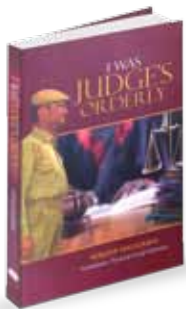


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PICK OF THE MONTH



I was Judge's Orderly
Ninder Ghugianvi
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Exploring the Changing Dimensions in Books and Reading through AR/VR Technology: Education Conclave 2.0

Education Conclave 2.0 was conducted on the sidelines of the New Delhi World Book Fair 2023, on 03 March 2023 at Conference Hall, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

In order to successfully implement the various aspects of the guidelines as per the National Education Policy 2020, the government has taken various steps - the rolling out of the National Curriculum Framework for the Foundational Stage 2020; the establishing of PM SHRI schools as well as other initiatives envisioned in NEP 2020. In the recently announced Union Budget 2023, emphasis has been given on the “availability and accessibility of quality books across geographies, languages, genres and levels with device agnostic accessibility for better equipped schools”. To ensure the implementation of this aspect and to take this initiative forward, a dialogue with key stakeholders was organised by National Book Trust, India where policymakers and senior officials from Education, Culture, Panchayati Raj and Women & Child Development, Electronics & Information Technology from the Central Government and 20 States and Union Territories deliberated on the theme of ‘*Changing Dimensions, Continuing Relevance and the Future of Books*’.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, NBT-India said that the National Education Policy 2020 provides a flexible framework to the education sector to prepare a more joyful learning atmosphere by integrating toys, activities, etc. “The coming era is of digital libraries and accordingly the subject matter will also have to be changed by all stakeholders”, he added.

“Today we need more content that connects the child to the learning process by taking it beyond textbooks,” said Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT-India. He also discussed the challenges of translation of reading material,



“Linguistic, social, economic and cultural diversity is our challenge as well as our strength”, he added.

“There is a focus on libraries to take them to all levels - from grassroots, schools and Panchayats, and make them into knowledge centres, especially at the rural level and a community driven mission”, said Ms Mugdha Sinha, Mission Director, National Mission on Libraries. She discussed in detail, the various available schemes under libraries set-up and the availability of funds for the same. “Libraries should be convenient and accessible to common citizens - they should be the drawing room of the society”.

In the session on immersive learning experience, emphasis was given on creation of age-appropriate digital content and delivery for the National Digital Library Project for Children and Adolescents. IIT-Delhi and NBT-India plan to join hands to take the art of storytelling in the world of virtual reality and mixed reality for an enjoyable learning and reading experience.

The Conclave also deliberated on various avenues for making content more accessible and the role of AR/VR in the changing aspects of learning and reading in the age of digitization. On this occasion, Shri Sanjeev Khirwar, IAS, Principal Secretary School Education, Ladakh; Ms Preeti Tongria, Additional Secretary, Panchayati Raj Department, Bihar; Dr. Mohan Lal Yadav, State Project Director, Rajasthan; Dr. Rupesh Kumar, Special Secretary, Secondary Education Department, Uttar Pradesh; and Ms. Reshma Raghunath Nair, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development were present among others.

On this occasion, National Book Trust, India announced the launching of its own channel on the Jio platform – The Book Channel – which will be available for free on Jio in all Indian languages. On this channel, viewers can find activities related to books, new publications, live telecast of book fairs, etc. It will play an important role in creating a knowledge-driven society.



Hindi Translation of *Quest for Swaraj* Released

Shri Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad, Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance, Government of India released the Hindi translation of NBT-India's book titled *Suraj aur Swaraj*, authored by Dr S C Misra. Originally written in English (*Quest for Swaraj*), the book is based on the life of Maharaja Kishan Singh of Bharatpur, Rajasthan.

Ms Rohini Grewal, granddaughter of Maharaja Kishan Singh; Shri Saurabh Mishra, Joint Secretary of Finance, Government of India and Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT-India also shared the dais. The book was released at the Theme Pavilion during NDWBF 2023.

In his address, Shri Karad commended the author for writing about the Royal family of Bharatpur and encouraged young writers to bring forward India's culture and ancient history.

