

INTERPRETING EARLY INDIAN HISTORY

South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, Germany, in collaboration with the Embassy of India in Berlin and National Book Trust, India organised a two-day seminar on 'Interpreting Early Indian History'. Major historians from both India and Germany presented their papers at the seminar.

The seminar began on 20 July 2006 with welcome addresses by Prof. Gita Dharampal-Frick and Prof. Hermann Kulke, University of Kiel. The first panel discussion was chaired by Prof. Dietmar Rothermund. Prof. Romila Thapar presented a paper on 'Some Possible Historical Traditions in Early India'. Other speakers in that session were Dr. Tilman Frasch, University of Heidelberg, who spoke on 'Technological Progress in the Early States of South and Southeast Asia' and Dr. Ulrike Teuscher, University of Heidelberg, who spoke on 'In Ekanatha's Workshop: Reconstructing Royal Genealogies in 15th Century Mewar'.

While in the second panel Prof. Axel Michaels was in the Chair, Dr. Heiko Frese, University of Heidelberg, presented a paper



Hermann Kulke, Nuzhat Hassan and Gita Dharampal-Frick



Romila Thapar making her presentation

on 'Late Medieval Historical Writings: Vamsavalis and the Machenzie Collection', and Prof. Brajadulal Chattopadhyaya from JNU, Delhi, presented his paper on 'Dilemma of Alternative Historiographies: Indian Writings on Early India'.

In the third panel held on 21 July, Prof. Subrata K. Mitra was in the Chair while Prof. Kesavan Veluthat spoke on 'The King as Lord and Overlord: The Cera State of Mahodayapuram in Kerala', and Prof. Hermann Kulke spoke on 'The Integrative Model of Early Medieval State Formation in India'. Dr. Georg Berkemer, University of Heidelberg, spoke on 'Little Kingdoms in Orissa and Beyond'.

Prof. Marcus Nusser chaired the fourth panel. Prof. R. Champakalakshmi, JNU, Delhi, presented her paper on 'The Making of a Religious Tradition in Pre-Modern South India'. Prof. Heinrich von Stietencron from University of Tübingen, spoke on 'Plurality in Hinduism Revisited'. The seminar came to an end with the final round table conducted by Prof. Gita Dharampal-Frick and Prof. Hermann Kulke.

PICTURESPEAK...



Dr. Rainer Traub, Editor, Derspiegel one of Germany's widely circulated newspapers was in India recently. Here is seen talking to ...

... Shri Sunil Gangopadhyaya,

... Smt. Mahasweta Devi



... Shri Amit Chowdhury.

... Shri Samik Bandyopadhyay



NBT PUBLICATIONS OF THE MONTH

Popular Social Science

Development With Dignity (Bangla tr), Amit Badhuri, ISBN 81-237-4731-4, Rs. 40.00

Creative Learning Series

Play Activities for Child Development (English rp), Meena Swaminathan, ISBN 81-237-4220-7, Rs. 130.00

Art: The Basis of Education (English rp),



Devi Prasad, ISBN 81-237-2314-8, Rs. 85.00

Low Cost No Cost Teaching Aids (English rp), Mary Ann Dasgupta, ISBN 81-237-2054-8, Rs. 45.00

Aadan Pradan

Signatures: One Hundred Indian Poets (English rev), K. Satchidanandan (ed), ISBN 81-237-4107-3, Rs. 190.00

Nehru Bal Pustakalaya

Adventures of a Nepali Frog (Asamiya tr), ISBN 81-237-4725-X, Rs. 25.00
Begum Gulabo Mousie and Her Balloons

(English rp), Qudsia Zaidi, ISBN 81-237-0488-7, Rs. 15.00

A Trip to Heaven (English rp), Leelawati Bhagwat, ISBN 81-237-1073-9, Rs. 12.00

Lalu and the Red Kite (English rp), Ashish Sengupta, ISBN 81-237-0859-9, Rs. 12.00

