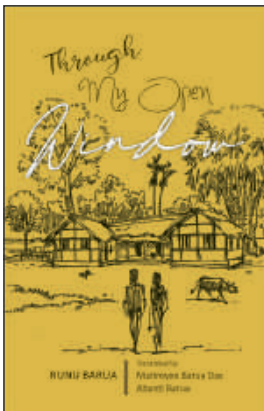


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PICK OF THE MONTH



Through My Open Window

Runu Barua

Translated by Maitreyee Barua Das & Abanti Barua

ISBN 978-81-237-9289-7; Rs 155

Hindi Pakhwada Celebrations



As part of the Hindi Pakhwada Celebrations, the National Book Trust organized a lecture on 'Journey of Hindi to Digital Times' at its premises in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi on 14 September 2020. The lecture was delivered by Dr Kumud Sharma, well-known educationist and Principal, Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Shamli, Uttar Pradesh.

"Like many other languages, Hindi too traces its origin to Sanskrit," said Dr Kumud Sharma. "Later, with the arrival of Mughals," Dr Sharma said, "Persian and Urdu were used extensively in official work, which led to the introduction of words from other languages in Hindi." Besides, she added that many words from English too found their way into Hindi. Today, over 25 per cent words in Hindi are from other languages.

Dr Sharma also talked about the role of Internet and social media in contemporary times. The wider reach of these social media platforms helped in

promoting Hindi. In earlier times, Hindi writers, even well-known authors like Nirala faced difficulties in getting their works published. Now people can post their poems, stories, etc. directly over different social media platforms. Websites like Kavita Kosh and Shabdakosh are providing works of noted Hindi litterateurs online. She also expressed her happiness to note that around 150 Hindi dictionaries are available online. She



also added that with the advent of artificial intelligence, several new user-friendly tools like voice search, spell check etc. have been introduced for Hindi language users. She also appreciated NBT's initiative in providing free ebooks to readers during covid pandemic.

Speaking of Hindi as the official language of India, Dr Kumud said that Hindi was declared as official language on 14 September 1959. Several initiatives are being taken to promote the language not



only in India but also in other countries. She remarked that in this digital age, the

language could be promoted more easily and in effective manner.

Earlier, Shri Rakesh Kumar, Deputy Director and Rajbhasha Adhikari, NBT, welcomed the guests and presented a memento to the main speaker. He also read out the message of Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank,' Hon'ble Minister of Education, Government of India on the occasion of Hindi Diwas.

The session was coordinated by Shri R K Singh, Hindi Consultant, NBT India.

Training Course in Book Publishing Concludes

The first ever online Training Course in Book Publishing concluded on 20 September 2020. Organised by National Book Trust, India, the three-month course began from 26 June 2020.



"In these times of crisis, organizing the course was a big challenge," said Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT. However, he added that, "we decided to organize the course online and make it more inclusive." He said that people from across the country participated in the programme and shared their ideas. Shri Yuvraj Malik also said that the next course will have new features including professional faculty from abroad, evaluation system, assignments and internship, among others. He also talked about the future prospects of the industry and the publication of bilingual books for children under new Education policy.

