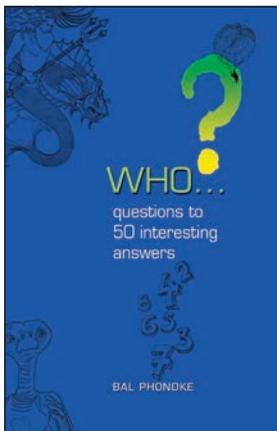


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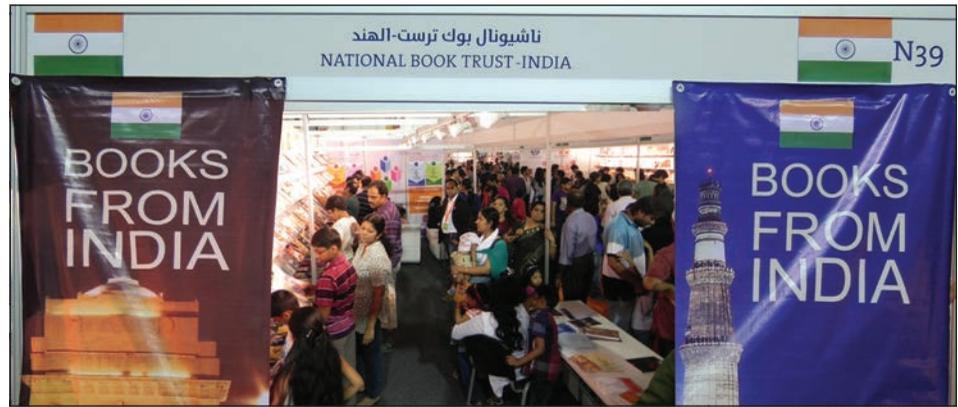
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PICK OF THE MONTH



**Who: Questions to 50 Interesting
Answers**
Bal Phondke
978-81-237-6975-2; Rs 150

Sharjah International Book Fair



Organised around the theme 'For love of the written word', the 32nd edition of the Sharjah International Book Fair was held from 6-16 November 2013 at the Sharjah Expo Centre. The Fair was inaugurated by HH Dr. Shaikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council member and ruler of Sharjah.

The 10 day event drew over 1,000 publishers from 53 countries including 23 Arab countries. Over 500 activities including book signings, readings, discussions, cultural presentations, workshops, activities for children, special sessions on Emirati Science fiction and a flavour of international cuisine provided interactive sidelights at the Fair.

The NBT also participated at the Rights Table held from 3-5 November 2013 with over 200 recent titles. At the end of the session which had more than 100 publishers from across the globe, NBT signed interest agreements for books on Gandhi with publishers from Syria, Azerbaijan and Egypt.

The National

Book Trust, India participated with a select contingent of 60 Indian publishers at the Fair. Housed in a special India Pavilion, the Indian stalls attracted hundreds of visitors. NBT displayed a range of books in English, Urdu, Hindi and Malayalam brought out by a cross-section of publishers from across the country.

Among the Indian celebrities who visited the NBT stall included Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India, Shri Adoor Gopalakrishnan, eminent film maker, Shri Ruskin Bond, popular children's writer, Shri Farooq Sheikh and Ms Deepti Naval, theatre and film personalities, Prof. K.V. Thomas, Minister of State, Govt. of India and Ravinder Singh.

Shri Samaresh Kumar, Asst. Director (I&P) and Shri Rajiv Choudhury, Asst. Director (Exh.) represented NBT.



Chandigarh Book Fair

The Chandigarh Book Fair organised by the National Book Trust, India and Union Territory Administration, Chandigarh was held at the Parade Grounds, Sector 17, Chandigarh from 13-18 November 2013. The Fair was inaugurated by Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Hon'ble Governor of Punjab and Administrator, UT of Chandigarh. Shri Patil observed that, "Books are instruments for better understanding of human beings and knowledge.

