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India is the third largest English language publishing industry in the World and is growing despite all odds and challenges faced to it, especially the digital threat to traditional books. There are however other challenges such as ever-increasing cost of paper and overall production, frequently increasing wages of workmen and GST to authors, etc.

As such, it is the time when we need supererogation to protect the survival of the industry and safeguarding the interests of the publishers and the booksellers to literally bring in a renaissance in the profession. However, to achieve this aim two things are necessary to be adopted and applied in the book industry: latest technological advancement and specialized training for all cadres associated with the book industry starting from class four staffers onwards, that include, commissioning, selection of titles and authors, printing, designing, editing, sales, marketing and event launching, etc. Each vertical should express the touch of excellence and professionalism.

Gone are the days when some existing doyens and stalwarts of industry grew and excelled from zero through their extra-ordinary zeal and hard work. Whereas, in the present excessively competitive age where digitization is in direct competitive confrontation with the traditional print books, the concept of the all-round training programme can not be ruled out.

To achieve this target, we need to establish a full-fledged “training institute” at Federation in collaboration with some professional body or chamber of commerce. The publishing training curriculum should cover the full spectrum of knowledge required to develop the right type of industry professionals.

The curriculum should be designed and curated from highly skilled and experienced publishing experts of different domains. We also need to train the trainers and create an Academic Board, with the view to include the latest trends as much as most important basics and current priorities. The training modules will include both traditional as well as online learning.

The e-publishing industry has grown as a result of the success of the devices upon which we read e-books: digital e-readers, tablets, computers, smart phones, etc; which bring with them the advantages of being convenient, portable, cost-effective and easy-to-use. There are other benefits of digital publishing: lower investment, cheaper production cost, lower inventory storage cost and most importantly, the ability to build a stronger global base.

Friends, I am not averse to change, nor undermining the importance of e-books, but through my vast experience of over five decades, I can visualize that print books will survive side by side the e-books but for that we have to re-write the new and workable strategy.

S.C. Sethi
Editor
Friends, I feel indebted to you for having assigned me the responsibility of Federation’s presidentship during the period under report. I was morally as well as officially duty bound to put my best efforts for completing the task assigned to me under the prevailing atmosphere of new challenges. It may not be possible for me to narrate each and every proceeding or task carried out during the financial year 2017-2018. However, I am giving a brief account of the work carried out by me and my team anticipating that the efforts made by us will be viewed to your entire satisfaction.

There had been instances where certain universities, institutes and libraries had been demanding from suppliers an exorbitant amount of earnest money and 100% bank guarantee, etc. Appropriate steps were taken to dilute such problems.

Some of our members have been facing harassment from Gautam Buddha University, Gautam Buddha Nagar (UP) who have unnecessarily and illegally held payment of some of our members. Responding to the complaints received from the aggrieved members, we wrote to Vice Chancellor, Gautam Buddha University; Mr. Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister of HRD; Mr. Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of UP and Dr. Dinesh Sharma, Deputy CM of UP, but to our surprise, we did not receive any response from anywhere. Ultimately, we decided to initiate appropriate legal action through the aggrieved members and against the university to recover the dues. The proposed action is in the process.

There is an issue pertaining to GST on royalty to authors on print books. We have written letters to Union Minister of Finance, Arun Jaitley requesting GST exemption on royalty to Authors. On July 17, 2018, I attended a meeting with Mr. Shashank Priya, joint Secretary, Goods and Services Tax Council, alongwith my colleague, Mr. Raj Mirchandani and Mr. Kapil Jain, Chartered Accountant. We explained them in detail our contentions demanding certain relief. In addition to the above, we also pursued the matter of GST exemption on e-journals and e-books and hope to get an early favorable response.

Most of our members had been facing the problem of sealing of their premises by MCD. In this regard, we pursued the matter with Vice Chairman of DDA and ultimately we held a meeting with the authorities on June 12, 2018, at Vikas Sadan, New Delhi, which was very fruitful and the DDA has agreed to de-seal the premises and to recover the conversion rates.

So far, during the current financial year, we have conducted four ECMs, in which several issues were discussed and resolved. The minutes of the four ECMs have already been circulated to all members.

Sunil Sachdev
President
The Federation of Publishers’ & Booksellers’ Associations in India

**APPEAL**

**To All**

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

We invite the most cordial consideration of all the heads of the Educational Institutions/Vice-Chancellors of the Universities/Directors/Principals that whenever you call for empanelment of Booksellers to buy books from the members of the Federation, kindly verify the genuineness of the members of the Federation from our website [www.fpbai.org](http://www.fpbai.org). In addition to the above, the verification can directly be made from FPBAI Secretariat through [fpbaindia@gmail.com; info@fpbai.org](mailto:fpbaindia@gmail.com; info@fpbai.org) or phone no.: 011-23272845, 23281227.

Those applicants/suppliers who claim to be our members but their names are not sighted on our website may be treated as not genuine.

It has recently been reported to us that some supplier has furnished the fake membership certificate; hence, verification is a must. The Federation will not be responsible for any unauthorized claim of membership, whatsoever.

Sunil Sachdev
President-FPBAI

“If one cannot enjoy reading a book over and over again, there is no use in reading it at all.”

—Oscar Wilde

“I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading! How much sooner one tires of any thing than of a book! — When I have a house of my own, I shall be miserable if I have not an excellent library.”

—Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice
The Federation of Publishers’ & Booksellers’ Associations in India

APPEAL

Before

VICE-CHANCELLORS,
HEADS OF INSTITUTES, LIBRARIANS

We acknowledge with thanks the support from the Directors of Academic Institutes, Vice Chancellors of universities and librarians for purchasing the books/journals from the registered members of Good Offices Committee (GOC).

