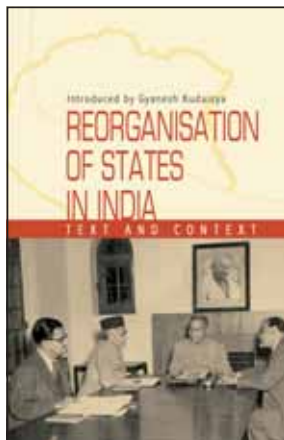


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PICK OF THE MONTH



**Reorganisation of States in India:
Text and Context**
Introduced by Gyanesh Kudaisya
978-81-237-7195-3; Rs 285

57th Foundation Day Celebrations



The National Book Trust, India, an apex body under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, celebrated its 57th Foundation Day on 1 August 2014. The NBT was established on 1 August 1957 by the Government of India to promote books and the habit of reading in the country, especially among children.

As part of the celebrations, the 3rd NBT Foundation Day Lecture on 'Books and Reading in Today's India', was held in the NBT headquarters at Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms Shashi Deshpande, eminent writer and the Guest Speaker at the programme, said, "Reading has always been a minority interest; there never was, at any time, a large majority of people reading. And now, with greater literacy, even if there are fewer readers, it still amounts to a fairly large number".

Ms Shashi Deshpande talked in detail about her love for books and writers since her childhood. She added that books have influenced her and shaped her future. She said that although bookshops and libraries are rapidly closing down, not because people are not reading, but because, in urban areas, bookshops can no longer afford the high rents and other overheads.

"What has really changed is the kind of reading people are indulging in. More people read newspapers, magazines, they read on the internet, and there's the Kindle and e-books as well. And a great many people are writing today, and





writing is, after all, closely akin to reading. So perhaps, if we presume that those who write also read, it's not a completely dismal situation", she added.

Discussing the reading of fiction among masses, and its being considered inferior to non-fiction, she said, "I myself have been a passionate reader of novels all my life, and would fiercely defend novels against anyone who predicts its doom or extinction". She added that all cultures, all civilisations, have their own store of stories which were orally passed on from generation to generation, some of which were, at some point, written down. "These stories are today national treasures. All religious works are full of stories, for it is through stories of people like ourselves, rather than through dry abstract statements, that we can grasp what is being told to us. And novels are, primarily, stories about people".

Talking about the existence of fiction in future, she said, "As long as humans survive, the human story will continue to fascinate us and novelists will go on writing their stories, trying to make some sense of life. Readers and writers are co-travellers on the same journey and the reader is bound to share whatever the writer learns in the course of writing the novel. As a writer I have realised that a writer never starts writing with knowledge. On the contrary, it is through doubts, questions and uncertainties that the writer works and there are often serendipitous discoveries that the writer stumbles across in the course of writing the novel. And the reader, who is the writer's companion, gets some glimpses of these discoveries.

Incomplete, vague, though the glimpses maybe, they illuminate some of the shadows within us".

The function was presided over by Prof. K. Satchidanandan, noted poet and writer. He talked about reading and books in India and the challenges that publishing industry is facing today. Prof. Satchidanandan also observed that "There are very few books on reading and the history of reading in India." He gave details of earliest books in ancient India, and talked about the book being a cultural object, a material thing to be enjoyed. He was glad that Ms Shashi Deshpande shared the same optimism as him that books and reading will never die.

Prof. Satchidanandan also suggested that NBT may take up the publication of the history of book in India and about the books in pre- and post-colonial India. Congratulating NBT, he added that the

Trust has been continuously working towards promoting books and habit of reading in the country and would continue its endeavours towards that goal.

Earlier, Shri A Sethumadhavan, Chairman, NBT welcomed the guests present on the occasion. He told the audience about the activities of the Trust and said that NBT is perhaps the only organisation in the country that publishes books in 22 Indian languages. "We are trying to enlarge our network and bring books closer to the readers by opening Book Promotion Centres across the country", he added.

Dr M A Sikandar, Director, NBT thanked the guests and the audience for being part of the NBT's foundation day celebrations and sharing their views on books and reading in the country. He also talked about NBT taking up books which focus on its history and presence in ancient India.

This is the third Foundation Day Lecture in the series. This annual lecture series was initiated in the year 2012. The lecture series aims to bring about the importance of books and reading in today's context and bring in critical thinking by inviting eminent personality from among women and men of letters, scholars, intellectuals and others who have made significant contributions to the world of publishing.

