BYINVITATION

MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER, AHMEDABAD, AND A MAN OF LETTERS

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City calendar gets a literary patch

The seven-day book fair beginning today will also have a series of literary activities where one can interact with authors and learn from them

Every vibrant city has a calendar of events for its citizens and visitors. We already have Navratri mahotsav, Patang utsav, Kankaria carnival, Sabarmati marathon. However, there was a feeling that Ahmedabad lacked a composite book event and that is exactly the reason, the National Book Fair has been organised.

Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation has organised the seven-day National Book Fair starting today (May 1) to coincide with the Foundation Day of Gujarat and it is a step in the direction of enriching and adding one more landmark to the city's calendar.

It is a hot season, but then it is also vacation time for the schools and colleges. Amdavadis are now reading more and hence the book fair offers a unique opportunity for them to try out different genres of books – fiction, biography, historical, inspirational and many others.

The fair is being organised in association with the National Book Trust on the river front against the backdrop of the blue waters of the Sabarmati. Simultaneous literary activities make the book fair unique. On all seven days from 2 pm to 10 pm a series of literary activities has been scheduled in two separate air-conditioned auditoriums. Gujarat Sahitya Parishad is helping the municipal corporation in organising this programme. Here, the citizens will have the unique opportunity to meet celebrity authors and hear them. Several literary activities like meet-the-author, new book launches, book reviews, workshops and speeches will be among the major attractions. It is expected that Amdavadis will benefit tremendously from this exposure.

A new feature being tried out is to introduce children's literary activities. Workshops will be conducted for children by eminent writers on subjects like how to write a story or how to read a book. Children will also have several book stalls dealing with the children's books.

The book lovers would have an opportunity to visit 180 stalls where they can browse through the books and purchase the classics and the latest books. A food court, with nearly 20 stalls, under air-conditioned ambience, will serve mouth watering dishes to the visitors. The visitors will also have the option to enjoy the river front in the evening by coming out into the open. Some water sports facilities like boating have been added for the children.

AMC intends to make it an annual event. From this year's experi-ence, we shall try to further improve and expand the activities next year. The literary fair, once established, will attract writers, readers and book lovers not only from Gujarat, but from outside Gujarat, too.

Ahmedabad has produced great literary personalities and several great Indians like Swami Vivekanand and Rabindranath Tagore have visited the city in the past. The National Book Fair pays a tribute to such great men of letters by organising special programmes to commemorate their association with the city.

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Week-long book fest kicks off in Amdavad

AMC has organised National Book Fair starting today to coincide with the Foundation Day of Gujarat

KALPESH BHATT

SOME OF THE EMINENT LITERARY FIGURES WHO WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE SESSIONS

- Varsha Das
- Yogendra Vyas
- Ratilal Borisagar
- Pinky Pandya
- Bholabhai Patel
- Chinu Modi
- Rohit Makwana
- Rita Kothari
- Pradip Khandwala
- Rajendra Patel
- Chandrakant Sheth
- Vishnu Pandya
- Raghuvir Choudhary
- Adid Surti
- Usha Upadhyaya
- Bindu Bhatt
- Tushar Shukla
- Sachin Garg
- Saumya joshi
- Panna Trivedi
- Hasu Yagnik
- Vijay Sevak
- Preeti Shinoy
- Shraddha Trivedi
- Yaswant Mehta
- Rasbihari Desai
- Chandrakant Topiwala
- Bhagyesh Jha
- Gunwant Shah
- Rajendra Shukla
- Bhikudaan Gadhvi, folk singer
- Vinod Bhatt

LITERATY GALORE

Everyday there would be three sessions on literature:
» 2 to 4 pm, » 4.30 to 6.30 pm, » 7 to 10 pm

Ahmedabad Mirror Bureau
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Here's some good news for the Amdavadi book lover. As part of state government's 'Vanche Gujarat' programme, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) is all geared up to host the city's first ever National Book Fair, from today, in association with National Book Trust and with the support of Gujarat Prakashak Mandal. The inaugural function will start at 9 am at Sabarmati River Front near Vallabh Sadan.

The grand fest will be inaugrated by Chief Minister Narendra Modi in the presence of State Revenue Minister Anandiben Patel, Mayor Asit Vora among others. May 1 also marks the 52nd Gujarat Foundation Day.

RAISING CITY'S STATUS

"We are very much delighted to welcome you at this National Book Fair. It is a proud moment for us as the fair will raise the status of our city. National Book Fair will be organised every year," said Municipal Commissioner Guruprasad Mohapatra.

Themed on 'literature' the intention of NBF is to inculcate reading habits among Amdavadis. The seven-day gala event will be attended by publishers, distributors and sellers besides renowed writers and poets from across the country. The fair will also see various literary programmes and 'kavi goshtis'.

SAFETY FIRST

Officials told *Mirror* that elaborate security arrangements would be made for the fair. Passages in the hall will be named after eminenet literary personalities. There will be as many as 200 stalls out of which 180 will be dedicated to book. It is learnt that the place will also have first aid counters within hall. The seven-day event will also see water sports activities in the Sabarmati and children's fun activities.