

Exploring the Changing Dimensions in Books and Reading through AR/VR Technology at the Education Conclave 2.0 at New Delhi World Book Fair 2023

“Today we need more content that connects the child to the learning process by taking it beyond textbooks,” said Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director NBT-India in his address at the Education Conclave 2.0 that was conducted on the sidelines of New Delhi World Book Fair 2023, on 03 March 2023 at Conference Hall, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Shri Malik also discussed the challenges of translation of reading material, “Linguistic, social, economic and cultural diversity is our challenge as well as our strength”, he added.



centres, especially at the rural level and a community driven mission”, said Ms Mugdha Sinha, Mission Director, National Mission on Libraries. Ms. Sinha discussed in detail the various available schemes under libraries set-up and the availability of funds for the same. “Libraries should be convenient and accessible to common citizens - they should be the drawing room of the society”.

In the session on immersive learning experience, emphasis was given on creation of age-appropriate digital content and delivery for



In order to successfully implement the various aspects of the guidelines as per the National Education Policy 2020, government has taken various steps - the rolling out of the National Curriculum Framework for the Foundational Stage 2020; the establishing of PM SHRI schools as well as other

initiatives envisioned in NEP 2020. In the recently announced Union Budget 2023, emphasis has been given on the “availability and accessibility of quality books across geographies, languages, genres and levels with device agnostic accessibility for better equipped schools”. To ensure the implementation of this aspect and to take this initiative forward, a dialogue with the key stakeholders was held where policymakers and senior officials from Education, Culture, Panchayati Raj and Women & Child Development, Electronics & Information Technology from the Central Government and 20 States and Union Territories deliberated on the theme of ‘*Changing Dimensions, Continuing Relevance and the Future of Books*’.

Earlier, in his opening remarks, Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, NBT-India said that the National Education Policy 2020 provides a flexible framework to the education sector to prepare a more joyful learning atmosphere by integrating toys, activities etc. “The coming era is of digital libraries and accordingly the subject matter will also have to be changed by all stakeholders”.

“There is a focus on libraries to take them to all levels - from grassroots, schools and Panchayats, and make them into knowledge

the National Digital Library Project for Children and Adolescents. IIT-Delhi and NBT-India plan to join hands to take the art of storytelling in the world of virtual reality and mixed reality for an enjoyable learning and reading experience.



The Conclave also deliberated on various avenues for making content more accessible and the role of AR/VR in the changing aspects of learning and reading in the age of digitization. On this occasion Shri Sanjeev Khirwar, IAS Principal Secretary School Education Ladakh; Ms Preeti Tongria, Additional Secretary Panchayati Raj Department Bihar; Dr. Mohan Lal Yadav, State Project Director Rajasthan; Dr. Rupesh Kumar, Special Secretary Secondary Education Department, Uttar Pradesh; and Ms. Reshma Raghunath Nair, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development were present among others.



On this occasion, National Book Trust India announced the launching of its own channel on Jio platform – the Book Channel – which will be available for free on Jio in all Indian languages. On this channel viewers can find activities related to books, new publications, live telecast of book fairs etc. It will play an important role in creating a knowledge society.

Exhibition on Dr B R Ambedkar and Constitution of India



An exhibition on Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and the Constitution of India welcomes you as you enter the reception area of Hall 5 at the New Delhi World Book Fair 2023. This space is always busy with excited bibliophiles getting a selfie or a photograph with the statue of Dr. Ambedkar.

The statue is a life-size depiction of Dr. Ambedkar sitting on a chair. On his sides, the Preamble of the Constitution of

India has been displayed. Brochures also display some facts about the original calligraphed Constitution of India as well as the list of illustrations in the original Constitution. The marvellous statue is set in the background of the Parliament Library, and Parliament Museum and Archives, which present a replica of the original calligraphed Constitution of India for sale!