The first lecture in 2012 was delivered by Dr Shashi Tharoor, eminent writer and Member of Parliament. The lecture in 2013 was delivered by Prof. Andre Beteille, eminent sociologist and National Research Professor.



NBT Book Promotion Centre at Agartala

The National Book Trust, India, in its efforts to facilitate the reach of NBT books and foster a culture of reading has initiated the concept of Book Promotion Centres (BPCs) in all the State Capitals of the country. NBT BPCs are already operational at Hyderabad, Chennai, Guwahati and Patna. Another Book Promotion Centre at Kochi will soon be inaugurated.

On 2 August 2014, the Agartala NBT Book Promotion Centre was inaugurated



Book Promotion Centres, initiated under the 12th five year plan of the Government of India which has been launched to encourage readers and authors of all Indian languages. He also said that Tripura is now leading the current literacy rate in the country with 96.5 per cent, followed by Kerala.

Shri Subhabrata Deb, Secretary, Tripura Publishers' Guild also spoke on the occasion.

On the occasion, a Bangla book



at the Agartala Municipal Corporation Library Building (Pura Granthagar), Palace Complex, Agartala to cater to the State of Tripura.

Inaugurating the NBT Book Promotion Centre at Agartala, Shri Manik Sarkar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura said that there needs to be no debate on whether books should come to the readers or vice versa. What is important is reading, so both should be brought closer to each other. He also stressed on the idea of conducted tours to be organised by the schools to bring students to the NBT Book Promotion Centre. He requested NBT to attach a Mobile Book Exhibition Van to this Book Promotion Centre so that the books can reach the remote corners of Tripura.

Dr Braja Gopal Roy, in his presidential address said that this NBT Book Promotion Centre is a treasure of the state and the readers and book lovers should

make the best of such an opportunity and benefit from it. Dr Prafullajit Sinha, Mayor, Agartala Municipal Corporation, in his deliberation stated that this is a step taken by NBT to encourage reading habit in the state and the Agartala Municipal Corporation is honoured to be a part of this endeavour.

In his welcome address, Dr M.A. Sikandar, Director NBT, explained to the gathering about the concept of NBT



Sahitya Bhavana (a compilation of all major thoughts of Bengali pioneers on Books and Literature), compiled and edited by Shri Anath Bandhu Chatterjee, published by the NBT, was also released by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. Smt. Swati Guha, Shri Debabrata Deb, Shri Bimalendra Chakraborty and Shri Anathbandhu Chatterjee were part of the discussions on the book released.

The inauguration programme was coordinated by Shri Sumit Bhattacharjee, Regional Manager, ERO, NBT and Shri Bratin Dey, Bangla editor, NBT.

NBT books published in English, Hindi, Bangla as well as in Manipuri and Kokborok are available at the Book Shop-cum-Display counter of the Book Promotion Centre. It also has an activity centre where school children and book lovers can visit and participate in book-related activities and events.

Tirunelveli Book Fair

National Book Trust, India organised the Tirunelveli Book Fair at VOC Grounds, Palayamkottai, from 18 to 27 July 2014, in association with District Administration, Tirunelveli.

The Fair was inaugurated by Shri P. Chendur Pandian, Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious Charitable and Endowments, Govt. of Tamil Nadu. "In addition to textbooks, the students should read widely on literature, science & technology, history, geography and other subjects. This will help them to achieve their goals in life," said Shri Chendur Pandian. He also talked about the importance of libraries in promoting the habit of reading and said that organisations like NBT should work for the same goal.

Chairing the inaugural function the District collector Dr Karunakaran said,



"Organising book fairs in towns like Tirunelveli will go a long way in nurturing the reading habit among the students and public. We appreciate National Book Trust, India for organising book fairs all over India."

Shri P. Devendra Boopathy, Joint Commissioner of Commercial Tax Department, welcomed the gathering. Shri. Mariappan, Public Relations Officer, Tirunelveli District Administration, presented the vote of thanks.

Earlier, Dr M.A. Sikandar, Director, NBT India, briefly spoke about the various activities of the Trust towards promoting books and reading habit. He particularly appreciated an initiative in this fair, i.e. a stall for Braille books, organised by the School for the Blind, Palayamkottai. The visually-challenged students visited the stall and expressed their happiness in being

able to buy Braille books the first time in a Book Fair.

