

Press Release

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New Delhi

ALL ROADS IN NEW DELHI LEAD TO WORLD BOOK FAIR

Saturday witnessed jam-packed roads leading to Pragati Maidan with 1.5 lakh attendees and never-ending queues of excited families at the New Delhi World Book Fair. A grand congregation of literary luminaries, educators, and bibliophiles, celebrated their love for books and reading at the Fair. There is something for every individual here extending from a diverse range of books, international publications, and vibrant cultural events. The theme of Multilingual India echoed across the fairgrounds, against the backdrop of vibrant pavilions, thought-provoking discussions, illustrations, cultural shows and activities. To facilitate the crowd, National Book Trust India has arranged for additional shuttle services on 17-18 Feb to Gate No. 4, Pragati Maidan from the following stops:

- Bhairon Mandir Parking
- National Stadium, Gate No. 4
- National Gallery of Modern Art (Near Bus Stop- Big Banyan Tree)

Children's Pavilion (Hall 3), has emerged as a captivating haven for young readers with sessions on Storytelling, Illustrations, Calligraphy, Arts, Drama and sessions on space exploration. Specialized events catering to children with special needs underscored the fair's commitment to fostering inclusivity and accessibility in literature, aligning with the 'Books-for-All' campaign. The "Books for All" initiative by National Book Trust India, in partnership with the Department of Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities, offers free Braille books upon presentation of UDID cards at Hall 1, along with a display of audio and eBooks.

Stories from Assam were the highlight of the day at the Children's Pavilion where Smt. Vasundhara Bahuguna narrated three insightful stories based on mythological characters from Assam's Majuli island, an attempt to familiarize curious minds about a lesser-known culture in India.

Multilingual India finds its true ambassadors in the women of the country at the Festival of Festivals (FoF). On Saturday, The Great Indian Book Tours hosted a session on 'Poetry through the Lens of India' at the FoF platform. The panelists discussed various aspects of poetry, including social commentary, modern Indian poetry, and women-centric poetry. The "unique ability to dig deeper into our very own being, and to bring out raw, is poetry."- claimed Ms Baruah, one of the prolific panelists. Other panelists included authors, Ms. Prerna Sinha and Dr. Ritu Kumar.

Another partner of FoF, the Bharat Literature Festival traversed into the terrain of India's foreign policy through their captivating session on 'Diplomacy in Indo-Pak Relations. The discussion featured well-known TV Anchor, Ms Aditi Tyagi along with Shri Ajay Bisaria, former Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan. Shri Bisaria sheds light on his book, 'Anger Management: The Troubled Diplomatic Relationship between India and Pakistan' and identifies anger as a central tenet in Indo-Pak relations.

The third session under the FoF initiative was hosted by Cine Durbar on 'Food, Friendship, and Communion: A Conversation with Chefs and Cookbook authors'. The panelists shared their journey as chefs to authors drawing focus to the culture of food in binding people together.

FoF is an initiative of NBT-India providing a stage for upcoming book festivals across India to showcase the literary treasures from different parts of the country at New Delhi World Book Fair, thus fostering a vibrant exchange of ideas and perspectives within the literary community.

At the International Events Corner, the King Abdulaziz Foundation organized sessions on the 'Arabic Heritage in India Program' 'Contributions of Indian Scholars to the Arabic Heritage' and 'Contributions of



राष्ट्रीय पुस्तक न्यास, भारत
शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA
Ministry of Education, Government of India

Indian Foundations in Arabic Heritage' were outlined. The sessions highlighted the far-reaching impact of India's knowledge systems and institutions within the larger global context. In another session, Nepali Publishing House White Lotus Books organized the launch of Pratik's Noir Issue and Nepali Translation of Evald Flisar's Novel *Mero Bubaka Sapna* followed by a poetry reading. Spain's Instituto Cervantes also organized a session on 'Poetry in Motion' by Julián Molina Guillén.

The book fair also hosted the book release of 'The Decade of Development' by the authors, Mr Sankalp Shukla and Mr K. Raghav Bhandari; 'Jeevan, Jigyasa aur Shastra' authored by Dr S C Mishra; 'V. Shantaram' and 'Monsoon' published by NBT-India.

At the amphitheatre, Bijay Sahoo organized Gutipo and Odissi whereas Jasu Khan & Group dazzled the spirited audience with Rajasthani Folk Music.

Amit Kumar Singh

Public Relations

National Book Trust, India

Email: prnbtindia@gmail.com/ public-relations@nbtindia.gov.in

Media Centre Whatsapp: 7827509622