An audiovisual presentation about the Parliament Library keeps the audience entertained and informed. As you move around, you can see information regarding the Constitution and the workings of the Constituent Assembly. These include the first day's proceedings of the Constituent Assembly, the presentation of



the National Flag at the Assembly, the signatures of the Assembly members, the President's address to the first Parliament, and much more.

Portraits of the members of the Constituent Assembly and the Drafting Committee of the Constitution stand tall and bright as a homage to these distinguished historical legends and their contributions to the nation. The pictures of many renowned politicians, leaders, and freedom fighters at some of the most significant events in history teleport you to the time of India's nascent independence. You can also look at old newspapers and press clippings featuring these important personalities.

As you move ahead, you encounter modern India through pictures of the houses of the Parliament and an audio-visual presentation on modern day Delhi and the legislature. The exhibition is a whole journey in itself, taking you through the different stages of the budding nation that India was at the time of independence and the years following that, and Dr. Ambedkar stands as a custodian to this world.

Certain Parts of my Life are Stranger than Fiction: Kabir Bedi

“Nobody knows my story,” said Shri Kabir Bedi in his book reading session at the Author’s Corner. He added that people only know a little about him and the real truth is yet to be discovered. “Certain parts of my life are stranger than fiction,” shared Shri Kabir Bedi as he lived a life full of drama in his personal as well as professional life. Shri Bedi talked about his success in Italy and abroad, “Opportunity doesn’t present itself as an opportunity, it can be anything, we should be open and ready to accept it at all times.” Talking about his book *Stories I Must Tell: The Emotional Life of an Actor*, Shri



Bedi said that it is an autobiographical account of his life that he wrote during the stressful COVID pandemic. He also recounted how he used to write for more than 10 hours daily while the world was in lockdown.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT-India said that Shri Bedi’s writing is a clean display of heart, body and soul. Shri Ajay Jain who was moderating the event, opened the stage for an interactive Q&A session with the author. When asked about “How to write an engaging story?” Shri Bedi said that a story is not just a series of incidents, it is much more than that.

Love, Lust and Avarice

Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha, Hon’ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) released the book titled *Love, Lust and Avarice*, authored by Shri Sanjay Krishna, former member UPPSC at the Authors’ Corner. The other distinguished personalities present on the occasion were Shri Yashovardhan Jha Azad, former Central Information Commissioner; and Prof. Sushma Yadav, Member, UGC & PVC, C.U.H.



The Lone Ant Climbs a Mountain

A storytelling session was organised by Parag Initiative of Tata Trusts at the Children's Pavilion today. Ms Saumya Kulshreshtha conducted an engaging session for children. The session started off with an interesting game called 'Tote Ne Bola' where children imitated the sounds that their favourite animals make and took an initiative to tell short stories on the stage.



Later, Ms Kulshreshtha recited her poem, 'Cheenti Chadhi Pahad Par' and encouraged the students to mimic the catchy words in the poem. She also narrated a story called 'Akeli Cheenti' which was about an ant and her struggles after she gets separated from her friends. The story conveyed the message that we should not make assumptions about someone or something based solely on appearances or first impressions.

Yoga Presentation by Children

The graceful art of Yoga was performed by little yogis from Enlightened Kumud Trust, who showcased their skills and talent in a stunning display of balance, strength, and flexibility.



The presenters exhibited different *asanas* such as temple, triangle and chariot.

From intricate contortions to fluid transitions, this presentation left the audience mesmerized and inspired by the power of the human body and mind.

Designing Bookmarks with Madhubani Art

A bookmark designing workshop was conducted by Ms Alpana Jha from Apna Kona Creative Foundation. The session started with talk about the relevance and history of Madhubani Painting. The workshop covered the history and techniques of Madhubani painting and how to create unique designs on bookmarks using this traditional Indian art form.



The children learned how to make beautiful bookmarks using bold colours, intricate patterns, and traditional Madhubani motifs. The workshop ended with the children taking home their beautiful bookmarks and a newfound appreciation for this ancient art form.

