



Tuesday, 4 February 2025

‘Collaboration not Competition’: New Delhi Rights Table

With the New Delhi World Book Fair 2025 witnessing a 30 percent growth over last year, the National Book Trust has encouraged Indian publishers to expand their global presence by joining the NBT pavilion at international book fairs “free of cost.”

“The book industry grows when everyone grows—it is about collaboration, not competition. This is the only industry which will grow when everyone grows because we are not here to eat each other's pie; we are here to create a pie for each other”, the Director of NBT, Col. Yuvraj Malik said at the inaugural session of the New Delhi Rights Table, one of the two B2B events at the ongoing NDWBF here.

“The fair has grown 30 percent compared to last year”, the NBT Director, announced, contradicting the notion of a decline in reading habits and invited Indian publishers to join the NBT pavilion at international book fairs “free of cost to network and hold business meetings to expand their global presence.”

Col. Malik, who is also the CEO of NDWBF, announced translation grants by NBT to support cross-language publishing and urged Indian publishers to go beyond English and Hindi and explore regional languages, highlighting the vast linguistic diversity in India.

The guidelines for applying will be uploaded post-NDWBF on the NBT website and social media. Support will also be extended to foreign publishers interested in Indian regional content, Col. Malik said outlining a string of commercial services offered by NBT to engage with the book industry in a big way.

The NBT could provide free-of-cost book launch facilities in Delhi with logistics arranged “within 15 minutes” at top locations, Col. Malik said as he invited countries to send eminent writers, poets, and illustrators for literary tours to India adding that NBT would cover their all their expenses for such events.

Buoyed by the success of NDWBF, Col. Malik also spoke about NBT’s plans to set up a major book fair in South India with the same infrastructure and global outreach as Delhi.

Also in consideration is a ‘Book to Screen’ initiative that will allow authors to submit books for film adaptation. NBT, he said, would help authors reach out to top producers, directors, and actors for book-to-screen discussions.



Presenting the perspective of Russian Publishing Industry, Mr. Dmitry Silin, the International Relations Head of Russian Publishing House, said that “One of the most important tasks for us is to promote the Russian language all over the world, especially in Asia, where Russia’s main trading partners are concentrated and where new forms of relationships are being built in various spheres—culture, science, and education.”

NBT Chairman Prof. Milind Sudhakar Marathe drew focus to the scale of the event and its importance in global publishing and expressed optimism about the New Delhi Rights Table initiative. “I am hopeful that many good transfers of rights will come up through these two days.”

Mr Kumar Vikram, Chief Editor and Joint director of NBT, emphasized upon the importance of books saying “If there is a crisis in the book industry, then it won't be a crisis of the book industry; it will be a crisis of society.”

The New Delhi Rights Table is a significant component of the World Book Fair 2025, focusing on B2B interactions in publishing. The two-day event facilitates rights exchanges, enabling books to be translated and published across different languages and markets. It encourages collaboration between Indian and international publishers, ensuring a diverse and rich literary landscape. It is also aimed at fostering global readership by facilitating the availability of quality literature in multiple languages.



Publishers as Nation Builders: CEOspeak

The crucial role of publishers and creative industry in shaping national identity, culture and fostering a reading nation was highlighted by leading lights of the industry in an NBT-organized panel discussion based on the theme of the CEOspeak event “Publishers as Nation Builders” as part of Republic@75 Dialogues.

The discussion featured insights from international experts including Brooke O'Donnell, Senior VP, IGP, Subramanyam Seshadri, Publisher, Overleaf LLP, Sergei Kaykin, General Director, JSC, General Directorate of International Book Exhibitions and Fairs, Pradeep Hasanta, CEO Goodreads Lanka, Sri Lanka and Kumar Vikram, Chief Editor, NBT. It was moderated by Jaya Bhattacharji Rose, an International Publishing Consultant.



NDWBF 2025 hosted the 12th edition of the CEOspeak on Sunday bringing together leading national and international publishers from the Russian Federation, UAE, Sri Lanka and 50 other countries.

