“If you have only a few months to live, you must try and read all the books you can lay your hands on,” said Shri Gurcharan Das, renowned author and columnist. He was inaugurating the Gurgaon Book Festival held from 20-23 April 2012 at the Hospital Grounds of Fortis Memorial Research Institute (FMRI). The Festival was organised by the National Book Trust India in collaboration with FMRI, on the occasion of the World Book and Copyright Day.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Shri M.A. Sikandar, Director, NBT, India highlighted the outreach programmes of NBT in promoting books and reading. Encouraging the efforts of FMRI in extending their cooperation, he said, if many such organisations could reach out in engaging with the larger community, NBT would be able to strengthen its efforts in creating a book minded society.

The Gurgaon Book Festival saw the participation of over 50 publishers. The participants were housed in beautiful pagoda style tents at the hospital grounds. Thousands of visitors browsed through the books on a wide variety of subjects. Special workshops for children and activities like song and dance, pirate adventures, crafty corner, Sand Art as well as brain games and fun puzzles brought a large number of children's attention to the Festival.

A panel discussion on ‘Reading Books
in the Digital Age’ was organised during the Festival. Panelists at the discussion included Shri Anshul Chaturvedi, Editor, Delhi Times; Ms. Paro Anand, children’s writer; Shri Arun Kapur, Executive Director, Learn Today; Shri Rajesh Kalra, Chief Editor, Times Internet; Ms. Vatsala Kaul Banerjee, Publishing Director, Hachette India; and Dr. Samir Parikh, Director, Mental Health and Behavioural Sciences. The discussion was moderated by Mr. Manvi Sinha Dhillon, former Managing Editor, NDTV Profit. The discussants were of the view that books will not lose their place to Nook or Kindle till a more pocket friendly device is introduced in the Indian market.

A stimulating interaction with Ms. Advaita Kala, author of Almost Single and writer of hit films like Anjaana Anjaani and Kahaani was organised during the Festival. Advaita Kala would ‘never let go an opportunity go pass’. ‘Regret’, for her, ‘is just not worth it, particularly in her books’.

Another programme which had a young audience in rapt attention was the creative writing workshop with the young author Sachin Garg. All of 25, Garg is the author of four books.

BANGKOK INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR

The 10th Bangkok International Book Fair was organised from 29 February to 8 March 2012 at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre, Bangkok. Organised by PUBAB (The Publishers and Booksellers Association of Thailand), the Fair was inaugurated by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

Over 650 participants including 20 foreign countries took part in the Fair. National Book Trust, India participated with over 263 titles in English and Hindi. These included publications by 20 publishers from various parts of the country.

As a part of the Fair, a number of activities including seminars, workshops, discussions, book release functions and activities for children were organised. This year, an open rights table was organised at the Fair to create a common platform for discussion and exchange of rights.

Many noted literary luminaries, Buddhist professors and scholars, students from various schools and universities visited NBT stall. Some of the Thai publishers also visited the stall and showed interest in acquiring Thai rights for some of the Trust’s books. Many booksellers in and around Bangkok discussed the possibility of selling NBT books in Thailand.

According to Dr. Pathipaka Mohan, Assistant Editor and Sri Mayank Surolia, Assistant Director who represented the Trust at the Fair, there is a great demand for Indian books particularly vedas, upanishads, yoga, medical and engineering books, Indian comics and children’s literature.

Dr. Jaideep Nair, Counsellor, Embassy of India visited the NBT stall and was very happy to see such a diverse range of books on display from India. He said that, “Many of the books are of extreme interest to Thais and sure many of them will try and get these books. I am also certain that there is tremendous scope for the publishing houses of both countries to cooperate.

NBT NEWSLETTER JUNE 2012
As part of the World Book and Copyright Day celebrations, the National Book Trust, India in association with the Hindi Department, SSJ, Almora, organised a seminar titled 'Importance of Books in the Present Age' on 23 April 2012.

Speaking on the occasion Dr. Sher Singh Bisht said that books have been an important part of our heritage and culture since ancient times. Though with e-books and advancement in the technology, books have faced a challenge, nevertheless, the demand for books has not gone down.

Sharing his views with the audience, Dr. Shamsher Singh Bisht was of the opinion that the popularity of books can be adjudged by the fact that every year, in India alone, 25 thousand books are still being published widely. “Every year books are being published in 37 languages in India,” he added.

Shri Gaurav Tripathi, Correspondent, Amar Ujala and humourist, said that books have an important place in our lives from childhood to old age—a fact we can never deny.

