

NDWBF 2023: Celebrating 75 Years of Indian Independence

The magnificence and beauty of the specially-designed Theme Pavilion (Hall No. 5) bears out its prominence at the New Delhi World Book Fair 2023. Amidst the stories of legends and heroes, the Theme Pavilion creates an inner world in itself. This spectacular Pavilion is dedicated to the theme of ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav,’ celebrating 75 years of India's Independence.

‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’ is an initiative of the Government of India to honour those who have brought India to this precipice of prosperity and excellence, and those who will lead India forward to the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of India 2.0, the ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat.’ The official journey of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ commenced on 12th March 2021 which started a 75-week countdown to our 75th anniversary of independence and will end post a year on 15th August 2023. The festival is also celebrating the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.

The design of the Theme Pavilion is rooted in the concept of the river of knowledge. The waves splashing all over the area signify the flow of knowledge and learning across time and space. The resilience and persistence of the river are personified through the Pavilion that is said to renew our spirit and connect us to the flow and rhythm of the past, the present and the future.

The multi-dimensional Pavilion covers the different aspects of the theme of ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’. The different zones are visualised as gateways into time. The mighty stage is flanked by sketches of exemplary leaders of the country, like Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhash Chandra Bose, Mahatma Gandhi, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Swami Vivekananda, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, B. R. Ambedkar and many more. Facing these legends are different book shelves, lined with displays of extraordinary books about the lives of famous and unsung heroes alike. Resting beside Gandhi and Dr. Zakir Hussain are books on Minoos Masani, Mulk Raj Anand, Acharya J. B. Kripalani, Rani Chennamma, among others. Visitors can read about their stories while being surrounded by a personification of their history. The Constitution of India takes center stage at the Theme Pavilion, reflecting the source through which Indian society and values emanate in all directions. The picture wall labelled ‘A



Journey Called India’ is a three-part exhibition of India's journey. The green line that runs through each wall connects Indian history from 1857 to 1947 India, culminating in the present nation. The surrounding walls also have the portraits and life stories of the foremost upholders of Indian pride, including Munshi Premchand, C.V. Raman, Sarojini Naidu, and Rabindra Nath Tagore. The adjoining wall also has a poster of ‘Publications Proscribed by the Government of India (During British India),’ published by The British Library in collaboration with the National Archives of India in 1985. These indispensable resources on India’s Freedom Struggle include The Story of Bardoli by Mahadevi Desai, Kranti Geetanjali by Ramprasad Bismil, Kali Bhagabata by Abhiram Paramahansa Dev, Gadar ki Goonj by Hindustan Gadar and more. Come explore these documentations of the cultural subjugation of India and its fight back in the Theme Pavilion!

The most marked spot in the pavilion is the statue of Shaheed-e-Azam Krantikari Bhagat Singh, sitting barefoot in a white ‘kurta’ and ‘Basanti’ turban and tied in shackles. This





spot is always teeming with youngsters getting a picture with their respected idol. Just beside the great Bhagat Singh is an exhibition of his original Diary, handwritten by him during his imprisonment. This diary was brought here by Bhagat Singh's grandson Sandhu Yadvinder and is being taken care of by Bhagat Singh Brigade. This space gives people a touch and feel of the legacy of this hero.

The back wall of the Pavilion, 'Let our lives be open books' is dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi. The wall is dominated by an

audio-visual presentation of Gandhi's life and contribution by Gandhi Serve Foundation.

The Theme Pavilion reflects the spirit of National consciousness, pride and unity. This limited space contains a whole universe of virtuosity and extraordinary contributions and achievements just inside it.

Visit the Theme Pavilion and get in touch with our history and culture; and explore the portals to India's bright and shining future!

Smt Annpurna Devi, Hon'ble Minister of State for Education Launches Books at NDWBF

Two books in Hindi titled, *Nanaji Deshmukh Ek Mahamanav* authored by Manoj Kumar Mishr and *Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi* authored by Dhananjay Chopda, recently published by National Book Trust, India under its India@75 series, were launched today at the Theme Pavilion.

Smt Annpurna Devi, Hon'ble Minister of State for Education launched the books in the presence of Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, NBT-India and Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT-India along with Smt Neera Jain, Chief Editor & Joint Director, NBT-India.

While talking about both the books, Smt Annpurna Devi stated that books play the role of reliable guides in one's life, as she touched upon the life and contributions of Nanaji Deshmukh and the power Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi's pen held.

