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New Delhi

Press Release

New Delhi World Book Fair Glitters with Celebrities

Famous personalities from the field of literature, politics and films marked their presence at the New Delhi World Book Fair, today. Ms Mridula Sinha, Hon'ble Governor of Goa, Mr. François Richier, Ambassador of France to India, Shri Javed Akhtar, noted lyricist, Shri Mahesh Bhatt, film director, Dr Kumar Vishwas, well-known poet, Shri Namvar Singh among others visited the Fair.

Ms Mridula Sinha, Hon'ble Governor of Goa and author interacted with the booklovers at the meet-the-author programme organized by National Book Trust, India at Hall No. 12. While talking about her book *Kaliyan Kyon Hansti Hai*, Ms Sinha said that she likes to write about the rural life of India and urged people to live life happily. Dr M A Sikandar, Director, NBT was also present on the occasion.

At the author's Corner, *Reflections*, famous film director, Shri Mahesh Bhatt interacted with the booklovers and talked about his recently published book *All That Could Have Been*. The programme was coordinated by Ms Shubhra Gupta.

The book authored by Shri Javed Akhtar titled *Lava, Tarkash* and *Cinema Ke Bare Mein* were released. Shri Javed talked about his books and interacted with the booklovers present on the occasion.

Koi Diwana Kehta Hai, authored by Dr Kumar Vishwas was released at Lekhak Manch. Ms vartika nanda and Shri Narendra Kumar, Chairman, Diamond books was also present on the occasion.

Theme Pavilion

Ms Rida Gatpoh, founder, songwriter and lead singer of 'The Musical Folk', a unique band inspired by nature and wildlife, performed at the Theme Pavilion. She sang Khasi songs on environment while her team-mates played traditional musical instruments.

National Book Trust, India organized a panel discussion on the topic *My Land My Stories: Children's Literature from Northeast India* at the Theme Pavilion. Shri Arup Kumar Dutta, renowned author moderated the discussion. The panelists on the occasion were: Shri Siddhartha Sarma, English novelist and journalist, Shri Santanoo Tamuly, writer and editor and Shri Ashes Gupta, writer and Head of Department of English, Tripura University. Shri Arup Dutta thanked NBT for providing a platform through New Delhi World Book Fair to talk about the children's literature of Northeast which has been unnoticed by the people. The speakers talked about the various aspects of the children's literature and authors of the region.

In the evening, Asamiya film *Halodhiya Choray Baodhan Khai*, directed by Jahnu Barua was screened at the Theme Pavilion. The film has won the Best Feature Film Award at the National Film Awards and has been screened at many international film festivals.

Children's Pavilion

The day began with a storytelling session by Ms Usha Venkataraman, renowned storyteller from Mumbai. She narrated many stories to children including a story about King Vikram who was known for his wisdom and was tested by his queen. Later, she interacted with the children and asked them to create a story of 26 lines in alphabetical order. A skit on importance of reading and books was presented by the children of Pratham Books. A workshop on *Learn Sketching* was organized by NBT in association with Kala Sanskriti. Through live demo the audience was told that while sketching, the light and shades should be examined thoroughly. The painters drew the sketches on landscape by using charcoal, cartridge paper and brush.

A seminar on Children's Literature was organized at the Pavilion. The seminar was organized by NBT in association with Lekhika Sangh. Renowned authors for children, Dr Madhu Pant, Shri Leeldhar Mandloi, Dr Susheela Gupta, Ms Usha Saxena and Ms Dheera Verma were the speakers on the occasion. Over 150 students from various schools participated in the seminar. The children on the occasion rendered poems written by them.

Children also had an opportunity to interact with Lieutenant General Dr. B S Malik, PVSM, AVSM who is the President of Centre for Studies in International Relations and Development (CSIRD) and Control Arms Foundation of India (CAFI). He told the children that he joined Indian Army in 1962 when India was having tumultuous relationship with China. He asked children what they liked about this year's Republic Day parade. They said they were happy to see the women leading the contingent. He inspired children to join the armed forces.

Events Corner

A Short Workshop was organized at the Singapore Pavilion, Hall no. 7, Pragati Maidan. The workshop was conducted by Ms Vinitha Ramachandran, Mumbai-based author. She said that nature and trees have inspired her and that is why she writes stories on them. While telling about her story *Why the Neem Grew Bitter*, Ms Ramachandran said that though Neem tree is used in medicines, it is not valued by the people. She also informed that people have misconception that 'Banana' is tree but it is a giant root. She said, "I am interested in trees and greenery. I want people to know about trees which are the source of benefit for our daily life."

Cultural Programme at Lal Chowk

The cultural programmes being organized at Lal Chowk by National Book Trust, India in association with Sahitya Kala Parishad enthralled the visitors. Today, Punjabi folk dances *Bhangra* and *Gidda* were performed by Sabrang Group.