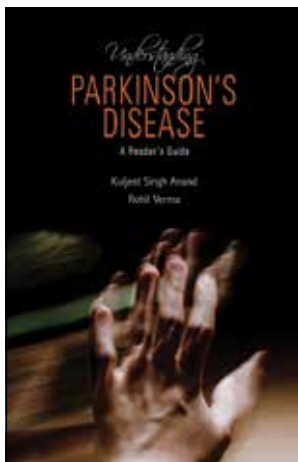


Contents

Urdu Book Release	2
Sharjah Book Fair	2
Developing Scientific Temper in Children	3
Author's Corner 2015	3
Biswanath Chariali Book Fair, Assam	4-5
Kolkata Festival of Children's Content	6
Justice Iyer Passes Away	6
PubliCon 2014	7
New Delhi Rights Table 2015	8

PICK OF THE MONTH



**Understanding Parkinson's Disease:
A Reader's Guide**
Kuljeet Singh Anand & Rohit Verma
978-81-237-7329-2; Rs 125

Book Fair at Mahila Haat



“Books hold a significant place in my life as they give knowledge to me”, said Shri Manoj Tewari, Member of Parliament, while inaugurating the first Uttari Delhi Nagar Nigam Pustak Utsav. The Fair was organised by the National Book Trust, India in association with North Delhi Municipal Corporation at Mahila Haat, Delhi Gate, Delhi from 13 to 18 December 2014. Shri Tewari opined that one can read books of their choice over Internet but such book fairs enlighten readers about the books on several topics available across the world. “We should take books to the readers to connect them with their roots”, he added.

Shri Mohan Bhardwaj, Chairman, Standing Committee; Smt Mira Aggarwal, Leader of the House; Shri Mukesh Goel, Leader of Opposition; Shri Yogender Chandolia, Mayor, North Delhi



Municipal Corporation; Shri P K Gupta, Commissioner, North Delhi Municipal Corporation were among others who spoke on the occasion.

The speakers expressed their views on the importance of the reading habit. They hoped that the readers especially youth and children would benefit from this book festival.

Earlier, Dr M A Sikandar, Director, NBT welcomed the guests. He said that this is the first ever initiative taken by the National Book Trust, India and North Delhi Municipal Corporation to bring citizens of Delhi closer to the habit of reading.

More than 30 publishers displayed their books at the Festival. A large number of students from schools around Delhi participated in the book promotional events organised at the book festival.



Urdu Book Release

A book release function was organised by the National Book Trust, India on 20 November 2014 at the NBT headquarters in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.

The Urdu translation of the work in Hindi titled *Rajendra Yadav: Select Stories*, published by the NBT was released by Prof. Manager Pandey, eminent critic. Ms Rachna Yadav, daughter of Rajendra Yadav, was also present on the occasion. Shri Pandey was of the opinion that a great writer is one who has the courage to present the reality and truth about the society. "There are four such authors in Hindi and Urdu—Sadat Hassan Manto, Ismat Chughtai, Krishna Sobti and Rajendra Yadav," he said. Prof Pandey also reflected on the four facets of



Rajendra Yadav, they being, a story writer, a novelist, a journalist, and a rebel thinker.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Ibne Kanwal, Head, Department of Urdu at the University of Delhi, said that Rajendra Yadav was an institution in himself; taught people the art of writing, and saved the cause of Hindi literature. Prof Kanwal also spoke at length on the method of translation.

Prof Anwar Pasha, JNU, while discussing Rajendra Yadav's contribution to Hindi literature said that he put language and literature in the midst of deliberations, as well as brought out the

women and dalit writings from the margin to the forefront.

Presenting his views, Shri Musharaf Alam Zauqi, well-known story writer, called Rajendra Yadav a strong pillar shouldering Hindi and Urdu writings on each side. Dr Irshad Niyazi, the translator of the book into Urdu, talked about the various aspects of translation, being a challenging task.

Earlier, Dr M.A. Sikandar, Director, NBT welcomed the guests and the audience and informed that NBT's books in Hindi and Urdu are popular among the readers and are sold more than other languages.

The programme was coordinated by Dr Shams Iqbal, Urdu editor, NBT.



Sharjah Book Fair

The 33 Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) was inaugurated on 5 November 2014 by Sheikh Dr Sultan Bin Muhammad Al Khasimi, a scholar and ruler of Sharjah. The 11-day long Fair was preceded by a two-day professional meeting of Publishers and Rights agents from across the globe.

