

NBT newsletter

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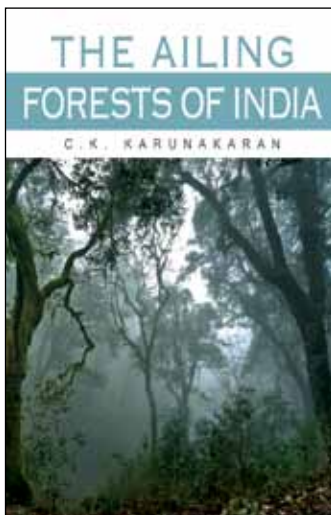


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PICK OF THE MONTH



The Ailing Forests of India
C.K. Karunakaran

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JAIPUR BOOK FAIR



“The significance of a printed book can never diminish, even in the present age of information technology when mobile phones and iPads carry huge amounts of data”, said Shri Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister of Rajasthan, while inaugurating the NBT Jaipur Book Fair.

“Books,” he said, “must be made available to readers at reasonable prices and writers should provide readers with the tools to fight terrorism, casteism and communalism. The State Government will support NBT in organising similar fairs in other towns of Rajasthan.”

The Chief Minister said the scope for book market in Jaipur would be examined through a survey by the Rajasthan Hindi Granth Akademi and the establishment of a revolving fund for encouraging writers would be considered seriously. The State Government has already established a welfare fund for litterateurs and journalists.

The NBT Jaipur Book Fair was

organised in association with the Rajasthan Hindi Granth Akademi, Jaipur and Rajasthan Pustak Prakashak Sangh. It was held from 8-14 October 2012 at Amroodon Ka Bagh in Jaipur.

Earlier, Shri Satish Kumar, Joint Director (Production), NBT welcomed the guests and informed everyone about the various activities of the Trust





and distributors from all over the country displayed their books in about 160 stalls at the fair.

The seven-day fair saw various literary programmes and children's activities being held every day. The children's sessions saw popular children's



writers participating and interacting with children, which included names like Kshama Sharma, Prem Pal Sharma,

in promoting books and book reading habit in the country. Shri Prabhakar Shrotiya, eminent writer was the chief guest at the inaugural function. Shri Chandra Prakash Deval, distinguished scholar was the special guest.

The fair had on display books on fiction, non-fiction as well as children's literature titles in Hindi, Urdu, English and Rajasthani, besides other languages including Marathi, Bangla, Konkani, etc. More than 115 publishers, booksellers,

writers participating and interacting with children, which included names like Kshama Sharma, Prem Pal Sharma,



Chandi Dutt Shukla, Charanjeet Dhillon.

The literary programmes were graced by eminent writers and poets, namely Maya Mrig, CP Deval, Govind Mathur, Buddinath Mishra, Prem Jamnejai, Atul Chaturvedi, Anurag Vajpayee, Farookh Afridi, Padma Sachdev, Ratan Jangid, Nasira Sharma and Mridula Garg, among others.

Dr. Lalit Kishore Mandora, Hindi editor, NBT, India coordinated the programmes.

PUBLISHING COURSE IN GOA

The National Book Trust, India held a two-week Training Course in Book Publishing at Goa from 1-13 October, 2012. The publishing course was organised in collaboration with Krishnadas Shama Goa State Central Library, Directorate of Art & Culture, Patto, Panaji and Konkani Akademi, Panaji.

The training course was inaugurated by Shri Vishnu Surya Wagh, MLA and Chairman, Kala Academy, Sanskruti Bhavan. Shri Wagh is also an eminent writer and dramatist. He said that publishing has not yet taken the form of an upcoming industry in Goa, hence there is definitely a need to develop the industry in an organised and proper manner. He was of the view that during this two-week deliberation, the participants in the course would benefit from it and in the process learn various aspects of book publishing.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Pundalik Narayan

Nayak, Chairman, Goa Konkani Akademi spoke about creating a book culture in Goa, which would help in developing and strengthening the book publishing industry.