Our Tree (English rp), Pranar Smita Chakraborty, ISBN 81-237-1096-8, Rs. 12.00

Our Army (English rp), Maj. Gen. D.K. Palji, ISBN 81-237-1000-3, Rs. 11.00

Children Who Made it Big (English rp), Thangamani, ISBN 81-237-2756-9, Rs. 35.00

Pollution (English rp), N. Sheshagiri, ISBN 81-237-1080-1, Rs. 18.00

Adventures of Rusty (English rp), Ruskin Bond, ISBN 81-237-1394-0, Rs. 25.00

Sunflowers and Butterflies (English rp), Jayanti Manoharan, ISBN 81-237-0110-1, Rs. 14.00

India's Young Heroes (English rp), Sigrun Srivastava, ISBN 81-237-0171-3, Rs. 13.00
Animal World (English rp), Aurobindo Kundu, ISBN 81-237-2290-7, Rs. 10.00

The Sun and the Moon (English rp), Varsha Das, ISBN 81-237-2984-7, Rs. 15.00

Busy Ants (English rp), Pulak Biswas, ISBN 81-237-2045-9, Rs. 11.00

Young India Library

Story of the INA (English rp), ISBN 81-237-2122-6, Rs. 45.00

Understanding Adolescence (English rp), Neerja Sharma, ISBN 81-237-2766-6, Rs. 45.00

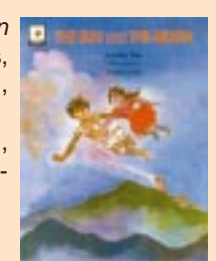
Popular Science

The Secrets of Proteins (English rp), Medha S. Rajadhyaksha, ISBN 81-237-3105-1, Rs. 45.00

It Happened Tomorrow (English rp), Bal Phondke (ed), ISBN 81-237-0952-8, Rs. 90.00

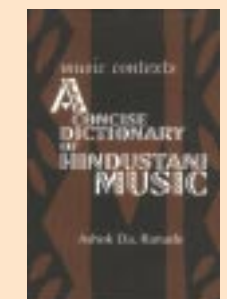
Preservation of Art Objects and Library Materials (English rp), O.P Aggarwal, ISBN 81-237-2545-0, Rs. 40.00

Joy of Making Indian Toys (English rp), Sudarshan Khanna, ISBN 81-237-2244-3, Rs. 45.00



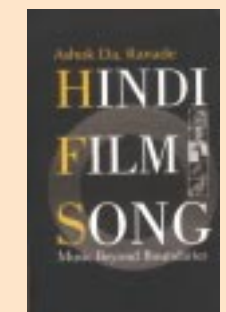
BOOKS RECEIVED

Music Contexts: A Concise Dictionary of Hindustani Music, Ashok Da. Ranade, Promilla & Co. Publishers, C-127 Sarvodaya Enclave, New Delhi-17; ISBN 81-85002-63-0, Rs. 695.00.



Through three hundred entries grouped in three main sections and six subsections, the author deals with etymological, historical, musicological and cultural aspects of Hindustani music. The wide information base and the in-depth entries make the work valuable for keen general readers, researchers and practitioners interested in knowing more about their own art.

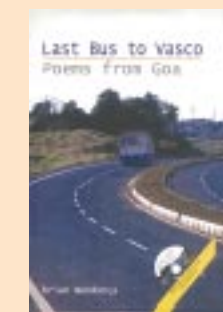
Hindi Film Song: Music Beyond Boundaries, Ashok Da. Ranade, Promilla & Co. Publishers, New Delhi-17; ISBN 81-85002-64-9, Rs. 495.00



Anecdotes, floating myths, rare reminiscences and moving personal encounters have lit up the world of Hindi film music. On the other hand, deep cultural convictions, significant musicological concepts and radical aesthetic ideas have also shaped it. Analysing composers and voices, noting historical developments and discussing aesthetic issues, the author seriously and lovingly brings together all strands to trace a complete musical profile of the distinctly Indian phenomenon that continues to cross all kinds of boundaries.

