FOURTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AT CHENNAI

THE FEDERATION OF PUBLISHERS’ & BOOKSELLERS’ ASSOCIATIONS IN INDIA

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Dear Friends,

According to concise Oxford Dictionary, the ‘Book’ is defined as a portable writer or printed treatise with a number of sheets which are fastened. After the advent of paper, books have become essential tools of education and disseminating information. Illiterates get converted to literates through the medium of books. We are indebted to books for all scientific, technological, social and economic development.

However, preservation, protection and promotion of the books as of today is not a cakewalk as the book industry is surrounded by numerous challenges and threats and to thwart such nightmarish situations, we have to be constantly alert and updated about all circumstances relating to book trade.

At Federation, it is our endeavor to help publishers compete with the fast increasing digital transformation undergoing in the book industry globally. Our focus has always been on continued process of development of book industry especially of literacy, science, technology, and text books, searching ways and means for its protection, advanced management and enforcement of copyright.

My responsibility is to represent publishers’ interests with national policy makers, international organizations and wherever it is needed. In addition to the above, I accept my responsibility to update our members with new trends of publishing industry through the medium of training programmes, seminars, conferences and workshops, to cop-up with lurking challenges impacting adversely.

Despite all odds, the book industry is not only going to survive but thrive too. However conditions apply viz; we have to make our house in order in order to keep the industry thriving and profit generating. The text book publishing is going through a typical stage of diverse nature; where the government warns private publishers to maintain fixed and steady cost of the textbooks, which should be easily available. On the other hand, from time to time, it asks the schools to buy only NCERT books. Such, a confusing situation restrains the students for opting a quality book of his own choice. There is a need that the publishers should be given a free hand to sell the books and the students as well as the parents should be allowed to go for the text books from publishers of their own choice. Any compulsion in the line of choice of books is the anti-thesis of the student’s creativity, besides being arbitrary in nature.

There is a good scope for the childrens’ leisure publishing industry as over one third of the total population is in the age group of 6 to 24 years and more than 198 million students are enrolled for primary education. A large number of parents are convinced that books are an integral part of education; hence they do not mind spending money on books other than text books for children.
I always say in Hindi, “jo dikhta hai, woh bikta hai” (whatever is exhibited, is sold). As such, book fairs and exhibitions are the best medium of showcasing our books before the book-lovers across the globe. The book fairs help immensely to inculcate reading habits, especially in children. Although we are still very far compared to western countries in reading habits per se but gradually, we are picking-up the desired target.

According to India Book Market Report 2015, the estimated value of print book market in India was $3.9 Billion, with 20% annual growth coupled with the expected increase in literacy levels of 90% by 2020. This data indicates the vital role of India, likely to be played in the global publishing industry.

Readers are the link between publishers and writers. As such, the onus what is to be read, should be left to the judgment of the readers. The successful publisher is that who can feel the pulse of the reader of current times. To achieve this purpose, publishers have to identify creative writers.

For private text books publishers the emphasis should be on quality books and not on discount. Top priority should be given on qualitative content development and adhering to the syllabi of the respective Boards. The text books should be written in a student-friendly manner, keeping in consideration the psyche and the interest of the student. Production value, designing, illustrations, layouts are of vital importance, which should be eye-catching for the students, especially those of tender age.

Book-reading is not fading with the literacy rate at 74%, India has more than 900 million readers permeating the whole gamut of languages. The literacy rate is estimated to touch 90% in 2020. This trend provides vide opportunity for the publishing industry in India for content creating and dissemination of knowledge. The print and digital publishing will both survive side by side to meet the objective of books and reading material for bibliophiles.

We have recently witnessed several book fairs, to name a few the Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF), 2018; 70th Frankfurter Bunchmesse Book Fair; Jaipur BookMark; New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF), 2019 and London Book Fair (LBF), 2019.

The 37th edition of SIBF witnessed 2023 million visitors. This Fair was home to 1874 publishers from 77 countries offering 20 million individual titles of which 80 thousand were seen at the fair for the first time.

The NDWBF-2019, attracted over 1000 exhibitors not only from India but from other parts of the world. The books displayed during the 9-day long Fair included: novels, short-stories, plays, biographies, popular science, politics, governance, culture, Indian society, Indian states, children’s books, books for neo-literates, religious books and many more in English, Hindi and other regional languages. There were certain short comings in the administration of the Fair which have been conveyed by us to the authorities concerned.

Another book promoting event took place at Jaipur BookMark (JBM), the publishing segment of the Zee, Jaipur literature festival. A union of cross section of industry experts, aspiring writers and audio/digital platform providers was visible with the view to indulge in meaningful conversation at bringing exciting perspectives of the book trade.
The LBF 2019 happened to be a bigger showcase for Indian publishing as it worked in association with the Indian Government export trade body, Capexil to stage an Indian pavilion. The Fair also welcomed the Gandhi Archives in celebration of Gandhi 150, which proved to be a big crowd-puller.

It’s a matter of satisfaction that many more ‘Book Fairs’ are in the pipeline; such as, Ajmer Book Fair (April 13-21, 2019); Solan Book Fair, (April 27-May 5, 2019); Chandigarh Book Fair, (May 11-19, 2019); Jammu Book Fair, (May 25-June 2, 2019); Ujjain Book Fair, (August 31- September 8, 2019); Barnale Book Fair, (September 14-22, 2019); and Panji Book Fair, (October 5-13, 2019). Members are advised to widen their horizons by participating at such fairs wherever convenient.