It may however be pointed out that from time to time, we have been receiving complaints from certain quarters, against some suppliers, for missing or non-supply of journals. We feel pleasure to inform you that every time we received such complaints, we have taken a strict and timely action on complaints received from your fraternity.

The action has been taken to the extent of expelling the suppliers from the membership of GOC as well as Federation of Publishers’ & Booksellers’ Associations in India (FPBAI). We therefore request you to kindly purchase the books/journals from the registered members of the GOC and FPBAI, in the best interest of fair and safe dealings. It may be pointed out that the FPBAI and GOC do not take any responsibility of an erring vendor who is not the member of the GOC/FPBAI.

It has been brought to our knowledge that, some non-member library vendors are furnishing a fake membership certificates of FPBAI, to get themselves empanelled as Vendor for supply of Books & Journals. To ensure the genuineness of membership, kindly check on our Website or else directly from FPBAI secretariat.

We would also appeal to kindly make timely payment to the suppliers on the purchases from time to time.

S.C. Sethi
Chairman-GOC
REVISED TERMS OF SUPPLY FOR PRINT JOURNALS AND E-RESOURCES BY APPROVED INDIAN VENDORS OF GOC

(1) No discount on publishers’ prices fixed for Indian journal subscribers.

(2) Conversion rates as per latest GOC circular prevailing on the date of billing only.

(3) Bills to remain valid for 30 days from the date of bill. Supplementary bills shall be raised in case there is any difference in the price as charged by the Publishers or if there is a delay in payment beyond the period as recommended above.

(4) Full advance payment to be made against all journal bills.

(5) Claims for missing issues of journals to be made within 90 days of the publication of the issue in case it is supplied directly by the publisher to the end user. In case of claims beyond 90 days of publication, if rejected by the publisher, the agent will not be held responsible for refund. No penal interest is payable on stray missing issues. In case of delivery from the agent, the supply will be reviewed every quarter between the library and the agent. All legitimate claims from customers to be settled by the vendors within one and a half year from the date of receipt of payment. However, this would not include titles which are published behind schedule.

(6) The customer should not insist on acknowledgements for receipt of payment from the publishers when orders are routed through approved vendors of GOC. Most publishers do not have a system of sending such acknowledgements.

(7) All subscriptions are subject to full advance payment only. No monthly, quarterly or half yearly payment will be accepted by the approved vendors from the institutes.

(8) All institutional customers are advised to route their requirement through the approved vendors of GOC and not directly through foreign publishers.

(9) In case of any grievance regarding subscription orders placed through a GOC approved agent, institutions/end customers are free to bring forth their complaint directly to the GOC for amicable settlement.

The Chairman GOC shall have the right to initiate action against the GOC approved agent.

S.C. Sethi
Chairman-GOC
FPBAI WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

1. M/s. Allied Informatics, Jaipur
3. M/s. AL-AZIZ Publications, Srinagar
4. M/s. A.K. Supplier, Bhopal
5. M/s. A.R.M. Information Services, Pune
6. M/s. Proficiency Learning Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Delhi
7. M/s. Abhishek Publications, Delhi
10. M/s. World University Books, Delhi
11. M/s. V.K. Prakashan, Bhopal
12. M/s. Valley Book House, Srinagar
13. M/s. Vishal Distributors, Lucknow
15. M/s. Lotus Publishers, Jalandhar (Punjab)
17. M/s. D.M. Enterprises, Bhopal (MP)
18. M/s. Medilink Distributor, Howrah (WB)
20. M/s. P.S. Publisher & Distributors, Bhopal (MP)
21. M/s. Super Books Services, Bangalore
22. M/s. Heritage Books, Srinagar (J & K)
23. M/s. Dev Publishers & Distributors, Delhi
24. M/s. Arnab Enterprises, Delhi
25. M/s. Dinesh Book Distributors, Jharsuguda (Odisha)
26. M/s. Academic Book Distributors, Ramanagaram
27. M/s. Himamsu Book Depot, Vizianagaram (AP)
29. M/s. Popular Book Depot, Udaipur (Rajasthan)
30. M/s. Amiga Press Inc. New Delhi
MEMBERS WHO ARE NO MORE ON FPBAI ROLLS

Following are the names of the members, whose names have been struck off from the rolls of FPBAI/GOC membership for non-payment of subscription money:

1. Atlas Book House, Tinsukia (Assam)
2. AVI Books (P)Limited, Delhi
3. ABC Books, Delhi
4. B.I. Publications (P) Ltd. Delhi
5. Books Media, Delhi
6. Dev Books, Delhi
7. Global Periodicals Supply Services, Delhi
8. Infotech Standards India (P) Ltd., Delhi
9. Jyoti Enterprises, Delhi
10. John Publishers Pvt. Ltd., Delhi
11. Metropolitan Book Company Pvt. Ltd., Delhi
12. Not Go Anywhere, Delhi
13. Oxford University Press, Delhi
15. Sanjana Prakashan, Delhi
17. Techno Books.Com, Delhi
18. The Energy And Resources Institute (Teri), Delhi
19. UK Subscription Private Limited, Delhi
20. Vaibhav Litco (Publication Division), Delhi
21. Unique Book House, Ahmedabad
22. Anjali Book Distributors, Ahmedabad
23. Jain Book Depot, Rohtak
25. Mamta Book Depot, Srinagar
26. Oscar Publications, Srinagar
27. Mamta Publications (P) Ltd. Srinagar
28. Max Publishing House, Srinagar
29. Kashmir Book Trust, Srinagar
30. Harverd Books (Books & Journals), Srinagar
32. EMMESS MEDICAL PUBLISHERS, Bangalore
33. Universal Research Books, Thrissur
34. World Book Traders, Ludhiana
35. Giri Trading Agency (P) Ltd. Chennai
36. D.S. Information Services Pvt. Ltd. Kanpur
37. Gyan Bharati, Allahabad
38. Devarshi Promoters & Suppliers (P) Ltd. Allahabad
39. Information Book Service, Hawrah
40. Shree Agronomic Project Pvt. Ltd. Kolkata

FPBAI ANNOUNCES EXPULSION

Mr. Subrata Dhar of M/s. Alliance Books Suppliers Pvt. Ltd; New Delhi, has been expelled from the membership of FPBAI & GOC for violation of Code after the due process of rules.
There is no specific law in India on publishing. However, the publishing work attracts a variety of disparate laws relating to publication of books, magazines, newspapers, electronic materials and other artistic works. Such laws include, contract; intellectual property; torts, defamation and obscenity, etc.