Shri Sridhar Balan, Consultant, Ratna Sagar Publishers, New Delhi said that the publishers need not fear the technological advent of digitization of books or the e-books, as he felt that both e-books and printed books would co-exist even in the future. He was of the view that both

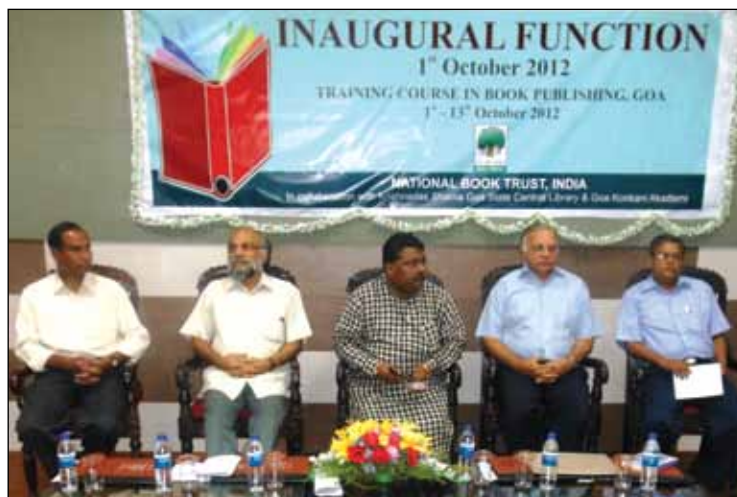
versions would always complement and supplement each other.

Shri Carlos M. Fernandes, Curator, Krishnadas Shama Goa State Central Library also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, Shri Sumit Bhattacharjee, Assistant Director, National Book Trust, India and the Course Coordinator welcomed the guests and participants, and informed them about the book publishing course being organised by NBT regularly in various parts of the country, and annually in New Delhi.

The subjects covered in the two-week course including editing, designing, production, printing, marketing, finance, sales, etc. The faculty comprised eminent resource persons from leading publishing houses of the country.

The next Training Course in Book Publishing will be held at Bangalore from 19 November to 1 December 2012.



The National Book Trust, India, as part of its efforts to promote books and reading, has initiated a series of literary programmes and special book exhibitions to be organized in the tribal heartlands of the country. In this initiative the Trust hopes to extend its outreach programmes further into areas that remain largely inaccessible to books. Besides book exhibitions, the Trust would also organize special literary events like book releases, panel discussions etc. through which it would facilitate writers, scholars and other intellectuals to interact with the readers in those areas. Many such programmes were held at Rayagada and Betnoti in Odisha, Utnoor in Andhra Pradesh, Vansda in Gujarat, and Pakur in Jharkhand.

Rayagada (Odisha)

Rayagada, the municipal headquarters of the district of Rayagada, is predominantly a tribal inhabited area peopled by many primitive tribal groups. Situated amidst sylvan surroundings, in the southern part of Odisha, Rayagada was the venue for three day literary festival organised by NBT, India in collaboration with Bhanja Kala Samaj and Women's College, Rayagada.

Inaugurating the programme, Shri Ramakanth Rath, eminent poet, said that the task NBT is engaged is herculean. Emphasizing the need to foster reading habit to save our languages, he observed that, "the essence of culture shall spread and consciousness widen if language is accepted as multi expressive and essential." Further he urged the media houses to create an atmosphere to facilitate advertising 'literary products' to spread the importance of books and reading.

Dr. Mahendra Kumar Mishra, scholar and researcher of tribal life and culture, discussed the many facts of tribal life. Having lived most part of his academic life

with them he said that their life is so vitally linked to their surroundings that it is near impossible for them to live away from it.

In his address, Dr. Ratan Das, social worker and Boodan Andholan member, sought to distinguish between the benefits of the age of science and age of reason. According to him, world of literature will check the erosion of values which is necessary for the progress of a society.

