10th World Hindi Conference

After a gap of 32 years, World Hindi Conference was organized in India at Lal Parade Grounds, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh from 10 to 12 September 2015. Shri Narendra Modi, Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, inaugurated the conference where he emphasized on the importance of Hindi as a medium of global expression and interaction in the 21st century. He said, “Hindi is a valuable language and we all need to work towards its expansion and if don’t do something for our language it will be lost.” He added, “English, Chinese and Hindi are the three languages of the future of everything digital.”

Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Hon’ble Minister for External Affairs; Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon’ble Minister of Science and Technology; Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hon’ble Minister of Communications and Information Technology; General VK Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs; Shri Ram Naresh Yadav, Hon’ble Governor of Madhya Pradesh; Shri Kesrinath Tripathi, Hon’ble Governor of West Bengal; Smt. Mridula Singh, Hon’ble Governor of Goa; Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh; and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

A book exhibition titled Hindi: Kal, Aaj Aur Kal was also organized in which National Book Trust, India participated. Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, NBT inaugurated the NBT stall. Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Hon’ble Minister for External Affairs; Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh among others visited the NBT stall and appreciated the exhibit of books put up at the stall.

A book entitled Hindi Bhasha: Swaroop, Shikshan, Vaishwaviikta, published by the National Book Trust, India was presented to the participants in the event. The book is a compilation of writings of 31 Hindi scholars from the

FORTHCOMING TITLE

Sir Lallubhai Samaldas
Aparna Basu
country and abroad. The book has been edited by Dr Kamal Kumar Goenka, Dr Mahavir Sharan Jain and Prof. Avanijaish Awasthi.

Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, also presided over a discussion on ‘Desh Aur Videsh Mein Prakashan: Samasayen Aur Samadhan’ in which the speakers highlighted the problems and challenges faced by the publishing industry in India as compared to the publishers of the foreign countries.

On the concluding day of the conference, Shri Rajnath Singh, Hon’ble Minister of Home Affairs in his keynote address said that “Hindi is not only Rajbhasha (official language) but it is also the language of communication in the country.”

“Hindi is the most scientific language of the world.” Shri Rajnath Singh added. He felicitated 38 scholars with Hindi Samman on this occasion. It was also announced that the 11th World Hindi Conference will be hosted by Mauritius. Several authors and scholars of Hindi language from over 29 countries attended the conference.

Besides the Chairman NBT, Shri Imran-ul-Haque, Dy. Director (Sales), and Shri Pankaj Chaturvedi, Hindi editor were also part of the NBT team.

NBT Celebrates Hindi Pakhwada with Children

As a part of celebration of Hindi Pakhwada throughout the country, National Centre for Children’s Literature (NCCL), a wing of National Book Trust, India organized two interactive sessions with the school children at its Library. These interactive sessions were organized on 2nd and 7th September 2015.

In the first session on 2nd September, Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, NBT India, had a lively interaction with the children. While narrating a story from the epic Mahabharata, he said that “Yudishta, the eldest brother of Pandavas, learnt to control his anger by his sincere efforts.” He also talked about Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India who through his outstanding contribution in the field of science served the nation. He also encouraged children to read newspapers to learn about the happenings in the country and the world.

Shri Rajiv Ranjan, activist and journalist was also present on the occasion. He talked about the need to preserve water and environment for a better living. He also spoke about importance of adhering to traffic rules in order to avoid accidents. On this occasion, Shri B B Patel, Gujarati language Editor, NBT also narrated folktales to the children.

In the second session on 7th September 2015, Dr Rita Chowdhury, eminent Asamiya author and Director, NBT India, interacted with the children. She urged them to read more and more books and try to express their thoughts as well as feelings of those who cannot express like birds, animals, river, trees etc. through written words. “One should keep on writing again and again to get something worthwhile,” she added. The participating children also interacted with Dr. Chowdhury on the skill of writing.

More than 200 children along with their teachers from the Hope Hall Foundation School and East Point School participated in these sessions. Some of the children narrated stories and were presented with NBT books. The children also visited the NBT bookshop and procured NBT publications in various Indian languages.

Shri Manas Ranjan Mahapatra, Editor, and Head, NCCL welcomed the participants and guests and Smt Mithlesh Anant, Librarian-cum-Documentation Officer of the Trust coordinated as well as offered the vote of thanks in these sessions.
Beijing International Book Fair

The 22nd Beijing International Book Fair was held at the China International Exhibition Centre from 26 to 30 August 2015. National Book Trust, India participated in the Fair. The India stand at BIBF was inaugurated by Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, NBT India.