More than 150 publishers exhibited their books on all subjects and across various genres in the Fair, which was visited by about 2 lakh people. The Fair also hosted many cultural and literary events every day where eminent artists, poets, writers, speakers and film personalities participated and interacted with the audience.

Book fairs are very successful in towns, smaller districts, and mofussil areas, where people get less opportunities to buy books easily. In the last many years, NBT's emphasis has been to organise book fairs to ensure that books reach the readers in such areas.

Shri Mathan Raj, Tamil editor and Shri G. Rengarajan, Production Officer from NBT coordinated the Book Fair.



NBT Employees Felicitated



On the occasion of 57th NBT Foundation Day celebrations, the Trust felicitated five NBT employees on having completed 25 years of service in the organisation. They included Shri Raj Kumar, Ms Sunita Narotra, Ms Chandra Prabha, Ms Anita Kalra, and Ms Meena Sharma. Shri A Sethumadhavan, Chairman, NBT presented them with a memento and a shawl.



Storytelling Session in NBT for Students

In its continuous efforts to promote reading habit in the country, especially among the children, the National Centre for Children's Literature (NCCL) (NBT's children's wing), organized an interactive storytelling session for school children at the NCCL Library in NBT, New Delhi on 25 July 2014, with Ms Kusumlata Singh, noted children's writer and Shri Partha Sengupta, illustrator of the recently published NBT title for children titled Phir Khil Gaye Phool.

The students, from Ryan International School (Rohini), were glad to be part of an interactive storytelling programme with their favourite author and illustrator to answer their questions. In response to children's queries, Ms Kusumlata Singh told the children that she started writing during her school days. She said that she



had always been an avid reader and the habit of reading helped her pen down her thoughts. She said that she got an idea to write this book when she went out for the morning walk. Shri Partha Sengupta talked about the illustrations used in the book. He said that the minute details about characters in a story by the author helps an illustrator to create illustrations

for the story. He added that an illustrator also uses his imagination and creativity to make his work attractive.

Earlier, Dr M A Sikandar, Director, NBT welcomed the author, illustrator, students, and others present on the occasion. He talked about various activities undertaken by the Trust to promote reading habit in the country. Dr Sikandar advised children to read more and more books.

The children also visited the NBT Bookshop. Later, Kusumlata Singh and Partha Sengupta signed copies of their books for the children.

As part of the environment awareness programme, the students presented saplings to the guests.

The session was coordinated by Shri Manas Ranjan Mahapatra, Editor (NCCL).



Almora Book Exhibition

The National Book Trust, India organised a seven-day book exhibition in Almora (Uttarakhand) from 12 to 18 July 2014 at Hotel Bhagwati Palace, Almora.

The Book Exhibition was inaugurated by Prof. H S Dhama, Vice Chancellor,

Kumaon University, Nainital. Addressing the large gathering consisting of book lovers, teachers, students, parents along with media persons, Prof. Dhama said that by organising this Book Exhibition, NBT had taken a major step towards the promotion of reading in the small town of Almora. He urged NBT to organise more such events in the State of Uttarakhand to promote education and literacy among people, and encourage the habit of reading.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Shri Prakash Joshi, Chairman, Municipal Corporation of Almora, Dr D S Pokhriya, noted writer, Shri Manish Agarwal, local coordinator.

The books exhibited at the Exhibition were on a wide range of subjects, across various genres and in English, Hindi, Urdu and other Indian languages.

The Exhibition was coordinated by Imran-ul-Haque, Dy. Director (Sales), NBT.



Training Course in Book Publishing

The 19th edition of the Certificate Course in Publishing was organised from 4 to 30 August 2014 at the Conference Hall of the Trust.

Terming NBT course as one of the most popular and well appreciated by publishing professionals, Ms Ira Joshi, Addl. Director General, Publications Division, said, "Given the rapid growth of the publishing industry in the last four decades, we need to have more such courses to bring in trained professionals to the industry." According to Ms. Joshi, the Indian publishing industry is today worth over Rs. 11,000 crores, and is growing by leaps and bounds.

Speaking on the scenario in language publishing, Ms. Joshi said while language publishing in the country is on the growth curve, yet we need to impart technology and capability to professionalise language publishing.



On the changes taking place in the publishing industry, Ms. Joshi was of the view that technology has blurred the boundaries between p-books, e-books and a-books. Our publishing industry needs to wake up and adapt to these changes.