Publishing is the act of distributing, dispensing or making public a literary or visual work of art. The principal actors in the act of publishing are: (a) publishers; (b) authors. Publishers are those individuals or organizations who dispense information to the public. Whereas, authors are the writers and journalists who provide content material to publishers for publication. However, the term author also includes photographers, filmmakers and artists, whose work is published.

As a matter of fact, publishing work is enveloped with lot many legal pitfalls, which have to be identified during the process of each publishable work. To identify, detect and remove any or all such legal pitfalls, quite a few publication houses engage the services of the legal advisor, conversant with all the connected legal issues and palatial legal pitfalls, to ensure that the coming-up publication does not ensnare the publisher or the author in legal conflict. Those who are not doing so are advised to engage the services of legal experts to avoide any legal tangle.

Prominent among the legal pitfalls to be taken care of are the violation of Intellectual Property Rights (IR), which includes copyright trade mark and plagiary. For promoting the importance of copyright, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in the year 1995, had decided to celebrate ‘World Book and Copyright Day’ on April 23, every year.

Subsequently, numerous international conventions and treaties for the protection of such rights were signed with the view to draft uniform rules for safeguarding the rights of owners of copyright. In India, Indian Copyright Act, 1957, was enacted to protect the creative rights of the authors and their associates, the publishers, who put substantial amount of money in the creation of author’s work.

The legal advisor should be familiar with many legal issues peculiar to publishing such as, copyright of text, music and graphics; trademark infringement; trademark dilution, trademark tarnishment; plagiary; agreements with authors, book suppliers, vendors, subscribers; sales, advertising and distribution policies; special sales arrangements, insurance, obscenity laws, defamation laws; privacy laws; restricted freedom of speeches and taxation matters, etc. The first and foremost concern of the publishers is the copyright, plagiary and trademark issues. They are supposed to conduct thorough research on copyright and allied issues before
publishing a work. They should also ensure that the copyrights are properly registered; the appropriate copyright notice is placed in each work and all copyrights are duly affixed to the work. Publishers carry with them liabilities for the omissions, mistakes and wrong statements of their authors, besides their own wrongs and omissions.

As they say, “prevention is better than cure”. Same way taking all legal preventions before the publication of a book, will certainly save the publishers from prolong litigation and cost for damages, etc.

“There is no such thing as knowledge management; there are only knowledgeable people. Information only becomes knowledge in the hands of someone who knows what to do with it.”

— Peter Drucker

THE LITTLE FREE LIBRARY
by K.P.R. Nair*

The Little Free Library is a great concept that I came across during my travel in the US. The Little Free Library aims to inspire a love of reading, build community, and spark creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world. These are small libraries in neighborhoods across the US, where readers leave books in the library for public use, and if a book intrigues them, they pick one up in exchange. According to Wikipedia, this program has more than 60,000 public bookcases, present in all 50 states of the United States and in over 80 countries. Millions of books are exchanged each year, with the aim of increasing access to books for readers of all ages and backgrounds. These mini libraries are started by individuals. Anyone interested can start one in their building and/or in front of their homes.

Amazon Spheres: Besides my visit to the Amazon Bookstore, I was able to go to Amazon Spheres - a botanical gardenlike workspace for the retail giant’s employees - in the middle of the Amazon campus in Seattle. Open to visitors, the Spheres, bulbous buildings, were built with the Amazon employee in mind. The Spheres are home to an urban rainforest with more than 40,000 plants from the cloud forest regions of over 30 countries. A stroll through the Spheres helped reinvigorate my senses and brought home the impact about companies focusing on employees and community wellbeing.

*Mr. K.P.R. Nair is the managing director of M/s. Konark Publishers (P) Ltd.
READING WITHOUT SEEING:
A SPECIAL APP FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

How do the visually impaired read? This was the central question at the launch of “Simply Reading”, an android application that aims to “unlock digital reading” for people who struggle with more complex touchscreen solutions. The application, developed by DAISY Consortium, a network of NGOs from 55 countries, as a part of Standard Chartered Bank’s CSR initiative, connects to online libraries like the Sugamya Pustakalaya and allows books, usually available in print format, to be converted into audio. Once downloaded on a smartphone, the app can also convert these print formats into Braille and project them on electronic screens, also called “Paperless Braille”, to be used by the visually-impaired. The app recognises at least seven Indian languages, including Hindi, Bengali, Kannada, Bhojpuri and Marathi.

Jagmohan Malhotra, who has served as lieutenant governor of Delhi and Goa and governor of Jammu & Kashmir, launched the app at the India Habitat Centre on Wednesday. Malhotra also released an “accessible” copy of his book, “My frozen turbulence in Kashmir” digitally, to be downloaded and read by people on the app for free.

Dipendra Manocha, president of the DAISY Forum of India and founder of Saksham, an NGO that has been developing holistic reading and writing solutions in Indian languages with its partner organisations, said: “The development of affordable reading devices in Indian languages and Braille presses connected to a common online platform, having a collection of 3.5 lakh accessible forma books, will benefit at least 5.3 million people with blindness of low vision.”