The publishing industry has constantly been bringing renaissance to itself with renewed energy and meaningful ideas. The industry has not lost its sheen even in the most challenging digital age. However, we need to regularly monitor the situation and issues lying before the trade for further improvement. The prevailing ails of the trade include the fragmented nature of publishing and bookselling; unorganized distribution system; long credit cycles that make it difficult to manage cash flows; and GST related issues.

With regard to GST matter, printing books including Braille books are exempted from the purview of GST, vide exemption Code no. 4901; similarly Children’s Picture, Drawing or Colouring Books are also exempted from the purview of GST vide Code no. 4903. Whereas, our members have been facing recurring problem from various institutions, libraries etc; who despite the fact that books are exempted from the GST, have unnecessarily been demanding from the bidding book suppliers to quote their GST registration number among other requirements of bidding.

One such librarian on July 13, 2018, demanded to quote the GST number from books suppliers for empanelment of books vendors for 2018-19, was Central University of Tamil Nadu. On receiving the complaint, I wrote to the Librarian; on January 31, 2019, Vice Chancellor and Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu, to withdraw the impugned condition of mentioning GST number in the bid application. It is heartening to note that on February 27, 2019, Dr. S. Dhanavandan, Deputy Librarian, Central University of Tamilnadu, wrote to me that they will not disqualify any single vendor or proposal based on non-submission of GST Certificate.

Above all, is the phenomenon of offering heavy discounts by most of us; resolving copyright violations and eliminating the evil of piracy, etc. For this, we all require to stand tall, vigilant and united.

S.C. Sethi
Editor
Delusion is the first step towards frustration. When a man cannot acquire the material objects of his dreams, he is full of anger towards the world. He feels he is being deprived unfairly of what he should normally have got. His frustration adds to the weight of his unhappiness.

Happiness is above all. Who would not like to make this happiness eternal? But for that, man will have to give up running after transient goals and seek the eternal one. That is not easy in the face of worldly temptations.

Happiness consists in being perfectly satisfied with what we have got and with what we haven’t got.

It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy, that makes happiness—Spurgeon.

—Contributed by S.C. Sethi
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 Chairmen GOC shall have the right to initiate action against the GOC approved agent if found indulging in an unethical or unfair business practice with the customer.

S.C. Sethi
Chairman-GOC
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 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.

You are advised to purchase the books/journals from our approved vendors only so that in the event of any deficient service, you may seek our help in addressing your problem. Moreover, we also appeal to the librarians not to emphasise on discount as good quality books are not available on discount. The books offered on discount are the left-over stock and purchasing such left-over books is a sheer wastage of governmental funds.

S.C. Sethi
Chairman-GOC
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. M/s. Scientific Book Centre, Guwahati
2. M/s. Janaki Prakashan, Patna
3. M/s. Sharda Book Depot, Jamshedpur
5. M/s. Atlas Book Centre, New Delhi
6. M/s. Akshay Prakashan, New Delhi
9. M/s. Black Prints India Inc. New Delhi
10. M/s. Gupta Sons Book Seller, New Delhi
14. M/s. Shivam Enterprises, New Delhi
15. M/s. Vardhman Books, New Delhi
16. M/s. Amazon Information Technology Centre, Jammu
17. M/s. Ali Mohammad and Sons, Srinagar
18. M/s. Shaheen Book Stall, Srinagar
19. M/s. Yaqoob Brothers, Srinagar
22. M/s. Kashmir Book Depot, Srinagar
23. M/s. Sheikh Ghulam Muhammad & Sons, Srinagar
24. M/s. Shahran Publishing House, Srinagar
25. M/s. Basil Enterprises, Srinagar
26. M/s. Iqra Publications, Srinagar
27. M/s. Deepak Prakashan, Gwalior
29. M/s. The Literate, Jaipur
30. M/s. A-Z Medical Books, Jaipur
33. M/s. Sarnath Publications And Distributors, Varanasi
34. M/s. Inspire, Durgapur (West Bengal)
35. M/s. World Book, Kolkata

NOTE

It may be pointed out that Article 11 of Federation’s Constitution dictates as here under:-

“Any member whose subscription is three months from 1st April, in arrears and who does not pay such arrears within fifteen days after a written notice calling for its payment has been sent to him by the Secretary, shall be liable to have his name removed from the list of approved members of the Federation.”
A.K. Das,
Deputy Secretary,
Tele: 23013683
FAX: 23015655

05-March-2019

D.O. No. 82|41195|2019-PMF

Dear Sir,

We acknowledge with thanks the generous contribution made to the Prime Minister’s National Relief Fund.

Prime Minister appreciates this thoughtful gesture and conveys his gratitude. These contributions will be of immense help in providing assistance to the persons in distress.

A formal receipt is enclosed.

With regards,

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

[Prime Minister’s National Relief Fund]

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Secretary
Prime Minister’s National Relief Fund

Cheque Subject to Realisation
A BOOK FAIR WITH UNFAIR SPIRITS

By H. Khurshid

“What better occupation can really be, than to spend the evening at the fireside with a book, with the wind beating on the windows and the lamp burning bright.”