Creative Writing Workshop for Children

A creative writing workshop for children was conducted by Ms Urvashi Warman, Principal, Palace School, Jaipur. Ms Warman began the session by talking about her book, *The Camel with a Japi*, which is a reflection of the diversity of India through motifs like the Camel and Japi which represent the states of Rajasthan and Assam respectively. She then gave some tips to students on how to write creatively.



Ms Warman emphasised on the key factors of writing a story such as perspective, genre and timeline. She also mentioned that a piece of creative writing doesn't have any language barriers.

As the session succeeded, each child was distributed a pamphlet, featuring tools like vocabulary box and situation ideas to help make it more enjoyable and fill students with enthusiasm. This workshop highlighted that a story is not just about a simple narrative, but rather a representation of one's unique experiences, history, and creativity. It is a powerful medium through which we can share our personal perspectives and connect with others.

Nukkad Naatak fills Children's Pavilion with Laughter

The Khel Tamasha Theatre Group based in New Delhi presented an incredibly entertaining clown show called "Dhin Chak Pom Pom Posh". The show was



a perfect reflection of the group's dynamic and diverse nature, as it featured a variety of characters and showcased different elements such as Action- Reactions, Rhythm-Sound, Gesture-Posture, etc. The skits in the show were full of slapstick humour and clever reactions with the entire non-verbal performance.

Tribute to the renowned Anthropologist Christoph Fuerer von Heimendorf

The Austrian Cultural Forum, New Delhi organised an interactive session with Austrian Professor Dr. Martin Gaenzle and Dr. Anil Kumar at the International Events Corner titled 'Tribute to the renowned Anthropologist Christoph Fuerer von Heimendorf'.



Discussion on Collective Rights Management Organised

A discussion on 'Economic Contribution of Collective Rights Management on National Economy' was organised by the Global Innovation Index at the International Events Corner. Moderated by Mr. Pranav Gupta, the other panelists at the session included Mr Kevin Fitzgerald, Mr Ankit Sahni and Dr. Ananth.

Mr Kevin Fitzgerald began the session by speaking about the Collective Rights Management Organisation and how it plays a significant role in managing the economic rights of authors and creators. Mr Ankit Sahni commented on the legal, procedural, technical and cultural challenges. He further emphasised on creating a knowledge based economy. Dr Ananth drew the conversation towards the lack of participation from publishers. Mr. Fitzgerald concluded by saying how quality content is a prerequisite for quality education. The Indian Reprographic Rights Organization (IRRO) is an initiative by Federation of Indian Publishers, exclusively permitted to commence and regulate the copyright business of 'reprographic rights in the field of literary works' in India.



Poets Enthrall Booklovers

A Poet's Meet with renowned Hindi poets was organised by Sahitya Akademi at the Theme Pavillion.

The participants included Shri Maheshwar Tiwari, Shri Buddhinath Mishra, Shri Gyan Prakash Vivek and Shri Mahesh Garg. During the session, they recited beautiful poems on different themes like relationships, mother earth, love, hope and life from their own collections on the stage.

Shri Mahesh Garg began the session with light satire about COVID times, especially on officers like him. Citing Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, Shri Garg said that the biggest threat to poetry is science as science sees everything as it is. He remarked that feelings like romance, adventure and imagination are the main aspects of poetry. Then, Shri Gyan Prakash Vivek rendered motivational and inspirational shayari from his collection of ghazals.

Shri Buddhinath Mishra, who has written several famous songs in Hindi as well as Maithili, appreciated the presence of a young audience in the Pavilion. He sang several of his songs about seasons like *Savan* and *Phagun*; and women among others. He also sang his most famous poem 'Ek baar aur jaal phenk re machere,' which was published almost 50 years back.

Later, Shri Maheshwar Tiwari recited his poems on his village as well as his most famous poems, 'Ek tumhara hona.'