The gathering was addressed by the CEO of Niti Ayog, B.V.R. Subramanyam, Prof. Milind Sudhakar Marathe, NBT Chairman and Yuvraj Malik, NBT Director and Kumar Vikram, Chief Editor and JD, NBT. The reports highlighting Russian publishing industry were presented by Evgeny Kapiev, CEO, Eksmo Publishing House and Tatiyana Solovyeva Editor-in-Chief, Alpina. Proza Publishing house. A report on the Moscow International Book Fair was also delivered by Sergei Kaykin, CEO, General Directorate of International Book Exhibitions and Fairs.



NBT releases first book on Prison Radio

Radio in Prison is the first book on prison radio in India released by the National Book Trust. Written by India's leading prison reformer and media educator Dr Vartika Nanda, this book documents and narrates the role of radio in improving prison life for inmates. As founder of Tinka Tinka Foundation, she has conceptualized, selected and trained the inmates, and executed prison radios in District Jail, Agra, District Jail, Dehradun and the state of Haryana without any financial support.

The book was released by Professor Milind Sudhakar Marathe, Chairman, NBT; Kumar Vikram, Chief Editor, NBT; Shri PN Pandey, DIG Prisons, Agra Range; Ms Mahek Kasbekar, Editor in Chief and Journalist, Brut India, as well as Dr. Vartika Nanda, founder, Tinka Tinka Foundation.

The Chairman in his welcome note emphasized on how Radio in Prison is a book that needs to be read by everyone. He stated that, in life, there are some events that are very moving. ‘This book has touched the lives of countless,’ he stated.

The release of the book was followed by the presentation of a video encompassing Tinka Jail Radio and its culmination - the book itself. A song composed and sung by Dr Suchit Narang, a blind convict lodged in District Jail, Dehradun was the background score for the video. It resonated with the audience and evoked a range of emotions.

Ms Mahek Kasbekar moderated the session. She began the discussion by asking the author about the uniqueness of the concept of jail journalism, introduced by Tinka in Indian prisons, and its impact on the incarcerated souls. Dr Nanda gave a thoughtful insight about the inception, selection of inmates in jails as Radio Jockeys, their exceptional work, especially during COVID-19, and subsequently creating a reservoir of creative wealth in Indian prisons through the use of the microphone.

The Tinka Jail Radio model, jail podcasts, jail awards and books on jail life have all contributed to document the

unknown aspects of prison life. She emphasized that jail radio has significantly contributed in decreasing depression and instances of aggression and self-harm in jails, because it has proved powerful in giving inmates a much needed safe space and creative outlet.

Shri PN Pandey assured that new prison radios would be initiated in UP Prisons soon. It is to be noted that UP Prisons have already included the suggestions made by Dr Nanda on the communication needs of women inmates and their children. This report was supported by ICSSR and was released by Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh in August 2024.

The discussion concluded with Dr Nanda reflecting on how her work in prison reform has profoundly shaped her perspective, deepening her appreciation for freedom — something many take for granted. The panel also welcomed insights from the audience, collectively expressing hope that ordinary citizens would engage with *Radio in Prison*, a book that seeks to illuminate the realities of life behind bars.



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Contribution of Women in Law-making

"*Laws shape societies, but who shapes the laws?*" This thought-provoking question echoes through the pages of '*Kayade Nirmittit Shriyanche Yogdan*', a Marathi book authored by Dr Vidya Deodhar. Released by National Book Trust (NBT) Chairman, Prof. Milind Sudhakar Marathe, at the ongoing Fair, the book sheds light on the often-overlooked contributions of women in lawmaking that stretches far beyond the parliamentary chambers and run deep into India's historical roots.

While laws today are debated and drafted in legislative halls, the journey of women's influence in lawmaking dates back to the Vedic period, says Dr Deodhar, who has presented an account of 450 such women in the aforementioned book that loosely translates as the contribution of women to law-making.

While this book includes the stories of remarkable women like Ghosha, Maitreyi, and Apala, who were trailblazers centuries ago, she is working on another book comprising 600 women in the medieval period, out of which 200 were freedom fighters.