—Gustave Flaubert

What best season can be for a helluo librorum or bibliophile, than the soothing winter season of January month to let him be lost in the fantastic world of books. The devourer of books from Delhi and other places, witnessed one of the most happening book events in the world, the New Delhi Book Fair, (NDWBF), at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, between January 5-13, 2019. The Fair is organized annually, by National Book Trust, under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, in association with India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), under the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India.

The books displayed during the 9-day long Fair included: novels, short-stories, plays, biography, popular science, politics, governance, culture, Indian society, Indian states, children’s’ books, books for neo-literates, religious books and many more in English, Hindi and other regional languages.

Sharjah was the Guest of Honour this year at New Delhi World Book Fair (5-13 January, 2019). Sharjah was chosen the Guest of Honour, due to its pioneering efforts in the promotion of literature, arts in all its forms, inter-cultural appreciation, reading culture and knowledge sharing in the region. Sharjah participated with a delegation of publishers, writers, artists and other intellectuals at NDWBF.

It is an established fact that printed books are still sought after by readers in India. Printed books cannot be replicated by e-books, even though e-books are very convenient to read. The publishing industry is witnessing a healthy growth despite the slump in the international market and threats from digital medium.

Experts say the millennia-old tradition of written texts, conservative mindset of Indian readers, vigorous event based promotions of the reading culture, the promotional spurt in national and state-level literature festivals, state-of-the-art printing quality and competitive pricing are keeping the industry on the move, thereby attracting new segments of readers.

Indian book market is one of the fastest growing publishing industries in the world despite the lump in the international market and digital invasion. Publishing is in a healthy shape and there is a proliferation of publishers. Today, India is having a number of world class publishers and a number of Indian publishers have met international standards of production and design quality.

Publishing industry offers diverse range of business opportunities. However, the best way to explore the book trade is through participation at international level. The NDWBF attracts over 1000 exhibitors not only from India but from other parts of the world. In addition to book-selling, the Fair hosts many literary and publishing conferences; seminars; workshops; authors’ meet; children’s activities like drawing competition, story-telling and skits. The Sharjah delegation
was led by Mr. Ahmed bin Rakkad Al Ameri, Chairman of Sharjah Book Authority. Expressing his views to media, he said, “India and the Arab would have a more than 600 years old history of culture and literary exchange. Knowledge has been a powerful vehicle of that relationship. We are here to showcase our life, our literature, our heritage and above all to celebrate our relations with India”.

However, there was a flip side of the event. Mohan Kumar, Executive-International Sales of Sharjah Book Authority (UAE) was not quite comfortable with the arrangements made at NDWBF. Comparing these arrangements with that of his country, he said, “In Sharjah we give utmost importance to the comfort, convenience and welfare of all the visitors, including the participants and the authors. In our international Book Fairs, we make sophisticated arrangements for authors, for their staying at five-star hotels and provide them transport to move around. Here it is a very monotonous job to reaching pavilion from the exhibition gates. The inside Shuttle service is almost missing. The washrooms are stinking and untidy. I understand that some construction work is going on, still some spirits were required.”

Mr. Dinesh Verma of M/s. Gully Baba Publishing House complained about the books some of them may be plagiarized being sold outside the gate no. 1 (near metro station) ranging from Rs. 20/- to Rs. 100/-. If this is the scenario, who will then purchase costly books from inside.

Mr. Ajay Karakoti, Chief Operations Officer of M/s. VDK Eduventures Pvt. Lt; too complained about flying dirt all around, dirty washrooms, no shuttle service for visitors to come inside comfortably. The young boys and girls can walk down but for ailing and old people visiting Book Fair is a sort of torture. There is no drinking water facility available.

Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Manager of M/s. Vishwakarma Publications too told his sordid tale of bringing the luggage from gate no. 8 to pavilion. Besides walking on foot, one has to carry heavy luggage of books too with his person as from outside, one can get some labourers but from inside no labourer is available. “Lot many improvements have to be made in future by the authorities”, said Mr. Kumar.

Professor (Retd) R.K. Sharma is a book lover who could not resist temptation of visiting the Fair despite having old age with multiple ailments including the diabetes and cardiac problem. He could walk form gate no. 1 to pavilion with a great difficulty. When this writer asked him for his comments, he said with anguish. “I took a sorbitrate tablet and some other medicines before entering inside, just because I could not resist my passion to see some good books”. He said that the authorities are organizing Fair just because they have to organize, but they are least concerned as how to organize? The comfort of the visitors is perhaps not in their agenda.

In the absence of Mr. Inamul Haq, Director, NBT, this writer met Mr. Vikas, his assistant and described the woes of the visitors, especially the senior citizens and the elderly people. Mr. Vikas simply replied that the inside arrangements are made by India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO). If that is the reason, then it shows the lack of coordination between the two organizing agencies.

Watt Disney once said, “There is more treasure in books than in all the pirates’ loot on Treasure Island.” I wish if Disney would have given a piece of advice to organizers of Book Fair to take care of the visiting amoureux des livers.
A REPORT ON MISSION SKILL AT FPBAI

Training and development can be described as an academic process which includes the sharpening of skills, concepts, changing of attitude and gaining more knowledge to enhance the performance of personnel. This is true in all walks of life, publishing industry being no exception. The first step towards change is awareness, the second step is acceptance and the next step is implementation.

