

WORLD BOOK FAIR BULLETIN

NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA

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FIRST INDIAN ASTRONAUT AT THE FAIR

"I felt very privileged to be a part of the event. I was nervous. But I felt important in this very very important journey of my life," said Mr. Rakesh Sharma, about the moment he stepped on to the spacecraft. Rakesh Sharma, the first Indian to be in space, was participating in an interactive session in Russian Pavilion with children on his space journey.



In his brief overview of the history of space exploration in India, he said that India is now one of the major countries into space exploration. Next year, Sharma said, India will be launching its space mission Chandrayan, to moon.

Participating in the discussion, Mr. Anatoly Berezovoy, replying to a question on Russian plans for an independent space station, said, "not in the near future. Given

the exorbitant costs involved only international space station, a concerted effort by many countries, is possible." To the question whether he agrees on weaponisation of space, Rakesh Sharma said, "No. In case it happens it would be because of diplomacy and politics." There would only be cooperation and not confrontation. Moreover, since many

countries need to come together to undertake space exploration, Mr. Sharma said, weaponisation of space would not be easy.

To the question of space tourism, Mr. Berezovoy said that today it is a priority of Russia. But it may be mentioned that not everyone can afford it. For it costs almost US\$25 million. However, hundred years down the line things could be different.

Remembering his experience in space Mr. Sharma explained why he called India as *Sare Jahan Se Acheha* when he was asked by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

He also spoke about the problem of space debris and various types of fuel used in spacecrafts. Mr. Sharma also said India's space exploration programme had never gone wrong.

LEARNING TO REVIEW BOOKS

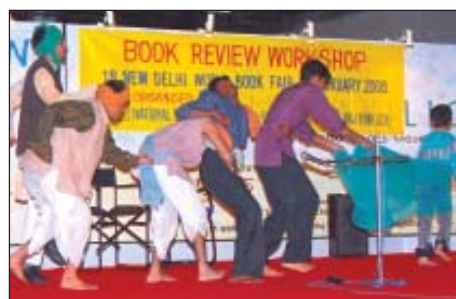
"I am happy to see the interest for books that children have here", said Ms. Kiran Choudhary, Tourism & Forest Minister, Haryana seeing the children reading out their views on various books.

Meeting the team of *Akkad-Bakkad Times*, a newsletter that the children in

Children's Pavilion publish everyday, she was surprised and at the same time happy to see so much talent around. Later, she talked to children about environment and told them to keep it pollution free.

Earlier, a Book Review competition was held at the Children's Pavilion wherein

students of New Convent School, Paschim Vihar, three schools of Bal Bharati, as well as children from National Bal Bhavan, participated. Ms. Madhu Pant, Former Director, Bal Bhavan, interacted with children. While talking about books and book review she said, "Books are a treasure house of knowledge. We should befriend them and learn from them". Later, children chose a book and presented their views on it.



FUN WITH POTATO

To commemorate the 'International Year of Potato', the NBT & the Bachpan Society organised a programme on the evergreen potato. Dr. Mohini Chhabra talked to children and told them about the agriculture of potato in India. Dr. S.K. Pande, Director Potato Research Institute & the Chief Guest of the function, was welcomed with a garland of potatoes.



Children of Anuswar Society presented a play and a *Qunwali* on Potato. On this occasion a book titled *P for Potato* was also released. A play on Mahatma Gandhi was also staged by children of R. D. Public School, Gurgaon.

A *Kabani Banao Pratiyogita* (Make a Story Competition) was held at the Children's Pavilion at Hall 7B. About a hundred children from National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi; Shraddha Mandir High School, Faridabad; Amity International, Noida; as well as Modern School, New Delhi participated in the competition. The children were divided into three groups. First group was shown some illustrations and asked to write a story based on it. The second group was given some incomplete stories and were asked to complete it in their own words. The third group was given a story and they had to draw complementary illustrations for it. The children enjoyed such creative activities and had fun doing them. At the end of the competition, children were duly awarded with book prizes.



BOOKS ARE OUR SAVINGS

"Books are your Fixed Deposits and Savings in life", said Shri Farooq Sheikh while speaking at an interactive session at the Youth Pavilion yesterday. "But you should know what to read and what not."

He was very happy to see the Gandhi Pavilion and urged the youth to go and visit it. Calling Mahatma Gandhi as the magic man, Shri Farooq Sheikh said that he was



the only man, whose philosophy of non-violence freed India from British rule, making it the only country in the world to gain freedom through this method. "Walk on the path of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, and tomorrow your image could be displayed here like these icons on display at the Youth Pavilion", he added.

