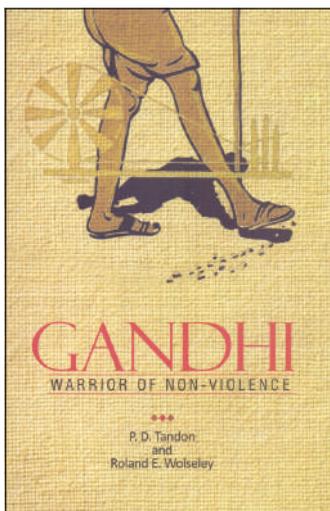


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### PICK OF THE MONTH



**Gandhi: Warrior of Non-violence**  
P.D. Tandon & Roland E. Walseley  
978-81-237-9036-7; Rs 135

## New Delhi World Book Fair 2020



“We are in the midst of an ocean of books,” said Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank,’ Hon’ble Union Minister for Human Resource Development, while inaugurating the 28th edition of New Delhi World Book Fair 2020 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on 4 January 2020. Shri Pokhriyal added, “this Mahakumbh of books is filled with thoughts, the thoughts which give power to humanity. Without thoughts, a human being doesn’t exist.”

Addressing an audience comprising diplomats, foreign and Indian publishers as well as enthusiastic children from schools, Shri Pokhriyal said, “This book fair is a place where people would meet each other, generate and share new thoughts and ideas.” He added that the books would introduce the youth of India to new thoughts.

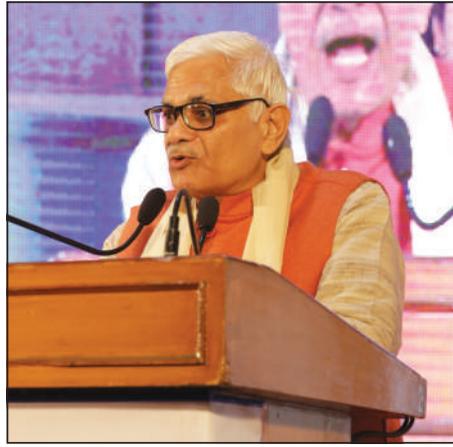
Referring to India as ‘Vishvaguru’, Shri Pokhriyal said “India is the powerhouse of knowledge, wisdom and consciousness. India gave the world the message of brotherhood, peace and Vasudhaiva

Kutumbakam (the world is a family). The philosophy as contained in our literature is progressive, it does not divide people, in fact, it brings in a feeling of oneness.”

Recalling the lines ‘Chote mann wala, bada nahi ban sakta,’ of a poem by Late Atal Behari Vajpai, former Prime Minister of India, Shri Pokhriyal said that our knowledge and wisdom makes people tolerant.

Talking about the Theme of the Fair this year, Shri Pokhriyal said that, “We are celebrating 150 years of Mahatma Gandhi. This comes at a time when we need him the most as the world today is facing





several challenges including terrorism.”

“The world, the nation, the society and all the individuals, need Gandhi because of his vision and his philosophy of peace and non-violence,” he added.

Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal appreciated the fact that the New Delhi World Book Fair is arguably Asia’s biggest book fair and he was hopeful that this fair would soon become the world’s biggest book fair! He also urged publishers to promote books and reading as people are moving further away from books.

Prof. Girishwar Misra, eminent Gandhian was the Guest of Honour on the occasion.

In his address Prof. Girishwar Misra said that, “Though a common man, Gandhi was the Man of Century. He showed the path of truth, peace and non-violence because of his wide reading of books including *Gita*, *Quran* and *Bible*. He imbibed the essence of all the knowledge he gained and made it an integral part of his life. Gandhi was the epitome of idea of Glocal that we often discuss in today’s world. In his writings, he could bring in universal ideas through local wisdom.

“Gandhi’s growth as a leader,” Prof. Misra said, “began during his days in South Africa, where he spent almost 30 years. Before coming to India, he analysed his success and failures in his experiments towards truth. He came back to India as a confident Gandhi.” He added that Gandhi led more than 2000 people during Dandi march and protested against the British peacefully. He added that India’s civilization and culture was close to Gandhi’s heart.

