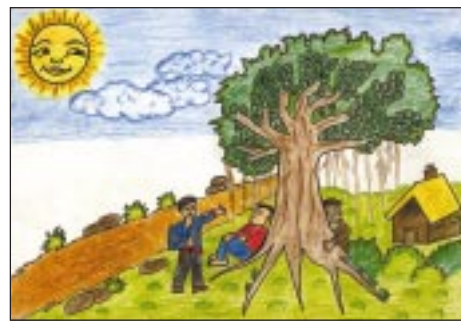


Assistant Programme Officer, RGF guided the young writers on how to go about the workshop, and also to improve on the stories. About seven writers were invited to the workshop. Three new stories and Hindi/English rendition of each story were also developed in the workshop.

On the invitation of Shri P. Guru Prasad, the District Magistrate, a Creative Writing and Illustration Workshop was organised at Mhow in Uttar Pradesh on 27 February, the last day of the annual Mhow Mahotsava, organised by the district administration. A number of write-ups and illustrations were developed in the workshop in which over 300 young



readers participated. The workshop was followed by the book-quiz.

—Dwijendra Kumar

University welcoming the participants. Thereafter, Shri Harikrishna Devsare, the resource person, Ms Sweta Varma,

WORKSHOP ON TRANSLATION OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE



Shri Bhagyendra Patel, Shri Jitendra Desai, Shri Bhagirath Pandya, Shri Yashwant Mehta and Shri Rajani Vyas



A session in Progress

A workshop on Translation of Popular Children's Literature into Gujarati language was held in Ahmedabad on 10 May 2008. Inaugurating the workshop, Shri Bhagirath Pandya, Director Akashvani Kendra at Ahmedabad said that it was a matter of deep concern that today's generation has forgotten the use of its mother tongue. "Children mostly substitute English words while speaking their own language which results in corrupting the original language. But parents do not make any efforts to correct the children, when they do so. Rather, they are happy when they hear their children using English words," he added.

Shri Pandya hence felt that it is we elders who need to be proud of our culture and mother tongue, only then will our own children respect it. He further emphasized on the need for translation of children's books into different regional languages.

Discussing the various aspects of translation, Shri Jitendra Desai, distinguished translator and educationist hoped that the workshop would be able to churn out good reading material in Gujarati for children.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Yashwant Mehta, well-known children's writer spoke at length on the finer points of translation and the do's and don'ts to be kept in mind. He added that it is better to translate from the original language itself than from yet another translation, so that the originality can be maintained in the translation also.



Shri Bhagirath Pandya speaking on the occasion

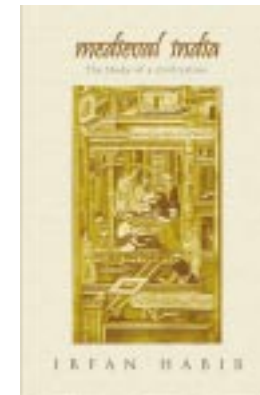
Shri Rajani Vyas, popular artist also put forth his views and was of the opinion that translation is nothing less than meditation.

The workshop, attended by 24 distinguished children's writers, hailing from different parts of Gujarat, comprised both experts as well as upcoming translators. Some names included Yashwant Mehta, Jitendra Desai, Manoj Daru, Kishore Pandya, Kajal Ojha, Somabhai Patel, and Shilpa Desai among others.

The workshop was coordinated by Shri Bhagyendra Patel, Gujarati editor at NBT.

JOIN NBT BOOK CLUB AVAIL 20% DISCOUNT ON BOOK PURCHASES

- 20 per cent discount on all NBT publications
- Rebate on postal charges depending upon the value of books ordered
- NBT books of worth Rs. 25 on every purchase of books worth Rs. 500 shall be given as gift to a member in a year.



and political history. It is a period marked by a multiplicity of states, spread of urbanisation, foreign invasions, growth of science and technology, achievements in literature and philosophy as well as consolidation of the

subcontinent. Drawing upon primary materials, archival records, historical narratives and accounts of travellers and European commercial records, the book is an authoritative introduction to this era. The book has been authored Prof. Irfan Habib, widely regarded as one of the foremost historians of medieval India and Marxist historiography.