Last Bus to Vasco: Poems from Goa, Brian Mendonca; Distributed by Third Millennium, 603, Shiv Towers, Patto Plaza, Panjim, Goa; Rs. 150.00

A collection of 50 poems written in Goa, on Goa, and while travelling to and from Goa.



They give voice to a poetic journey of 20 years from 'Requiem to a Sal' (1987) to 'The Bells of St. Andrews' (2005). Place of Origin, final destination, this is Goa in its many moods. The book comes with an audio CD of poet's readings.

Kathmandu, Cathal O Searcaigh; Nirala Publications, 96-B, Krishna Kunj Colony, Delhi-92; ISBN 81-8250-006-0, Rs. 250.00



This bilingual book of select poems by Cathal O Searcaigh, famous Irish language poet, is an effort to introduce him in Nepali translation (by Yuyutsu R.D. Sharma) and also the English translations done by others.

I am a writer, publisher and regular reader of *NBT Newsletter*. Your *Newsletter* is quite informative and interesting since it gives a lot of useful informations and articles. Book Reviews, NBT Publications of the Month and Books Received columns highlight on the growing field of publishing that guide us. I wish you continous success in your sincere service.

Chennai **Dr N. Rajagopalan**

As a regular reader of *NBT Newsletter* I would like to see more space devoted to book reviews because this section throw light on new publications, which are hardly highlighted in mainstream media.

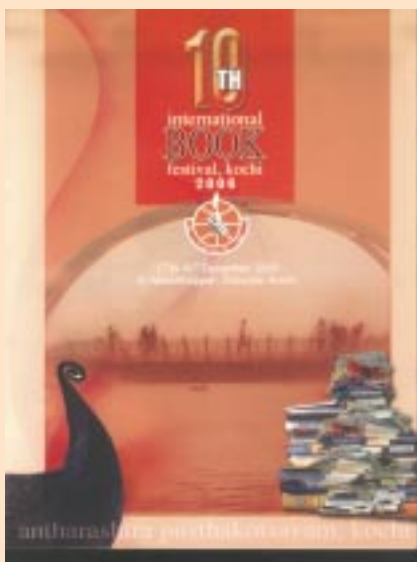
Pudhucherry **P. Raghavan**

I hope that NBT's new Popular Social Science series really become 'popular' soon. The subjects covered in this series are very much relevant and thought-provoking.

Mumbai **Varun Jain**

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(A wing of National Book Trust, India)



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KARNATAKA PUSTAK PARIKRAMA

Schedule of Exhibitions

- Haveri**
4-9-06 Near J. Navodaya Vidyalaya, PO: Hangal, Haveri-581104
5-9-06 Near Collector's Office
6-9-06 Near SSVP's Women's Degree College, Haveri
- Dharwad**
8-9-06 Kendriya Vidyalaya, Someshwar Temple Road,
9-9-06 Bashankri Arts & Comm. College
10-9-06 Near J. Navodaya Vidyalaya, Kyarakoppa Road
11-9-06 Near Smt. KSJ Women's College of Arts & Commerce, Dharwad
- Belgaum**
13-9-06 Near J. Navodaya Vidyalaya, Kothali
14-9-06 Near Collector's Office
15-9-06 Kendriya Vidyalaya, AFS, Sombra,
16-9-06 Kendriya Vidyalaya-2, Near Military Hospital

On India Government Service

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SEMINAR FOR FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2006 PARTICIPANTS

"We want each one of our participating publishers to make the best out of Frankfurt Book Fair 2006", said Shri Sudeep Banerjee, Education Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development, while inaugurating a special one-day Seminar on "How to do Frankfurt Book Fair" at India International Centre, on 26 July 2006.