She also shed some light on the cultural exchanges between India and France, the Guest of Honour Country at the NDWBF 2023. During the event, she also appreciated the theme of the fair, the India@75 series, India's G20 Presidency and the special G20 Pavilion at the NDWBF along with the NEP Pavilion made to uphold the National Education Policy 2020.

In his address, Shri Govind Prasad Sharma said that the books published under the India@75 series are in accordance with the theme of *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*.



Workshop on Spanish Language and Culture

A workshop on Spanish language was organised by Instituto Cervantes, New Delhi at the International Events Corner. The workshop was conducted by Instructor Luis Martul Beltrán. In this candid session, the instructor



taught basic phonetics, numbers and greetings in the Spanish language. The entire session was enriching and the participants enthusiastically participated in the reading, speaking and listening activities.

Storytelling Session on Rhinoceros

Dr Shivani Kanodia, well known storyteller conducted a storytelling session at the Children's Pavilion. The session started in an interactive manner where children sang in chorus along with the storyteller. The storytelling was based on the book *Ban Ban Gandey Ki Kahani*. The story set in Kaziranga, Assam revolves around a 10-year-old boy who led a simple life and one day finds a rhino in trouble, whom he rescues.



The session was attended by Ms Sukla Mistry, Director (Refineries), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL); Ms Piyali Chakraborty, Chief General Manager (HR),

IOCL; Dr. Tapas Kumar Pattanayak, Executive Director (HR), IOCL; and Ms Charu Malhotra, MD, Primus Partners.

The storytelling session was followed by a small interactive session with children by Ms Sukla Mistry who shared interesting facts about rhinoceros. After the interaction, activity sheets were distributed among the children where they were asked to join the dots and colour a rhino. The storytelling session and the workshop organized by IOCL was attended by students from Vidya Jain Public School, Air Force School and Delhi World Public School.

Reading “Sweet Surprises or Sour Secrets” with Children

A book reading session for young readers was conducted by child counsellor, Ms Apurva Kaushik on the book *Sweet Surprises or Sour Secrets*. Students from Air Force School, Arjangarh among others, attended the session with cheerful spirit. The book tells the story of three friends- Sarah, Aditya and Harry who liked to do different activities



but they loved to spend time together. The story primarily deals with a child experiencing bad touch and not feeling comfortable sharing it with others. Ms Kaushik taught the students about the private parts of the body and how we should always share such “secrets” with our parents. The session concluded with sharing the child helpline number 1098 with the attendees.

Capacity Building for Teachers and Parents

A panel discussion was organised by Worldreader on ‘Capacity Building for Teachers and Parents around Reading at Home to Achieve NIPUN Mission Goals’. The speakers included Shri Nagendra Goyal, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Ms Pragya Majumder, NEG FIRE, and Shri S R Thomas Antony from NISA. The session was moderated by Ms Purna Bharadwaj, Worldreader. The panelists discussed and addressed the challenges being faced by the teachers and parents after the COVID-19 pandemic in order to bridge the gap between the changing patterns in children’s reading habits.



Is Poetry a Luxury?

A panel discussion on poetry was organised by My Secret Bookshelf at the Authors’ Corner. Moderated by Shri Sanjay Chandra, the other speakers at the session were Ms Shrutee Choudhary and Ms OVD.

The poets explained how Covid-19 had an impact on their lives as they started expressing their thoughts and experiences in the form of writing. When asked ‘Is Poetry a Luxury?’ Ms OVD stated that the poetry is indeed a luxury for the audience, whereas it is a basic requirement for the poet. Agreeing with what Ms OVD said, Ms Choudhary said that she believes that her poetry mirrors real life and she somehow gets healed when she writes poems.



Three Books Launched at Lekhak Manch

Three books in Hindi titled *Nilambit Maun Ke Swar*, authored by Shri Manish Shukl, *Mein Prem Hun* (Based on the life of Radha), authored by Dr Rashmi Kaushal; and *Bhartiya Adhyatam Evam Dhyaan Vartmaan Sandarbh Mein*, authored by Dr Sangeeta were released at the Lekhak Manch. The programme was organized by Neha Prakashan. The programme was coordinated by Chandrabhushan Singh.



Sadhvi Pragya Bharti started the discussion by linking it with spirituality and talked about the importance of books in life, while Shivshakti Bakshi (Editor, *Kamal Sandesh*) urged the people to imbibe the message of the books in their lives. Shri Vibhuti Mishra (Bureau Chief, News India) discussed poems expressing the restlessness of silence. Shri Manish Shukl said that the voice of suspended silence is with every person. Shri Umesh Sharma, and Ms Rakhi Bakshi were also present on the occasion.