Dr Deodhar emphasized that her book challenges the conventional understanding of women's role in governance. "Lawmakers often consider women's perspectives from a parliamentary lens, but my book delves deeper, tracing their influence from the Vedic period. These women were not just

participants but they were also visionaries who shaped policies long before modern legislatures existed."

In a world where history often focuses on kings and conquerors, '*Kayade Nirmittit Shriyanche Yogdan*' rewrites the narrative, giving rightful space to the women who helped in crafting the laws that continue to guide us today.



Saudi Arabia's Stall Becomes a Cultural Hotspot at NDWBF

The International Pavilion at the New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF), like every year, is once again drawing a massive crowd, with visitors eagerly exploring stalls set up by different countries. Among them, the Saudi Arabia stall has emerged as a major attraction, engaging a large number of people.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which was the Guest of Honour country in NDWBF 2024, is spread over a lavish enclosure which is divided into two key sections. One section highlights the renowned King Fahd National Library, showcasing its digital collections on a screen, while the other focuses on the country's Literature, Publishing, and Translation Commission.

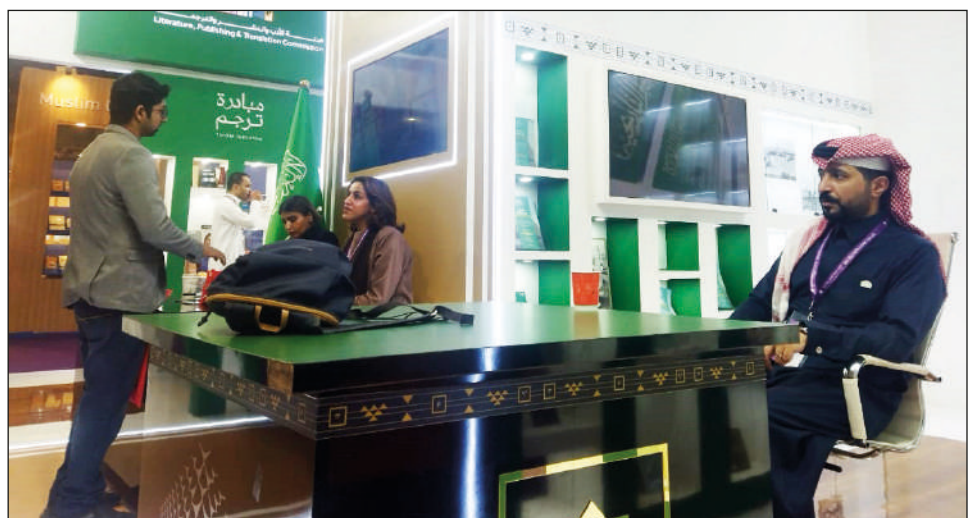
A part of this section is dedicated to the "Tarjem" initiative, which promotes Saudi Arabia's translation movement. Additionally, a wall display features a series of short story collections by Saudi authors, offering insights into the Arabian country's literary landscape, while another wall showcases comics and books for young readers.

Unlike many other countries' stalls, the Saudi stall does not sell books, but serves as an informative space where visitors can learn about the Kingdom's cultural and literary initiatives. Representatives at the stall, dressed in traditional Saudi *thobes* (loose gown) with *keffiyehs*

(headdress), have also become a point of interest, attracting visitors, eagerly taking selfies with them.

One of the representatives, Majid, who is managing the library section, shared his experience of being in India for the first time. "The experience has been excellent so far. Indian people are very friendly and welcoming. They are really liking our stall," he said, while posing for photos with visitors.

Saudi Arabia's participation in NDWBF aligns with its broader efforts to strengthen cultural cooperation with India, showcase its literary contributions, and promote intellectual exchange between the two nations, he said.



Sense Boring, Nonsense Interesting: Pankaj Tripathi

Handle your relationships with care, resolve pending conflicts, don't take success and failure too seriously, and strike up friendships with books, said beloved actor Pankaj Tripathi in a free-wheeling discussion organized by the Bharat Literary Festival.

