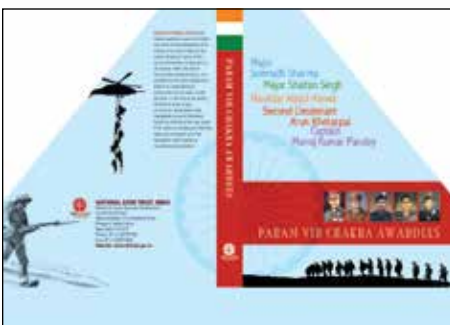


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PICK OF THE MONTH



Param Vir Chakra Awardees:
Major Somnath Sharma
Major Shaitan Singh
Havildar Abdul Hamid
Second Lt. Arun Khetrapal
Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey

Veergatha Books Launched



“There have been a very few efforts to remember the deeds of the great men who created the history of our country,” said Smt Smriti Zubin Irani, Hon’ble Minister for Human Resource Development while launching a set of five illustrated books for children at a fuction held on 25 January 2016 at the Air Force Auditorium, Subroto Park, New Delhi. These books in English and Hindi have been published by the National Book Trust, India under its newly introduced ‘Veergatha’ series.

Smt. Irani expressed her happiness that the Ministry of Defence and National Book Trust, India have dedicated the books on the Param Veer Chakra awardees to the nation. She added that these books have been brought out to make children aware about the contributions of these great men.

She observed that the ex-servicemen across the country remind us about the contributions of the brave soldiers. She

added that a league of ex-servicemen may be formed in each state of the country that would provide physical training to the children and make them aware about the contributions of the great personalities.

She urged NCERT and CBSE to include these books as reference reading material for children in schools.

She said that the stories of heroes like Sam Bahadur and Jaswant Singh may also be written. She also felt that the books on the contribution of civilians like Gaura Devi who came forward to save environment may also be published.

In his address, General Dalbir Singh, the Chief of Army Staff said that it is a significant step to document the bravery of our real time heroes and disseminate it across a wide readership. He informed that the Ministry of Human Resource Development has taken up an initiative ‘Seema Darshan’ under which the children from Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Schools and other schools are being sent



to the border to spend a few days with the soldiers.

Smt Irani also felicitated the family members of the Param Veer Chakra awardees during the function.

Shri Vinay Sheel Oberoi, Secretary, MHRD; Shri R. Subrahmanyam, Additional Secretary, MHRD; Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, NBT and Dr Rita Chowdhury, Director, NBT were also present on the occasion.

The five books released on the occasion illustrate the saga of bravery of

Param Veer Chakra awardees including Major Somnath Sharma (1947 war), Major Shaitan Singh (1962 war), CQMH Abdul Hamid (1965 war), Second Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal (1971 war) and Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey (1999 Kargil battle).

The books have been developed with the support of the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Human Resource Development. All the five scripts have been prepared by Gaurav Sawant and illustrated by Fajruddin, Dheeraj Bhatia,

Animesh Debnath, Nipen Bhuyan and Samudra Kajal Saikia. These books have been published in Hindi also.

Veergatha series seek to introduce the great acts of bravery of the Param Veer Chakra awardees to instill a sense of inspiration and patriotism in children at an early age. The Param Veer Chakra (PVC) is the highest gallantry award for officers and other enlisted personnel of all military branches of India for the highest degree of valour in the presence of the enemy. Introduced on 26th January 1950, this award may be given posthumously.

Book on Sir Lallubhai Samaldas Released

Sir Lallubhai Samaldas: A Portrait, published by NBT, India and authored by Aparna Basu, was released on 28 December 2015 at the India International Centre, New Delhi. Smt. Vidyaben Shah, a renowned social worker, former President of the Delhi Social Welfare Board, the Indian Council of Child Welfare and NDMC, released

the books. Speaking on the occasion, she recalled her days as a graduate student in Samaldas College, Bhavnagar which was founded by Sir Lallubhai in memory of his father. Her husband, late Shri Manubhai Shah, Industries and Commerce Minister in Jawaharlal Nehru's Cabinet, was also educated at Samaldas College.

Dr. Nasir Tyabji, former Professor and Director of the Centre for Jawaharlal Nehru Studies at Jamia Millia Islamia, spoke about Sir Lallubhai's contribution in building up the Co-operative movement in Bombay state and industries such as the Scindia Steam Navigation Company.