Prof. H.S. Dhami, Director, IT Dept., and Chief Guest at the function observed that just like our body requires exercise to keep fit, so does our mind require books to get our brain working in the right direction.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Shri Manohar Puri, Prof. Diva Bhatt, Prof. Dev Singh Pokhriya and Dr. Jagat Singh Bisht.

Nine books published by the NBT were also released on the occasion, namely Agya ki Pratinidhi Kahaniyan, Parvat Parvat Basti Basti, Gopal Chaturvedi: Sankalit Vyangya, Uttarakhand ki Lok Kathayen, Gaunga Prasad Vimal: Sankalit Kahaniyan, Hridyesh: Sankalit Kahaniyan, Odhisha ki Lok Kathayen, Jeevan Parivartan ki Bemisaal Manch Kalyani and Ravinder Kaliya: Sankalit Kahaniyan.

The books were released by Prof. H.S. Dhami, Prof. Dev Singh Pokhriya, Shri Manohar Puri, Prof. Shekhar Joshi and Prof. L.S. Singh.

The programme concluded with a Poets Meet in in the evening. It was coordinated by Dr. Lalit Kishore Mandora, Hindi Editor, NBT. The function was attended by book lovers, scholars, media, writers, poets and youngsters.

A three-day book festival was organised by the National Book Trust, India from 23 April 2012 at the Indoor Stadium, Jahanabad, Bihar as part of the World Book and Copyright Day celebrations.

Inaugurating the Festival, Shri D. Balamurugan, DM, Jahanabad, said that books are information source for everyone, but for students they are their friends.

Presiding over the inaugural session, Prof. Arun Kamal, distinguished poet, was of the opinion that everyone should make a practice of giving books as gifts on all occasions from competitions to weddings to felicitations. This, he said, would ensure an increase in the habit of reading in our country.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Harpreet Kaur, Prof. Husain-ul-Haq and Prof. B.P.N. Sinha.

Amar Ujala and a humourist, said that books have an important place in our lives from childhood to old age—a fact we can never deny.

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The programme concluded with a Poets Meet in in the evening. It was coordinated by Dr. Lalit Kishore Mandora, Hindi Editor, NBT. The function was attended by book lovers, scholars, media, writers, poets and youngsters.

The second day of the Festival saw a discussion session for children entitled ‘Books that I Read’. This session had 35 students participating from various schools in and around the district. The winners were given NBT books as prizes.

The final day had a programme titled ‘Interact with the Author’ where the audience was excited to interact and listen to Prof. Abdussamad, Sahitya Akademi awardee and well-known scholar. He was of the opinion that books and literature bring religion, language, caste, creed, region and society together.

The programme was coordinated by Santosh Srivastava and conducted by Dr. Shams Equab, Urdu Editor, NBT, India.

The Festival witnessed a stream of visitors from various sections of the society, particularly from student community.
As part of the World Book and Copyright Day celebrations, the National Book Trust, India organised a literary programme in Kapurthala in collaboration with Sirjana Kendra, Kapurthala; Adbi Shaam, Kapurthala; and Literary Forum, Kapurthala on 23 April 2012.

The programme started with a book release function where six Punjabi titles published by the NBT were released namely: *Batukeshwar Dutt Bhagat Singh de Sehyogi, Hiroshima da Dard, Bisar Raha Punjabi Birsa, Tampate Chidi de Nanbe Bachche, More de Khamb, and Chanda Ginti Bhool Gaya.*

The book release session was presided over by Banchit Kaur, well-known writer. K. L. Garg shared his views on the books released.

The second session of the programme had a seminar on the topic, ‘Declining Interest in Reading: Problems and Solutions’. The seminar was presided over by Harish Jain. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Anurag Sharma said that we should go to rural areas of the country and promote books and reading there. Dr Jagir Singh Noor informed the audience that about 125 colleges in Punjab are without a librarian! He said that the government needs to take positive steps to address this issue.

Dr Kewal Singh Parvana proposed that children should be encouraged to develop the habit of reading from their primary school itself. Dr Baldev Singh Baddan, Chief Editor & Joint Director, NBT was of the view that if the books are of good quality and low-priced and can be made available to everyone, then there is no lack of readership. He talked about the importance of book fairs and translations in promoting reading habit in the country. Others who spoke at the seminar included Karnail Singh Nijhar, Prof. Sardool Singh Aujala, Simar Sadosh, and Dr Bhupinder Kaur.