Dinesh Kaushal, a visually-impaired software developer, who has been working with Sapient India on Non Visual Desktop Access (NVDA) for the last one decade, said: “The concept of assistive technology, though new, could democratise the resources by making it accessible to all.”

Anil Prajapati, a visually-impaired technology enthusiast from Saksham said one of the biggest challenges for Indian students was the cost involved in procuring these technologies.

“The app, however, will cater to everyone because it can be downloaded for free on any android-enabled smartphone,” he added.

—Times of India, May 2, 2018
#WELCOME HOME TARINI
AROUND THE WORLD IN 254 DAYS

After braving eight-foot waves, hurricanes, sub-zero temperatures, and broken steering gear, the six women crew of the Indian Naval sailing vessel Tarini sailed into Goa on Monday as young legends, becoming the first all-women naval crew to have circumnavigated the globe. Called the ‘Navika Sagar Parikrama’, the expedition was flagged off on September 10 last year.

Through its 254-day voyage, the vessel visited five countries, while touching four continents, crossing three oceans, three major capes and two equators, before finally reaching home. They also stopped by the ports of Fremantle (Australia), Lyttelton (New Zealand), Port Stanley (Falklands) and Cape Town (South Africa). Team leader Lt Commander Vartika Joshi narrated how she and her crew of Lt Commanders Pratibha Jamwal and Swati P and Lieutenants Aishwarya Boddapati, S Vijaya Devi and Payal Gupta encountered and surpassed challenges in the arduous journey, which Joshi described as “an extraordinarily adventurous voyage of our lifetimes.”

The team was welcomed in Goa by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba. Terming the expedition historic, Sitharaman said Prime Minister Narendra Modi would meet the six crew members in Delhi today. “In every small way and big way, the Navika Sagar Parikrama is something that we can be proud of for generations to come,” she added.

Narendra Modi

Heartiest congratulations to Indian Navy’s all-women crew of INSV Tarini for completing the Navika Sagar Parikrama, their mission to circumnavigate the globe. Welcome home. The entire nation is proud of you! Welcome Home Tarini

Amitabh Bachchan

CONGRATULATIONS ..!! filled with pride .. the Indian Women’s team circumnavigate the globe !! this is no mean feat .. thank you the daughters of INDIA .. you have made INDIA look the greatest ! SALUTE !

Virender Sehwag

Congratulations to our allwomen team of six Indian naval officers who returned home aboard the Tarini after circumnavigating the globe. We are so proud of you, girls!

—Delhi Times (Times of India), May 23, 2018

PRIVATE PUBLISHERS MUST PAY RS 63,000 PER SUBJECT A YEAR TO BALBHARATI

From this year on, private publishers and tutorials will have to cough up to Rs 63,000 per subject per year to use content from state board textbooks to create supplementary resource material.
In its copyright policy, Balbharati, the state’s textbook bureau, has asked publishers to obtain a licence, which will have to be renewed every year.

Earlier this year, the state government announced that it would copyright its textbooks and interested private tutorial owners and publisher would have to pay a licence fee for preparation of material for print, digital or tuition class content, for Classes I to X. “Many publishers have utilized the learning material developed by Balbharati in print and digital form for their respective commercial purposes. In order to support and encourage content creators who have the ability and intent to respect policy and honour compliances and discourage illegal practices and practitioners, Balbharati has decided to levy a licence fee for the usage of its print and digital content(s) which will be utilized for education related purposes,” said the policy uploaded on the Balbharati website on Friday.

Interested players can opt for three types of licences —print, tutorial and digital with a fee of Rs 63,000, Rs 35,000 and Rs 31,000, respectively, per year per subject. An application would have to be made to Balbharati and violation may result in users being sued or blacklisted from further use. “The publishers and tutorial classes are using textbook content and making a profit out of it. Hence, we have decided to charge a royalty if they use our content and avoid unfair usage. We have made several changes to the textbook and students no longer need to use guides,” said Sunil Magar, director of Balbharati.

As a result, neither private publishers nor coaching institutes will be able to publish free of cost any supporting study material that they provide to students. Publishers and tutorial class owners have therefore deemed the move unfair. “The textbooks are a compilation of works of many literary legends and scientific discoveries which are free to use. So how does the Balbharati hold a copyright to this?” said Narendra Nandu, president, Bombay Booksellers and Publishers’ Association. The association had written to the government to include a few publishers in the panel that drafted the policy but had not been heard.

Small publishers and those producing content for the vernacular medium are likely to be most hit by a move which some copyright experts are describing as contentious (see graphic). Earlier this year, international publishers Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press and Taylor and Francis withdrew a suit filed in Delhi high court against Delhi University and Rameshwari Photocopy Service for copyright violation. The publishers alleged that the photocopy kiosk was causing financial losses as students had stopped buying their textbooks.

“The government expects all publishers to pay over Rs 71,000 per year per subject inclusive of taxes. How is it fair to charge all businesses the same amount? We aren’t against a policy but it must be reasonable and must depend on the size of a business. The burden of this would finally be on the students who will have to cough up higher amounts for the guides,” said Ravi Bhatia, director of Navjivan Publications and member of the Association of Publishers and Distributors, Mumbai. The policy has exempted businesses with a turnover of up to Rs 10 lakh from paying for licenses.

—Times of India, May 26, 2018
INFO ON THE GO, TEXTBOOKS TO TURN SMARTER WITH QR CODES

Starting this academic session, teachers and students in a number of states will be using “energized textbooks” that will provide them with more information and contextualized content in the form of video films and audios accessible through quick response (QR) codes, in addition to traditional textbooks.

A QR code is a type of two-dimensional barcode used for providing easy access to information through a smartphone. A senior human resource development ministry official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said that more than 20 million ‘energized’ textbooks will be published this year for five states — Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan.

