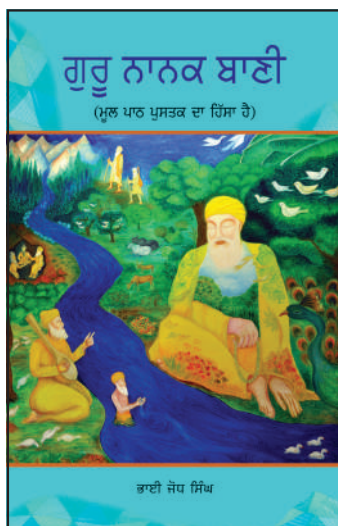


Contents

550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak	1-2
Bilaspur Book Fair	3
NBT Celebrates Northeast Day	4-5
Frankfurt Book Fair	7
Sharjah International Book Fair	7
National Education Day	8

PICK OF THE MONTH



Guru Nanak Bani
Bhai Jodh Singh
978-81-237-8794-4; Rs 305

550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak



To commemorate the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, National Book Trust, India has brought out three Punjabi titles – *Guru Nanak Bani*, *Nanak Bani*, and *Sakhian: Guru Nanak Dev* – to spread the message of Guru Nanak Dev's writings and his teachings. The *Guru Nanak Bani* has also been published in Urdu, Odia, Marathi, Hindi and Gujarati languages. These language editions were also released on the occasion.

Besides, the book is also under translation in Asamiya, Bangla, Kannada, Sanskrit, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Sindhi and English languages.

"Gurbani is just not 550 years old. It is as old as the Earth is and distills the wisdom of the world," said Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Hon'ble Union Minister of Human Resource Development while releasing the books. He further said that Guru Nanak Dev's teachings are relevant





in today's world of complexities, and the youth world over, needs to follow his philosophy of humanity, equality and 'One God'.

Dr Pokhriyal also informed that in addition to the Guru Nanak Dev Chairs in Indian Universities, the Government has announced Guru Nanak Dev Chairs in Universities in United Kingdom as well as in Canada. Besides, many programmes, seminars, discussions, discourses and book release functions are being organised across the world by Indian missions abroad.

Speaking on the occasion, Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Food Processing Industries commended NBT for the release of the titles, and said that it was indeed a need of the hour. She was happy to know that NBT had already published Guru Nanak Bani in five Indian languages and was planning to publish it in 15 Indian languages as well so that the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev reach millions of Indians across languages,

and everyone benefits from his message of 'One God' and peace amongst the fellow beings.

In his brief address, Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, NBT shared a few anecdotes with the audience from Guru Nanak Dev's life, and informed that the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev transcend social, religious, colour, creed and ethnic barriers. He said that NBT has published these books not for commercial reasons alone, but to spread the word of Guru Nanak's teachings.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, passed a Resolution in November 2018, to celebrate the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev in the year 2019, throughout the country and across the globe, in a grand and befitting manner along with State Governments and the Indian Missions abroad. One of the highlights of the decisions taken in the Cabinet meeting was that the National

Book Trust, India will publish Gurbani in different Indian languages. UNESCO will publish Guru Nanak Dev's writings in major world languages.

The books were released by Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India; and by Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Hon'ble Minister for Food Processing Industries, Govt. of India, at Shri Guru Teg Bahadur Khalsa College, University of Delhi on 7 November 2019. Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, National Book Trust, India; Shri Manjinder Singh Sirsa, President, SGPC Delhi; Dr Jaswinder Singh, Principal, Shri Guru Teg Bahadur Khalsa College; Shri S. Tarlochan Singh, former Rajya Sabha Member and currently Chairman, governing body of Shri Guru Teg Bahadur Khalsa College; and Dr Jaspal Singh, former Vice Chancellor, Punjabi University, Patiala and Member NCMEI were also present on the occasion.

NBT Observes Vigilance Awareness Week

National Book Trust, India observed Vigilance Awareness Week from 28 October to 2 November 2019. The Week commenced with the Integrity Pledge by the officers and employees of the Trust at NBT Conference Room on 30 October 2019. The pledge was administered by Ms Neera Jain, Director, NBT.

During the week, a lecture on the topic 'Integrity: A way of Life' was organised at NBT Conference Room on 1 November 2019. Shri Arun Gaur, former Joint Secretary, Union Public Service Commission, delivered the lecture.