Appreciating the work of the NBT and the NYKS, Shri Farooq Sheikh said that he was very glad to visit the 18 New Delhi World Book Fair. "You young people are the seeds that India is planting. Make sure you become the trees of knowledge and inspire others", he concluded.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Nuzhat Hassan, Director, NBT said that this was the second time that the Youth Pavilion had been put up in the World Book Fair, and it is already a huge success. She added that the purpose of inviting personalities from all walks of life was to allow the youth to interact with them, which is not possible everyday.



TWO TALES OF A CITY

The Rupa & Co. stall at the 18 New Delhi World Book Fair saw quite an activity with people trying to get a glimpse of the eminent poet and lyricist, Shri Gulzar.

Shri Gulzar was there to sign copies of his new release, *Two Tales of My Times*. The book presents for the first time, two of Gulzar's most thought-provoking and hard-hitting film scripts—*New Delhi*

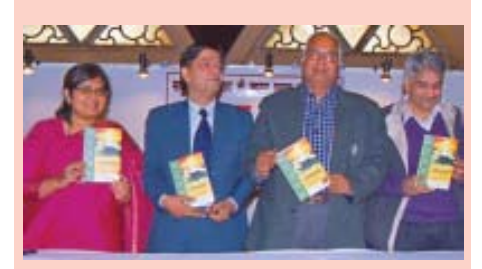


Times and *Machis*—in narrative form.

Earlier, he also released the English edition of the book *Me, Borishaila: The Epic Saga of Rise of Bangladesh* by Dr. Mahua Maji, sociologist and a budding writer. This book recreates the erstwhile rural and urban East Bengal from 1943 to 1992, and gives details of the violence, politics, and social life, while talking about the Bangladeshi freedom struggle.

Shri Salman Khurshid, Shri Ashok Vajpayee, Shri Murli Manohar Joshi, Prof. Paramanand Srivastava, and Ms. Umagajapati Raju were also present on the occasion.

Shri Om Thanvi, Editor *Jan Satta* released a book titled *Bharatnama Dakshinrat* written by Shri Madhukar Upadhyay and published by Flair Books. Ms Nuzhat Hassan, Director, National Book Trust, India and the Chief Guest on the occasion said that there is a need for good travel books in India. "This book gives good information on travel in India", she added.



REGIONAL LANGUAGE PUBLISHERS AT THE FAIR

Like last time regional publishers are here in full strength. Not all of them are happy. Reasons are many. They mostly blame inclement weather. Some go into retrospection: not enough pre-publicity by them due to last minute hurry. Others blame general apathy for books in mother tongues. But those who come here for exchange of rights like Sukumar Beri of

cassettes and CDs of folk songs—the list is endless. Besides national leaders, biographies of celebrities, business tycoons, media barons, sports icons and personalities from entertainment industry can be seen in the language stalls.

Keeping in view Russia as the Guest of Honour Country many have come with Indian language translation of Russian



Sindhi Academy has some invaluable books on Sindhi culture and post-partition trauma. To display maximum books published since last World Book Fair and to facilitate repeated visits of the booklovers, says V. C. Emmanuel, “Malayalam stalls are changing their display every three days to accommodate 2500 titles.” Ramakant Joshi of Karnataka



Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Prakashak Sangh are more than happy. Institutional buyers and researchers save the day for most of them. Amidst hope and despair, the scene in Hall No 12 is a sure sign of good health of regional language publishing.

The range of their publications is amazing. Fiction, biography, language learning, history, economics, religion, Indology, mythology, popular science, dictionaries, self-help, cookery, computer,

literary works. Books like 13 volume Malayalam encyclopaedia, Year book in Malayalam, Tamil translation of an autobiography of a sex worker and Baby Halder's book, reprint of the first Gujarati novel *Karam Ghalo*, autobiography of Hiren Gohain and Homen Borgohain in Assamese, Tagore's complete works and Ramkrishna's *Kathamrita* in Bangla, *Bhinno*, Marathi feminist novel, *Divan-e-Ghalib* in Urdu are selling like hot cakes.

Publishers Association suggests that like the NDWBF, at least one free stall should be provided to language publications in every regional book fair organized by NBT. “This is my first visit to New Delhi World Book Fair. With my experience in over 350 rural exhibitions in Gujarat my friends had sent me here to represent them. I feel coming here again and again. It's a pilgrimage for me,” says Arvind Shukla of Gujarat Prakashak Mandal.

