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Press Release

Literary Activities Engage Book Lovers at New Delhi World Book Fair

A number of government publishers like Sahitya Akademi, Publications Division IGNOU, NIOS, Prasar Bharati Archives, Doordarshan, CSTT, Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti, Office of Registrar General and India and others are participating in the New Delhi World book Fair being held at Pragati Maidan. Their stalls are attracting a number of book lovers as they can be seen browsing through their publications and asking queries about their organizations.

For the booklovers who have special interest in Urdu poetry, National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language organized Mushaira (poets' meet) at the Theme Pavilion. The women poets who participated in the meet were Ms Shaista Yusuf, Ms Tarannum Riyaz, Ms Waseem Rashid, Ms Nassem Nikhat, Ms Ghazal Zaigham, Ms Qamar Suroor and Ms Nusrat Mehd. The programme was coordinated by Shri Shoaib Raza Fatimi. The poems recited on the occasion focused on patriotism, society and the struggles that women face with courage and patience, etc.

A conversation with Ms Manju Borah, National Award winning film director and writer from Assam, was held at the Theme Pavilion. Dr Rita Chowdhury, Director, NBT was also present on the occasion. During the session, her movie 'Jyomati: The Survivor' was also screened. At the theme pavilion, a performance based on Brihadaranyak Gargi Samvad was also presented by Dharmendra and troupe.

Story is the most popular event in the Children's Pavilion. Dr Hemant Kumar and Shri Ramendra Kumar both storytellers, made the children captivated with their stories. Dr Hemant Kumar first told a story and narrated how it can be dramatized in sequence with character, dialogue, action etc. Later, students of Ahlcon International School, Delhi organized a play on Women Empowerment. The play tried to break the stereotype mindset about women and showed how women are making progress in the areas dominated by men. Children's Book Trust (CBT) organized 'Creative Gym' – writing and drawing competition. The organizer provided paper and pencil to the children to write something about 'Friends' and make drawings. Best writing and drawing will be published in their magazine.

An impressive mime show on 'Save Water' was performed by the students of Shradha Mandir School and Chetna India organized a poetry session 'Poems by Children'. Sanskrit, English and Hindi poems were recited by children. Some were serious, some were funny. Audience liked the session and appreciated highly. Maa Peace Foundation presented a skit to highlight the growing violent tendencies among the children. They emphasized that education can bring peace and harmony.

National Book Trust, India and Akhil Bhartiya Sahitya Parishad organized a discussion on Indian Literature at Sahitya Manch on 13 January 2017. The speakers shared their views on different genres of Indian literature especially novels. They remarked that the people belonging to middle class played a major role in writing novels, they wrote about their life in their own words. The speakers also gave their

opinions on famous works like 'Godaan' of Premchand. The speakers who were present on the occasion include Dr Ram Sharan Gaur, Prof. Bhudev Sharma, Prof. Ramesh Mehta among others.

Another discussion that took place at Sahitya Manch was on 'Art Beyond Boundaries' in which Ms Kamala Bhasin, Dr Deepti Priya Mehrotra and Shri Dhananjay Tripathi were the speakers. They remarked that an artist needs freedom so that they may express their thoughts in a better way.

At *Conversations*, Prof. K K Verma (former professor at IIT Kharagpur) talked about his book 'Life and Time of Unborn Kamla' published by Palimpsest. The book raises the women related issues that need special attention like female foeticide, prostitution, declining sex ratio among others. The author remarked that female child not only in rural India but in urban India also faces discrimination. These issues need to be addressed with great urgency.

In the evening Lok Sabha TV organized a panel discussion on books and the society at the International Events Corner. The speakers on the occasion were Prof. Arun Bhagat, well-known writer and journalist; Dr Rashmi and Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, NBT. The speakers talked about the importance of books and their contribution in making a healthy society.

Veteran bollywood actor, Ms Asha Parekh will also be a part of New Delhi World Book Fair tomorrow. She will talk about her biography with Khalid Mohammed.