Authors Get Candid about Their Books

An interactive session based on the experiences of the authors was organised by Flairs and Glairs at the Authors' Corner. The session was divided into three sessions. In the first session, Dr Meetu Bhatia Kapur spoke about her books titled *Technical Communication* and *Manthan*. Though she has a doctorate in English, she has written her book *Manthan* in Hindi as and she believes that "Feelings don't have a language."

In the second session, Ms Tanya Singh, author of the book *Cave in Euonia*, shared her experiences and explained how she tries to express her thoughts in her poems.

Dr Raghav Chauhan, the author of books like *Jeevan Manthan* talked about his life in the third session. Talking about his new book, *Kavya Varnamala*, he said that it is a collection of poems on different themes. In this book, he has arranged his poems in Hindi alphabetical order.

Launch of Pratik Magazine South Asia Issue

The launch of the magazine, *Pratik*, South Asia Issue and other books was organised by White Lotus Bookshop, Nepal at the International Events Corner. The launch was graced by eminent poets and authors - Yuyutsu Sharma, Alok Bhalla, Mandira Ghosh, Manoj Krishnan and many more. The session witnessed the recitation of poetry, discussions around memories and experiences and a glimpse into several important works of literature. The panelists spoke about writing in today's world, the art of translation and poetry written around travel.



A Talk on Franz Kafka Organised

A talk on Franz Kafka's *The Trial* was organised by the Austrian Cultural Forum, New Delhi at the International Events Corner. The conversation drew upon the works of Franz Kafka along with absurdities of life and parallels between German, Austrian and Indian literature. Kafka's literature was celebrated in this session with a soulful reading and performance of *Giraftar*, the translated version of *The Trial* by Rama Pandey. The talk was followed by a book-signing session with Rama Pandey. The other speakers at the session included Mr Michael Pal, Director, Austrian Cultural Forum; Ms Rama Pandey; Mr Vikas Jha and Mr Munish Bahl.



Data and the Publishing Industry

The International Events Corner hosted a session on Data and the Publishing Industry. The panel constituted of Mr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Director, World Intellectual Property Organisation, Geneva.

Mr. Vikrant Mathur, Executive Director, Nielsen Book Data; Ms. Monica Malhotra Kandhari, Managing Director, MBD Group and Mr. Jose Borghino, Secretary General, International Publishers Association.

The session dealt with the importance of data that has significantly grown over the years and the challenges faced by the publishing industry due to lack of availability of the same. The consumption and behavioural pattern of consumers are crucial to publishing industry sales and revenue reports. Satellite accounting and the role of policy makers were emphasized in the discussion. The lack of data and information disables policy makers from taking crucial decisions which further creates loopholes in the Indian market. Mr. Fitzgerald emphasized how WIPO can be helpful in this avenue and work with India to achieve the potential feats which we are lacking at the moment. Hindrances in publishing industry can be overcome with the right support.



Author's Connect over Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

A panel discussion was organised at the Author's Corner by the Publication's Division (Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India). It was a lively discussion that attracted a huge crowd. The panellists included distinguished authors like Dr Varsha Das and Shri Rajendra Bhatt along with Ms Anupama Bhatnagar, DG, Publications Division, Shri L.



Madhunag, ADG, Publications Division and Ms Shubha Gupta, ADG, Publications Division.

The panel engaged in a discussion over multiple books, including, *Bharatiya Swadheenta Sangram* and *Andaman* by Shri Vyas Mani Tripathi and *Poora Hai Vishwas* by Rajendra Bhatt. The speakers talked about the challenges faced by various unsung heroes like Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, who was the first health minister of India. They also discussed how every generation needs a new perspective to history, as it broadens the horizon of the readers.

Inauguration of Tolstoy-Gandhi Exhibition by H.E. Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation

A Tolstoy-Gandhi Photo Exhibition was organised by the Embassy of Russia, New Delhi at the International Events Corner. The occasion was graced by the presence of H.E. Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa of India, Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, NBT, Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT and Dr. Ranjana Saxena, Professor, University of Delhi and several distinguished guests from Russia and India. The session was moderated by Dr. Sonu Saini, Chairman, Union of Translators from Russian Language. The Foreign Minister of Russia was welcomed by Chairman, National Book Trust, India with a customary shawl and a copy of *Sri Aurobindo: Life and Times of the Mahayogi*, an NBT publication.