While referring to the longstanding relations between the two countries, Shri Banerjee said that ancient Indian literature was made known to the whole world through Germany. He also added that 'Today's India' is known for its integrity, and this should be reflected in our books. "The Guest of Honour Presentation has generated immense enthusiasm both in Germany and India. NBT has done a commendable job in generating this enthusiasm", he concluded.

The Frankfurt Book Fair is the world's largest trade fair for books, held annually in mid-October in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Representatives from book publishing and multimedia companies from all over the world come to the Frankfurt Book Fair in order to negotiate international publishing rights and licensing fees. This year India is the Guest of Honour Country at the FBF



"Participation of Indian publishers in international book fairs in general and Frankfurt Book Fair in particular, has always acted as a catalyst for the growth of publishing industry", said Shri Sukumar Das, Chairman CAPEXIL, in his presentation. Today India publishes over 80,000 titles a year, in English and Indian languages, and exports books to over 120 countries abroad. It is now a five hundred crore industry, added Shri Das.

Shri D. N. Malhotra, Emeritus President, FIP also spoke on the occasion and shared his long standing experiences of publishing and selling books abroad with the publishers attending the Seminar.

2006. India is the only country to receive this honour twice, once before in 1986.

Introducing the concept of Guest of Honour Presentation, Ms Nuzhat Hassan, Director NBT said, "We would like to present 'Today's India' with its rich and diverse literature, language and culture. We have already translated about 55 books into German language". Reflecting on the Guest of Honour presentation, Ms Hassan said, "This Seminar is a major landmark in the journey of GHP".

In her insightful multimedia presentation, Ms Aravena Joyce, Sales Director, Frankfurt Book Fair, looked at the preparations and what-to-do in Frankfurt, in detail. Frankfurt Book Fair helps publishers, booksellers, printers, agents and others related to book trade to come together, not only to establish new contacts but also to renew old ones and develop long-term commercial alliances in book trade.

Mr Hans Strien, representing German publishing industry, also addressed the audience and shared valuable tips with Indian publishers to make their participation a business success at Frankfurt.

Earlier, Prof. Bipan Chandra, Chairman, NBT, in his welcome address said that India has a long history of participation at the Frankfurt Book Fair. From a handful of publishers, today around 200 Indian publishers and printers are participating at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2006, spread to over 1400 square metres.

In FBF 2005, about 7,223 participants showcased their books, of which about 300 were from Asia. The Fair was visited by nearly three lakh people. This year more visitors are expected to come for FBF 2006.



Contents

- Interpreting Early Indian History 2
- Picturespeak 2
- News from SRO 3
- NBT Book Club 3
- Readings and Seminars at FBF, 2006 4
- Belling the Judiciary 5
- The Promise of Biotechnology 6
- NBT Publications of the Month 7
- Books Received 7
- Mail Bag 8

READING AND SEMINARS AT FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR, 2006

As part of the Guest of Honour Presentation at Frankfurt, NBT as the nodal agency is organising a series of book readings and seminars. About 40 authors drawn from various languages of India will read from their writings at Frankfurt. The following is the programme and reading sessions to held at various venues.

INDIA PAVILION

4 October
11.00–12.00: Inauguration by
Shri Arjun Singh
 Hon'ble Minister for HRD, Govt. of India

12.00–13.30
Seminar on Golden Jubilee of NBT
Release of Seven Titles

14.00–15.30: Readings by
 Ajeet Caur (Punjabi Poet)
 K. Siva Reddy (Telugu Poet)
 Gagan Gill (Hindi Poet)

15.30–17.30: Readings by
 Shafi Shauq (Kashmiri Poet)
 Altaf Tyrewala (English Fiction)
 Sandhya Rao (English Children's Writer)
 Anushka Ravishankar
 (English Children's Writer)

5 October 2006
10.30–12.30
Seminar on Children's Literature
Release of Five Titles

12.30–13.00: Reception
13.00–14.00: Readings by
 Amit Chaudhuri (English Fiction)
 Alka Saraogi (Hindi Fiction)