In his keynote address, Prof. Govind



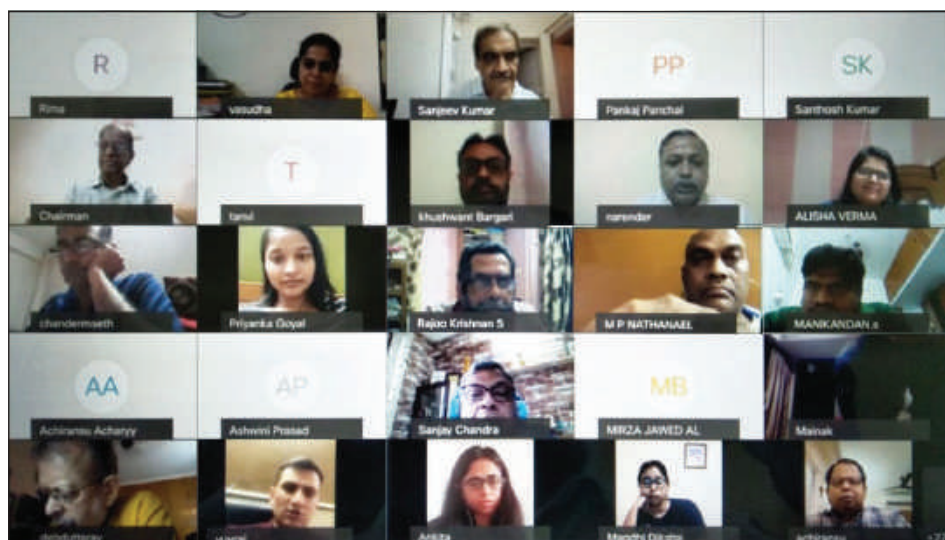
Prasad Sharma, Chairman, NBT said that the pandemic has brought about many changes and has developed a new culture of online training. Speaking of the book *The World is Flat*, Prof. Sharma said that Milton Friedman, the author of the book has talked about 10 changes in the world, among which nine have occurred due to technology. He said that if one wishes to grow in the industry, it is

necessary to keep oneself updated about the new changes that are taking place in the industry.

Over fifty participants from across the country participated in the programme. The experts from the industry including Shri G S Jolly, Shri Ratnesh Jha, Shri B D Mendiratta, Shri Prabhat Kumar, Shri Vivek Mehra, Shri Kula Saikia, Shri Bikram Das, Prof. Nandini Sahu, Shri Sridharan Balan, Shri Balendu Dhadichi, among others.

The faculty introduced participants to the various aspects of publishing like copyright, editing, designing, ISBN, pre-press and printing, sale, promotion, marketing, etc.

The programme was coordinated by Shri Narendra Kumar, Production Officer, NBT.



NBT's Initiative to Promote India's Young Voices

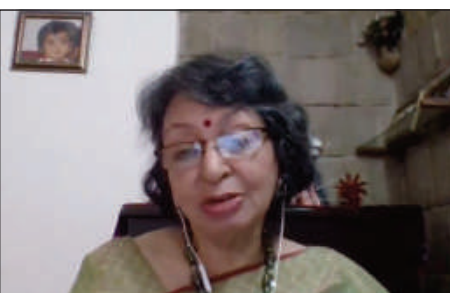
National Book Trust, India organized a virtual session on 'Promoting India's Young Voices' on 19 September 2020.

The session brought together eminent Children's Writers, Illustrators and Child Authors on a single platform. The panelists included Ms Sudha Murthy, Chairperson, Infosys Foundation and noted writer in English and Kannada; Ms Deepa Agarwal, renowned children's author; Shri Subir Roy, international award-winning illustrator and Dr Rajesh Vyas, a prolific critic of contemporary art and culture, poet and renowned columnist. They shared their experiences of writing children's literature and understanding what children today are interested in reading. The young authors aged 7 to 15 talked about their inspiration behind writing at such a young age, and their future goals.



"India is a country which has millions of stories – We as writers need to bring them to children, said Ms Sudha Murthy in her address. Recognising the importance of once potential, Ms Sudha Murthy said, "My background and absence of children's books when I was young helped me turn to writing for children. It is essential to understand the needs of the readers. For today's children, it is necessary to write in a style that is easily understood by them and incorporate values in our writings."

"My journey of becoming a writer started with stories told by my mother,"



said Ms. Deepa Agarwal. Later during her stay in boarding school, she said, "I developed an interest for reading. I always try to think from the point of view of a child and take inspiration from real-life incidents as well as from my own children."



Stressing on the importance of illustrations, Mr. Subir Roy, an international award-winning and legendary illustrator said, "It's vital to take inspiration from your surroundings and let children nurture their creative ideas," Being original and honest with your art is very crucial to become an illustrator. He also stressed the importance of drawing a negative character correctly and not glorifying it by putting unnecessary details.

Dr Rajesh Kumar Vyas talked about his childhood days when he was inspired to write from puppet shows. "Our mind is like a parachute, it works best when it is open", said Mr. Vyas. As a writer, one needs to pay attention to our surroundings and how you perceive that should reflect in your writings, which will always be different from others, hence original.