On the occasion, a title in Odia,

Panigrahi, Principal, Women's College, Rayagada, Dr. Bijayananda Das, eminent critic and Odia Advisory Panel member of the Trust, Sh. Surat Kumar Naik, member Odisha Sahitya Akademi.

A panel discussion on Tribal Life and Culture and the Relevance of Reading Habit was organised on the occasion. The discussion, presided over by Dr. Bijay Kumar Satapathy, Professor and Head, Dept. of Odia, Utkal University, had many scholars and researchers of tribalism discuss the many facets of their way of life and importance of promoting reading among them. They also emphasized that books should be made available to them in their own languages. They included Shri. Bijay Nayak, Secretary Odisha Sahitya Academy, Dr. Rajendra Padhi, Shri. Parameswar Mund, Shri Subash Mishra, Dr. Dushmanta Kumar Mohanty, Dr. Basant Kishore Sahu and Dr. Simanchal Pradhan.

A Meet the Author session with Dr. Ramananda Behera, writer and scholar, and Dr. Pratibha Satapathy, poet, and a Poets' Meet along with cultural performances enlivened the evenings.



published by NBT was released, namely *Mantra Magic & Miracle: A Scientific Exploration*.

Presiding over the function, Prof. Kegeswar Mahapatra said that India is home to over 350 tribal communities speaking about 250 languages. Commenting on the role of the Trust in organizing literary programmes in the tribal areas, he said that books should also be published in tribal languages, only then efforts such as these will bear fruit.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Dr. K.S.





Betnoti (Odisha)

“Preservation, collection and translation of tribal literature and culture is not an easy work. One needs to go to remote tribal areas and instil in them confidence. Then only we can learn more about their tradition and culture”, said Dr. Sitakant Mahapatra, eminent poet and scholar on tribalism, at the inauguration of the three-day literary programmes held at Betnoti College. The programme held from 21-23 September 2012 was organised in collaboration with Betnoti College, Betnoti, situated in Mayurbhanj District of Northern part of Odisha.

Speaking on the occasion Prof. Dasarathi Das said “adivasi enriched Odisha is home to about 62 out of the 63 tribal sects of India with many of them living the same kind of life since primitive times.”

Dr Damayanti Besra observed that there should be conscious efforts to teach the children of the tribal communities in their own mother tongues.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Dr. Sourindra Barik and Shri



Satakadi Hota who presided over the function.

A panel discussion on Preservation and Translation of Adivasi Literature: Its Limits and Possibility was organised during the occasion. The discussion was presided over by Professor Shyam Sunder Mahapatra. Speakers included Dr. Binod Naik, Dr. Adikanda Mohanty, Shri Asit Mohanty, Shri Sridhar Singh, Shri Arjum Hembram and Shri Sanatan Munda.

A Meet the Author session with Prof. Shantanu Kumar Acharya and Shri. Kartick Ratha and a Poet’s meet were also held during the three day programme.

The Trust also organised special book exhibitions at both the programmes. The programmes were coordinated by Dr. Pramod Sar, Odia editor of the Trust.

Vansda (Gujarat)

A teachers’ orientation programme on ‘How to Run a Readers’ Club’ was held at Vansda, a tribal dominated district in South Gujarat on 21 July 2012. About 50 teachers and facilitators of education among children of the region took part in it. The programme was organised by National Centre for Children’s Literature (NCCL), a wing of NBT.

The programme was inaugurated by Shri Dig Virendra Singh Solanki, former



Maharaja, erstwhile Vansda State. A wildlife conservation and reading habit promotion activist himself, Shri Solanki lauded NBT’s publishing for children and emphasized on nurturing the creative talents of tribal and underprivileged children through Readers’ Club Movement.

Prof. Aswin Desai, author, activist and former HOD, Comparative Literature, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat, acted as resource



person on the occasion and interacted with the participants on various ways and means for promotion of reading among children.