These states will use the textbooks beginning this academic year, while other states will be able to use the content by getting their QR codes. Teachers and students will have to download the DIKSHA app for this purpose. The work on preparing the QR codes has been undertaken by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) which has put in place the DIKSHA platform that serves as the national digital infrastructure for teachers.

QR codes will be printed on books identified by teachers/subject matter experts in the physical textbooks. These codes can be linked to engaging videos and interactive content to better equip teachers, and provide students with the same content. Students will be able to use the information from home as well.

Students who generally have to search for additional information on their own will be able to get more information by using the app. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has also started work on preparing the QR codes, but they are likely to be available only from the next academic year in the textbooks that will be published by the end of this year.

In Andhra Pradesh, energized textbooks will be used for Classes 6 to 10 in English and Telugu, with more than seven million books under publication; Maharashtra is implementing it for Classes 1 to 10 in the upcoming academic year for all subjects; Uttar Pradesh is implementing it for Classes 1 to 8 for all subjects; Tamil Nadu, too, is planning to link the QR codes with relevant assessments to evaluate subject-wise understanding of the students and propose specific remedial plans. The five pilot states have identified more than 15,000 pieces of content.

“The idea is to make learning fun and interesting. Teachers will be able to use the content to make the process more interactive and students will also be able to use it to access information in the form of videos, audios and text,” said a senior official of the NCTE, requesting anonymity.

Digital interventions in education will be an increasing phenomenon in the future, another NCTE official said.

“Diksha is the stepping stone to an IT (information technology)-based interactive tool for quality education on the one hand and empowerment of teachers by building their capacities on the other,” the official said, also requesting anonymity.

—Hindustan Times, June 16, 2018
CHAPTER ON YOGI’S GURU IN UP GOVT SCHOOL SYLLABUS

MORE THAN 8 LAKH BOOKS ARE TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN SCHOOLS

From the academic session starting July, children in government run schools will read chapters on some great personalities including Nath sect deity Baba Gorakhnath, Nath sect saint Baba Gambhirnath, freedom fighters Bandhu Singh and Rani Avanti Bai, and the 12th century warrior brothers Alha-Udal among others who, till now, were missing from the syllabus.

The move comes after Yogi Adityanath, who served five times as the Gorakhpur member of Parliament before becoming the Uttar Pradesh (UP) Chief Minister, gave directions to the Basic Shiksha Department to include chapters on great personalities who had been “neglected” under the previous regimes in the state.

Yogi is the chief priest of the Gorakhnath temple, a prominent centre of faith and devotion in eastern Uttar Pradesh (UP), where Baba Gorakhnath is worshipped by lakhs of devotees.

Basic Shiksha Adhikari Bhupendra Narayan Singh said, “This time, some changes have been introduced in textbooks, which will soon be distributed among school children studying in Classes 1 to 8. Jeevani (life story) of Guru Gorakhnath has been added as chapter 6 in the Class 6 book titled ‘Mahan Vyaktitva’ (great personalities). Likewise, chapters on Gambhirnath, Bandhu Singh, Avanti Bai, Veer Alha, have been added in other books to be taught in Classes 1 to 8.

The chapter on Bandhu Singh includes how the guerrilla fighter, a staunch devotee of ‘Ma Tarkulha’, fought against the British and was publicly hanged at Gorakhpur’s Alinagar crossing on August 12, 1857. Similarly, the story of Bundelkhand’s warrior brothers Alha-Udal has also been introduced to inspire children.
Rani Avanti Bai, queen of Madhya Pradesh who resisted the British after her husband King Vikramaditya’s death, will also feature in the curriculum. The new textbooks have attractive colours and a QR code, which can be scanned to view digital formats of chapters on mobile phones.

Over eight lakh books have arrived in Gorakhpur for distribution in model primary and upper primary schools, where the session commences from July 2, said the BSA.

“The aim behind including the new chapters is to let the younger generation know about these great personalities who had earlier failed to find a place in books. It will help the students become good citizens by learning about their teachings and inspiring life stories,” said Singh. He said that bags, shoes and uniforms would also be made available at schools by July 15.

—Hindustan times, June 16, 2018

UGC TO BE REPLACED BY A NEW REGULATOR

The Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry has prepared a draft Act to replace the University Grants Commission with a new regulator for higher education in the country in an effort to improve academic standards and crack down on bogus institutions, as per the draft released by the ministry on Wednesday.

The new Higher Education Commission of India will focus solely on academic matters. Monetary grants would be the purview of the ministry, according to the draft of the law that has been seen by Hindustan Times. The Act will be called the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) Act, 2018 (Repeal of University Grants Commission Act).

Under the new law, for the first time, the country’s apex regulator of higher education institutions will have the powers to enforce academic standards, order the closure of sub-standard and bogus institutions, even levy fines.

Currently, UGC releases the names of bogus institutions on its website to warn the public, but cannot take any action against them.

The Act will have powers to revoke authorization to grant degrees in case the standards are not maintained. And in case, an institution disregards HECI’s order on a penalty or closure, the administrators could face criminal prosecution, resulting in a jail sentence up to three years.

As per the draft, all universities including state-owned ones will have to get authorization from HECI for granting degrees, and also fulfil conditions regarding academic curricula and infrastructure for this. “This will do away with substandard universities which are operating from one or two rooms in some parts of the country,” said R Subrahmanyam, secretary, higher education, HRD ministry.

The draft has also made accreditation mandatory for all institutions; those with failing to do so by 2022 face the threat of closure. HRD minister Prakash Javadekar has asked all educationists, stakeholders and the general public to give comments and suggestions before 5 pm on July 7 on the draft, which has been released on the ministry’s website. The new Act is likely to be tabled in Parliament during the monsoon session which begins on July 18.
The government was earlier planning a single regulator to replace the regulators for technical education, teacher training and the UGC. However, it has since decided to strengthen the higher education regulator.

