



The Federation of
Publishers & Booksellers Associations in India

FPBAI Newsletter

Vol. 1 & 2 No. 11 & 12, No. 1

NOVEMBER 2024–JANUARY 2025

EDITORIAL



The Federation of Publishers & Booksellers Associations in India (FPBAI) under its Memorandum of Association is dutybound to promote Art, Literature, Science, Culture and Education with the view to spread useful knowledge. The FPBAI also has the duty to hold and participate in exhibitions

of books from time to time. The FPBAI got an invitation from the organizers of the Assam Book Fair 2024-25, Guwahati. Accordingly, I attended the Book Fair on 27-28th December, 2024.

Realizing the fact that the reading habits of people particularly the youth have gradually been going down and the digital consumption is taking over, coupled with the challenge of saving and reviving the age-old literary heritage of regions like Assam, the Assam government declared the year 2025 as a year of books and literature, which is a vision to revive the cultural and intellectual fabric of the State. By focusing on books it has taken a decisive step towards a culture of knowledge, imagination and unity.

It will be a year-long festival all inclusive and multi-dimensional to revive reading in all sections of the society—from the intellectual mind in the urban space to the rural communities. Book fairs, literary festivals, and workshops will be held one after another to take literature to one and all. These events will serve as incubators for spotting new writers and story-tellers, besides providing an outlet for already established authors. The festivals will create opportunities for conversation among writers, readers and critics for fostering a rich literary ecosystem.

It was also emphasised that public libraries are the other transforming features of this programme. Most of the Assam libraries, which once throbbed with learning and community engagement, have turned into neglected buildings. They will be rejuvenated

with modern collections, digital access and amiable spaces. There also remain on wheels mobile libraries specifically conceptualized for reaching remote areas to deliver the benefits of such a revolution to every part of the State. There goes all the effort and motivation for democratizing the medium of knowledge and promoting every citizen through books and education.

Besides education, this movement holds great potential to energize Assam's publishing industry. It is common for local publishers and authors to fight for visibility and market access amidst an ecosystem dominated by the English language publications. With an emphasis on enhancing demand for Assamese literature and opportunities for publication, the 'Year of Books' can provide much needed impetus to regional literature. The translation efforts can be enhanced further bringing world literary classics to Assamese readers and vice versa, thus further enriching the literary landscape and enhancing cultural exchange.

The invitation was not confined to traditional formats. Embracing e-books, audio books and digital libraries will bridge the gap between traditional and modern reading habits. This initiative was not just a commemorative event, it was a movement to restore that significance of books in society,

Speaking on the occasion, I said, "Truly, books play a significant role in our life, for people of all age and strata. For students, reading books increases knowledge, improves their intellect and make them aware of the various societies and civilizations across the globe. Moreso, reading book enhances imagination and creativity for their personality development. In Rig Veda there is a Vedic Mantra (1.89.1), "Aano bhadra krtavo yantu vishwatah", which means "Let noble thoughts come to me from all directions".


S.K. Ghai
President

MR. KAILASH BALANI: LARGER THAN LIFE

Death is one of those subjects that most of us avoid talking about. We don't want to think about the fact that one day we won't be here anymore. The Stoics called this practice Memento Mori, meaning to remind yourself of death. In this way they cultivated gratitude, focused on what's really important, savoured the good things in life, and stopped wasting time on the things we can't control.

The Federation of Publishers & Booksellers Associations in India (FPBAI), on November 2, 2024, lost the radiant star of its galaxy Mr. Kailash Balani. His sudden, untimely demise sent shockwaves to one and all in the publishing industry. Balani was as good a human being as he was a dynamic businessman. Just recently on September 28, 2024, FPBAI, bestowed on him, Golden Award, for his contribution towards the promotion of the Book Industry.

2,008 Mr. Balani launched Balani Infotech and I-Group Infotech India respectively dealing in e-journals, electronic databases, e-books and technology products for the educational institutions. Today they are the leading distributors of high quality e-content to various educational institutions, government research labs and also serve the corporate market.

