Dharmshala Book Fair

The National Book Trust, India organised the Dharmshala Book Fair at Police Grounds, Dharmshala, Himachal Pradesh from 8 to 13 May 2013 in association with the District Administration, Dharmshala.

Inaugurating the Fair, Shri C. Palrasu, Dy. Commissioner of Kangra, hoped that the Book Fair would provide an opportunity to people of all segments of the society to read quality books written by eminent authors. The cultural show by students of the Lower Tibetan School enthralled the audience in the inaugural function.

Several workshops, discussions, skits, interactive sessions and other literary and cultural shoes were organised for the children, young adults, book lovers and general readers. These events were conducted by National Centre for Children's Literature (NCCL), a wing of NBT India.

The programmes included a discussion on 'Education and Books' organised by the H.P. University Regional Study Centre; a show on 'Reading Habit' organised by the Maharishi Vidya Mandir and Lower Tibetan Village School; and a Poets' Meet. A workshop was held on the second day of the book fair, where Shri R.C. Kondal, Director, H.P. Regional Study Centre said the books are our best friends. On the occasion, a discussion on 'Interest in Books in the Indian Culture' was held in which students from many schools participated.

Well-known authors, scholars, editors and poets who participated in these events included Prof. R.C. Kondal, Dr Arvind Jha, Shri Norge Teytin, Dr. Shekhar Sarkar, Shri Susheel Kumar 'Phool', Prof. Om...
Awasthi, Ms Rekha Dadhwal, Shri Vijay Kumar Puri, Shri Lalit Mohan Sharma, Shri Trilok Mehra, Ms Kanti Sood, Dr Gautam Sharma ‘Vyathith’, Dr Piyush Guleri, Dr Pratyush Guleri, Dr Sapna, Shri Luvneesh, Shri Pramod Sharma, Shri Vasudev Sharma, Ms. Poonam Devi, Shri Chandra Shekhar Rana, Shri Rajeev Trigati, Shri Raj Kumar, Ms Ratna Kaul, Shri Navneet Sharma, Dr. Jaya Pande, Dr Rajeev Sharma, Dr Yogendra Mishra, Ms Sailabala Mahapatra, Ms Saroj Parmar and Ms Asha Kumari among others. Shri Manas Ranjan Mahapatra, Editor, NCCL, also rendered a few of his poems.

On the concluding day, a presentation of folk dance forms ‘Chamba’ and ‘Kulluvi Natti’ by the students of Dronacharya College of Nursing added colour to the book fair and mesmerised the audience. In the evening, a Kavi Sammelan was held, which was presided over by Shri P. Sharma and coordinated by Dr. Guleri.

A large number of students, authors, scholars, journalists and people from all walks of life visited the Fair. Apart from NBT, many other publishers and booksellers exhibited books and booklovers showed keen interest in using this opportunity to buy books which are not easily accessible in this part of the country.

Shri Pradeep Chhabra, Dy. Director (Exhibition) and Shri Rajeev Chaudhry, NBT India, coordinated the Fair.

India as the Focus Country at AFCC 2014

India will be the Focus Country in the Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC) 2014 at Singapore. Organised annually by the National Book Development Council of Singapore (NBDCS), this is one of the major events of children's literature in the world. The decision to project India as the Focus Country in AFCC 2014 was taken in the Board of Advisors' Meeting of AFCC on 28 May 2013 which was attended by, amongst others, Manas Ranjan Mahapatra, Editor of NBT’s National Centre for Children's Literature.

Malaysia was the Focus Country for this year’s AFCC held at the National Library Board, Singapore from 24-29 May 2013. The Malaysian show included an Illustrators’ Corner, several interactive sessions and talks by authors, editors and illustrators, book launch programmes, exhibition of children’s books, a Rights Table and a Malaysian Cultural Evening.

The Indian show in 2014 will project the contemporary Indian publishing and authorship for children as well as the state of children's literature in the country in a multi-cultural and multi-lingual situation. The AFCC 2014 is scheduled to be held at National Library Board, Singapore from 30 May-4 June 2014 and will have more than 150 sessions on various aspects of publishing of children’s contents.

The Indian stand in this year’s AFCC showcased more than 100 select children’s books. The overwhelming response for Indian children's books is expected to increase manifold in the AFCC 2014 with India as the Focus Country.
Craft Carnival for Kids

National Book Trust, India in association with Dastkar, a society for crafts and craftsmen, organised a Kids-stuff: Craft Carnival for Kids at Nature Bazaar, Kisan Haat, Andheria Modh, New Delhi from 17 to 26 May 2013. The specially designed Forest of Imagination, a dedicated book corner for exhibition of books and holding book-related activities was the centre of attraction for visitors, especially children, in this Festival.