Shri Manas Ranjan Mahapatra, Editor, NCCL, briefed on the creative activities related to books and reading for the Readers’ Clubs. The programme was coordinated by Shri Bhagyendra B. Patel, Gujarati editor of the Trust.





Utnoor (Andhra Pradesh)

Utnoor, a remote tribal dominated area in the district of Adilabad, Andhra Pradesh was the venue for a three day literary programme organised by the Trust from 7-9 September 2012. The programmes were held in collaboration with Department of Tribal Welfare, Government of Andhra Pradesh and Eklavya Foundation, Utnoor.

Inaugurating the programme, Mrs. Suman Rathod, Member of Legislative Assembly, Andhra Pradesh, lauded the efforts of the Trust for organising such literary events in tribal areas and hoped that many such programmes will be held in other similar areas. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Vadvevu Chinna Veerabhadrudu talked of how reading during his formative years had influenced some of the major decisions taken during his life.

The function was presided over by Shri V.R. Deshpande, noted short story writer, others who spoke on the occasion included Shri Meshram Manohar, President, Adivasi writers Association and Shri Gopagani Ravinder, Eklavya Foundation.

Among the programmes held was a



essay and painting competition on the theme 'My Favourite Book' and Tribal culture and Festivals respectively. About 260 students from in and around Utnoor participated in it. A poetry reading session, presided over by Dr. Udari Narayana, poet and critic and a Meet the Author session with Dr. Boopal, Children's writer and film personality was organised. Besides, Telugu translation of Children's book published by Trust were released during the period. The books released include *A Tale of Moustache*, *Tale of two Dogs* and *Dobu aur Rajkumar*. A special book exhibition was also part of the three day literary event.

Dr. P. Mohan, Telugu editor, NBT, coordinated the programme.

Pakur (Jharkhand)

A one-day literary programme was organised by the National Book Trust, India at the Kumar Kalidas Memorial College, Pakur in Jharkhand on 6 October 2012 in association with Manvi Sanstha, Pakur.

The programme was presided over by Dr Chandra Shekhar Jha, Principal, K.K.M. College. Shri Baleshwar Sahni, District Education Officer was the chief guest at the function.

Six titles in Hindi published by the NBT, India, namely *Tripura ki Janjatiya Lok Kathayen*, *Birsa ki Kahani*, *Udaan*,



Neem ki Beti, *Padhna Hai* and *Loriyan* were released during the inaugural function.

In the second session, a seminar on 'How to Develop the Habit of Reading in Tribal Society' was held. Dr Ashok Priyadarshi, Shri Nalinikant, Dr Kripashankar Awasthi, Dr Yugal Jha, Dr Shishir Suman Mishra, Mehboob Alam and Ramdarash Chowdhury presented their views on the subject.

There are about 34 tribal communities in Jharkhand at present. They do not have any script or language to preserve their culture, which is only reflected through



their traditions, folklore, folk songs etc.

Earlier Dr Baldev Singh Baddan, Chief Editor & Joint Director, NBT, India welcomed the audience and spoke about the endeavours of the Trust to reach books to the remotest corner of the country and make books available to all at cost effective rates.

The last session of the programme was a Poet's Meet where poems in Hindi, Santhali and Urdu were rendered by some well known poets of the region.



9TH WORLD HINDI CONFERENCE

The three-day long 9th World Hindi Conference was inaugurated in the Nelson Mandela Sabhagar at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa on 22 September 2012. The main theme of the conference was 'Bhasha Ki Asmita Aur Hindi Ka Vaishvik Sandarbh', seeking to promote and widen the reach of Hindi language.

The conference was inaugurated jointly by Smt. Preet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, and Shri Pravin Gordhan, Minister of Finance, Government of South Africa. Shri Mukheshwar Choonee, Minister of Art and Culture, Government of Mauritius, Shri Marius Llewellyn Fransman, Deputy Foreign Minister, South Africa, Smt. Malthie Ramballi, President, Hindi Shiksha Sangh, South Africa and Smt. Ila Gandhi also graced the occasion.