“The current commission remains preoccupied with disbursing funds to institutes and is unable to concentrate on other key areas such as mentoring institutes, focusing on research to be undertaken and other quality measures required in the sector,” said Subrahmanyam. The new commission will be tasked with specifying learning outcomes for higher education courses, and prescribe standards of teaching, assessment, and research, according to the draft.

The UGC has been criticized in the past, especially for what has been seen as its restrictive regime. The Professor Yash Pal committee, in 2009, recommended an education regulator to rid the higher education sector of red tape. “The UGC has had many shortcomings that have impeded implementation of good policies in the realm of higher education. It is evident that this bill has been designed to try and overcome these shortcomings of the UGC. However, much will depend on the kind of people who will man this authority,” said Dinesh Singh, a former Delhi University vice chancellor.

HECI’S FOCUS

- Will be concerned only with academic excellence and maintenance of standards
- Will monitor academic standards on a yearly basis, and close sub-standard institutions
- Universities will need to fulfill and maintain criteria to get HECI nod for granting degrees
- Institutions and universities will be penalised if they furnish wrong information on their websites.

—Hindustan Times, June 28, 2018

WHY UGC MUST BE SCRAPPED

It has not kept pace with higher education’s new challenges

The Union ministry of human resource development (MHRD) on Wednesday released a draft Act to replace the University Grants Commission (UGC) with a new regulator for the critical higher education sector. The regulator — Higher Education Commission of India — will focus on the quality of institutions. The job of financial grant distribution, earlier with the commission, will now come under the ministry’s purview. This decision of transferring financial powers to the MHRD has upset some. On Thursday, the Delhi University Teachers’ Association said it will lead to increased direct interference by the State. While the apprehension could be true, presupposing such an action would be incorrect.

The plan to scrap the UGC has been in the works for several years now, necessitated by the fact that India’s higher education landscape has changed phenomenally from the time the UGC was set up in 1956. At the time, there were only 20 universities and 500 colleges with 0.21 million students. Today, there are nearly 28 million students in 726 universities and 38,000 colleges. This growth should be enough reason for the overhaul, so that the UGC can respond effectively to the new ground realities and challenges, and also ensure that citizens are skilled enough to respond to the new market requirements. It has also been seen that several states have
allowed the setting up of private universities, but many of them don’t stick to standards laid down for higher education. The UGC, according to the government, failed to keep an eye on these issues because its entire function is geared towards the disbursal of grants rather than regulation.

Over the years, several panels have also talked about the need for a new regulator. It’s good that the new regulator’s singular focus will be on quality. It must be staffed with progressive thinkers who are able to chart out a path that is in keeping with our new realities. The body should be strict in terms of regulation of institutions that do not adhere to established standards. The ministry’s job is to back with funding the ideas and recommendations of the new body.

—Ihindustan Times, June 29, 2018

IIT KANPUR SHOCKER! 18,000 RARE BOOKS WORTH OVER RS 1.5 CRORE GO MISSING

About 18,000 books, worth over a 1.5 crore, have been reportedly stolen from the PL Kelkar Library at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur.

The IIT-Kanpur Deputy Director Prof Manindra Agarwal has ordered a probe by the Deputy Librarian Dr S.K. Vijainand to inquire into how these costly books were stolen from the high-secured library having a staff of 22 persons. Startled by the theft of books, the Institute’s Advisory Committee (IAC) has directed the librarian Prof R. Gurunath to review the security of the library and take immediate steps to check further theft of books, ranging from subjects from engineering to aeronautical and space science.

Most of the books which are stolen are rare and have a high price tag. These books are not easily available in the market. The IIT Kanpur had ordered for the import of majority of them to procure from libraries abroad.

The cost of these 18,000 stolen books is roughly around 1 crore to 1.5 crore. The actual cost will be known after the probe. A senior official of the P.L. Kelkar library confided that a few of them were issued to students but never returned by them even after passing out from the Institute. However, others are missing from the library inventory without they being issued to any student or faculty member.

“This is very serious and indicates that the books were being stolen from the library in connivance with some staff over the years. This needs to be probed thoroughly and the culprit should be brought to books,” he said.

Prof Agarwal said that the librarian has been directed to check the records and if the books were issued to students and faculty members then they will be issued notices to return them or pay up the cost. “If no records were found of missing books then action will be initiated against the concerned library staff,” he warned.

Meanwhile, the IAC has directed the librarian to do Radio Frequency Identification Device (RIFD) tagging on each book available in the library. An automated siren will buzz if anyone tried to take or steal the RIFD-tagged book outside the Library without getting it properly issued.
The buzzer is automatically switched off once the RIFD-tagged book is issued after making an entry into the computer. The IAC has also directed to increase the library staff and install more CCTVs. It has also suggested banning entry of student and their exit in the library in groups. Instead, they will be allowed entry and exit one by one to check cases of theft of books from the library.

—DNA, July 3, 2018

EU LAWMAKERS REJECT NEW COPYRIGHT LAW

The European Parliament on Thursday rejected a highly controversial EU copyright law proposal that has pitted Beatles legend Paul McCartney against internet giants and the creators of Wikipedia.

Lawmakers are now expected to return in September to the plans, which are aimed at ensuring creators of creative content — whether music, movies or news — are paid fairly in a digital world.

“Today’s vote represents a victory for democracy,” said Siada El Ramly, head of EDiMA, a lobby representing Google, Facebook and other US tech giants.

Members of European Parliament meeting in Strasbourg voted 318 against the measure, 278 in favour, with 31 abstentions.

The vote would have given MEPs the mandate to start negotiations with member states for a finalized law which Austria, holder of the EU’s six-month rotating presidency, would like finished by the end of the year.

The two most disputed aspects of the reform are an effort to boost revenue for hard-up news publishers and a crackdown on non copyrighted material on tech platforms such as Google-owned Youtube or Facebook.