14.00–16.00
Seminar on Translating Indian Literature
Release of Seven Titles

16.00–17.30
Seminar on Indian Publishing

6 October 2006
Seminar and Readings by
Sahitya Akademi

7 October 2006
10.00–11.00: Readings by
 Girish Karnad (Kannada Playwright)
 Alokeranjan Dasgupta (Bangla Poet)

11.00–13.00: Readings by
 Vijay Tendulkar (Marathi Playwright)
 Ashok Vajpayi (Hindi Poet)
 Indira Goswami (Asamiya Fiction)
 Namita Gokhale (English Fiction)

Release of Five Titles
13.30–15.00: Readings by
 Uday Prakash (Hindi Fiction)
 Paul Zacharia (Malayalam Fiction)
 Nida Fazli (Urdu Poet)

15.30–17.30: Readings by
 Namdeo Dhasal (Marathi Poet)
 Om Prakash Valmiki (Hindi Fiction)
 Ramakant Rath (Oriya Poet)

8 October 2006
11.00–12.30: Readings by
 Salma (Tamil Poet)
 Mahasweta Devi (Bangla Fiction)
 U.N.S. 'Nachiketa' (Marathi Poet)

12.30–13.30: Readings by
 Shahjahana (Telugu Fiction)
 U.R. Ananthamurthy (Kannada Fiction)
 Release of Five Titles

FORUM

4 October 2006
11.00–12.30: Readings by
 Sitanshu Yashaschandra (Gujarati Poet)
 Girish Karnad (Kannada Playwright)

12.30–14.00: Readings by
 Ashok Vajpayi (Hindi Poet)
 Javed Akhtar (Urdu Poet)
 Pankaj Mishra (English Fiction)

14.00–15.30: Readings by
 Joy Goswami (Bangla Poet)
 Gurdial Singh (Punjabi Fiction)
 Namdeo Dhasal (Marathi Poet)

16.00–18.00
Seminar on Mahasweta Devi
Release of Five Titles

5 October 2006
11.00–12.30: Readings by
 Sudhir Kakar (English Fiction)
 Nida Fazli (Urdu Poet)
 Dilip Chitre (Marathi Poet)

Release of Five Titles
12.30–14.00: Readings by
 Amitav Ghosh (English Fiction)
 Shafi Shauq (Kashmiri Poet)
 Ajeet Caur (Punjabi Poet)

14.30–16.30: Readings by
 Mushirul Hassan (English Non-Fiction)
 Krishna Sobti (Hindi Fiction)
 Sandhya Rao (English Children's Writer)
 Anushka Ravishankar
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 Shashi Tharoor (English Fiction)

U R Ananthmurthy (Kannada Fiction)
Release of Six Titles

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Readings by Indian Authors
Invited by their German Publishers

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 Surjit Patar (Punjabi Poet)

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 Joy Goswami (Bangla Poet)
 Shahjahana (Telugu Poet)

14.30–16.00: Readings by
 Vinod Kumar Shukla (Hindi Poet)
 Sitanshu Yashaschandra (Gujarati Poet)
 Mamang Dai (English Poet)

16.30-18.00: Seminar on Indian
Literature Studies in Germany
Release of Five Titles

8 October 2006
11.00–12.30: Readings by
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 Ramakant Rath (Oriya Poet)
 Mamang Dai (English Poet)

12.30-14.00: Readings by
 Om Prakash Valmiki (Hindi Fiction)
 Surjit Patar (Punjabi Poet)
 Namita Gokhale (English Fiction)
Release of Five Titles

LITERATURHAUS

4 October 2006
18.00–20.00: Readings by
 Mushirul Hassan (English Non-fiction)
 Amitav Ghosh (English Fiction)
 Krishna Sobti (Hindi Fiction)