Bringing into light Gandhi as a writer

and as a writers’ writer, Prof. Misra said that much has been written about Gandhi throughout the world. Since Gandhi epitomizes India, there has been a renewed vigour in analyzing his ideals with newer perspectives.

Shri Madan Mohan, Joint Secretary, MHRD and Shri Rajesh Agarwal, Executive Director, ITPO were also present on the occasion.

The guests were felicitated with a shawl and a memento.

Earlier, welcoming the guests, Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, NBT said that through this world of books, one can gain more and more knowledge in different fields and help us see new directions.

While thanking the guests, Ms Neera Jain, Director, NBT said that “For over 60 years we have been with the world of books, sharing its knowledge, culture and civilizational heritage among millions of readers. In this long journey, NBT has continually striven to raise the bar higher and higher to fulfill our mandate, especially the New Delhi World Book Fair.”

The inaugural function began with a beautiful rendering of the welcome song ‘Swagatam’ by the children of National Bal Bhawan led by Shri Rahul Jain and concluded by rendering the Mohamed Iqbal’s song ‘Sare jahan se accha’. Ms Shubhada Kapil, anchored the programme.

### Shri Sanjay Dhotre Released NBT Books at the New Delhi World Book Fair

Shri Sanjay Dhotre, Hon’ble Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Government of India, visited New Delhi World Book Fair on 8 January 2020. On this occasion, he released NBT books including *Gandhi Ahimsa Ka Senani* (Hindi translation of *Gandhi: Warrior of Non-violence*, authored by P D Tandon and Roland Edgar Wolseley); *Baramah* (Punjabi), *Visithira Thampathigal* (Tamil); *Bhatke-Vimukta Samaj: Bhasha va Sanskruti* (Marathi); and *Sitakant Mahapatranka Shrestha Gadyakruti* (Odia).



## Gandhi : The Writers' Writer



In the many discussions and talks hosted at Theme Pavilion at the New Delhi World Book Fair, a question echoed over and over again - 'Who was Gandhi?'. There are many, many answers. Gandhi was a multifaceted personality. Among the many roles he donned, the most important one was that of a communicator. Gandhi intuitively knew the power of words to reach people at large. As Bhabani Bhattacharya in his book, *Gandhi: The Writer*, published by NBT says, "No one who has used the stuff of words on a massive scale has been as passionately purposive as Gandhi. No one has used words with such intense longing to be down-to earth on the one hand and, paradoxically, to reach for the stars on the other." Gandhi wrote in Gujarati, Hindi and English.

A strategic communicator, Gandhi did not hesitate to pull out all the stops

to make his purpose clear. He has plainly stated his objective. "I write as the spirit moves me at the time of writing." ...And again: "The reader can have no idea of the restraint I have to exercise... in the choice of topics and my vocabulary. It is a training for me. It enables me to peep into myself and to make discoveries of my weaknesses. Often my vanity dictates a smart expression or my anger a harsh adjective. It is a terrible ordeal but a fine exercise to remove these weeds."

As a great communicator Gandhiji's impact was electrifying – the low and the high, the illiterate and the literate and his influence on generations of writers.

Focusing on this fascinating aspect of Gandhi as a communicator par excellence, the Theme Programme, 'Gandhi: The Writers' Writer', at the Theme Pavilion, gave the visitors a glimpse into craft of

Lt Col Yuvraj Malik takes over as the new Director of National Book Trust, India



Lt Col Yuvraj Malik (b. 1984) took over as the Director, National Book Trust, India (an autonomous organisation under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India) on 8 January 2020.

Lt Col Yuvraj Malik has joined National Book Trust, India on deputation from the Indian Army. The officer has served with Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs, Raj Bhawan Jammu & Kashmir, United Nation Missions in Africa and several operational areas in administrative and operational assignments including Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Punjab and Rajasthan. He is a voracious reader and is passionate about the world of books. He has 15 years of administrative experience in various capacities in government organisations.

Gandhi's writings and clarity with which he said what he had to say. As Gandhi himself would say, "I propagate my ideas."

