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New Delhi

Press Release

Northeast No Longer Alien to Booklovers at New Delhi World Book Fair

This year's theme presentation *Suryoday: Emerging Voices from Northeast India* at New Delhi World Book Fair is focusing on the rich corpus of writings from the region, the land and its people. At the Theme Pavilion, the panels are displaying the distinctive characteristics of the region and giving information on the states of the region, folklore tradition, folk music, oral tradition, bamboo being integral part of life of the people in the region, the manuscripts like Lepcha, Methei, Tai and Sanchi Puti. At the Theme Pavilion, the booklovers are being acquainted with the culture and literature of the region through interactions and panel discussions with the noted authors and artists of the region.

The audience was mesmerized by the performance of Mangka Mayanglambam, renowned Manipuri artist and her team Laihui at the Theme Pavilion. Dressed in beautiful traditional white attire, Mangka performed with delicate and expressive movements. The dance form was something new for the visitors and they appreciated the performance. Mangka is an artiste of a rare performing art form of Manipur, Moirang Sai and Basok, and is performed only by women.

A panel discussion on the topic *Beyond Conflict: Contemporary Fiction from Northeast India* was organized by NBT at the Theme Pavilion. The session was moderated by Shri Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, eminent translator and literary critic. He said, "All of us know that Northeast is always in news related to conflict, violence, oppression and ethnic clashes. Stereotyping Northeast under the banner of conflict is not right. We should not shun these issues but let there be something beyond conflict." The speakers on this occasion were Janice Pariat, writer, Mitra Phukan, novelist and children's writer and Amrit Jyoti Mahanta, novelist and critic. The speakers discussed how it is difficult to separate contemporary literature from conflict and the influence conflict has on the literature. During the discussion they also observed that the writers also feel there is a need to separate literature from conflict and write about other things also. They also read out excerpts from their books. In the evening Gurkhali film *Kathaa* directed by Prasant Rasaily was also screened.

Children's Pavilion

Several activities for children were organized at the Children's Pavilion. Mr Alphonsus Stoelinga, Ambassador of The Netherlands to India visited the pavilion today and launched the book *Jip and Janneke: Two Kids from Holland*, authored by Gioia Schmidt and published by A&A Book Trust. Mr Stoelinga said that the book has humour and talk about the culture of Holland. He said that he is hopeful that people in India would also like this book. Earlier, Dr. M A Sikandar welcomed the guests present on the occasion and said that through New Delhi World Book Fair, NBT gives platform to children to show their talent and gain knowledge through books. Shri Arvind Kumar, A&A Book Trust and Ms Arundhati Deosthale, translator of the book in Hindi was also present on the occasion. The school children of Ahlcon International School presented an invocation song "One World Many Stories." More than 200

students from various schools and NGOs from Delhi & NCR were present on the occasion. Later, the students of Ahlcon International School presented a skit on importance of books, 'Hamein Bhi Padiye' in which books introduced themselves to children and encouraged them to read them. The students of NTPC Sachdeva International School, Faridabad presented a skit on girls' education, *Sunhaira Bhavishya* and a skit on Mahatma Gandhi was presented by the students of GRM Public School.

The children had a chance to meet the authors Dr. Ramesh Bijlani and Brig. TPS Chowdhury at the Children's Pavilion. Dr. Ramesh Bijlani has written more than ten books on medical science and for children also. His book *Our Body* published by NBT is one of the bestselling books. He also read out excerpts from his recently published book by NBT *Kavya Makes up Her Mind*. Brig. Chowdhury is the author of the NBT book *Adventurous Sports*. He said that initially he was afraid of adventure but he got inspiration and continued his journey.

Events Corner

At the Events Corner, Korean Cultural Centre, New Delhi organized a hands-on activity in which participants were given Korean hand-fans and were asked to draw whatever they liked to draw. School students were very delighted to use their artistic bent of mind and they drew interesting peace symbols and national unity symbols. This activity indeed brought together the artistic values and cultures of the two nations— India and Korea. People from different age groups participated and drew very interesting and amazing patterns and designs.

Panel Discussion on Swami Vivekananda

National Book Trust, India organized a panel discussion on Swami Vivekananda at Hall No. 8, Pragati Maidan. The speakers on the occasion were noted authors including Dr Narendra Kohli and Shri Shyam Singh Shashi. The speakers talked about the views Swami Vivekananda had on women and education. Dr Narendra Kohli said that Vivekananda considered women in only one form that is 'Mother'. He added that education is not only important in building career but it also helps in building character. He felt that without character building education is meaningless. He also told that Vivekananda was very fond of his mother-tongue. Dr M A Sikandar, Director, NBT who was also present on the occasion remarked that the booklovers do not come to the World book Fair to buy books only as they can buy them in various bookshops but they come here as they get an opportunity to meet their favourite authors and interact with them face-to-face.

Literary Activities

Today, New Delhi World Book Fair saw a number of literary activities like discussions and book release functions in which noted authors, scholars and litterateurs participated.

Ms Kiran Bedi, first woman IPS officer interacted with the people at the author's corner *Reflections* in Hall No. 10. During the release of her book *Swachh Bharat Checklist*, co-authored by Pankaj Chaudhry.

She remarked that “Cleanliness is the basis of our character and we should all make an effort to make dirty Delhi, a clean Delhi.”

Chef Saransh Goila talked about his book *India on My Platter* at *Conversations* corner.

The Chaos Within authored by Ashima Chalia was released at the author’s corner, *Conversations* in Hall No. 14. Noted actor, Nasser Abdullah released the book and said, “The title attracts me because we all have chaos within us.” He asked Ashima, “What is Chaos?” She replied, “The mess that we all have in our lives when we run after success, friends and family, everything is chaos.” She added, “I have written this book because I’ve a great supporting people behind me but what about those who do not have people to support them.”

“The environmental issues cannot be communicated to new generation of young readers until you string them with magic of image and words through medium of contemporary stories” said Sharmila Sinha and Abhijeet Sinha, authors of the TERI’s *Danger at the Dumps*, novel for young readers at *Conversations*, Author’s corner.

At *Reflections*, *A Half Baked Love Story*, authored by Anurag Garg; *A Hundred Lives for You*, authored by Abhisar Sharma; *The Deliberate Sinner*, authored by Bhavna Arora among others were released.

At Hall No. 12, a programme on poetry titled ‘Hindi Ghazal Ki Nai Peedi’ was organized by Shivana Prakashan in which Pankaj Subir, Giriraj Sharan Agarwal, Neeraj Goswami, Geerish Pankaj and Saurabh Pandey participated. At Hall No. 12, the book in Hindi *Sanjh Ka Neela Kiwar* was also released.