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New Delhi

## Press Release

### Huge Footfall at New Delhi World Book Fair

With one more day remaining for New Delhi World Book Fair to conclude, more than one lakh booklovers visited the Pragati Maidan to interact with authors, participate in literary events like seminars, book release functions, panel discussions, visit the stalls of the publishers and acquaint themselves with the culture of China and India through books and exhibitions at the Theme and China Pavilion. More than one lakh booklovers visited the book fair, today.

A number of literary activities were organized during the day.

Presentation of *Pandavani*, a folk ballad of Chhattisgarh at the Theme Pavilion attracted a number of visitors. *Pandavani* depicts the story of the Pandavas in the epic *Mahabharata*. The folk ballad was performed by Chandrakant and her troupe. Later, Garba, a traditional folk dance of Gujarat was performed by Kaushal Upadhyay and his troupe.

At Lal Chowk, *Dastangoi*, a storytelling session was organized by the Agha Khan Foundation. *Dastangoi*, is a unique form of storytelling in Urdu language in which two storytellers narrate the story in rhythm with the help of musical instruments.

Three books for children published by Sahitya Akademi were released at the Children's Pavilion including the Hindi translation of book in Kannada titled *Paapu Vapu Bane Mahatma; Pratinidhi Bal Natak*, edited by Harikrishna Devsare and *Khazane Wali Chidiya* authored by Prakash Manu. On this occasion, Shri Shantanu Tamuly, Shri Prakash Manu, Ms Sangeeta Sethi and Shri Kumar Anupam were also present. Later, Ms Sangeeta Sethi, children's author interacted with the children and narrated a story about tribals and the traditions associated with them. Shri Shantanu Tamuli had a reading session on his book *Rashtriya Veerata Puruskar Prapt Bacchon Ki Sahasik Kahaniya*. Ms Poonam of Pratham books narrated a story on the river Brahmaputra and the Buddhist monasteries.

The Author's Corner, *Conversations* saw the book release of NBT title *Resurrection: A Woman Reborn*, authored by Nitu Bhattacharya. The book is an anthology of English poetry and has also been launched in Chinese. Ms Meenakshi Lekhi, Hon'ble Member of parliament, Dr Rita Chowdhury, Director, NBT; Shri K Vijay Kumar, former IPS among others were present on the occasion. Ms Lekhi said that this book is an expression of extraordinary life of women and the struggles they go through. Dr Chowdhury remarked that first women are human beings, they have soul , they must protect themselves and their dignity.

At the Author's Corner, *Reflections*, the Punjabi translation of the book *Mehru Sona*, authored by Manorama Jafa and translated by Darshan Singh Asht was released. The book has already been published in English and Hindi languages. This book about the girl Sona who suffers from HIV-AIDS and about her fight with the dangerous disease.

The other books released were *Swacch Bharat Samriddh Bharat* by Pankaj K Singh; *Anjaan Rahein* authored by Riya Sharma; *Nusrat: The Voice of Faith* authored by Pierre-Alain Baud; *Shrimaan Jodh Todak* by Girish Pankaj; *Ahiliya* by Devendra; *Dehleez ke bhittar-bahar* by Gita Pandit among others.

The literary programmes including a panel discussion on Indian Cultural Heritage followed by poets' meet was organized by the Authors Guild of India at Hall No. 18. Dr Madan Mohan Goel, Dr Vageshwar Jha, Sarojini Pritam among others participated; a Talk on *Geet Navgeet Ghazal* was organized by Shalabh Prakashan at Hall no. 12.