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New Delhi

### Press Release

#### Huge Rush at New Delhi World Book Fair on Second Last Day

Saturday, being the second last day of the New Delhi World Book Fair witnessed over one lakh visitors. The booklovers including school and college students along with their parents, teachers and friends could be seen browsing books, buying books at discounted rates at the stalls of various publishers and participating in the literary and cultural programmes.

#### Theme Pavilion

Thang Ta, the ancient Manipuri Martial Arts was performed today at the Theme Pavilion by Panthoibi Thang-Ta and Jagoi Sindam Shangle, a group of performers from Manipur. The group has performed in various cultural events in India and abroad including Goa Film Festival, 2013 and Indian Independence Day Celebrations in Mauritius. In Thang-Ta, the artists handle weapons like the sword, spear, dagger, etc. with soft movements. It is a part of the great heroic tradition of Manipur.

A panel discussion on the topic *Legends, Conflict and Literature: Cinematic Voices from North East India* was organised at the Theme Pavilion. The session was moderated by Shri Jahnu Barua, film-maker and honoured with Padma Bhushan award. The speakers on the occasion were Shri Utpal Borpujari, film critic and journalist and Shri Wanphrang Diengdoh, an independent film-maker based in Shillong and Delhi. Shri Barua said that Northeast is the treasure-house of art and culture but only five percent of the people of our country know about." The speakers talked about the various aspects of cinema of Northeast like film-making, script etc.

Later in the evening, Manipuri film *Ishanou*, directed by Shri Aribam Syam Sharma. This is the only film from Northeast till date to be screened in the official selection of the Cannes Film Festival.

#### Children's Pavilion

The enactment of stories based on *Panchatantra* by differently-abled children wearing colorful costumes of Bee Hive School, Kirti Nagar was applauded by the visitors at the Children's Pavilion. The children gave the message of peace, unity, wisdom and courage. The session was organized by National Book Trust, India in association with Jiwan Books. On this occasion, the *Panchatantra* series in Hindi and English was released. Shri A Sethumadhavan, Chairman, NBT and Shri R Ramachandran, Executive Director, National Book Development Council of Singapore were also present on the occasion. Later, a storytelling session was organized by NBT and British Council at the Pavilion. In this session, *Story of a Scarecrow*, authored by Shri Suddhasattwa Basu was narrated to the children. Today, being the mother-tongue day, the children were asked to define the word 'scarecrow' in their own language. Through activity, the children were also introduced to the use of metaphors and similes in sentences.

An interesting game *Book Bingo* was organized at the Children's pavilion. The event was coordinated by Dr Shekhar Sarkar, an activist of Consortium Octet. In this session children were asked questions about books, poets and novelist. The children participated in this activity with enthusiasm.

The book *Never A Dull Moment*, published by Eklavya was released at the Children's pavilion. The book focuses on the development of educational materials, teacher's participation and evaluating what the children had learnt. Shri Vijay Verma, Shri Panch Pakeshan and Shri Kartik Sharma were the speakers on the occasion. They have worked for the documentation of the book.

In the evening, the artists of Kala Sanskriti gave a live demo on drawing sketches and paintings. They got the visitors acquainted with the process and techniques involved in drawing sketches. They said that, "We have come here not only to show art but also promote books." Ms Sangeeta Raj coordinated the event.

### **Book Release and Interaction with Authors**

The book titled *A Guest of Arundhati and Other Stories*, authored by Shri A Sethumadhavan, Chairman, NBT was released at the Fair. The speakers on the occasion were Shri Bhaskar Roy, CEO, Palimpsest Publishing House, Dr harish khar, former diplomat and Shri Yogesh Malik, chairman, Palimpsest Group. The book focuses on the need to modernize the Malayali society and talks about the role women play in the society.

At Conversations –the author's corner, the book *Easy Money* (Part 3) authored by Shri Vivek Kaul was released and the author Devdan Chaudhuri interacted with the booklovers and discussed about his book *Anatomy of Life*. The discussion was moderated by Naved Anjum, journalist, *Indian Express*.

At Reflections, the books *Slow Journey South* and *Sahara* authored by Paula Constant were released. Ms Paula travelled 5000 kilometers in India to get know about the life of nomads, especially women in India. Later, Ms Chandrakanta, noted Hindi author talked about her books. She has written extensively on Kashmir and has been honored with Vyas Samman Award and Mahatma Gandhi Sahitya Award. The author of the book *War Room*, Ullekh NP interacted with the booklovers. He said the book stands out as an example of real work and rigorous research. Anyone who wants to understand how decisions are made in India, should read this book. Dr Vijay Chauthaiwala moderated the session.

### **Events Corner**

A session on Art of Storytelling was organized at the Events Corner. The session was conducted by British Council, New Delhi. As Ms. Nupur narrated stories in a dramatized manner, it mesmerized the children present in the session. She narrated the story of Maliyang and the Magic Paint Brush. She involved children to participate in her art of storytelling by asking them a few questions related to the

stories she narrated and gifted them small gifts. She conducted an energy drill too and everyone took an active part in it.

A panel discussion on the topic *Asian and Sub-Continent Children's Literature* was organized at the Events Corner. Mr. R. Ramachandran chaired the discussion. He opened the session with the remark on the importance of developing good reading habit since childhood. Ms. Sayoni Basu, publisher and Mr. Atanu Roy, well-known illustrator for children's books also spoke on the occasion. Mr. R. Ramachandran gave the example of how Singapore tries to attract its mass to read by building libraries in shopping malls and making it a place where hub of activities like meeting friends over cups of coffee, interacting, discussions, etc. happened in the libraries. The interactive discussion concluded on a note that children should be allowed to develop reading habits by exposing books to them but not imposing them to read. Also, publishers, writers and authors should publish good books that will incite children to enjoy reading.

The Hindi translation of the Spanish book *Don Quixote* was launched at the Events Corner. Prof. Hari Mohan, Head of the Department of Hindi, University of Delhi released the book. Dr Vibha Maurya is the translator of the books. Mr Alberto Altolin, Head of Library, Instituto Cervantes was the guest of honour on the occasion.