Walking into the Theme Pavilion to a thunderous applause, the popular actor displayed a personality that is authentic, honest and emotional. Standing up throughout the hour-long discussion after a visitor said she wanted to see him better, Tripathi answered questions in his inimitable style - languid, pensive and visibly unpretentious.

Taking 20 questions from author Akshat Gupta, Tripathi spoke of how he would want to write satire and poetry if it comes to that but not about his journey because all human struggle is nearly similar. "If you desire something and do not get it, just bow to that truth, and move on," he said on a philosophical note. Asked about his association with literature, he said he started reading in his youth and has continued to do so.

Tripathi also announced the launch of an App called 'Velvet' - an audio platform that he has created in partnership with his friends to disseminate literary stories. "These tales increase the power of our imagination and help shape and refine our personality," he noted, encouraging the audience to read voraciously.

Overwhelmed by a cancer survivor who had come all the way from Bhopal to meet him, her idol, Tripathi got teary-

eyed and confessed, "This love is the true earning of an actor. The material riches pale in comparison." Showered with love and adulation, he remained grounded and interacted with the eager enthusiastic spectators, teeming with die-hard fans. People asked him to recite dialogues. He did. They asked him impromptu questions. He responded. Admirers jostled with one another to take selfies with him. He obliged them. A consummate actor. A people's actor.



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Book Release and Discussion: “Islam, Authoritarianism and Underdevelopment” by Ahmet T. Kuru



The Khusro Foundation organized an insightful event featuring the release and discussion of the book, *Islam, Authoritarianism and Underdevelopment: A Global and Historical Comparison* authored by Ahmet T. Kuru. The event brought together prominent speakers, including Mobashar Jawed Akbar as a keynote speaker and Hafeezur Rahman as the moderator.

The programme began with the felicitation of esteemed guests. Ahmet T. Kuru emphasized India’s significance not only as the world’s most populous nation but, also as a hub of cultural diversity. He elaborated on how Arab civilizations historically led advancements in science, education, and societal structures, teaching lessons that later influenced Europe.

Kuru’s talk was followed by Mobashar Jawed Akbar’s remarks. Akbar praised the book for its bold approach in challenging radical ideas. Akbar further discussed the need for

Muslim communities to reconcile with modernity to overcome their current challenges.

Ajit Doval, the Chief Guest, concluded the event with a thought-provoking speech. He emphasized the importance of books as vital sources of knowledge and stressed the need for introspection within communities. Doval spoke about the inherent conflicts in religion and faith, noting that internal conflicts are resolved through meditation, while external disputes require dialogue. He highlighted how state-led wars, particularly those rooted in religious motivations, stifle the emergence of new ideas. Doval commended the Khusro Foundation for organizing the event and promoting meaningful discourse on critical social and religious issues.



The event ended with expressions of gratitude to all guests, speakers, and organizers. It offered a platform for critical discussions on history, religion, and socio-political challenges while under-scoring the importance of dialogue and intellectual engagement for societal progress.

Cultural Events

Book Fair witnesses the audience grooving to the tunes of performers at amphitheatre 1, Bharat Mandapam. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. today with performance by Pragnya Wakhlu Live.



Book Release

A collection of Odia poems by Saibala Mahapatra, translated into Hindi by Dr Rajendra Prasad Mishra was released today by Shri Leeladhar Mandoloi, former DG, AIR and Director, Bhartiya Jnanpith. Later, a copy of the book was presented by the poet to Shri Balaram, Editor, Samkaleen Bharatiya Sahitya.



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EVENTS TODAY

Theme Pavilion

Hall No. 5

Time	Event	Organiser
11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Reflection of Indian Civilisational Values on Indian Constitution	NBT
1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.	Impact of Cultural Icon Basavanna on the Constitution of India	NBT
3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	Book Release and an Interactive Session	
4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.	Contribution of Women in the Making of the Indian Constitution: A Panel Discussion on Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (First Health Minister)	NBT
5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.	The Depths of Pain, The Heights of Realisation-Panel Discussion	Bharat Literature Festival
6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.	Multilingual Fabric of Indian Constitution	NBT