SIBF has grown as one of the important book events in the world, with a good participation from India and other South Asian countries, Europe and USA. About 1260 publishers participated from around 60 countries.

Mr T.P. Sitaram, Indian Ambassador to UAE, inaugurated the India Pavilion, put up by the National Book Trust, India. Dr M.K. Muneer, Minister for Panchayati Raj, Government of Kerala was also present



on the occasion. The maximum number of participants were from India, nearly 100 publishers; most of them from Kerala. The Indian community in the UAE and GCC countries visited in large numbers and made the Fair a popular festival.

The NBT stall at the Fair attracted hundreds of visitors and book lovers. These included the influential Indian diaspora,

diplomats, authors, scholars and students.

Public lectures of authors like Dan Brown, Shashi Tharoor, Amish Tripathi, Chetan Bhagat, Shiv Khera, Shashi Kumar, and Amitava Ghosh, etc. drew huge crowds. Malayalam writers and film personalities like Sethu, M.P. Veerendra Kumar, Perumpadavam Shreedharan, Akbar Kakkattil, Boban Kunchakko, K.G. Sankara Pillai, M.K. Muneer, Vanidas Elayavoor, Manju Warriar, P.P. Ramachandran, K.R Meera, Prabha Varma, P.K. Parakkadavu, Kureppuzha Sreekumar, V. Madhusoodanan Nair, Lakshmi Nair and Alankode Leelakrishnan etc. also drew large audience.

Shri Rubin D'Cruz, Malayalam editor and Shri Mayank Surolia, Assistant Director represented NBT at the Fair.

Developing Scientific Temper in Children

On the occasion of the 88th birthday of Prof. Yash Pal, one of the icons of science communications in the country, National Centre for Children's Literature (NCCL) of National Book Trust, India organised an interface with Prof. Yash Pal on the topic 'Developing Scientific Temper in Children' at NBT Conference Room, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi on 26 November 2014. The programme began with an invocation song by the students of the Akshay Pratishthan and a welcome address by Dr M A Sikandar, Director, NBT India.

Deliberating on the occasion, Prof. Yash Pal observed that, "we often talk



about developing scientific temper in children but I feel that we, the grown-ups should learn from children. I learn scientific temper from children," he said. Prof. Yash Pal observed that scientific temper is behavioral than theoretical. He said, "Children use their faculties in everyday life which shows that they have scientific temper. He also felt that curiosity is important as it develops scientific temper among children. Therefore, they should be encouraged to ask questions." He added that the scientific temper does not come from teaching and suggested

children present on the occasion to observe things around them, ask questions and try to find out the answers themselves.

While introducing the theme, Dr Shekhar Sarkar from Consortium Octet said developing scientific temper among children is very important as it helps children to think, visualize things and turn them into reality.

Participants, especially children present on the occasion, also interacted with Prof. Yash Pal and asked him several questions related to the topic. Ms Surekha Sachdeva from NCCL offered vote of thanks. Shri Manas Ranjan Mahapatra, Editor (NCCL), NBT, coordinated the programme.



Author's Corner 2015

During the annual New Delhi World Book Fair, the National Book Trust, India organizes a unique programme, called the Author's Corners and Lekhak Manch. These are exclusive spaces designed by the NBT, India within the Fair venue to provide a platform to the authors where they can interact with the visitors and their readers, and share their experiences, literary journey, talk about their books and much more.

Events in Author's Corners will take place throughout the Fair, i.e. from 14 to 22 February 2015, and from 12:00 noon to 7:00 pm for a duration of 60 minutes for each author. NBT India does not charge any fee for providing space and time slot in the Authors' Corner.

Some eminent authors who have graced the Author's Corners are Ruskin Bond, Dr Karan Singh, Vikas Swarup, Paro Anand, Prof. Mushirul Hasan, Deepti Naval, Friederike Barakat, Christopher C

Doyle, Joginder Singh, Ravi Venkatesan, Vineet Nayar, Vesna Jacob, and many more.

Some of the eminent writers who participated at the Lekhak Manch include Namwar Singh, Manager Pandey, Kedarnath Singh, Ravinder Kalia, Prem Janmejaya, Neelesh Misra, Irshad Kamil, Ashok Vajpayee, Purushottam Agarwal, Vartika Nanda, Sher Jung Garg, Mamta Kalia among others.