In his address, Shri Gaur said that integrity should not only be a practice in



office but also in our day to day life like following traffic rules. He added that, "We need to work without fear and favour."

While sharing some of the instances that he experienced during his career, Shri Gaur gave an insight into the challenges

that are often faced by the employees. He also spoke of the need to adhere to the rules and regulations including conduct and transparency while performing the duty.

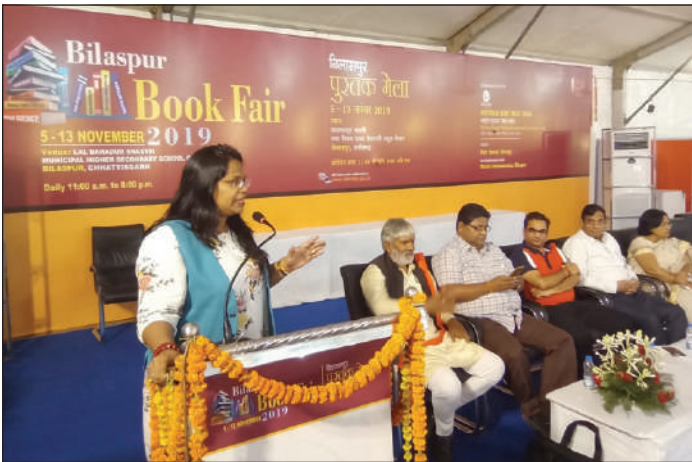
Shri Kumar Vikram, Editor (English) and Chief Vigilance Officer, NBT coordinated the programme.



Bilaspur Book Fair

National Book Trust, India in association with District Administration, Bilaspur organised the Bilaspur Book Fair at Lalbahadur Shastri Nagar Nigam Higher Secondary School ground, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh from 5 – 13 November 2019.

In the opening ceremony, Prof. Bansh Gopal Singh, Vice Chancellor, Pt Sundarlal Open University said that book fairs help in developing habit of reading among the youth and brings litterateurs closer to the readers.



Talking about the printed books, Dr Gauri Dutt Sharma, Vice Chancellor, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Vishwavidyalaya said that even in this age of electronic media, the quality of books have not diminished and therefore, books are a better option to gain knowledge.

Dr Sanjay Kumar Alung, District Magistrate, Bilaspur and Dr Vinay Pathak, former Chairman, Rajbhasha Ayog also spoke on the occasion. They thanked NBT for organizing the Fair at Bilaspur and urged people to read more and more books as they guide us to go ahead in life.

During the Fair, several literary and cultural activities were organized. A panel



discussion on the topic 'Printed Words in the Age of Internet' was organized. The panelists discussed about the changes in the style of writing in recent times. They said that with a large number of people now joining social media platforms like Facebook, there has been a drastic change

the need to conserve languages in their original form. Among those who spoke on the occasion include Shri Ajay Sharma, Shri Sandeep Gupta, Shri Virendra, Shri Vishwadesh Thakare and Ms Priyanka Kaushal. Shri Ajit Jogi, former Chief Minister; Shri Vinay Pathak and Shri



in the habit of reading and writing. Now, people use emojis and jargons to express their feelings. They also expressed their concern over the diminishing habit of reading and writing among people and

Dwarka Prasad Agrawal also graced the occasion.

On 6 November, a panel discussion on 'Role of Books in Today's Times' was organized in which noted writers including Dr Susheel Trivedi, Shri Sudhir Sharma, Shri Ramkumar Tewari, among others participated. Besides a session on Hindi Satire and a poets' meet were also organized.

Over 40 publishers from across the country including Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi participated in the Fair and displayed books across genres in Hindi, English and Urdu languages.



“Mother tongue gives you sight, other languages that you master give you a new dimension to your sight and reading of books gives you foresight,” said Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu, Hon’ble Vice President of India while inaugurating the 21st edition of North East Book Fair (1-12 November 2019) organised by All Assam Publishers and Book Sellers Association at Assam Engineering Institute playground on 1 November. Professor Jagdish Mukhi, Governor of Assam, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Siddhartha Bhattacharya, Education Minister of Assam, Shri S C Sethi, President, Federation of Publishers and Booksellers Association of India and Shri Imran Ahmed, President, All Assam Publishers and Book Sellers Association among others, graced the occasion. Ms Neera Jain, Director, NBT was the Guest of Honour at the session.



and Book Sellers Association. The daylong celebration began with a Quiz Competition on Language, Literature and Culture of North East India among school and college going children. Renowned

books worth Rs 50,000/-, Rs 30,000/- and Rs 20,000/- respectively.