Publishing today has transcended the bounds of publishing experience and achievement and the jarring change since the introduction of printing press is manifestly visible. We see a great shift in methods from trade publishing to educational publishing. Everything about the publishing business ranging from how we source, edit, monetize content to who would be the immediate customers are changing. The technological revolution has introduced and developed e-books.

However, it is heartening to note that this is a change and not a terminal disease. We should not be averse to change but develop ourselves to touch the new horizons. The change in the beginning appears to be hard and challenging but in course of time it makes us convinced of its importance. The digital change is eco-friendly too as every 3000 A4 size paper cost one tree. We may therefore be saving a lot many trees by adapting the newer technology in publishing trade. It has now become imperative for us to adapt ourselves with the changing scenario, but this new landscape full of innovative ideas requires skill development.

Advancement in the field of digital technology and their proliferation in academic domain over the years has caused considerable shift from the printed format to the e-book format accessible through a host of devices including the internet. This shift has given rise to skill learning of one and all engaged in the publishing business.

Hence, what does it entail?

— An international market overview.
— To interact with industry peers and experts from India and abroad.
— Training of future managers and executives in publishing and allied industries.
— Fast-track, concentrated delivery module for trade centric skill training.
— Page creation will be core to creating an online presence.
— Photoshop and layout/design skills are among the primary requirements.
— Spread sheet mastery is a must. Data sets will be large and the big publishers will require database personnel to generate and analyse data.
— Digital production specialist will be required to know HTML5, CSS3, and JavaScript.
— Digital production specialist will be required to learn the nuances of responsive design, graceful degradation and which platforms support which advanced features.

The biggest and the most difficult challenge for a conventional publisher will be the overhauling of organizational set-up. The roles required and organizational structures of even modern publishers will not suffice in this new landscape. Digital production can no longer be a small sub-division of the technical people. In addition to a digital team, the engagement and customer insight team will need to grow. The senior management needs to have a wider vision. Once
Ongoing seminar on Acquisition, Evaluation of Manuscript and Copy Editing.

Malini Sood, expert on Editing: House Style, Copyediting and Tools, Grammar and Punctuation, Editing (Practical) deliberating
the vision is clear, you will need to take an audit of existing skills. By doing this exercise, the endpoint and skill gap will be clear.

Having such vision in mind, the Federation is planning to initiate skill training for all ranks engaged in publishing industry. To achieve this the Federation has initiated to organize seminars on skill development, to which Mr. S.C. Sethi, President-FPBAI, terms as ‘Mission Skill’. He says that we cannot change the direction of the wind but we can adjust our sails to reach our destination.

In view of the above, Mr. S.C. Sethi, with his team decided to organize three training programmes on the following subjects:-

I. Acquisition, Evaluation of Manuscript and Copy Editing.

II. Various Aspects of Book Production.

III. Marketing and, Sales of Printed and e-Books.

The first of its kind was organized at Federation office on January 19, 2019. Almost 20 candidates participated in the seminar. Addressing the audience Mr. Sethi said that there is no doubt that book industry has a threat to his existence, mainly from digital media, slump in the international market and internal competition among the booksellers by offering heavy discount. Despite all this the printed books are still sought after by readers in India. There is a rise in reading culture and the sudden spurt in national and straight level literature festival. This is evident from the book fairs being organized across the globe. However to mitigate the lurking challenges publishing industry requires a good shape for which constant training and updates are required. Mr. Sethi said that this seminar is a beginning in that direction.

There were two sessions of the seminar on Acquisition, Evaluation of Manuscript and Copy Editing. The first session was deliberated on: (i) Acquisition of a Manuscript by Dr. Dinesh Sinha, a publishing luminary, having to his credit an illuminating experience of more than 30 years; (ii) The deliberation of Evaluation of a Manuscript was given by Prof. G.S. Jolly, who is a publishing consultant and was on the course faculty of College of Vocational Study, Delhi University for a number of years.

The second session was divided in two parts: (i) Editing: House Style, Copy-editing and Tools, Grammar and Punctuation; and Editing (Practical). Both the lectures were delivered by Dr. Malini Sood, who did her Ph.D. in US history from Stony Brook University, New York, USA. Malini Sood is an editor, writer, researcher, historian and publishing consultant. The participants were spell bound from her art of rhetoric and highly informative deliberations.

The seminar was organized under the overall supervision of Mr. S.K. Ghai, Chairman-Seminar Committee. Mr. Ghai gave the vote of thanks alongwith a piece of advice that such seminars need to be the recurring feature in the times to come.

Some of our participants while giving feedback on seminar have highly appreciated the quality of deliberations, the professionalism of the speakers and the pious intension of Federation behind conducting the seminar. Among the participants sending the feedback include Ms. Rupanshi Pruthi of M/s. Atlantic Publishers and Distributors Pvt. Ltd. Delhi and Mr. Chetan Malik of M/s. Innovative Publication Pvt. Ltd. Delhi. Ms. Rupanshi Pruthi was frank enough to express her joy while learning so many new things in the field of copy editing. The participants have desired to make such practice a recurring feature with frequent intervals. The President assured them to honour their wish in future.
A women entrepreneur Kalpana Shukla’s firm belief is that if there is no struggle, there is no progress! Kalpana Shukla is the director of KW Publishers Pvt. Ltd, a Publishing House, operated from the book hub of New Delhi’s Ansari Road, Daryaganj. “I am because of the blessings of my parents, they taught me to be strong in all circumstances,” says Kalpana.