He also spoke of how he had fought for fiscal autonomy. He said that Lallubhai began as a Moderate in politics believing in the justice and fairness of British rule in India but these views gradually changed by the 1930s and he came much closer to Gandhiji's ideas.

While introducing the book, Aparna Basu said that she wanted to make a larger public aware of Lallubhai's contribution to the making of modern India. The ideals of economic nationalism inspired him and he wanted to set up enterprises owned and managed by Indians. Banking and insurance were then entirely British

owned. Lallubhai, together with a group of like minded citizens of Bombay, set up the Bank of India in 1906. He helped set up the Bank of Baroda and was its Chairman for many years. He was founder Director and Chairman of the Bombay Life Assurance Corporation. Besides, he established many new industries. He was a member

of the Bombay Legislative Council and of the Imperial Legislative Council. She highlighted his contribution to the Cooperative movement and in the field of education.

The book discussion was chaired by Shri Kisan Mehta, Vice President of the Gujarat Education Society and a long standing member of the Managing Committee and Governing Body of Sardar Patel School and Gujarati Club. He spoke of his long association with various members of Lallubhai's family.

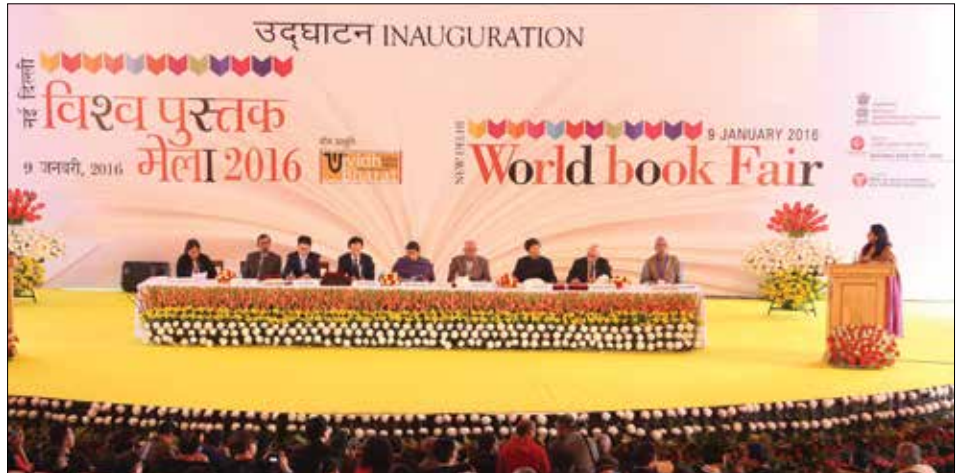
Smt. Nira Jain, Chief Editor, NBT India, coordinated the programme.

New Delhi World Book Fair

January remained a hectic month for the National Book Trust, India as it organised the 24th edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 9 to 17 January 2016. A number of events took place at the Fair in which a number of authors and booklovers participated with great

enthusiasm. We covered many of the happenings in the *Fair Daily*, a bulletin published every day during the Fair. We are reproducing some of the write-ups published in the *Fair Daily* that gives a ringside view of the New Delhi World Book Fair 2016.

NDWBF Inauguration



“Today we not only celebrate the exponential growth of the publishing business both in India and China, but also the human interest in it,” said Ms Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister of Human Resource Development while declaring open the 24th New Delhi World Book Fair at Pragati Maidan.

Welcoming China as the Guest of Honour Country she observed, “China was invited to be the guest country after the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping here last year where he signed a memorandum of understanding with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.” Referring to the instances of China mentioned in ancient

texts like Kautilya’s *Arthashastra*, she said that in our history we find resonance of relationship with China. Welcoming the Chinese delegation she emphasised, “We believe in *Athithi Devo Bhavaa* and we worship the guests as we worship our gods. We hope that Chinese will feel at home in India.”

Appreciating the efforts of NBT in creating a platform for young writers to publish their works, she observed that publication of such writings would not be limited to a few languages but it should be brought out in 22 Indian languages. She also informed that select children from various states will be sent as *Shodh*

Yatris, along with a photographer, a creative writer and a historian to countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Cambodia and Myanmar to learn about the influence of Indian culture.

