

NBT Newsletter

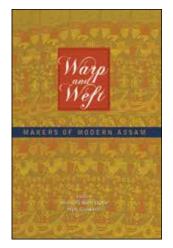
Annual Subscription Rs 5.00; 50 paise per copy

March 2019 • Vol 37 No. 3

Contents

| Certificate Course in Book | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Publishing | 1-2 |
| Focus on Reaaders with | |
| Special Needs | 2-3 |
| Literature Has no Boundaries | 4 |
| Celebrating Power of Words | 5 |
| New Delhi Rights Table | 5 |
| Taller Than Us | 5 |
| Books and Discussions | 6-7 |
| Obituary | 8 |

PICK OF THE MONTH



Warp and Weft: Makers of Modern Assam Hirendra Nath Dutta & Stuti Goswami (Eds.) 978-81-237-8715-2; Rs 255

Certificate Course in Book Publishing



A weeklong certificate course in book publishing was organized at Gujarat University, Ahmedabad from 23 to 31 January 2019. Shri O P Kohli, Hon'ble Governor of Gujarat inaugurated the course.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Himanshu Pandya, Vice Chancellor of Gujarat University said that keeping in view the growing demand for the course, Gujarat University in collaboration with National Book Trust, India is organizing the certificate course in book publishing. He added that this is the first time that such a course is being organized in Gujarat.

In his address, Prof. Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, NBT talked about the importance of this skill-oriented programme. He said that the programme would benefit the participants not only with the overview of publishing as a profession but would also give them hands-on experience on various aspects of it like editing, production, sales & marketing, design and layout, copyright and ISBN among others. This short-term course would help them pursue a career in the publishing industry.

Prof. Nilotpala Gandhi, faculty at Gujarat University also spoke on the occasion. Over 40 participants from across the region participated in the programme. The faculty comprised senior professionals from publishing industry. The valedictory function was held on 31 January 2019 during which Dr. Ranjana



MARCH 2019 NBT NEWSLETTER []

Argade, Director, USL, Gujarat University interacted with the participants and distributed the certificates.

The book publishing sector in India is growing at the rate of 20 per cent annually. The Indian industry ranks second in English language publishing in the world. Besides, the Indian languages cover 45 per cent of trade percentage. With such a considerable growth rate, there is a huge requirement of skilled professionals in



the industry. In pursuance of its efforts to create a pool of skilled professionals, National Book Trust, India has been organizing short-term training courses in book publishing across the country. During the programme, the participants are introduced to the various aspects of publishing like editing, production, sales & marketing, etc.

Shri Narender Kumar, production officer, NBT coordinated the programme.

Focus on Readers with Special Needs

Issues and Challenges

G To bring differently abled persons into

mainstream, it is necessary to address the challenges and difficulties faced by them," said Dr G N Karna, Honorary President, Society for Disability and Rehabilitations Studies at a panel discussion on 'Readers with Special Needs: Issues and Challenges' held at the Theme Pavilion. There are a large number of people in India who are differently abled. They face various challenges in the field of education and employment, but their acceptability at social level is more serious than other issues.

This year, the theme presentation of the New Delhi World Book Fair was focused on 'Books for Readers with Special Needs,' especially children, with emphasis on their reading needs. It was projected to carry out the idea of Inclusive Learning, and explore various issues and dimensions of creating, producing and disseminating content for readers.

"When we talk about the persons with special needs, we need to understand they are not of one category only but are of different categories," said Dr Sailaja Chennat, Assistant Professor, University of Delhi. Therefore, she added that each category has different requirements and we need to be sensitive about them. Talking about the availability of technology to assist persons with special needs, she said that very few people know about the technology and awareness regarding the same should be created to make these facilities accessible to the people who need them.

Dr R K Sarin focussed on the needs of visually impaired readers. Before

publishing a book for a visually impaired person, we need to analyse the font that we are using. If the books are published in the Mangal font then it becomes easy to read. He highlighted the fact that there is a dearth of textbooks in Braille. He further said that

sighted people do not understand Braille, an awareness regarding the same is also required.

