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Pick of the Month

Warsaw Book Fair

“I am happy to inaugurate the NBT stall at the Warsaw Book Fair 2019. We appreciate NBT’s initiative in participating at the Book Fair, which indeed is a small step in promoting Indian culture and awareness about India,” said Indian Ambassador to Poland and Lithuania His Excellency Tsewang Namgyal while inaugurating the NBT stall at Warsaw Book Fair 2019.

National Book Trust, India participated in 10th Warsaw Book Fair, the largest international book industry event in Poland, from 23 to 26 May, 2019 in Warsaw! Around 800 exhibitors from 27 countries, over 1030 creators that include writers, translators, illustrators, journalists and cultural personalities, and 1500 events – these are some of the highlights of 10th Warsaw Book Fair.

At the NBT stall of the Fair, around 150 titles across genres published by a cross-section of Indian publishers in English and Hindi were displayed. Students and teachers particularly from Warsaw University, Indologists, members of the Polish media, filmmakers working on Indo-Polish joint projects, researchers on Buddhism and Indian political system among others visited the NBT stall.

Besides India, publishers and booksellers from Argentina, Austria, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, China and Taiwan, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Spain, Iraq, Ireland, Costa Rica, Germany, Peru, Poland, Russia,
Romania, Slovakia, United States, Switzerland, Ukraine, Hungary, Great Britain and Italy took part in Warsaw Book Fair this year.

On the centenary of the establishment of Romanian-Polish diplomatic relations (1919-2019) and at a time when Romania holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Romania was the Guest of Honour country in the fair. Romanian Cultural Institute in Warsaw, Embassy of Romania in Warsaw and the Romanian Ministry of Culture and National Identity treated the visitors with some literary programmes during their Guest of Honour presentation.

Some of the prominent guests that graced Warsaw Book Fair this year include Svetlana Alekseyevich, winner of the Nobel Prize for literature 2015, Wieslaw Myśliwski, highly valued by the readers and critics, Wojciech Jagielski and Jacek Hugo-Bader, renowned journalists, Eustachy Rylski, prose writer, Katarzyna Grochola, the most popular author of novels in Poland, Sylwia Chutnik, writer and columnist, Andrzej Pilipiuk, fantasy writer, as well as Zygmunt Milośewski and Marek Krajewski – masters of crime fiction.

A major attraction of the Fair was a wonderful exhibit of publications for children, strong both in content and illustration. Numerous meetings, workshops and over 300 events were organised for groups of children and young adults, as well as for parents with children during the Fair.

Some of the other interesting programmes were Warsaw Detective Story Festival, Warsaw Detective Story Festival Grand Prix Competition, Popular Science Zone, Warsaw Meet Point Pop Culture Festival, Asian Pop Culture Zone and Fantasy Zone.

The Warsaw Book Fair is a special time for readers and authors. Every year during the Fair, nominations are revealed for the NIKE Literary Award, the Janusz A. Zajdel Literary Award and the GRYFIA Literary Award for female authors.

Shri Deep Saikia, Asamiya Editor and Shri Ashish Choudhury, Assistant Director of National Book Trust, India represented India at the 10th Warsaw Book Fair.

Punjabi Translation Workshop

National Book Trust, India organized a Punjabi Translation Workshop at Kala Bhawan, Chandigarh from 3-4 June 2019.

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr Surjeet Singh Patar, Chairman, Kala Parishad. Dr Ishwar Dayal Gaur was the special guest on the occasion. Sharing their experience, the speakers spoke of the qualities of a good translator. They said that the book should not look like a mere translation. They were of the view that translators need to choose the words carefully while translating a book. They added that to bring the essence of the subject matter close to the target readers, translators should look for the words which are commonly used by the readers of that particular language and region.

During the workshop seven books in Hindi and one book in English for children, published by NBT were translated into Punjabi language. These include Ek Thi Bhagti, Kshama Sharma Ki Chuninda Kahaniyan, Devendra Kumar Ki Chuninda Kahaniyan, Ek Tamasha Aisa Bhi, Zinga Ajayatghar, Meri Football, Ek Tha Casino and Growing Up With Trees.

The participants at the workshop were: Shri Pravesh Sharma, Shri Khushhaal Lali, Shri Ravi Indra Singh, Shri Bhagwant Rasoolpuri, Ms Bano Pandita, Dr Lakhwinder Singh and Dr Kulveer.