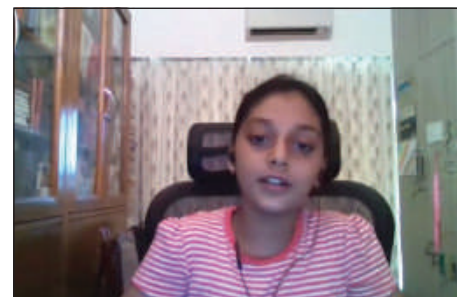
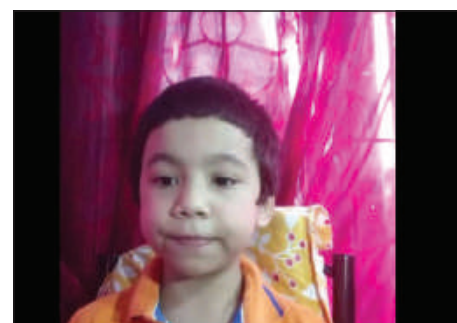


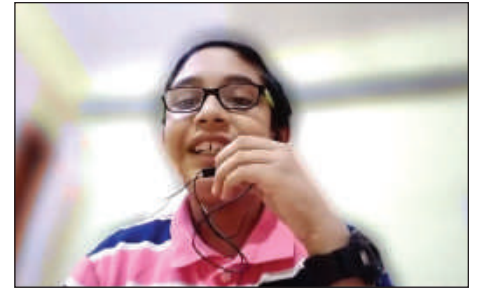
Speaking on the occasion, Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, National Book Trust, India said that all young authors have the potential to win the Sahitya Akademi award, the Booker prize or any



other prestigious literary award, all they need is correct guidance and a platform to showcase their talent. Talking about NBT, Shri Malik said, "We have very specialized and exclusive content for children's literature, and NBT has set the benchmark in this domain. NBT has been working for the last more than six decades for promotion of books and reading, and has always taken unique initiatives to make children book-minded and provide assistance to young authors. We publish content for children and organize special events for them, and now is the time to pay attention towards the content written by children. "NBT," he said, will give young talented child authors wings to fly, they just need to fly in the right direction."

In the next session that followed, the Child Authors talked about their writings and inspirations – Ayan Gogoi Gohain, 7-year-old young author from Assam who is inspired by nature, birds,





and snow; 10-year-old Sarah Rose who loves reptiles and all scary creatures; Dhruvaditya Tiwari, 11-year-old who wrote his first book when he was just 7 years old and likes the genre of spiritual and scientific adventure; Ayaan Kapadia, 11-year-old who completed his first book in just three days!; Akshat Gupta, 12-year-old who is the youngest to hold the record of publishing maximum books in a year; and Yashi Tripathi, 15-year-old who is a

voracious reader and her book is all about mystery and adventure.



In the concluding session, the children interacted with the panelists posing interesting questions – like how to depict nature in their illustrations, how to make characters come alive, how to overcome obstacles, and how to become an established award winning writer, among others.

The programme was moderated by Ms. Kanchan Wanchoo Sharma, Assistant Director (Public Relations), NBT, India.

Birth Anniversary of Deendayal Upadhyaya

Scholar, writer and journalist, Deendayal Upadhyaya was a major influence in Indian political history. Born on 25 September 1916, he lost his parents at a young age and was brought up by his maternal uncle. A brilliant student, Deendayal earned scholarships to continue his studies. In 1942, he became a life-time volunteer of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. He was closely associated with Syama Prasad Mookerjee in 1950 and became a member of Bharatiya Jana Sangh. After he became the national general secretary