“The Vedas are the first repositories of culture not only of India but also of the world,” said Shri S.L. Bhyrappa, eminent Kannada author. On the importance and role that epics *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* played in our culture, Bhyrappa said, “The poets, writers, artists and scholars have not only been inspired but also depended on the epics for themes in Indian classical dance forms like Kathakali, Bharatnatyam, Odissi etc. According to him, Sanskrit is





not a dead language as some say, but rather it is very much alive. We must take efforts to revive it as a medium of communication particularly in areas of administration and science & technology. Shri Bhyrappa was the Guest of Honour at the function.

“India is an amazing country with a profound and diversified culture. I am amazed by the rapid development of India which seems to be at a colourful corridor that connects its glorious past with the present”, said Mr Sun Shoushan, Vice Minister of SAPPFRT, People’s Republic of China.

Paying his respect to those who have contributed to the many exchanges and cooperation between the two



countries, he said that both are known for their resplendent ancient civilizations. Neighboured by the ancient silk road, people of the two countries have enjoyed mutual communications for more than 2000 years—leaving a glorious chapter in the history of cultural exchanges.

In his brief address H.E. Ambassador Le Yucheng said, “The New Delhi World Book Fair has already become an influential event among the publishers across the world.”

“With every passing year the New Delhi World Book Fair is acquiring a brand identity of its own and gaining in popularity,” said Shri L C Goyal, Chairman and Managing Director, ITPO.



Literature, culture and art are closely related to everyday life, said eminent writer, Mr Liu Zhenyun, and books are a solace to our troubled times.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, NBT India, said this year the Theme Pavilion will showcase the unity in diversity of our rich and diverse cultural heritage. It will particularly focus on books and the theme exhibition will display the evolution of books from Bojpatras to ebooks.

Thanking the dignitaries assembled, Dr. Rita Chowdhury, Director, NBT India, said that the presence of China will enrich the Fair and also hoped that the Fair would be a treat for booklovers.

Inaugural Ceremony at the Chinese Pavilion

The Chinese Pavilion at the New Delhi World Book Fair was inaugurated by Ms. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of HRD, Govt. of India. In her inaugural address, she welcomed the Chinese delegation and remarked on the diversity treasured in India including the old Indian manuscripts. She also added that there is much in Indian civilization that can enrich our cultural bond. She expressed her delight that China has kept its theme as the Renaissance of Civilization and that such platforms have built up and strengthened China-India relations.

Calling for cordial Sino-Indian relations, Mr. Sun Shoushan, Vice Minister, China, said that China feels honoured and proud to be invited as the



Guest of Honour at the NDWBF 2016. He mentioned that it was possible because of the MoU which was signed between NBT, India, and SAPPFRT, in the presence of Shri Narendra Modi, Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, and Mr. Xi Jinping, Honourable President of China.

Mr. Le Yucheng, Chinese Ambassador to India, said, “Book preserves history and culture of nations.” He also talked about the great Indian epic like *Mahabharata*, and its legendary writers of both the countries like Tagore, Prabodh Chandra Bagchi, Xianlin, etc. He further added, “It is fair to say that the history of cultural exchange between the two countries has been amazing and would continue to be so.”

Earlier, the opening ceremony of the Pavilion began with the playing of their traditional instrument Pipa.

The Pavilion hosted a number of events throughout the Fair days including book releases, signing of agreements, discussions, cultural events, etc.

Theme Pavilion

Vividh Bharat, the Theme Pavilion at the Fair, was inaugurated by Ms Smriti Zubin Irani, Honourable Minister of HRD, Govt. of India. The Theme Pavilion showcased the unity in diversity of India through a select display of books in all Indian languages, Indian classical and folk performances, and panel discussions.

On the occasion, Ms Irani released nine new titles brought out by NBT India. The books in Asamiya, Bangla, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia and Tamil, published under the new Navlekhan series introduce young writers, mostly being published for the first time.

With a more than 5000 year old civilization that continues uninterrupted the Indian cultural legacy is characterized by a certain plurality, rich diversity and multilingual tonal hues. From north to south and east to west, the diversity manifests in peoples, dress, cuisine, tradition, knowledge systems, art and performances. The Cultural Heritage of India was chosen as the Theme for this edition of the Fair in order to connect booklovers with the cultural heritage of the country.