Speaking about the book, Shri Yuvraj Malik recounted that the English version of the book was published a few months ago and received immense praise. He said that the story of this extraordinary king who played an important role in the quest for



freedom is truly inspiring and he enjoyed editing this book himself.

Dr Misra stated that Maharaja Kishan Singh was one of those unsung heroes who had to wait for 90 years before his story got published through this book. He also appreciated NBT-India's efforts in promoting the unsung heroes of our country.

Write What You Love to Write: Anand Neelakantan

Prime Time Talk with Shri Anand Neelakantan was organised during NDWBF 2023. An author, columnist, screenwriter, TV personality, cartoonist, and motivational speaker, he writes in English and Malayalam, and is known for his mythological fiction works, which have been translated into many languages.

Recounting his journey, he shared how he was able to achieve his dream of becoming a writer. He began his career with writing short stories in Malayalam, but later chose to write in English for its universal reach. He advised the young authors to, “Write what you love to write and know something about rather than just following the trends”.

Shri Neelakantan also discussed his portrayal of the defeated sides (such as Ravana, Duryodhana, etc.) in his books. He said

that his inspiration comes from his travels, temple arts, festivals, folk tales, among others. He is of the view that “Indians should know the other versions of Ramayana and Mahabharata”.

Shri Neelakantan also talked about his approach in writing and the skill to balance perspectives of grey shade characters.



Inside NDWBF's Guest of Honour Country's Pavilion - France

This year, with France as the Guest of Honour Country, the uniquely designed French Pavilion shined bright in the majestic colours of blue, white, and red representing the French flag.

The French Pavilion or Pavillon Français was not just a landing place for French language and literature enthusiasts, it was much more. The Pavilion was designed by Bureau International de l'Édition Française (BIEF) in collaboration with GALIS, which was modelled after a French Book Café, filled with sniffs of aromatic coffee, french delicacies, and lively French music paired with exciting events throughout the day.

The walls enclosing the pavilion featured a beautiful mural of the inside of a French Bookshop whereas inside the pavilion, the murals looked outside giving a peek of the French streets. These murals were painted by artist Simon Lamouret from Toulouse (South of France), in such a way that visitors got to experience the busy French city life as they sipped coffee inside a cosy library filled with books.

The L'Opéra Café Littéraire was one of the highlights of the French pavilion which gave the guests a taste of France at the NDWBF 2023. As one of the main attractions in the Pavilion, the Café corner hosted a "Get your Photo Shoot in a French Café" session along with different activities such as Comic Drawing Battles where Mathieu Bertrand and guests like Lisa Mandel, Simon Lamouret, Vishwajyoti Ghosh and more participated in the battle for the best story, in an ecstatic setting with French music playing in the background. A live poetry session, Café des Poètes was also organised.

The French Pavilion also hosted the 2022 Nobel Laureate in Literature, Ms Annie Thérèse Blanche Ernaux and many other French authors and illustrators who participated in various events during the Fair, including popular children's authors Ms Susie Morgenstern



and Ms Joëlle Jolivet; the Lebanese illustrator and graphic novelist Ms Zeina Abirached; Illustrators Mr Simon Lamouret and Mr Benjamin Chaud; French authors Ms Lisa Mandel, Ms Laura Nsafou, Mr François-Henri Désérable and Ms Camille Laurens, the French Pop Singer Olivia Ruiz, and many more popular names.

The books at the Pavilion were categorised into Littérature (Fiction), Jeunesse (Children's Books), Éditions du ricochet, Bande dessinées (Comic Books), Roman Graphiques (Graphic Novels), Mediatoon, Calmann Levy, Gallimard, Art, Art de Vivre (Lifestyle), Bien Être (Well Being), Loisirs (Leisure), Sciences Humaines, and Sociales (Non-fiction), Sciences and Techniques, along with French books translated into Indian regional languages with the support of the PAP Tagore program, an initiative of the French Institute in India to make French literature accessible in Indian languages and to facilitate easy exchange of literature.