Such book fairs have special significance to promote book reading culture in the society." He also emphasised upon the e-conversion of printed books. He felt that e-books would eliminate the barrier of distance and time, thereby making books accessible to the book lovers across the globe easily. And to cope with the changing trends, he requested parents to encourage their children to read more.

Shri V.K. Singh, Principal Secretary, Finance and Education, UT of Chandigarh delivered the welcome address. Shri M.A. Sikandar, Director, NBT spoke on the importance of promotion of reading and publishing in the country and steps taken by NBT for promotion of Indian books and authors abroad.

National Centre for Children's



Literature (NCCL), a wing of NBT organised several workshops, discussions, plays, interactive sessions and other literary and cultural programmes for children, young adults and general readers during the Fair. These included workshop on *Skills of Storytelling* for teachers,



educators and parents, *Readers' Club Orientation* for school teachers, workshop for children on *Spin A Tale*, *Treasure Hunt* and *NBT Chandigarh Book Fair Express*, workshop on *Enactment of a Story* and *Dance-Drama* for children and teachers, Career Guidance for Young Adults on *Publishing as a Career*, workshop for budding authors on *Creative Writing*, Career Guidance session on *Book/Graphic Design as a Career* for young adults and *Storytelling Marathon*

featuring children, teachers and young authors. These programmes were coordinated by Ms Suman Bajpayi, Dr Shekhar Sarkar, Ms Kshama Sharma, Ms Asha Shiklani and Shri Subir Roy.

The legendary athlete Shri Milkha Singh, Padmashri awardee, Dr Surjit Patar, poet, Ms Tara Deshpande, author, Shri Keki N. Daruwalla, poet, and young authors like Shri Ravi Subramaniam, Ms Nitika Singh and Shri Sachin Garg took part in various reading and interactive sessions.

A large number of book lovers, students, teachers, educationists and scholars participated in these events which were coordinated by Shri Manas Ranjan Mahapatra, Editor (NCCL), and Shri M.L. Bhatia, Asstt. Editor, from NBT.



NBT-Metro Bookshop Inaugurated



Speaking on the occasion, Shri A. Sethumadhavan, Chairman, NBT said that NBT continues to explore new avenues to promote books and reading and to make books easily accessible to the readers.

The National Book Trust, India and DMRC joined hands in this unique venture to promote books and encourage reading habit amongst the masses. As part of the initiative, NBT will open special book shops at important Metro stations. Besides Kashmere Gate, NBT-Metro Bookshops will be soon opened at Delhi University and Central Secretariat stations. The initiative, the Trust hopes, will encourage people to read books while travelling.

Among the incentives that the bookshops will offer readers is a 15 per



cent discount on purchase of books for all metro card holders and DMRC employees. Commuters can become NBT Book Club members by paying Rs 100 and avail 20 per cent discount. NBT will offer Book Club Membership to interested employees of the DMRC free of cost against which they can also avail 20 per cent discount on sale price of NBT books at all NBT outlets across the country.

Singapore: Gateway for Asian Children's Content

An interactive session with Mr A.R. Ramachandran, Executive Director, National Book Development Council of Singapore on the theme *Singapore as a Gateway for Asian Children's Content* was held at the India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi on 21 November 2013. The talk was held at the backdrop of India as the Focus Country at the Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC) to be held in 2014.

AFCC is held annually in Singapore by National Book Development Council of Singapore and is one of the major events in the world for promoting children's content. National Book Trust, India as the nodal body will present India as a Focus Country. The presentation will include a special Pavilion with a collective display of Indian children's books in the Festival and will hold various events and sessions on Indian children's literature.