During the Fair, Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma had a detailed meeting with Mr. Wu Shangzhi, the Vice-Minister of State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television of the People’s Republic of China (SAPPRFT). Both the dignitaries discussed at length the publishing scenario in India and China, and hoped that the upcoming Guest of Honour Presentation of China at the New Delhi World Book Fair 2016 would provide a meaningful platform for the engagement of the publishing and intellectual communities of the two countries. Besides other officials of SAPPRFT, Shri Vinod Jacob (Counsellor-Political), Embassy of India, Beijing, and Shri Siddharth Malik, Second Secretary (Political), Embassy of India, Beijing attended the meeting.

Spread over an area of 66,000 square meters with 2,400 stands, more than 2300 publishing houses from China and 82 countries attended the Fair. Approximately 300,000 titles were on display, over 1,000 cultural events and seminars were held, and more than 260,000 visitors were present during the fair. The rights deals signed at the fair amounted to 4,721, an 8.6% increase from last year.

United Arab Emirates was the Country of Honour at BIBF, with an exhibition area of 1,000 square meters. The UAE organized its cultural institutions, publishers, and writers to attend the Fair, and held activities to enhance communication in the publishing industry and among writers.

This year BIBF, for first time, organized the ‘Hall of International Children’s Publications’ for children’s publishers from China and abroad. Besides the rights trade zone, the 1500-square-meter ‘BIBF Picture Book Exhibition’ and the ‘Illustration Exhibition’ were also put up at the Fair.

This year BIBF organized the trade-activities such as Beijing International Publishing Forum, BIBF Advanced Seminar on International Rights Trade, CLT-ELT Seminar, BIBF 10+10 Roundtable Meetings, and IDPF@BIBF International Digital Publishing Forum. Moreover, BIBF launched the first International Children’s Publishing Forum, Rights Managers’ Salon and the International Translation Grant Presentation. These activities contributed in enhancing communications between publishers from home and abroad.

Shri Kumar Vikram, Editor also represented NBT at the Fair.
NBT India signs MoU with C-DAC/W3C

With a view to facilitate wider dissemination of digital publishing technology and innovations, National Book Trust, India signed an MoU with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), a Scientific Society under Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Government of India. C-DAC is the India Host Office of World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), the main international standards organization for the World Wide Web (abbreviated WWW or W3).

Mooted as a programme under the ‘Digital India’ initiatives of the Government of India, the MoU enables NBT to become a W3C Global Member for the purpose of participation in the W3C Consortium activities nationally and internationally, more specifically the ‘Digital Publishing Interest Group’ (DPUB IG), Web Accessibility and other Open Web Platform technologies.

The MoU to this effect was exchanged between Dr. Rita Chowdhury, Director, National Book Trust, India and Dr. Mahesh Kulkarni, Associate Director, HoD, GIST & WDG, Country Manager - W3C India in the presence of Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, National Book Trust, India.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, National Book Trust, India, said, “With this MoU, a new chapter is starting in the activities of NBT and this will enable us to meet the expectations of the publishers in terms of the role of a facilitator that we are supposed to play. NBT will act as a bridge between Digital publishing technology innovators and digital publishing end users like publishers.”

Describing it “as an important day for NBT, Dr. Rita Chowdhury, Director, NBT, said, “National Book Trust, India will endeavour to add new dimensions to Indian publishing in collaboration with C-DAC/W3C. NBT will organise workshops with publishers of different languages so that a healthy atmosphere of sharing of ideas on these new areas of publishing could be created.”

Earlier, Dr. Mahesh Kulkarni gave a brief background of the innovations of CDAC in creating Indian languages technology and standardisation, and hoped that “NBT will be able to help us in getting the inputs and feedback of the requirements of Indian publishers for the global community.” Ms. Priyanka Rawal, Business Development Lead, W3C India also gave an over of the work of W3C Global.

About C-DAC: Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) is the premier R&D organization of the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY), Ministry of Communications & Information Technology (MCIT) for carrying out R&D in IT, Electronics and associated areas.

