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New Delhi

Press Release

Next New Delhi World Book Fair to be held from 14 to 22 February 2015

“Books are the carriers of civilization. Without books, history is silent, literature dumb, science crippled, thought and speculation at a standstill.... Books are humanity in print,” quoting the remarks of American historian and author Barbara W. Tuchman, **Dr Karan Singh**, Hon’ble Member of Parliament and President of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) said that the quote sums up the importance of books. He was speaking at the ‘**Motivational Talk**’ held in Hall No. 8. He said that there is a tsunami of information and we need to abstract knowledge and instill wisdom in young readers and that is the task of creative writing. He also suggested that young readers must read more and more books. He added that we cannot confine ourselves to English or Hindi but also read books in Indian languages. Speaking about poetry he said, people do not realize that prose is written to be read and poetry is written to be heard. He congratulated NBT for organizing New Delhi World Book Fair.

Shri A Sethumadhavan, Chairman, NBT said that he is extremely happy to see this year’s New Delhi Book Fair successful as a large number people visited the fair. Shri Sethumadhavan also declared that the New Delhi World Book Fair, 2015 will be held from 14 to 22 February 2015.

Ms. Rita Menon, Chairman & Managing Director, India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) also expressed her happiness over the success of the fair. She said that the footfall at the fair was good because of the participation of a wide range of publishers, authors’ corners and children’s literature being the theme of the fair.

On this occasion, the book *Triveni*, authored by Dr Karan Singh was also launched. Mr . **Piotr Kłodkowski**, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland expressed his happiness for being the Guest of Honour country at this year’s edition of New Delhi World Book Fair. Dr M A Sikandar was also present on the occasion.

Shri Sharad Yadav, Hon’ble Member of Parliament visited the **Theme Pavilion** in Hall No. 7 and enjoyed the skit and musical presentation by the students of Rajkiya Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, Anand Vihar and Cambridge School, Noida. He expressed his



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happiness on visiting the New Delhi World Book Fair and met the National Bravery Award winners.

Shri Harishchandra Mehra, the first National Bravery Award winner and Ms Mahika Gupta, the recipients of the National Bravery Award, 2013 interacted with the people present at the theme pavilion. Shri Mehra informed that Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of India and many other dignitaries were watching Ram Lila function at the Ram Lila Ground in Delhi. He was on duty as a scout in the *shamiana* (enclosure) where all dignitaries were sitting. During fireworks, crackers fell on the shamiana and suddenly fire broke. He immediately rushed towards the 20-foot high pole and started climbing the pole in the *shamiana*. He cut-off the burning cloth with his scouts' knife. He was conferred the first National Bravery Award at a function held Teen Murti Bhavan in 1958 by Shri Nehru. He felt happy to inform that he also led the Republic Day parade on January 26, 1959. It was after this award that the government decided to annually continue the National Bravery Award for children on the Republic Day.

Eight-and-a-half-year-old Mahika Gupta from Delhi also interacted with people and informed how she saved her four-year old younger brother from being swept away by floodwater in Kedarnath Valley in June last year. She has been given the highest Bravery Award – the Bharat Award for displaying exemplary valour. **The programme was moderated by Shri Rajnikant Shukla, renowned author.** Dr M A Sikandar, Director, NBT was also present on the occasion.

Later during the day, a counseling session was organised by NBT in association with Moulding Thoughts where Dr Shekhar Sarkar talked of ways to Encourage Reading Habits among children. He said that our traditional ways were practical and nowadays we are missing practical approach and are more into theory. The winners of **RivoKids Online Contest** were given away prizes in the evening session.

Ravinder Singh, renowned young author visited the Fair and talked about paper bag revolution and was very much excited to see the publicity of New Delhi World Book Fair. Famous film-actor, *Nawazuddin Siddiqui* talked on the topic *Reality is Stranger* than Fiction at Hall No 7.

On the last day, more than one lakh book lovers visited the New Delhi World Book Fair.



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