INDIA—THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE

Panchayati Raj in India

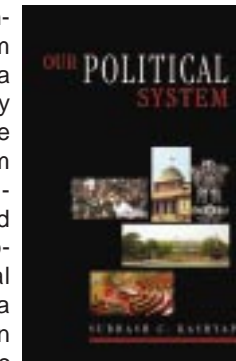
M. Aslam
ISBN 978-81-237-5188-7; Rs. 60

The institution of Panchayati Raj is now recognised as an important mechanism for decentralising power and ensuring people's participation in development activities. It received special emphasis after the 73rd Constitutional Amendment which made the transfer of power to the panchayats. It is now about one and a half decade since the 73rd Constitutional Amendment came into effect. This publication considers the various stages through which it evolved and also the promise it holds for the future.

Our Political System

Subhash C. Kashyap
ISBN 978-81-237-5251-8; Rs. 90 (PB)
ISBN 978-81-237-5252-5; Rs. 300 (HB)

The present day Indian political system has grown out of a long evolutionary process and can be seen as a system that seeks to address the myriad socio-political, economic and cultural expectations of India as a modern nation state in a holistic manner. The present book, while tracing the political systems as existent in India in the ancient and medieval times, introduces the different components of modern Indian polity in terms of their structure and functions and how they interact in making it citizen friendly. The book, written for the general reader in a simple and non-technical language, is likely to appeal to a spectrum of readers including teachers and students, and anybody interested in understanding the functioning of the Indian polity.



16TH NOMA CONCOURS

Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO invites entries for the 16th (2008) Noma Concours. Talented illustrators who are above 15 years old are eligible to take part. Last Date: 30 September 2008. Details for interested illustrators are given below.

Eligibility for Entry

- Entrants should be nationals of UNESCO Member States in Asia (except Japan) and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and the Arab States.
- Illustrations for unpublished books are acceptable.
- Illustrations for published books are also acceptable, as long as they have not been published in countries in Europe and North America, Australia, Japan or New Zealand.
 - Illustrators who have already been awarded top prizes at Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB) and Bologna Illustrators Exhibition are not eligible.
 - Nationals of Australia and New Zealand whose illustrations have already been published in book form either outside or inside their own countries are not eligible.
 - Entrants should be above 15 years old.

Conditions of Entry

- Entries should be original illustrations, prepared for picture books.
- One entry should comprise five or more separate illustrations for one story.

- The size, technique, and material of illustrations are without restriction.
- The weight of one work should be less than 5kg.
 - Illustration using digital technique is acceptable, although the digital data itself is not.
 - Illustrations should not be stapled or framed.

How to Apply

One entry should be accompanied by the following

- Entry form (A) to be duly filled out in type or print, and sent to ACCU with illustrations.
- Entry Form (B) to be cut out and attached to the reverse side of each illustration, so that the top of the form corresponds to the top of the illustration.
- Summary of the story in English within 300 words.
 - Entry form is also available at the Noma website <http://www.accu.or.jp/noma>
 - A sheet including all necessary information specified in the entry form can be used as a substitute.

ENTRY FORM (A)

Name:
Sex:
Nationality:
Date of Birth:
Contact Address:
Phone/Fax:
E-mail:
Return Address (if not same as above):
Title of the Story:
Technique of illustration:
• If the work has already been published, please fill in the following.
Title:
Writer of the Story:
Publisher:
Year and Country of Publication:

Entry Form (B)

Name of Illustrator:
Nationality:
Title of the Story:

Fill in necessary information in English only. Please type or print in block letters. Please make a photocopy of Entry Forms (A) and (B) after you have filled them in, and keep it for reference.

Noma Concours Secretariat, Asia/Pacific/Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU), 6 Fukuromachi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo: 162-8484 Japan
Phone: 81-3-3269-4436/4435 Fax: 81-3-3269-4510 E-mail: noma16@accu.or.jp Web.: www.accu.or.jp/noma

An Annotated Rights Catalogue of the Works on and by Mahatma Gandhi
published by National Book Trust, India

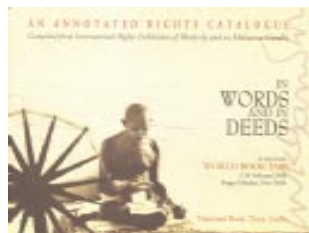
Especially brought out on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi, this **Annotated Rights Catalogue** has nearly 700 entries of the works on and by Mahatma Gandhi published in India and abroad with their annotations, bibliographic details, copyright details, availability of translation and other rights with full contact details for Rights enquiries about each title.