In 2012, Balani Group launched Global Music Institute in Greater Noida and is the leading music institute offering diplomas and degree certification in collaboration with foreign universities. This institute is being run by his sons Aditya and Tarun who are the alumnis of Berklee College of Music, Boston.

Mr. Balani has served as the President of FPBAI from 2010 to 2012. He was also executive committee member of DSBPA and of FICCI publishing committee where he has participated in many conferences and



Mr. KAILASH BALANI, was the Chairman and MD of Balani Group of Companies consisting of Aditya Books, Balani Infotech, I-Group Infotech India and Global Music Institute. Mr. Balani started his career in the publishing industry with Tata McGraw-Hill Publishing Co. on 1st January, 1974 and then worked with Narosa Publishing House, Wiley, Butterworth, UK and Asian Books.

He started his own venture namely Aditya Books in 1987 as importer and distributor of foreign books and today they are one of the largest, stockists, library suppliers and exporters. Currently they have more than two lakh titles in stock. In the year 2,000 and in

seminars as a speaker. He also holds the position Vice-President of Sindhi Education Society.

He travelled to over 40 countries and has been attending London Book Fair and Frankfurt Book Fairs from 1987 and has also attended book fairs in many other countries. He enjoyed being in the book business; he was a workaholic and had never desired to retire. Death however put an end to his motive.

We, at FPBAI, express our lamentations on the demise of our dearest friend and we all resolve to stand by with the family members of our departed member. May God provide peace to his soul and patience to all his near and dear ones to bear this loss.

M/s. Satyarth Publication

A-799, Shastri Nagar, New Delhi- 110052

Phone no: 9953044956

E-mail: satyarthpublication@gmail.com

Head of the Organisation & Designation

**Mr. Kripa Shankar & Ms. Madhu Verma
(Partners)**

Business Interests

Publisher & Library Supplier

M/s. Atishay Learning (OPC) Private Limited

3/2, Angoori Niwas, Near Apsara Talkies

Punjabi Bagh, Bhopal- 462023 (M.P.)

Phone no: 0755-4256077, 9893058782

E-mail: priyanka@mausambooks.com

Head of the Organisation & Designation

Ms. Priyanka Jain (Proprietor)

Business Interests

Publisher & Retailer

M/s. G & G Subscription Private Limited

90, 3rd Floor, J and K Block

Laxmi Nagar, Delhi- 110092

Phone no: 9958811173

E-mail: info@ggsubscription.com

Head of the Organisation & Designation

Mr. Gaurav Jain & Ms. Garima Jain (Directors)

Business Interests

Subscription Agent

M/s. Adroitec Engineering Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

Second Floor, D-68, Sector-2

Noida-201301 (U.P.)

Phone no: 0120-4864301, 9553927929

E-mail: sunil.maheshwari@adroitecengg.com

Head of the Organisation & Designation

**Mr. Saroop Chand & Mr. Ayush Nadimpimpalli
& Mr. Jacob Panamthanath (Directors)**

Business Interests

Retailer & Subscription Agent

M/s. Saar Education (I) Private Limited

Plot No. B-66, Sector-80,

Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida- 201301 (U.P.)

Phone no: 9910343222

E-mail: abhishek@saareducation.com

Head of the Organisation & Designation

**Mr. Abhishek Goel, Mr. Nirav Ravi Bhatia & Mr.
Rajendra Suresh Jain (Directors)**

Business Interests

Publisher

M/s. Yaduwise

4806/24, Ansari Road, Daryaganj

New Delhi- 110002

Phone no: 011-47590696, 7877434883

E-mail: yaduwise.delhi@gmail.com

Head of the Organisation & Designation

Ms. Swetha Sharma (Proprietor)

Business Interests

Library Supplier

M/s. New Jain Book Stall

2/2, Manak Chowk, Khajuri Bazar

Subhash Chowk, Indore-452001 (M.P.)

