

NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA
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Press Release

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Shri Kapil Sibal inaugurates National Book Week

“I believe through books we empower children and children can empower us through books”, said Shri Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Information Technology while inaugurating the National Book Week on the Children's Day in a function held at Zakir Husain Delhi College, (University of Delhi). He said that whenever we think about treasure, we think about money. But the real treasure are books as they impart us never-ending knowledge.

Talking about the pace with which the technological changes are taking place, he said that these changes would only help children to access large number of books with a click of a button. He said, “After launching Akash, our dream is that the children may also access books through it .” He said that books for children should not only be available in printed form but also in digitalized form.

He also felt that there is a need to preserve culture and tradition of the country through books in all Indian languages, especially languages like Urdu which are losing their importance.

During the inaugural function, Shri Kapil Sibal also released NBT books in Hindi, English and Urdu. He also distributed NBT books to select school libraries and NGOs and merit certificates to the winners of the 'Sit & Draw' competition.

Dr. Khwaja Ekramuddin, Director, National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) and Dr M Aslam Parvaiz, Principal, Zakir Husain Delhi College also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, Shri M A Sikandar, Director, National Book Trust, India welcomed the guests. He said through National Week programme, NBT wishes to reach out to people especially children and the young for promoting reading habit across the country. He also informed about several promotional events being organized by NBT that are taking place across the country during the week.

A Book Exhibition at the college premises is also being organised by the NBT in collaboration with Sahitya Akademi and National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language. NBT has also put up a photo gallery at the venue showcasing journey of NBT since its foundation in 1957.

National Book Trust, India celebrates National Book Week throughout the country from 14 to 20 November every year. Several literary programmes and book exhibitions are organised during this special week dedicated to books to promote books and reading habit especially among children and young people.

This year about 200 book promotional events are being organised in Delhi as well as in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.