Gandhiji was a prolific writer. His writings are collected in over 100





volumes. These include the articles he wrote for *Harijan*, *Young India*, *Indian Opinion* among others. Besides *Indian Home Rule*, *Satyagraha in South Africa* and *My Experiments with Truth*, the numerous letters he wrote to and exchanged with personalities of his times like Leo Tolstoy, Nehru, Patel, Tilak, Ambedkar, Sarojini Naidu, Hitler and Tagore, show the diversity of his thoughts.

As an Editor and Publisher, Gandhi was meticulous both in the choice of language and words. Facsimiles at the Pavilion, display an edited page of *Hind Swaraj* and his awareness on the issues of



copyright, examples of his letter to Leo Tolstoy and Annie Besant. Some of the panels displayed Gandhi as a thinker and a reformer as well. The Theme Pavilion also displayed a special exhibit of books on and by Gandhi as well as a replica of the Charkha.

### Lessons in Copyright

In 1905, Gandhi reprinted Annie Besant's translation of *Bhagavad Gita*, with her portrait, in good faith, as there was no time left to take permission from Mrs Besant to publish the same. Mrs Besant apparently raised an objection and Gandhi sent a long letter of apology taking all the responsibility on his own "shoulders."

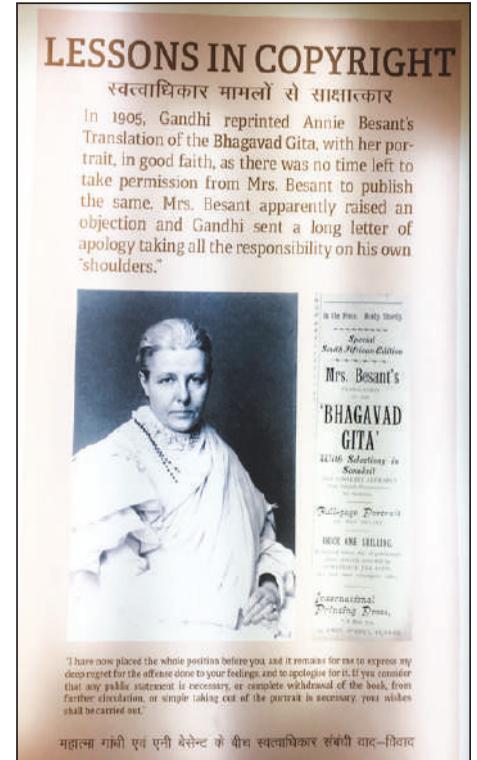
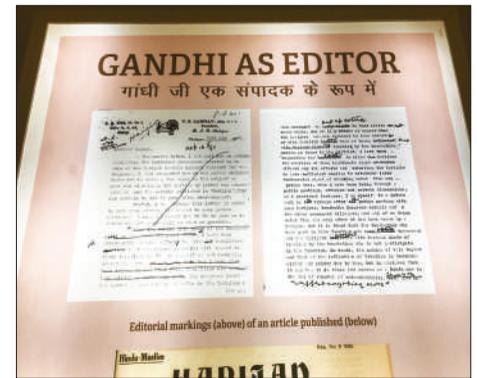
He wrote, "I have now placed the whole position before you, and it remains for me to express my deep regret for the offence done to your feelings, and to apologise for it. If you consider that any public statement is necessary, or complete withdrawal of the book, from further circulation, or simple taking out of the portrait is necessary, your wishes shall be carried out."

### An Ambidextrous Writer

It was one of the particular skills of Gandhi that he could easily write with both his hands.

"My heart is drawn backwards and forwards between the spinning wheel and books."

— Mahatma Gandhi



Prof. Girishwar Misra inaugurated the Theme Pavilion in the presence of Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, NBT and other dignitaries. Prof. Misra also glanced through the books, panels and posters at the pavilion.



Designed by the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, the Pavilion with a display of books, posters and photographs reflect the Gandhian ethos and brings out the many facets of Gandhi as a writer.

## Gandhi: India's Gift to the World

Gandhi, the apostle of peace. Gandhi, the philosopher. Gandhi, the liberator. Gandhi, the disciplinarian. Gandhi, the teacher. Gandhi, the publisher. Gandhi, the journalist. Gandhi, the editor. Gandhi, the writer. And Gandhi, the human being. Who is Gandhi? A question that grappled the minds of the panellists at the Theme Pavilion on 5 January 2020.