A Panel Discussion on ‘Literature and Society in North East: Connections and Influences’ was held on the second



As part of the North East Book Fair, the NBT organised the North East Day on the second day of the Fair to showcase North East India’s vibrant culture and literature. The programme was organised in association with All Assam Publishers



journalist and quiz master Dilip Kumar Sarma conducted the quiz. The first three teams in Group-A were awarded NBT books worth Rs 30,000/-, Rs 20,000/- and Rs 10,000/- respectively. The first three teams in Group-B were awarded NBT

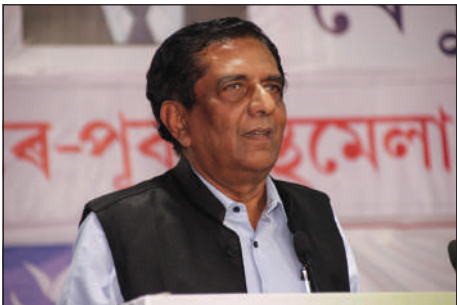


North East Day



day. The discussion was inaugurated by Dr Amarjyoti Choudhury, eminent scientist, playwright, educationist and former Vice Chancellor of Gauhati University. In his address, Dr Choudhury

urged NBT to bring out more books reflecting the region’s myriad language, literature and culture. Shri Imran Ahmed, in his address, thanked NBT for organising North East Day in the Fair.



India Dr Rita Chowdhury; recipient of Sahitya Akademy’s Bal Sahitya Puraskar (2016) in English Rashmi Narzary; and a young literary critic and essayist from Arunachal Pradesh Professor Doyir Ete Taipodia. The panellists were of the view that contemporary literature from North East India has much more to offer beyond the region’s folklore and folk traditions. They held that the literary voices from the region have strong narratives on issues confronting the society and the nation at large.

Earlier, welcoming the panellists and the audience, Smt Neera Jain, Director, NBT emphasized on the Trust’s continuous thrust on promoting books and reading habit.

The North East Day celebration concluded with a NE Folk Cultural Programme. The audience were treated to Sattriya Dance from Assam, Cheraw



The panel discussion was moderated by Shri Dhruba Hazarika, former bureaucrat and well-known writer. The other invited panellists in the discussion were renowned writer and Sahitya Akademi awardee, and former Director of National Book Trust,

Dance from Mizoram, Nongkrem Dance from Meghalaya, Raas Nritya from Manipur, Mao Dance from Nagaland, Hojagiri Dance from Tripura, Bihu Dance from Assam and a medley of Folk Dances from Assam among others.



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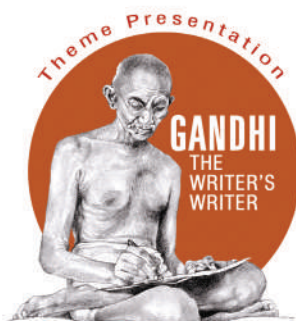
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INDIA TRADE PROMOTION ORGANISATION

Frankfurt Book Fair

The 2019 edition of Frankfurt Book Fair, the world's largest B2B book fair, came to an end on 20 October 2019. The Fair saw participation of nearly 7500 exhibitors from 109 countries. Norway was the Guest of Honour Country this year.

National Book Trust, India which has been participating in the Frankfurt Book Fair since 1970, and has the rare distinction of presenting India as the Guest of Honour Country at the Fair twice (in 1986 and 2006), had a very rich and engaging participation this year.

NBT, India had put up a Collective Exhibit of more than 200 titles of 32 Indian publishers and also had Vigyan Prasar as co-exhibitor. The Collective Exhibit of



books was also enlivened with tastefully done panel size posters projecting 'Books on and by Mahatma Gandhi', 'Gandhi: The Writers' Writer', 'Reading Spaces in India: A Representative Chronology', 'New Delhi World Book Fair 2020', Guest Country Presentations of India in 2019-20 at Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (UAE), Guadalajara International Book Fair (Mexico) and Paris Book Fair (France). The books of the Collective Exhibit were donated to the library of the Consulate General of India, Frankfurt for further use for the local readers.



