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PRESS RELEASE

20TH NEW DELHI WORLD BOOK FAIR, PRAGATI MAIDAN

The much awaited 20th New Delhi World Book Fair organized biennially by the National Book Trust, India is all set to begin from Saturday, the 25th February 2012 and will continue for 9 days upto 4th March 2012 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The fair will be opened to the public from 11.00 a.m to 8.00 p.m during the days of the fair.

Shri Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development has kindly consented to inaugurate the Fair at 10.00 a.m. at Hamsdhwani Open Air Theatre, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on Saturday, the 25th Feb 2012. Shri Manoj Das, Eminent Writer and Professor of English at the Sri Aurobindo International University, Pondicherry will preside over the function and Professor Mridula Mukherjee, Central for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University would be the Guest of Honor.

This year the Fair will be spread over 45,000 sq. meter area in 10 halls over 2500 stalls will display books of 1300 exhibitors. The foreign pavilion will showcase international participation of about 30 publishers and organizations. These include Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Japan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Germany, UAE, China, Turkey, South Korea, Spain, Belarus, France, Iran, Thailand, Israel and United Kingdom as well as agencies like UNIC , UNESCO and WHO.

The category wise distribution of halls is as follows:

(i) Publishers and Distributors:	Hall No. 1 to 6
(ii) Foreign publishers	Hall No. 7-B&C
(iii) Social Sciences & Humanities-	Hall No. 8 & 9
(iv) Regional language publications	Hall No. 10
(v) Hindi language publication	Hall No.11
(vi) Educational Aids, CDs,Games etc.	Hall No. 12
(vii) S&T and Medicine	Hall No.12-A
(viii)Children and Educational books	Hall No. 14

Souvenir shops at Hall No.1, 7 & 14.

The major attractions of the Fair are:

- The focus of the Fair is celebrating **100 years of Indian cinema**. Many panel discussions, talk shows, film screenings are part of the presentation in the theme pavilion at Hall No.7.
- **Children's Pavilion** – Day long activities and programmes like storytelling, workshops, quiz competition etc. for and by children is being held at Hall No.14.
- **Delhi pavilion** – commemorates 100 years New Delhi as capital of India at Hall No.7.
- **Tagore pavilion** – celebrating 150th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore with an exhibit of books on and by Tagore at Hall No.6.
- **Rights Table** - a three event focusing on sale of copy rights of books in different languages at Hall No.14.
- **Literary activities** – Day long activities such as Book releases, discussions, seminars, forums, talks on books in four conference halls at Hall No.6, 8 & 14.
- **Cultural events** – Every evening there will be cultural events organized by Sahitya Kala Parishad, Govt. of NCT of Delhi at Lal Chowk open air theatre.

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(M. A. SIKANDAR)
DIRECTOR, NBT