 books in Hindi, English and Urdu languages brought out by publishers across the country. Indian fiction, children's books as well as books on Gandhi and yoga attracted a large number of visitors to the NBT stall. A large number of Indian students studying in Egypt also visited NBT stall in large numbers. Dr. Liaquat Ali, Director, Maulana Azad Center for Indian Culture, Embassy of India, Cairo was among the dignitaries who visited the NBT stall.

Shri Imran-ul Haque, Manager (Sales) and Shri Deepak Kumar Gupta, Hindi Editor represented NBT at the Fair.

## NBT Book on North East Cuisine Released

“It is a unique and precious book not only in the field of cuisine but it also showcases history and culture of North East” said Shri Victor Banerjee, noted actor & writer at the release of NBT book titled *Essence of North East*, authored by Jyoti Das. The programme was held at India Club, Guwahati, Assam on 1 February 2020.

“The book has also the dietary ingredients that the life-enhancing doctor would recommend. This book will become every gastronome’s ready-reckoner bible of North East India’s ethnic cuisines. I congratulate Jyoti for all the work she has put in to compile this lavish gift of recipes for us,” Shri Banerjee added.



East has its own simplicity and unique flavour, taste and aroma.”

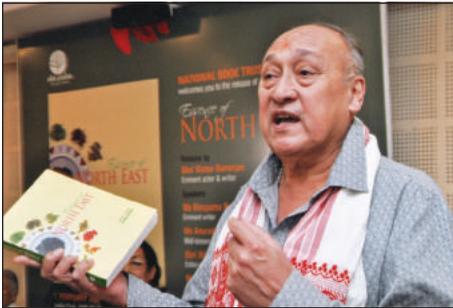
Ms Jyoti Das, author of the book also spoke on the occasion. Sharing her thoughts about the book, Ms Das said, “Through this book I have attempted to showcase our rich cultural heritage and traditions before the world community. The main purpose of writing this book is not only to bring to the world the exotic cuisine of this region, but also to let

the world perceive this part of India the way I do as an insider.”

The programme was coordinated by Shri Deep Saikia, Asamiya Editor and Shri G Rangarajan Production Officer, NBT.

Ms Nirupama Borgohain, eminent writer also spoke on the occasion. She said, “It is a very proud moment for us that Jyoti’s book was published by NBT. It is only because of her dedication and hard work. Everyone will accept the book and read it and gain knowledge about the rich food recipes of North East.”

Speaking of the recent trends in North East cuisine, Ms Anuradha Sarma Pujaree, well-known writer & journalist said, “Availability of new ingredients in market has added variety and traditional dishes have undergone noticeable changes in the recent past. But still, the cuisine of North



## Translation Workshop in Chennai

National Book Trust, India organised a three-day Translation Workshop at Asha Niwas Social Service Centre, Nungampakkam, Chennai from 10-12 February 2020.

Inaugurating the workshop, Shri Chandran, Advisory Panel Member for Tamil language said that this workshop would help NBT enrich its collection of books for children in Tamil.

The translators who participated in the workshop included M. Appannasamy, S. Bala Bharathi, A. S. Ilangovan, Kamalaalayan, Kannaiyan Dakshinamurthy, Malaramudhan, Ramu, Saravanan Parthasarathy, R. Shahjahan, Madhavan, Udhayasankar, Valliyappan and Naga. Venugopalan.

On this occasion, the translators also spoke about the importance of bringing out translations and shared their

experience about translating books.

Earlier, Shri T. Mathan Raj, Tamil editor, NBT welcomed the guests and discussed about the various aspects of the workshop.