Initiating the discussion, "The way I understand Gandhi", Dr Varsha Das, eminent Gandhian, said, "When I was in Gandhi Sangrahalaya, a question always troubled my mind. Do we really know Gandhiji? Soon I realized much needs to be done even after 150 years of his birth." Some people blame Gandhi for the country's partition, others blame him for his refusal to take a firm stand against Bhagat Singh's death sentence and for his regressive stand in opposing machines and automation. But according to Dr Das, such critics know Gandhi only superficially. To understand the man in right perspectives, she suggested five must-read books by Gandhi viz., *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*, *Hind Swaraj*, *India of My Dreams*, *Village Swaraj*, *Constructive Programme- Its Meaning and Place*.

In his presentation on Indian Philosophy and Mahatma Gandhi, Dr Narendra Shukla, Head, Research and Publication Department, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library said, "Every religious movement in India helped usher in a new chapter of Indian philosophy as well. But Gandhi's political movement was the first and only one of its kind to have contributed to the development of Indian philosophy." Gandhi's ideals may have been there in Indian ethos and traditions. But unlike Gandhi, no one could identify their relevance in India's societal, spiritual and political journeys. And that is why a man at the centre of Indian politics could so easily say no to the central political position post independence, said Dr Shukla.

Dr Rakesh Pandey, Editor, *Pravasi Sansar*, in his presentation on Indian Diaspora and Gandhi explained how Pravasi Bharatiya



Diwas on 9 January came to be observed to commemorate the day when Gandhi returned to India from South Africa. Recalling Gandhi's immense contribution for liberating scores of indentured Indian labours in countries like Fiji and Mauritius, he informed the audience that Mauritius, as a mark of respect to Gandhi chose to observe their Independence Day on 12 March 1968, the same day Gandhi started his famous Dandi March in 1930. Referring to interesting anecdotes from the life and works of great Indian diasporic writers like Totaram Sanadhya, Bhawani Dyal Sanyasi and Ramdev Dhurandhar, Dr Pandey said that Indian diaspora would always hold Gandhi in high esteem.

Analyzing how meticulous and indefatigable Gandhi, the writer was, Prof. Ramesh Tanna, eminent journalist and Gandhian thinker, in his presentation on Writer-Journalist-Publisher Gandhi, said

that till date 100 volumes of Gandhi's collected works in English have been published and the numbers in Hindi and Gujarati stand at more than 90 and more than 80 respectively. A student and later Professor of Gujarat Vidyapith, founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920, Prof. Tanna said that Gandhi believed that journalism is not about understanding people's feelings alone, rather it demands ability to help people get rid of their wrong feelings as well.

In his concluding note, Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, NBT India said, "One who hears Gandhi never gets tired. His daily remembrance gives us strength." Referring to Louis Fischer's observation on Gandhi the writer and editor, Professor Sharma said that Gandhi, on one hand, could write about mundane things like utility of peanuts and on the other, scholarly pieces on international politics with equal felicity. Quoting Ram Manohar Lohia, Prof. Sharma said Gandhiji was one of the two biggest discoveries of 20th century, the other being the Nuclear Bomb. One brought smiles to millions of his countrymen and the other brought untold miseries to humanity. On choosing Gandhi: The Writers' Writer as the Theme of this edition of NDWBF, Prof. Sharma said, "What else India can offer to the world, except Gandhi?"



# CEOSpeak

“Books are the best means for creating friendship among nations,” said Dr Mohsin Jawadi, Deputy Minister for Culture & Guidance, Government of Islamic Republic of Iran. He was speaking at the annual forum for publishing, CEOSpeak Over Chairman’s Breakfast, organized at the sidelines of the Fair.

Emphasizing on the importance of cultural ties with India, Dr Jawadi said, “It is time to restart conversations between the poets of Iran and India and revive our glorious past connections.”

“We participate in all major international book fairs with a collective exhibit of books from India, and the Rights catalogue that is brought out is a rich source of database of exporters from India, and for importers abroad to make choices,” said Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, NBT. He was speaking in the context of India’s participation as Guests of Honour at Abu Dhabi International Book Fair and Guadalajara International Book Fair. “The presence of host of writers and publishers at these Fairs has created a renewed interest in Indian writings and organisations like CAPEXIL need to seize the opportunity,” he added.