Focussing on the opportunities that Singapore can provide to India for promoting Indian content across the world, Mr Ramachandran felt that Asia



is hungry for content and India can feed that appetite for content. Singapore has a large Asian population and has a multi-lingual culture, excellent infrastructure, cultural sensitivity, excellent library facilities and gateway to the rest of the world. He urged Indian publishers to establish their units in

Singapore and reach out to the rest of the world. He further added that India and Singapore will be celebrating 50 years of diplomatic relationship in the year 2015 and to mark this occasion both the countries should strengthen their ties through cultural, trade and other exchanges throughout the year. "The Focus Country Presentation of India in the AFCC 2014 may be a nice beginning," he added.

In his presidential address, Prof. Avadhesh Kumar Singh, Director, School of Translation Studies and Training, IGNOU emphasised on the need to forge cultural ties with Singapore.

Mr M.A. Sikandar, Director, NBT while welcoming the guests appreciated Mr Ramachandran's pioneering efforts to promote reading culture among the masses. Coordinated by Dr S. Majumdar, Chief Librarian, IIC and Shri M.R. Mahapatra, Editor, NBT, the talk was organised jointly by the National Book Trust, India and India International Centre. Several authors, publishers and book lovers took part in this event.



National Book Week at Bhubaneswar

“A home without books is a home without God and doesn't deserve to be called a home,” said Shri Achyutanand Pati, eminent Odia short story writer, while inaugurating the National Book Week programme at Bitana, Jajpur, Odisha on 15 November 2013.

The programme was organised by National Book Trust, India in association with Junabhadra College, Bitana.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Adhyapak Biswaranjan, noted columnist and writer talked about the importance of reading and the role of books in the overall transformation of human consciousness. Shri Nadiya Bihari Mohanty, well-known children's writer and the Guest of Honour at the function, focussed on the need for setting-up of more libraries and readers clubs in rural areas for promotion of reading habit.

Presiding over the meeting, Prof. Sourindra Barik, noted poet said that books help us to know our inner self. Shri Subhas Chandra Rout, Principal,



Junabhadra College, welcomed the guests and commended NBT's efforts in popularising Odia language and literature in rural areas.

Twelve books including two originals and eight translations were released on the occasion. Among the books released were *Krushna Prasad Mishranka Shrestha Galpa*,

Achyutanand Patinka Shrestha Galpa and *Gandhi-Nehru Patralapa*. The release was followed by a discussion on the titles released. Dr. Shashadhar Das, Prof. Nandakishore Parida, Prof. Bauribandhu Kar and Shri Sunakar Mahakul spoke on the occasion.

A symposium on the 'Promotion of Reading Habit in Rural Areas' was organised in the second session. Dr. Ekadashi

Padhi, researcher and educationist, Shri Pravakar Satpathi, editor and poet, Dr. Rudra Narayan Prusty, President of Jaipur District Writers' Association, Shri Suryamani Khuntia, noted translator, Smt. Bidyutprava Das, well-known poet and Shri Prabodh Kumar Samal, an activist in

library movement for the rural areas, presented their views on the subject. All the speakers stressed on the importance and benefits of reading. Prof. Bijay Kumar Satpathy, Member, Odia Advisory Panel, NBT, presided over the session and Shri Damodar Behera offered the vote of thanks.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Pramod Sar, Odia editor, NBT.



Literary Programme at Madikeri

A talk on 'The Role of Books in My Life' was organised on 19 November 2013 at Kaveri Kalakshetra, Madikeri, Karnataka as part of the National Book Week celebrations.

The event was organised in collaboration with Allaranda Rangachavadi, a literary and cultural organisation, Madikeri. Distinguished personalities from literature, sports and theatre spoke on the importance of books in their lives.

Dr. Nataraj Hulyar, eminent Kannada writer, was the Chief Guest at



the function. "The book is the only friend and guide in our loneliness," he said. He added that the knowledge acquired from

books will stay with us during our life time and would help mould our personality.

Well known writer Shri K.R. Vidyadhara and a noted theatre artiste Shri T.N. Srinivasa Naidu spoke on the importance of books in their lives and career. Smt. Kalmadanda Saraswathi, retired principal of a local college who presided over the function also spoke on the importance of books and reading habit.