National Book Trust, India, in association with Biswanath Sub-divisional Administration and All Assam Publishers and Book Sellers Association, organized the Biswanath Chariali Book Fair from 11 to 19 October 2014 at Deshpran Lakshmidhar Sarmah Kshetra, Biswanath Chariali, Assam. More than



100 stalls of publishers and booksellers from Assam, Tripura, Delhi, Gurgaon, Kolkata and Pune attracted a large number of visitors. The Fair began with a colourful Book March by children from around 30 educational institutions on 11 October 2014. Shri Prabin Hazarika, MLA from Biswanath constituency, flagged off the Book March. In his address, he thanked NBT for organizing the first ever national level book fair at Biswanath Chariali.



The Fair was formally inaugurated by Dr Mukunda Rajbongshi, an eminent educationist and former Resident Editor of the leading Asamiya daily *Amar Asom*. Quoting Francis Bacon, he said, "Some books are to be seen, some books are to be read, and some books are to be read and



devotional orchestra by Bhaben Barua and his team.

The Fair witnessed a number of literary programmes, competitions for children as well as cultural performances by school children based on books, reading, folktales and literature. Besides, every evening was dedicated to the memory of an important personality of Biswanath Chariali. The personalities included Lakshmidhar Sarmah, Kamalakanta Bhattacharya, Cheniram Das, Mokshada Devi, Tileswari Das, Navin Bhattacharya, Dinanath Sarma, Pranab Aggarwala and Bhadrakanta Saikia.

Enthusiastic school children from in and around Biswanath Chariali took part in various competitions like *Ramdhenur Rang* (Sit and Draw Competition), *Dipta*



Biswanath Chariali



Kantha (Recitation Competition), *Moinar Manan* (Essay Competition), *Aaitar Kolat Bobi* (Story telling competition), *Suddha Paath* (Reading competition), *Ratna Sandhan* (Treasure Hunt Competition) and Quiz Competition on books.

While moderating a Panel Discussion on 'Literary Heritage of Bezbaroa: An Appraisal of Contemporary Asamiya Short Stories', Dr Pranab Jyoti Deka, eminent short story writer lamented the general apathy for Asamiya short stories among publishers all over the country. He also urged young short story writers to pay more attention to technical details to make their stories acceptable to readers across cultures. The other two panelists Shri Sibanabda Kakaty and Shri Apu Bhardwaj spoke on length the unique



Book Fair, Assam



contribution of Lakshminath Bezbaroa in shaping the contours of Asamiya short stories and provided a critical analysis of the contemporary Asamiya short stories.

A poets' meet entitled 'These Words of Mine' (Borrowed from the title of a famous poem of Hiren Bhattacharya) was held. Nilim Kumar, Prem Narayan Nath, Atanu Bhattacharya, Aji Gogoi, Suresh Ranjan Gaduka, Kabita Karmakar, Meghali Hazarika Kakati, Rousanaara Begum, Chandra Luitel, Dilip Kumar Bhattacharya, Bhabesh Mishra, Anil Hazarika, Dhruvajyoti Das, Bharatjyoti Borthakur, Indra Prasad Saikia, Jaya Malakar, Diptiman Borthakur and Ajit Hazarika recited their poems in the meet.

Amid huge applause Prof. Purneswar Nath, eminent writer and critic, in his



inimitable witty style, took the audience down the memory lane when he described how he had to read tons of books hiding himself from his demanding parents who insisted only text book reading. He was speaking on the panel discussion on 'Our Times, Our Books: Today's Scenario'. The other panelist Shri Arobindo Rajkhuwa,



Assistant Professor, gave vivid account of some novel attempts initiated at his North Lakhimpur College for strengthening reading habit among students. Prof. Golap Kalita moderated the discussion.

In the Meet-the-author programme entitled *Anataranga Aalaap*, three popular woman writers of Assam—Monikuntala Bhattacharjya, Juri Bora Borgohain and Monalisha Saikia participated. The session was moderated by Prof. Rana P. Hazarika.

Well-known popular science writers of Assam Dr Dinesh Chandra Goswami, Dr Santanoo Tamuly and Dr Kshiradhar Barua discussed the nuances of popular science writings in the Panel Discussion on "Popular Science writings in Asamiya: Reaching New Writers". The discussion was moderated by Dr Sushil Goswami.