Compiled from the International Rights Exhibition of Works on and by Mahatma Gandhi organised by National Book Trust, India at 18 New Delhi World Book Fair, Pragati Maidan, 02-10 February, 2008, it also has separate sections on Books by Gandhiji, Books on Gandhiji and documentaries/films made on Mahatma Gandhi. With excerpts from **A Handbook of the Copyright Law** published by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, *it is an ideal handbook for publishers, translators, editors, literary agents, researchers, documentary makers and for anybody interested in Gandhian Studies.*

Rs. 200.00 (Paperback) ISBN 978-81-237-5218-1
Rs. 900.00 (Hardbound) ISBN 978-81-237-5219-8
Pages 168, Size: 8.5" x 11" (demy quarto oblong)
Printed on Indian Art Paper (130 gsm) in Four Colour

LIMITED COPIES! PLACE YOUR ORDER TODAY!

Write to:
The Manager (Sales & Marketing)
National Book Trust, India
A-5, Green Park New Delhi-110 016
Phone: 91-11-26564540, 26564020,
26564667
E-mail: nbtindia@ndb.vsnl.net.in
Website: www.nbtindia.org.in



RNI-39456/82
Postal Regd. No. DL-SW-1-4076/06-08
Licenced to post without prepayment.
L.No. U(SW) 21/2006-2008
Mailing date: 5/6



Annual subscription Rs 5.00; 50 paise per copy



WORKSHOPS TO PROMOTE CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

In order to develop and promote children's literature in general and also to inculcate love for books among children, National Centre for Children's Literature (NCCL), a wing of National Book Trust, India regularly organizes workshops for authors writing for children, illustrators, as well as interactive sessions of authors/illustrators with young readers.

In the last few months, such workshops

were organised at Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir, Mhow and Agra in Uttar Pradesh and recently at Haryana Police Public School, Haryana Police Academy, Karnal in Haryana.

The workshop at Haryana Police Public School, Karnal, organised from 1-2 June was attended by over 30 children. Under the guidance of Shri Partha Sengupta, a

renowned freelance artist and Shri Samresh Chatterjee, artist, NBT, the children developed illustrations for the contents of the June issue of the *Readers' Club Bulletin*, a bi-lingual magazine published by the NCCL.

Earlier, the students of Navodaya Vidyalaya, Kallori Kalan in Agra had developed articles, poems, write-ups, jokes etc as also the illustrations for the April issue



On India Government Service

NBT Newsletter is the house magazine of the National Book Trust, India — an autonomous organisation of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, Government of India.

The views expressed in the signed articles do not necessarily reflect the official views of the Trust.

Editor: Binny Kurian

Editorial Team:

Neera Jain, Kumar Vikram, Kanchan W.Sharma

Production Assistance: Narender Kumar



NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA

A-5 Green Park, New Delhi-110 016
Tel.: 26564020, 26564540 Fax: 26851795
E-mail: nbtindia@ndb.vsnl.net.in
Website: www.nbtindia.org.in

Readers are requested to write to the editor expressing their views about the NEWSLETTER.

Printed and published by Nuzhat Hassan for National Book Trust, India; published from A-5 Green Park, New Delhi-110 016 and printed at Aravali Printers & Publishers Pvt. Ltd., W-30 Okhla Industrial Area, New Delhi-110 020, respectively.

Typeset and designed at Capital Creations, Subhram Complex, Munirka, New Delhi-110 067.

If undelivered please return to:
National Book Trust, India, A-5 Green Park, New Delhi - 110 016

Contents

Workshop on Translation of Children's Literature	2
Cultural Biodiversity	3
Cradle of Mankind	3
Recent Publications	
Literature	4
Popular Science	4
Biography	5
Autobiography	5
Popular Social Science	6
India—The Land and the People	7
16th Noma Concours	7



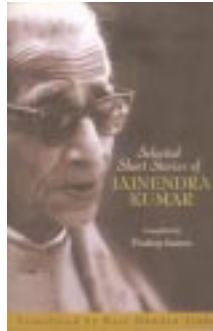
of the Bulletin in a workshop organised in the school's premises from 9-10 April. The April issue of *Readers' Club Bulletin* for the last three years is devoted to writings of children. These special issues were appreciated for the opportunity it gives children to give expression and form to their creative thoughts, those writing for children also get major clues as to the reading preferences of children.