On asking Mathieu Bertrand about his experience in India, he had only one word—"Incroyable!" (Incredible).

The French Pavilion at the NDWBF 2023 surely brought the taste of France in India! or shall we say—Le goût de la France en Inde!

In April 2022, National Book Trust, India was the nodal agency (designated by Ministry of Education, Govt. of India) to coordinate the INDIA—Guest of Honour Country Presentation at the Festival du Livre de Paris in France where the India Pavilion showcased the cultural and literary heritage of the country on the international platform.



Highlights from New Delhi World Book Fair 2023

New Delhi World Book Fair is one of the largest International book fairs. It is an annual fair that attracts a huge participation from various publishers from India and abroad, authors and stakeholders. The fair is visited by booklovers, authors, celebrities, and dignitaries alike.



Shri Subhas Sarkar
Minister of State for Education,
Government of India



Smt Annpurna Devi
Minister of State for Education,
Government of India



Dr Tamilisai Soundarajan
Governor of Telangana &
Lt. Governor of Puducherry



Shri Uday Mahurkar
Information Commissioner,
Government of India



Shri Bhupender Yadav
Minister for Labour & Employment,
Government of India



Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha
Member of Parliament
Rajya Sabha



Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'
Former Minister of Education,
Government of India



Shri Piyush Mishra
Actor, Lyricist, Playwright, Poet,
Composer & Singer



Padma Bhushan Shri Rajat Sharma
Senior Journalist &
Editor-in-Chief, India TV



Dr Kumar Vishwas
Poet, Author, Motivational Speaker



Shri Kabir Bedi
Actor & Author



Ms Priyam Gandhi-Mody
Author



Shri Ashwin Sanghi
Author



Ms Preeti Shenoy
Author



Shri Kulpreet Yadav
Author & Actor



Shri Vijayan Bala
Author & Educationist



Shri Shiv Khera
Author & Educationist



Shri Kevin Missal
Author

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NBT INDIA BOOKLIST

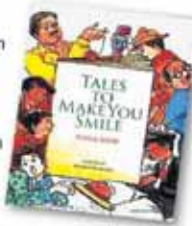
ENGAGING TALES FROM INDIA'S BEST AUTHORS

Read tales by some of India's most beloved authors brought out just for young readers. Ruskin Bond's Tales to Make You Smile as well as Quakes And Flames is lighthearted as well as serious, respectively. No less gripping are the stories for children penned by none other than the great Premchand. Learn more about the ways of the jungle with Mulk Raj Anand story titled Mora, which is about a baby elephant.

TALES TO MAKE YOU SMILE

Author: Ruskin Bond

Tales To Make You Smile is a collection of lighthearted, humorous short stories written by celebrated author Ruskin Bond which have a charming and nostalgic quality. These tales draw the attention of young and general readers alike. The author captures the joys and sorrows of everyday life and conveys them through his gripping narratives presented in this book. The stories of the scout boy, the white mice, the boy who broke the bank, the glacier, etc. are sure to put a smile on your face. It is a perfect pick for some light and entertaining reading. The author was conferred the Padma Shri in 1999 for notable contributions to children's literature.



THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE

Author: Dr Zakir Husain

This book is a retelling of the classic fable of the Tortoise and the Hare by Dr Zakir Husain. The story we have been told of is about a race between the two, which ends with an important lesson. However, Husain's version of the story is not just about the moral or the winner of the race. This retelling of the classic tale is packed with innocent queries of a tortoise to its teacher, who helps him find the answers to his questions. Join the tortoise on his conquest of knowledge through this story book, which is even more interesting with illustrations by M F Husain. Khushwant Singh's translation has done ample justice to this excellent little story.



QUAKES AND FLAMES

Author: Ruskin Bond

Quakes and Flames, written by India's beloved children's author Ruskin Bond, highlights the distress, sentiments and the misfortune of people and their families who live in disaster prone areas. India has a geographically rich landscape but there are some regions that are prone to frequent earthquakes and forest fires. The book has two stories, one focusing on the lives of villagers dealing with the aftermath of an earthquake and rebuilding their lives; while the other story shows how people cope with forest fires. The author has beautifully captured the essence of family, friendship, their bond, struggles and compassion for each other.



