London Book Fair


This year, over 1700 exhibitors representing 60 countries and as many as 25 international pavilions were at the Fair. Indonesia was the Market Focus country at the Fair. It was the first South East Asian country to be Market Focus country at the Fair. With the tagline, ‘17,000 Islands of Imagination,’ Indonesia offered the international public a window into the intellectual and artistic richness of the country. Over 23 publishers exhibited their books at Indonesia pavilion. Noted Indonesian authors Agustinus Wibowo, Clara Ng, Dewi Lestari, Faisal Oddang, Laksmi Pamuntjak among others interacted with the visitors. Several literary and cultural programmes were also organised at the Pavilion.

One of the new features introduced at the Fair was ‘The Podcast Theatre,’ where many books and podcasts were recorded in front of a live audience. The other features included Quantum Conference, Insights Seminar Programme, the Literary Translation Centre, etc. This year, Raymond Antrobus was the Poet of the Fair and David McKee was the Illustrator of the Fair.

The winners of London Book Fair (LBF) International Excellence Awards were announced during the Fair. Among these India’s Tulika Publishers won the Literary Translation Initiative Award and Tata Trusts (India) received the Educational Initiatives Award.

To commemorate the 150 Birth...
Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, a special stand on Mahatma Gandhi was also put up at the Fair by the Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. In addition, a number of Indian publishers including Sahitya Akademi also participated at the Fair.

NBT’s Participation at the Fair
A collective exhibit of books from India was put up at the NBT stall where more than 150 titles in English and Hindi representing various Indian publishers including NBT were displayed. A special section of the display included ‘Books on and by Mahatma Gandhi’ published by NBT and other publishers, such as Bapu by F.C. Freitas, What is Hinduism by Gandhiji, Gandhi: The Writer by Bhabani Bhattacharya and Gandhi: A Life by Krishna Kriplani. Besides, posters of Mahatma Gandhi were part of the display.

Many publishers, trade visitors and dignitaries visited the NBT stall. They showed keen interest in books on spiritualism, yoga, self-help books, memoirs, autobiographies, travelogues as well as books for children and young adults. Underlining the importance of translation, Dr Rita Chowdhury, Director, NBT said that the Trust, as one of the biggest multilingual publishers in India, has been at the forefront of translating works across Indian languages. She was interacting with a cross section of dignitaries, authors, editors and literary agents at the NBT stall. As the organizer of New Delhi World Book Fair, Dr Rita Chowdhury discussed about its importance as an opportunity to explore the book markets of Asia and also to source contents from India and other Asian countries.

Dr Rita Chowdhury also had wide ranging discussions with Ms Marisol Schulz, Director, Guadalajara International Book Fair (FIL) on India’s participation as the Guest of Honour country at the forthcoming edition of FIL. Besides, Mr Jonas, International Rights Manager also discussed about India’s participation at Göteborg Book Fair in Sweden and authors including Ruchir Verma, Ana Nac, and Hilda Hermann, Director, Bridge 15 Consulting among others, visited the NBT stall.

The NBT was also represented by Ms Surekha Sachdeva, English Editor.

Bodo Translation Workshop
In its endeavour to promote books in Bodo language and literature, National Book Trust, India in association with Bodo Writers’ Academy organized a 3-day translation workshop from 12 to 14 March 2019 at Bijni Town of Chirang district of Assam. The venue was Conference Hall, Engkhong Publications. A total of 31 writers and translators in Bodo language from different parts of Assam participated in the workshop. Dr. Mangalsingh Hazowary, eminent writer and the first Sahitya Akademi awardee in Bodo language, Dr. Dinanath Basumatary, renowned writer-critic and former Director, CUDC, Bodoland University and Mr. Ratneswar Basumatary, veteran Bodo translator and former Academic Officer (Bodo), Assam Text Book Production Corporation were invited as the Resource Persons of the workshop.