In Srinagar, the workshop was organised at the post-graduate department of Kashmiri, Kashmir University, Srinagar from 17 to 19 March. The objective being to modify and improve nine Kashmiri and Urdu children's stories; earlier developed by Rajiv Gandhi Foundation in Kashmir through competitions and workshops. These stories were later on reviewed by NBT and found worth of publication. The workshop began in the forenoon of 17 March with Shri Shafi Shaik, Head, PG Department of Kashmiri, Kashmir

LITERATURE

Selected Short Stories of Jainendra Kumar

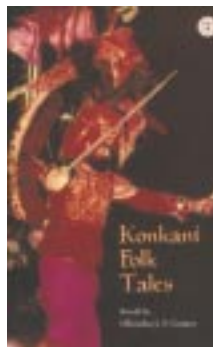
Pradeep Kumar (comp.)
Ravi Nandan Sinha (tr.)
ISBN 978-81-237-5216-7; Rs. 70



Jainendra Kumar (1905-1988) is one of those great writers who gave a direction to Hindi short story in the initial stages of its development. In his work he has explored the tensions implicit in human relationships and has displayed a deep and sympathetic understanding of human motivation, psyche and ethical values. He has a delicately tuned language that can delineate a scene, create a character or convey an emotion with exceptional power. The twelve short stories in this collection cover a period between 1927 and 1965 and are some of his most memorable works.

Konkani Folk Tales

Olivinho J.F. Gomes
ISBN 978-81-237-5083-5; Rs. 75.00



At times wacky, at times full of whimsy and at other times serious, this anthology of folk tales reflects the cultural ethos and underpinnings of a community that speaks the Konkani language. The social and religious customs, beliefs and superstitions, food habits and mode of dress of its people as well as their ever-green and fertile nature in all its exuberance are unwittingly depicted here. Also showcased is the complex tranquility and dormant cultural energy which hides in its variegated folds a veritable melting-pot of cultures. What binds these stories together is the underlining moralistic tone upholding human values, the intuitive appreciation of various social processes and the promise for graceful progress. Some of the tales may have parallels in other regional language speaking areas as well which enables one to easily relate to them. In short, this book is an interesting collection of tales for the general reader.

Bridging Connections: An Anthology of Sri Lankan Short Stories

Rajiva Wijesinha (ed.)
ISBN 978-81-237-5044-6; Rs. 85 (PB)
ISBN 978-81-237-5045-3; Rs. 250 (HB)



This short collection brings to you twenty five engaging stories from Sri Lanka's best known story-tellers. The country's simmering ethnic and political violence provides the backdrop to many of these narratives. Told with innate sensitivity to the turbulence and social complexities of their times, these stories bridge connections for a young nation torn by decades of strife. Drawn from Sinhala, Tamil and English this anthology is a compelling read that brings out the distinctive flavour and rich diversity of Sri Lankan prose.

Pushkin's Last Poem

Achala Moulik
ISBN 978-81-237-5214-3; Rs. 50



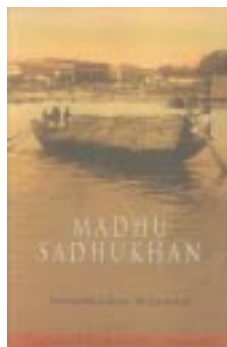
Considered to be one of the greatest Russian poets and the founder of modern Russian literature, Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin pioneered the use of vernacular speech in his poems and plays. Born in Moscow, Pushkin published his first poem, at the age of fifteen. He became committed to social reform and emerged as a spokesman for literary radicals for which he was exiled to southern Russia. Pushkin died at the young age of thirty seven when he was mortally wounded in a duel. His famous works include *The Captive of the Caucasus*, *Dubrovsky*, *The Tale of the Dead Princess and the Seven Knights*, *The Queen of Spades*, *Eugene Onegin*, *The Captain's Daughter*, *Winter Evening*, *Boris Godunov*, *The Bronze Horseman*.

This play poignantly recreates Pushkin's turbulent life, his struggle with himself, his love for Marya Raevsky, and finally his death in a duel with his wife's alleged lover.

Madhu Sadhukhan

Amiyabhushan Majumdar
ISBN 978-81-237-5131-3; Rs. 35

One of the earliest and finest piece of original



writings in Bangla, Madhu Sadhukhan is a novella that has all the characteristics of the fictional mode typical of its author. The narrative has the meandering movement of a boat journey crossing several rivers, which is actually thematic as well as symbolic. The principal characters, Madhu Khan and Phirangi, during the journey occasionally get engaged in coolheaded exchange of views on various topics; ranging from burning of witches in the West to the practice of *sati* in India. They also exchange notes about Christianity and Hinduism. Though Madhu is deeply affected by what he learns from the foreigner, the narrator has the aloofness of a neutral observer. The novelist rather deliberately withholds vital information about so many characters and events that the reader is tempted to speculate in his own way. The language also suggests more than it states.