Concluding her address she told participants that publishing is a profession that has a fundamental ethical and moral core to it. It is a noble profession and advised the students to value the best of it.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sridhar Balan, eminent publishing professional, observed that though the history of Indian printing and publishing goes a long way in India, yet we do not have a museum dedicated to the history of printing and publishing in India. Addressing the participants he said that the publishing industry is driven by tradition and

creativity. Publishers need to be innovative to keep up with the changing times.

Over 30 students have enrolled in the Publishing Course, comprising both new entrants as well as those who are already in the field. Besides giving an overview of the publishing scenario, the course content includes editing, production, design, sales and marketing. The current course also discusses the role of technology

particularly QR codes, mobile applications in the context of reading etc.

The faculty includes Sridhar Balan, Dr. M.A. Sikandar, G.S. Jolly, Pranav Kumar Singh, Mukul Sehgal, V.K. Karthika, Manisha Chaudary, Dinesh Sinha, K. Srinvas, Dr. Suresh Chand, Sharmila Abraham, Malini Sood, Arpita Das, Joseph Mathai among others.

The course is coordinated by Shri Kumar Samaresh, AD (PR Cell), NBT.



NBT Book Awarded

A book published by the National Book Trust, India entitled *Kagaz aur Paryavaran* and authored by Dr Virendra Kumar Bharti was awarded

the Dr Rajendra Prasad Award by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) at its 86th Foundation Day on 29 July 2014.



The Award was presented to the author by Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Shri Radha Mohan Singh. This Award is presented by ICAR every year to the best technical book written in Hindi on agriculture and related sciences.

Independence Day Celebrated

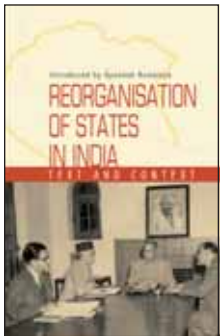
The National Book Trust, India celebrated India's 68th Independence Day at Nehru Bhawan, New Delhi. The National Tricolour was hoisted followed by singing of the National Anthem.



Recent NBT Publications

Reorganisation of States in India: Text and Context

Introduced by Gyanesh Kudaisya
978-81-237-7195-3; Rs 285



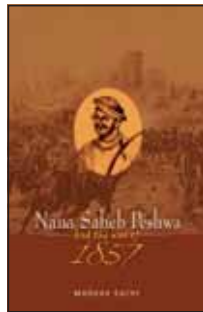
Over sixty years ago, following the formation of Andhra Pradesh in 1953, demands for the creation of new states soon came up. Powerful regional sentiments unleashed such political fury that

they forced Jawaharlal Nehru's government to set up the States Reorganisation Commission (SRC) to investigate these demands and to formulate principles upon which new states could be created. Saiyid Fazl Ali, Hriday Nath Kunzru and K.M. Panikkar, three eminent public figures much respected for their integrity, experience and impartiality, made up this high-powered Commission, whose recommendations reconfigured India's

political boundaries and launched India on its momentous journey as a vernacular democracy.

Nana Saheb Peshwa and the War of 1857

Madhav Sathe
978-81-237-7170-0; Rs 220



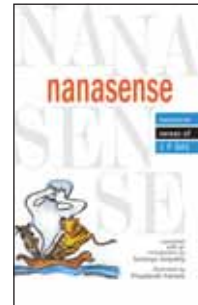
First war of Independence against the British Rule in India was fought in 1857. It was spread over North and Central India—from Punjab border to Bihar and from Himalaya to

Narmada, the sound and fury of which was echoed throughout the Indian peninsula. Nana Saheb, the adopted son of the displaced Peshwa Bajirao II, was the chief architect of the War. It was he who brought about integration of the scattered Indians for the war. All the important events of the war are intricately linked with his life. Therefore, this book makes

a faithful attempt to reflect his personality, sensibility, undaunted courage, respect for self and for others, and above all, love for his motherland.