Highlighting the rights of the persons with special needs, Dr S K Prasad said that under Section 42 of Disabilities Act, essential reading is important. Textbooks should reach larger population and expert advise should be taken before writing them. Other needs like requirement of sign language interpreters, etc. should also be looked into. Under section 47 (2) Universities are supposed to do research for 21 types of disabilities. We have not done much for the differently abled but those who have succeeded in life is only because of their own hard work.

Prof. Ashima Nehra, AIIMS, said that persons who suffer disability because of an accident or other medical issues like stroke are also diffrently abled. She added that AIIMS is doing a lot of research in this direction.



Emphasising on the accessibility requirements, Dr Anju Kakkar, University of Delhi, said that most of the buildings in India have been built ignoring the aspect of accessibility for the disabled. Even people suffering from joints problems etc find it difficult to move around the buildings because of lack of facilities. While constructing a building, this aspect of providing accessibility facilities be considered at the initial stage itself.

Inclusion: First Step for Empowerment

The concept of physical disability is a

mental state. If you have the will to do it, then you can do it. There is no handicap because any individual can achieve their dreams regardless of who they are", said the



Vice Chairman, National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), while moderating a panel discussion on "Inclusion: First Step for empowerment" organized by National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language at the Theme Pavilion.

Flagging off some major issues that 'disability' people commonly face, the panel observed that if people are not made to realise that

they are 'disabled' then the many obstacles they face can be removed.

Attitudinal barrier is one such that involves people's thinking. If a person is alllowed to think positively, then they will understand that they are equal to any other individual. The panelists also informed about the different privileges, schemes and scholarships that are available for differently abled and requested them to avail the same. They also raised concerns on the absence of 'Inclusion' studies in B.Ed and M.Ed. pedagogy. The meaning of Inclusion is complete only if we go by its definition.

Inclusion should not only be confined to disability but should also talk about 'old age home'. On this occassion, three books were also released: *Matwazan Ghiza* by Dr. Rafiuddin Nasir, *Khula Mein Hindustani Programme Ki Jhalkiyan* by Shri Aneesul Hasan Siddiqui and *Falakiyati Bastah* by Shri Aneesal Hasan Siddiqui. Discussants at the programme included, Shri Saurabh Ray, Shri Faijullah Khan, Shri Asghar Ali, Prof. Nasar Shakeel Roomi and Dr. Aquil Ahmed.

Inside Me

Can the visually impaired paint or draw? And if so, how? These are the questions that immediately come to mind and the visitors had the same curiosity about this workshop on drawing by visually impaired at the Theme Pavilion.

'Inside Me' is an initiative that works with schools for blind children to enable them visualise their world beyond what is taught in their classrooms. With the help of art, Shivani Bharadwaj wants to help these children understand the world around them by expanding their sensory perception through the understanding



of shapes like a triangle or rectangle or oval to relate to the objects around their environment. She proudly recounted a student being able to draw a toothpaste and a toothbrush by feeling their shape and surface.

With the help of crayons and paper placed on a special tactile board which enhances the tangibility of the surface to touch, the children drew shapes like flowers, a face, a bus and more using their fingers and palm to measure the shape and distance to join the lines that creates the complete picture. Using the palm of his hand, a student created an oval shape to draw a human face, a portrait. To draw a flower with 5 petals, he used the space occupied by one finger to scale a uniform sized petal and repeated the same till perfectly formed flower was created on the page.

Interaction with Paralympians

A n interaction with paralympians Rajinder Singh, Manpreet Kaur, Parvinder Singh was organised at the Theme Pavilion. They talked about the various facets of their lives, their childhood, their aspirations, support from their parents and finally their journey into the world of sports. They were of the view that, if there is somebody to guide them,

then they can definitely reach heights and gain respectable position in the society. Shri Jaswant Singh Zafar was the moderator of the session.

Rajender Singh said that he was born in Mehsampur village, Jalandhar district, Punjab, in a poor family. He contracted polio when he was eight months old. Following encouragement from his friend Surinder Singh Rana, who himself is a powerlifter, he decided to pursue powerlifting, after completing his school education. Captain Pyara Singh was his coach in 1996. He won his first ever title in powerlifting in 1997 at the Punjab Open Meet. He won bronze medal at 2004 Summer Paralympics in Athens, Greece. In

2006, he was honoured with the Arjuna Award. He also won silver medal at 2014 Commonwealth games.