Roerich's Secrets and History of India's Independence

Institute of Literary Translation, Moscow organised a lecture on 'Roerich's Secrets and History of India's Independence' by Oleg Shishkin at the International Events Corner. The popular writer, researcher and TV presenter shared insights from his recent book *Altai Himalaya*, based on the life of legendary artist Nicholas Roerich. Talking about the book, Oleg said that Nicholas Roerich was an important personality who was involved in mending relations between Russia and Britain. Mr. Shishkin emphasized that meeting Tagore was one of the most significant highlights of Roerich's life. He also spoke about the Museum of the East, Russia an attempt by the Ministry of Culture, Russia at archiving the works of the great artist.



AICB Students Enact Play on Chandrashekhara Azad

A one-act play was staged on the life of freedom fighter Chandrashekhara Azad by the students of All India Confederation of the Blind (AICB) at the Theme Pavilion. The play was narrated by Ms Bholi.

This one-act play was based on the incident when Chandrashekhara Azad threw a stone at a British officer and was convicted in the court for that. He then decided that he would never again be caught alive by the British police.

Shri Dinesh Yadav, who played the character of Chandrashekhara Azad was received with a huge round of applause by the audience who were impressed by the powerful portrayal of Azad.

The audience was enthralled by the play and gave a standing ovation to all the performers on stage.

Shri J.L. Kaul, General Secretary, AICB and Padma Shri awardee, was also present on the occasion.



Expanding the Domain Use of Indian Languages

The panel discussion on 'Expanding the Domain Use of Indian Languages' held at the NEP Pavilion.

The panel discussion was initiated by Prof Avdesh Kumar Mishra who remarked that too much dependence on English has brought the development of the country to a standstill. And it is time we realise that communication in Hindi and other vernacular languages should be a matter of pride for every Indian.

Taking the discussion forward, Prof Nageshwara Rao, Vice Chancellor of IGNOU, emphasised on the need to expand the scope of Hindi and other regional languages in higher education institutions where youngsters would perform better if they are taught subjects like science and social science in their own languages. He further mentioned that a lot of research and translation work are being done however, this will take some time before it comes to fruition. Justice Chauhan asserted the use of Hindi and other native languages in official work.

Dr Ranjana Agrawal, Director, CSIR, talked about the importance and need of 'Vedic Sciences' and 'Ancient Indian Sciences' in modern education, and developed an attitude to study subjects in our mother-tongue.

Prof. Sankrant Shanuji concluded the session by saying that nations around the world progress as they take pride in their native language and India should do the same.

Discussion on National Education Policy 2020

A discussion on 'Comparative Analysis of NEP 2020 with the Integral Education Framework' was organised by Sri Aurobindo Ashram (Delhi Branch) at the NEP Pavilion.



The panel discussion was led by Pramila Basn, Jayanthi Ramchandran (Principal of Mirambika Free Progress School, Delhi) and Dr Kamala Menon (Teacher at Mirambika Free Progress School, Delhi).

During the session, Dr Kamala Menon highlighted the vision of National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), which emphasises on developing deep-rooted knowledge, skills, values and dispositions. She added that efforts are being made to implement the past thoughts in present time by bringing innovation to the ideas. The major area of focus of policy is providing "Outcome Based Learning."

The panelists also talked about the difference between the NEP 2020 and Integral Education, and their impact on the present and future of learning. This education policy primarily focuses on the external assessment whereas integral education focuses on self-assessment to develop one's own faculties. The framework is designed to provide equitable education to all, to promote critical thinking, creativity and foster holistic development of students.

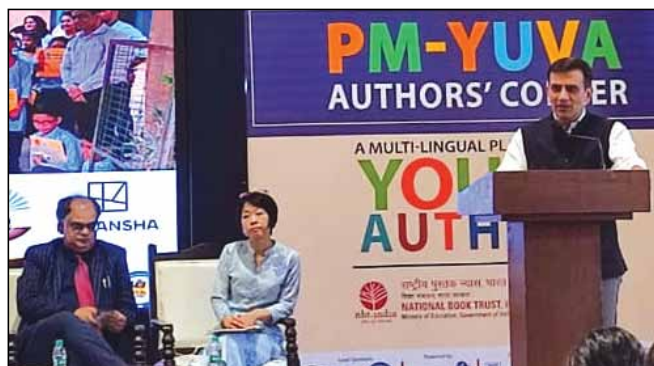
Shabd ki Shakti: Journey of a Word Amidst the Rich Diversity of India

The International Events Corner hosted the session, 'Shabd Ki Shakti: Amidst the Rich Diversity of India' organised by KBK Glocal in collaboration with IJK and Kodansha.