At the Theme Pavilion there was a display of about 1000 books on



culture, philosophy, knowledge, history, language and literature from ancient to contemporary times. There were series of panels showcasing the evolution books in India from *Bhoj Patra* to ebooks. Also showcased were the panels on evolution of scripts of various Indian languages.

The specially designed Theme Pavilion hosted a series of discussions on various aspects of India's cultural heritage



including 'Many Languages One Nation: Reflections on Indian Literature'; 'Science through Sanskrit: Exploring Possibilities'; 'Indian Plurality as Expressed in Indian Literatures'; 'Bharata's Natyashastra and India's Performance Tradition'; 'India's Secular Literary Tradition: Arthshastra and Thirukkural'; 'Indian Epics as reflected in Indian Regional Languages and Literature'.

Also, the Pavilion was enlivened by a rich repertoire of performances,

that include all the classical dances of India—Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, Mohiniyattam, Odissi, Kathak, Sattriya, Manipuri, Kathakali; dramatic performances based on the works of Sankaradeva, Jaidev, Dinkar, Bhavabhuti, Vidyapati, Narasinh Mehta, Bhasa, Thiruvalluvar, among others; the folk performances of Garba-Raas, Gharaiya tribal dance, Mayurbhanj Chhau, Bamboo dance, Chari dance, Jhumar dance, Mapila songs, Karagattam, Lavni dance, Oggu Katha, Kamsale folk dance, Toor-Thali tribal folk music dance among others.

Classical renditions included Sikh Bhakti songs, Bhajans, Zikir (Sufi music), Carnatic, Choir, Jain Geet, Hindustani and Buddhist Devotional Songs.



Children's Pavilion

Prof. Hrushikesh Senapati, Director, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) inaugurated the Children's Pavilion at the New Delhi World Book Fair. He said that the activities at the Pavilion will help in the overall development of participating children and they will have an opportunity to learn new things and share their views.

He urged children present on the occasion to read books and involve themselves in activities as it will enhance their creativity and ability to comprehend things effectively.

"I welcome you all to the festival of books, especially children," said Dr Rita Chowdhury, Director, NBT. She hoped that the children coming from the different parts of the country will enjoy the activities being organized at the Pavilion.

Prof. B K Tripathi, Joint Director, NCERT also spoke on the occasion. He said that the interaction with children during such events not only help them understand the needs of the children but also inspire them.

The Children's Pavilion was a place where children were encouraged to enrich their knowledge and love for books, participate in the activities to express their views about the world they live in through words and pictures.

The Pavilion had a special corner of Children's Film Society (autonomous body of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting). They screened *Anmol Tasveer*, *Aasman Se Gira*, *Ek Ajooba Hai*, *Kaya Palat*, *Malli*, *Chutkan Ki Mahabharat*, *Gilli Gilli Atta* etc.

The illustrations of 16 young artists, trained by the Riyaz Academy for Illustrators (an initiative by Eklavya) were displayed at the Pavilion. Shri Shashi Shetye, well-known illustrator said that the



academy arranges training for the students of Fine Arts and self taught artists of small towns to help them learn the intricacies of drawing and sketching.

The students of the academy Habib Ali, Shubham, Swati Gupta, Vibhuti and Pooja Sahu interacted with the children visiting the Pavilion and helped them learn the art of sketching and drawing. The first book published by the academy titled *Bazar*, illustrated by Prashant Soni was also on display. Shri Rajesh of the academy said that through this display of illustrations they wish to promote young artists of small towns especially illustrators of children's books as they do not get the exposure.

Another interesting corner at the Pavilion was about the educational and learning aids. 'My Stem Lab' at the corner has science based models like water filter, turbine, glider etc to describe the Newton's Third Law, mechanical energy, how human body works etc. The 'Smart Class' was also on display. It is a modern day digitized technique comprising a computer and projector. This interactive tool with audio system and multiple features like graphs, pictures, books etc is helpful for teachers

and students as each and every lesson taught can also be saved.

There was also a reading wall to check the level of reading of a child, learning tools, story retelling aids among others. Another stall to mentioned was that of Care India, an NGO working for a last few decades for girl's education and empowerment of women.