Talking about how she started powerlifitng, Manpreet Kaur said that after completing her B. Com and B. Ed., she was searching for a job to support her family. As she could not find a job, her college Principal encouraged her to pursue sports as a career option. She informed that currently she can lift a weight of 75 kg.

Parvinder Singh suffered spinal injury in an accident. He said that he was a sportsman prior to the accident in 2002. He won a medal (Bronze) in International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS) Games 2009 in Bangalore.

While Parvinder Singh is the founder member of the Para Sports Academy in Jalandhar, Rajender Singh is a coach in the academy which provides training to players in powerlifting, athletics and archery. The academy has produced about 50 world-class athletes.

Later, there was an interaction with the differently-abled singer Shri Bant Singh Jhabbar. His is a poignant tale of suffering, he lost his both arms and a leg in an attack for protesting against his daughter's gang rape.



MARCH 2019 NBT NEWSLETTER B

Literature has No Boundaries

To get a glimpse of literature from across the world, Foreign Pavilion at Hall. No. 7 was the best place to be at New Delhi World Book Fair. Countries like Emirate of Abu Dhabi, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Mexico, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sri Lanka, and international organisations like UNESCO exhibited the best of their literature at the Pavilion.

A book *Living Literature: A Trilingual Documentation of Indo-German Literary Exchange*, captured the attention of the visitors at the stall of Germany. The book is unique in itself that gives the translations of literature in different Indian languages into German and English. The works of both established and young authors like Clemens Meyer, Volker Braun and Heiner Muller; and books in Hindi on Max Muller and Goethe also formed part of the exhibits.

For those who wished to have a taste of contemporary Arabic literature, Egyptian stall provided it. Over 100 books were displayed there. Not only Arabic books, but also English translations of Arabic literary works like *The Sultan's Good Morrow*, one-act play in verse by Abdel Sam Zein; and *Cat with Seven Lives* by Raafat El-Dewari were on display.

Don Quito, El Zorro, Mogli, Dorothea, and many other children's books from Italian authors were the major highlight at the stall of Black Cat - CIDEB Publications, Italy. With colourful covers



and quality printing, the books were attractive and compelled the readers to glance through them.

China is one of the most developing nations in Asia. Its development across different fields is also reflected in the books. The China stall at the Pavilion provided the visitors a glimpse of what China is today. Its literature, its social and cultural structure, and different aspects of its trade and business could be seen in the exhibits. Hindi booklovers were happy to see a number of books on China in Hindi also.

The breadth of French books across genres like fiction, non-fiction, children's



books, science, law, illustrated books could also be seen at the Foreign Pavilion. Learners of French language found this stall interesting.

One of the member States of SAARC, Sri Lanka also marked its presence at the New Delhi World Book Fair. Books on Buddhism, culture, language and literature in English, Singhalese and Tamil languages attracted the

visitors.

The stalls of Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia were designed beautifully with a touch of Islamic art and culture. A few books in Hindi were also seen at an exhibition of books by Iran.

A number of books in Spanish as well as Indian languages like Bangla and Hindi added colour to the Spanish stall.

Commemorating the 20th death anniversary of Octavio Paz, a poster exhibition was organised by Embassy of Mexico, New Delhi. Octavio paz works represented the confluence of two strong cultural rivers, the Mexican and the Indian. Graphic designers from both countries came together to create posters based on the works of Octavio paz.

International Events Corner at the Foreign Paviloon hosted a number of events on topics such as publishing, translation and children's writings. Sharjah was the Guest of Honour country at the Fair and the specially designed Sharjah Pavilion also hosted a number of literary and cultural programmes.



A NBT NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019

Celebrating Power of Words

That is how Ahmed bin Rakkad Al Ameri, the Chairman of Sharjah Book Authority summed up Sharjah's presence in New Delhi World Book Fair. He is leading the Sharjah delegation for the Guest of Honour presentation. *Fair Daily* caught up with the man, surrounded by people wanting to know more about life, literature and culture of Sharjah, for a short free-wheeling discussion. Excerpts from the interview:

What are your thoughts on Sharjah's selection as Guest of Honour country in New Delhi World Book Fair 2019?