“The institutions of a women are better and readier than those of men; her quick decisions without conscious reasons, are frequently far superior to a man’s careful deductions.”

—W Aikman

An entrepreneur is a person who organises and manages an enterprise, especially a business usually with considerable initiative and risk. Today, women entrepreneurs are said to encompass approximately one third of all entrepreneurs worldwide. This shows the growing trend of women empowerment. Women empowerment is the empowerment of women which helps them to take their own decision by breaking limitations relating society and the family. However, Kalpana’s becoming a successful entrepreneur was not a planned venture but accidental and God willing one can.

Kalpana joined Tata McGraw-Hill (TMH) in 1975 as a receptionist and it was at that time that the Company was expanding to in original publishing list and used this opportunity to move to the Sponsoring Editorial Department. Under the guidance of ‘Gurus” of Publishing, she learnt and grew within the Company. The TMH journey was for 11 years. In 1986, she started her own venture Knowledge World, which evolved as a Publisher in 1998. The Company was privatised in 2007.

Simultaneously, with KW Publishers, Kalpana took on the responsibility of Macmillan Press/Palgrave Macmillan and set up to give shape to the business independent of Macmillan India. She headed the Palgrave Macmillan Co (UK) in South Asia from 1994 onwards for 18 years as well as facilitated and overlooked the operations of Nature and Pan Macmillan. After two decades of heading the organisation, she chose to leave the company as Regional Director. Kalpana then concentrated totally on her own business.

KW Publishers has specialised in Security Studies and Defence. The company has over 450 titles to the list. In addition, the Company represents many international publishers from the UK and US for promotion and marketing in India. KW is now in the digital space and has to its credit most books in the e-version and is also moving with technology in the print on demand for the print books.

Kalpana was bestowed the Best Publishers Award (English) by The Federation of Publishers ’& Booksellers Associations in India (FPBAI), during the 57th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on December 17, 2011.
One feels very sad, demoralized and melancholic to know that the book piracy in India and some other countries has become a lucrative business for anti-sociables. Books are reservoirs of knowledge. A book is the outcome of a hard creative work of its author, who must have spent many sleepless nights and many days’ hard work, in carrying out research work with focused attention to bring out a book that may leave a lasting impact on the minds of his readers.

Piracy is an illegal activity which has been accelerated by the rapid technological advancement in printing and photocopying. This technological development has made piracy easy to produce unauthorised copies of a book within a short span of time at a relatively low cost on a large scale. This illegal practice deprives the author of the work from getting his legitimate due of his original and creative work by the pursuit of hard work and intellectual skill, besides causing revenue loss to the exchequer. Copyright law is the first line of defence for the author to protect his work from being pirated.

‘The concept of copyright’ can be traced back to the invention of printing press. The object of an effective copyright system is to encourage authors, artists, etc; to create original works by rewarding them with the exclusive rights for a limited period to explode their work for monetary gains. The owner of the copyright has the exclusive right in respect of the reproduction of the work and such other acts, which enables the owner to get financial benefits by exercising such rights.

Generally, these people grant the licensing rights of their works to a publisher, who is having better infrastructure facilities for mass production/publication and excellent distribution network of these works for publishing at large. Such an exercise besides giving fame to the author brings in financial bonanza for him within a short period. If any of these acts relating to the work is carried out by a person to other than the owner without a licence from the owner under the Copyright Act, 1957, it constitutes infringement of copyright of the work. For example, if a bookseller is selling the unauthorised copies of the books, he does the infringement of author’s copyright.

Copyright protects ‘original work of authors’, whether published or unpublished so long as they are fixed in a tangible medium. Protected works include music, books, magazine, photographs, movies, paintings, sculptures, and choreography. By ‘original work’, we mean independent creation not novelty. Courts may protect the work of the authors if it slightly differs from an earlier work but reflects some minimal level of creativity. The question arises as to what is protectable? Ideas are not protectable, but the language in which ideas are expressed is protectable. Authors must ensure that while going for publishing of their work they should safeguard their interests by reducing terms and conditions into a legal agreement manifestly. The agreement should be fool-proof and must incorporate all relevant points clearly in the agreement.
André Gide once said, ‘Man cannot discover new ocean unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore’.

Accomplishing anything great in life requires significant change that pushes us beyond our comfort zone. Whatever change you are dealing with will have an impact on your future course of action. Subscribing to Gide’s views, Mr. S.C. Sethi proposed a change in organizing EC meetings outside Delhi, viz first at Chennai, with the twin views of providing equal opportunities to regional associations in contributing their view points for the smooth working of the Federation; as well as to listen to grievances of the regional members for resolution.