The reading corner with details about the National Centre for Children's Literature Library (NCCL), one of the largest libraries in the country with books on children's literature in Indian and foreign languages and posters of NBT books of children added colour to the Pavilion. NCCL is a wing of NBT India.

Several activities for and by children were organized at the Pavilion by the Trust in collaboration with various schools, NGOs and other organizations working in the field. The children got an opportunity to meet their favourite authors, illustrators, had reading and storytelling sessions with them, participate in the workshops on creative writing, illustrations etc. For the children's writers, teachers, librarians, panel discussions, seminars were also organized.



Young Voices New Writings

The Indian book market is excited by the increase in the number of young writers writing across languages as well as in English. Publishers today are tapping on these young and fresh talents. Yet it is still a struggle for a first time young writer to see his work in print. NBT's Navalekhan Mala has been conceived to provide such a creative platform for writers to showcase their writings.

In furthering this objective, NBT brought out anthologies of short stories by young writers in nine languages that include Asamiya, Bangla, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia and Tamil. In a discussion at the Theme Pavilion at the Fair, the compilers and editors of these anthologies shared their experience of identifying the authors and collecting the stories.

Welcoming the compilers and editors, Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, NBT India, said, "Within the first 4-5 days of my joining as NBT Chairman, I got a few files containing proposals to publish manuscripts by new young writers. My first reaction was that these proposals should be rejected. But a moment later, a thought came to my mind. Does the rule say that NBT cannot publish such writers? If it is not, why can't we start a new series? I discussed the matter with my Editorial. And thus Navlekhana Mala was born."

Saying that no family sustains without its new generation, he said that we need to show them the way ahead. "I am happy that the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development is solidly behind us in our endeavour to promote young writers and their writings," he said



Sharing their experience in compiling the stories, the compilers were of the view that given the paucity of time it was difficult to bring together some of the new and exciting writings happening in their respective languages. Yet they have tried their best to put together a compilation that looks in a way not only at the current trends in the genre but also at its future. In the process, most of the

that many stories today are actually epics in miniature forms.

At the same time, says Prof Bibhash Choudhury, the compiler of the Asamiya anthology, they are not shying away from traditional issues and in fact many of them are now attempting to interpret myths with a new perspective. Many of these stories are experiments in structure and form. For Shri Joe D' Cruz, the compiler of Tamil anthology, the stories bring out the essence of life.

Thanking NBT for providing a platform for young writers, Prof Gaurahari Das, the Compiler of the Odia anthology, suggested that NBT should translate these anthologies into other Indian languages, particularly English and Hindi.

Prof Rajan Govas, the compiler of the Marathi anthology hoped that NBT will bring out subsequent volumes in the series. Others who spoke on the occasion included Shri Yogesh Joshi, the compiler of the Gujarati anthology and Shri Amar Mitra, the compiler of the Bangla anthology.



stories in these anthologies are sensitive to, as Prof K S Ravikumar, the compiler of the Malayalam anthology puts it, political issues, environmental issues and issues confronting women and children today. In the context of Malayalam stories he said



National Library, Kolkata

The National Library, an institution of National importance, has urged the publishers to deliver a copy of each of their publications to National Library. In a statement issued to Fair Daily, Dr Arun Kumar Chakraborty, Director General, National Library & RRRLF, Kolkata, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, explained the rationale behind this call.

- i) The delivered books are preserved physically for ages for the posterity;
- ii) No other institution/ organization can preserve these publications over centuries.
- iii) By delivering a copy to the National Library, the Publishers get an opportunity to upload the metadata of all their publications at the National Library Website.
- iv) Each and every title received by the National Library is included in the Indian National Bibliography, which is circulated to the important libraries across India as well as the globe.
- v) Last but not least it may be noted that the publishers also avoid penalty by delivering a copy to the publication in the National Library within 30 days of its publication.

Publishers / authors may send their copies to :

Director General
National Library
Belvedere, Kolkata - 700027
Phone: 033-24792968
Website: nationallibrary.gov.in

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FAREWELL



Shri Ram Avtar, UDC retired from the Trust after serving for 36 years. He joined the Trust on 8 March 1979 as Peon-cum-messenger and worked in IP Section, Exhibition, Sales Exhibition, Accounts, Subsidy, Dispatch, Production Section and Northern Regional Office of the Trust.

We at NBT wish him a happy retired life.

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