DNA DAILY NEWS AND ANALYSIS

CITY

Sky will be clear.

Sunset	1907 hrs
Sunrise	0606 hrs
Moonrise	1415 hrs
Moonset	0210 hrs

Temperature

Maximum	42.0°C
Minimum	25.7°C
Humidity	46%

Forecast

Weather will be mainly sunny in all districts of Gujarat state & in Diu, Daman, Dadra Nagar Haveli.

CITY BRIEFLY

State BJP meet on Wed

BJP will convene a meeting of the state leadership under aegis of state BJP president RC Faldu at Staff Training College in Gandhinagar on Wednesday. As per BJP spokesperson IK Jadeja, the party will discuss future plans and programmes to be held in the state. Meanwhile, sources said that party

MOHAPATRA'S FB PROFILE

Citizens can register their complaints on the municipal commissioner's Facebook profile

PG 3

DAHOD GETS Rs456 CRORE SCHEME ON GUJARAT DAY

PG 5

analysis

Firdous Syed

One year on, Osama Bin Laden's legacy lives

PG 13

Day 1 of Book Fair

All roads lead to Nat'l Book Fair

Has 122 publishers with books on many subjects, NBT proposes first book promotion centre in city

DNA Correspondent

The week ahead promises the Amdavadi book lover exposure to the vast literature available in the country. The first National Book Fair was inaugurated on Tuesday at Sabarmati riverfront. Amdavadis will now have thousands of books on a wide range of subjects to pick from. The first-ever national book fair in the city was inaugurated by chief minister Narendra Modi on Monday. On this occasion, National Book Trust (NBT) expressed interest in setting up first-of-its-kind book promotion centre in the city for promoting literary activities.

AM Sikandar, director of NBT, said that the trust is interested in setting up a book promotion centre in the state for encouraging the culture of reading and book-related activities. He also said that they want support from the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) in the form of land. "If the corporation provides land by June, Ahmedabad will be the first city to have a book promotion centre as we are also in talks with Goa for the same project," said Sikandar.

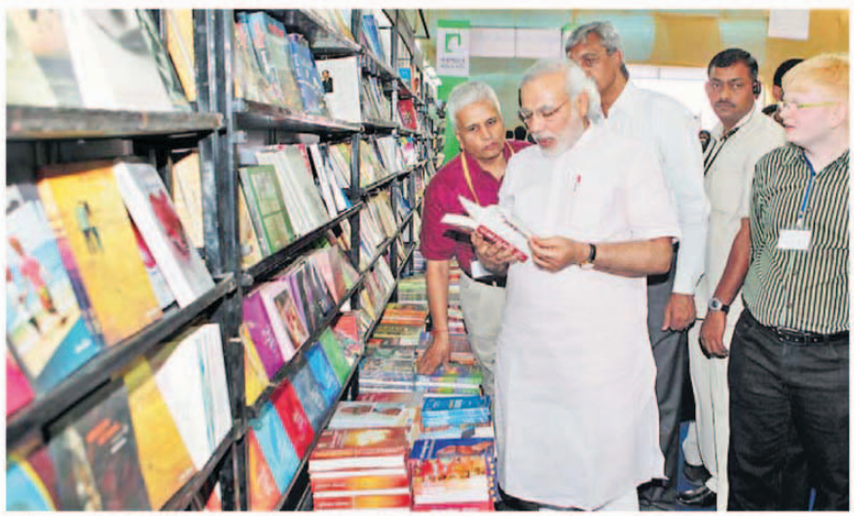
The book promotion centre will be a place for launching of books, discussions and debates on books and literary subjects. It will also be a venue for book fairs as well as providing guidance to emerging writers. Moreover, it will have a mobile library van to cater to the needs of rural areas. The book fair will be open from May 1 to May 7. A total of 122 publishers from various parts of the country have participated in the fair. Books in Gujarati, Hindi, English, Urdu and other languages are on display and available for sale. There are books covering various subjects from children's literature to scientific discoveries, motivational to religious and spiritual subjects, folklore and mythology to modern literary creations.

CM Modi stressed upon the need for transition of a Gujarati person from Laxmipujan to Saraswati Pujan. He said that the book fair is the result of a long process that started with Vanche Gujarat and has been implemented in phased manner. "The book fair will be organised every year as continuous efforts are needed for bringing about change in the society.

Sikandar also accepted that the publishers were quite reluctant to come to Gujarat as they were not sure about response. "Till now Gujarati literature has not been given much of the importance, but now we want to focus on it," he said.

Modern writers have lost depth: Varsha Das

Varsha Das, former director of National Book Trust, believes that the modern writers have lost depth that was present in classics in every language. When asked about change in literary works, she said that one can write on anything, but the way it is written and way of presentation is more important than content or theme. She also said that a package of multimedia along with reading material is needed to attract children to reading. "However, there must be reading involved- be it on paper or on screen," she said. She also believes that language has suffered a big loss because of modern day communication methods.



CM Narendra Modi flips through books at one of the stalls of the book fair. – Pankaj Shukla.DNA

Children lap up first day's teachings at fair workshop

DNA Correspondent

Book lovers in the city had their heart's fill on the first day of Ahmedabad National Book fair itself. With variety of literary events held on the first day, the fair attracted thousands of citizens from across the city.

A workshop on 'How to write a story' was conducted in the afternoon for the city's children by Dr Varsha Das which saw many students keenly participating with enthusiasm palpable on their young faces. Speaking to DNA, deputy municipal commissioner, SK Langa stated, "Through the workshop, we aim at providing an equal platform for children from private and municipal schools to learn together and get motivated to imagine stories."

Interestingly, the book fair will be an annual event in the city from now on. During the seven days, there will be 69 eminent authors, poets and writers who will participate in panel discussions, writer's meet and interactive sessions.

AMC mulls MOU with NBT

AMC has proposed to sign an MoU with national Book Trust (NBT) which organizes 15 book fairs in a year.

Few attractions in the fair include stall of spiritual books of 'Happy Science' - a spiritual organization from Japan.

This is the first time that the organization is selling books in Gujarat. Speaking to DNA, sales and marketing manager of Happy Science, Masa Ikeda said, "We provide books on philosophies of Buddhism but the whole idea is to unite all religions. This is the first time that we are selling books in Gujarat for which we have also translated books in Gujarati language.

The second day's attractions include interactive session and a discussion on 'Translation from and into Gujarati-Possibilities' to be held from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm at the mini auditorium.