India and the Arab world have a more than 600 year old history of cultural and literary exchange. Knowledge has been a powerful vehicle of that relationship. As our His Highness believes in the power of words and exchange of knowledge, we have come here with the message that it is only word that can carry Arab-India relation from strength to strength. We are here to showcase our life, our literature, our heritage and above all to celebrate our relation with India. I am particularly happy that we have displayed here in our pavilion 57 Arabic books translated into Hindi across genres.

Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) is now the third largest book fair in the Globe. What was the journey like?



Yes, the publishing world and the reading communities have taken note of Sharjah International Book Fair. Organising a book fair of that proportion is quite challenging but then our effort has been a fruitful one. In the process of showcasing Sharjah model of publishing to the world through SIBF, we have achieved many more important goals. Today a lot of people has come to know about Sharjah through SIBF.

SIBF is also known for the many literary awards both for Emirati writers and writers from other countries. Do you give these awards to promote SIBF?

Yes we do give awards. But these awards are not given for promoting SIBF. We give awards to promote literature, to celebrate the power of written words. This is in tune with the vision of our His Highness. We have different platforms to market SIBF.

In the field of translation too, the SIBF has established itself as the most sought after place for translators and publishers alike!

Yes, we believe in bringing cultures and countries closer to each other through translation. You would be surprised to know that within a span of 48 hours in SIBF-2018 we received around 3000 applications for our translation grant. And that was the result of Rights exchanges that took place over 2600 meetings among 450 publishers coming from 77 countries.

What special connection India has with SIBF?

India has a strong presence in the SIBF. After New Delhi World Book Fair, the SIBF happens to be the biggest congregation of Indian publishers. Over the years, Indian participation at the SIBF has been growing by leaps and bounds. Our association with NBT through New Delhi World Book Fair is actually a reflection of that strong connection.

What about the next edition of SIBF?

Sharjah International Book Fair 2019 will have special importance in the wake of the UNESCO's declaration of Sharjah as the World Book Capital for the year 2019. We are planning to organise the next edition in a befitting manner. I'm sure the publishing fraternity has been eagerly waiting for the next edition of SIBF.

New Delhi Rights Table

The seventh edition of the 2-Day New Delhi Rights Table was organised on 7-8 January 2019 on the sidelines of the at New Delhi World Book Fair. The Rights Table had a participation of over sixty publishers, both from India and abroad, providing a platform to network and explore business opportunities together for publishers, Rights agents, authors, translators and editors.



Taller than Us

Following the performance by the repertoire of Dapon by dwarf artistes from Assam, as part of the focus on the differently-abled at the Theme Pavilion, Dr. Rita Chowdhury, the Director of NBT, requested the performers for a photo session. In a rare gesture, the Director sat on their feet and requested the audience to come and sit with her. Looking up to the performers, she said "You are taller than us."



MARCH 2019 NBT NEWSLETTER 5

Books and Discussions

National Book Trust, India organised Authors' Corner and Lekhak Manch, a platform for interaction with authors as well as a stage for the publishers and authors for release of new books during the New Delhi World Book Fair organised in January 2019. Herein we provide information about some of the important books and discussions.

Books on Gandhi Released

rivers which we have managed to pollute to an alarmingly devastating level. We as citizens need to focus and consciously right this wrong. Ours, is also a culture bound by literature and books such as the Ramayana which interweaves all spheres of life.

Dr.Varsha Das, a Gandhian, shed light on the book, 'Bapu Ka Aashirwaad' on Mahatma Gandhi's wisdom which continues to inspire millions of people



Adiscussion on Indian culture was organised at Authors' Corner, Hall. No. 8. It was followed by release of books pubished by the Publications Division, Ministry of I&B. The speakers included Dr. Varsha Das, Ritu Paliwal and Dr. Sadhana Rao and Shri Amit Khare.