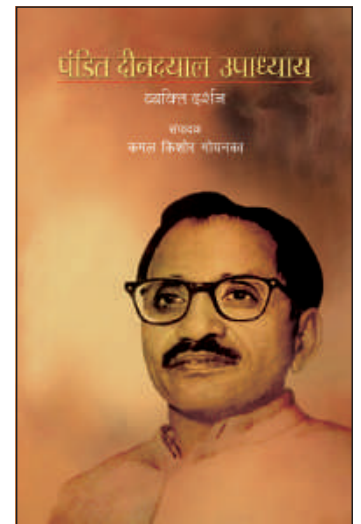
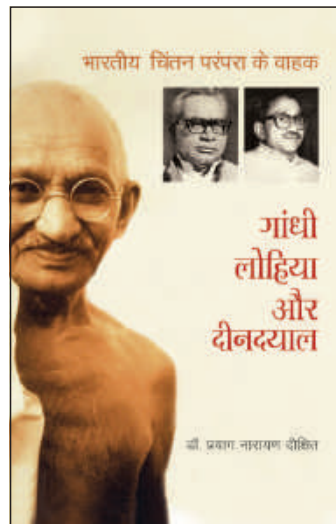
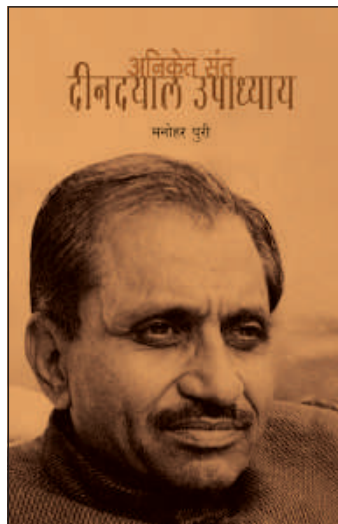
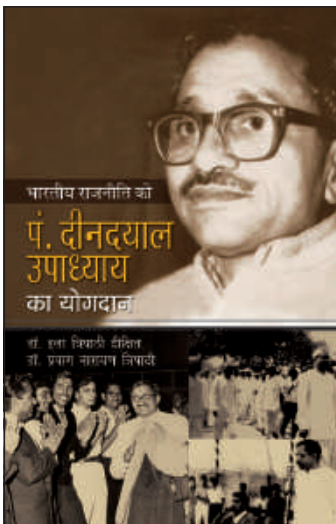
of the BJS, Deendayal Upadhyay was instrumental in shaping the ideology and socio-political principles of the BJS for next 15 years.

Greatly influenced by Gandhian principles, Deendayal Upadhyaya was a deep and original thinker. His philosophy of Integral Humanism, is a synthesis of the material and the spiritual, the individual and the collective

In the 1940s, Deendayal Upadhyaya started a publishing house called Rashtra Dharma. And in 1948, he launched *Panchjanya* (weekly) and became its

founder editor. He also edited *Swadesh* (daily). Among Deendayal Upadhyaya's major writings include a drama on Chandragupta Maurya, and a biography of Shankaracharya. He passed away on 11 February 1968.

National Book Trust, India has published books on his life and times in Hindi including *Aniket Sant: Deendayal Upadhyaya*; *Bhartiya Chintan Parampara Ke Vaachak: Gandhi, Lohia aur Deendayal*; *Bhartiya Rajneeti Ka Pandit Deendayal Ka Yogdaan* and *Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya: Vyakti Darshan*.



Run for Unity

On the occasion of the 142nd Birth Anniversary of Sardar Patel, PM Narendra Modi addressed the nation while flagging-off 'Run for Unity' on 31 October 2017. We reproduce the speech of the same

Victory to Mother India!

Let Sardar Sahib be immortal!

The young loved ones of Maha Bharati who have come here in large numbers,

Today is 31st of October, the birthday of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. 31st October is also commemorated as the death anniversary of former Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi ji. On the birth anniversary of the great Sardar Sahib, let us recall the efforts and the struggles of his life for the freedom of the country. After independence, this great man through his skill, struggles, strength and supreme devotion towards the nation had saved the country on several occasions of crises at a time when the country was on the verge of disintegration. He had not only steered the country out of problems at the time of Independence but also contributed significantly to consolidate the small princely kingdoms that wanted to secede from India after the British had left. He did not let the intensions of the British to eliminate the existence of India by dividing her into small states to succeed. This was the long term vision of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel that integrated the country into a single thread by using his diplomacy and strategies. No efforts were made to acquaint the new generation with Sardar vallabh Bhai Patel. Attempts have been made either to erase his name from the pages of history or to undermine his role. But history is witness to the fact that whether some political ideology or a political party gives him recognition or not, the young generation doesn't want to forget him. As a result, when the opportunity to serve came before us we commemorated the contributions made by that great personality in a special manner and will continue with it in every generation. Therefore, we have come up with this campaign - Run for Unity. I am glad that the young generation is participating in Run for Unity with great enthusiasm.