International Events/Foreign Pavilion

Hall No. 4

Time	Event	Organiser
11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.	Football en español : A Workshop on Beginner-level Spanish by David Serrano Puente	Instituto Cervantes New Delhi
12:00 noon - 12:50 p.m.	Preserving Heritage and Tradition: A Presentation by Fathia al Nemer	UAE
1:00 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.	The Culture Industry: A Discussion by Abeer al-Ali	Literature, Publishing and Translation Commission, Saudi Arabia
2:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.	A Lecture-travel with Anastasia Strokina on <i>Atlas of Mysterious Places of Russia</i>	Institute of Literary Translation & Association of Writers' and Publishers' Union of Russia
4:00 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.	Sharing Stories: Polish-Indian Literary and Cultural Connections Launch of <i>Maharaja's Children: Story of Polish Kids in Jamnagar</i> and <i>Polish Literature on India</i> Followed by Panel Discussion	NBT in association with Poland Institute New Delhi
5:00 p.m. - 5:50 p.m.	Literature and Literary Museums: Dialogue or Conflict? A Lecture by Dmitry Bak, a writer and Director of the State Museum of the History of Russian Literature,	Institute of Literary Translation & Association of Writers' and Publishers' Union of Russia

Authors' Corner

Hall No. 5

Time	Event	Organiser
11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	The Evolution of Literary Genres	Author's Ink Publications (FoF)
12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.	Thrill and Mythology: Do they go hand in hand ?	Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (FoF)
1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.	Book Voyages: Discussing journeys from Page to Screen	Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (FoF)
2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Book Launch and Discussion <i>The Unstoppable: Challenges of a Blind Person in Life</i> by Ranjan Mohapatra & Kushal Kulkarni	Clever Fox Publishing Pvt. Ltd.
3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	Poetry: Why it Matters in Today's World	The Great Indian Book Tour (FoF)
4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.	Book Release <i>From Cells to Ecosystems: The Science of Life Revealed</i> "Wizard of Biology" by Dr Rittika Dhankhar	Booklover Publishing House (OPC) Pvt. Ltd.
5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.	Launch and Discussion on <i>Temple tour - 4 volumes</i> Temples from North, South, West and East by Rajiv Aggarwal	Aggarwal Publications
6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.	Book Launch and Discussion on <i>Hassle - Free Business Set up in India</i> by C.A. Manish Gupta	Pendown Press LLP
7:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.	Panel Discussion: World Cancer Day "United by Unique" Role of personalised patient centred care in fight against cancer	NBT

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Lekhak Manch

Hall No. 2

Time	Event	Organiser
12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.	Discussion with comic writer Rishiraj	Prabhat Prakashan.
1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.	Book release and discussion on Padma Shri Ramdarsh Mishr's work	Ramdarsh Mishr Trust.
3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	"Refujiyon ki ladki"- Panel discussion with Dr. Vandana Garg, Shree Rupam Sharma, Manmohan Sharma, Virat Garg and Prof. O.P. Sharma	Anuradha Publication.
4:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.	"Mushaera" by Iqbal Azhar, Nusrat Mehndi, Popular Meeruthi, Chandrbhaan khayal, Sheen Khaaf Nizam and Moin Shadab	NBT and Council for Promotion of Urdu language.
6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.	"O.P. Singh ki aatm katha"- A discussion on O.P. Singh's book	Prabhat Prakashan.

Cultural Events

Amphitheatre 1

Time	Event	Organiser
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Pragnya Wakhlu Live	
6:30 p.m. onwards	One Man Orchestra - Dost Arora	

Children's Pavilion

Hall No. 6

Time	Event	Organiser
10:30 am - 11:15 am	Storytelling session	Anita Bhatnagar Jain
11:30 am - 12:15 pm	Quiz Competition by Scholastic	Aditty Mubayi
12:15 pm - 12:25 pm	Meet your favourite Cartoon Character	Dogman
12:25 pm - 12:50 pm	Titoo's Cricket Colouring Competition	Warner Bros Discovery
12:50 pm - 1:15 pm	Book Launch by Eklavya Foundation	Shivnarayan Gaur
1:20 pm - 2:00 pm	Meet the Math Mentalist	Rahul Singh
2:15 pm - 2:45 pm	Storytelling by Eklavya Foundation	Rohan Chakravarty
3:00 pm - 3:45 pm	Children Authors' Meet	Scholastic
4:15 pm - 6:15 pm	Screening of Children's Movies	NCCL

Building Cultural Bridges through Poetry Translation: A Presentation by Dr. Shihab Ghanem

The UAE organized an insightful session titled 'Building Cultural Bridges through Poetry Translation', presented by the esteemed Dr Shihab Ghanem at the International Events Corner during the New Delhi World Book Fair.