Among the books released were 'Bapu Ka Aashirwaad' - A collection of Mahatma Gandhi's writings on mourning the loss of a loved one; 'Portraits of Strength' - A collection of the stories of enterprising women praised by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, in his radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat'; 'Rang-Birangi Kahaaniyaan' - folk stories from across India for children' and 'Badal ki Sair' – a book on the problems of of pollution and preservation of environment.

On the question of Indian culture, Ritu Paliwal observed that it is a vast entity that encompasses the entirety of the way of life in India. We exemplify the notion of unity in diversity, of being one despite our differences. Ours is a riverine culture. Lives, deaths and celebrations in the country are inextricably linked to our

R NBT NEWSLETTER

across the country and world. She also lamented the loss of the joy of reading, especially for children who are overburdened with schoolwork, homework, tuitions, internet and barely left with any time to read something new which is not a part of all this.

Moderating the session, Mr. Amit Khare, Principal Secretary (Finance), Government of Jharkhand, observed theat the internet may provide information but it does not provide knowledge, so we need to keep reading for real understanding and wisdom.

Launch of Hans

A nostalgic group of writers, translators and readers welcomed the launch of the English Edition of *Hans*, one of India's leading Hindi literary magazines. Founded in 1930 by Munshi Premchand and Mahatma Gandhi, the Hindi version of *Hans* was launched primarily to address the issues of the day like the excesses of British rule, and later focussed on contemporary social issues such as corruption, crime, and political hoodlumism. Stories reflecting on these themes became the focus of *Hans*. Among those present on the occasion were Mark Tully, Sanjay Sahay, Mridula Garg and Rachna Yadav.

Lauding the initiative and commending the effort of translating and bringing to a wider audience, stories from Hindi, Mark Tully underlined the importance of translations particularly in a country as diverse and multi-lingual as India. He mentioned that "the elite pay too much attention to English as a language and overlook the richness of writings in Indian languages like Tamil, Malayalam, Bangla among others."

Authors and translators of the volume also shared their own stories. Mridula Garg, Sanjeev, Akhilesh, Ira Pandey, Virendra Yadav and Mamta Kalia spoke on the inevitability of loss in translation. For translators, especially in terms of the



delicate nature of cultural nuances, idioms and poetic expressions are a tricky matter to nail for the sake of preserving the originality of the writing.

Mind, Life, Reflections

We live in extraordinarily contradictory times these days which are but a necessity for triggering intellectual ability", said Ms. Payal Jain, author, lifecoach and entrepreneur at the release of her new book *Mind, Life, Reflections*. The book was released by Shri Manish Sisodia, Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi. Other distinguished guests at the function included Shri Anup Jalota, Padmashree Awardee and renowned Bhajan singer Cricket Ki Shandaar Kahaniyan" drew huge crowds. Eminent journalist and cricket critic Rajdeep Sardesai and former India test player Madanlal taking part in the discussion were cynosure of all eyes. Shri Sardesai in his illuminating speech said that cricket in India is so democratic that it does not discriminate on the grounds of religion, caste, creed, cities and villages. There was a time, he said, rulers were made captains of the cricket teams even without the required cricketing skill. But today cricket does not follow dynastic norms, he added amidst huge applause. A member of the 1983 World Cup winning Indian squad, Shri Madanlal said today's cricketers enjoy more facilities and Both authors are different personalities but connected by their common concerns on women, patriarchy and gender. While Natasha's tone is autobiographical, Priyanka reports on real life atrocities committed against women. Natasha admitted that the emotions and feelings which she could not put in words are heard loudly in Priyanka's books. She also said that writing on someone's family, structures and patterns of family has become a cliche. Priyanka said that being a woman herself, it is not easy to be a journalist to report crimes against women. Hierarchy exists in the world of journalism and that a women jounalist's voice is also suppressed. She recalled an incident that



and musician and Dr. Usha Pandey, a distinguished academic, littérateur and fellow at IIAS, Shimla. The panelists observed that the author writes from her soul, she uses analogy and poetry weaving reflections of concepts such as suffering and rebirth among other experiences of life.

An autobiographical account, the book published by Invincible Publishers, is about a quest for a unique identity in the path of life. According to the author, the journey of life contains invaluable lessons that can guide our living. The book is for those who are seeking answers. It will help touch a cord that will strum the reader to connect with his/her real inner self.

