

# NBT newsletter

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## CONTENTS

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOK AND ACTIVITY FAIR	3
JORHAT BOOK FAIR	4
HAVE THE GROWN-UPS GROWN UP?	5
LETTERS, DEBATES AND HISTORY	6
NATIONAL BOOK FAIR IN PATNA	7
WORLD BOOK FAIR	8

## PICK OF THE MONTH



**Basic Biotechniques**  
P. Cheena Chawla  
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## ON THE WINGS OF IMAGINATION



“I was born in Mumbai. My father never went to school. My first ambition was to become a gangster. Later I realised that this is not the right thing. Then I thought I should have a secure job, and then I thought of becoming a peon, then a teacher and then a professor,” said Dr. Narender Jadhav, eminent educationist and presently Member, Planning Commission, sharing his childhood dreams and ambitions with children. He was speaking at the inauguration of the week-long National Book Week celebrations at Nehru Bhawan, National Book Trust, India, on 14 November 2011.

Looking back at his experiences he said that to be successful in life you need to know yourself. He also revealed his secrets to be successful in life like hard

work, high objective, burning desire to achieve goal, time management, social commitments, respect for parents, positive mindset, a no to shortcuts in life and understanding one's ability to go ahead in life.

Dr. Jadhav also released an activity book for children *Colour Me Says Delhi: Colouring Book of Rhymes* by Shri Shashi Shetye, recently published by NBT to celebrate the Centenary Year of Delhi as capital of modern India.

Prof. Poonam Batra from Central Institute of Education, University of Delhi, was the Guest of Honour on the occasion. She said that nowadays we first watch movies based on books like Harry Potter and afterwards read the book. She added that books help us to imagine, think and



wonder. Books are our beautiful companions and we should gift books to our friends than other things. Prof. Batra also rendered an African story titled *Fire, Water, Truth and Falsehood* and a poem in Hindi.

Earlier, Shri M.A. Sikandar, Director, NBT, welcomed the guests, publishers, teachers and children present on the occasion. Speaking to the children he said, "Dr Jadhav is a role model for many including me. He is a well-known social scientist and educationist. He has also written many books including a biographical novel on Rabindranath Tagore in Marathi which has been translated into many Indian languages as well as foreign languages."

Shri Shilesh Sharma, noted journalist and a member of Board of Trustees, NBT also spoke on the occasion. Many renowned authors, illustrators and school children were present on the occasion.

Ms. Farida M. Naik, Jt. Director (Admn. & Finance), NBT, proposed a vote of thanks. Later, a copy each of the



Activity Book was distributed to the children present.

The theme of this year's National Book Week was 'Imagination', encouraging children to 'Soar High on Wings of Imagination'. In keeping with the theme the week-long programmes and activities saw many eminent illustrators, writers of children's books actively interacting with the children, enabling their imagination to soar high in a world of stories, poetry and fun-filled activities. While the children prepared their dream calendar and posters under the guidance of eminent illustrators Shri Pulak Biswas and Shri Atanu Roy, they were also regaled through stories and poetry recitation

sessions by Anupa Lal, Madhu Pant, Kamlesh Mohindra, Kshama Sharma, Aparna Apte Gupta and Surekha Panandikar.

Other activities for children included a quiz on books, dance and drama workshops and performances as well as a film based on the NBT publication *Bridge at Borim*, written by Sunanda Panandikar. This story is about the heroic deeds of Joze, a young boy from fishermen community of Goa, who fights for the liberation of Goa.

Children's books publishers like A&A Book Trust, Centre for Learning Resources, Children's Book Trust, Eklavya, Indradhanush, Jaditya Publishers, Jodo Gyan, Katha, Mind Melodies, Ponytale Books, Pratham Books, Room to Read India Trust, Sahitya Akademi, Tulika Publishers and many others participated in the Fair.

As part of the National Book Week celebration, special book exhibitions were also organised by NBT in and around 50 schools in Delhi and NCR.



# NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOK AND ACTIVITY FAIR

Shri Sandeep Dixit, Member of Parliament, East Delhi Constituency, inaugurated the second edition of the National Children's Book & Activity Fair on 18 November 2011 at Poorva Sanskritik Kendra, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi. The Fair was organised by National Centre for Children's Literature (NCCL), a wing of NBT, India.

Inaugurating the Fair Shri Dixit recollected fond memories of his childhood and said, "During my childhood I used to read many books and write letters to my friends often. I also used to receive letters from them. I still have a collection of those letters that remind me of my friends. Now we have many electronic gadgets like computers, cellphones, ipods, Electronic



central or south Delhi to buy books.