The programme was coordinated by Ms Navjot Kaur, Punjabi Editor, NBT.
“Books bestow human values to mankind,” said Shri Chandra Prakash Deval, noted author and Padmashree Awardee at the inauguration of Ajmer Book Fair held at Patel Stadium Ajmer from 13 to 21 April 2019. He further said that books help in connecting human values of different countries together.

Talking about the importance of books in India, Dr Deval said that in our country, books are considered sacred. “Books have their own significance,” said Dr Nand Bharadwaj, noted author and guest of honour on the occasion. He said also that books make us more humane and help us connect with others. He appreciated the fact that the Trust has done a considerable work in bringing out translations in different Indian languages.

“With advancement in technology, the inclination of people towards mobile and Internet has increased,” said Shri Vishwa Mohan Sharma, IAS, District Magistrate, Ajmer. However, he added that their inclination towards books has also increased. He remarked that Internet cannot give us the reading pleasure that books can.

During the Fair, several literary, cultural and children’s programmes were organized including a workshop on children’s writings in which well-known children’s authors Sangeeta Sethi, Sanchay Jain, Govind Bhardwaj, Chetna Upadhyay, Umesh Chaurasia, Subhash Kaushik, Manish Kumar Choudhary, Poonam Pande, among others participated.

A session on Hindi satire (Vyanga Path) was organized. Well-known satirists including Dr Krishna Kumar, Dr Bulaki Sharma, Shri Suneel Jain Rahi, Ms Sunita Shaanu, Shri Ved Mathur, Shri Ramvillas Jangid among others participated in the session. While concluding the session, Dr Harish Naval said that over 300 satirists are working towards the enrichment of this genre in Hindi. He was of the view that the new generation of satirists must read the works of older writers to give more substance to their writings.

A panel discussion on importance of books was organized. The speakers on the occasion were Shri Ved Mathur, well-known writer; Shri Anant Bhatnagar, well-known litterateur; and Shri S P Mittal, senior journalist. The panelists said that books are an important part of our lives. They said that there is a need to bring more and more people, especially children and youth closer to books. They also discussed about the impact of social media on readership and challenges being faced by publishers to provide quality books. Besides, cultural programmes, storytelling session, poets’ meet and meet-the-author programmes were organized.

The book fair attracted readers of all age groups who enjoyed exploring the books by well-known authors in English, Hindi and Urdu languages. Publishers from across the country displayed books on various topics at over 50 stalls at the Fair.
India the Guest of Honour Country at FIL, Mexico

India has been designated as the Guest of Honour country at the 33rd Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara (Guadalajara International Book Fair), Mexico (30 November to 8 December, 2019), the largest book fair in the Spanish speaking world.

In a Press Conference held on 6 June 2019 at the Embassy of India in Mexico city, Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, National Book Trust, India and Sh. Muktesh K. Pardeshi, Ambassador of India to Mexico announced some of the highlights of Indian presentation as Guest of Honour country at FIL 2019. Ms Marisol Schulz Manaut, Director General, FIL also addressed the Press Conference from the book fair organizer’s side. Shri Kumar Vikram, Editor, NBT was also present on the occasion.

The National Book Trust, India (under the Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India) is the nodal agency coordinating the Guest Country Presentation at the said Book Fair. India will display a wide array of its rich and composite literary and cultural heritage at this edition of Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara (FIL) - with over 35 authors/artists/scientists/science communicators/children’s writers; 15 publishing houses; literary and academic activities comprising conferences, publishers’ round table, discussions and presentations on science and other genres; 3 large exhibitions consisting of ancient and rare manuscripts, photo books, wall hangings on handicrafts and paintings; modern art by 40 renowned women artists of India; a Festival of India consisting of extensive cultural programme that will include 10 concerts - folk, classical and contemporary; and an artistic tribute to Indian literature, among many other activities. Sale and exhibition of more than 2000 Indian titles will also be a part of the event.

India’s participation at FIL will also include a film festival, comprising of Indian feature films and those based on pure sciences; a food festival; street shows at various venues across Guadalajara and at Casa de la India - a cultural hub of Indian food, handicrafts and artefacts, for sale and display.

Over 7500 schools in Meghalaya Enrol for Readers’ Club

National Centre for Children’s Literature organised an Orientation Programme on Readers’ Club Movement at Shillong on 13 June 2019. The programme was held for State Resource Group (SRG), Meghalaya under Samagra Shiksha Initiative.