In the Panel discussion on 'Assam in the National Media: Identifying the Fault Lines' Dr Sanjeeb Kakaty, Professor, IIM Shillong, Shri Sandeep Phukan, Deputy National Editor, NDTV, and Shri Sushanta Talukdar, Senior Assistant Editor, *The Hindu* demolished a number of myths associated with Assam and



deliberated upon the factors governing the priorities of media in India today. Shri Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, former Editor, *Indian Literature* moderated this thought-provoking discussion.

Discussing the paradigm shift in the drama movement of Assam today, three eminent playwrights and theatre activists Tarun Saikia, Sapunjyoti Thakur and Surajit Bhuyan threw light on various novel experiments now making inroads in the theatre movement of Assam. They were speaking in the panel discussion on 'Asamiya Drama: New Experiments, Changing Perception'.

A cultural programme, inaugurated by Shri Ashim Bothra, popular film personality, was the guest of honour at the concluding ceremony of the Fair.



Kolkata Festival of Children's Content

As part of National Book Week Celebrations, National Book Trust, India in association with Sri Aurobindo Institute of Culture, Kolkata organized the third edition of the Kolkata Festival of Children's Content (KFCC) at the Sri Aurobindo Institute of Culture from 16 to 19 November 2014.

Dr Ramesh Bijlani, well-known children's writer, inaugurated the Festival. Emphasizing on the individual creative pursuits of a child, Dr Bijlani said that reading books is the most useful activity for establishing the child-parent bond.



Dr P Y Rajendra Kumar, Director General, National Library, was the chief guest on the occasion. He exhorted children to keep their homes and schools clean and said, "Cleanliness is next to godliness". The function was presided over by Prof. Sourindranath Bhattacharya, eminent author and Sahitya Akademi award winner. Shri Ranjan Mitter, Secretary, Sri



Aurobindo Institute of Culture and Shri Manas Ranjan Mahapatra, Editor, NCCL-NBT also spoke on the occasion.

Many programmes and activities were organised during the Festival. A workshop on Graphic and Cartoon Design was organized. The workshop was conducted by Shri Anup Roy, illustrator and Shri Debabrata Sarkar, Deputy Director (Art), NBT. Later, a Sit and Draw competition was also held. More than 300 children from different schools of Kolkata participated in these programmes.

A workshop on Creative Writing and Illustration was also held in which children learnt the basics of creative writing and illustration. The workshop was coordinated by Shri Manas Ranjan Mahapatra, Editor, NCCL-NBT and Shri Debabrata Sarkar. More than 200 school children from various schools of Kolkata participated in the workshop.

Dr Santanoo Tamuly, science communicator from Assam and Smt

Sailabala Mahapatra, storyteller from Odisha, narrated and enacted stories to the children in a storytelling session. Over 100 children interacted with the storytellers.

The Annual KFCC Lecture on the topic 'Books and Reading Today' was also organized. Dr Santanoo Tamuly was the chief guest on the occasion. While speaking about the habit of reading in children, he opined that in this age of e-learning, children should opt for book reading as it help nurture the relationship between a reader and



a book. The Lecture was followed by a prize distribution ceremony for the outstanding performers of the Sit & Draw competition and Graphic & Cartoon Design workshop.

The ceremony came to an end with Shri Ranjan Mitter, Secretary, Sri Aurobindo Institute of Culture conveying his deepest gratitude and thanks to NBT.

Justice Iyer Passes Away

One of India's foremost legal luminaries and eminent public intellectual, Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer passed away at his residence in Kochi on 4 December 2014. He had just celebrated his 100 birthday.

Justice Iyer was the Minister of law, justice, home, irrigation, power, prisons, social welfare and inland navigation in the Kerala Government in 1957. He initiated free legal aid to the poor, jail reforms incorporating the rights of prisoners and set up more courts, and rescue homes for women and children. He became a judge of Kerala High Court in 1968 and was elevated as the judge of the Supreme Court in 1973.

Justice Iyer has authored over 100 books, mostly on law and a few travelogues. Besides, he had been a regular columnist in all major newspapers.

It may be mentioned that Justice Iyer's last public function was the inauguration of NBT Book Promotion Centre at Kochi in October 2014. He has also authored a book *Indian Judiciary* published by NBT India. Written in a simple and lucid language for neo-literates, the book has been translated into many Indian languages.