On March 28, 2019, a team of FPBAI members comprising, Mr. S.C. Sethi, Mr. Pradeep Arora, Mr. Sunil Sachdev, Mr. Arunjit Singh, Mr. J.L. Kumar, Mr. S.K. Ghai, Mr. Vinod Vasishtha and Mr. R.D. Mirchandani left from Delhi in the morning to attend the 4th ECM over there.
The Meeting was held at Hotel Savera, Chennai, in the evening which was attended by 14 regional members. Mr. Gandhi Kannadhasan Vice President, (South)-FPBAI, welcomed the team from Delhi and introduced each other in a very optimistic manner. The office bearers of The Booksellers & Publishers Association of South India (BAPASI) felicitated our team from Delhi by offering ‘Shawls’. Mr. Sethi thanked Mr. Gandhi and his team for the honour conferred on us.

Mr. Gandhi invited the attention of Mr. S.C. Sethi towards various misconceptions and doubts about GST related issues. Mr. Sethi requested Mr. Raj D. Mirchandani, Chairman, Import Committee of FPBAI, to update the House on the subject matter. Accordingly, Mr. Mirchandani briefed the House, thereby, removing their doubts and confusions. Mr. Mirchandani also exhibited the relevant correspondence that took place recently between Federation and the GST authorities.

During the meeting another point was discussed about the Government of India’s proposal for Replacement of the Delivery of Books and Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act, 1954, with a new act namely-Deposit of Books Serials, Newspapers and Electronics Publication in Libraries Act. The President apprised the House that in February 2019, Libraries Section of vide their letter no. F-28-2/1998-Lib, (Vol-III), sent us Office Memorandum on the subject: Replacement of the Delivery of Books and Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act, 1954, with a new namely-Deposit of Books Serials, Newspapers and Electronic Publication in Libraries Act. We readout carefully the contents of the proposed draft Bill and found it fanciful, discriminative and arbitrary and wrote them back to substitute the objectionable part of the proposed Bill.

The President apprised the House that during the 3rd ECM held at Federation office on January 31, 2019, a point was discussed that all MPs are being given funds to provide books to schools and another academic institutions. Subsequently, Mr. KPR Nair of M/s. Konark Publishers (P) Ltd, New Delhi, had sent us the guidelines on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Skills (MPLADS). It is a scheme formulated by Government of India, on December 23, 1993, that enable the Members of Parliament to recommend developmental work in their constituencies including providing funds for education. Mr. Sethi gave the details of the Guidelines to the members and advised them to contact their respective area MPs about the details of funds spent on education year-wise.

Lastly, Mr. Sethi heard the grievances of the regional members and resolved them with suggestive solutions. Mr. Sethi further advised the President-BAPASI to feel free for consultation pertaining to any issue pending for resolution.

This issue of the Newsletter is sponsored by
DELHI BOOK STORE,
NEW DELHI
The Delhi government on Wednesday informed the High Court that it has prescribed only NCERT and SCERT textbooks for students studying in its schools so that the “children may be restrained from burdening to read unnecessary study material and references”.

The academic authorities decide curriculum. Justice C. Hari Shankar was informed that the two bodies are the academic authorities empowered by the Right to Education Act (RTE) to decide the curriculum for the students and that the Delhi government has decided to follow its guidelines.

The reply stated that publishers and vendors inside the school shop/tuck shop shopkeepers cannot supplant and replace the academic authority to decide the school curriculum for child.

The submission were made on an affidavit given to the court while replying to a plea by plea filed by Federation of Educational Publishers in India challenging the circular of the Delhi government issued on November 28 that fixed the weight limit for the school bags.

The affidavit detailed that to promote equality it will be necessary to provide equal opportunity for all, not only in access but also in the conditions of success.

“Besides, awareness of the inherent equality of all will be created through the core curriculum. The purpose is to remove prejudices and complexes transmitted through the social environment and the accident of birth,” it said.

The city government also asserted that vendor’s or publishers cannot step into the shoes of the Academic Authority which is a statutory body. It said that the petition is not maintainable and liable to be dismissed. The plea, filed through advocate Kumar Vaibhav and Aayushi Sharma, had contended that by prescribing a fixed weight of bags and instructing schools to follow NCERT, SCERT and CBSE books, the city government was trying to indirectly achieve a “compulsory enforcement” of NCERT books, which it is not allowed to do.

The petition also claimed that the circular is directing the use of a particular set of books, thereby violating of the bylaws of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

“By putting a cap on the weight of the bag and directing the schools to see that NCERT, SCERT and CBSE prescribed books are brought to the school, the Delhi government is taking the choice of the schools/students from following books of private publishers and is restricting the students to a single textbook,” it added.

—Hindustan Times, January 13, 2019
LIFE OF A TEA-SELLER AS A WRITING COACH

CHANGE IN PROFILE Laxman Rao, Delhi’s famous tea-seller-cum-novelist, is now a sought-after motivational speaker. He conducts writing workshops too.

All my novels are based on real-life stories of people I have met at some point in my life. I do not believe in magic realism or wild imagination. I talk to people, listen to their stories, take notes and keep in touch. LAXMAN RAO, 66.

On a chilly Sunday evening, a group of aspiring writers, some young, some not-so-young, listen with rapt attention as Laxman Rao, 66, tells them the story of how he fulfilled his dream of becoming a writer. Rao, a tea-seller who made his name as a novelist, is dramatically using his hands to draw attention to the acoustics of his speech at a writing and publishing workshop—part of his new life as a writing coach. The venue — a large hall at Hindi Bhawan in central Delhi — has a projector screen; his books are exhibited on a table. Among the participants are not just aspiring writers, but also those who already have several books to their credit.