Major publishers, including AFP, have pushed for the news media reform — known as article 11 — seeing it as an urgently needed solution against a backdrop of free online news.

But opponents have called it a “link tax” that will stifle discourse on the Internet.

Resistance has been especially heated to Article 13, which is the proposal to make online platforms legally liable for copyrighted material put on the web by users.

McCartney as well as major music labels and film studios had lobbied politicians urging them to back the changes. But critics said the reform will lead to blanket censorship by tech platforms that have become an online hub for creativity, especially Youtube. It would also restrict the usage of memes and remixes by everyday internet surfers, they said.

—Hindustan Times, July 6, 2018
A HIDDEN BOOKMARK IN PUBLISHING HUB OF ANSARI ROAD

A bookstore in central Delhi, well-known among the scholars, offers a treasure trove of selections on almost all aspects of Indian history and society.

If it were a book, it would be thick, dense, informative, wonderfully engaging, but wrapped in a most unattractive cover. Manohar bookstore in central Delhi is that sort of hidden gem. From outside, it is just a blank wall without even a window. But on entering you will discover a universe crammed with books on Indian history, politics and society.

Bangalore-based historian Ramachandra Guha is a regular here.

Situated on Ansari Road, home to some of our leading book publishing companies, the shop’s eclectic collection comprises titles that give a tantalising glimpse into a world right under our noses, yet unexplored by most of us. Sample these titles: The Pirates of Malabar, Shantih Shantih Shantih: TS Eliot and Indic Traditions, Mountain Flora of Greece, The Music of Hindostan, and Criminal Gods and Demon Devotees.

The legendary scholar-cum-collector Simon Digby, who divided his time between Delhi and the UK, would come here routinely until his death in 2010. He would make two piles of books; one for immediate reading went to his apartment in Nizamuddin West, the other would be shipped to England, says owner Ajay Jain. The store is named after Mr Jain’s grandfather.

Over-filled with thousands of volumes — both new and second hand — the wooden shelves divide the browsing area into neat rows. You can spend day after day here picking up books of all sorts.

When it first opened in 1967, the shop was known as Prabhu Book Service. It was the second branch of its namesake, the original Prabhu in Gurugram. Known for rare old books, that shop recently shut down. But this one in Ansari Road is chugging along, and is presumably doing sufficiently well for its owner to serve free chai to browsers who linger long.

—Hindustan Times, July 9, 2018

GOVT. DROPS PLAN TO CONTROL FUNDING OF CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES

The HRD ministry has walked back on a provision in a draft law that put it in charge of grants given to institutions of higher education after this was widely criticised. It will create an independent body of experts that does this.
On June 28, the ministry announced its decision to replace the University Grants Commission with the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) by repealing the UGC Act, 1956 and passing the HECI Act.

The human resource development (HRD) ministry has walked back a provision in a draft law that put it in charge of grants given to institutions of higher education after it was criticized by states and other stakeholders.

Instead, the ministry will create an independent body of experts that does this. A number of states and experts had also alleged that the provision of an “Advisory Council” — which was to be chaired by the HRD minister — will lead to politicization. That provision too has been modified in the amended draft Act. On June 28, the ministry had announced its decision to replace the University Grants Commission (UGC) with the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) by repealing the UGC Act, 1956 and passing the HECI Act.

According to the draft of the new law that was published seeking feedback from stakeholders, the new commission was to exclusively focus on academic matters with monetary grants coming under the ministry’s purview. The move faced immediate criticism. A senior HRD ministry official said the ministry received over 6,000 suggestions and comments as feedback, and that on the basis of those remarks, amended the proposed law. The last date for sending suggestions is 20 July, but major changes have been incorporated in the revised draft, a copy of which, was seen by HT.

The government is likely to put up the amended law for cabinet approval and table it in the Parliament during the monsoon session that begins on Wednesday. A number of states, teachers unions and other stakeholders had alleged that putting the ministry in charge of grants would result in interference by it. “The proposal to give this power to the ministry has been dropped and it will be given to an independent body. This would be a body of experts and will operate in a transparent manner by being online,” said the official.

Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry have both told the Centre they were not in favour of replacing the UGC. The advisory council, which the new draft has done away with, was to be chaired by the HRD minister and had the chairperson/vice-chairperson, members of the HECI and the chairperson/vice-chairpersons of all state councils for higher education as members. In the amended draft, any advice from the government to universities will continue to flow through existing bodies like the Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE).

Among other feedback received, was one on the appointment of HECI members. The draft said this would be done by a search-cum-selection-committee (ScSc) of secretaries to the government. With feedback saying this could lead to bureaucratization, “the provision has been amended and the (ScSc) will now consist of reputable academicians under the chairmanship of cabinet secretary,” added the HRD ministry official.

The draft had proposed that the HECI would specify norms and standards for grant of authorization to a university or a higher educational institution empowered to award any degree or diploma or to commence its academic operations. “We got suggestions that it would lead to centralization ... So the provision of the existing universities to come to HECI for authorization has been dropped. Now only the new universities will need to come for authorization,” said the official. The section on penalties has also been redone.

“The design is very clear that they are moving towards privatization and commercialisation of education. If they were so serious then a due process would have been followed. After seeing
the initial reactions they have made certain changes but everything is being done in a rushed manner,” said Rajib Ray, president of Delhi University Teachers Association who has been a critic of the draft HECI Act.

—Hindustan Times, July 18, 2018

ANTI-SMOKING MESSAGE IN NCERT BOOKS, DELHI GOVT SAYS NOT ENOUGH

The Delhi government is unhappy with the content that National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has included in its textbooks on the side effects of tobacco use, after it kept urging the council to include information about tobacco-related harm for years.

According to the Delhi tobacco control cell, the message about harmful effects of tobacco use which has been included in four chapters for Class 7 to Class 12, is not enough.