In the welcome address, Dr Andrew Warjri, Deputy SPD, SSA, Meghalaya hoped that this initiative would help in creating interest for books and reading amongst children of the state. Ms M.W Lynrah, Pedagogy Coordinator, SSA and Shri Manas Ranjan Mahapatra, Editor, NCCL were also present on the occasion.

The Orientation Programme was aimed at enlightening the participants on the role that SRG can play in promoting creativity and reading habit among school children in the state. During the programme, a presentation on Readers’ Club Movement and some practical activities including How to Review a Book? How to prepare a Magazine? How to conduct a Quiz on books and authors? and How to take interviews of an elderly person residing near the school? were held.

The participants were also enlightened on how reading books other than textbooks helps a child to develop command over language, general awareness and overall development of their personality. It was also discussed that fiction including stories, poems etc. further provide children an opportunity to imagine and fantasise, empathise with the views of those different from them, understand problems and learn to solve them, develop ability to think and reflect. An annual reading activity plan for 11 districts of the state was also prepared on the occasion by the participants.

Shri Dwijendra Kumar, English Editor, NBT coordinated the programme.
Leading experts on children’s literature presented their views at a 2-day National Seminar on ‘Indian Children’s Literature Today: New Dimensions held in auditorium of Rajasthan Hindi Granth Academy at Jaipur from 3-4 June 2019. First of its kind in the country as an academic evaluation of Children’s Contents in Indian Languages, this Seminar was organised by National Centre for Children’s Literature, National Book Trust, India, New Delhi in collaboration with Rajasthan Hindi Granth Academy, Jaipur.

The idea behind organising the seminar was to bring forth before stakeholders in the field that 41% of young in the country are under the age of 18. The number is about 55 crore people, almost half our population. It is necessary that the good quality education is provided to them to make the future of our country bright. To make appropriate reading material available for this huge population is the prime target of our education.

The two day seminar was inaugurated by Shri Om Thanvi, leading Journalist and Vice Chancellor, Harideo Joshi PatrakaritaVishwavidyala, Jaipur who expressed happiness over the fact that NBT is serious about reaching out to children and teachers in remote areas of the country. The seminar discussed various issues related to Children’s Literature and Reading habit such as:
- If there is a disconnect between requirement, planning and publishing for children in India?
- What is the scenario in various Indian languages?
- There is fairly a good growth in numbers and quality of Indian children’s literature in English. But what is the case in other Indian languages?

Other issues discussed in the seminar included:
- State of publishing Children’s Books in various Indian States in the last 10 years.
- Promotion of reading habit in states through various initiatives both at Govt. and private level (incl. SamagraShiksha).
- Role of the speakers present in the Seminar in promotion of reading/creation of contents for children in their respective states as a Writer/Illustrator/Scholar/Expert/Activist.

Experts participated in the deliberations included leading names in the field of children’s literature such as SahityaAkademi awardee Rajiv Tambe (Pune), Dr Usha Sharma (Head, Reading Cell, NCERT), Binay Pattanayak (Sr. Consultant, World Bank), Shri Farooq Afridi, children’s writer and OSD (Media) to CM, Rajasthan, Dr Vikas Dave (Editor, Devputra, Indore), Sanchay Jain (Editor, Bachchon Ka Desh, Rajsamand), Narayan Parsuram from Karadi Tales and Children’s Film Society of India, (Abhishek Bajaj, CBSE), Dr. Kunjan Acharya (Head Department of Journalism, M S University, Udaipur), Mohammad Aleem, Govind Sharma, Sangeeta Sethi, Rajkumar Jain Rajan and Prabhat (Eminent Children’s authors), etc. Research papers presented by them will be further revised and published in shape of a book.

The two day seminar created a new forum for Creation and Dissemination of Children’s Contents in Indian Languages at present which will help in a big way for promotion of reading activities under Samagra Shikshya through Reading Corners in schools.

**Children’s Writers Workshop**

*Are you a children’s writer under the age of 40?*

National Centre for Children’s Literature, a wing of National Book Trust, India (NBT) is organizing a workshop for young children’s writers. The workshop will be held at the premises of National Book Trust, India at Vasant Kunj, New Delhi from 19 to 20 August, 2019.

NBT invites young writers for children below 40 years of age for the workshop. Those who wish to participate are requested to send us their original story published recently for children. If the story has been published in any Indian language, other than Hindi or English, you may send us the Hindi/English translation of the story.