About W3C: The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) is an international community where Member organizations, a full-time staff, and the public work together to develop Web standards. Led by Web inventor Tim Berners-Lee and CEO Jeffrey Jaffe, W3C’s mission is to lead the Web to its full potential.

The World Wide Web Consortium achieves its mission by bringing diverse stake-holders together, under a clear and effective consensus-based process to develop high-quality standards based on contributions from the W3C Members, staff, and the community at large.
Hindi Pakhwada Celebrations

Every year, National Book Trust, India celebrates the Hindi fortnight. This year also, the Hindi Pakhwada was celebrated from 8 to 22 September 2015. On this occasion, NBT organized various competitions including Hindi General Knowledge, Essay writing, Letter and Noting/Drafting used in official work etc. NBT employees participated in these competitions with great enthusiasm.

On the last day of Pakhwada, NBT organized a lecture on the topic ‘Raj Bhasha Prem Ki Zaroorat’ at its premises. Dr Leela Dhar Mandloi, eminent author and former Director General, All India Radio and Doordarshan delivered the lecture.

Talking about the usage of Hindi language in government organisations, he said, “Not more than 200 words are required in the official work and the same draft is used over and over again by making a few changes.” He felt that one may try to use his own words rather than sticking to a particular draft.

He also spoke about the apathy of people towards Hindi. He said, “Though people know Hindi, they try to speak in English only. It has become a language of status.” He added, “If you travel across the country and interact with people, they will either converse in their own mother-tongue or English as they are not acquainted with Hindi. This situation could have been avoided, if we focused on learning the third language also.”

He opined, “We must love our mother-tongue as it gives us a freedom to express feelings in a better way and helps to build cordial relationship. Mother-tongue is a friend, a companion and a guide. Therefore, we must have affection for our language.”

Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, NBT also spoke on the occasion. He said that “Hindi, historically, was promoted more by non-Hindi speaking people. He mentioned, notably, the names of Mahatma Gandhi, Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Dharmanand among others, who played a crucial role in the freedom struggle. He added, “Mahatma Gandhi advocated the use of Hindi as a contact language.” He also talked about Father Camille Bulcke who came to India, learnt Hindi and later compiled the first English-Hindi Dictionary. He also expressed happiness at the number of participants turned up for the competitions, especially those from non-Hindi regions of the country. He encouraged the officials and the employees of the Trust to increase the use of Hindi in their day-to-day work.

Dr Rita Chowdhury, Director, NBT in her brief address observed that “it is only the mother tongue that can give a feeling.” On the importance of Hindi, she said that, “Hindi as our Rajbhasha is an important tool of communication particularly in a country like India where there are many languages.”

On this occasion, prizes were also distributed to the NBT employees who successfully participated in the competitions held during the Pakhwada. Participants include Shri Bhagyendra Bhai Patel, Shri Shailesh Kumar, Shri Rajan Kumar, Ms Poonam Madhukar, Ms Surekha Sachdeva, Shri Dwijendra Kumar, Ms Vasundhara Lal, Ms Poonam Rani Jain, Shri Narender Kumar, Shri Surendra Kumar Arya, Ms Sunita Madan, Ms Ekta, Shri Sandeep Kumar, Ms Shefali and Ms Savita.

The programme was coordinated by Shri Rakesh Kumar, Hindi Officer, NBT India, and Ms Alpna Bhasin, Hindi Translator.
Excerpts

NBT has brought out a publication titled *The Glass is Half Full* written by Kalpana Mathur. Herein we reproduce an excerpt from the chapter ‘The Way to Win: Perseverance’.

A child learning to walk falls over 240 times on an average. Every time, another effort, one more attempt to take a step. But it is never, “I can’t!”

**Eternal Question:** Can I do it?  
**Reflection:** Like the child who continues his persistence until he can walk, likewise successful people never give up. They never accept defeat. Quitting is the easiest thing to do because it is effortless. But success requires staying on the course and persisting. Trials in life can become triumphs depending on our capacity to endure.

Perseverance means not to surrender. It means trying one more time such that it becomes try and try again. When we give ourself another chance, very often we can do it. At the same time, it also means striving intelligently to learn from mistakes and attempt again. It took Thomas Edison, approximately 10,000 experiments to invent the perfect set-up for the electric light bulb. Gift of choice is unique only to human beings: do it; don’t do it; do it alternatively.