POPULAR SCIENCE

Space Today

Mohan Sundara Rajan
ISBN 978-81-237-5205-1; Rs. 135 (PB)



A non-technical presentation of the most significant recent developments in space technology and applications in India and abroad including:

- Amazing features of the Earth that support the orbits of satellites.
- India's mastery of rocket and missile technology. A preview of tomorrow's launchers using different technologies.
- Progress of India's world-class communication, TV and weather satellites.
- Modern global links from space including the emerging global positioning system and spy satellites.
- India's thrust towards the use of satellites for societal needs.
- Role of resource satellites in revealing the true state of our Blue Jewel—the Earth, its oceans and resources, especially India's contribution.
- Innovative means of understanding natural phenomena like the tsunami and global environmental changes.

Wireless: The Latest Telecom Story

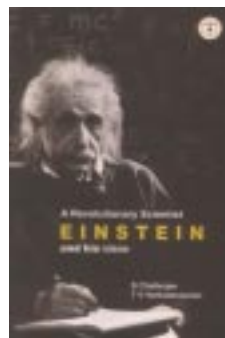
Mohan Sundara Rajan
ISBN 978-81-237-5115-3; Rs. 85
ISBN 978-81-237-5116-X; Rs. 220



This book is a fascinating story on the ongoing wireless revolution in telecommu-nications in India and abroad with special emphasis on the amazing innovations that redefine our access to the Internet, such as Wi-MAX and new generations of multifunctional cell phones; multimedia convergence that brings us voice, data, music and video anywhere any time; and the latest trends in satellite, cellular and optical communications and their impact on urban and rural areas.

A Revolutionary Scientist: Einstein & His Ideas

Dr. S. Chatterjee & Dr. T.V. Venkateswaran
ISBN 978-81-237-5095-8; Rs. 50



Over a hundred years ago, a young man of 26—a patent clerk at Bern—wrote five epoch-making papers which brought a revolution in the world of physics. The discovery of the Theory of Relativity and Quantum Mechanics by Albert Einstein redefined the fundamental concepts of our understanding of the scientific phenomena. These revolutions were also responsible for initiating changes in other branches of science. Written lucidly, this book is an interesting account of the pioneering works of Einstein, his life and times from a clerk to a revolutionary scientist as well as his lesser known views and writings on society and politics.

Angels, Devil and Science: A Collection of Articles on Scientific Temper

Pushpa M. Bhargava & Chandana Chakrabarti
ISBN 978-81-237-5182-5; Rs. 85.00 (PB)
ISBN 978-81-237-5184-9; Rs. 225.00 (HB)

India is one of the ten most scientifically and technologically advanced countries in the world. Interestingly, it is also the only country where commitment to scientific temper is enshrined in the Constitution as a duty of its

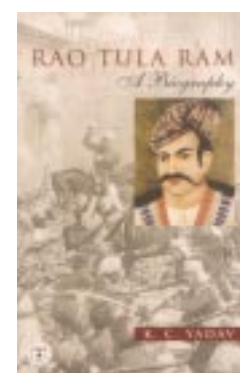


citizens. Juxtaposing the advancement in modern science with the serious lack of scientific temper, the articles in the book make a plea that many a superstitious belief still prevalent in the society are founded on unscientific grounds. Arguing for the urgent need to promote scientific temper as a social asset, the book discusses the importance of scientific temper and its role in the country's socio-economic as well as scientific & technological advancement. The book is a major contribution in understanding the importance of science and scientific temper.

BIOGRAPHY

Rao Tula Ram

K.C. Yadav
ISBN 978-81-237-5110-8; Rs. 195



Rao Tula Ram (1825-1863) of Rewari was one of the most important leaders of the uprising of 1857 in northern India. He raised the flag of revolt against the British on 17 May 1857 and kept it fluttering, through thick and thin, till his last breath. He not only obliterated every vestige of the British rule from southwest Haryana but also helped the rebel forces fighting in the historic city of Delhi with men, money and material. He was a first rate administrator and a military commander. After the uprising petered out, he left India and met the rulers of Iran and Afghanistan and established contacts with the czar of Russia to seek their help to fight another war to free India from the British yoke. His death at Kabul, on 23 September 1863, however, shipwrecked his grand plan.