The workshop was formally inaugurated by renowned writer and Sahitya Akademi Awardee Mrs. Pramila Narzary. In her inaugural address she appreciated NBT’s continuous push to strengthen Bodo publications in general and children literature in particular. She hoped that Bodo Writers’ Academy would extend all intellectual help to NBT in its effort to serve Bodo language. The Guest of Honour of the inaugural function and President, Dularai Boro Somaj, Mr. Rajendra Nath Boro, in his address, exhorted the young writers and translators to explore new areas of writing taking cue from NBT’s diverse publications. Mr. Rajen Basumatary, President, Bodo Writers’ Academy, presided over the Inaugural Function. Dr. Ranen Chandra Muchahary, General Secretary, Bodo Writers’ Academy anchored the programme.
The three Resource Persons in their closing remarks at the Valedictory Function, discussed the strength and weakness of the participants in great detail. Dr Dinanath Basumatary in his address appealed to both NBT and Bodo Writers’ Academy to take up more science books in their future collaborative ventures to plug the gap in science and technology books in contemporary Bodo publishing. The Chief Guest of the valedictory function and former President of Bodo Writers’ Academy in his address summed up the mood with these words, “There cannot be a better way than translation if we want to defeat the enemies of humanity through cultural exchanges among communities of this diverse land called India. A good translation makes both the translator and the readers understand why a thing of beauty is joy forever.”

Earlier, Shri Deep Saikia, Asamiya Editor, NBT, in his address said that as part of its efforts to provide good books in Indian languages, NBT organises translation workshops across the country. He also said that in a similar workshop organised in 2016 saw the publication of 25 Bodo books, which today has run into its third edition.

Around 25 children’s books published by NBT were taken up for translation into Bodo and were finalized in the workshop. Once published, these books will mark a significant milestone in NBT’s Bodo publications.

National Tribal Book Festival

The National Book Trust India in association with Bodo Writers’ Academy and KBR Degree College organised a three-day National Tribal Book Festival from 15 – 17 March 2019, at Orang, Udalguri, Bodoland, Assam. The festival also commemorated the 35th anniversary of the Foundation Day of Bodo Writers’ Academy.

Held annually, the National Tribal Book Festival attracts a large number of writers, scholars, students, and general reading public, mostly from the Bodo community. Besides creating an awareness of the rich heritage of Bodo language, its literature and culture, the Bodo writers’ Academy also plays an exceptional role in the promotion of books in Bodo language and reading among students. In extending its support and cooperation, the Trust organises translation workshops with the Academy, to provide a diverse set of books for children in Bodo language. As part of the Festival, the Trust, this year, organised a translation workshop from 12 – 14 March 2019 at Bijni, Bodoland, Assam.

The tribal book festival was inaugurated by Dr Mangal Singh Hazowary, novelist, short-story writer and the first Sahitya Akademi award winner in Bodo language. Among the other dignitaries who spoke on the occasion included, Dr Dinanath Basumatary, writer and critic and former faculty at Bodoland University, Shri Rakhao Basumatary, writer, and Shri Rajen Basumatary, president, Bodo Writers’ Academy.

The workshop for children had a participation of over fifty children from across schools in and around Orang. Guided by the writers Shri Umesh Brahma, Shri Barua Kanta Brahma, Shri Biswanath Narzary, Shri Lakhiram Basumatary and the artist, Shri Chilchila Boro, the children picked their fertile imagination rendering them into stories and illustrations.

At the women poets’ meet, chaired by Ms Bhabani Baglary, poet and vice-president of Bodo Writers’ Academy, over thirty poets, both established and emerging voices, read their poetry. The poems addressed a range of topics ranging from the romantic to reflections on life in general and issues concerning women, including their aspirations, joys and sorrows.

Chaired by Shri Rajen Basumatary, CEO of Engkhong Publications, the authors and publishers meet discussed and debated on the many challenges facing tribal authors and publishers of Bodo books. While shrinking readership remains a major concern for both authors and publishers, the authors also pointed out that sustained efforts are necessary to create visibility of Bodo writings in English and other Indian languages. Citing the lack of trained editors, and book designers, the publishers were aware that the quality of publications were not up to the mark and more needs to be done in this direction.
New Chairman of NBT

Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma Appointed as the New Chairman of National Book Trust, India

A distinguished educationist and author, Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma took over as the new Chairman of National Book Trust, India (an autonomous organization under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India) on 21 February 2019.

Born in the year 1939, Prof. Sharma has served as the Principal of Government P G College, Madhya Pradesh. Later, he served in various positions, including the Additional Director of Higher Education (Gwalior Chambal Division) and the Director of Madhya Pradesh Hindi Granth Akademi. Having worked extensively in the field of education, Prof. Sharma has also served as the Vice Chairman of Madhya Pradesh Board of Secondary Education as well as Chairman of Madhya Pradesh Textbook Writing Standing Committee. He is the author of more than six books and has edited several collected works as well. In addition, Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma has published numerous research papers.

