

11 January 2016

New Delhi

Press Release

New Delhi World Book Fair Showcases Cultural Heritage of India

This year, the theme of New Delhi World Book Fair is the 'Cultural Heritage of India'. Situated at Hall No 7, the Theme Pavilion seeks to emphasise on the philosophy, knowledge traditions and multilingual literary practices which have shaped the culture and civilization of not only India but have impacted the same beyond the boundaries of India for thousands of years.

The architecture of the Exhibition has designed to connect the past with the present. The Theme Pavilion displays more than 800 titles on Indian art, culture, music, dance, philosophy in various Indian languages. The old manuscripts like *Ramayan Lanka Kanda* by Srimata Sankardeva, *Atharva Veda* among others have also been displayed at the Pavilion.

A number of activities were organized at the Pavilion including a panel discussion on the topic 'Science through Sanskrit: Exploring Possibilities'. The speakers shared their views about the scientific development in ancient times as mentioned in Sanskrit texts. They opined that in earlier times, India has a developed scientific system and they invented several technologies which are the basis of modern day science. The speakers on the occasion were Shri Shreeji Devpujari, Dr C S R Prabhu and Shri Ra Jyotishi. Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, NBT was also present on the occasion.

Presentation of Indian classical dance Odissi by Kasturi Pattnaiyak and her troupe, Bamboo Dance by Vanlalpawla & his troupe; Chari and Bhawai Dance by Suresh & Veena Vyas; Devotional songs by Leepika Bhattacharya and a dramatic performance based on Jaidev's Gita Govinda by the artists of East Zone Cultural Centre, Kolkata mesmerized the audience.

New Delhi Rights Table

The B2B event for the publishers, the New Delhi Rights Table is being organized for 2-days at the Fair from 11 to 12 January 2016. In this event more than 60 publishers from India and

foreign countries including Egypt, Nepal, China, Malaysia and Indonesia are participating. While welcoming the guests, Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, NBT said that the Rights Table provides an opportunity to publishers to meet with each other at one place. He wished them success in their endeavour. Dr Rita Chowdhury, Director, NBT was also present on the occasion.

Children's Pavilion

The day at the Children's pavilion was filled with activities for and by children which enthralled the visitors of all age group. During the day, an interactive session with Bandita Phukan, noted Asamiya author was organised by the National Book Trust, India. Ms Phukan is the first mechanical engineer in Assam and has written over 100 books on science fiction, aliens, animals etc. She narrated a story on Kunti, a mythological character in the epic Mahabharata. Later, a small skit on environment was presented by the children of Rahein Development Society and a stage drama Pohar Bisari by differently-abled children from the North-east was organized by NBT in association with Saraswati Bagdhwani, an NGO. Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman and Dr Rita Chowdhury, Director, NBT also graced the occasion.

Other Programmes

A number of books were released at the Fair including *Beyond News*, published by Vishwa Hindi Sahitya Parishad, Delhi; *Miljul Mann* and *Quiya Jaan* by Samayik Prakashan; *Kuch Apni Kuch Jag Beeti*, *Hindi kahani Ke Naye Pratiman*, *Safar Mein Sath*, *Ek Indradhanushi Vayktitva*, *Bla Krishan Ke Bal Geet*, *Aurat Ki Jang* published by Sahitya Niketan, Bijnor.