Shri H. Nagarajappa, Kannada Editor, NBT coordinated the event.

Book Release Functions

Almora

The National Book Trust, India organised a Book Release and Discussion session at a function in Almora, Uttarakhand, in association with Kumaon University's Department of Journalism, on 26 October 2013.



The book released on the occasion was *Meri Yaadon ke Pahad* written by Devendra Mewari.

Speaking on the occasion, Shekhar Pathak, Padmashri awardee, congratulated the author and described the book as a unique work with its description of the rural life, use of local Kumaoni words, and stories depicting real-life emotions.

Shri Batrohi was of the view that an interesting characteristic of the novel is the author's story-within-a-story style of writing.

Dr Govind Singh, Shri Shamsher Singh Bisht, Jeevan Singh Mehta, Prof. R.S. Pathni, Dr Dev Singh Pokhariyal, Dr Bipan Kumar Sharma, and Dr Pradeep also spoke about the book at length.

While thanking the NBT, Shri Devendra Mewari, author of the book, talked about his hypodiegesis style of writing that he used in the book and said that he inherited this style from his elder sister.

Dr Lalit Kishore Mandora, Hindi editor, NBT coordinated the programme.

Bareilly

The National Book Trust, India in association with Titli Society For Children Welfare organised a book release and discussion session at Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh on 16 November 2013, as part of its National Book Week celebrations.

The programme began with the release of two books for children in Hindi, published by the NBT: *Space Shuttle* and *Saat Suraj Sattaavan Tare*. The books were released by children, and they also held a discussion on the books released. Mohd. Adil and Mohd. Nabil

also presented papers about the books. Speaking on the occasion, Ms Supriya Aron, Former Mayor, Bareilly



commended NBT for publishing good books for children and contributing to good literature for children. She also spoke about the contributions of Ms Swaraj Shuchi Aron to children's literature.

Shri Suryanath Singh expressed concern on the growing technology taking over children's reading habit, and said that the children's writers have a challenge to face and need to write in a manner that children are encouraged to read more often.

The programme concluded with a session on poetry, where Kamlesh

Bhatt Kamal, Dr Nagesh Panda, Uday Kirola, Nirmala Singh, Dr Karuna Pande, Gudwin Masih, Ramesh Gautam and Dr Monika Agarwal rendered their poems to a packed audience.

The event was coordinated by Pankaj Chaturvedi, Hindi editor from NBT.

Dharamshala

The National Book Trust, India organised a book release programme in association with Bhasha Sanskriti Vibhag (Department of Language, Art and Culture), Dharamshala on 20 November 2013 at Bhachat Bhawan, Dharamshala, as part of its National Book Week celebrations around the country.

Releasing the books, Dr Devendra Gupta, Director, Department of Language, Art and Culture, Dharamshala commended NBT's efforts in promoting books and organising such programmes. He assured NBT of his Department's full support for any future programmes to be held in the region.

Published by the NBT in Hindi, the books released on the occasion were: *Himachal ke Lok Geet*, *Prem Janmejay: Sankalit Vyangya Rachmayen*, *Balram ki Sankalit Rachmayen*, *Vidyasagar Nautiyal ki Sankalit Kahaniyan*, and *Chandrakanta: Sankalit Kahaniyan*. Prof. Ramamurti Vasudev Prashant presented a detailed paper on the books released.

Shri Rajkumar Sharma, Dr Ved Prakash Agni, Dr Gautam Sharma Vyathit, Dr Pratyush Guleri, Dr Rekha Daddwal, and Dr Meenakshi Datta also spoke on the occasion.

Dr Lalit Kishore Mandora, Hindi editor, NBT coordinated the programme.