The panelists included Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT; Shri Sanjay Panda, MD IJK; Ms Kikuchi Tomoko, author and Japanese-Hindi translator; Ms Jaishree Sethi, founder of Story Ghar; Ms Taruna Taneja, teacher; and Shri Kumar Vikram, Editor, NBT. The session was moderated by Ms. Vijaya Bajpai, Founder, KBK GloCal.

In his address, Shri Yuvraj Malik said that the influx of different cultures leaves its footprints and leads to the creation of a unique mixture. He laid emphasis on learning global ethos and values that is where translation comes into picture because it helps connect cultures. He emphasised upon practising sustainability and the importance of preserving the environment as we have borrowed it from future generations. He applauded the publication of the NBT publication, Mottainai Grandma as an example of a classic synergy of efforts.

Speaking of the book Mottainai Grandma, Shri Sanjay Panda said that the word 'Mottai' means things in its root form. When you negate it, it adds 'nai'. It has been translated into many Indian



languages by National Book Trust, India which is a great feat.

Dr. Kikuchi Tomoko commented on the word 'Mottainai' and explained its significance. She drew parallels between Indian culture and the concept of Mottainai by giving various examples from daily life.

Ms Jaishree Sethi, founder of Story Ghar further mentioned how storytelling can be a medium for spreading the message of 'Mottainai'. She elaborated upon the book's beautiful illustrations, which help sustain readers' attention. She added that children need to visualise stories. Ms Taruna Taneja spoke about experiential learning and believed that we can learn many things from children.

Commenting on Mottainai, Kumar Vikram said, "Mottainai is not only about not wasting resources, it also teaches us to not waste emotions, words and relationships. It is not only environmental but also social and personal." This project has been there for 5 years and there are plans to take it further.

The event ended on a unique note with a multilingual reading of the book by NBT editors of different languages namely Hindi (Shri Deepak Gupta), Malayalam (Shri Rubin D'cruz), Odia (Shri Pramod Sar), Gujarati (Shri Bhagyendrabhai Patel), English (Ms Vasundhara Lal), Tamil (Shri Mathan Raj) and the original Japanese by Dr. Kikuchi Tomoko.