Earlier, the crowd was thrilled when Anup Jalota belted out a popular bhajan and ghazal, appeasing their excitement.

Hopes and Dreams

Apanel discussion on Hopes and Dreams of India for the ensuing Cricket World Cup and a discussion on the book "Team Loktantra: Bharatiya opportunities, which was not there in our times, he added. He fondly remembered cricketers' travel in second class railway those days. On India's prospect in the forthcoming World Cup, he said India would be the strongest contender this time around. Syed Ansari moderated this engrossing discussion. The programme was organised at Lekhak Manch.

'No Nation for Women'

^{CC} Relationships, parenting, selfrealisation", a discussion on the book *My Daughter's Mum and Immortal for a Moment*, by Natasha Badhwar, and, *No Nation for Women* by Priyanka Dubey was organized at the Authors' Corner.



happened in 2012 which made her bolder to report on violence against women. She also read out an excerpt from her book "No Nation for Women". While Natasha said that she writes to pay attention to herself, Priyanka said that to some extent, some amount of soul-searching happens when she reports on violence.

Media and Jansansar

Dr Rita Chowdhury, Director, National Book Trust, India released a book entitled *Media aur Jansansar* written by senior journalist and Consulting Editor of DD-News Dr M Rahmatullah at the Fair. The book has been published by Bhavna Prakashan.



NBT NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2019 NBT NEWSLETTER

Obituary

Eminent writer, poet and critic Namvar Singh passed away on 19 February 2019 in New Delhi. He was 92. He was born on 28 July 1926 at Jiyanpur village in Varanasi. After his early education at his native village, he moved to Varanasi to pursue further studies. He did his matriculation and higher secondary from Udai Pratap



Autonomous College, Varanasi. He completed his master's with gold medal and PhD from Banaras Hindu University.

Namvar Singh began his teaching career from Banaras Hindu University and also taught at Sagar University and Jodhpur University. Later, he joined the faculty at Jawwharlal Nehru University and became the first chairman of Centre of Indian Languages, Jawaharlal Nehru University and continued to remain as 'professor emeritus' after his retirement in 1992.

Namvar Singh was appointed as Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha. He was also the Chairman of Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation and was the former president of the All India Progressive Writers' Association (AIPWA). One of the finest critics in Hindi literature Namvar Singh's works on criticism include *Kavita Ke Naye Pratiman*, *Chhayavaad* and *Dusari Parampara Ki Khoj*. He also edited two Hindi magazines *Janyug* and *Aalochana*. He received Sahitya Akademi award for literary criticism in the year 1971 for *Kavita Ke Naye Pratiman*.

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.

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

Printed and published by Satish Kumar on behalf of National Book Trust, India and printed at Aravali Printers and Publishers Pvt. Ltd., W-30 Phase-II, Okhla Industrial Area, New Delhi-110020, and published at National Book Trust, India, Nehru Bhawan, 5 Institutional Area, Phase-II, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070. Editor: Binny Kurian.

Typeset and designed at Capital Creations, Subhram Complex, Munirka, New Delhi-110 067. RNI-39456/82 Postal Regd. No. DL-SW-1-4076/2018-20 Licenced to post without prepayment. L.No. U(SW)21/2018-20 Mailing date: 5/6 Same Month Date of Publication: 01/03/2019

Namvar Singh had been closely associated with National Book Trust, India. He was the member of Board of Trustees of NBT. He was the general editor of NBT series of books on Hindi Navjagran Ke Agradoot. A compilation of his essays *Namvar Singh: Sankalit Nibandh* has also been published by NBT.

Forthcoming Book Fairs

- 1. Ajmer Book Fair (13 21 April 2019)
- 2. Solan Book Fair (27 April 5 May 2019)
- 3. Chandigarh Book Fair (11 19 May 2019)
- 4. Jammu Book Fair (25 May 2 June 2019)
- 5. Ujjain Book Fair (31 August 8 September 2019)
- 6. Barnala Book Fair (14 22 September 2019)
- 7. Panaji Book fair (5 13 October 2019)

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