Nanasense: Nonsense Verses of J.P. Das

Sumanyu Satpathy (Trans)
978-81-237-7194-6; Rs 100

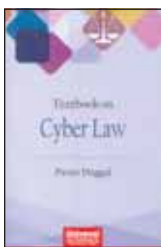


Puns, wordplays, riddles and rhymes mark this delightful collection of nonsense verses. Originally written in Odia, this fine English rendition brings to you a glimpse of India's rich tradition of

literary nonsense. J.P. Das is a poet, fiction writer and playwright in Odia. He did his doctorate in Art History. Beginning his career as a teacher, he then joined the Indian Administrative Service, which he left to pursue research and creative writing. Besides poetry, novels and plays, he has also written several books on Orissan art.

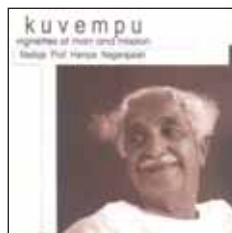
Books Received

Textbook on Cyber Law; Pavan Duggal; Universal Law Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd., C-FF-1A, Dilkush Industrial Estate, G.T. Karnal Road, Delhi-110033; 978-93-5035-393-6; Rs 195



In the last two decades, huge developments have taken place which impacts every user of a computer, computer resource and communication device. Cyber Law is one of the latest and most complex disciplines of legal jurisprudence. The students today are tech-savvy, yet they are not much familiar with basic principles impacting Cyber Law. This book is aimed at the student community. Written in a simple language it tries to sensitise the readers not only about the Cyber Law but also the dark side of the Internet and the World Wide Web and its legal consequences.

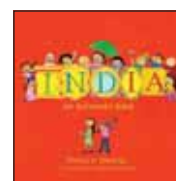
Kuvempu: Vignettes of Man and Mission, Nadoja Prof. Hampa Nagarajaiah; Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Pratishthan, Kuppali - 577415, Thirthahalli Taluk, Shivamogga Dt., Karnataka; Rs 100



A celebrity among litterati, Kuvempu heralded new epoch in Kannada literature. The 20th century has been rightly identified as the age of Kuvempu. Every language has its own treasure and the works of Kuvempu are the treasure-trove of Kannada literature and invaluable heritage of Karnataka. He has produced his literary works from the tip of his quill, just like Lord Shiva produced the Ganges from the tip of his top knot. This monograph authored by Prof. Hampana, author of more than 80

books in Kannada and English, proffers a panoramic view of Kuvempu's comprehensive contribution, and is packed with a lot of authentic material on the life and works of Kuvempu.

India: An Alphabet Ride; Shally Jindal; Natraj Publishers, 17 Rajpur Road, Dehra Dun-248001, Uttarakhand; 978-93-8158-232-4; Rs 699



It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. The book uses illustrations and alphabets to tell everything one needs to know about the country without the boredom of formal textbooks. India's states and cities, heritage sites, taste and diverse foods, dance and festivals, plants and animals, languages and cultures, leaders ... everything is explained through alphabets and illustrations.

Adieu

Smt Vibha Malik retired from the Trust on 31 July 2014 after working for NBT for about 40 years. She joined NBT in 1974 as LDC, and was promoted as UDC, and retired as Assistant. During her tenure, she worked in Establishment, Accounts, Exhibition and Sales sections of the the Trust.



Shri Dharamvir Singh retired on 30 June 2014 from NBT after working for 34 years. He had joined NBT in 1979 and was promoted as Assistant. During his tenure he worked in various sections including Administration, Accounts, Sales, Bookstore and Establishment.

We at NBT wish them both a happy retired life.

18th Kochi International Book Fair

29 Nov.-8 Dec. 2014

Ernakulathappan Grounds, Kochi

For details about booking, contact: Antharashtra Pusthakotsava Samiti, Kaloor Towers, Kaloor, Ernakulam, Kochi - 682017, Kerala. Tel. : 0484-4047588 Telefax: 0484-2338324

Web: bookfestkochi.com

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FORTHCOMING BOOK FAIRS

Trivandrum Book Fair, Kerala	4-12 October 2014
Bhopal Book Fair, Madhya Pradesh	Oct.-Nov. 2014
Pune Book Fair, Maharashtra	November 2014
Raipur Book Fair, Chhattisgarh	1-7 November 2014
Jammu Book Fair, J&K	November 2014
Ranchi Book Fair, Jharkhand	Nov.-Dec. 2014
Cuttack Book Fair, Orissa	December 2014
Jodhpur Book Fair, Rajasthan	December 2014
Dehradun Book Fair, Uttarakhand	December 2014
Patna Book Fair, Bihar	March 2015

For more details please contact:

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or visit

www.nbtindia.gov.in

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