Shri M.A. Sikandar, Director, NBT, welcomed the guests. "We are not only committed to provide books on varied subjects at affordable prices to people, particularly the readers from middle and lower-strata of the society, but also in taking books to the unreached," he said. He assured the Chief Guest that NBT would organise more book fairs and book related events to meet the needs of the people of east Delhi.

database in the form of e-mails, SMSs etc which have a short span of life whereas the life of book is unlimited."

Appreciating the efforts of the Trust in organising regular book fairs, he said that NBT is sensitive to the needs of the readers of not only central Delhi, but has also fulfilled the needs of readers and booklovers all over the NCR region by organising the Fair at east Delhi and special book fairs in a number of schools throughout the Capital and NCR. He requested NBT to organise more book fairs in east Delhi, involving more schools located in that area, so that children and booklovers need not have to travel to

Students of Ahlcon International School, Mayur Vihar, presented an invocation song on the occasion. Besides, dance performances based on the poems of Tagore and a quiz on books were organised for the children.



# JORHAT BOOK FAIR

“Like the way a lady of the house plays the role of a responsible expert on chemistry in the kitchen for the sake of good health of her family, she has to show the same zeal in introducing her children to the environment around them and educating them about the need for protecting our bio-diversity. This is how one can inculcate scientific attitude in our day-to-day life,” said Dr. S.K. Roy, eminent scientist and President of Oil Technology Association of India, Eastern Zone.

He was inaugurating the first ever NBT book fair at Jorhat organised by



National Book Trust, India from 15 to 23 October 2011 at Jorhat District Association Playground. The fair was organised in association with Assam Academic Centre on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee, Jorhat District Administration and All Assam Publishers and Book Sellers Association.

While releasing the book fair souvenir “Pragya” brought out by Assam Academic Centre, eminent historian and educationist Jogen Chetia allayed all fears that electronic media like TV, Internet and e-books will ever replace the conventional books.

Shri Ramesh Chand Jain, Deputy Commissioner, Jorhat district, gave a brief history of Jorhat as the intellectual capital of Assam. Smt Sanjukta Parasar, Superintendent of Police, Jorhat, Shri Ajit



the readers of northeast India. The inaugural function was preceded by a colourful book march by around 1500 school children from in and around Jorhat.

With more than 200 stalls of around 90 publishers and book sellers from Assam, Tripura, Kolkata, Delhi and Nagpur, the book fair created a record of sorts in the recent history of NBT book fairs elsewhere in the northeast in terms of number of stalls. In view of the International Year of Chemistry and the International Year of Forestry, a dedicated Science Park was set up in the fair grounds where some renowned Science and



Kumar Barman, President, All Assam Publishers and Book Sellers Association and Dr Bishnu Prasad Sarma, President, Assam Academic Centre also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, in his welcome speech, Shri M.A. Sikandar, Director, NBT declared that a regional office of NBT will soon be set up at Guwahati. Amidst wide applause, he also declared that very soon Guwahati will have an NBT book shop dedicated to

Research institutes showcased their achievements and innovations in the field of science and technology. On this occasion, a series of programmes on science popularization was organized involving scientist and science communicators from Vigyan Prasar, an autonomous organization under Department of science and Technology, Government of India.

The fair witnessed two panel discussions, one on “Science Literature in Translation: An Assamese perspective” with Dr Bijay Krishna Deva Sarma as moderator and Dr D C Goswami and Dr Santanoo Tamuly as panellists and another on “Interpreting Culture: Challenges in Translating Asamiya novels” with Dr Nagen Saikia as moderator and Dr Bibhash Choudhury and Shri Amrit Jyoti





Mahanta as panellists. *Lohitya Nandini* (Daughters of Brahmaputra), an innovative programme involving ten women poets from all over Assam enthralled the booklovers. Renowned recitation artiste Sanjib Kakaty moderated this programme posing a series of questions, serious yet witty at times, to the women poets. Another highlight of the fair was a programme called *Kanthiswar*, an ensemble of young writers from Jorhat district.

Children programmes like *Ramdhenur Rang*, Sit and Draw competition, *Moinar Manan*, Essay Competition, *Aitar Kolat Bohi*, Storytelling Competition, *Pasalat Daat Bhagil*, Asamiya Spelling Bee Competition, *Kalam aru Tulika*, writing and illustration competition for a wall magazine and a quiz competition were huge draw among the school children.

Book release functions organised by various publishers, a publishers' and booksellers' meet organised by All Assam Publishers and Booksellers' Association and a meet-the-author programme by Jorhat Sahitya Sabha also drew a large number of booklovers to the fair.