The story based on archival, Indian and Russian, and other sources, is inspiring. It not only rescues an important leader of the uprising from anonymity but also provides some important details and insights, which can be useful, in understanding the nature and scope of the first great challenge to the British imperialism in Asia.

Minoo Masani

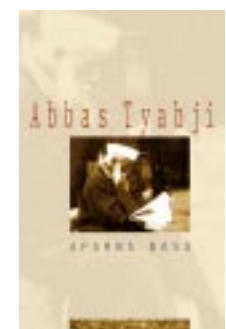
S.V. Raju
ISBN 978-81-237-5079-8; Rs. 40
ISBN 978-81-237-5080-4; Rs. 200



This book is a brief biography of an outstanding Indian, Minoo Masani. A participant in the freedom struggle, thinker, author, parliamentarian and politician, Masani became an overnight celebrity as the author of a book for children *Our India*. A runaway bestseller which appealed to the national pride of the Indian. Masani was a member of the Constituent Assembly and later a Member of the Lok Sabha between 1957 and 1971. He will be remembered as a thinker and principled politician who traversed the entire political spectrum from Marx to Gandhi and a close associate of C Rajagopalachari in founding the Swatantra Party which was the largest party in the opposition in the fourth Lok Sabha. He was the doyen of the liberal movement in independent India. Even though he retired from politics in 1971 he stoutly opposed the Emergency through *Freedom First*, the journal he edited. In short, his life was a saga of value-driven politics.

Abbas Tyabji

Aparna Basu
ISBN 978-81-237-5078-1; Rs. 45



Abbas Tyabji (1853-1936) was the Chief Justice of the Baroda High Court before becoming a staunch follower of Gandhiji. His absolute integrity as an individual, moderate persona, simmering nationalism and fairness as a judge were recognised even by anti-Congress extremists. He was one of the members of the committee appointed by the Indian National Congress to review the charges against General R. Dyer for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. After listening to and cross-examining hundreds of eye witnesses and victims of General Dyer's brutality, Abbas became the most devoted co-worker of Gandhiji and a staunch champion of the Swadeshi movement. Abbas' services and sacrifices endeared him to the nation and earned him the title of 'Chhota Gandhi'.

Muhammad Abdurahman
N P Chekkutty
ISBN 978-81-237-4816-X; Rs 50

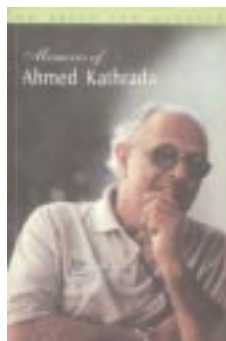
Muhammad Abdurahman was one of the most important leaders of India's freedom movement. A passionate political activist, he became the president of Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee. A great patriot, Abdurahman worked against the communalisation of Malabar politics and division of the country on communal lines. This short biography looks at the life of this little-known political activist.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

No Bread for Mandela: Memoirs of Ahmed Kathrada
ISBN 978-81-237-5201-3; Rs. 135

"Delightful and often amusing anecdotes of the life of a very self-effacing and yet deeply committed freedom fighter."

— Archbishop Desmond Tutu



"Ahmed Kathrada has been so much part of my life over such a long period that it is inconceivable that I could allow him to write his memoirs without me contributing something, even if only through a brief foreword. Our stories have become so

interwoven that the telling of one without the voice of the other being heard somewhere would have led to an incomplete narration."

— Nelson Mandela

"What has Kathrada shown? Don't confuse being good with being naive, being brave with drama, being wise with a whole lot of high-sounding words. And — above all — don't dig the past for the leaden weight of its hated memories. Do so for the gold of a new awakening.

— Gopal Gandhi

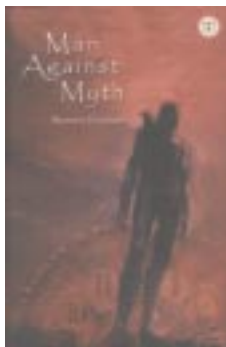
Ahmed Kathrada is an ordinary man who has lived an extraordinary life. His memories trace the remarkable journey of a man who not only observed, but also actively participated in the shaping of his country's history. Son of a shopkeeper originally hailing from Gujarat, he became the trusted confidant of some of the most prominent political figures in South Africa's struggle history, among them Dr. Yusuf Dadoo, Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu. Politically active at the age of twelve, and joining the Young Communist League at fourteen, Kathrada — or 'Kathy' as friends and

family affectionately call him — devoted his life to the freedom struggle in South Africa, for which he was persecuted, banned, driven underground and eventually sentenced to life imprisonment at the Rivonia Trial. He spent twenty-six years in prison, where he grew closer to both Mandela and Sisulu, who were father figures to him.

