

*President's
Annual Report*



**THE FEDERATION OF PUBLISHERS' &
BOOKSELLERS' ASSOCIATIONS IN INDIA**

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OFFICE BEARERS: 2019-2020

President

Mr. S.C. Sethi

Immediate Past President

Mr. Sunil Sachdev

Vice- Presidents

North

Mr. Manas Pratim Saikia

New Delhi

South

Mr. Gandhi Kannadhasan

South

West

Mr. Narendra K. Nandu

Mumbai

East

Mr. Pankaj Bhagawati

Guwahati

Hony. Secretary

Mr. Pradeep Arora

Hony. Joint Secretary

Mr. Arunjit Singh

Hony. Treasurer

Mr. Prashant Jain

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Distinguished members and friends,

I have great pleasure to present you the Presidential Annual Report for the financial year 2019-20 of The Federation of Publishers' & Booksellers' Associations in India (FPBAI). I am grateful to all members for extending their cooperation during the entire tenure.

Friends, from the depth of my heart, I feel most obliged to all of you for assigning me the responsibility of Federation's Presidentship during the period under report. With my experience in industry for more than five decades, I always endeavored to put my best efforts by using my experience for the promotion of industry in every possible manner.

It may not be possible for me to enumerate as hereunder every activity undertaken by me and my team members during the entire tenure. However, I am giving a brief account of the work carried out by myself and my team and hope that the work carried out by us shall come-up to your entire satisfaction. I am very receptive to ideas which may be beneficial for the industry and would therefore request you to kindly feed me with the novel ideas at your end.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

During the period under report, five meetings of Executive Committee were held at Federation office, New Delhi. Compared to yester years less executive committee meetings could be held during the existing financial year. The principal cause for such

reduction of the number of ECs is very well known to all of you: COVID-19.

From March 24, 2020, onwards the entire globe, India not being an exception has been in the grip of COVID-19, resulting into lockdowns.

Whereas, despite all odds, we, at Federation were performing our responsibilities in whatever manner, it could have been possible. Initially, we began coordination with all of our members Online and when the relaxation in lockdown was allowed by the government, we started functioning our secretariat in alternative days viz. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, w.e.f. May 20, 2020. Further w.e.f. July 27, 2020, the secretariat has been functioning for five days a week from Monday to Friday between 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Further from 1st September-2020, Federation has been working as per earlier schedule, Monday to Friday, from 9:30 am to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm.

During all the ECMs various sensitive issues were discussed as well as resolved. Some of the salient issues are as follows:-

Constitution of sub-committees

During the first executive committee meeting, I constituted the following sub-committees for the current financial year:-

1. GOC Committee
2. Finance, Newsletter & Awards Committee
3. Export, Journals & Periodicals Subscription Committee
4. Legal, Anti-Piracy & Copyright Committee
5. Membership, Subscription & Screening Committee

6. Bookselling & Library Supply Committee
7. Seminar Committee
8. Import Committee
9. PR Committee

Matter related to ISBN

On October 9, 2019, we received a communication from Deputy Educational Advisor, Ministry of Human Resource Development to attend a meeting on October 18, 2019 in the ministry office, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi, to discuss the enhanced version of ISBN portal which was going to be launched. Before the actual launch of ISBN portal, the ministry had desired to discuss the same with stakeholders. Accordingly, Mr. Pradeep Arora, Hony Secretary and Mr. Prashant Jain, Hony. Treasurer attended the meeting on behalf of the Federation.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Madhu Ranjan Kumar, Jt. Secretary (Book Promotion). The new enhanced version of ISBN is based on ONIX 3 version. Instead of uploading 4 colour title cover on the portal, now only copyright page will be required to be uploaded and space is also increased from 100 kb to 500 kb. Anyone having old 13 digit ISBNs is required to utilize those numbers first and on completion of 75% ISBN numbers, new ISBNs can be applied for.

During the meeting it was decided that one representative of each publishing house will be trained at ISBN office to make them familiar with ISBN portal version 2. They asked us to nominate persons by October 19, 2019. In reply to the above communication, I wrote to them that our EC meeting shall be held on October 25, 2019, in which we shall select a person to be nominated for training.

During ECM, I asked the House for nomination and Mr. S. K. Ghai; Mr. Sunil Sachdev, Mr. Manas Saikia and Mr. Prashant Jain agreed to give names of their staffers for training. Accordingly, some of the interested Federation members got training at ISBN office.

Matter regarding tax on royalty

We received a Notification No. 22/2019-Central Tax (Rate), regarding tax on royalty. According to Notification No. 22/2019-Central Tax (Rate), dated 30th September, 2019, after serial number 9 and the entries relating thereto, the following serial number and entries shall be inserted, namely:

9A, Supply of services by an author by way of transfer or permitting the use or enjoyment of a copyright covered under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 13 of the Copyright Act, 1957, relating to original literary works to a publisher. This matter has been discussed in 1st ECM.