Books Received

Bank of Polampur: A Satire
Ved Mathur
Tintin Publications; 978-93-5346-561-2; Rs 370
A satire on Indian banking industry, the book using tongue-in-cheek humour to expose the corrupt and ineffectual system prevailing in public sector banks in specific and government department at large. The author has an intimate knowledge of Indian banking, so this novel also becomes a record of the changing scenario of the banking sector in the country, over the last forty year.

Jainism and Other Essays
Kamala Hampana
Sapna Book House; 978-93-87979-10-9; Rs 350
This book underlines how Jainism flourished in Karnataka as state religion and notable writers in Sanskrit, Prakrit and Kannada enriched literature in all allied disciplines. A spectrum of Jain literature, culture and history are the subjects included in this remarkable book. In brief, the book is almost an abridged encyclopedia and every article bears the imprints of the author.

The Treaty of Versailles & Remaking of the World 1919-2019
Aloka Moulik Chatterjee & Achala M Moulik
AuthorsUpFront; 978-93-87280-19-9; Rs 475
The Treaty of Versailles & Remaking of the World 1919-2019 commemorates the Treaty and its epochal aftermath across a century. The authors narrate the causes of World War I; the growth of two rival European camps, their conflicting imperial ambitions, the subjugation of Asia and Africa, the glorification of militarism and commencement of a frenetic arms race. The war concluded by the Treaty of Versailles and laid the grounds for rise of Nazi Germany and for a terrible war which was worldwide in violence and impact.
The World Book and Copyright Day

The World Book and Copyright Day is marked annually on 23 April, a symbolic date for World Literature. It was celebrated for the first time on 23 April 1995, at Paris, when UNESCO decided to mark 23 April as World Book and Copyright Day and for paying worldwide tribute to authors and books, as well as to encourage everyone (particularly the young) to discover the pleasure of reading to gain a renewed respect for the irreplaceable contributions of those who have furthered the social and cultural progress of humanity.

On this day in 1611, Miguel de Cervantes, William Shakespeare and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega died. It is also the date of birth or death of other prominent authors such as Maurice Druon, Halldor K. Laxness, Vladimir Nabokov, Josep Pla and Manuel Mejía Vallejo. The connection between 23 April and books was first made in 1923 by booksellers in Spain as a way to honour the author Miguel de Cervantes, who died on that day. Each year, UNESCO and the international organizations representing the three major sectors of the book industry - publishers, booksellers and libraries, select the World Book Capital for a one-year period, effective from 23 April each year.

For 2019, Sharjah (United Arab Emirates) was named World Book Capital for the year 2019 by the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee.

The city was selected because of the very innovative, comprehensive and inclusive nature of the application, with a community-focused activity program containing creative proposals to engage the very large migrant population.

With the slogan “Read - you are in Sharjah”, the program focuses on six themes: inclusivity, reading, heritage, outreach, publishing and children. Among other things there will be a conference on freedom of speech, a contest for young poets, workshops for creating Braille books and tactile books as well as many events for Sharjah’s multi-ethnic population.

Running parallel to this chain of events, Sharjah will also launch Sharjah Publishing City, a space entirely dedicated to publishing and printing. It will be the first place of the kind in the region, specifically developed to meet the needs of companies and institutions operating in the publishing field. Its objective is to reinforce the book industry by encouraging the widespread production and dissemination of publications in the Arab world.


Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) was named World Book Capital for the year 2020 by the Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, on the recommendation of the World Book Capital Advisory Committee.

The city was selected because of the strong focus on inclusive education, the development of a knowledge-based society and accessible reading for all parts of the city’s population.

With the slogan “KL Baca – caring through reading”, the program focuses on four themes: reading in all its forms, development of the book industry infrastructure, inclusiveness and digital accessibility, and empowerment of children through reading. Among other events and activities there will be the construction of a book city (the Kota Buku Complex), a reading campaign for train commuters, enhancing of digital services and accessibility by the National Library of Malaysia for the disabled, and new digital services for libraries in 12 libraries in poor housing areas of Kuala Lumpur.

The city’s objective is to foster a culture of reading and inclusiveness - “A city that reads is a city that cares” – emphasizing ubiquitous access to books throughout the city. The city’s ambitious programme for World Book Capital is linked to the Vision 2020 for Kuala Lumpur and the eco-city project called the River of Life with open-air bookshops and libraries populating the newly-restored waterways of the city.

One can get involved in celebrating the world book day by buying / reading / presenting books. Special programmes can be conducted by schools, NGO’s, publishers, book shops, media, government bodies and others.