EVENTS TODAY

International Events/Foreign Pavilion			Hall No. 4
Time	Event	Organiser	
02:00 pm to 03:00 pm	A Workshop on Spanish Language and Culture	Instituto Cervantes, New Delhi	
03:00 pm to 04:00 pm	The Launch of <i>Shramatan: A Memoir</i> by B N Joshi	White Lotus, Nepal	
Theme Pavilion			Hall No. 5
Time	Event	Organiser	
12:00 pm to 01:00 pm	Prime Time Talk With Anand Neelakantan	NBT-India	
01:30 pm to 02:00 pm	Book Release: <i>Bharat Ki Vaccine Vikas-Gatha: Gauchechak Se Vaccine Maitri Tak</i> by author Sajjan Singh Yadav	NBT-India	
03:00 pm to 04:00 pm	Book Release and Discussion on River of Moksha: Pilgrimages along the Ganga by Swami Kailashanand Giri	Bloomsbury Publishing India	
04:30 pm to 06:00 pm	“Dastan-e-Jung-e-Azadi” By Prof. Danish Iqbal	NCPUL	
06:30 pm to 08:00 pm	Prime Time Talk With Preeti Shenoy	NBT-India	
NEP Pavilion			Hall No. 4 FF
Time	Event	Organiser	
02:00 pm to 02:30 pm	Release of Books on India's Vaccine Drive	NBT-India and SARD	
03:00 pm to 04:00 pm	Panel Discussion on NEP 2020	NIOS	
04:00 pm to 06:00 pm	Education, Skills and Changing Social and Life Realities	ASSOCHAM	
Children's Pavilion			Hall No. 3
Time	Event	Organiser	
10:00 am to 10:50 am	How to find ideas and make them work? By Nandini Nayar	NCCL, NBT-India	
11:00 am to 11:45 pm	Storytelling Session	NCCL, NBT-India	
11:50 am to 12:30 pm	Yoga for Children and Adults	Patanjali Yogpeeth	
12:45 pm to 01:30 pm	Puppet Making and Storytelling	Parag Initiative of Tata Trusts	
01:45 pm to 02:30 pm	Story Writing Workshop	Takhte Writers & Publishers	
02:45 pm to 03:30 pm	Panel Discussion on “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav and Disability Rights”	Ek Koshish Special School	
03:45 pm to 04:30 pm	Student's Career Guidance Session	True Career Guidance Services	
04:45 pm to 05:30 pm	Are Children School Ready? Perspective on Early Childhood Education	Cheshta Care Foundation	
05:30 pm to 06:30 pm	Play on Freedom Fighters of Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Kala Sanskriti Bhasha	
Seminars & Discussions			Hall No. 4
Time	Event	Organiser	
11:30 am to 03:30 pm	Symposium on “The Unsung Heroes of Indian Freedom Struggle”, Book Release Function and Poets' Meet	Authors Guild of India	
04:00 pm to 05:30 pm	Lifestyle Tips to Stay Healthy after Covid Pandemic by Ayurveda, Acupressure and Yoga.	AYUSHVEDAM	
06:00 pm to 07:30 pm	Seminar on “Pravasi Sahityakaro ka Hindi Bhasha ke Prasar-Prachar mein Yogdaan”	Indraprastha Literature Festival, New Delhi	
Cultural Events			Amphitheatre
Time	Event	Organiser	
01:00 pm to 02:00 pm	Session on Astronomy	Nehru Planetarium	
03:00 pm to 03:30 pm	Musical Performance	SRCC (Music & Dance Society)	
03:30 pm to 04:30 pm	Kavi Samelan	Jashn-E-Rehkta	
04:30 pm to 04:45 pm	Bhartanatyam Performance	Nritya Kalpa Academy	

05:00 pm to 05:30 pm	Punjabi Songs	
05:30 pm to 06:30 pm	Youth Band	Unplugged Trio
06:30 pm to 07:00 pm	Cultural Performance	CBC, M/o I&B, Government of India
07:00 pm to 08:00 pm	Folk Music & Dance	Sahitya Kala Parishad

Authors' Corner**Hall No. 5**

Time	Event	Organiser
11.30 to 12.30 pm	A Panel Discussion on Exploring Global Influence on Indian Culture	Spark Igniting Minds
01:30 to 02:30 pm	Discussion: The Bad Men of Bollywood, Balaji Vittal, Kaveree Bamzai	Harper Collins
03:00 to 04:00 pm	Discussion: "Chandausi Junction", Prof. Shankar Sahay & Preeti Sahay	Prof. Shankar Sahay
04:30 to 05:30 pm	The Power of Future Machines Speaker: Rajiv Malhotra	Blue One Ink
06:00 to 07:00 pm	Book Discussion on the Travelogues written by Dr Rishi Raj	DMRC

