

Celebrating National Book Week with Qitaabé

National Book Trust, India in association with Cinedarbaar at DLF Saket Mall is organizing Qitaabé – a three-day event celebrating National Book Week from 16 to 18 November 2012.

Shri M A Sikandar, Director, NBT inaugurated the event. He said that NBT works for children in remote and rural areas of the country to promote reading habit. However, he said that the children living in cities also need attention and therefore NBT has taken up some new initiatives to involve children from all segments of the society. He urged children to participate in book-related activities to hone their writing skills.

Shri Sikandar also released a book titled *Waves*, which is a compilation of short stories, written exclusively by children in the age group 13-17 years. The book is a fruitation of extensive workshop organized by Cinedarbaar and NBT for school children on creative writing. The book was also distributed to the school students present on the occasion.

The activity corner at the Mall has many interesting features like a typewriter on which visitors can try their hand typing words on a piece of paper and bring out their old memories of using the machine. A small library of books has also been made available for the people to sit and read books.

The first day of the Qitaabé was full of activities. In a session called **Poetry Installation**, the students were asked to write short-stories and poems and asked to hang them on a 'Plant' with their names. This session was inspired by the one of the projects of renowned artist Yoko Ono. The Plant has been placed in the activity corner for visitors to glance through the imagination and creativity of the children.

The **Storytelling** session was conducted by Ms Simi Srivastava from Kathashala. She captivated the imagination of the children by narrating stories of Mahatma Gandhi and other folk tales.

Schools from Delhi and NCR including St. Marks School, CCA School, Scottish High School, Ramjas School, Bloom Public School, Loreto Convent School, Army Public School and Millennium School participated.

Many events like Treasure Hunt, Weave a Yarn etc will be organized at the Mall on 17 and 18 November also.