20.00–22.00: Readings by
 U.R. Ananthamurthy (Kannada Fiction)
 Alka Saraogi (Hindi Fiction)
 Dilip Chitre (Marathi Fiction)
 Gurdial Singh (Punjabi Fiction)

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 Paul Zacharia (Malayalam Fiction)
 Javed Akhtar (Urdu Poet)
 Namdeo Dhasal (Marathi Poet)

8 October 2006
A Poetic Farewell to Frankfurt
19.00–22.00
Readings by Indian Poets

CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIRS



Ms. Nuzhat Hassan, Director, NBT, India was recently invited to speak at the Conference of International Book Fairs, Leipzig, where directors of various international book fairs participated. In her presentation, Ms. Hassan spoke on NBT, its mission to promote books in India and abroad, with particular focus on the range of book fairs, including New Delhi World Book Fair, which the Trust organises regularly.

BELLING THE JUDICIARY

The book discusses the helplessness of the media in the face of the contempt of court law and addresses the matter of blind judicial power and legislature privileges

Courts Legislatures Media Freedom, K N Harikumar (ed), NBT, ISBN 81-237-0000-0 pp 190, Rs 200.



Except under dictatorships the media cannot be a part of a governmental structure. For the simple reason that the media's commitment is ferreting out the truth the people should know and the administration may be trying to hide.

The scope for conflicts is immense and nowhere so great as where the media's duty runs against the privileges of the legislature and the judiciary's right to guard itself against contempt. To make things messy sometimes, India's legislators have been refusing to draw the lines where their privileges begin and end. The majesty of the judiciary was so intimidating so long that even truth was not allowed to justify exposure of any impropriety in the conduct of a judge.

The Indian republic's high-sounding motto satyameva jayate has had little relevance here since profession and practice are two very different things. The ridiculousness of the situation seems to have sunk in at last and the Lok Sabha passed a bill a few months ago which makes a limited concession that a court may permit justification by truth as a valid defence if it is satisfied that it is in the public interest and the request for invoking such defence is bona fide. How this hedged improvement of the Law of Contempt helps honest journalists will have to be watched over time.

Helpless media

The helplessness of the media before the wrath of a 'scandalised' judiciary was demonstrated in the so-called Mysore judges' sex scandal controversy a few years ago. One of its outcomes is this book. After contempt charges had been slapped on dozens of journalists, in spite of the widespread belief that the reporting of what had happened was by and large accurate, the Karnataka University Journalism Students Association organised a panel discussion on what could or could not be reported about the judiciary.

The discussion led K N Harikumar to make a deeper and wider study of the interlinked ironies and paradoxes in India's laws about contempt of court and such privileges of legislatures as were invoked by the Tamil Nadu Assembly in an attempt to punish the Hindu. Additionally, he invited some others—mostly legal experts—to contribute their views on the impact of the intricate relationships among the judiciary, executive, legislature, public and the press on media freedom.

The opinions collected are diverse. Fali Nariman is for judicial review of the legislature's actions against the Press. Samar Ditya Pal is comfortable with the contempt law (possibly even as it was before the latest amendment) while Harikumar cites former Chief Justice Malimath's opinion in favour of deletion of the contempt of court laws altogether.

N R Madhava Menon brings in the issue of sensationalism in journalism. Rajeev Dhawan and Udit Raj Rai reinforce the book's main thrust that in a democratic society, freedom of the individual and of the media cannot be arbitrarily curtailed and to that extent the judges and their

actions cannot be immune from public scrutiny.

Double dilemma

B R P Bhaskar, a journalist, is disconcerted by the judiciary's difficulty in reconciling transparency with credibility but he is aware at the same time of the need for the media's arming itself with sound professionalism while insisting upon the freedom it needs, to play its role effectively.

Harikumar raises socio-political questions on the issue of contempt of court. Since the legislature and the executive no longer inspire public confidence, judicial activism is filling the 'political vacuum'. When the political elite has failed the nation, the judges are shouldering the responsibility of upholding democratic freedoms and rights, fighting social evils, ensuring good governance.