About 28 children’s books translated in the workshop would soon be published by the Trust. The books included *Music of the Hills*, *The Weaver Bird Nest*, *A Lesson from Grandma*, *Kavya Makes Up Her Mind*, *Tit for Tat*, *Two Friends*, *Red and Blue Pencils*, *Better Than the Best*, *A Trip to Mountains*, *Seven Stairs to Sun*, *A New Dawn*, *Samy and the Snail*, *Sheela and*



*Leela, Who is Sharper, Tale of two dogs, Tortoise and the Hare, Neem Baba, Tales that Make You Smile, Little Elephant Throws a Party, Coogh The Squirrel, Good Friends, Fourth Friend, Rahul and the Dream Bat, Heroes Do Not Grow On Trees, Escapades of a Clone, How Do They Evolve and Adventure of Cleveland.*

## Happy to be a Writer and Booklover

Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank,' Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development visited New Delhi World Book Fair on 11 Feb. 2020. Author of several books, including *Vivekanand in the Himalayas*, published by NBT, Shri Pokhriyal was happy to go around the Fair.

Visiting the Theme Pavilion, Shri Pokhriyal appreciated the specially designed Theme Pavilion, Gandhi: The Writers' Writer and the exhibit of books on and by



Pokhriyal and Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, NBT.

Shri Pokhriyal also visited a few halls and browsed through the books at the stalls of publishers including Bhawna Prakashan, Central Hindi Directorate, Madhya Pradesh Hindi Granth Akademi, Rajkamal, Vani Prakashan. He also visited the stall of Shri Vedmata Gayatri Trust and distributed books to the children.

Later at the Prabhat Prakashan stall, the book, *Bhartiya Sanskriti*

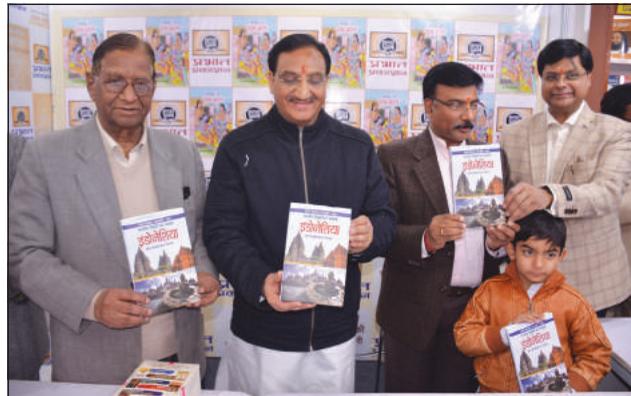


Charcha: Pradhan Mantri Modi Ke Saath.' On this occasion, Shri Gurjit Singh, calligraphy artist from Punjab presented beautifully designed pieces to Shri



Gandhi. He went through the facsimiles of Gandhi as an editor, publisher, printer and writer. He was happy to see the replica of Charkha displayed at the Pavilion. He, then, visited the Foreign Pavilion and met the publishers at the Pavilion. He was presented a book on Gandhi at the Abu Dhabi stall.

Seeing the enthusiasm of children and young readers, Shri Pokhriyal went to the Children's pavilion as well. There, he urged the children to participate in the programme, 'Pareeksha Par



*Ka Samvabak Indonesia*, written by Shri Pokhriyal himself, was released by Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma and Prof. Avinash Kumar, Director, Central Hindi Directorate. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Pokhriyal said that this book tells the story of Indian immigrants in Indonesia. Interacting with the audience, Shri Pokhriyal said that he went around the Fair not as a Minister but more like a writer and a booklover. Earlier, he was given a warm welcome by Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma and Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT.



## Publishing Gandhi

The recently concluded New Delhi World Book Fair focussed on Gandhi with the theme 'Gandhi the Writers' Writer'. During the days of the Fair many discussions and seminars were held on the Theme.

### Publishing Gandhi

“His was not a dictatorial movement. He was very very open and democratic in all aspects of his public life,” and that, according to A. Annamalai, Director, National Gandhi Museum, “was the primary reason why Gandhiji wanted to document everything. Gandhi’s eye for minute details was simply amazing. Even a simple punctuation in a sentence did not escape his sharp observation,” he added.