Categorisation of membership subscription

During the 1st executive committee meeting, dated October 25, 2019, vide item no. 5, I had announced that the Federation will make only one category of subscription viz. Rs. 2,000/- + GST, per annum for all members w.e.f. April 1, 2020. As such, we honoured our words and accordingly w.e.f April 1, 2020, we have made only one category.

Removal of custom duty of 5% on imported books.

I had been pursuing the matter with the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman pertaining to removal of 5% custom duty on imported books. I had written to her on July 8 and July 11, 2019 with copies

marked to Prime Minister but no reply was received to us. In our letter, we had pointed out that the books are exempted from GST also. As such imposing 5% custom duty on imported books shall fetch a very negligible revenue approximately to the tune of rupees twenty five crore viz 5% of the 500 crore for the coffers of the government. On the contrary this negligible revenue shall hit hard on the capability of students and scholars, who further their research with the help of the imported books.

I could not restrain myself by straightaway writing to the prime minister enclosing thereby the copies of communications sent to the finance minister. In response to my letter, prime minister was pleased to forward the representation to secretary, department of revenue for necessary action on October 25, 2019

21st North East Book Fair

Friends, you will be pleased to know that All Assam Publishers and Book Sellers Association organised its 21st North East Book Fair at Assam Engineering Institute Playground, Chanmari, Guwahati, from November 1 to 12, 2019. Mr. Imran Ahmed, President All Assam Publishers and Book Sellers Association had constantly been requesting me to attend their 21st North East Book Fair, on November 1 to 12, 2019; which was to be held at Assam Engineering Institute Playground, Chanmari, Guwahati. Initially, I was reluctant to attend the same as that time I was not well but due to his insistence, I went there alongwith Mr. Manas Saikia, vice president (north), FPBAI and attended the inaugural function of the book fair. I shared the dais with dignitaries, whose list is given below:-

1. Mr. M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India.
2. Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, Hon'ble Governor of Assam.

3. Mr. Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam.
4. Mr. Sidhartha Bhattacharyya, Hon'ble Education Minister of Assam.
5. Mr. Imran Ahmed, President, All Assam Publishers & Book Sellers Association of Assam.
6. Dr. Dhrobojyoti Bora, Eminent Litterateur, Ex President, Asom Sahitya Sabha, Convenor Assamese Literature of Sahitya Akademy.
7. Mr. Ramen Deka, Former member of Parliament.
8. Mr. S. C. Sethi, President, The Federation of Publishers' & booksellers' Associations in India.
9. Ms. Neera Jain, Director, National Book Trust, India.
10. Mr. Ajit Kumar Barman, former President, All Assam Publishers & Book Sellers Association.

They looked after me very well, felicitated me with a shawl and a book alongwith a Memento at inaugural function.

New Delhi World Book Fair

The New Delhi World Book Fair was organized at Pragati Maidan by National Book Trust India from January 4 to 12, 2020. In the second executive committee meeting held on November 29, 2019, I discussed about the performance of the Fair with EC members. The members unanimously expressed their displeasure about the sordid state of arrangements during the yester years and desired me to convey NBT their anguish and give them suggestions for amelioration. I accepted this and sent the suggestions to NBT as desired by members.

Fake Email-id of FPBAI forged by some mischievous person

Mr. Himanshu Chawla, President-DSBPA informed us by email,

dated January 3, 2020, that they have received a complaint from one of their members, M/s. Nisha Book Distributors, New Delhi, that a fake email of FPBAI has been circulated by unknown persons in order to malign their company's reputation. The fake id of FPBAI was federationpa29@gmail.com and the name and address of FPBAI has been used in the fake circular. I wrote back to Mr. Himanshu Chawla, President-DSBPA vide our letter no. Fed./2019-20/26, dated January 10, 2020, clarifying that no such fake id belongs to us nor the FPBAI has circulated any communication against M/s. Nisha Book Distributors. I also informed that M/s. Nisha Book Distributors are not our member and have never been our member in the past.

Suggestions/Comments on draft Registration of Press and Periodicals Bill, 2019

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, vide public notice dated November 25, 2019, solicited the suggestions and comments from the stakeholders on the draft Bill, “Registration of Press and Periodicals Bill 2019”, to replace existing “Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867”. As desired by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The Federation submitted the detailed reply with our suggestions and comments in detail, in the desired format within the stipulated time frame.

FPBAI Directory

At Federation, we were all set to bring out new four-colour directory of FPBAI members around March 31, 2020 but as you know that COVID-19 became the main hurdle and as such it got delayed. An amount of Rs. 5,000/- on advertisement shall give the benefit of publicity to advertisers for complete 5 years till the coming of another directory next to this. I pointed out that this

directory will be sent as complimentary copy to all the universities, academic institutes, libraries, ministries and embassies, etc. Last directory was brought out during 2015.