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Time	Event	Organiser
11:30 से 12:30 बजे	विषय: वक्त साक्षी है कविता संग्रह का लोकार्पण वक्ता: डी.पी. यादव, भारत गांधी	वाणी प्रकाशन
01:00 से 02:00 बजे	ऑडियो बुक्स की प्रासंगिकता	हिंद युग्म
02:30 से 03:30 बजे	पत्रकारिता पुस्तक का विमोचन	राष्ट्रीय पुस्तक न्यास, भारत
04:00 से 05:00 बजे	हिमाचल पारंपरिक एवं समकालीन साहित्य	हिमाचल कला संस्कृति भाषा अकादमी
05:30 से 06:30 बजे	दि फ्रेंचिस ऑफ गुआवा	रिथिक फाउंडेशन
07:00 से 08:00 बजे	महायोद्धा की महागाथा: मनजीत नेगी	प्रभात प्रकाशन

Three books in Garhwali language, *Tum Dagdi Ye Geetrala*, *Teri Khud Tero Khayal*, and *Ab Jab Ki* by renowned Garhwali singer Shri Narendra Singh Negi were launched today at the Seminar Hall.



A book discussion session on Ms Medha Deshmukh Bhaskaran's book, *Up Against Darkness*, published by Sakal Media Pvt. Ltd. was organised at the Seminar Hall.

**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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The views expressed in the signed articles do not necessarily reflect the official views of NBT-India

In Conversation

A Prime Time Talk with Ms Priyam Gandhi-Mody was organised by National Book Trust, India at the Theme Pavilion. The best-selling author and political strategist talked about her latest book, *A Nation to Protect* which was published by Rupa Publications in 2022.



Talking about her journey and experience, Ms Gandhi-Mody said that as a political strategist, she was overwhelmed by the amount of misinformation reaching people and she found out that the information was not sufficient to make a perception about the political figures. She also talked about how the youth of the nation should not be exposed to only one side of the picture by blocking an entire side of history.

Mentioning the COVID Pandemic as the global crisis of the century, Ms Gandhi-Mody that she wanted to understand the Hon'ble Prime Minister's thought process regarding the pandemic, and thus was born her book. She applauded India's efforts in maintaining the economy of the country by providing direct benefits to the most vulnerable sections of the society, providing loans to MSMEs, giving jobs and building infrastructure in the country which helped India step up the world ladder while economies of other countries fell flat.

Book on Subhash Chandra Bose Launched

The book titled *Poems and Songs on Azad Hind Fauj & Subhash Chandra Bose* was launched at the NEP Pavilion in the presence of Prof. Nageshwara Rao (Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU), Prof. Kapil Kumar (former Director Centre for Freedom Struggle & Senior Fellow NMML, Delhi), Dr. Srikant Mohapatra (Director, Regional Service Division and EMPC, IGNOU)

The poems in this collection are about the known and unknown soldiers of Azad Hind Fauj who sacrificed their lives and fought for a united free India. Some of the poems are: Open the Red Fort, Demand for Blood, Who is going to Believe It and He is Immortal.



NBT Book Suraj aur Swaraj Released

Shri Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad, Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance, Government of India released the book titled *Suraj aur Swaraj*, authored by Dr S C Misra at the Theme Pavilion. Originally written in English (*Quest for Swaraj*), the book is based on the life of Maharaja Kishan Singh of Bharatpur.

Ms Rohini Grewal, granddaughter of Maharaja Kishan Singh of Bharatpur; Shri Saurabh Mishra, Joint Secretary of Finance, Government of India and Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT-India were also present on the occasion.

In his address, Shri Karad appreciated the author for writing about the Royal family in Bharatpur, Bihar. He applauded the success of the English version of the book and talked about the significance of history and culture in the era of internet and social media. He also encouraged young writers to work together in bringing forward India's culture and ancient history.

Speaking of the book, Shri Yuvraj Malik recounted that the English version of the book was published just a few months ago and received immense praise. Demands for a Hindi version were raised saying, "Sirf swaraj ki nhi, ye suraj ki bhi ladai thi" which inspired Shri Malik to edit this book himself.

Whereas, Dr Misra stated that Maharaja Kishan Singh was one of those unsung heroes who had to wait for 90 years before his story got published through this book. He also appreciated NBT's effort in promoting these unsung heroes through platforms like the New Delhi World Book Fair.