Dr Ghanem, a renowned poet and translator, shared his experiences in literary translation and highlighted the cultural significance of translation, referring to India's rich literary



heritage and the role of its publishing houses. He also recited a poem he wrote on the Taj Mahal, emphasizing its poetic inspiration. Additionally, he spoke about global organizations that promote translated literature, fostering cross-cultural understanding. The session effectively underscored how translation acts as a bridge between cultures, enriching literary traditions worldwide.

PRAGATI MAIDAN: HOW TO REACH US

Fair Duration : 1 to 9th February 2025
Time : 11 am to 8 pm
Place : Hall No. 2 to 6

Hall No. 6

Children's Pavilion
Science and Technology, Social Science and Humanities
Children's Publishers

Hall No. 5

Theme Pavilion
Authors' Corner
General and Trade Publishers

Hall No. 4

International Pavilion
Authors' Lounge
International Events Corner

Hall No. 3 (Mezzanine)

New Delhi Rights Table

Hall No. 2

Lekhak Manch
Indian Language Publishers

AMPHITHEATRE 1

Cultural Programmes
Entry: Gate No. 10 (near Supreme Court Metro Station)
Free shuttle service available

Gate No. 4 (Bhairon Marg), Gate No. 3

Note: Wheelchair service is available at Gate No. 4, 3 & 10 at Pragati Maidan. Mobile Bank ATM vehicle and Ambulance services are also available.

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT 20 METRO STATIONS

Book lovers planning to visit the New Delhi World Book Fair 2025 through Delhi Metro have an opportunity at hand. The tickets are available at 20 metro stations in the NCR. The Price for adults is 20 rupees and for children, it is 10 rupees. The entry is free for students in uniform, elderly and differently abled citizens.

The tickets are available at the following metro stations:

1. Red Line stations: Rithala, Dilshad Garden, Welcome
2. Blue Line stations: Kirti Nagar, Mandi House, Supreme Court, Vaishali, Noida City Centre, Botanical Garden, Indraprastha, Noida Sector 52, Dwarka
3. Yellow Line stations: Vishwavidyalaya, Guru Tegh Bahadur Nagar, Kashmiri Gate, Rajiv Chowk
4. Violet Line station: ITO
5. Green Line station: Mundka
6. Pink Line station: INA
7. Magenta Line station: Hauz Khas

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Language wise Publishers

- Hindi **153** • Urdu **20** • Sanskrit **4** • Malayalam **2**
- Punjabi **6** • Tamil **1** • Bengali **3** • English **337**
- Sindhi **2** • Maithili **2** • Odia **4**

“Books, Democracy, and the Indian Mind”

J. Sai Deepak at the World Book Fair

“**B**ooks are irreplaceable,” these three words, spoken with conviction by Indian activist and lawyer J. Sai Deepak, echoed through the Theme Pavilion at Bharat Mandapam’s Hall No. 5. The golden illustrations from the Constitution of India, meticulously crafted, stood as a testament to the nation’s rich legal and historical traditions. Amidst this intellectual splendor, the arrival of J. Sai Deepak on stage was met with applause, an eager audience of young minds ready to engage in thought-provoking discussions.

From democracy to international affairs, Deepak addressed questions that burned in the minds of India’s youth. Speaking to *Fair Daily*, he emphasized the unique role of book fairs in fostering intellectual discussions, particularly in a country where history is experiencing a grand resurgence. He

remarked, “We have a very youthful democracy and an explosion of Indian history. I am very optimistic about India’s farsightedness on the world stage.”