Discussing Gandhi as a writer, printer and publisher, the Panel Discussion on “Publishing Gandhi” was organized by National Book Trust, India in collaboration with National Gandhi Museum at the Theme Pavilion of the Fair.

Well aware of the linguistic diversity among the Indian community in South Africa, only a visionary like Gandhi could dare to bring out *Indian Opinion* in as many as four Indian languages English, Hindi, Gujarati and Tamil and that too long before the advent of computers.

Referring to The Green Pamphlet, Gandhi published in 1896 on “The Grievances of the British Indians in South Africa: An Appeal to the Indian Public”, Shri Annamalai said that the initial print run set by Gandhi was 20,000, and later another 10,000 copies had to be reprinted. “Only a confident publisher like Gandhi could arrive at such a staggering figure,” added Shri Annamalai.

“Gandhi opposed untouchability not only in his words, he showed this opposition even in his body and mind. The fact that Gandhi writes and spins with both his hands is actually a manifestation of this side of Gandhi. He refuses to give position of prominence to either of his hands,” observed Shri Annamalai.

The first ever biography of Gandhi titled “M K Gandhi: An Indian Patriot



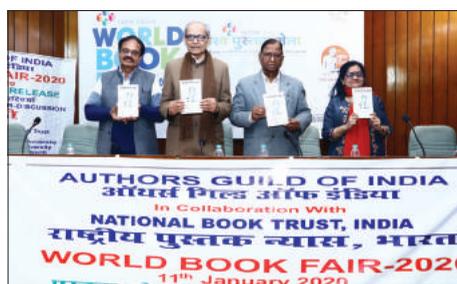
in South Africa” by Joseph J Doke and published in 1909, Gandhi’s letter of apology to Annie Besant after he published her English translation of Bhagwad Gita without her permission in 1905 and Gandhi’s letter to Leo Tolstoy requesting him to check the authenticity of a copy of the copy of the letter Tolstoy originally wrote to The Hindu found place of prominence in Shri Annamalai’s presentation.

“M K Gandhi is a phenomenon for the ages past and ages to come.” Dr Sandhya Rout, former Principal Director General, Publication Division gave details of the Publication Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India’s tryst with Collected Works of Gandhi in 100 volumes. Describing Gandhi as the most published personality in the world, Dr Rout also gave details of digitization of Collected Works of Gandhi undertaken by the PD in collaboration with Gujarat Vidyapith.

The session was moderated by Shri Rubin D’cruz, NBT’s Malayalam Language Editor

### Mahatma Gandhi: The Writers' Writer

A seminar on ‘Mahatma Gandhi: The Writers' Writer’ was organized by Authors Guild of India in collaboration



with National Book Trust, India at the Seminar Hall. Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, NBT inaugurated the seminar. Prof. Shyam Singh Shashi, Padmashri awardee was the special guest on the occasion. Moderated by Prof. Shiv Shankar Awasthi, General Secretary, Authors Guild of India, the other speakers on the occasion included Dr Vijay Shankar Tewari, Principal, Satyawati College, and Prof. Kailash Nath, University of Delhi.

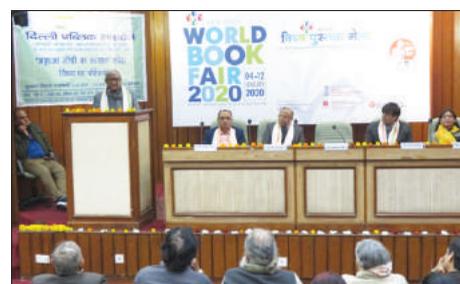
The speakers discussed about the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi’s Satyagraha and his principles of truth and non-violence. The panelists also talked about Gandhi as a great writer.

On this occasion, 25 books were also released, followed by a Kavi Sammelan.

### Gandhi's Message on Cleanliness

A panel discussion on ‘Gandhi’s Message on Cleanliness’ was organised by Delhi Public Library at the Seminar Hall. The speakers talked about the role of Mahatma Gandhi in creating awareness among people about cleanliness. On this occasion, Shri Vishwanath Pandey said that Mahatma Gandhi is known for his non-violent protests and marches against the British, but rarely remembered for the efforts towards cleanliness in our country.