In the process they are also wielding the weapon of contempt of court. A question arises: if a court errs or is corrupted, where is the remedy? To whom, for instance, do those who are ousted by development projects turn if even their moaning protests are treated as a contempt of court?

Harikumar is alarmed that the Supreme Court's sentencing Arundhati Roy (even if for one day in jail and a fine of Rs 2000) for contempt in the Narmada dam case was passed by public opinion without showing much concern and even the press failed to 'read the writing on the wall'. The warning Harikumar deciphers on the wall is that the judiciary in its activism, however well-meaning, was—'perhaps becoming a threat to press and other freedoms'. This is a wake-up call.

—Punyapriya Dasgupta
 Courtesy: Deccan Herald

THE PROMISE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

The Trust is bringing out the revised edition of *Inventors Who Revolutionised Our Lives* by K.V. Gopalakrishnan. Herein we reproduce an excerpt from the chapter on 'The Promise of Biotechnology'.

—Editor

Basics of Biotechnology



The cell is the basic unit of the human body (and for other species too). The cell nucleus has a number of chromosomes. The chromosomes in turn are composed of long strands of DNA. These DNA strands are subdivided into

Genes. These genes contain the basic hereditary information, on, for example, hair colour, skin colour, facial features, etc. The total length of DNA strands in a single cell is nearly 2 m and the individual human being has several thousand genes in his body! It is amazing how complicated our body is and how many functions it go on without our conscious mind being aware of them in the least. This should induce in us a great respect for our body. It is our bounden duty to take care of this wonderful mechanism bestowed on us by Nature to the best of our ability.

The aim of biotechnology as far as human beings are concerned is to understand the hereditary codes in genes and alter them if necessary. With such a complicated system it is little wonder that when some genes malfunction due to internal or external reasons it is passed on as hereditary defects. For the first time in history, there is a possibility of rectifying atleast some hereditary defects through biotechnology. Apart from this, biotechnology also aims to produce organisms that can combat infectious diseases in humans.

The most powerful tool in the hands of the biotechnologist is the technique of 'Gene Splicing'. Some enzymes called Restriction Enzymes have the capacity to cleave the DNA strand at specified places. Some such enzymes are Alu I, Hind III, and Taq I, derived from certain organisms. The primary steps involved in this process are:

- The gene of interest is cut out from the DNA strand by a suitable restriction enzyme.
- Insertion and fusion of the isolated

gene into the DNA chain, which is required to be modified with the help of another enzyme.

- Transfer of the modified DNA chain into suitable bacteria, which then multiply on their own.
- Isolation of the bacteria with the designed modification (not all bacteria oblige us!).
- Cultivation of the desired bacteria and harvesting the desired amounts of the modified product.

Biotechnology, however, is not simply cell biology. As it is applied, it is a highly interdisciplinary field involving chemical engineering, electronics and computers, plant physiology etc.

DNA, the building block of life, is the same for all living beings. The DNA in the human body is no different from the DNA in a crocodile or a whale. In an individual human being the DNA is identical whether it is from hair, skin, or blood. It is the sequence of chemicals in the DNA that determines characteristics. Hence by genetic engineering even parts of the DNA from one species can be transferred to another species. It is found that the chimpanzee, our closest relative in the animal world, has a DNA structure 98 per cent similar to ours. The commonality between individual human being is even closer, 99.9 per cent. It is the 2 per cent that separates us from chimpanzees and it is the 0.1 per cent that separates a genius from an average man. It is amazing that so little difference can lead to such great perceived differences!

