

### Marching towards Knowledge

We will go on reading books; we will accept only books as gifts on all occasions; and we will give nothing except books as gifts to others. With these pledges, children took out an attractive Book March from the Children's Pavilion in Hall No 7 to Hamsadhvani Theatre, the venue of the inaugural function. Carrying placards of NBT book covers from various Indian languages, the children filled the air with hope that gave the visitors here in the Fair the much needed gusto. Some children took part in the March with ethnic dresses. Students from Bal Bharati Public School, Modern School, Neo Convent School, various Bal Kendras of National Bal Bhavan participated in the Book March. Also, children under the banner of several NGOs working for book promotion came in huge numbers to show their determination in creating a reading society. The most poignant moment of the entire Book March was the enthusiastic participation of children dwelling in the slum areas of Jakhira.



#### TODAY'S EVENTS

Time	Event	Venue	Organiser
10:00 – 17:30	Seminar on 'Role of libraries and librarians in the 21st century'	Hall No. 6 Mezzanine Floor, Conference Room II	Indian Library Association
14:00 – 16:00	Book Release Function	Hall No. 6 Mezzanine Floor, Seminar Hall	Vani Prakashan
14:00 – 16:00	Release of Music CD - Hind Yugm	Hall No. 6 Mezzanine Floor, Conference Room I	Hind Yugm
15:00 – 18:30	A Seminar	Hall No. 6 Mezzanine Floor, Conference Room I	British Council

#### AT RUSSIAN PAVILION

Time	Events	Venue
11:30	Demonstration lesson on space exploration	Conference room, Hall 7D
11:00	Programme: "Information Technologies in Education"	Education and IT zone, Hall 7D
13:00	Demonstration Russian lesson "I speak Russian" Presentation: "New textbooks of Russian"	Conference room, Hall 7D
13:00	Round table: "Russian writers on India"	Conference room, Hall 7D
15:00	Poetry in the contemporary world: Meeting of Russian and Indian poets Presentation of A. Pushkin's book "Poetry and Prose" in Hindi and English published by Raduga Publishing House	Conference room, Hall 7D
17:00	Round table: "Modern information technologies as the instrument of developing academic contacts between Russia and India in the field of fundamental sciences and humanities"	Conference room, Hall 7D

#### AT CHILDREN'S PAVILION HALL NO. 7B



- Exhibition of Picture Books
- Nukkad Natak/Play/Storytelling
- Activity in a School Library

#### AT YOUTH PAVILION HALL NO. 7B



A talk on  
"Books that have influenced me"

#### WHAT IS WHERE AT THE FAIR

Hall No. 1F & 1R	English Language Publishers	Hall No. 6	Distributors of Books in English
Hall No. 1F	Publishers of Books on Social Sciences and Humanities and Miscellaneous	Hall No. 8 & 9	Foreign Publishers
Hall No. 2	English Language Publishers	Hall No. 10	Publishers of Educational Books
Hall No. 3	English Language Publishers	Hall No. 11	Publishers of Books and Educational Aids
Hall No. 4	English Language Publishers	Hall No. 12	Indian Regional Language Publishers
Hall No. 5	English Language Publishers	Hall No. 12A	Hindi Language Publishers and Distributors
		Hall No. 14	Publishers of Books on Science & Technology

VISIT NBT Stalls at: Hall No. 1F Stall Nos. 152 to 159; Hall No. 6 Stall Nos. 222 to 226; Hall No. 11 Stall Nos. 178 to-185; Hall NO. 12 Stall Nos. 80 to 83; Hal No. 12A Stall Nos. 64 to 68