Once the country's first President, Dr.



Rajendra Prasad, had said something which had compelled us to think. He had said -"Today, we have the name 'India' to refer to as our country. Today we have a country called 'India'. This was made possible only because of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel's statesmanship and tremendous hold on the administration." He had further said, "Despite this, we have forgotten Sardar Sahib." The first President of India had expressed this pain over forgetting Sardar Sahib's contributions.

India is a nation full of diversities. We have time and again reiterated that the unique feature of our country is unity in diversity. This has been our mantra. But unless we acknowledge this speciality of our country and feel proud of it, this will remain just a slogan. We would not be able to use it for nation building. Every Indian can feel proud of the fact that India has embraced every cult of the world, every tradition and every ideology in some or the other form. It has a variety of dialects, dressing styles, food habits and beliefs. Despite this diversity we have learnt from our traditions to be united for the country for its welfare. Today, even the people from the same traditions and cultural backgrounds are intolerant towards one another and can even kill one another. In the 21st century some people are propagating violence in the world just to place one's beliefs as superior to the others'. On these occasions India can proudly say that we are that country, we

are the Indians who respect every belief, tradition and culture of the world. This is our legacy and strength. This is our path of a bright future. This is our responsibility. No one can underestimate the love of a brother and a sister. For the brother and the sister to sacrifice for each other is a natural tendency. Yet, in order to preserve the sanctity of this ritual, we celebrate Raksha-Bandhan. We try to enhance the relationship of the brother and the sister every year. Similarly, despite the country's unity it is necessary to reinforce the nation's cultural heritage. It is necessary to recall the Mantra of Unity again and again. It is essential to remember the pledge for the unity of the country again and again.

The country is vast. Generations keep changing. Not every incident of history is known. Therefore, it is necessary to echo the mantra of unity and search for the path to unity in a country with so much diversity. Our country should remain one and united. It's the responsibility of 125 crore Indians to secure the unity and integrity of the country given to us by Sardar Sahib. Therefore we should think about Sardar Patel by reminding ourselves of his contribution to the country's unity. Every generation should know the way he had integrated the country. Today, on 31st October, we are celebrating the birth anniversary of Sardar Sahib. Eight years later we will be celebrating 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Sahib. What new example of Unity shall we set on the completion of 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Sahib? How can we promote this feeling of Unity within the people? We will have to move ahead with these resolutions.

The year 2022 will mark 75 years of independence. Innumerable patriots such as Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Rajguru, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel had lived and died for the country. By the year 2022 when 75 years of independence will be completed we

should take a resolution in our hearts as well as try to fulfil that resolution. Every Indian should have a resolution. Every Indian should make great efforts to fulfil those resolutions. That resolution should be for the welfare of the society, of the country and for enhancing the country's pride. We should associate ourselves with such a resolution. I believe that the need of the hour is to take a resolution today on the birth anniversary of the great freedom fighter Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for the year 2022.

You all have come in large numbers and got involved with this event enthusiastically. All the youngsters across the country also are associated with it. I urge you all to take an oath on Rashtriya Ekta Diwas. Remembering Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, let us take an oath which I am presenting before you and you will repeat after me with a resolution inside your minds. You will repeat after me by putting forward your right hand: "I solemnly affirm that I will dedicate myself to maintain the unity, integrity and

sovereignty of the country and will also put all my efforts to spread this message among my countrymen. I take this pledge in the spirit of unity of my country which could be made possible by the foresightedness and the contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. I sincerely take the pledge to make my contribution to ensure the internal security of my country."

Victory to Mother India!

Victory to Mother India!

Victory to Mother India!

Thanks a lot!

NBT Books Reflecting India's Unity in Diversity

Indian Federalism

Mahendra Prasad Singh

Rs. 115.00 192 pp

The book attempts to introduce and analyse the federal structure as enunciated in Indian Constitution from the theoretical as well as practical perspectives and how it has been able to put in place and evolve mechanism to meet the various and varied aspirations of different regions, communities and classes.