The third session of the literary programme was a Poet’s Meet where many distinguished poets rendered their pieces. They included Prof. Kulwant Singh Aujala, Prakash Kaur Sandhu, Rajendra Pardesi, Gurcharan Takhtar, Prof. Jang Bahadur Singh Ghuman, Chann Momi, Dr Ram Murti and Gurdeep Gill among others. The session was presided over by Harbhajan Singh Hundal and conducted by Dr Harvinder Singh Bhandal. Samnt Sandhu and Chann Jhandiyalvi were the special guests.

The programme was well attended by a number of people.

**LITERARY PROGRAMME IN GADHIWALA, PUNJAB**

A one-day literary programme was organised by the National Book Trust, India on 30 March 2012 in association with Adbi Taksal, Gaddhiwala; Sahitya Sabha; and Dasula Gaddhiwala at Khalsa College, Gaddhiwala, district Hoshiarpur, Punjab.

The programme started with the book release function of 11 Punjabi titles published by the NBT, namely: *Bisar Raha Punjabi Birsa, Guru Amardas Jeevan Te Vaanij Satantar Ate Atr Bharti Musalmaan; Bacche Jina ne Kamaal Kita, Desh Lai Kurbani, Piya Ate Us De Jadu Dost, Kach Da Baksa (Netherland Diyan Lok Kathavan), Son Ate Us De Jadu Dost, Ek Si Chidi, Nano Technology: Agli Kranti and Sant Guru Ravidas.*

The second session of the programme had a seminar titled ‘Declining Interest in Reading: Problems and Solutions’. The session was presided over by Dr. Dharampal Singhal. Speakers at the session included Harish Jain, Dr. Vikram Singh Gumman, Dr. Rajneesh Bahadur, Dr. Maninder Singh Kang, Prof. Baldev Singh Balli, Prof. Shyam Singh, Simar Sadosh and Lal Singh.

Dr. Vikram Singh Gumman and Harish Jain were of the view that the Library Act needs to be properly implemented in Punjab. Others felt that the parents as well as teachers need to be aware of their responsibility of promoting reading habit among the children.

The final session of the programme was a Poets Meet, presided over by Shri Parminderjeet. The Chief Guest at the session was Dr. Karnail Singh Shergill and the Special Guests were Dr. Suhinderveer and Shri Balvir Singh Sampha.

The participants who rendered their poems to a packed audience included Dr. Surjeet Jaj, Sulkhan Sarhadi, Biba Balwant, Balvir Parvana, Bhagwan Singh Dipak, Surjit Artist, Jasvinder Mehram, Dr. Amarjeet Singh Anees, Tarsen Singh Safri, among others.

Earlier, Dr. Satvinder Singh Dhillon, Principal, Khalsa College, welcomed the guests. Dr. Baldev Singh Baddan, Chief Editor & Jr. Director, NBT, informed the audience about the publishing and various other activities of the Trust.
The National Book Trust, India formally joined hands with Kitab Khana, Mumbai — as a one stop-shop for NBT publications at a function organised by the Trust on 23 April 2012 at the Kitab Khana bookshop.

Shri Farooque Shaikh formally announced the tie-up and cut the ribbon inaugurating the dedicated book shelf at the Kitab Khana bookshop. Addressing the audience, Shri Farooque Shaikh said, “It is a pleasure to know that NBT and Kitab Khana are jointly furthering the cause of promoting books to the masses. I commend NBT’s efforts towards reaching the goal of endorsing book reading habit in the country and this tie-up is a remarkable feat towards that direction.”

The inauguration was followed by the formal signing of the Agreement between the Kitab Khana group and the NBT. Speaking on the occasion, Ms Farida M. Naik, JD(A) said that NBT was extremely pleased with this tie-up and was looking forward for association with Kitab Khana towards various literary and book promotional activities on a continual basis. Ms Amrita Somaiya, proprietor of Kitab Khana expressed her happiness on associating with NBT towards book promotion.

The second session of the programme saw the release of two recent NBT titles by Shri Farooque Shaikh. The book release and discussion programme was part of the celebration of the World Book & Copyright Day, wherein NBT is organising various events in ten different cities across the country. The titles released on the occasion were namely: *Exercising For Good Health* by Dr Parul R. Sheth, and *What is Science?* by Prof. Sundar Sarukkai.

Releasing the books, Shri Farooque Shaikh appreciated the book on exercise and exhorted people towards the concept of fitness and health. Talking about the book What is Science, Shri Farooque Shaikh said he was amazed to see that so many elements and fundamental concepts were involved in understanding a subject like this.

