

CHAIRMAN

NATIONAL BOOK TRUST OF INDIA  
C/o UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION  
OLD MILL ROAD, NEW DELHI.

No. F. 4-1/57/ NBT.

Dated: August 14, 1957.

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Dear Mr. Krishnan,

As the Chairman of the National Book Trust of India, recently established by the Union Ministry of Education and more recently inaugurated here by the Vice-President, I am writing this letter to tell you something about its work and, if possible, get you interested in it.

As you doubtless know, the Trust is intended to put it succinctly, to produce good books at moderate prices and thus foster and further the cause of democratic education in the country. And the production, according to the objects of the Trust, should cover the great Indian classics, translations of famous books from foreign languages into Hindi and other Indian languages, as well as standard books from one Indian language into another and reproduction of Indian paintings, sculptures and other art treasures. Among other publications coming within its range will be standard works of Indian authors, (dead or alive) and those of a popular character relating to the educational, scientific, artistic and other fields of knowledge.

The field is so vast and the undertaking so ambitious that it would be next to impossible to achieve any appreciable success in this direction unless the beginning is modest and yet telling. In his inaugural address the Vice-President spoke of the value of translations of standard books from one Indian language into another for helping the development of national consciousness while the Prime Minister, who addressed the meeting, asked for the creation of a proper climate for book-buying and book-reading among the vast numbers of people in the country. I also thought that, apart

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from the larger aspects stressed by the Vice-President, the Trust's predominant aim, as emphasised by the Prime Minister, should be, to work for an ever-widening range of the reading public through an integrated and well co-ordinated system of bringing good literature within the reach of the common man - at least of the common reader.

With all this in mind, the Trust at its first meeting on the 1st of August last, following the inaugural meeting, had a fairly full discussion on its programme of work. It is committed to bring out, or try to bring out, every year publications in all or most of the categories specified in para 2 of this letter. It has, however, set before itself, two types of programme every year - a long-range 5-Year programme and a short-range annual programme of publications in each category as stated above. At its next meeting, to be held on the 1st of September, 1957 the Committee will make a detailed examination of the programmes of work.

I have written all this at length, solely with the object of profiting by any suggestions that you may like to offer (under each category and each type of programme), in view of your great interest in cultural activities and against the background of your own rich experience.

It will be doubly helpful if you will kindly let me have your suggestions before the end of this month. I do hope that you will not deny the Trust the benefit of your counsel and co-operation. Thanking you and

with kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*C. D. Deshmukh*

(C.D. DESHMUKH)

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