ISBN 978-81-237-6187-9



aspects of Indian society including its historical roots, ideological foundations and social organisations. It also discusses the major trends of change and their impact, illuminating the complex social realities of India.

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Gandhi's India: Unity in Diversity

Rs. 70.00 100 pp

Gandhiji's basic ideas underwent no change during the forty years of his active public life, but their expression and application varied according to circumstances. This brief anthology has been compiled by the National Integration Sub-Committee of the National Committee for Gandhi Centenary.

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Our Constitution: An Introduction to India's Constitution and Constitutional Law

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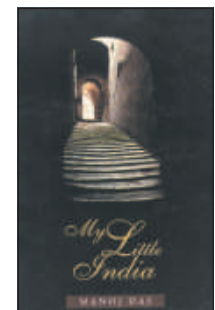
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Manoj Das

Rs. 90.00 256 pp

Written by a major contemporary writer, the book by taking us on an exclusive journey through India, offers a rare glimpse of the resplendent Indian psyche through descriptions of legends, myths, folklore, etc.

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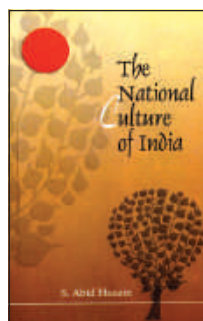
The National Culture of India

S Abid Husain

Rs. 250.00 181 pp

A learned exposition of the theory that, amidst the great diversity in every walk of life in India, there exists an underlying unity.

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Indian Society

S C Dube

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Drawing upon diverse sources such as history, indology, anthropology and sociology, this book discusses the various

Reorganisation of States in India: Text and Content

Gyanesh Kudaisya

Rs 285 352 pp

Over sixty years ago, following the formation of Andhra Pradesh in 1953, demands for the creation of new states soon came up. Hence, Jawaharlal Nehru's government was forced to set up the States Reorganisation Commission (SRC) to investigate these demands and to formulate principles upon which new states could be created. Recommendations, ideas, method of working and manner in which recommendations were dealt with by Nehru government may have important insights for all those interested in the history of contemporary India.

ISBN 978-87-237-7195-3

Patel on Partition

Reproduced from the book *Gandhi-Patel: Letters and Speeches*, published by NBT India, this speech, delivered by Sardar Patel on 2nd January 1947 at Shillong, reaffirms his secularism which was closely connected with statecraft management of democracy and the urge for integrative development of Indian society.

India has had to shoulder a great burden which involved sufferings and privations. It has also filled us with deep sorrow. During the Struggle for Freedom, although we bore tremendous sufferings, we never flinched nor grieved because the Struggle lent us zest that conquered all sorrow.

We have just won Freedom. But if we had not suddenly turned mad, we would have begun reaping its fruits and enhancing our prestige and reputation in the eyes of the world.

Instead of realizing the value of what we have achieved, we have behaved worse than animals. It was in no light-hearted manner that we agreed to Partition. This price was necessary to gain Freedom and to live in Freedom. There is no time, however, for grieving over what has happened.

We must remember that we have still our brothers and sister across the frontiers whom we have to evacuate and settle in this country. We hope Pakistan will not give trouble any more but help us to accomplish it peacefully so that each of us may settle down to the vital task of reconstruction that awaits us thereafter.

Kashmir and Hyderabad are the only two major issues that are still hanging on us. Junagadh has ceased to be a problem. Hyderabad, I am certain, will itself realize the path of sanity and wisdom. But if it did not, this problem would not remain confined to Hyderabad alone but it would have its wider repercussions all over India. Muslims in the rest of India are bound to be affected if Hyderabad only let out the virus of hate and enmity.

As regards to Kashmir, I am certain that the problem would settle itself sooner than expected. But if it so lingered, though it might damage India to a degree, it will mean a death-blow to Pakistan.

India means well to Pakistan. Indeed, all problems relating to partition have been settled peacefully. We settled those problems not as enemies but as mutual

well-wishers. If only the problem of evacuation and exchange of population would have been settled peacefully, the relations between India and Pakistan would have been much better.