Rao, who did his post-graduation in Hindi literature through correspondence at 64, says most people fail to fulfill their dream to be a writer because of publishers. “Most of them are businessmen with no interest in finding new literary talent. So, my workshop includes lessons in self-publishing. Why should you allow your dreams to be killed by a publisher whose only concern is money? I tell writers to understand that they write for readers and not for publishers, and they should not hesitate to take their book to readers through self-publishing,” says Rao, his voice laced with anger. “What matters is the quality of the book; not who published it.”

In 1975, when Rao shifted to Delhi, he knew no one in the Capital and had little money. He lived in a Dharamshala (a charitable guest house) and started looking for a suitable job, but could not find one. “I had completed only my 10th and to sustain myself, I cleaned utensils at a dhaba, worked at construction sites, and a few months later, in 1976, set up a paan shop. I sold paan during the day and wrote books at night,” says Rao. Within two years, he was ready with a couple
of manuscripts. But getting them published did not turn out to be an easy process. Rao faced instant rejection. “The first publisher I approached in Delhi rudely asked me to get out. I felt humiliated. He looked at me, and not at my manuscript. I think I did not look like a writer to him. Those who showed some interest asked for money, which I did not have,” Rao says. “So, over the next one year, I saved money and self-published my first book in 1979.”

A common question asked by the participants, Rao says, is how writers can find out how many copies of their books a publisher has sold, how much royalty they should get. “Writers do not seem to trust publishers these days at all.”

Rao’s life — a fascinating tale of a man’s determination to become a writer against all odds — seems to inspire many. No wonder he is often invited as a motivational speaker at schools, management and engineering institutes, and corporate houses that fly him to the venue and pay him a fee. “I do not demand it; they offer me anything between Rs 10,000 and Rs 20,000 as an honorarium. It does help me as a writer,” says Rao.

—Hindustan Times, February 3, 2019

SECRET LIFE OF THE BOOKSTORE MAN

He says a life of reading helped him survive a serious ailment

Living on one’s own is not always easy. Bookshop staffer Vijay Kumar Sharma knows the feeling. “Sometimes I don’t feel like going back to my room at night, and wish I could sleep over in the bookshop itself,” he says during a lull in this Connaught Place store. Though as long as it’s not Diwali, Dusshera or some such festive season, with everyone joyously milling around with relatives and friends, “I don’t feel that lonely... after all, my room is filled with books.”

In his late 30s, Mr. Sharma lives by himself in a rented flat in west Delhi’s Janakpuri and reaches home by 11 pm or even later. “The first thing I do on entering is to open the windows, switch on the fan and freshen up the room.”

The soft-spoken gentleman owns a massive collection of books — they are everywhere, he says, including under his bed. He shows a picture of the place on his cell phone. Stacks of poetry volumes and novels are perched precariously on the two bedside chairs he borrowed from a neighbour, like two leaning towers of Pisa. A Dostoevsky admirer, Mr. Sharma is partial towards Russian novels “because you can connect to their protagonists... they are phatehal (ragtag) struggling souls, somewhat like the heroes of old Hindi movies.” These days, however, he is immersed in Maithili Sharan Gupt’s works. Like most bibliophiles with day jobs he reads “during my long metro commutes, and in the bed before falling asleep.” The bookshop man’s intense kinship with reading has a history. Some years ago he was diagnosed with a serious ailment and “I would suffer from depression and have dark thoughts... but then I met all those hard-luck characters in the novels with their own struggles and their stories helped me survive.”

—Hindustan Times, February 11, 2019
INDIA’S SCHOOL TEXTBOOK CONTENT NEEDS A RETHINK

There is a strong need to create processes and capacities to develop curriculum material in local languages

We don’t use textbooks,” Rinku Dutta, principal of Udaan, a primary school in Himachal Pradesh’s Palampur, told me when I visited the institution a few months ago during a reporting trip.

“It is designed as an experiential learning space, where teachers work as facilitators to enable and support a child in her learning journey, rather than trying to teach her,” added Datta, while she gave me a tour of the school’s minimalist mud structure and its beautiful eco-friendly campus. The no-textbook method of teaching and an experiential learning space may sound revolutionary, but many educationists believe that it’s high time that India starts thinking afresh about the country’s education system (especially the State-supported one) and its quality because the existing system is failing to improve learning level of students.

The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), which takes stock of the learning levels of primary school children in India’s State-run schools, reveals the depth of India’s learning crisis. The 2018 report shows that students, especially those in elementary school (Classes 1-8), are not learning enough. To cite one metric, only half (50.3%) of all students in Class 5 can read texts meant for Class 2 students. “Learning deficits seen in elementary school in previous years seem to carry forward as young people go from being adolescents to young adults,” the report said.

The reasons behind such a disastrous report card, year after year, are not too hard to pinpoint. The lack of quality textbooks (not all states/schools use National Council of Educational Research and Training — NCERT — textbooks), and delays in reaching them to students, especially in the far-flung areas; the politicisation of syllabi; the lack of basic infrastructure in schools; and, untrained and overworked teachers, to name a few.