Seminar on Contemporary Urdu Short Stories

The National Book Trust, India organised a seminar on 'Trends in Contemporary Urdu Short Stories' on 17 November 2013 at Mirza Ghalib College, Gaya (Bihar). The seminar was part of NBT's National Book Week celebrations.

The inaugural session began with the release of four books in Urdu, published by the NBT, India, namely: *Aaj ki Kahaniyan*, *Ila*, *Ek Antheen Talaash*, and *Srinivas Ramanujan*. The books were released by Prof. Abdus Samad and Prof. Hussainuryahak.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Abdus Samad was of the opinion that although globalisation has had an effect on Urdu literature, we still see a glimpse of rural



setting in some of the Urdu stories.

Prof. Hussain-ul-Haq said that though the contemporary Urdu stories discuss the various aspects of human life, however, the topics are changing as per the changing times. Shri Shamoil Ahmad felt that the

Urdu writers are not coming forth from their niche to write on contemporary issues.

Presenting his views on the topic, Shri Masoom Aziz Kazmi said that the rural life and its stories are missing in contemporary Urdu literature. Dr Ahmad Sagir said that writers post 80s also need to be discussed; they cannot be ignored, and Dr Ashraf Jahan seconded the thought.

Dr Ain Tabish, Prof. Mehfuza-ul-Hasan, Prof. Afsa Zafar, Dr Shahid Rizvi, Prof. Gulab Asdak, Sayyad Ahmad Quadri and Mushtaq Ahmad Noori also spoke on the topic. Dr Shams Equbal, Urdu Editor, NBT coordinated the event.

NBT Moga Book Fair

The National Book Trust, India in association with Guru Nanak College, Moga organised the nine-day Moga Book Fair in the grounds of the College, from 28 September to 6 October 2013.

With over 50 publishers displaying a wide range of books in Punjabi, Hindi, English and Urdu, spread over 60 stalls, the Moga Book Fair saw a steady stream of book lovers, students, teachers, librarians, media persons and celebrities visiting the Fair grounds.

Inaugurating the Fair, Prof. Gurdial Singh, eminent writer and Jnanpith awardee said that books are our real friends who guide us all our life. Shri K.L. Garg, Shri Baldev Singh Moga, Shri Darshan Singh, Dr Tarsinder Kaur, and Shri Jaswant Kanwal also spoke on the occasion. Dr Baldev Singh Baddan, Chief Editor & Joint Director, NBT also spoke on the occasion.



The inaugural session also saw the release of 12 books in Punjabi and one in Hindi, published by the NBT. The books released were namely: *Qurratulain*

Hyder diyan Chaunviyan Kahaniyan, *Chandradhar Sharma Guleri diyan Charchit Kahaniyan*, *Ashapoorna Devi diyan Shreshtha Kahaniyan*, *Yungnama Singh ate Firangiyan*, *Padarthi Karishme, Maye ni Maye, Indira Priyadarshini, Suryabala diyan Chaunviyan Kahaniyan*, *Maut de Intezar Vich, Metro da Maza, Meri Pehli Hawaii Yatra, Southall*, and *Nanak Singh ki Chuninda Kahaniyan*. Dr

Tarsem presented a detailed paper on the books released.

The Fair also witnessed a number of literary programmes being held by the National Book Trust, India, including a seminar on 'Decline in the Reading Habit among Readers: Problems and Solution', a discussion session on 'Current situation of Children's Literature in Punjabi', 'Meet Your Favourite Author', 'Storytelling Session', 'Hindi and Punjabi Poetry Session', and a cultural meet.



NBT Mumbai Book Fair

The NBT Mumbai Book Fair was organised from 29 November to 3 December 2013 at MMRDA Grounds, Bandra-Kundla Complex, Mumbai. The five-day book fair was inaugurated by Shri Balchandre Nemade, eminent Marathi poet, novelist and critic and Sahitya Akademi awardee. Shri Satish Kalsekar, Marathi poet and editor was the Guest of Honour. The function was presided over by Shri A. Sethumadhavan, Chairman, NBT. Shri M.A. Sikandar, Director, NBT was also present on the occasion.