Phone no: 9926636333

Email: njbs2010@gmail.com

Head of the Organisation & Designation

Mr. Nilesh Jain (Proprietor)

Business Interests

Wholesaler, Library Supplier & Retailer

M/s. Delhi Book Service

H. No. 309, 1st Floor, Netaji Subhash Apartment,
Sector-13

Dwarka-110078, Delhi

Phone no: 9050456076

E-mail: delhibookservice01@gmail.com

Head of the Organisation & Designation

Mr. Ram Singh (Proprietor)

Business Interests

Library Supplier

M/s. G A Cube

A.P.1733, Old No. 19, 14th Sector, 102nd Street

K.K. Nagar, Chennai- 600078

Phone no: 9841494775

E-mail: gacube1969@gmail.com

Head of the Organisation & Designation

Mr. N. Gopalan (Proprietor)

Business Interests

Subscription Agent

M/s. Book Planet

D-11, CC Colony, Block D, Delhi- 110007

Phone no: 9999060050

E-mail: bookplanet@hotmail.com

Head of the Organisation & Designation

Mrs. Amita Gupta (Proprietor)

Business Interests

Wholesaler & Library Supplier

M/s. Yash Publishing House

1-E-14, Pawan Puri, Bikaner-334001 (Rajasthan)

Phone no: 7014037455

E-mail: yash_pub@yahoo.com

Head of the Organisation & Designation

Mrs. Reetu Saini (Proprietor)

Business Interests

Publisher & Library Supplier

GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE™

CONVERSION RATES EFFECTIVE November 01, 2024

(The rates are suggestive and not mandatory)

(NEW RATES MARKED WITH ASTERISK):

1. Australian Dollar	@ Rs. 58.20*
2. Canadian Dollar	@ Rs. 63.40*
3. British Pound Sterling	@ Rs. 114.00*
4. Japanese Yen per 100	@ Rs. 57.90*
5. Singapore Dollar	@ Rs. 66.60*
6. Swedish Kroner/ Norwegian Kroner	@ Rs. 08.00*
7. Swiss Franc	@ Rs. 101.40*
8. U.S. Dollar	@ Rs. 87.50*
9. Euro	@ Rs. 95.10*

GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE™

CONVERSION RATES EFFECTIVE December 01, 2024

(The rates are suggestive and not mandatory)

(NEW RATES MARKED WITH ASTERISK):

1. Australian Dollar	@ Rs. 57.60*
2. Canadian Dollar	@ Rs. 63.10*
3. British Pound Sterling	@ Rs. 112.30*
4. Japanese Yen per 100	@ Rs. 57.40*
5. Singapore Dollar	@ Rs. 65.90*
6. Swedish Kroner/ Norwegian Kroner	@ Rs. 08.00
7. Swiss Franc	@ Rs. 100.10*
8. U.S. Dollar	@ Rs. 87.70*
9. Euro	@ Rs. 93.70*

CONVERSION RATES EFFECTIVE January 01, 2025

(The rates are suggestive and not mandatory)

(NEW RATES MARKED WITH ASTERISK):

1. Australian Dollar	@ Rs. 56.20*
2. Canadian Dollar	@ Rs. 62.30*
3. British Pound Sterling	@ Rs. 112.10*
4. Japanese Yen per 100	@ Rs. 57.80*
5. Singapore Dollar	@ Rs. 65.70*
6. Swedish Kroner/ Norwegian Kroner	@ Rs. 07.90
7. Swiss Franc	@ Rs. 99.60*
8. U.S. Dollar	@ Rs. 88.40*
9. Euro	@ Rs. 93.00*

ASSAM BOOK FAIR-2024-25



The Sentinel

of this land, for its people



Education Minister Ranoj Pegu lighting the lamp during the inauguration ceremony of Assam Book Fair 2024-25 at Veterinary College field, Khanapara in Guwahati on Friday. (UB)