In his inaugural speech, H.E. Mr. Sergey Lavrov spoke about the friendship between the two nations and the friendship that sprung between two great stalwarts, Leo Tolstoy and Mahatma Gandhi. Their association, marked by a commitment towards justice, compassion and cooperation laid the groundwork for the relationship shared by the two countries in contemporary times, driven by the zeal to create an inclusive world order. He expressed satisfaction at India's tremendous presence in the G20 as its President and the joint efforts put by both countries to strengthen cultural and civilisational diversity for mutual trust. He spoke about the popularity of Russian authors among Indians and the reciprocity of Russian readers towards literary works from India.

Shri Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa, in his remarks said, "Tolstoy's works have been translated and popularised in many states across India. The interaction between Tolstoy and Gandhi, who never met in person, but only exchanged letters, is very fascinating." The ideals of self-restraint over self-indulgence practiced by both Gandhi and Tolstoy, their shared spiritual closeness and their struggle against colonialism was highlighted.

Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, NBT shed light on how Gandhi used to consider himself a follower of Tolstoy. He referred to Tolstoy's short story, *How Much Land Does a Man Need?* to amplify



the idea of nature fulfilling individual needs but not our greed. He also referred to the Indian knowledge and literary traditions which laid emphasis on tolerance and for this, he particularly mentioned the poetry of the great 15th century poet, Kabir.

Mr. Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT took this thought forward by saying, "Both were strong reflections of the Indian value system. Two legends who never met each other, were the best pen friends. Both believed in global peace. Gandhi looked at him as a great friend, guide and philosopher." He mentioned how connecting through books, art, literature and other forms of art can open new vistas and avenues.

Dr. Ranjana Saxena, Professor, University of Delhi delved into the significance of translation and commented, "Russian literature is becoming hugely popular among the Indian readers. Moscow Institute of Literary Translation and its contribution to the revival of Russian literature is exemplary. The palpable increase in Indian readership of Russian literature has given birth to a beautiful tradition of dialogue between cultures."

After the Inaugural session, the Russian Foreign Minister visited the National Pavilion of Russia and the G20 Pavilion. He took keen interest in the various exhibitions put up as part of the New Delhi World Book Fair and appreciated the level of participation in the Book Fair.

Discussion on Hindi Literature Organised

A discussion on 'Hinditar Sahityakaron ka Hindi Sahitya' was organised by Kendriya Hindi Sansthan at the Seminar Hall. The moderator said that Hindi acts as a bridge between various languages like Sindhi, Tamil, Punjabi among others and connects people through translations. He said that languages are not just a medium of communication. Dr V. Padmavati, Tamil

writer, share her view on how Tamil literature can be translated into Hindi so that it reaches to the people in the country and everyone can know the essence of literatures in different languages in India. Though, it is not easy to tie everyone in a single language, but Hindi is growing and spreading worldwide. Dr Rajesh shed light on technology adoption in growing literature and the aspects of Hindi.

EVENTS TODAY

International Events/Foreign Pavilion		Hall No. 4
Time	Event	Organiser
2.00 to 3.00 pm	Programme by Austrian Cultural Forum	Austria
3.00 pm to 4.00 pm	Workshop of Spanish Language and Culture	Spain
Theme Pavilion		Hall No. 5
Time	Event	Organiser
11:30 am to 01:30 pm	Seminar on Marathi Book Publications- 'Vasudev Balwant Fadke' by Ms Madhavi Vaidh, 'Anant Laxman Kanhere' by Vinita Telang, and 'Ganesh Vasudev mawalnkar' by Vibhavari Bidave	NBT-India
2:30 pm to 4:30 pm	Prime Time Talk With Subedar Major Yogendra Yadav, PVC	NBT-India
04:30 pm to 06:00 pm	“Asmita” Participants: Nivedita Mishra Jha (Maithili), Vandana Raag (Hindi), Yashika Datta (English), Vanita (Punjabi), Shri Anup Tiwari	Sahitya Akademi
NEP Pavilion		Hall No. 4 FF
Time	Event	Organiser
11:30 am to 12:30 pm	Session on Educational CSR Initiatives	Vigyan Prasar
12:30 pm to 2.00 pm	Creating World-Class Reading Spaces: Bringing Books and Libraries to Your Neighbourhood	IGNOU
2.00 to 3.00 pm	Panel Discussion on CUET, UG	Samarth
3:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Panel Discussion	NIT Puducherry
4:30 pm to 5:30 pm	Seminar	IIM Kashipur
Children’s Pavilion		Hall No. 3
Time	Event	Organiser
11:00 am to 11:45 am	Storytelling Session by Suman Bajpai	NCCL, NBT
11:50 am to 12:30 pm	Unexpected Journeys: Discussion by Anastasia Strokina	Russian Delegation
12:45 pm to 02:30 pm	Inter-School Quiz & Spell Bee Competition	NCCL, NBT
02.45 pm to 03:30 pm	Workshop on Origami With Vinita Jha	Rasta NGO
03:45 pm to 04:30 pm	Interactive Session with Experts on “Curiosity in children about Moon” With Gopalan Srinivasan	Centre for Space Science & Earth Habitability
Seminars & Discussions		Hall No. 4
Time	Event	Organiser
11.30 am to 1.00pm	Seminar on “Rashtra Nirman Mein Sahitya Ki Bhumika”	Indraprastha Sahitya Bharti
2.00 pm to 3.30pm	Book Launch of “Subhash Chandra Bose” & 11 Other Books	Prakhar Goonj Publications
4.00 pm to 5.30pm	Book Launch of “New Opportunities for Book Lovers”	Indian Book Market
6.00 pm to 7.30pm	Publishing Next Industry Awards Presentation	Publishing Next
Cultural Events		Amphitheatre
Time	Event	Organiser
03:30 pm to 04:00 pm	Open mic	NBT-India
04:00 pm to 05:00 pm	Cultural Performance	Ramjas College
05:00 pm to 06:00 pm	Deshbhakti Rashtriya Jagran Sambandhit Kavi Sammelan	Kavi Sammelan
06:00 pm to 07:00 pm	Regional & Folk Musical and Dance Performance	CBC, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India
07:00 pm to 08:00 pm	Cultural Performance	Sahitya Kala Parishad (Tenative)

