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New Delhi**

Press Release

NBT organizes first-ever book fair in Leh

The book lovers of Leh for the first time witnessed a book fair in the region organized by the National Book Trust, India in collaboration with the Leh District Administration from 4 to 9 August 2012. The fair was inaugurated by Shri Rigzin Spalbar, Chief Executive Councillor of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council.

Appreciating the efforts of NBT in organizing book fair in the region, Shri Rigzin Spalbar said, "I welcome the first ever exhibition of books by NBT in Leh. This is a very good initiative on the part of NBT which will not only popularize book reading habit in Ladakh but would also strengthen national integration."

Shri Rigzin Spalbar highlighted the problems faced by parents to encourage reading habit among their children due to non-availability of books in the district. He said that parents have to visit cities like Jammu, Srinagar, Chandigarh and Delhi to get books for their kids.

He opined that such book fairs in the region would help generate reading habit among Ladakhis especially students as they lack reading habit and would help them utilize leisure time in winter. He urged NBT to hold such exhibitions on larger scale in future to promote book reading culture in the region.

The book lovers of Leh, which is one of the most inaccessible regions in the country, showed keen interest in the fair and availed a discount of 20 per cent on books in several languages including English, Urdu, Kashmiri, Hindi and Punjabi. The book fair helped NBT connect with readers, make good quality books available to them and understand the growing demands of the readers in far flung areas.

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World Book Fair set to become an annual affair

Kim Arora | TNN

New Delhi: The World Book Fair, held once every two years in the capital's Pragati Maidan, is all set to become an annual affair from next year. Final negotiations for the same are underway and a formal announcement is likely next month.

"National Book Trust and Indian Trade Promotion Organization have reached an understanding. We will soon sign an MoU," says M A Sikandar, director, NBT, the chief organizers of the World Book Fair.

With this deal going through, chances are that the Delhi Book Fair, a smaller annual event, might be scrapped, officials indicate. If that happens, the forthcoming Delhi Book Fair beginning on September 1, will be the last one.

The biennial international fair has had 20 editions so far. ITPO chairman Rita Menon says the plan is to enrich the festival and make it the go-to point for the books and publishing business. Sikandar says there are also plans to have a "guest of honour" country each year after the festival is made annual. "India is the guest of honour at South Korea book fair in 2013. Doing something similar will help build international presence," he says.