A hand-made imaginary tree with different varieties of fruits depicting eternal knowledge and wisdom was the unique feature of the book corner. Small book marks were also hung up on the tree for children to draw pictures and write down their thoughts. The other important feature was the Illustrator’s Corner where illustrations drawn by 10 eminent established Indian artists were displayed.

Beneath the book tree, storytelling sessions and workshops were organised in the carnival. Everyday a renowned author-illustrator duo interacted with children. They read out stories and inspired children to draw illustrations on the lines of the narrated story. Children of all age-groups along with their parents and grandparents enthusiastically participated in the workshops.

The renowned authors and illustrators who conducted the workshops included Atanu Roy, Kshama Sharma, Suvidha Mistry, Neeta Gangopadhyay, Ratna Manucha, Taposhi Ghoshal, Deepa Agarwal, Partha Sengupta, Manjul Bajaj, Sudhasatwa Basu, Ruchi Singh, Paro Anand, Subir Roy, Priya Nagrajan, Shashi Shetye and V.K. Sharma.

Apart from NBT India, renowned publishers including Rupa & Co., Scholastic India, Hachette India and Penguin India had put up their stalls in this Carnival. The carnival was an attempt to bring children closer to the world of books and to broaden their world of imagination.

Amongst the eminent personalities who visited the Carnival was Ms Meira Kumar, Hon’ble Speaker of Lok Sabha. She was very pleased to see the aura of natural setting put up by NBT and Dastkar, which she felt would encourage children to respect and save their environment. She was also happy to see children actively participating in all the events. Shri M.A. Sikandar, Director, NBT encouraged children to take part in various activities.

Shri Manas Ranjan Mahapatra and Ms. Surekha from the National Centre for Children’s Literature, a wing of NBT, coordinated the event.
Publishing as a Career

The Publishing industry of India is one of the largest in the world. An industry that is at once strong and vibrant, both in English and other Indian languages. The phenomenal growth of publishing in the last few decades, the coming up of more and more new publishing houses catering to specialised areas and the increasing global visibility of Indian writings have combined to create a need to produce and market books professionally, offering a wide array of lucrative employment opportunities. Today there is a clear need for talented individuals from various specialised fields like academics, engineering, art, management, marketing, finance and law for different areas of publishing—editing, production, design, sales and marketing.

In order to meet this demand, National Book Trust, India (NBT) has been organising courses in publishing throughout the country. Besides, the NBT has initiated a post-graduate diploma programme in publishing in collaboration with various universities. These include the Calcutta University and Ambedkar University, Delhi.

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NBT Book Publishing Courses
The NBT will be organising the month-long training course in book publishing at New Delhi in September 2013. Besides, 2-week training courses are proposed to be held at Srinagar and Agartala.

For further enquiries / details please contact:
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Prof. Mohan Sundara Rajan, well known science communicator and science writer, won the runner-up Mumbai Press Club Red Ink Award for Excellence in Journalism 2012, in the Science and Innovation category. Shri Manish Tiwari, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, gave away the trophy at a function held on 25 May 2013 in Mumbai. Shri Siddarth Varadarajan, Editor, The Hindu presented the citation.

Prof. Rajan has been associated with National Book Trust, India since the past three decades. His books Space Today, Wireless: The Latest Telecom Story, Nano: The Next Revolution, and Telescopes in India have been published by the NBT under its Popular Science series. He is presently working on his latest title Internet: The Revolution in Progress.

**NBT Books on Population**

World Population Day is observed on July 11, every year. The day seeks to spread awareness about global population issues. Inspired by the public interest in Five Billion Day on 11July 1987, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme declared it as the Population Day in 1989. Given below are some of the titles on population published by the NBT.

**India's Changing Population Profile**
Mahendra K Premi
978-81-237-5510-6; Rs 65.00 (PB)
978-81-237-5511-3; Rs 300.00 (HB)
The book covers the dynamic processes of fertility, mortality and migration and describes demographic transition in India and in major states. The book describes the vital registration system in India, its weaknesses and limitations, and goes on to give details on the trends of fertility and mortality in India as well as in certain select countries. In the context of the migration pattern in India, it also discusses differentials in age structure, educational attainment of migrants and non-migrants, and their economic activity.

**India's Quest for Population Stabilisation**
Ashish Bose
978-81237-5853-4; Rs 85.00
The book traces the evolution of population policies, both implicit and explicit, ever since India gained independence in 1947. It wades through numerous reports and unpublished documents of relevance, sorts these out and presents the material in a cogent manner. The book discusses the expansion of demographic database in India and problems of population research. Highlighting the issues of population and development, the book also looks at the north-south demographic disparity and the spread of female foeticide in India.