Difficulties can be perceived as stumbling blocks or stepping stones; problems or opportunities. While walking the path of life, stones will definitely come in the way. People with determination build bridges out of these to move ahead. Others simply stop and quit. They build a wall of such obstacles to justify their inactions or readiness to stop trying.

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Books Received

*Lectures on The Indian Evident Act*; Justice U.L. Bhat; Universal Law Publishing Co., A-73/1, G.T. Karnal Road Industrial Area, Delhi-110033; 978-93-5035-523-7; Rs. 475

Justice Bhat, former Chief Justice of Guwahati High Court and High Court of Madhya Pradesh had delivered lectures on law of evident and various branches of civil and criminal law in various centres of training for judges and judicial academies. This book is a collection of such lectures with necessary updates. It deals with all important aspects of law of evidence in India and refers to over two thousand decisions of courts in India and abroad.

*Creation and Evaluation*; Dr Vijay Vishal; Popular Book Depot, Dhamani Street, Chaura Rasta, Jaipur; 978-93-83127-04-7; 978-81-86098-13-4; Rs 800

The book is based on two collections of poems by the author namely ‘Speechless Messages’ and ‘Parting Wish’, both published by Writers Workshop, Calcutta, which were well received and complemented. The range of the poems is as wide and varied as life itself. These two texts of poetry are followed by their reviews and research articles written by established names in the world of poetry and criticism. The book celebrates creativity followed by objectivity. The poet creates while the critic evaluates. When this compilation of poetry and criticism is served on the lovers of poetry, they relish this poetic feast all the more.
Books On and By Gandhi

On 2nd October, the nation celebrates the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. To promote the ideals and values that Mahatma Gandhi stood for, both in his life and in his writings, the NBT continues to publish select books on and by Gandhi. - Editor

Bapu (Part I)
F C Freitas
81-237-1026-7 / Rs 14
The story of Gandhi from his birth till the Dandi March in pictures and words.

Bapu (Part II)
F C Freitas
81-237-1025-9 / Rs 16
This sequel to Part I tells about Gandhi's arrest following the Salt Satyagraha and ends with his assassination.

Stories from Bapu's Life
Uma Shankar Joshi
978-81-237-0508-8 / Rs 19
In this book, the noted Gujarati writer relates some interesting episodes from Bapu's life. Written in a simple and heartwarming style, the stories will appeal to children.

Gandhi-Nehru Correspondence: A Selection
Arjun Dev (Ed.)
978-81-237-6125-1 Rs 95 (PB)
978-81-237-6126-8 Rs 350 (HB)
Spanning a period of about 26 years, this collection brings together select correspondence between Gandhi and Nehru. Together they portray a strikingly unique relationship that was not only personal but also political.

Gandhi-Patel: Letters and Speeches
Neerja Singh (Comp.)
978-81-237-5556-4 / Rs 60 (PB)
978-81-237-5557-1 / Rs 250 (HB)
This collection brings out some of the significant correspondences between Gandhi and Patel, their mutual respect for each other and also the differences between the two on various matters.

Gandhi and His Disciples
Jayant Pandya
978-81-237-1116-4 / Rs 45
This book is the story of twelve eminent Gandhians, their initiation and shaping of their personalities by the Mahatma and their contribution to humanity.

Gandhi: A Life
Krishna Kripalani
978-81-237-0646-7 / Rs 60
Mahatma Gandhi lived, suffered and died for his people. Yet it is not in relation to this country alone that his life has significance. Nor is it only as a patriot or revolutionary reformer that he will be remembered by future generations. An interesting and absorbing account of the life and achievements of Mahatma Gandhi.

Gandhi: The Writer
Bhabhani Bhattacharya
81-237-3969-9 / Rs 45
The title of the study indicates a dissatisfaction on the part of its author with much of the material that has so far been written on Gandhi on education. The writer attempts to construct a detailed contextual study of the most decisive period in the evolution of Gandhi’s beliefs on education.
FAREWELL

Shri Raj Kishor Pandey, Assistant retired from the Trust after serving for 36 years. He joined the Trust on 22 September 1979 as Peon and worked in various departments including Establishment, Accounts, Sales NRO and Southern Regional Office of the Trust.

Shri Manik R Patil, Assistant retired from the Trust after rendering 26 years of service. He joined the Trust on 12 December 1989 as LDC and worked in the Western Regional Office of the Trust.

We at NBT wish them a happy retired life.