Talking about Gandhi’s thoughts on cleanliness, Dr Neeraj Bharadwaj said that Mahatma Gandhi not only advocated cleanliness of the surroundings, but also talked about the purity of soul. The other panellists on this occasion included Dr. Ramsharan Gaur, Chairman, Delhi Public Library; Dr Babita Gaur, Senior Library Information Officer; and Shri Sita Ram Gupta.



## Government Publications at the NDWBF

One of the highlights of the New Delhi World Book Fair was the active participation of the publication departments of various central and state government bodies, publishing information brochures and booklets to books for children and general readers as well as research and academic publications. Besides, the various stalls of universities and other educational bodies, government publications are a major source of attraction to visitors.

The Department of Publication under the Ministry of Urban Development brings out important information published by different ministries of the Union Government including Finance, Health and Family Welfare, Railways, Agriculture, Human Resource Development, Economics and Statistics and Programme Implementation, Science and Technology, among others. Other publications included the census reports and Constitution of India.

The Central Reference Library, Kolkata under the Ministry of Culture compiles the bibliography of an enormous collection of all kinds of published works by Indian writers. The Books Act, ensures the provision for delivery of books to the National Library, Kolkata; Delhi Public Library; The Asiatic Society of Mumbai and Connemara Public Library, Chennai after being archived by the Central Reference Library in its database.

Bringing out a number of rare manuscripts and books dating back to the Mughal period, colonial India and consecutive years up to the present, the Asiatic Society founded by Sir William in 1784 is now an Institute of National Importance declared by an Act of Parliament under Ministry of Culture,



Govt. of India. Records of administrative and political significance, art, history, journal, research activities and government funded publications were some of the published books available at the stall set up by the Asiatic Society.

Publication Division of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, on the other hand, publishes journals like *Yojana*, *Ajkal*, *Kuruksheetra*, *Bal Bharati*, and *Employment News* besides, *Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi* and other leaders, children's literature, books on Indian art and culture, heritage, history, governance, biographies of political leaders and freedom fighters, books on flora and fauna and paintings.



The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) witnessed a steady stream of students, parents and teachers as the syllabi of many state boards and CBSE follow the NCERT textbooks.

Enthusiastic readers were seen searching for books in their own languages at Sahitya Akademi which had a display of books in over 24 languages.

Prominent among the other academies at the Fair were Lalit Kala Akademi, engaged in the promotion of fine art and Sangeet Natak Akademi (The National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama) engaged in promotion of music and performing arts both with their headquarters in New Delhi.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is an autonomous body responsible for co-ordinating agricultural education and research in India. At the book fair, they showcased some of their recently published research works on various topics relating to agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry.

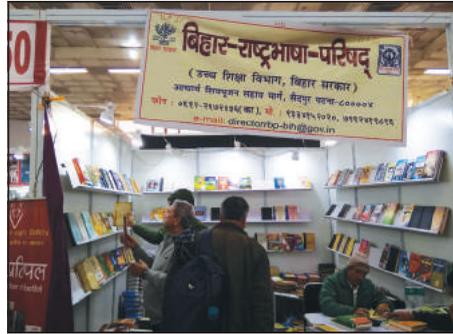
The Defence Research and





Development Organisation (DRDO) is the R&D wing of the Ministry of Defence with a vision to empower India with cutting-edge defence technology and a mission to achieve self reliance in defence technologies. DRDO's stall at the Fair received defence analysts and students of international politics in large numbers.

Publishers of different state governments like West Bengal Urdu Academy, Himachal Pradesh Academy of Arts, Culture and Languages, Madhya Pradesh Granth Academy, Bihar Rashtrabhasha Parishad, Tribal Research and Cultural Institute, Tripura were present at the Fair with a collection of



books on language, literature and culture of their respective states.