POPULAR SOCIAL SCIENCE

Man Against Myth
Barrows Dunham
ISBN 978-81-237-5072-9; Rs. 300 (HB)
ISBN 978-81-237-5071-2; Rs. 95 (PB)

"It is an instructive, amusing and courageous book whose success is most desirable in the public interest."



—ALBERT EINSTEIN
The publication of *Man Against Myth* in 1947 was received with critical acclaim and won high praise from some of the best minds of the time. The book demolishes a series of deeply entrenched social myths such as the 'Rich are fit and the poor unfit'; 'There are superior and inferior races'; and 'You cannot be free and safe'. The perpetuation of such myths, the book argues, has been beneficial to the interests of a privileged few and has worked to justify inequality and impede human progress in society. Written with sensitivity and wit, *Man Against Myth* conveys a powerful message that continues to resonate in contemporary times.

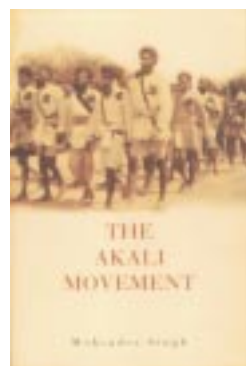
Anganwadis for All: A Primer
Devika Singh, Jean Drèze, Nandini Nayak & Vandana Prasad
ISBN 978-81-237-5233-4; Rs. 35



on ICDS, this primer through a question-

answer format looks at the Programme of ICDS, the various roles it plays in safeguarding the rights of children and how as parents, teachers, journalists, politicians, researchers or concerned citizens, ensure effective functioning of Anganwadis.

The Akali Movement
Mohinder Singh
ISBN 978-81-237-5232-7; Rs. 150 (HB)
ISBN 978-81-237-5231-0; Rs. 35 (PB)



The Akali Movement was the first successful demonstration of passive resistance organised by the Sikhs to dislodge the Mahants, priests and other vested interests from the Sikh shrines. It was in the wake of the Akali Movement that

the sturdy Sikh peasantry of Panjab came out in the open against the British rule by initiating a frontal attack on the bureaucracy in the province which was working hand-in-glove with the vested interests. An interesting feature is that the Sikhs, who joined National Movement in the course of the Akali struggle and the Non-cooperation, then launched by Mahatma Gandhi, courted arrests in a strength equal to that of the Congress and the Khilafat volunteers put together. Then again, the Akalis continued their non-violent struggle even after suspension in 1922 of the Non-cooperation Movement until they finally achieved their goal. The triumphant march of the Akali Jathas and their victory in the Keys' Affair was hailed by Mahatma Gandhi as the "First decisive victory of the forces of nationalism".

The present work is a comprehensive account of the five-year (1920-25) Sikh struggle. Based on fresh evidence gathered from the private papers of the contemporary British officials and the national leaders and hitherto untapped sources in India and the United Kingdom, this book throws new light on many significant issues.

Medieval India: The Study of a Civilization
Irfan Habib
ISBN 978-81-237-5255-6; Rs. 85 (PB)
ISBN 978-81-237-5256-3; Rs. 300 (HB)

The period spanning 600 AD to 1750 AD is perceived as the long phase of India's transition from the ancient times to the immediately pre-colonial times. The book tells the story of medieval India, a defining and eventful chapter in the making of its cultural

CULTURAL BIODIVERSITY

The Trust is bringing out the book *The Cultural Cradle of Biodiversity* written by Prof. P.S. Ramakrishnan. Herein we reproduce excerpts from the book.

Depleting biodiversity: The losing battle

- Five or six mass extinction episodes have occurred in earth's living history, the most recent and famous being at the end of the Cretaceous period, 65 million years ago when Earth lost about two-third of its species diversity (the notable one being the dinosaurs). As with earlier mass extinctions, it took several million years of evolution to restore biodiversity and ensure Earth's ecological health.
- Arising from this extinction of the Cretaceous period, with fewer than one million species of organisms that may have existed at that time, diversity has now proliferated and diversified through an evolutionary process to 5-7 million species that exist today.
- The extinction that we are facing today is qualitatively different in that, unlike the earlier ones which were arising from natural phenomena, this one is being mediated by the human species, *Homo sapiens*.