A Jury will select 25 authors on the basis of your story. Participants of the workshop will be guided to write for Readers’ Club Bulletin, our monthly bilingual children’s magazine. Their manuscripts prepared in the workshop may also be considered for publication by NBT.

Outside participants, except from Delhi will be reimbursed to and fro train fare for AC III tier. Accommodation will be provided at the NBT Guest House. Please send your story and application typed in double space to mrmahapatra.nbt@nic.in by 31 July 2019 at the latest.
**Books on Health and Medicine**

In India, July 1 is observed as Doctor’s Day to emphasize the value that doctors hold in our lives and to pay them respect for their selfless service. Doctor’s Day is celebrated in different dates in different countries across the world. In India, it is celebrated on July 1 because it is the birth and death anniversary of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy (Dr. B C Roy), one of the most famous physicians of India. Given below are some of the important titles published by NBT on health, various ailments and treatments.

**Asthma: How to Control It**  
M P S Menon  
This book provides a contemporary account of a common though baffling ailment, which has been an enigma for thousands of sufferers who need help in handling their disability to their best advantage before seeking medical help.  
81-237-2179-X; Rs 35

**Ayurveda Unravelled**  
Sharadini Dahanukar & Urmila Thatte  
The science of Ayurveda is surrounded by mystery. It elicits different reactions, ranging from romantic revivalism to West-oriented rejection, from complete acceptance to total rebuttal. This book unravels some of the mysteries surrounding it, its basic concepts and governing principles as also simple homemade herbal remedies.  
978-81-237-1676-3; Rs 60

**Challenge of AIDS**  
Khorshed M Pavri  
AIDS research has attracted some of the finest brains among doctors and scientists of the world and yet an effective cure eludes us. This revised edition imparts knowledge about the disease and a realisation of the challenge that the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) poses to mankind.  
978-81-237-0175-2; Rs 80

**Dental & Oral Health for All**  
Abhijeet S Kulkarni  
The low priority given to oral health, and the neglect of dental and oral diseases are among several important factors of concern. The book, in a revised and updated edition, aims at providing practical information to readers about dental and oral diseases, the available treatment options and contemporary preventive strategies to maintain and improve oral health.  
978-81-237-6931-8; Rs 100

**Epilepsy**  
M C Maheshwari  
This book provides scientific information about the diagnosis, treatment and care of epileptics in our country where superstitions, false beliefs and misconceptions about the disease are widely prevalent and prove an obstacle in its effective control.  
81-237-0554-9; Rs 30

**Heart Disease and the Layman**  
S Padmavati  
This book puts into proper perspective what heart disease means, its signs and symptoms, methods of examination and treatment and explains the changes that occur when a heart becomes deranged in structure and function.  
978-81-237-1217-8; Rs 45

**Learning to Live with Diabetes**  
M M S Ahuja  
Explains how diabetes can be controlled and how reduction in complications can be achieved by consuming foodstuffs with correct nutritive and caloric contents, keeping in mind the economic constraints of a country like India.  
978-81-237-0704-4; Rs 90

**Pain & Its Management**  
Sugandha A Karapurkar  
Pain is such a vast subject that it is difficult to understand its exact physiology, yet this book provides answers to many common problems regarding pain, in a simple and lucid style.  
ISBN 978-81-237-4362-2; Rs 40

**Pulmonary Tuberculosis**  
M P S Menon  
This book will be of interest to those involved in detection and control of tuberculosis as well as patients and their relatives whose understanding and cooperation are essential for the success of the Tuberculosis Control Programme.  
ISBN 81-237-2810-7; Rs 65

**Self-care for Women**  
Parul R Sheth  
Provides knowledge on the complex female body, its organs and systems, how they work and can be taken care of both externally and internally.  
ISBN 81-237-2804-2; Rs 100
A physician who by his act of commission jeopardizes the life of his patient, is seized with a feeling of guilt. He is reminded of his act every time he encounters a patient with the same disease. This was one such case.

This is a case of an elderly couple, both retired and married for over 45 years. They had children and grandchildren, and were leading a happy contented family life.

One of them had not been well for the past one year, with general malaise, episodes of mild fever and loss of weight. All medical investigations were normal. Physical examination of the patient also revealed nothing except for enlarged discreet lymph nodes in neck and some other sites in body. A lymph node biopsy was therefore done and sent for histopathological examination.