**The Inevitable Billion Plus**
Vasant Gowariker (Ed.)
ISBN 81-237-0632-4; Rs 62
*The Inevitable Billion Plus: Exploration of Interconnectivities and Action Possibilities* seeks to understand the magnitude of India’s population problem and the need to harness the tools of science and technology for resolving the problem. Originally published in 1992, on the occasion of the 79th Indian Science Congress, this book is a collection of 29 articles by some of the most distinguished social scientists of India including JRD Tata, Karan Singh, Ashish Bose, MA Chitale, Dinesh Mohan, Kiran Karnic, Rakesh Mohan, MP Parameswaran, RK Pachauri, C Gopalan, MV Dhond, among others. Based on the 2001 Census, the book looks at the increasing population number in the country which can be channelled towards reaching a better future for our country.

**Population of India in the New Millennium**
Mahendra K Premi
978-81-237-4861-0; Rs 75 (PB)
978-81-237-4862-0; Rs 350 (HB)
This volume provides information on population issues that have been released by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India. The census has collected a large amount of information about each and every individual in the country covering demographic, economic and social variables. The book presents these data in a simpler manner providing comparisons with earlier censuses, without burdening it with complex formulae and technical terms.

**NBT Author Awarded**

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Laibani Majhi is a single woman with two children; she has been abandoned by her husband due to physical disability, goitre, a condition that could have easily been rectified.

Laibani was not born in poverty. Her father had 12 acres of land and cattle, and also two bonded labourers and one servant working for him. The family was also small: it comprised of Laibani, her brother and a sister, and their parents. Laibani says that they always had enough paddy that would last for the whole year and thus they were never anxious about food. The only work she and her sister were supposed to do was to help their mother in household work.

Laibani’s first encounter with hunger occurred when she was seven years old and there was a severe drought in which the whole village suffered. For the first year, the situation was under control for Laibani’s family as they had enough grains to last the year. However, the drought continued beyond that year and they soon had nothing to eat. The condition was so bad during those times that even people who were owned land had to resort to mortgaging and selling land, cattle and other assets. But the situation was worse as no one had the means to buy it, even the shopkeepers and money lenders did not have enough money to take mortgaged items. As Laibani says: ‘It was at this time that my mother went to the forest with my father and I began to do household work single-handedly for the first time.’ After some time, Laibani also started going with her mother to the forest. ‘In the jungle we collected mahua, kendedu, char, kardi, and various roots and tubers. It was the forest that kept us alive,’ she says.

The major workload had now shifted to Laibani’s mother as she worked in the house and also went to the jungle. Her father accompanied her mother a few times, but since women had more knowledge about what could be edible and what poisonous, it was mostly her mother who went to the forest. While accompanying her mother, Laibani also gained knowledge about edible products from the forest. Like most households, it was the mother who sacrificed food for the sake of the children and husband. At times, it was only the children who ate, the parents slept hungry.

The drought lasted for five years. During this time, Laibani and her sister learnt how to cook and what to eat when nothing was available. Most importantly, Laibani ‘learnt to make sacrifices for others.’ It was also the time when her mother gave birth to her brother, so the burden of work shifted to Laibani, the eldest child in the family. She had to take care of her mother as well as the infant brother.

It was then time for Laibani to get married. At 20, Laibani got married to Girdhari Majhi and she shifted with him to village Thundi Bahal. Her in-laws’ family comprised eight members, out of which four went to work every day. Laibani stayed back home with her mother-in-law and took care of all the household chores. The mother-in-law looked after the two kids brothers-in-law and one sister-in-law.

For a few days, everything went smoothly. Even though her mother-in-law did not help her in household chores, Laibani had no problems because she was used to managing a house on her own. But soon things started changing. Laibani was given leftover food which was not at all sufficient for her. Laibani says that due to the insufficient and poor quality of food that was given to her, she developed goitre. At first, Girdhari, her husband, a seasonal worker, got her treated, but since he worked only for six months a year, the money for treatment became a problem. Whatever Girdhari had saved went into her treatment. This was not appreciated by other members of the family. Though the goitre improved, her in-laws and her husband started taunting her. Succumbing to pressure and mental harassment, Laibani and Girdhari shifted to Laibani’s maternal home.

Once Laibani’s was back at her parents’ home, she realised that her status within the household had changed. Her parents took care of her, and she says without their help she would not have survived. But then Laibani and her husband had to earn their own living: in her parents’ house she cooked food, fetched water and even cleaned the cowshed. Her husband, on his part, worked in the fields. After two years, Laibani gave birth to her eldest son. Two years after his birth, Laibani’s goitre started growing again. She was so caught with trying to raise her family that this time she did not pay much attention to it. However, in the next five years, it grew to an alarming proportion and she had to sell her gold earrings to get it treated. She did not recover completely even after the treatment. Laibani stopped the medical treatment and went to the village quack instead; surprisingly she got better with his treatment. After one year, Laibani again became pregnant. While she was pregnant with her second child, her husband had fallen in love with another woman and he went away with her leaving Laibani alone.