LITERATURE AND PERSONALITY

“Sometimes literature affects personality directly. Sometimes indirectly,” said Mr. Mikhail Veller at the round table discussion on Literature and Personality Formation at the Russian pavilion.

“Imitating archetypal heroes by generations of young men in a way,” said Mr. Veller, “would culminate in a personality like Julius Caesar.” Citing the example of Romeo & Juliet, he said, the pair has a lot of predecessors from ancient times. Literature, for Mr. Uspensky, is an instrument of culture. And educates us within the framework of civilization.

Reflecting on the influences of literature on him, Mr. Arkhangelsky said in

his youth he read only classical literature and not contemporary literature. According to him, contemporary literature has many layers of culture. What is fascinating about reading literature is that one can compare one's feelings with those of others around the world.

“On an average only about 3–5% of the people read in every country. But this is enough for any country to develop,” said Mr. Prilepin Zahar. Literature can educate us only in our early years. Thereafter TV takes over, the panelists observed. Talking about children's writers, Mr. Eduard Uspensky said, “While writing for children writers shoulder a great responsibility

because one should be careful about what they write for children.”



REMEMBERING THE REBELLION

Two books on the first war of independence, published by the Publications Division as part of their series of books to commemorate the 150 years of 1857 uprising, were released at a function at the Fair. *Delhi in 1857*, written by Prabha Chopra was released by Dr. Rizwan Qaiser, a historian and scholar in the Dept of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia University. The other book *1857—The Uprising* written by Mr. Gautam Gupta, was released by Mrs. Stuti Kacker, Jt. Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.



GANDHI IN LINES AND COLOURS

Gandhi it seems is the source of great delight to artists and painters of all genres. If one looks at the Gandhi Pavilion, one would be surprised to see the works of so many prominent artists at one place, which is otherwise difficult to find.

Gandhi in Words and in Deeds is as much significant as Gandhi in Lines and Colours. The works of more than 30 artists are on display. These are, of course, blown-up copies. However, they beautifully bring alive different facets of Gandhi's life from different perspectives as visualised by the artists over the years.

Gandhi's frail dhoti clad profile with specs and stick may seem to be the simplistic approach in the eyes of the viewers but to bring alive the spirit and personality of Gandhi is quite a difficult job. All the works on display are the testament of that spirit. Every visitor in the World Book Fair should also make it a point to experience that spirit in the Gandhi Pavilion.



Illustration by R.K. Laxman

**ENTRY FOR
THE BOOK
FAIR IS FREE
FOR LIBRARIANS
WITH I-CARDS
AND
SCHOOL
CHILDREN
ACCOMPANIED
BY
TEACHERS**

TODAY'S EVENTS

Time	Event	Venue	Organiser
10:00 – 17:00	Seminar on the Future of Creativite Writing	Hall No. 6 Mezzanine Floor, Conference Room I	Indian Society of Authors
10.00 – 18:00	Seminar on "Bhoomandalikaran ke daur mein pustak ki bhoomika"	Hall No. 6 Mezzanine Floor, Conference Room II	Aalekh Prakashan
11:00 – 13:00	Book Release Function	Hall No. 6 Mezzanine Floor, Seminar Hall	Vani Prakashan

AT RUSSIAN PAVILION

Time	Events	Venue
11:00	Programme: "Information Technologies in Education"	Education and IT zone, Hall 7D
11:30	Demonstration Russian lesson: "I speak Russian" Presentation: "New Russian textbooks"	Conference room, Hall 7D
13:00	Round table: "Children's literature: the web and the book, a matter of priority"	Conference room, Hall 7D
15:00	Meeting with writer Eduard Uspensky	Conference room, Hall 7D



AT CHILDREN'S PAVILION HALL NO. 7B

AT YOUTH PAVILION HALL NO. 7B



- Book-based Dance Drama organised by NBT and National School of Drama
- Nukkad Natak/Play/Story telling

4:00 p.m.
Meet the Journalists



GANDHI PAVILION AT HALL 7E : Schedule of Films/Documentaries

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12:00 — Bapu Katha (Hindi) • 16:00 — Bapu Katha (Hindi) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14:00 — Poorna Swaraj: Parleys and Broken Pacts • 18:00 — Gandhi: A Biography |
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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 & 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; Hall No. 12A Stall Nos. 64 to 68**

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