PubliCon 2014



Mr. Pavan K. Varma, Author, MP – Rajya Sabha and Cultural Adviser to the Chief Minister of Bihar, urged the publishing industry to provide the choice of printed books and e-books to its readers. “A mechanism should be formulated where printed books and e-books could co-exist to serve readers across all genres,” he said at the ‘PubliCon 2014: Publishing Across Platforms’ conference organized by FICCI on 3 December 2014.

Mr. Varma said that the digital format of books is becoming popular amongst youngsters but still people who belonged to the era of printed books prefer printed book. However, he said that one should adopt or reject a change only based on rationality. E-books are proving to be a rational change as they have trouble-free accessibility, easier storage and lesser cost as compared to the traditional form of books. With development in technology, more authors and readers are now switching to the digital format as it makes the product globally available.

Ms. Vandana Kumari Jena, Author and Secretary, Department of Land Resources, Government of India, said that digital publishing is a new facet and the future belongs to it. The profile of both authors and readers has changed drastically over the years, and the young generation has a taken to digital publishing quite positively. However, in India it will take time to replace the printed books completely with digital books on Kindle, I-pad and Nook as the country still has a fair majority who love the look and feel of a printed book.

She said that digital publishing has even opened doors for self-publishers who were looked down upon earlier. However, the emerging e-books also have some challenges such as fear of plagiarism and

piracy, which may deter authors to use the medium.

Ms. Urvashi Butalia, Chairperson, FICCI Publishing Committee and Director, Zubaan, said that today publishing is not limited to printed books, its scope has grown by leaps and bound. She said that digital publishing has also brought new models of book distribution and new platforms to read and interact with the book. Digital publishing has enabled the creative industries, publishing services, technological innovations and the internet revolution, to become an integral part of the publishing process. Further, existence of numerous publishing apps clearly indicates that publishing is increasingly moving towards a mobile platform.

Speaking on the role of publishers, Mr. Rohit Kumar, Co-chair, FICCI Publishing Committee and Adviser, Reed Elsevier India Pvt. Ltd., said that a publisher is responsible to take the thoughts of authors to the world and evolving technology and digitization has emerged as a potent tool in this regard. In the fast changing world of book publishing, the onus is on a publisher now to adopt and adapt to the demands of both the authors and readers.

Later in his plenary keynote address, Mr. Rajiv Chilaka, Founder & CEO, Green Gold Animation Pvt. Ltd. (Creator of Chhota Bheem), said that in the publishing industry content rules and one must embrace the technological changes to sustain and survive in the long run. He added that publishers need to keep pace with today’s consumer and plan for tomorrow. He said that digital publishing has emerged as one of the best options for small publishers who want to enter the market as it involves lower start-up cost.

Session I looked at the Adaptive Content: the apps, books and visual media. The panellists included Mr Alok Srivastava, Managing Director, Cengage Learning India Pvt. Ltd., Mr Niyam Bhushan, independent professional, Shri Sunny Nath, Director, Aptara. Session II discussed ‘Protecting IP in the Digital Age’ in which Ms V.K. Karthika, CEO, HarperCollins, Shri Ameet Datta,

Saikrishna & Associates and Ms Ritika Moha, Associate Advocate, S.S. Rana & Co were the panellists.

The Session on ‘Online Media and Book Distribution’ discussed about online media marketing. With Shri Kailash Balani, MD, Balani Infotech Pvt. Ltd in the Chair, the panellists included Shri R. Vivek, Flipkart India, Ms Taru Agarwal, Business Wire India, Ms Lipika Bhushan, Market My Books and Shri Rajeev Chaudhry, Assistant Director, NBT India.



NBT Author Awarded

Prof. Mohan Sundara Rajan, popular science communicator and NBT author, was awarded the Indian Nuclear Society Science



Communication Award (2013). The award recognizes his outstanding contributions to popularisation of science and technology, including nuclear programmes in the print and electronic media, since the 1970s.

Professor P. Rama Rao, Chairman, Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences, presented the award to Prof. Mohan Sundara Rajan at the 25th Annual Conference of the Indian Nuclear Society in Hyderabad on 15 December 2014.

Prof. Mohan Sundara Rajan has authored a number of books on popular science for the NBT, including *The Internet: A Revolution in Progress*, *Nano: The Next Technology*, *Space Today*, *Wireless: The Latest Telecom Story and Telescopes in India*.

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14–22 February 2015



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www.newdelhiworldbookfair.gov.in

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