Over 50 publishers from across the country participated at the Fair. Many literary programmes including poetry reading sessions were organised during the Fair.



A symposium on Marathi poetry chaired by Prof. Chandrakant Patil was organised. Prof. Vasant Patnekar, poet and critic, and Shri Nilkanth Kadam, celebrated poet, presented papers on



Marathi poetry after 1960.

Chaired by Shri Satish Kalsekar, the Marathi poetry reading session saw Prof. D. Chandrakant Patil, Prof. Vasant Patankar, Shri Nilkanth Kadam, Shri Vasant Gurjar, Shri Prafulla Shiledar, Shri Varjesh Solanki and Shri Avinash Gaikwad rendering their poems.

A symposium on Cinema and Literature was also organised during the Fair. The symposium was presided over by Prof. Kamlekar Sontakke, Sangeet Natak Akademi awardee. Shri Sanjay Pawar, playwright and film script writer, Shri Kumar Sohoni and Shri Abhiram Bhadkamkar participated in the discussion.

Later a play reading of the popular Marathi play *Jyacha Tyacha Prashna* written by Shri Bhadkamkar was organised.

Weekend Getaway

A picnic was organized for the NBT employees and their families on 23 November 2013, at the Pratapgarh Farms Resort, about 85 km from Delhi, the day-long retreat was a refreshing and enjoyable time for the employees who took part in it with the respective members of their family.

Located in the sylvan surroundings of swathes of farmland beyond the town of Jajjar, in Haryana, the Resort was modelled to showcase the traditional culture of Haryana. Games like *gulel*, *gulli danda*, *matki phod*, carom, archery, tug-of-war, dart, air gun, etc. occupied the

fancy of children and adults alike. Besides, people had the opportunity to participate in traditional occupations like charkha weaving, wheat grinding and churning of the milk. There was also an exhibition of pottery where people enjoyed making small pots.

People also enjoyed camel ride, tractor ride and a variety of local cuisine. With



lots of fun and frolic, everybody took to dancing to the beats of *dhhol* and music. At the end of the day, all children were given presents.

Well organized, the picnic brought together one and all.



AUD Students Visit NBT



Students of the post-graduate diploma course in publishing of the Ambedkar University, Delhi, visited NBT as part of their training programme. They held interactive sessions with officers of the Editorial, Production, Exhibition and other sections. The sessions gave them a glimpse into the working of a publishing house. Later they also visited the NCCL library and the NBT bookshop. The post-graduate diploma course in publishing at Ambedkar University is a part of NBT's initiative to collaborate with universities to offer training courses in publishing.

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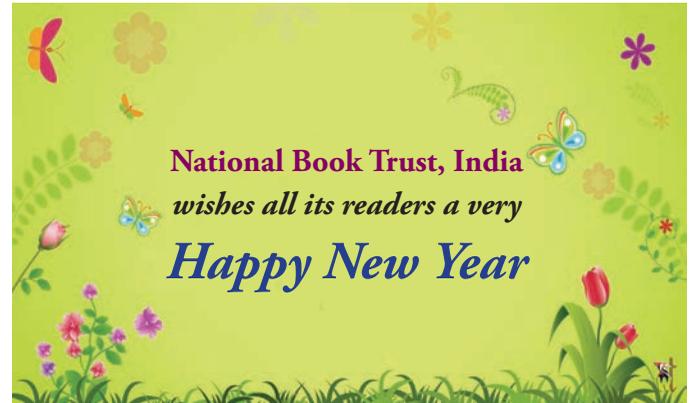
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15–23 February 2014

Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

Guest of Honour: **POLAND**

www.newdelhiworldbookfair.gov.in

Focus on

Children's Literature

Other highlights:

CEOSpeak

New Delhi Rights Table

Cultural Presentations

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