Among the Universities at the Fair include Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha;

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, New Delhi. The Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla publishes research of post-doctoral studies in Humanities and Social Sciences.

Also present at the Fair were several institutions such as National Council for Promotion of Urdu Literature, Bihar Hindi Granth Academy, Punjabi Academy, Delhi Sanskrit Academy, Indian Institute of Sindhology; National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language. These bodies work towards the preservation and promotion of their respective languages.

## Conclave on Readership and Book Promotion

**A** National Conclave on Readership and Book Promotion wherein a panel discussion of State Project Directors and other Stakeholders was organized by National Book Trust, India on the sidelines of New Delhi World Book Fair 2020 at Pragati Maidan.

The discussion focused on presenting content for children in an attracting way in order to augment their knowledge base beyond text books. Inputs were invited from the delegates present on how to incorporate local, cultural and ethnic aspects in the reading material so that young minds can relate to it. Inaugurating the session, Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, NBT said that National Book Trust, India is probably among the first five institutions in the world, which publishes books in 51 dialects and languages. He also informed the audience present that in the year 2019, NBT books reached about three crore young readers.



Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT said that a teacher actually is the nation builder. Speaking about NBT books

for children, Ms Neera Jain, Chief Editor and Joint Director said that NBT endeavors to play an important role in nation building through its books. On this occasion, a documentary on 'Padhe Bharat, Badhe Bharat' was also launched. The film highlighted NBT's contribution in making the Padhe Bharat, Badhe Bharat initiative of the Govt. of India a success.

The conclave was attended by 35 representatives from 20 states and Union Territories – from top North Ladakh to down South Puducherry and from far North-East Nagaland to western most point of India i.e. Gujarat.

The distinguished dignitaries included Secretary School Education, UT of Ladakh, Shri Saugat Biswas, IAS, State Project Director from Maharashtra, Dr Ashwini Joshi, State Project Director Delhi, Ms. Ranjana Deswal, State Project Director Mizoram, Shri Lalmah Chhuana.



## International Mother Language Day

International Mother Language Day is celebrated annually on 21 February to promote languages and cultural diversity across the world. International Mother Language Day was first announced by UNESCO on November 17, 1999.



Since then it is being celebrated every year, throughout the world. This year, the theme of International Mother Language Day was 'Languages without borders.'

Over six decades, NBT's emphasis has been to publish and promote books in Indian languages including minor languages. Besides, NBT organizes workshops especially in many tribal areas to develop books in tribal languages. So far, NBT has organized several workshops in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Punjab, Kerala and many areas in North East.

Books have been published in languages like Ao Naga, Asur, Bhili, Bhatri, Bhojpuri, Bhumij, Bhutia, Birhori, Birji, Dhorbi, Dorli, Gondi, Halbi, Himachali, Ho, Khasi, Khurdish, Kokborok, Kudukh, Lepcha, Limboo, Maithili, Malto, Mising, Mizo, Mundari, Newari, Puadhi, Rajasthani, Santali and Tibetan.

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## Book Received

### The Science of Peace

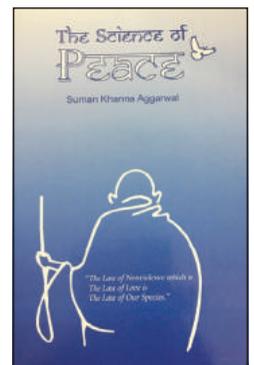
Suman Khanna Aggarwal

Rs 699

ISBN 978-81-7139-738-9

Published by Shanti Sahyog Center for Peace & Conflict Resolution

The book is an effort to empower reader to understand Gandhi's philosophy and see how his ideas may be applied to heal our world situation of unmitigated conflict, violence, war and terrorism today. It is an invitation to the reader to understand, practice and promote Gandhi's legacy of Nonviolent Conflict Resolution and peaceful co-existence based on humane values that eschew narrow minded national, communal, fundamentalist and sectarian thinking.



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