On examination by the histopathologist, the microscopic picture of the biopsied node showed signs of certain diseases, though not specifically indicative of any of them. After a detailed interview and re-examination of the patient and records, the possibility, as per the histopathological appearance of the biopsied node, narrowed down to HIV.

The situation was explained to the patient and a blood test for HIV was suggested. The patient agreed. The blood test was positive for HIV.

The result of the test was revealed to the patient and its implications, including the necessity and desirability of its confirmation by specific Western Blot method was explained. A detailed inquiry revealed that the patient was strictly monogamous, had no extra-marital sexual relationship, did not receive any blood transfusion in the past and had not taken any injections. Thus, there was no clue to the patient’s HIV positivity.

The patient returned with the spouse, who after discussion, agreed for a blood test for HIV. The spouse too was found positive. The results in both of them were then confirmed by additional tests. The spouse too had no positive history of exposure. There was no history of blood transfusion, no injections, no extra-marital sexual relationship. And there was no reason to disbelieve their positive assertion.

The couple was completely shattered. Their happy life had transformed to a silent torture. They sought the physician’s explanation and help but it was a dilemma both for the couple and the doctor.

But what could the physician say or do? If nothing then why did he disclose the fact of their HIV positivity, asked the tormented couple. The oft touted concern to prevent its spread did not stand ground in their case. At their age, neither were capable of sex or were competent to donate blood for transfusion. No cure was available; prolonging the life was a ridiculous proposition at their advanced age. Then why did he have to ruin the few remaining years of their life? They even suggested ending their lives quietly. The physician felt guilty. He seriously considered the propriety of such disclosure in future patients.

Later, the physician learnt that one of them was a controlled, adult-onset diabetic on oral hypoglycemic drugs. There was no history of insulin injections. However, the patient told the doctor that the blood sugar test was got done at a particular laboratory where the technician had used a plunger to obtain the blood drop from the patient’s finger. The same plunger was used on other patients. ‘Could the HIV infection have been acquired from that plunger?’ asked the patient.

The doctor agreed that it was possible; any needle or needle-like object if used unsterilized on multiple persons was likely to transmit HIV infection if any one of such persons happened to be positive for HIV.

‘Then why was such a practice permitted?’ asked the patient.

Could they sue the laboratory? Would the physician give it in writing or testify to this effect? Will they be able to prove it? Who would believe them? These were the several concerns that agitated the couple. The stigma attached with the disease rather than the disease itself was the couple’s torment. They could not reveal the fact of their being HIV positive to their family, though living in fear that they will not be able to hide it for long. Conscious of their own HIV positivity, they could no more live normally with their family. It was a living hell for them.

Do the State and the health authorities who demand disclosure of HIV positive cases to them have any duty or responsibility in this regard? Do they understand the implications of the disclosure of a positive test when no follow-up services have been planned or are available?

The case also raises several other technical, social and medical issues. First, when equipment such as disposable single-use sterile needles, lanceolates etc. are available, why are multiple-use plungers or needle-like devices permitted? Second, tattooing and acupuncturists, using unsterile needles, is a possible risk to the society. Who controls it? Tattooing is resorted to widely in our country, and the self-styled acupuncturists certainly have no one to question their methods.

Social implications of a person indulging in risky acts picking up HIV and an innocent citizen picking up HIV, are two different things. The medical, social, ethical and human dilemmas, and implications of cases such as these need due consideration.

From A Doctor’s Day
S G Kabra
978-81-237-6928-8; Rs 70
Yoga Day at NBT

As part of International Yoga Day celebrations, a session on yoga for the employees of the Trust was organised at NBT Conference Hall, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi on 21 June 2019. In her address, Dr Rita Chowdhury, Director, NBT talked about the importance of Yoga for leading a healthy life both physically and mentally. She urged the officers present on the occasion to make yoga an integral part of their everyday life. The session was conducted by Shri Subhodh Kumar, Jairam Yoga and Sanskrit College, Rishikesh. The employees of the Trust participated in the session with keen interest and learnt different asanas to de-stress themselves.

Book Your Fair Dates

- Jammu Book Fair - August 2019
- Ujjain Book Fair - August 2019
- Chandigarh Book Fair - September 2019
- Bilaspur Book Fair - November 2019
- Tuticorin Book Fair - December 2019
- Shillong Book Fair - February 2019

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