

19 February 2015
New Delhi

Press Release

An Eventful Day for Children at New Delhi World Book Fair

At New Delhi World Book Fair, interactive storytelling sessions, workshops on creative writing, illustrations and cultural programmes for children are being organized at the Children's Pavilion to enhance creativity in them. These sessions are being conducted by well-known authors, illustrators and intellectuals in the field of children's literature including Ramesh Bijlani, Brig. TPS Chowdhury, Dr Madhu Pant, Aabid Surti, Subhadra Sengupta, Tapas, Guha among others. Children from various schools and NGOs from Delhi & NCR are participating in these sessions.

The first session of *Storytelling* was conducted by Ms Usha Venkataram, renowned storyteller from Mumbai. Prof. S S Sarangdevot, Vice Chancellor, J R N Rajasthan Vidyapeeth (Deemed) University, Udaipur gave the opening remarks. Prof. Sarangdevot said that "Books are indeed our best friends, they give us knowledge." He added that "The principles of great personalities like Mahatma Gandhi and Buddha are applicable even today because of books." Shri H K Srivastava, Joint Director (Admin & Finance), NBT welcomed the guests present on the occasion. Before starting the session, Ms Usha Venkataraman said, "I'm indeed honoured to be a part of delegation of NBT for storytelling." She was hopeful that through stories children would learn many new things. She also observed that, "The stories never worn out, they can be read and heard over and over again." As soon as she started telling a Cuban folktale adapted in Tamil, about a little cockroach 'Meenakshi' who on the advice of her grandmother tests her suitors and finally decides to marry a small brown garden mouse, the children broke into laughter. In this session, Ms Usha Venkataraman also introduced Tamil words to children to help them learn the other language apart from their mother-tongue.

Shri Prayag Shukla, well-known author interacted with the children. He narrated stories to the children and his team-mates Ms Aditi Maheshwari and Ms Taposhi Ghoshal drew illustrations based on the story. They also gave tips to the children to draw illustrations based on the stories.

A session of *Storytelling* was conducted by Dr Dev Sharma of Vedic Life Mission. He narrated stories on the characters Satyakaam and Nachiketa from the *Upanishads*, the ancient Indian scriptures. He said that the stories in these scriptures are relevant today and one can learn many things from them. He also added that we can also gain knowledge by observing things around us and asking questions. This was an interactive session in which Dr Dev Sharma also asked children their opinion about the stories.

A *Storytelling Workshop with the Help of Theatre* was organized by NBT in association with Modo Meo at the Children's Pavilion. The session was conducted by Ms Dhvani Vij. The children through theatrical tools learnt to select a story and create characters for it.

At the Children's Pavilion, a book on Urdu poetry for children titled *Mussarat Ke Taraney*, compiled by Z R Ghausi was released. On this occasion, Nafeez Siddqui, Masoom Muradabadi, ZR Ghausi, Kiran Shabnam also spoke on the occasion. Dr MA Sikandar, Director, NBT welcomed the guests present on the occasion.

Theme Pavilion

At the Theme Pavilion, a conversation with famous Football player from Mizoram, Zico Zoremsanga was organized. The session was moderated by Lallianfeli Pachau. The credit for winning first Santosh Trophy for Mizoram has been given to Zico. He observed that though football is not as popular as cricket in our country but the interest of children and youth is growing.

A panel discussion on the topic *Crossover Narratives: Women's Voices from Northeast* was organized at the Theme Pavilion. The session was moderated by Mamang Dai, noted author. The panelists on the occasion were Avinou Kire, writer from Kohima, Dr Cherri L Chhangte from Department of English, Mizoram and Dr Arupa Patangia Kalita, noted Asamiya author. The speakers on the occasion talked about the oral folk tradition of the Northeast and the contribution of women in enriching the culture and literature of the region.

Events Corner

The book on world-renowned artist, Mr Sukumar Bose titled, *The Art of Sukumar Bose* was released at the Events Corner. The programme was organized by the National Book Development Council of Singapore and ISEAS Publishing House. Prof. Dev N. Pathak presided over the function. Mr. Lim Thuan Kuan, High Commission of Singapore was also present on the occasion. He said that, "As we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of India and Singapore relations in art and culture, on this occasion launching a book like this is definitely a milestone towards strengthening the relationship between the two countries." The other speakers on the occasion were: Prof. Kamal Bose, Mr. Keshav Malik, Mr. Venka Purushothaman and Dr. Nuzhat Kazmi and Mr. Raja Bose, grandson of Mr. Sukumar Bose. The programme was graced by great artists, architects and historians, and also the family members of Sukumar Bose. Dr. M.A. Sikandar, Director, NBT proposed a vote of thanks.

A storytelling session was organized at the Singapore Pavilion in which Susana Goho-Quek, children's author interacted with the children. Susana Goho-Quek has authored the books *Fun with the Opera*. She sang songs so as to tell the story in a better way along with a puppet. She also made drawings of flowers and human faces for the children.

Literary Activities

An evening with Urdu poets, *Shaam-e-Shayari* was organized at Hall No. 7, First Floor, Pragati Maidan. The programme was organized by National Book Trust, India in association with National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language. Renowned Urdu poets including Gulzar Dehlvi, Iqbal Ashhar, Savita Aseem, Zahir Ali Bharti, Moin Shadab, Jahseen Munawwar, Majid Devbandi, Waqar Manvi, Aleena Rizvi, P P Srivastava, Shakeel Jamali among others rendered their poems. On this occasion, the books *Main Kaun Hu*, *TV News Production*, *Ek Gauraiya Ka Girna* were also released. Padamshri Muzaffar Hussain, Vice Chairman, NCPUL, Dr M A Sikandar, Director, NBT and Prof. Khwaja Mohammed Ekramuddin, Director, NCPUL were also present on the occasion.

An autobiography *Me Hijra Me Laxmi*, authored by Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, transgender activist and published by Oxford University Press was released at the Reflections, author's corner at Hall No. 11. Mr Steve Cross, Director of United Nations Program on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) was also present on the occasion. The other books that were released at the author's corners today included *Live Without You* by Dr PS Bawa, *Be the Seeker, Let Love Find You...* by Amit Shankar, *Karm* by Aditya & Arnav Mukherjee, *The Secret Millionaire* by Arfeen Khan, *Dilli Leaks* by Srishti Khanna and *Necropolis* by Avtar Singh among others.

Afro-Asian Book Council in association with National Book Trust, India organized a seminar on the topic *A Digital Library*, at Auditorium 8, Pragati Maidan. The speakers on the occasion were Shri Dammu Ravi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Prof. Dubey, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Shri Vijay Thapa, Chairman, Afro-Asian Book Council, and Shri Pranab Gupta, Director, Afro-Asian Book Council. The speakers on the occasion talked about the library system in our country and the efforts that can be done to digitize the libraries.