According to Mr Ratnesh Jha, Chair, FICCI Publishing Committee, the Indian publishing industry has the potential to create, consume and export world class content as well as to create jobs in the sector.

Referring to the growth of Indian Publishing industry, Mr Dilip Chenoy, Secretary General, FICCI, said that India today has a strong global presence and is at the fifth position in international ranking



on the basis of print volume.”

Speaking on the occasion, Ms Neera Jain, Director, NBT said that CEOSpeak is now established as a regular annual forum for discussion and dialogue among the publishing community of India and abroad.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Mr Niknam Husainpur, CEO, Publication House Iran and Shri Kumar Vikram, Editor, NBT.

A panel discussion on Book Export Markets was also held on the occasion. Moderated by Shri Ramesh Mittal, Chairman, CAPEXIL, the speakers

included Ms Aditi Maheshwari, Director, Vani Prakashan, and Shri Ravi Decece, CEO DC Books. Shri S.K. Ghai, MD, Sterling Publishing, Shri Jacek ORYL, Director, Warsaw Book Fair and Ms Isha Chatterjee, CEO, BEE Books.

The discussion focussed on the export potential of Indian publishing industry including challenges like piracy, tax, target readership and most importantly making available the right content in translations.

The forum was organized jointly by National Book Trust, India and FICCI at The Ashok Hotel, Delhi on 5 January 2020.



## PubliCon 2020

“Books are not just reflection of society, but also the guiding force to give direction that will pave the way forward to a new society,” said Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, NBT India. He was speaking at ‘PubliCon 2020: Economics of Publishing’ organised jointly by NBT India and FICCI. Books are often termed as soft power, added Prof. Sharma.

In his address, Mr Ratnesh Jha, Chair, FICCI Publishing Committee and Managing Director – South Asia, Cambridge University Press said that “FICCI will play an important role in building the society and the soft power and in strengthening the nation to nation relationship using the medium of publishing.”

Maj Gen G D Bakshi (Retd), author and TV Commentator, said, “Even today the printed page makes a huge difference, changes the narratives and changes the discourse.”

Mr Birad Rajaram Yajnik, Founder Director and Curator, Mahatma Gandhi



Digital Museums, said that innovation and seeing the invisible are two key aspects of the publication industry to survive and do better.

Others who were present on the occasion include Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT and Ms Karthika, Co-Chair, FICCI Publishing Committee.

FICCI Publishing Awards were also given away during the event held on 6 January 2020.

## Business Meet at the Fair



A Business Meet was organised on 9th January 2020 by the National Book Trust, India at the Conference Hall on the sidelines of the Fair. The meet was attended by 50 odd agents and distributors of the Trust.

In his welcome address, Shri Yuvraj Malik, the Director, NBT expressed his wish to have an open forum where

the problems and challenges of book distribution can be discussed and addressed to.

Shri Ramesh Mittal, President FIP and Chairman CAPEXIL discussed about the problems and also requested if some funds could be released to the libraries so that they can use these funds during the book fair for purchase of books.

The Director, NBT also felicitated the agents and distributors with certificates for their contribution towards distribution of NBT publications in different parts of the country.

The Director also felicitated the employees of the Trust for their efforts in generating the sales as well as for the timely execution of the orders.

During the Financial Year 2018-19, the Trust for the first time crossed the sale figure of Rs 100 crores, a feat that occasioned the cutting of a cake at the Meet.



## Exhibition on The Constitution of India

To create an awareness among people about The Constitution of India and Duties of Citizens, Department of Justice, Government of India put up a 'Digital Exhibition' at Hall No. 8-11 at the New Delhi World Book Fair. The exhibition showcased facts relating to the Constitution, Constituent Assembly and excerpts of speeches of the founding members of the Constituent Assembly. A 'Kiosk' for reading Preamble was also set up to attract all, especially children, to read the Preamble.



Another interesting feature was the Preamble & Fundamental Duties Wall, which was placed outside the main hall so that the public at large can read the Preamble and Fundamental Duties.



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## Cultural Programmes

Pragati Maidan came alive in the evenings with cultural presentations like Folk Songs, Music & Dance, Magic show etc during the World Book Fair.



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