Dr P G Rao, Director, North East Institute of Science and Technology and Shri Prafulla Bora, eminent writer were the guests of honour in the valedictory cum award distribution ceremony. A folk cultural night dedicated to Assam's cultural icon Dr Bhupen Hazarika provided a grand finale to the book fair.



## HAVE THE GROWN-UPS GROWN UP?

National Centre for Children's Literature, a wing of National Book Trust, India, organised an interactive discussion with renowned author Ms Jujja Weislander from Sweden and Mr Lennart Jonsson, eminent journalist and psychotherapist on the topic 'Have the Grown-Ups Grown Up?: Revisiting Fantasy in Life' at Lady Shri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi. The discussion was organized in close association with the Department of Elementary Education, Lady Shri Ram College for Women.

Ms Jujja Weislander, author of the book for children *Mama Moo on a Swing*, published by NBT, was the Guest of Honour on the occasion. Ms Weislander requested parents "to read story books to children aloud". She said that parents download books on their ipods and give them to children to listen to the stories. She added that "though I am not an opponent of new technology yet nothing can surpasses your voice, it is you who can understand your child better."

Reading fairy tales, stories about our own self etc in authentic language gives them satisfaction and courage to speak for themselves and helps them stand up for what is right and what is wrong.

While sharing his experience as a



psychotherapist, Mr Lennart Jonsson said, "We should give full attention to our children, listen to their queries and answer them patiently." He added that reading makes children aware and helps them to grow up as responsible citizens.

Earlier, Shri M A Sikandar, Director, NBT welcomed the guests present and said, "I do hope that many such programmes will be organised in near future with LSR".

Shri Arvind Kumar, former Director of NBT also spoke on the occasion. The discussion was well attended by renowned authors, publishers, scholars, teachers and students of the college. They also interacted with the speakers regarding children's literature on the occasion.

The programme was coordinated by Shri Manas Ranjan Mahapatra, Editor (NCCL).

The National Vigilance Awareness Week was observed at the Trust as per the directive of the Central Vigilance Commission. On this occasion, the officers of the Trust led by the Director Shri M.A. Sikandar took a pledge. The purpose of the Vigilance Week was to generate awareness among the officers as well as the general public on the ills of corruption.



Three NBT books entitled *Gandhi - Nehru Correspondence*, edited by Prof. Arjun Dev, and *Nehru-Patel Correspondence* and *Gandhi-Patel: Letters & Speeches*, both edited by Dr Neerja Singh were released at a book release function held at the India International Centre, New Delhi on 2 November 2011.

The books were released by Prof. Mridula Mukherjee, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She said that “the exchange of letters between the leaders will help people reassess the leaders and make up their mind about them.”

Highlighting the significance of the books, efforts of editors and NBT, Prof. Mukherjee said that “the great advantage of bringing out these books is that these books will be easily accessible to readers, students, teachers and librarians at affordable price.” She added that the readers would not have been able to read these letters as some of them are available only in libraries and museums etc.

Prof. Bipan Chandra, Chairman, NBT also spoke on the occasion and said that these books are of great significance as very few people know about the relationship shared between the leaders especially Nehru-Patel and Gandhi-Patel.

Prof. Salil Mishra, Dean, School of Liberal Studies, Ambedkar University spoke on the book *Nehru-Gandhi Correspondence*. He said, “we assume that we know all about them. After reading the book, I discovered many facets of their



relationship.” There was no straight relationship between them as of a leader and a follower. Sometimes Nehru was critical of Gandhi. He observed that there were many differences between the two.

He added that they expressed their differences openly. If the differences were not expressed then the national movement would not have been possible. Their visions were different and their ways were often dissimilar, yet they went together during the national movement.

Prof. Sucheta Mahajan, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University spoke on the book *Nehru-Patel Correspondence*. She said that “the book is

not only academically important but also politically significant.” She discussed in length about the differences between the two on issues related to riots in Delhi, secularism, communalism, their concern about Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs during troubled times and the core issue on Kashmir. She said that the book is ‘invaluable’ as it covers the period about which the documents are not available. It illuminates lay readers on democracy, secularism and communalism.

Dr. Visalakshi Menon, Department of History, Jesus & Mary College spoke on the book *Gandhi-Patel Letters and Speeches*. She brought into light various humorous and interesting elements in the relationship between the two leaders given in the book. She said Gandhiji had no problem with the bantering tone used by Patel. There were lots of agreements between the two on various issues. If Patel had differences with Gandhiji, they were directly aired to him. “Amusing encounters come across in this book”, she said, “it is not in chronological order but we are able to figure out the relationship between the two”. Editors of the books, Prof. Arjun Dev and Dr. Neerja Singh also spoke on the occasion. All the speakers were of the opinion that the books would help clear many misconceptions among the general people about the relationships between Gandhi-Nehru, Nehru-Patel and Gandhi-Patel.