Shri Virendra Gupta, the High Commissioner of India in South Africa spoke about the cultural and historical links between India and South Africa,



Mahatma Gandhi's struggle against racial discrimination and the use of non-violence as the main tool of his struggle. Smt. Preet Kaur spoke about the link between the organization of the 9th World Hindi Conference in South Africa and Mahatma Gandhi's association with South Africa.

The programme began with musical presentations by the artists of Indian



Cultural Centre in Johannesburg and the local folk artists of South Africa.

The opening ceremony was followed by the inauguration of a composite exhibition of Hindi books, jointly put up by the National Book Trust, India; Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, C-DAC and co-ordinated by Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Vishwavidyalaya. It was followed a symbolic unveiling of the bust of Pandit Nardev Vedalankar, the founder of Hindi Shiksha Sangh in South Africa.

The programmes included nine academic sessions, cultural programmes and exhibitions on various aspects of Hindi including IT applications in the field of Hindi.

In all, eight World Hindi Conferences have been held so far in different countries, viz. India (1975 and 1983), Mauritius (1976 and 1993), Trinidad and Tobago (1996), U.K. (1999), Surinam (2003) and USA (2007).

Ms Uma Bansal and Shri Deepak Gupta, Hindi editors, represented the NBT at the conference.

HINDI PAKHWADA IN NBT

The annual Hindi Pakhwada was celebrated in NBT, India from 15 to 30 September 2012. A number of competitions were held for the officers of the Trust.

On 24 September, a 'Hindi Kavya Pratiyogita' (Hindi Poetry competition) was held at the Conference Hall of the Trust. Most of the employees of NBT participated in the competition and rendered their poems to a packed hall. The programme was adjudged by three eminent writers and poets namely Dr Ramdarash Mishra, Dr Balswaroop Rahi and Dr Dhananjay Singh. Shri M.A. Sikandar, Director, NBT congratulated everyone for participating in the programmes and urged all to be a part of the movement to promote Hindi in the country.

On 25 September, an Essay Competition in Hindi was held, where the participants were given two



topics to choose from and express their views on the subject in Hindi. Dr Prem Janmejay, Associate Professor, Vocational College, South Campus, University of Delhi was the judge at the programme. He briefed the participants about the various aspects of writing an essay.

A Noting & Drafting competition was held on 26 September, which included letter writing, official noting, translations of everyday official words of use into Hindi and vice versa. Shri Subhash Chander, well known writer in Hindi was the judge at this competition.

Later, the winners at the three competitions were awarded cash prizes by Shri A. Sethumadhavan, Chairman, NBT, India and Shri Subhash Chander.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sethumadhavan congratulated the participants and was happy to see the enthusiasm in the NBT employees to take part in the competition, which he said is a positive way to promote the use of Hindi in the offices.

The three-day programme of Hindi Pakhwada was coordinated by Dr Lalit Mandora, Hindi editor, NBT, India.



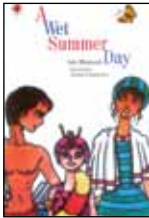
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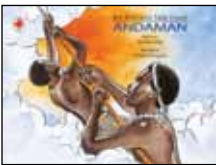
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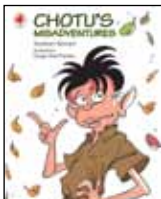
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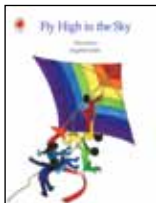
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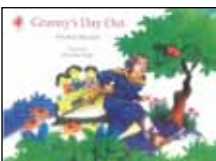
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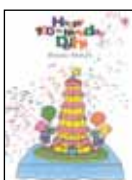
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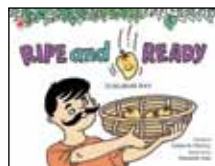
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| Calicut Book Fair, Kerala | 1-9 Dec. 2012 |
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