Now she was at the mercy of her parents who were very angry with Girdhari. ‘They were also upset that their daughter was now without a man.’...
**Recent Books from NBT**

**India's Security in a Turbulent World**
Jasjit Singh
978-81-237-6759-8; Rs 75 (PB)
978-81-237- 6760-4; Rs 230 (HB)
The book argues that even though the cold war had created a bipolar world, it was at best a diffused bipolarity with countries like India staying non-aligned and China following an ‘independent’ foreign policy. In the post-Cold War scenario, considering the complex and subtle changing international security scenario, the book proposes that India must avoid sliding into any neo-alliances with one side or the other. Since we are in a world which is still in transition, our security policy should accord highest priority to the pursuit of the goal of “Comprehensive National Development” with an unwavering focus on our own people because ‘power is the means to an end and not an end in itself.’ An insightful and discerning reading of the complex security scenario of India by one of the most eminent national security experts of our times.

**Living with Hunger**
Harsh Mander with M. Kumaran, Archana Rai and Arpan Tulisan
978-81-237-6757-4; Rs 80 (PB)
978-81-237-6758-1; Rs 240 (HB)
This book documents many painful stories of living with chronic, hopeless hunger; the anguish of not being able to feed oneself or one’s loved ones; the impact of prolonged deprivation and recurring uncertainty about food availability; the loss of dignity in securing food through foraging and begging; the desperation of debt bondage and low end, humiliating and exploitative, highly underpaid work; and the sacrifice of other survival needs like medicine. It attempts to understand these through listening to the experiences as recounted by destitute persons from intensely food insecure social groups themselves – specifically aged people without care givers, single women headed households, and adults with disability – in villages in Orissa, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh.

**Books Received**

**Corruption: The Rot Within**, Y.G. Muralidharan; Navakarnataka Publications Pvt. Ltd., Embassy Centre, Crescent Road, Bangalore-560001; 978-81-8467-323-4; Rs 225
India, one of the largest democracies in the world, is being threatened by the monster called ‘corruption’. It has assumed alarming proportions and is eroding the very basis of democracy. Corruption is anti-social, anti-national and anti-people. The rot needs to be cleaned up in the interest of the people and the country’s future. How to stem the rot? From where should the process begin? Who should take the initiative? These are some of the issues that need discussion and this book is an earnest effort in this direction.

**India's Biggest Cover-up**, Anuj Dhar, Vitasta Publishing Pvt. Ltd., 2/15 Ansari Road, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110002; 978-93-80828-69-5; Rs 600
The book is an investigative insight into the Netaji mystery and its stranger than fiction subplots. Relying heavily on official records, the book uncovers a systematic obstruction of justice by the Government of India. First for any book in India, the narrative has been augmented with the excerpts and images of still secret records. Author piles up freshly unearthed facts invalidating the air crash theory; archival material and information obtained under the Freedom of Information Acts of India, the US and the UK have also been made use of.

**Rights of Accused**, Ashutosh; Universal Law Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd., C-FF-1A, Dilkush Industrial Estate, G.T. Karnal Road, Delhi-110033; 978-93-5035-301-1; Rs 475
This book written by a practicing lawyer contains an exhaustive and clear analysis of the conceptual problems relating to the rights of accused under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, Indian Evidence Act, special powers of High Court or Court of Sessions regarding bail, rights in jail, constitutional guarantee of the rights of the accused and protection under human rights laws. The book will be of help to legal professionals and to everyone who is interested to know the rights of the accused.
Adieu

Shri R.S. Negi worked with the NBT for 42 long years before retiring on 31 May 2013. He joined the Trust in 1971 and worked in various departments viz. Production, Exhibition and Administration. At the time of retirement he was working as the Gestetner Operator. We at NBT wish him a happy retired life.

Forthcoming Book Fairs

Kanyakumari Book Fair, Tamil Nadu July 2013
Bilaspur Book Fair, Chhattisgarh September 2013
Chennai Book Fair, Tamil Nadu September 2013
Bhopal/Indore/Book Fair Madhya Pradesh October 2013
Allahabad Book Fair, Uttar Pradesh October 2013
Children Book Fair, Cochin/Trivandrum Oct.-Nov. 2013
Ranchi/Patna Book Fair, Bihar November 2013
Chandigarh Book Fair, Union Territory December 2013
Hyderabad Book Fair, Andhra Pradesh December 2013
Mangalore Book Fair, Karnataka January 2014

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