In the discussion session, Prof. A.P. Deshpande shared his views on the book *Exercising For Good Health* and recommended it as a must read for all. Dr Bal Phondke who was to present his paper on the title *What is Science?* could not attend due to ill health. However he had sent his paper which was read out to the audience. Dr Parul Sheth also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, Shri Sumit Bhattacharjee, AD(Projects) welcomed the guests. Shri S.M. Rizvi, M(S&M) proposed the vote of thanks.

The function was attended by a number of people, media, journalists, book lovers, readers, writers, science communicators and scientists.

**NBT CATALOGUE AWARDED**

*Point of View*, a documentation of the Rights Catalogue of Books on Indian Cinema, brought out on the occasion of the 20th New Delhi World Book Fair 2012 and published by the National Book Trust, India was awarded the Sakha Award 2012. Given away on 6 May 2012, the awards were instituted by Punjab Engineering College Chandigarh Old Boys Association (PECOBA) and Sakha Cultural Society, for contribution in the field of cinema to film artists, critics, journalists, editors, etc. The award was received by Shri Kumar Vikram, Editor, NBT on behalf of the Trust.

The Catalogue contains information of about 300 titles brought out by over 80 publishers in all major Indian languages including English. Brought out to facilitate exchange of copyright, it is also an invaluable handbook for publishers and others particularly in the field of cinema. The Catalogue is available at NBT bookshop.
ran down the stairs. At the apartment gates a huge orange coloured banner caught his attention. “Yugpurush Mahatma 108 Shri Param Siddh Yogatma Maharaj-ji from the Himalayas: Meet Personally…” He couldn’t read anymore because the wind had folded the ends of the banner and the rest of the message was hidden. But he got the gist. The Majumdars were hosting yet another sadhu.

In the ten years that Lucky had moved into this Apartment with his parents, this was possibly the Five-hundredth time that Majumdars were hosting some Guruji or the other. He marvelled at his stamina as he caught sight of his mother walking briskly around the small park. He sprinted over to join her. She was pleasantly surprised to see her son up at the crack of dawn.

Back from the walk, he further surprised his mother by settling down with his Chemistry book after breakfast, scribbling reactions and balancing equations. He answered her quizzical look with a smile. “Chemistry Test on Monday, Genetics Project on Tuesday, and Physics Test on Thursday. Mathematics next week,” he called after her as she left his room.

Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Biology—he loved them all and excelled equally in each subject. He wasn’t a great sportsman or much of an outdoors person. But he wasn’t a couch potato either. He just liked to read. And he remembered what he read. This gave him a formidable advantage over his classmates.

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“Lucky, you must come to our house,” said an excited Shubho, “This sadhu baba is wonderful. Ma says he can do anything—anything at all.” Shubho’s eyes were like saucers.

“Mrs Shome, you must come over this evening. The official darshan does not begin till tomorrow. Babaji will be coming straight from the Himalayas and will need to rest. He could have materialized by his yoga-bala—spiritual powers,” translated Mrs Majumdar for the benefit of Mrs Shome, who being German, sometimes did not understand Sanskrit-ised Bangla very well. “But he conserves his powers so as to have more spiritual energy to distribute among his devotees. Great saint!” Saying this Mrs Majumdar folded her palms and sent a namaskar into space.

Shubho followed suit.

“But Babaji always gives darshan and grants a private audience to a select few believers—just a thousand rupees per question. Private consultation is expensive but he says the sinners must be made to do the segregation. I have seen grown men fall at his feet confessing all and pleading for salvation after just a sip of those waters.”...
The Publishing Industry, the world over, is at the cusp of a major revolution, which the industry experts foresee as bringing about major changes in the way traditional publishing business is transacted, in all its aspects. A major driver of this change is ‘Technology’. This is most visible in the way readers now access knowledge.

Technology has not only changed the way we produce and print books. It has now necessitated redefining the very concept of book as we know of it now. It has also enabled writers to forge a deeper relationship with their readers. It is changing the way we read. Internet, e-books, on-line access to content, e-readers as well as smart phones, has combined together in enabling a palpable decline in the sale of printed books. A worry that now occupies most publishers.

Besides impacting the industry at large, the amazing growth of e-sales portals of books like Amazon and Flipkart has also impacted the small brick and mortar book shops in the neighbourhood.

