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New Delhi

Press Release

The Theme of the New Delhi World Book Fair Attracts Booklovers

Manushi, the Theme Pavilion at the New Delhi World Book Fair is attracting a lot of booklovers. The pavilion is displaying writings on and by women in different genres like poems, novels, children's literature, etc. The posters give a glimpse of women writers of different Indian languages who have made major contributions in the field of literature including Dr Pratibha Ray, Mahasweta Devi, Lily Ray, Mridula Garg, Kanakalata Barua, Ashapoorna Devi.

The theme pavilion remained centre of literary activities. In the morning, Meet the Author and Reading Session was organized by Punjabi AKademi (Delhi) in which Ms Chandan Negi, well-known Punjabi author shared her journey as a writer with book lovers; and Ms Sukhwinder Kaur recited her poems in Punjabi. Later, a poets' meet was organized by Rewant, a magazine published in Lucknow. In this meet, litterateurs Nirupama Sinha, Anita Maheshwari, Saroj Singh, Dr Nirmala Singh, Dr Anita Singh, Sandhya Singh, Manoj Shukla among others participated. A performance based on saint poet Meerabai by Ms Meenu Thakur and troupe from Delhi was also organised. In the evening a discussion on women writings was organized in which Dr Avaniresh Awasthi, Dr Shashi Prabha Tiwari and Dr Krishna Sharma.

Besides, a number of discussions, book release and meet the author programmes were organized during the day across the Fair.

Children's Pavilion

Children's Pavilion is an altogether a different world of magic and mysteries to mesmerize the children and adults alike. Ms Syeda Hameed and Ms Kamla Bhasin, both are writers, unveiled the 'Bharat Mata Ka Paanch Roop' originally written by Khwaja Ahmed Abbas to the children. The programme was organized by Pratham Books.

Reputed illustrator of children's books Shri Atanu Roy engaged the children in an illustration workshop under the banner 'A Brush with Creativity'. Children were asked to draw a monster and they came with really frightening drawings of monsters. Children of all age group in large number participated and enjoyed the workshop.

A Quiz Competition was organized by National Monuments Authority under Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India. Children were asked simple questions like: The biggest discovery of early man, Ancient name of Delhi, Who wrote *Panchatantra* etc.

The students of Nidhi Public School, Faridabad, enacted a play 'Let's Know our Solar System'. The children weaved the story around facts and introduced each planet with their special characteristics.

The main focus was to save the earth and its overall environment for our own existence. An interactive storytelling session 'World of Stories' was conducted by Ms Payal Chaudhary a freelance storyteller. She narrated the story of how the Ganga came on earth and the important role it plays in our everyday life. The children were deeply involved with the style and presentation of the story.

Author's Corner

At the Author's Corner *Reflections*, a discussion on 'love in the times of online dating' was organized by Om Books International in which Madhvi Ahuja and Kiren Rai reflected the fact that one should live one's own life with utmost love and affection.

Wajal, an organization of young authors and journalists, organized a poets' meet at the *Sahitya Manch* where women writers including Jyoti Ghajbai, Kavita Gupta, Alka Agrawal, Karuna among others. The women writers enthralled the audience with their poems.

Cultural Programmes

The evening colored with the cultural events at Hamsadhwani Theatre enthrall the visitors. The folk dance and music performances are being organized every day at the Fair. Today, the music and dance presentation on themes like Beti Bachao, Beti Padho, etc. were organized.