Knowledge about DNA and its role has also led to the realisation that racial differences between humans are essentially superficial. The colour of hair, eye, or skin may be different between the different races of mankind but science has found nothing to indicate that some races are 'superior' or 'inferior'. Black, brown, white, and yellow races are endowed by Nature with the some basic intelligence and capabilities, and differences in achievements are entirely due to upbringing, opportunities, cultural conditioning, etc. For nearly a century after Charles Darwin propounded his Theory of Evolution, his concepts were misused and misrepresented by many politicians and thinkers who wove theories of superior and inferior races. It was consciously exploited to achieve political power and inflict untold misery on 'inferior' races. Adolf Hitler and his Nazis were the most notorious of this tribe, but not the only ones. Fancied racial superiority was one of the underpinnings

of colonialism. Rudyard Kipling spoke of the 'White Man's Burden', meaning the superior white races had a duty to look after the 'lesser breeds', meaning non-white people. Of course it was a mere cover for exploitation. But today, thanks to advances in Biosciences, no well-informed and reasonable person anywhere in the world can believe in this type of nonsense. Apart from all its practical benefits, the study of human cell structure and heredity has greatly contributed to the growth of the realisation that all humans are essentially alike and hence brothers.

Tools of Biotechnology

Cells, chromosomes, genes, and DNA are so small that the human eye cannot see them and the human hand cannot manipulate them. Hence there is heavy reliance on sophisticated instruments and techniques. Optical and electron microscopes enable the scientist to study the cell structure. Chromatography is used to separate a mixture of different types of molecules and also measure the concentration of each. Centrifuges separate mixtures according to the density of the individual components. Bioreactors, in which nutrient medium are seeded with the required organism, stirred, aerated etc. are used to carry out fermentation reactions. DNA sequencing uses chemicals to study the structure of the DNA chain.

Applications of Biotechnology

Apart from traditional uses of biotechnology like fermentation of wine, production of cheese, etc. a variety of new applications have also come into existence in recent years.

Adieu

Shri K Guruvaiah, Assistant Editor (Telugu), retired on 31 July 2006 after his long tenure of about 25 years with the Trust. Born on 15 July 1946, Shri Guruvaiah joined the editorial department in May 1981.



NEWS FROM SRO

Neyveli Book Fair

Neyveli Book Fair which has become an annual mega event was held from 30 June to 9 July 2006. Over the years, this Fair organised by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation has gained momentum with its book-related functions, meet the author sessions, etc. National Book Trust, took part in this year as well with displaying books. A large number of academicians, students and public visited NBT stall.



Tamil writer K. Rajanarayanan at NBT stall

Tanjore Book Fair

National Book Trust, India participated in the 1st Tanjore Book Fair 2006 organised by Tanjai Tamil University from 9 to 19 June 2006 at Tanjore. The first of its kind in Tanjore, the Book Fair attracted a good number of booklovers from surrounding areas. NBT stall with its variety of books on various subjects was a centre of attraction both for its quality and affordable price.

—Mathan Raj

BECOME A MEMBER OF NATIONAL BOOK TRUST BOOK CLUB AND GET DISCOUNTS ON BOOK PURCHASES

NBT books are available in 18 Indian languages besides English, and at affordable prices. It has been a consistent effort on the part of the Trust to make its books available in every district by enrolling a larger number of booksellers all over the country. Much has been achieved, much still remains to be done. An individual wanting to buy NBT books so far has to write to the Trust. This is expensive and time consuming.

To facilitate the process of ordering books by VPP, the Trust has launched the NBT Book Club. Individuals/institutions can join the Book Club by paying **life membership of Rs. 50 only**. They will get the following facilities:

1. 20 per cent discount on all NBT publications.
2. Rebate on postal charges depending upon the value of books ordered.
3. NBT books worth Rs. 25 on every purchase of books worth Rs. 500 shall be given as a gift to a member in a year, only on producing the original/copies of the bills for purchases made. The year shall be financial year from 1 April of previous year to 31 March of next year as the financial year is reckoned uniformly. The claims shall be entertained only within six months of the close of the financial year to which these pertain.
4. Regular information regarding new titles and other activities of the Trust, through the NBT Newsletter, catalogues and other publicity material, will be sent to the members.

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