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New Delhi

Press Release

New Delhi World Book Fair Drawing Booklovers in Good Number

The crowd at the New Delhi World Book Fair, being organized at Pragati Maidan is echoing the fact that though the technology has advanced and the books are being digitalized, and there are varied means of entertainment, the charm for books will never end. Today, a large number of booklovers of all age-groups visited the book fair and were busy browsing books, buying their favourite books on discounted price and participating in literary events.

Seminar on Translation

National Book Trust, India in collaboration with Centre for Translation Studies, St. Stephen's College, New Delhi organized a seminar on *Translation and the Idea of India* at Hall No. 8. The seminar was inaugurated by Shri A Sethumadhavan, Chairman, NBT. He said, "Language has no boundaries and there should be no boundaries in translation as well." He added that translation help literary exchange and brings the people of different regions closer. The session was chaired by Rev (Dr.) Valsan Thampu, Principal, St. Stephen's College. The other speakers on the occasion were Shri K Satchidanandan, noted writer, Ms Mitra Phukan, Asamiya author and Shri N P Ashley, Co-ordinator, Centre for Translation Studies. The seminar was divided into two sessions namely *Translator's Consciousness and the Nation* and *Editing and Publishing for An Indian Reader*.

Theme Pavilion

The musical presentation by Tetseo Sisters, Mercy and Kuku who belong to the Chakhesang tribe, one of the major tribes of Nagaland enthralled the audience at the Theme Pavilion. They sang songs in Chokri dialect. A panel discussion on the topic *Inside Out: Living on the Edge of a Nation* was organized by NBT in collaboration with Samanvay. Shri A. Sethumadhavan, Chairman, NBT gave the opening remarks. He said that, "I found the theme presentation very encouraging because this is an area where lots need to be done. There is a need to focus on what's happening in emerging Indian languages including ethnic Northeast languages." He also opined that translation provides a platform for exchange of ideas and literature. The other speakers on the occasion were the writers from Assam including Mitra Phukan, Aruni Kashyap and Janice Pariat. The session was moderated by Preeti Gill. The speakers on the occasion talked about the issues that create differences between Northeast and the rest of India. They

also read out excerpts from their books to the audience. Later in the evening, Khasi film *Where the Clouds End* was screened at the pavilion.

Children's Pavilion

A large number of children along with their parents and teachers visited the Children's Pavilion and participated in the activities being organized for them. An interactive story-making session *Chalo Banayen Ek Kahani* was organized by NBT in association with Dr. Harikrishna Devsare Children's Literature Trust. The session was conducted by Dr Madhu Pant, noted author. In this session, the children suggested the title of the story and then created a story. Smt Kusumlata Singh and Smt Shashi Jain rendered stories to the children. Later, NBT title in Hindi titled *Jadui Dweep* was also released. The session was coordinated by Kshipra Bharti. Later, an interactive session with wild life conservationist, Ms Bindiya Sehgal from Wildlife SOS India was organized in association with Pratham Books. Ms Bindiya told children about the endangered animals in India and the atrocities that being done to them by human beings. She said that because of physical torture being done to the animals, they get anguished and cannot express their feelings. She also informed that their organization along with the Forest Department is engaged in rescuing animals like elephants and bear. She asked children to contact their organization if they find any animal being abused. The children of the Jaishankar Memorial Centre presented a skit on girls education titled 'Uma Ki Padai' and created awareness among people to help educate girls. The students from Govt. Girls Senior Secondary School, Birla Road presented colorful presentation on Indian folkdance.

In the post-lunch session, a panel discussion on the topic *A Reading Space for Common India: IPLC and Beyond* was organized by NBT in association with Digital Empowerment Foundation & DELNET. The panelists on the occasion were Mr R Ramachandran, Executive Director, National Book Development Council of Singapore; Mr Chris Bradwood, Director English South Asia, British Council; Dr Gita Malhotra, Country Director, Read India; Dr M A Sikandar, Director, NBT, Dr H K Kaul, Director, DELNET, Dr P Y Rajendrakumar, Director General, Kolkata National Library; Dr Renu Pant, Assistant Commissioner, MHRD; Ms smyukta Subramaniam, Programme head, Pratham Books and Mr Osama Manzar, Founder Director, Digital Empowerment Foundation. The session was moderated by Dr Neena Jha, Programme Director, Digital Empowerment Foundation. The speakers on the occasion talked about the need for public libraries to encourage reading habit among people and the need to provide reading space for establishing libraries across the country.

At the Children's Pavilion, NBT paid *A Tribute to R K Laxman*, well-known cartoonist in which Shri Aabid Surti, noted illustrator and creator of famous cartoon character Dabu ji; Shri Sharad Sharma of World Comics India and Shri Tanmay Tyagi, chief cartoonist, *Tehelka* participated. They talked about the life and works of Laxman.

Events Corner

At the Events Corner, an *Illustrator's Workshop for Children based on an Iranian Story* was organized by Iran Culture House. An Illustrator's workshop for Children based on an Iranian Story was organized by Iran Culture House, New Delhi & Iranian School, New Delhi at the Events Corner. Dr. Zora Singh, Chancellor of Desh Bhagat University, Chandigarh graced the programme as the Chief Guest among several dignitaries. Dr. M. A. Sikandar, Director of NBT, India proposed the vote of thanks and acknowledged that the Iranian are highly educated and has strong reading culture. Mr. Jamaledin Akrami, writer of children books and specialist in Art infused the children with the feeling of love and harmony through the mask-making workshop. The children were taught to create their own stories through the mask they were given. It was then followed by a short play performed by the children. The workshop also featured many illustrations by Ghazale Bigdelou, Farhad Jamshidi, Nargress Delavari, Hassan, Amir Maftoon, Mitra Abdolahi, Majd Zakeri, and Amir Naraji.

An interactive workshop for children based on the famous children's poem, 'The Locomotive', written by highly-acclaimed Polish poet, Julian Tuwim was organised by Polish Institute at the Events Corner. The workshop combined the reading of the poem and activities for children based on illustrations by Polish artists Malgorzata Gurowska.

Book Release

The book in Hindi titled *Mukhoton Ka Rajdharm*, authored by Shri Ashutosh, former journalist IBN7 and member of Aam Aadmi Party was released at Hall No. 8, Pragati Maidan. The book is a compilation of the articles he had written for several newspapers from the year 2002 till present. Shri Namvar Singh, renowned author was the chief guest on the occasion. Shri Shashi Shekhar, Editor, Hindustan was also present on the occasion.