Authors' Corner		Hall No. 5
Time	Event	Organiser
11.30 to 12.30 pm	Mindscapes- A canvas of emotions in the Social World: Dr Neena Rao	Margika -Mental Health Care! (NGO)
1.30 to 2.30 pm	Book Launch: Equanimity, Philosophy & Practice by Acharya Shree Nanalal Ji	Aagam Ahinsa Samta Avam Prakrit Sanstan
3.00 to 4.00 pm	Youth Voices in Assamese literature Speakers	Publication Board, Assam
4.30 to 5.30 pm	Book Release of "Ten Heads of Ravana" Speaker: Rajiv Malhotra	Garuda Prakashan

युक्तेषु		ग्लोबल यू-2
वेक;	दक डे	वक क द
11:30 से 12:30 बजे	रामघाट में कोरोना पुस्तक का लोकार्पण	किताबघर प्रकाशन
01:00 से 02:00 बजे	अप टू युकेन नामक पुस्तक परिचर्चा / ग्रहस्त संन्यासी	यस पब्लिकेशन
05:30 से 06:30 बजे	पुस्तक-एस.एस.सी, एम. टी. एस वक्ता: संकेत साह	किक एजुकेशन गेटवे
07:00 से 08:00 बजे	पुस्तक-नाइट क्लब (लेखक अमित खान) उपन्यास पर चर्चा	वेस्टलैंड बुक्स

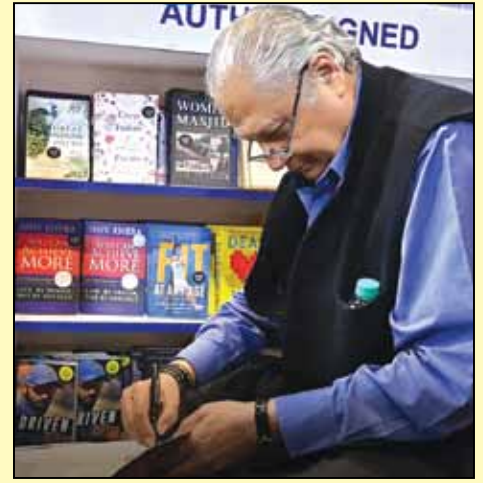
Author Vijayan Bala launched his book titled 'Improving Your English Skills' at the Wonder House stall today, along with his prized student and chief guest, Madhavi Goradia Divan, Additional Solicitor General of India.



Actor and poet, Piyush Mishra signed books at the Rajkamal Prakashan stall



Renowned author Shiv Khera signed books at the Bloomsbury stall and remarked on how heartening it is to see so many people at the Fair; proving that people are still interested in reading as ever.



NBT-India Stalls

Hall No : 2, Stall No. : 48-67 | Hall No : 3, Stall No. : 13-42 | Hall No : 4(FF), Stall No. : 04-05 | Hall No : 5, Stall No. : 34-63

Sincere Thanks



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