Last week, the Delhi tobacco control cell wrote again to the council to make it more detailed so that students get to know the harmful effects of tobacco use, and also mention e-cigarettes, hookahs and smokeless tobacco in keeping with the current trend.

For the first time in three years, the Delhi government received a reply from the council stating that the message about harmful effects of tobacco use had been included in four chapters for Class 7 to Class 12. In 2015, the state government had written to the Central Board of Secondary Education and NCERT and since then has been writing every year.

“Each time, we received a reply stating that it would be discussed in the next committee meeting. This is the first time we have received a reply that the messages have been included. However, the information provided is inadequate,” said Dr SK Arora, head of Delhi government’s tobacco control cell.

“Of the four chapters that NCERT had referenced, one had a single line stating that smoking is harmful for health, and the textbooks of Class 11 and Class 12 had a paragraph or two about smoking while the fourth reference could not be found,” Arora said. The chapters mention nothing about smokeless tobacco, or hookahs and e-cigarettes that are popular among students.
“All the tobacco companies target their products towards adolescents, who will create a lifelong market. The use of hookah and e-cigarettes is also more common among adolescents now and most don’t even know about the health risks of these products. Hence, it is imperative for the government to also reach out to the same population for its anti-tobacco campaigns,” said Arora.

“Including a chapter on tobacco consumption gets more attention than a newspaper advertisement. It also involves parents and is a more effective outreach mechanism,” he added. Now, the department has written back to NCERT to include a whole chapter on tobacco use.

In India, more than 28% of the population consumes tobacco in some form or the other. And, one in eight of the tobacco users are between the ages of 15 and 24, according to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey 2016-17.

“It is not possible for NCERT to add a separate chapter till the new national curriculum framework comes in. Currently, the 2005 framework is in place. Anyway, there is content overload and everybody says that it should be reduced. So, information on such topics can be supplemented by using QR codes that will provide links to additional information, audio and video messaging,” said a senior official from NCERT.

—Hindustan Times, August 3, 2018

EXPLAINED SNIPPETS: WAGES DELHI FIXED FOR WORKERS, WHAT OTHER STATES PAY

The court held the notification unconstitutional and said the decision was taken without consultations with employees or workers.
Minimum wages for workers across Delhi were increased by 37 per cent after Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal approved the AAP government’s proposal.

On Saturday, Delhi High Court struck down a Delhi government notification, issued last year, that had hiked minimum wages for various categories of workers. The court held the notification unconstitutional and said the decision was taken without consultations with employees or workers. The notification of March 3, 2017, had hiked minimum daily wages to Rs 513, Rs 565 and Rs 622 for unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers respectively, up from Rs 374, Rs 414 and Rs 455 announced in 2016.

Either of these two sets of wages would have made Delhi’s minimum the highest in the country, as of October 1, 2017. A Labour Ministry reply to a question in Lok Sabha last year showed that as of that date, Chandigarh, Haryana and J&K were among the states/UTs that followed Delhi in wages paid to workers in these three categories. The categories are defined on the basis of specialisation, qualifications or experience, and vary from one field of work to the other. For example, a 2015 Labour Bureau report on wages paid to beedi workers in Madhya Pradesh had defined loading and unloading as unskilled occupations; wrapping labelling and bundle making as semi-skilled occupations; and driving among skilled occupations.

—The Indian Express, August 7, 2018

The London Book Fair was held from April 10 - 12, 2018 at Olympia, London. Simon Master Chairman’s Award was bestowed on Asoke K. Ghosh, Chairman and Managing Director, PHI Learning (India) while Accessible Books Consortium International Excellence Award: Initiative was given to Daisy Forum of India.
Dear Member,

We are pleased to inform you that the Bangalore Book Festival 2018 is being held on 15th - 21st October 2018, at Palace Grounds, Bengaluru.

Details are given below:-

Stall Charges-Per Stall

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* GST @18%

• Last date for booking confirmation is 10th October 2018

• Acknowledgements of payment will be dispatched by post

• Stall allotment is by a draw of lots, Raffle for stall allotment will be held in the venue on 13th October at 5.00 pm.

• All major Credit/Debit Card payments will be accepted at several vantage points in the venue on behalf of all participants on a nominal commission basis.

Note: Those who are interested may contact at:

The Bangalore Booksellers & Publishers Association (Regd.)
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India News, known for its direct and unbiased brand of journalism, hosted the second edition of India News Health Awards 2018 at The Ashok, New Delhi on April 10, 2018 to honour the exceptional contributions of visionaries and innovators in the healthcare delivery spectrum as they continue to touch lives, create sustainable health solutions and lead teams that drive winning healthcare strategies.

Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, Hon’ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare (India), was the Chief Guest, which was attended by some of the top medical practitioners in the country, political decision makers, bureaucrats, media professionals, corporates and esteemed members of the civil society.

India News Health Awards 2018 brought the spotlight on high-calibre individuals dedicated to improving the delivery of safe, patient-centred and quality health services. The awards recognise leadership and innovation across categories. Vijay Ahuja of Delhi Book Store (DBS) was awarded for being a Pioneer in Medical Books.

DBS: a pioneer in medical books

In the book publishing industry, Delhi Book Store is a preeminent and prominent icon for the last seven decades. In the academic world, there will hardly be anyone who has not heard their name. Delhi Book Store, occupying all the floors of a five-storied building in Delhi’s Daryaganj area, is the place where an individual or a bookseller can fulfill his want of books of any genre.

One of the most important factors that helped DBS to achieve this height is the collection of the huge quantity of books of all academic fields from around the world, especially medical books. This is why medical professionals or doctors always recall them for any need. Kudos to Delhi Book Store for being a pioneer in medical books!

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Delhi Book Store is a legacy and they will continue to achieve many more milestones in coming future!