The NBT, India delegation had meetings with nearly 45 delegates representing 25 countries including Chief Executive Officers, Managing Directors and other senior professionals from publishing houses, International Book Fair Authorities, International Book Trade Journals, Rights Agencies, International Book Distributors, besides authors, editors and readers for collaborations in the field of publishing through translations and copyright exchange, book fairs and book promotion.

The three-member delegation from NBT, India led by its Chairman, Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, included Shri Kumar Vikram, Editor (English), and Shri Mayank Surolia, Deputy Director.



Sharjah International Book Fair



National Book Trust, India participated at the 38th edition of Sharjah International Book Fair held at Expo Centre, Sharjah from 30 October to 9 November 2019.

His Highness Dr Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, inaugurated the Fair. The theme this year, 'Open Books Open Minds' celebrated Sharjah as the World Book Capital 2019. The Republic of Mexico was the Guest of Honour country at the Fair. Nearly 1800 exhibitors from 77 countries participated at the Fair.

The Fair saw the participation of 173

leading authors from 68 countries in over 900 events ranging from book discussions and signings, theatre, social media events, kids and cookery activities, and more, in addition to plays, magic shows and comics-based activities.

Well-known authors and personalities from different fields who participated in the Fair included Steve Harvey; America's most-loved host; Orhan Pamuk, the first Turkish novelist to win the Nobel Prize for Literature for the year 2006; the leadership guru, Robin Sharma; Elisabetta Dami, children's author from Italy; Bernice L.



McFadden, the American author; Gulzar, noted poet; Vikram Seth, Anita Nair, well-known Indian authors, among others.

National Book Trust, India displayed a collective exhibit of a wide range of books from different publishers in English, Hindi and other Indian languages. The NBT stall was visited by a large number of people and children. Besides, noted personalities and writers including Orhan Pamuk, Gulzar and Vikram Seth also visited the stall.

Shri SR Veenesh, Regional Manager, SRO and Shri Bratin Dey, Regional Manager, ERO represented NBT at the Fair.

National Education Day

As part of National Education Day celebrations, National Book Trust, India organised a lecture on the topic 'Reading Material Other Than Textbooks Help Children' at its headquarters in Delhi on 11 November 2019. Shri Chandra Bhushan Sharma, Chairman, NIOS delivered the lecture.

"Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was the first Education Minister of India who played a significant role in freedom struggle of India," said Shri Chandra Bhushan Sharma. He said that that no other person would know the importance of printed words as much as Maulana Abul Kalam Azad did. He further added that even though there were restrictions, Abul Kalam Azad brought out a newspaper during the freedom struggle to inspire people to join the movement.

Talking about the importance of reading books other than textbooks, Shri Sharma said that textbooks have a specific purpose, but to develop overall personality, children must be encouraged to read books other than textbooks. He further added that books like *Mahabharata*, *Ramayana* and *Panchtantra* give us knowledge, moral values and tolerance.

Shri Sharma said that activities like storytelling help in inculcating the habit of reading among children. He said that the project 'Vanche Gujarat' initiated by PM Modi encouraged a large number of



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children, especially in rural areas to read books.

Referring to the NBT books published under the 'Creative Learning Series,' Shri Sharma said that books like *Totto Chan* and *Divaswapna* helped teachers in finding new ways to teach children and start class room libraries in their schools. He added that he used to distribute a good number of these books to teachers because of their low price.

Earlier, Ms Neera Jain, Director, NBT welcomed the distinguished guest. She said that Maulana Abul Kalam Azad had been associated with the Ministry of Education for a long time and his guidance is followed even today.

To commemorate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first Education Minister of India, National Education Day is celebrated across the country every year on 11 November.

The programme was coordinated by Shri Dwijendra Kumar, English Editor, NBT.

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Editor: Binny Kurian

Editorial Associate: Surekha Sachdeva

Production Officer: Narender Kumar



NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA

Nehru Bhawan, 5 Institutional Area,
Vasant Kunj, Phase-II New Delhi-110 070
E-mail: office.nbt@nic.in

Website: www.nbtindia.gov.in

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