MORA

Author: Mulk Raj Anand

The story of Mora, an elephant, authored by Mulk Raj Anand, touches upon important themes like animal hunting, poaching and taming, disguised as a children's tale. The story of little Mora is presented with a focus on emotions and the bond a child shares with its parents through a first person narrative. The story revolves around Mora, a friendly and cheerful baby elephant who lives with his parents but has to face the harsh truths of life at a very young age. It demonstrates the turmoil that wildlife is put in because of the never-ending greed of humans. Anand was a recipient of the Padma Bhushan, which is one of India's highest awards for civilians.



STORIES FOR CHILDREN

Author: Premchand

Premchand, regarded as one of the greatest writers of India, is known for his famous literary works in Hindi and Urdu. This book presents a few of his best stories written for children, compiled together with beautiful illustrations. Stories like Mitthu the Monkey, The Mad Elephant, Gulli Danda, A Tale of Two Oxen, A Winter Night, and many more represent the instinctive expressions of a child's mind apart from showcasing the natural actions and sports of children, as well as their habits. The highly enjoyable stories, written in simple language, are considered perfect to help children learn many new aspects about life.



Inauguration of Tolstoy-Gandhi Exhibition @ NDWBF 2023

A Tolstoy-Gandhi Photo Exhibition was organised by the Embassy of Russia, New Delhi during NDWBF 2023. The occasion was graced by the presence of H.E. Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Hon'ble Mr. Amitabh Kant, G-20 Sherpa of India, Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma Chairman, NBT-India, Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director NBT-India, Prof. Ranjana Saxena University of Delhi, and several distinguished guests from Russia and India. The session was moderated by Dr. Sonu Saini, Chairman, Union of Translators of Russian Language.



only through exchanging letters, is very fascinating”.

Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma shed light on how Gandhi used to consider himself a follower of Tolstoy. He referred to Tolstoy's short story, 'How Much Land Does a Man Need?' to amplify the idea of nature fulfilling

individual needs but not our greed.

Shri Yuvraj Malik took this thought forward by saying, “both the men were strong reflections of the Indian value system. Two legends who never met each other, were the best pen friends. Both believed in global peace.” He also mentioned how connecting through books, art, literature and other forms of art can open new vistas and avenues.

Prof. Ranjana Saxena delved into the significance of translation and commented, “Russian literature is becoming hugely popular among the Indian readers. The palpable increase in Indian readership of Russian literature has given birth to a beautiful tradition of dialogue between the two cultures.”

After the session, the Russian Foreign Minister was given a guided tour of the various Pavilions at NDWBF 2023. He took keen interest in the various exhibitions put up as part of the New Delhi World Book Fair and appreciated the magnificence of the Fair.



In his inaugural speech, H.E. Mr. Lavrov spoke about the friendship between India and Russia, and the friendship that the two great stalwarts, Leo Tolstoy and Mahatma Gandhi shared. Their association, marked by a commitment towards justice, compassion and cooperation, laid the groundwork for the relationship shared by the two countries in

contemporary times. He also spoke about the popularity of Russian authors among Indians and the reciprocity of Russian readers towards literary works from India.

Mr Amitabh Kant, in his remarks said, “Tolstoy's works have been translated and popularised across India. The interaction between Tolstoy and Gandhi, who never met in person, but



Book on How India Became Vaccine Superpower Released

The Hindi translation of the book, *Bharat ki Vaccine Vikas-Gatha: Gauchechak Se Vaccine Maitri Tak*, authored by Shri Sajjan Singh Yadav, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance, and published by NBT-India was launched during NDWBF 2023.

While releasing the book, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers, Government of India, said that this book is supported with elaborate research on vaccines developed by India, their manufacturing and India's vaccine drive.

Shri Rajesh Bhushan, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India mentioned concepts like vaccine



eagerness, vaccine hesitancy and vaccine equity. Describing India's Vaccine Drive as a big success, Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT-India said that it is the biggest case study for the world.