In addition to these problems, there is also an increasing acceptance that our State-run schools, where scores of first-generation learners go, carrying the hope of their parents that education will give them a better life in the future, have become delinked from the local community they serve, and that the textbooks they use don’t really reflect the local culture and social environment of the children, making it difficult for these young learners to relate to them. These shortcomings, educationists feel, affect the learning capabilities of students.

Speaking at a recent education conference, Difficult Dialogues, NCERT professor, Srinivas Vadivel, said that such shortcomings can be probably tackled by developing curriculum material in local languages. An ideal situation would be for the NCERT to make guideline textbooks, which local teachers can then adapt and supplement to make them more suitable for the children they are teaching. Others at the conference pointed out that to make learning “joyful”, teachers must move beyond textbooks to use innovative teaching resources, educative toys and interesting do-it-yourself projects. If these sweeping changes are to actually happen, then the relationship between schools and students needs to be reviewed as well. Instead of forcing children to adhere to a school’s inflexible curriculum and pedagogy, the institutions must strive to be children ready. This means that teachers must be sensitised to the sociocultural background of the students to ensure better learning. Such steps could make India’s State schools inclusive and positive spaces for quality learning.

—Hindustan Times, February 18, 2019
Presenting the last budget of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government until assembly elections next year, Delhi finance minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday went back to his party’s 70-point manifesto giving an account of the promises fulfilled. The budget, with a total outlay of 60,000 crore which Sisodia said was the highest ever for the city, is 13.21% more than the last year’s 53,000 crore.

Even as the Lok Sabha elections are due in a few weeks, the Delhi government’s budget for 2019-20 had a few new announcements. The contribution of Delhi to the national GDP has increased from 3.97% in 2014-15 to 4.14% in 2018-19, “though we are only 1.4% of the total population”, Sisodia said in his budget speech.

For the fifth year in a row, the government kept a lion’s share — ~15,600 crore or 26% of the total budget — for the education sector. Last year too, Sisodia had allocated 26% of the outlay for education.

This year, the government divided the budget into two categories — projects and schemes and establishments and administration. Of the 60,000 crore total outlay, 27,000 crore have been earmarked for projects and schemes, while 33,000 crore has been kept for establishment and administration.

Under the projects and schemes category, three sectors – health, transport (including road infrastructure) and urban development (including housing) – got the same share of 14% out of ~27,000 crore. This was followed by social security and welfare (13%). For the second time in a row, the government allocated ~500 crore to finish installing 1.4 lakh CCTV cameras across the city.

**WHICH SECTOR GOT WHAT**

Education remained the focus with the maximum allocation, yet again. Health facilities too registered a healthy gain. But, for the second consecutive year, transport saw a dip in the budgetary allocation.
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Let’s Celebrate Library Culture!

Albert Einstein said, “The only thing that you absolutely have to know is the location of the library.” Libraries are an important part of our culture and they go a long way in inculcating good reading habits. Here, Vijay Ahuja of Delhi Book Store shares his views on libraries.

Libraries are a part of our civilisation for many years. They have helped shape civilisations and have been delivery rooms for the birth of ideas. “Even in this digital age, libraries have a significant role to play. Think of the people who are living in places that are still not affected with digital revolution! Here, they rely on libraries for their quest for knowledge. Besides, the feeling of being surrounded with physical books is a nirvana in itself, which one can easily experience at a library,” shares Vijay Ahuja of Delhi Book Store.

Public libraries in India

India is blessed to have a number of public libraries. The Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation is the nodal agency of the government of India to support these public library services and systems. “The library personnel should be well aware of the various schemes and funds available to them so that they can make use of those grants,” adds Vijay.

Why libraries are important?

“Libraries are a wealth of knowledge for both rich and poor. People who cannot afford books can come and quench their thirst for knowledge here. The can find books they cannot buy or find. They are a treasure trove of books. Elderly people come here to read newspapers and network with others. Children get to pick and read the book of their choice. Youngsters come here for reference books or pleasure reading. Everybody can benefit from these libraries,” he shares.

Vast genres, new authors: readers want more

But, libraries have to constantly upgrade themselves in terms of the type of books available. “It is important to understand the changing needs of the readers and offer them the books of their choice. There are more and more new subjects to be explored. New writers have come in. While one person would still relish old classics, another might be interested in a new popular young author. There has to be a right mix of books, catering to a wider audience. So, libraries need to take into account all these factors and buy books for varied tastes, age groups and other demographics like language, etc,” adds Prateek Ahuja.

Towards modern libraries

Libraries have become more technology-oriented. “Finding books is easy. Most of the librarians are well informed. Some have good MIS in place,” tells Vijay. The seating arrangement has also changed over the years. Some libraries offer cozy environment to sit and read. “They offer an environment, which encourages reading and increase footfalls,” adds Vijay.

School libraries: equally important

School libraries are very important for children. “Every school should house a library and buy new books for libraries at regular intervals,” he shares. “When children will start reading young, it will inculcate good reading habits in them. They should be encouraged to set aside time for pleasure reading regularly.”

“It’s time to celebrate the library culture and promote reading amongst all age groups, demographics, cultures and income groups,” concludes Vijay.
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