Assam Book Fair inaugurated at Khanapara

STAFF REPORTER
 GUWAHATI, Dec 27: State Education Minister and chairman of Assam Publication Board Dr Ranaj Pegu today said that books are the core basis of a civilized and advanced society which makes the role of book fairs even more crucial. Pegu stated this while inaugurating the Assam Book Fair, Guwahati which got un-

der way at the College of Veterinary Science playground, Khanapara here this evening. The book fair is being organized jointly by Assam Publication Board and All Assam Book Publishers and Sellers Association. "The fact that book fairs are being organized by various other organizations apart from Assam Publication Board and All Assam

Book Publishers and Sellers Association signifies a positive and encouraging sign," said Dr Pegu. He also said that to maintain a healthy mental wellbeing, it is imperative on the part of the people to read books. He also urged everyone to support the book fair to make it a successful affair. He also asserted that granting of classical language status to Assamese

language established the fact that the Assamese language is very ancient. President of the Federation of Publishers and Book Sellers Association in India Surinder Kumar Ghai who attended the inaugural function as the chief guest said that book fairs lay the foundation of a strong intellectual ambience. "I am elated to see the buzz among the bibli-

ophiles in the Assam Book fair and I am sure that the fair would receive great response from the people and it would enrich literary exercise," he said. Attending the fair as the distinguished guest, noted writer, journalist and historian Hindol Sengupta said that the book fair unifies people through knowledge. "Books provide novelty to people's thought process and

I am sure that the Assam Book Fair would reach the intellectual sphere of the State," he said. As many as 42 books were released on the inaugural day of the book fair. Earlier, secretary of Assam Publication Board Pramod Kalita explained the objective of the meeting and expressed his gratitude to the State government for supporting the fair.



**প্রকাশন পৰিষদৰ
 ৪২খন নতুন গ্ৰন্থ
 উন্মোচন**

**‘অসম গ্ৰন্থমেলা’
 উদ্বোধন কৰিলে শিক্ষা মন্ত্ৰী
 ডাঃ বগোজ পেগুৱে**

গ্ৰন্থমেলা হৈছে মানুহক জ্ঞানেৰে একত্ৰিত কৰা সুন্দৰ উৎসৱ : হিন্দোল সেনগুপ্ত

গুৱাহাটী : স্টাফ ৰিপ'ৰ্টাৰ, ২৭ ডিচেম্বৰ : 'গ্ৰন্থ হৈছে সভ্য আৰু সফল জাতিৰ আধাৰ। ল'ৰা-ছোৱালীক আৰ্হি দেখুৱাবলৈ হ'লে অভিভাৱকে

The Sentinel
of this land, for its people

2025 – Year of Books

Himangshu Ranjan Bhuyan
 (himangshur1989@gmail.com)

Declaring 2025 as a year of books and literature by the Assam Government is a vision to revive the cultural and intellectual fabric of the state. This is at a time when reading habits are going down and digital consumption is taking over, coupled with the challenge of saving and relevance of the literary heritage of regions like Assam. By focusing on books, the government has taken a decisive step toward a culture of knowledge, imagination, and unity. Books are more than mere sources of information; they are containers of history, identity, and inspiration. Assam, with such an illustrious literary lineage, has contributed much to Indian literature. Such personalities as Lakshminath Bezbaroa, Jyoti Prasad Agarwala, and Dr. Mamoni Raisom Goswami have etched immortal marks in the arena of Assamese literature and helped the region create an identity with the country. This 2025 literary revolution wants to follow this legacy and transform it as per the demands and changing situations in this world that moves at lightning speed. It will be a year-long festival, all-inclusive and multi-dimensional, to revive reading in all sections of the society—from the intellectual mind in the urban space to the rural communities. Book fairs, literary festivals, and workshops will run one after another to take literature to one and all. These events will serve as incubators for spotting new writers and storytellers, besides providing an outlet for already established authors. Especially the festivals will create opportunities

