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## Press Release

### Weekend Crowds Throng New Delhi World Book Fair

Though the cricket buffs were busy watching live coverage of India-Pakistan match, the enthusiasm of the book lovers did not lessen and a large number of visitors of all age-groups were seen busy browsing books, interacting with authors and participating in literary and cultural programmes being organized at the New Delhi World Book Fair, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

#### CEOSpeak Over Chairman's Breakfast 2015

CEOs from the world of publishing and communication held out the view that while digital publishing is a great opportunity, print will not perish. In fact, the print medium will continue to grow and both will co-exist. This was expressed at the programme *CEOSpeak Over Chairman's Breakfast 2015*, organized by the National Book Trust, India with FICCI.

The CEOs who shared their perspectives and made industry presentations at the FICCI-NBT 'CEOSpeak over Chairman's Breakfast' here today were Mr. A Sethumadhavan, Chairman, National Book Trust, India; Mr. Virat Bhatia, President – IEA, South Asia, AT&T Communication Services India Pvt. Ltd. & Chair, FICCI Committee on Communication and Digital Economy; Mr. Ameet Datta, Partner, Saikrishna & Associates; Mr. Kim Kum-pyoung, Director, Korean Cultural Centre, New Delhi; Ms. Kathy Lal, CEO, National Arts Council, Singapore; Dr. M A Sikander, Director, NBT; Mr. Rohit Kumar, Advisor, Reed Elsevier Pvt. Ltd and Ms. Karthika V. K., Chief Editor, HarperCollins Publishers, India; Mr. Bhanu Potta, Advisor, World Reader

The speakers on the occasion expressed their concerns Intellectual Property, digital domain and the absence of ISBN in book publishers by some small Indian language publishers. The representatives from the Government said that they are working towards creation of a conducive policy framework for the publishing sector to flourish. Over 130 CEOs from the publishing community participated at the programme.

#### Theme Pavilion

A panel discussion on the topic *Understanding Northeast: Shifting Perspectives* was organized in the Theme Pavilion, Hall 7, Pragati Maidan. The panel was moderated by Prof. Sanjoy Hazarika, well-known author and journalist. The speakers on the occasion were Dr Nimmi Kurian, Associate Professor at the Centre for Policy Research, Shri Sandeep Phukan, journalist with NDTV and Dr Joy LK Pachuau, Professor at Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. The panelists talked in depth about the different aspects of the Northeast and how much the rest of the country knows about Northeast. Dr Kurian opined that "Northeast is a land with diversity where more than 400 tribes and a sizeable non-tribal population lives but the whole of Northeast is categorized into one". Shri Phukan observed that, "we need to not only change the mindset of rest of the country but also the mindset of our own

people.” Dr Joy remarked that, “Large part of mainland of India do not know about the region and therefore we need to talk more and more about the region, the nuances of the region and do a research on its history.” Prof. Hazarika felt that “Northeast is no longer on edge but is very much here. In fact, Delhi has become the ninth state of Northeast.”

A conversation with Shri Hemanta Jamatia, well-known folk singer from Tripura was organized at the Theme Pavilion. The programme was moderated by Shri Utpal Borpujari, film critic. Shri Jamatia talked about the folk culture of Tripura and presented songs in Kokborok language. Later, in the evening Monpa Film *Sonam* was screened and a conversation with its Director Shri Ahsan Muzid also took place. The film is based on Sahitya Akademi Award-winning Arunachali writer Yesse Dorjee Thangchi’s Assamese novel *Sonam*.

### **Children’s Pavilion**

Children had a pleasure with reading at the Children’s Pavilion. Many activities for the children were organized at the Pavilion by the NBT’s dedicated wing for children, National Centre for Children’s Literature. The first session, a workshop on Cartoon and Comics was conducted by Shri Aabid Surti, well-known illustrator and author and Shri Sharad Sharma. Shri Surti informed children that to create an illustration, it is necessary to think about the story, its characters and their appearance. The children created attractive cartoons on their favourite ideal persons like their father, mother, uncles etc. NBT in association with Navrattan Foundation organized a presentation on Indian folk music and dance was organized in which children through various dance forms like Bihu, Kathakali, Braj Holi etc depicted the theme of Upanishad stories based on Lord Krishna. NBT in association with Sawan Kirpal Ruhani Mission organized an interactive Storytelling Session where children were asked to give a positive end to the story.

Later a panel discussion on the topic *Use of Multi-media in Writing* in association with Open Doors was organized. The speakers on the occasion were Ms Padmaja Joshi, journalist at Times Now, Soumya Kulshreshtha, blogger, Sahdi Sharma, from Campfire and Natasha Bhamri, author. They discussed about the changes that have taken place over the years in writing form and the role multi-media is playing in writing.

### **Foreign Pavilion**

At Singapore pavilion, a discussion on the topic *Of Heritage and Memoirs* was organized where the book lovers were introduced to the heritage, culture and history of Singapore. The programme was conducted by the authors Josephine Chia and Rosemarie Somaiah. They talked about their books, *Frog Under a Coconut Shell* and *Gateway To Singapore Culture*.

At the Events Corner, *India-Korean Reading Event with Indian Poets* was organized in which Korean Poets: Choi Seugho and Choi Jeongrye and Indian poets: Prof. Divik Ramesh and K. Srilata participated and rendered English and Korean poems. Prof. Divik Ramesh also presented the Hindi translation of these poems to the audience.

### **Authors' Corners and Literary Activities**

The Authors' Corners at the New Delhi World Book Fair remained a hub of activities during the day where prolific authors had interaction with the book lovers and authors talked about their books and opinions on current issues. Namarta Goswami, eminent author talked about Northeast and why the people of Northeast feel a sense of despair. Her book *Indian National Security and Counter Insurgency* was released. *Dark Star*, autobiography of Rajesh Khanna, superstar of yesteryears, authored by Gautam Chintamani was released. A biography on legendary singer Mohammed Rafi, authored by Sujata Dev was also released. She said, "Rafi Sahab saw music as a part of his life rather than a profession." Nakul Shenoy talked about his book *Smart Course in Magic*. Jagmohan Bhanver, Prakash Manu, Siddhartha Sharma, Ramesh Tailang, P Madusudan naidu, Liladhar Mandloi among others also interacted with the readers.

A panel discussion on the topic *Dalit Strivaad* was organized in which issues related to women belonging to underprivileged class were discussed. The speakers on the occasion were Sumitra Mehrol, Anita Bharti, Nutan Yadav and Kabitendra Indu.