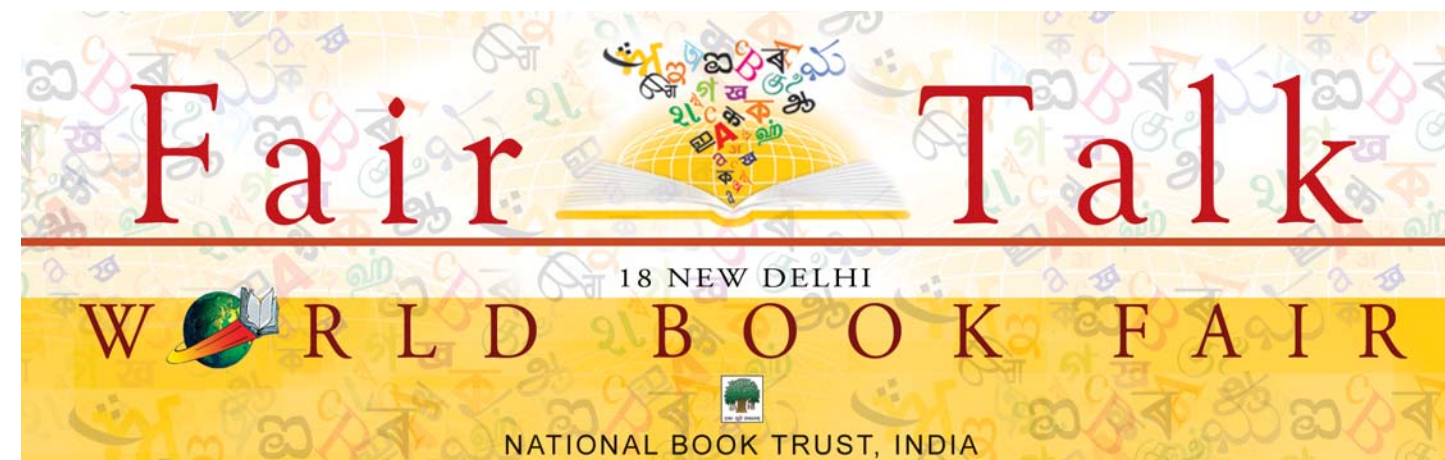
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SUNDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2008

### 18 NEW DELHI WORLD BOOK FAIR INAUGURATED

"To me this New Delhi World Book Fair is a celebration of quarrel, a celebration of criticism and a celebration of disagreement," said the renowned Kannada writer and Jnanpith awardee Prof. U R Ananthamurthy in his presidential address at the inauguration of the 18 New Delhi World Book Fair at Hamsadhvani Theatre.



Referring to the increasing expression of religious intolerance of a section of the society, Prof Ananthamurthy observed that the progress of every civilization depends on the co-existence of different viewpoints and one can only disagree with a book but none can dishonour a book. Urging the Government to give

equal treatment to all Indian languages including the tribal ones he says National Book Trust, India is the epitome of linguistic diversity of this great country. Earlier, giving a brief account of the Russian Exposition as the Guest of Honour Country in the Fair, Mr Andrey Romanchenko, Deputy Head of the

Federal Agency for Press & Mass Communication, Russian Federation said that this presentation preceding official opening ceremony of the "Year of Russia in India" is a mere confirmation of the Biblical wisdom "the word came first". He said that Indian tales of Panchatantra, Ramayana, Mahabharata have enthralled generations of Russian children. Emphasizing the great influence of Indian writers and thinkers from Tagore, Vivekananda, Sri Aurobindo to the New Age Gurus Deepak Chopra and Sri Ravi Sankar on Russia, Mr Romanchenko informed the gathering that with more than 70 Russian Publishers with their array of books, the New Delhi





ought to bring out more and more books that can be read by children in their respective languages because we cannot set up schools large and good enough to educate fully the vast number of children.

Shri K.M. Acharya, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development, read out the address of Shri Arjun Singh, Hon'ble Minister for HRD, who could not attend the inaugural function. He said that the ever-increasing number of books published in India reflects the growing hunger for books among the general masses and India's growth as a knowledge economy. Dispelling the doubts over the future of books in the face of all pervading Internet craze he said that for a developing country like India, which has diverse needs and aspirations, printed books and Internet can only feed upon each other and be complimentary to each other. Expressing happiness over the dedicated pavilion put up by the Trust of Works on and by Gandhi, he hoped that "this would bring greater focus on Gandhian literature in these dark times of aggression, terror, suspicion and intolerance."

Thanking the distinguished guests and the august gathering, Professor Bipan Chandra, Chairman, NBT said that besides other books, the Trust is also bringing out collections of short stories, poems and dramas in various Indian languages.