Earlier, Shri M A Sikandar, Director, NBT in his welcome address introduced the series under which these books were being published. According to him these publications are being initiated with a view to bring together in a historical context the many letters and debates, scattered in many volumes, among some of the most significant actors of the freedom movement. In the process they enable the general reader to have a clearer perspective on many important moments and issues in our freedom struggle.



On the occasion of Diwali, an informal get-together of NBT employees was held at the Conference Hall of Nehru Bhawan, where the Director Shri M.A. Sikandar wished everyone a joyous and prosperous Diwali.

# NATIONAL BOOK FAIR IN PATNA

The National Book Trust, India organised a nine-day National Book Fair in Patna, Bihar in association with the State Government at the Gandhi Maidan from 11 to 19 November 2011. The book fair was inaugurated by Shri Nitish Kumar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar through video conferencing from Bettiah district.

About 200 publishers participated in the nine-day fair which was spread to an area of over 70,000 square feet. The fair recorded a footfall of about four lakh visitors. The fair offered books on all subjects which catered to people of all age-groups.



In the Meet-the-Author Programme, Dr Gangaprasad Vimal and Smt Usha Kiran Khan, Sahitya Akademi awardee shared their experiences with the audience and interacted with them.

A book release function was also held where NBT's title Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad was released by Shri Abdus Samad, noted Urdu writer and Sahitya Akademi awardee. The release was followed by a discussion session in which Dr Gangaprasad Vimal, Imtiya

Aham and Uday Prakash presented their views.

Another programme on the famous poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz — "Wade nau

writers including Padamsri Ravindraraj Hans, Anup Srivastava, Anurag Vajpayee, Girish Pankaj, Mahendra Thakur, Prem Janmejaya, Subhash Chandra, Harish Naval and Yagya Sharma participated.

November 14, celebrated as the Children's Day, was dedicated entirely to children. NCCL, NBT's Children Wing, organised various workshops on 'Creative Writing and Painting Competition'; 'Poster Making and Poetry



The book fair coincided with the National Education Day celebrations by the state government to commemorate the birthday of the country's first education minister, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

The book fair also saw many literary programmes being organised by the National Book Trust, India. A discussion on satirical writings was held where noted

Session'; and a seminar on "Career in Media" for adolescents. The resource persons for the workshops included Samina Mishra, Kumar Vikas, Imran Mustafa, Ratnesh Singh and Vartika Nanda.

A national seminar on the role of books in the lives of children themed "Childhood and Books" was also held to

mark the day. Shri Uday Prakash, Sahitya Akademi awardee was the Chief Guest at the function. The discussion session included distinguished writers namely Surendra Vikram, Om Prakash Kashyap, Dr Prakash Manu, Ramesh Tailang, Dr Shivnarayan and Dr Divik Ramesh.

Bahar: Daayre Hindi mein Faiz" was held where Zahoor Sidiqi, Arun Kamal and Asgar Wajahat presented their views on Faiz.

Dr Lalit Kishore Mandora, Hindi editor; Dr Shams Eqbal, Urdu editor and Shri Rakesh Kumar, Asst Director (Sales) from NBT coordinated the Fair and the Programmes.





# 20TH NEW DELHI WORLD BOOK FAIR



25 February – 4 March, 2012

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In the year 2012, the much awaited New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF) is entering the 40th year of its 'foundation'. The NDWBF, first organized in 1972, is scheduled to have its 20th edition from 25 February-04 March 2012 (Halls 1-14) at the sprawling Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Organized by National Book Trust, India, an autonomous organisation founded in 1957 by the first Prime Minister of the country Shri Jawaharlal Nehru under the Ministry of Human Resource Development (then Ministry of Education), Govt of India as the national body for book publishing and book promotion, the NDWBF has a lot of exciting opportunities to offer to the participants and the visitors.

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**Application forms can also be downloaded from our website**



Shri H. Kamalanath (*b.* 1925), a doyen of publishing, printing and small scale industries in Karnataka died on 29 September 2011. He was closely associated with NBT as a Member of the Advisory Committee. He was instrumental in arranging the first ever book exhibition by NBT outside Delhi, in Bangalore. A pioneer in publishing, he ventured into low-cost paperpack publications during 1960s. He held various positions in industrial and cultural associations for decades. NBT conveys its condolences to the bereaved family.

## Be A Member of *Readers' Club Bulletin*

a bilingual magazine for children  
brought out by

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