The important task of the publishing industry is to promote reading, libraries and access to knowledge. But with the advancement in technology, two primary concerns confront the industry experts. One is the waning role of publishers as a race of intermediaries between the writer and reader. This begs a serious discussion when we know that more than two hundred and fifty thousand books are being self published on-line. Many of them, given their wide cyber popularity has even been acquired by traditional publishers as print editions. Two, are publishers looking at alternative business models that would help them keep the new challenges at bay. In this context, they may even think of exploring the possibilities for providing free content.

The reality is, digital books are here to stay. Instead of seeing it as a threat, it would be ideal to see them as a opportunity to gain more readers in all formats. There are signs that reading books is more popular now than ever. How they are reading them is what the publishers may take note of. According to the industry estimates the revenue from digital books doubled in 2011, and sale of digital books for younger readers were up by an astounding 475 per cent!

The arrival of digital books has brought with it another challenge. That of the legalities involved in the signing of agreements, a process that protects the right of authors and other stake holders. In this context, a whole new way of looking at agreements, protection of copyright, intellectual property of on-line publishing and digital distribution, digital migration of publishing are engaging publishers and legal experts alike.

Some of these issues and aspects were discussed in a two day conference on Copyright and the Publishing Industry organized by WIPO, and IRRO in collaboration with MHRO, FIP and Authors Guild of India on 23-34 April 2012 at IIC, New Delhi. Industry and legal experts from both, India and abroad deliberated at the sessions.

Sessions at the Seminar included Intellectual Property and the Creative Industries; Exceptions and Limitations to Copyright and the Access to Knowledge; Book Publishing Agreements; Electronic Publishing; Intellectual Property Implications of Online Publishing and Digital Distribution; Digital Migration of Publishing and the Changing Business Models.

Speakers at the sessions included: Donna Hill, Manas Saikia, Sudhir Malhotra, Jens Bammel, Jagadish Sagar, Kevin Fitzgerald, Dr. Raman Mittal, Sai Krishna, Sanjiv Goswami, Olav Stokkmo, Emma House, Kristian B Jonasson, Pravin Anand, N.K. Mehra, Arun Singh, Manish Arora, Vikas Gupta and Prof. Indranath Choudhuri.

**SEMINAR ON COPYRIGHT & PUBLISHING**

**BOOKS RECEIVED**

*When Mala was A Kid*; Malvika Yash Dekhane; Power Publishers, 9/1 Motijheel Avenue, Kolkata-700074; ISBN 978-93-81205-95-2; Rs 175

In this book, grandma narrates to her grandchildren funny episodes in the life of her daughter Mala. Mala, now a grown-up, reminisces and comments on the incidents. The book with some fun and some touching episodes also teaches the young on general awareness on their day-to-day activities and habits, bravery, courtesy, reading habit, etc but in a subtle manner.


Sister Nivedita actively worked to promote and energise freedom movements. Her studies on Hindu religion and the life system organised on its banks are also remarkable. This book contains some such writings presented in a different editorial set up to mark the salient points clearly and visibly.


A compilation of articles based on papers presented in the International Conference on ‘Human Rights in 21st Century: Changing Dimensions’, organised by Delhi University in 2011. Subjects discussed include collective rights, rights of children and women, violations, role of HRCs, courts and NGOs.
World Book Fair

to be an annual event

The New Delhi World Book Fair, a biennial event till its 20th edition (Feb.-March 2012) will be now an annual event. This was formally announced by Shri Kapil Sibal, Hon’ble Minister for HRD, at the inauguration of the 20th New Delhi World Book Fair. While bringing cheers to the hearts of booklovers, the annual holding of the NDWBF will enhance its brand image internationally and ensure a marked presence in the calendar of book events for publishers and other stakeholders.

The 21st New Delhi World Book Fair will be held from 4-10 February 2013 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

Training Course in Book Publishing

NBT, India is organising the next Book Publishing Course in New Delhi. This 4-week course will commence on 2 July 2012.

Sessions will be held at Nehru Bhawan, the premises of NBT, India from 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Monday to Saturday. Boarding facility is also available for outstation participants.

The Course would provide an opportunity to come in contact with key people in the publishing industry. Many of the participants in the past have been absorbed by reputed publishers and now hold responsible positions.

Last date for submitting of application: 10 June 2012

For more information contact:
Assistant Director (Training)
National Book Trust, India
Nehru Bhawan, 5 Institutional Area, Phase-II
Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 110070
Tel.: 011-26707700 / 26707825 Fax: 011-26707825
E-mail: nbtindia@nbtindia.org.in
Website: www.nbtindia.org.in

Look for the next courses at:

Goa — 17-29 October 2012

On India Government Service

Goa — 17-29 October 2012