Alas! Words fail to describe the woes and sufferings which the people of Punjab have undergone. The rehabilitation of refugees is a very difficult task; and, for that, I invite co-operation of every Province. Here there is no room for provincialism, parochialism or for the kindred jealousies. If such tendencies grew, it would mean the ruin of India. Instead, there should be healthy competition among them for the common advancement and prosperity of the land. I thank the people of Shillong for donating me a purse of Rs. 10,000 for relief to the refugees.

India is going apace with the task of integration. Only six months ago, there was a talk of rajahsthans which, had it been materialized, the whole body-politic of India would have been covered with ulcers. Instead, we have achieved integration and unity which holds promise of immense potentiality for glory and greatness. It is now for all of us either to make or mar our future. If we want to secure our future, we could do so only by unity wherein lies strength.

I am glad that the people of Assam have forgotten and forgiven the efforts of the Muslim populace of the Province for the achievement of Pakistan. I hope this good turn will be appreciated by them. This obviously means that if there were a

war with Pakistan, Muslims in India must stand by their country. They must warn Pakistan: "You have got what you wanted. For Heaven's sake let us now live in peace."

I have a special word for the young men I see around me. I know that many of you wish to advocate Socialism. But you must realize that unity should come first. It is no use merely crying that we are Socialists. You cannot imbibe Socialism through textbooks or by listening to learned speeches. You must first understand what it means in practice and how the ground has to be prepared for it. You must realize how long England took to become socialistic and America makes no talk of it even now.

They say that I am a friend of rulers and capitalists. But indeed I am a friend of Harijans and the poor and the tribal people. I am also a friend of Socialists. But unlike many who indulge in, the parrot-cry of Socialism, I have no property of my own. Before you talk of Socialism you must ask yourself how much wealth you have created by your own labour. By experience, I am convinced that it is first necessary for us to learn how to produce wealth and thereafter to think what to do with it. What the Province of Assam needs imperatively today is not this parrot-cry of Socialism but unity and strength. You must concentrate your efforts on useful and constructive activities and not get yourselves fogged in the theoretical disputes about Socialism. There are some people who rather think that they could settle all their problems by wielding the big stick and by shouting slogans of Socialism ad nauseam. But they forget that it is not coercion or hatred but affection and regard that will prove effective ultimately.

You have also to take care of the frontiers of which you are the sentinels. It is a mighty responsibility for it involves dealing with the enemies and welcoming the friends.

I wish Assam to set a model for the rest of India!



Gandhi-Patel:
Letters and Speeches
Neerja Singh (Ed.)
978-81-237-5556-4
Rs. 145

Mobile Book Exhibitions

National Book Trust, India is organizing a series of mobile book exhibitions of its publications in Delhi. The exhibition began in the second week of September. So far, the mobile exhibition has travelled across Vasant Kunj, R K Puram, Preet Vihar, Patparganj, Paschim Vihar, Patel Chowk, Delhi University, IARI Pusa Campus, TERI School of Advance Studies, Saket, Lodhi Colony, JNU and Bhikaji Cama Place. A large number of booklovers were seen showing keen interest in the books. Readers were given 10 per cent discount on books across genres in English and Hindi.



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Hindi Pakhwada Programmes

National Book Trust, India organised Hindi Pakhwada (fortnight) from 1 to 15 September 2020. During the Pakhwada, three competitions for employees of the Trust including Hindi general knowledge, essay writing and Hindi dictation were conducted. The employees of the Trust, particularly from non-Hindi speaking areas, participated in these competitions with enthusiasm.

The successful participants included Shri Bhagyendra Patel, Shri Mukesh Kumar, Ms Navjot Kaur, Shri Narender Kumar, Ms Surekha Sachdeva, Shri Julfikar Ali, Ms Ekta, Shri Mukesh Panwar, Shri Praveen Kumar, Ms Poonam Madhukar, Shri Avinash Anand, Shri Rajan Kumar, Shri Omveer, Ms Priyanka Jadon, Shri Aman Kumar and Ms Aruna Devi.

Hindi Pakhwada was coordinated by Shri Rakesh Kumar, Deputy Director and Rajbhasha Adhikari; Shri R K Singh and Ms Bimla Rawat, NBT India.

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