for conversation among writers, readers, and critics for fostering a rich literary ecosystem. Public libraries are the other transforming features of this programme. Most of the Assam libraries, which once thrived with learning and community engagement, have turned into neglected buildings. They will be rejuvenated with modern collections, digital access, and amiable spaces. There also remain on wheels mobile libraries specifically conceptualized for reaching remote areas to deliver the benefits of such a revolution to every part of the state. There goes all the effort and motivation for democratizing the medium of knowledge and promoting every citizen through books and education. Schools and college campuses are at the nerve centres of this revolution for literacy. The breeding grounds of intellectual curiosity, educational institutions should introduce activities such as book clubs, essay competitions, and storytelling sessions to be able to inspire a new generation of readers. Through Assamese literature as part of school curricula, it will not only enhance students' academic repertoire but also strengthen their relationships with their cultural roots. Through celebration of regional authors and encouragement for the students to engage with such authors, this initiative would give a sense of pride in Assam's literary heritage. Besides education, this movement holds great potential to energize Assam's publishing industry. It is common for local publishers and authors to fight for visibility and market access amidst an ecosystem dominated

by the English-language publications. With an emphasis on enhancing demand for Assamese literature and opportunities for publication, the Year of Books can provide much-needed impetus to regional literature. The translation efforts can be enhanced further, bringing world literary classics to Assamese readers and vice versa, thus further enriching the literary landscape and enhancing cultural exchange. Inclusion of indigenous languages and oral traditions is also a valuable part of this initiative. Many aspects are being seen in the linguistic diversity of Assam, and many of the languages and dialects are already endangered. In such a context, oral traditions recorded in written forms will ensure they are preserved for future times and thereby showcase cultural richness within the state. It makes the revolution by authors from the tribal and marginalized communities be inclusive and representative of the diversity in Assam. This literary revolution is not confined to traditional formats. More than that, embracing e-books, audiobooks, and digital libraries might help bridge the gap between tradition and modern reading habits. The use of digital platforms will ensure the reach of literature to a large number of young readers in whom the light of reading is alive. The global visibility offered by online platforms hosting Assamese literature will also allow people worldwide to read the great literary heritage of the state. However, this initiative is not without challenges. Gaps in literacy rates and access to learning resources in urban and rural areas pose significant barriers. Closing the gaps will call for creativity in approach and persistent efforts. Coordination with local non-governmental organizations, private players, and community-based groups can ensure that no corner of the state goes without the

programme's interventions. Again, financial constraints, which many families feel are deterring them from buying books, must be dealt with on a critical basis. Programmes involving free or subsidised book-distribution schemes—especially to children and those economically challenged—will enhance wider coverage. This initiative has deep economic and cultural implications. This is an investment in Assam's intellectual capital, cultural preservation, and promotion. A well-read society is better prepared to meet the challenges of society, embrace diversity, and make contributions toward sustainable development. The economic benefits of Year of Books can be found in tourism through literary festivals and book fairs in positioning Assam as the hub for literary and cultural activities. It may also create opportunities for local writers, publishers, and artisans, thereby strengthening a strong creative economy. This is the literary revolution of 2025 that celebrates stories—the timeless art form connecting all of us. Stories are a glimpse into our past, bring light to our present, and spark our future. For Assam, it is the reassertion of the land as being rich in intellect and culture. A reminder of self-reflection, imagination, and thinking, all that books develop. In dedicating 2025 to books and literature, Assam is speaking of a vision for its future—a vision that considers cultural heritage, intellectual growth, and the transformative power of knowledge. This initiative is not just a commemorative event; it is a movement to restore the significance of books in society. Assam has the potential of becoming a model for all of India in the entire process of commitment towards cooperation, innovation, and a steadfast commitment towards being inclusive. With every page of this literary revolution, Assam embarks on a journey that will honour the past but also build for the future. This is a revolution of minds and hearts, a renaissance of culture and intellect, and a testament to the great power of literature in bringing change to societies.

Worldly life is short, so turn to Allah before you return to Allah
 — The Quran