While talking about his book, Shri Yadav said that every Indian should know how India managed to become the Vaccine

superpower of the world. He appreciated the vaccine diplomacy and Hon'ble Prime Minister's leadership along with acknowledging the contribution of grassroots workers. Shri Lok Ranjan, Secretary, Development of North Eastern Region was also present at the event.

Bihar Diwas Pustak Mela 2023

National Book Trust, India and Dept. of Education, Bihar jointly organised the Bihar Diwas Pustak Mela from 22 to 24 March 2023 in Patna. Bihar Diwas is celebrated every year on 22nd March in the State with various performances and activities to celebrate the culture and heritage of Bihar. On the occasion of 111 year celebration of Bihar, the Pustak Mela aimed to reconnect people with Bihar's literary heritage and to promote the culture of reading.

The Fair was inaugurated by Prof Arun Kumar Bhagat, prolific journalist and author of several books including NBT-India's publications – *Hindi Ki Adhunik Patrakarita*, *Patrakarita: Sarjanatmak Lekhan aur Rachna-Prakriya*, and *Rashtra Chetna Ki Kahaniyan*.



A wide range of NBT-India's recently published and best selling titles for all age-groups were displayed. Readers and visitors showed special interest in the PM-YUVA series and India@75 series.

Kabir Bedi Shares his Literary Journey

“Nobody knows my story,” said Shri Kabir Bedi in his book reading session during NDWBF 2023. “Certain parts of my life are stranger than fiction,” shared Shri Bedi stating he lived a life full of drama in his personal as well as professional life.

Talking about his success abroad, he said, “Opportunity doesn't present itself as an opportunity, it can be anything, we should be open and ready to accept it at all times.” When asked about “How to write an engaging story?” Shri Bedi said that a story is not just a series of incidents, it is much more than that.

Shri Bedi talked about his book, *Stories I Must Tell: The Emotional Life of an Actor*, which is an autobiographical account of his life that he wrote during the stressful times of pandemic, and how he wrote for

more than 10 hours daily while the world was in lockdown.

In his address, Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT-India said that Shri Bedi's



writing is a clear display of heart, body and soul.

NBT-India's Mobile Exhibition Van Visits Delhi & NCR

National Book Trust, India organised a 2-day Mobile Book Exhibition in Mahendragarh, Haryana. The Mobile Exhibition visited the Central University of Haryana, Jant-Pali, Mahendargarh on 28 and 29 March 2023.

Students of the Haryana University along with visitors were able to browse through the books of their interest.

Earlier this year, NBT-India's MEV also visited Delhi University, NCERT Campus, Mandi House, Qutub Institutional Area, Noida, Gurugram, Faridabad, Mayur Vihar, Vaishali, Indrapuram, Paschim

Vihar, South Campus and Saket.

NBT-India's Mobile Exhibition Vans (MEVs) visit different places all, across the country to make books accessible to all including the remotest of areas.



NBT-India as Knowledge Partner at Delhi Literature Festival

National Book Trust, India participated as Knowledge Partner at the 11th Delhi Literature Festival, organised from 17 to 19 March 2023. The three-day festival included various events that were organised at DLF Avenue Mall, Saket, New Delhi. This edition of the fair was dedicated to India's G20 Presidency. Several well-known authors from across the country participated in the festival.

Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT-India delivered a special address at the inaugural session held at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, wherein he appreciated the spirit with which such literature festivals are organised and encouraged youth to develop a healthy reading habit.



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NBT-India at Graduation Ceremony of Young Students

A Graduation Ceremony for Kindergarten students was organised by Sant Nirankari Public School, Govindpuri on 21 March 2023, with Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT-India as the Chief Guest.

During his address, Shri Malik urged parents of the young graduates to give their children the gift of books which will not only help in inculcating a good reading habit but also a good value system.

The day was filled with interesting activities and performances for the students, including an informative skit about celebrating community workers & service providers, dance, and yoga performances by students among others.



You can also find the e-Newsletter on our website www.nbtindia.gov.in

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