- As hunter-gatherers and/or as farmers involved in traditional small-scale agricultural practices, a smaller human population of a few millions widely scattered across continents, their impact on biodiversity was minimal.
- Increasing human population, with over 6 billion people towards the turn of the last century, and ever increasing has put enormous pressure on the biophysical resources of the planet.
- Of the conservative estimate of 7-10 million species, some groups such as birds (about 9000 species), mammals (4500 species), butterflies (about 19,000 species) and plants (about 250,000 species) have received the lion's share of attention and



therefore relatively better worked out, compared to what little we know about microbial species.

- Surprisingly, of the 1.5 million species that are identified and named, about two-third are from the temperate world, with fewer than half a million named from the tropics, out of an estimated number of 6–8 million species; in other words, there perhaps still exist 15–20 unnamed ones for every named species.
- Yet, there is a severe shortage of trained taxonomists, particularly in the tropical world, with competence to handle what is known, let alone the unknown.
- Species are becoming extinct 1000–0,000 times faster than before humans appeared on earth.
- Extensive deforestation is a major causative factor for species extinction. With an estimated loss of nine-tenth forest area by the year 2030, extinction of half the species living in the Earth's forest is a foregone conclusion.
- When we cut down a rain forest, in Papua New Guinea or in Ghana for example, we lose an entire forest community in which, probably, 95 per cent of the species are unknown to the scientific world!

CRADLE OF MANKIND

The Trust is bringing out the book *Kenya* written by Vijay Gupta. Herein we reproduce excerpts from the book.

Kenya is believed to be the 'cradle of mankind'. The evidence for this theory that man first evolved and appeared in this region has been found in the Lake Turkana region. These finds include a 17 million year old skull fragments and jaw of *Sivapithecus* from which both man and apes are believed to have evolved, the 1.6 million year old skeleton of the *Turkana Boy* and a 2.3 million year old tool factory. Besides these discoveries of the recent years, several sites belonging to the Early Stone Age that extended from 2.6 million years to 60,000 years ago had been found earlier. The Lothagam site to the west of Lake Turkana belongs to the pre-tool making era, while the sites on the eastern side indicate the use of roughly worked choppers and chopping tools and flakes made of black lava. Sites belonging to a relatively later period have been found in the Lake Victoria, Rift Valley and Highlands regions. Hand-axes and cleavers indicating primitive tool-use and the remains of extinct animals, including elephants much bigger than the present-day species, have been found at these sites. The

Ologesailie and Kariandusi sites of this period have been turned into open-air museums. Yet another site from a still later period has been found west of Lake Baringo. The finds of this site include hand-axes, cleavers and choppers. A fossil of *Homo erectus* has also been found in this region.

The sites representing the *Intermediate Period* extending from 10,000 B.C. to 3,000 B.C. have been found in the regions of Lake Victoria, Rift Valley and the Highlands. The evidence suggests that there was migration from the northern areas into this region and they brought with them blade technology and new tools such as obsidian-backed blades, burins, side scrapers and sinew frayers. The use of bow and arrow also began in this period. The civilizational remains of the next period extending from



3000 B.C. to 1000 B.C., known as the *Late Stone Age*, have been excavated in the Naivasha-Nakuru Rift and the Lake Victoria regions. Skeletal evidence indicates the co-existence of different races during this period—tall people with narrow heads, long faces and prominent noses and chins like the present-day Somalians and Ethiopians, and short people with larger skulls and smaller faces much like the latter-day Bushmen. These Bushmanoid hunter-gatherers lived near water and were skilled at making and using stone and bone tools. This period was followed by the next stage of development, the *Neolithic Age*. The *Neolithic Period* extended from 1000 B.C. to A.D. 1000 and the sites of this period have been found in the Rift Valley and the Western Highland regions. The most famous of these is the Njoro River Cave where cremation burials of long-headed people with high-bridged noses have been discovered. The culture of this period is also known as the Stone Bowl Culture. Stone bowls and platters, grinding stones and pestles, polished stone axes, pottery with incised and impressed decoration, stone tools, string, wooden vessels and seed beads have been found at these sites.