“...when we celebrate books, we celebrate activities – writing, reading, translating, publishing – which help individuals to raise and fulfill themselves; and we celebrate, in a fundamental way, the freedoms that make them possible. Books are at the intersection of some of the most essential human freedoms, primarily freedom of expression and freedom to publish. These are fragile freedoms. Faced by many challenges, from the questioning of copyright and cultural diversity to the physical threats looming over authors, journalists and publishers in many countries, these freedoms are also denied, even today, when schools are attacked, and manuscripts and books destroyed.”

— Audrey Azoulay, Directrice générale, World Book and Copyright Day message

A R P R I L  2 0 1 9  N B T  N E W S L E T T E R  |  5
The month of April is special in relation to health and safety. Many days of this month are observed as special days to create awareness about various health issues such as: April 1-7 - Prevention of Blindness Week; April 2 - World Autism Awareness Day; April 7 - World Health Day; April 11 - National Safe Motherhood Day; April 17 - World Hemophilia Day; April 25 - World Malaria Day; April 28 - World Day for Safety and Health at Work. NBT has brought out a number of books on health related subjects.

Aging
Kalluri Subba Rao
The human body does not remain at the peak of its powers endlessly. A slow but steady decline sets in with aging, which occurs due to a complex interplay of physiological, psychological and social factors. This lucidly written book explains why and how every organism which has opted for sexual reproduction must die after performing the reproductive function.
ISBN 978-81-237-0999-4; Rs 95

Dental & Oral Health for All
Abhijeet S Kulkarni
Dental and oral health require awareness and significant public health measures. The low priority given to oral health, and the neglect of dental and oral diseases are among several important factors of concern. The book aims at providing practical information to readers about dental and oral diseases, the available treatment options and contemporary preventive strategies to maintain and improve oral health.
ISBN 978-81-237-6931-8; Rs 115

Easy Guide to Ear, Nose and Throat
S K Kaluskar & Sanjay Sachdeva
This book is a reader-friendly guide to various ear, nose and throat problems, with an aim to create awareness on these delicate organs. It also helps to identify the various problems and their symptoms at an early stage, perceive them in proper light, and know the right time to seek help of a specialist. Written in a simple language, the book also includes tips on first-aid measures and home remedies.
ISBN 978-81-237-5451-2; Rs 105

Exploring Speech & Language
Medha S Rajadhyaksha
Language forges friendships, cultural ties, and economic relationships. Speech and language are so integral to our existence and individuality that its study has attracted scholars, linguists, philosophers and scientists, since time immemorial. This book is about sharing the taste and texture of words, and about how and why we use them.
ISBN 978-81-237-4695-1; Rs 80

Mental Disorders: Misconceptions and Realities
M S Bhatia
There is a lot of misconceptions about mental disorders. People still resort to exorcists, ojhas, tantriks, black magic and so on. With the advancement in the field of psychiatry, timely treatment and cure is now possible. This comprehensive book on various kinds of mental disorders aims to provide correct information about the disorders so that they can be identified timely and treated correctly.
ISBN 978-81-237-4926-6; Rs 250

Pain & Its Management
Sugandha A Karapurkar
Pain is such a vast subject that it is difficult to understand its exact physiology, yet this book provides answers to many common problems regarding pain.
ISBN 978-81-237-4362-2; Rs 65

Prevention of Burns
Kalpana Sood Lal
This book aims to spread awareness among people regarding frequent burn injuries, and lays emphasis on the prevention and precautions to be taken by each individual, whether at home or at work, so that burn cases reduce throughout the country.
ISBN 81-237-4575-3; Rs 95

Reaching Womanhood
Tarala D. Nandekar & Medha S. Rajadhyaksha
Provides answers to questions on transition of young girls into the adult world while stressing on the need for knowing about their body, their sexuality, their reproductive health and their rights and responsibilities.
ISBN 978-81-237-2763-9; Rs 110

Self-care for Women
Parul R Sheth
Provides knowledge on the complex female body, its organs and systems, how they work and can be taken care of both externally and internally.
ISBN 81-237-2804-2; Rs 100

Special Child: Problems & Solutions
Manjeet Singh Bhatia
This book aims to make readers aware of psychological, behavioural and personality problems related to children. It attempts to provide answers to various queries regarding children in different situations.
ISBN 81-237-5730-8; Rs 100

Versatile Vaccines: A Chance for Every Child
P Cheena Chawla
This book sketches, in a very simple language, the present scenario of vaccine development and emphasises the role of versatile vaccines in offering the most precious gift to a child—a chance to live a healthy life ahead.
ISBN 978-81-237-4611-1; Rs 95
Book on Indian Polity

April 14 is observed as Ambedkar Jayanthi (Bhim Jayanthi). An economist and the first Law Minister of independent India, Ambedkar was the architect of what is probably the world’s longest constitution. NBT has brought out a number of books on Ambedkar, Constitution and Indian political system.

Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar
Vasant Moon
Giving a comprehensive account of the trials and tribulations of one of the tallest leaders of the modern India, the book reveals the humanist, economist, socio-political scientist, constitutional expert, socio-religious reformer and above all a great patriot called Ambedkar. Translated into English by Asha Damle. ISBN 81-237-3860-9; Rs 140

A Handbook of Human Rights
Arjun Dev (Ed.)
The book provides the texts of international covenants on Human Rights. Besides, it also provides a comparative chart describing correspondence of different articles of Universal Declaration of Human Rights with the provision of the Indian Constitution and law. ISBN 81-237-4038-7

Indian Federalism
Mahendra Prasad Singh
The book attempts to introduce and analyse the federal structure as enunciated in Indian Constitution from the theoretical as well as practical perspectives and how it has been able to put in place and evolve mechanism to meet the various and varied aspirations of different regions, communities and classes. ISBN 978-81-237-6187-9; Rs 115

Our Constitution
Subhash C. Kashyap
Factual, objective and analytical, this highly readable book is a handy but authoritative study of our Constitution. It is useful not only for students and scholars of political science and constitutional law but also to lawyers, teachers and others wanting to understand the Constitution and the political system. ISBN 978-81-237-0734-1; 230

The Making and Working of the Indian Constitution
Shibani Kinkar Chaube
The book underlines the ‘expectation of permanence’ on which a constitution is based and in its analysis lays as much emphasis on the making of the invaluable document called Constitution of India as on its ‘working’. ISBN 978-81-237-5548-9; 250

Our Judiciary
B R Agarwala
This book traces the development of the judiciary in India from ancient times to the present day and examines the different courts, commissions and tribunals in detail. A handy reference tool for the layman interested in our judicial system and the processes of the law. ISBN 978-81-237-0635-1; Rs 85

Our Political System
Subhash C Kashyap
The 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 do they interact in making it citizen friendly. ISBN 978-81-237-5251-8; Rs 220

Courts Legislatures Media Freedom
K N Harikumar (Ed.)
The relationship of the judiciary, the political establishment, the mass media and the public is vital to the healthy functioning of any democracy. In recent years in our country, these relationships have become highly tense, conflictual, problematic and controversial. The contributors to this book explore different facets of these relations and other sources and implications for civil society and our democratic polity. ISBN 81-237-4681-4; Rs 200

Democracy in India
Chander Prakash Bhambhri
This thought-provoking primer essays the working of India’s democratic experiment of creating myriad avenues for popular political participation. The book also provides a balanced overview of its multiple facets—the opportunities and challenges facing Indian democracy. ISBN 978-81-237-5266-2; Rs 55

Reorganisation of States in India: Text and Content
Gyanesh Kudaisya (Ed.)
Over sixty years ago, demands for the creation of new states came up. Hence, Nehru’s government set up the States Reorganisation Commission (SRC) to investigate these demands and to formulate principles upon which new states could be created. Recommendations, ideas, method of working and manner in which recommendations were dealt with by Nehru government may have important insights for all those interested in the history of contemporary India and the political challenges in faces in our times. ISBN 978-87-237-7195-3; Rs 285
Young Artists from Orang

During the National Tribal Book Festival, Creative Writing and Illustration Workshop was organised in which a number of children from various schools participated. Some of their illustrations are reproduced here.

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On India Government Service

Statement on Ownership of the Journal
NBT Newsletter
Form IV
(See Rule 8)
Place of Publication: New Delhi
Periodicity of Publication: Monthly
Printers Name: Anuj Kumar Bharti
Whether citizen of India: Yes
Address: Nehru Bhawan, 5 Institutional Area, Phase-II Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 70
Editor’s Name: Binny Kurian
Whether citizen of India: Yes
Address: Nehru Bhawan, 5 Institutional Area, Phase-II Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 70
Names and addresses: of individuals who own the newspaper and partners or shareholders of more than one per cent of the total capital
I, Anuj Kumar Bharti, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Dated 31-3-2019 (Signature of Publisher)