Earlier, welcoming the guests, Ms



Nuzhat Hassan, Director, NBT said that as the biggest book fair in the Afro-Asian region the number of participants this year is an all time high. Expressing her happiness to have Russian Federation as the Guest of Honour country, she hoped that this would go a long way in cementing the cultural and social ties between the two countries.

The inaugural ceremony formally began with the vocal rendition of *Sare Jahan Se Accha* by the artistes of the Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, New Delhi.

Members of the publishing fraternity, writers, editors, schoolteachers and children with colourful attire from different schools of the capital and members of the NGOs working for promotion of books and reading habit attended the inaugural function. A huge group of volunteers of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan wearing specially designed caps with slogan on books added colour to the entire atmosphere.



## INTRODUCING THE NEW RUSSIA TO INDIA

As part of the celebration of Year of Russia in India, the 18 New Delhi World Book Fair showcases Russia as the Guest of Honour Country. A special Russian National Pavilion has been set up at Hall 7D.

Inaugurating the Russian National Pavilion, Prof. Bipan Chandra, Chairman NBT, India, expressed his joy seeing the beautifully designed pavilion.

Addressing the press after taking a tour of the Russian Pavilion, Prof. Bipan Chandra thanked Russia for coming to India and hoped that their presence will be a continued affair at all the coming book fairs in the years to come.

Welcoming the guests at the Russian National Pavilion, Mr. Vladimir Grigoriev, Head of the Russia Guest of Honour Presentation, conveyed his extreme pleasure to be in India and be a part of the World Book Fair. He said that all the Russian publishers were delighted to be back in India after so many years and were eager to showcase their books. Mr Grigoriev informed that



more than 70 Russian publishers and more than 20 Russian writers had come from Russia to meet and interact with everyone here. "We would like to introduce new Russian writers to Indians", he added. "We want to integrate culture and business", he said while referring to do business with India in the publishing area.

Mr. Andrey Romanchenko, Deputy Head of the Federal Agency for Press and Mass Communication of Russia, was glad to be in India and at the 18 New Delhi World Book Fair. He hoped that people would visit the pavilion in large numbers and make the most of it. He

also welcomed India to be a part of the Year of India in Russia in the Year 2009.

Shri U. R. Ananthamurthy, eminent writer and Jnanpith awardee, recalled his earlier days when Russian literature was very popular in India and how he enjoyed reading Russian authors. He hoped that this coming together will revive that interest among the two nations.

Ms. Nuzhat Hassan, Director, NBT, said, "We hope to renew and revive relations with Russia and also contemporize it".

A round-table conference on "Cultural Interaction through Book: Publishers-Booksellers-Librarians" was held at the Russian Pavilion. Participants included Victor Glukhov, Vladimir Gribov, Mikhail Levner, Lyudmila Kalinova, Alexander Lysenko, Ilya Manevich and delegates from National Library of India, as well as teachers and students from various universities and colleges.

## BOOKS OPEN THE WINDOWS OF THE MIND

"Books open the windows of the mind", said Shri Aabid Surti, eminent cartoonist, children's writer and illustrator, while inaugurating the Children's Pavilion at Hall 7B at the 18 New Delhi World Book Fair. "The world book fair is a treasure house of books." Referring to NBT books for children, he said "these are not only low-priced, but also carry interesting stories and are informative".

Shri Jagdish Joshi, renowned children's writer and illustrator, said that collective effort on part of the government and parents-teachers is required to promote book reading habit among children.

Smt. Surekha Panandikar, popular writer for children stressed on the fact that books should be given as gifts on occasions and festivals and it is the duty of the parents to put this into practice. This, she felt, would encourage children to read books.

"Good packaging is very important", said Shri Pulak Biswas, distinguished artist, while emphasizing the importance of illustrations in children's books. He said

that good presentation attracts children to books and makes their reading enjoyable for them.

Earlier, Ms Nuzhat Hassan, Director NBT talked about the importance of books in our lives. She referred to the efforts being made by the NBT and the NCCL in nurturing and fostering reading habit among children.

The inauguration was followed by a Nukkad Natak by the students of Amity International School.

The Children's Pavilion brought out the daily supplement *Akkad-Bakkad Times* in collaboration with National Bal Bhavan.

