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New Delhi

Press Release

Huge Footfall at New Delhi World book Fair

The booklovers seemed to have been waiting for their week off on Sunday to visit New Delhi World Book Fair. A long queue of booklovers could be seen at the metro stations to buy the entry tickets. The visitors of all age-groups and from all walks of life were seen busy browsing their favourite books and participating in the literary and cultural programmes at the Fair. More than one lakh booklovers visited the Fair.

Theme Pavilion

A panel discussion on the topic 'Many Languages One Nation' was organized at the Theme Pavilion at Hall No. 7. Prof. Kuldeep Chand Agnihotri, Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Himachal Pradesh was the chief guest on the occasion. Prof. Agnihotri said that languages are a medium to connect with others. He opined that the different languages of India empower the country and unite the people. Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, NBT; Prof. K N Tiwari, University of Delhi and Shri Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, Niyogi Books also spoke on the occasion.

The other events that the booklovers enjoyed at the Pavilion include the presentation of Sikh Bhakti songs by Harinder Patanga and his troupe; Indian classical dance Kuchipudi by Meena Thakur and her troupe; Mayurbhanj Chhau by Loknath Das and his troupe.

Children's Pavilion

Jugalbandi, an interactive children's session was organized at the Children's Pavilion at Hall No. 14. Das Benhur, noted writer and Viky Arya, illustrator interacted with the children. While sharing her experience as artist, Viky Arya said, "visualization is a kind of universal language, nature is one of the inspirations to me and my visualizing skills." During the session, Das Benhur narrated a story about a devil who looks ugly and scary but is good at heart while Viky Arya illustrated the story simultaneously. Das Benhur remarked that National Book Trust, India is helping children expand their knowledge through such programmes.

Literary Programmes

At the Lekhak Manch, a literary book titled *Kavya*, edited by Nivedita Srivastava was released. On this occasion, a poet's meet was also organised in which Vijay Raj Srivastav, Nilima Sharma Mukesh Singh, Aparna nekvarna, Aabha Khar among other rendered their poems.

A programme on Sanskrit literature was organized at Sahitya Manch, Hall No. 8. The speakers on the occasion were Dr Chand Kiran Saluja, De Jeetram Bhatta, Dr Chandra Bhushan Jha among others. The

speakers were of the view that Sanskrit is an ancient language and is the language of Vedas. It is the language of knowledge and wisdom.

The Hindi versions of the *Analects of Confucius (Confucius Sukti Sangrah)*, *People's Secretary (Janta Ka Sachiv)* and *Hindi-Chini Vartalaap* were released at the Lekhak Manch. The chief guests on the occasion were Mr Li Yan, Vice Chairman, China Publishing Group and Shri D P Tripathi, Member of Parliament. The other speakers on the occasion were Mr Zhou Qinghua of Zhongua Book Company, Mr Zhang Gaoli, Editor, China Translation Publishing Company, Shri Subhash Sharma, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Leeladhar Mandloi, Director, Bhartiya Jnanpith, Prof. B R Deepak, Jawaharlal Nehru University. The programme was moderated by Shri Ravindra Tripathi, Senior Journalist. Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, NBT chaired the session.

A symposium on *Sufism* was held at Hall No. 8 by Imam Ahmad Raza Academy. Mr Shujat Ali Qadri, senior journalist, Mr Akhlaq Usmani, research scholar among others spoke on the occasion. They discussed about terrorism and need to promote love, peace, tolerance and harmony.