Complaint vide M/s. International Subscription Agency, Lucknow

I would like to bring it to your kind notice that one of our members, M/s. International Subscription Agency, Lucknow lodged a complaint against us with the Competition Commission of India, New Delhi. On January 2, 2020 the Commission based on his complaint sent us a notice which was duly replied by us on January 13, 2020. The matter is sub-judice. We have engaged M/s. M/s. Chandhiok & Mahajan, Advocates and Solicitors, C-524, Defence Colony, New Delhi – 110 024 to pursue the matter.

GST-RCM Matter

Mr. Manu Bharadwaj of M/s. Rhino International Agencies, Mumbai sent us a mail on February 15, 2020 to call a meeting in Federation office; thereby giving suggestions. Following was the Agenda for the proposed meeting:-

1. The implication of RCM and associated troubles that all of agents might face in days to come;
2. Analyze the approaches available to us as individuals, or a group of members or the Federation itself to tackle the issue in hand.

Accordingly, a informal meeting pertaining to GST related issue was held at Federation office on February 25, 2020, in which the aforementioned points were discussed. The meeting was participated by 19 members. The House unanimously decided

that some expert opinion needs to be sought to clear the hazy scenario.

In view of the above, on the advice of Mr. Kapil Jain, our chartered accountant, we got the expert opinion from M/s. A.K. Batra & Associates, the report of which had been circulated to all FPBAI members. We had to pay Rs. 59,000/- including GST to M/s. A.K. Batra & Associates. However, 9 members as per list given below were not satisfied with M/s. A.K. Batra & Associates report and had urged fresh authorization of EC members for approval of half cost of hiring M/s. KPMG. The amount being charged by M/s. KPMG was very high and due to this reason, we took approval of EC members, whether we should go ahead or whether FPBAI should not be the party to it. This issue was discussed and most of the members have given the opinion that we can support the half cost of hiring M/s. KPMG, total cost is Rs. 8 lakh and FPBAI will support half cost.

- 1) M/s. Allied Publishers Subscription Agency, Delhi
- 2) M/s. Creative Books & Periodicals Pvt. Ltd, Mumbai
- 3) M/s. Global Information System Technology, Delhi
- 4) M/s. Rhino International Agencies, Mumbai
- 5) M/s. Balani Infotech Pvt. Ltd, Noida
- 6) M/s. Globe Publication Pvt. Ltd, Delhi
- 7) M/s. International Subscription Agency, Lucknow
- 8) M/s. Central News Agency, Delhi
- 9) M/s. Total IT Solutions Pvt. Ltd, Delhi

LEGAL MATTERS

We, at Federation have appointed Mr. Vaibhav Arora as Federation's legal advisor. In case any member seeks advice, he is

welcome to contact him free of cost. The contact details of Mr. Vaibhav Arora are given below, although the same have already been circulated to all members:-

Mr. Vaibhav Arora
C-25/5 Connaught Place
Middle Circle
New Delhi -110001
Mobile: No: 9811848114
Email: arora.vaibhavarora@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

Federation's Newsletter is my brain child. I am also the editor of this Newsletter and always remains occupied developing its quality as well as the contents. It is the mouth piece of all the trade activities. It is the vehicle through which we are reaching to audience including the members of the trade, governmental offices, institutes, libraries and administrative authorities. It is self-sustaining, in which no funds of the Federation are involved. The Newsletter has been instrumental in bringing out transparency between various stake-holders such as publishers, booksellers, librarians and the institute authorities. It has been observed that through the medium of Newsletter, librarians got clarity on certain issues which carried ambiguity earlier.

The Federation through the medium of Newsletter has been able to disseminate vital information and modern trends of the trade to its members. In the Newsletter, we also publish the 'Success Stories' of our senior members who have reached to the higher level of success through their hard work, sincerity and dedication. Interviews are published with the view to encourage our young traders to derive benefit from their vast experience. We therefore request all of you to support Newsletter through publication of

your advertisements. You are also requested to contribute material for publication by sharing your vast experience.

As per the practice followed, four pages in the Newsletter, viz. inside cover page, back cover page, inner of back cover page and last page facing inner of back cover page are blocked for utilization by Delhi Book Store, who generally sponsor a particular issue and make payment of Rs. 70,000/- + GST for the same. This amount covers the cost of the Newsletter. I would like to specifically mention the laudable emotional and financial support by Mr. Vijay Ahuja of M/s. Delhi Book Store, New Delhi, for the publishing of Newsletter. He has been very kind enough to sponsor the Newsletter.

It has now been decided to offer some more space in the Newsletter for utilization by members who will provide full or half page advertisement(s), the charges of which are:-

Rs.10,000/- + GST and Rs. 6,000/- + GST respectively.
Mechanical data for the advertisements is as under:

Mechanical Data of Advertisement: One full page 7” x 9.5”
(in PDF or CDR file) Half Page: 7” x 4.5”

FINANCIAL HEALTH OF FPBAI

The Audited Accounts of the **FPBAI** prepared by Mr. N.K. Jain and Mr. Kapil Jain, Chartered Accountant for the financial year ending **31st March 2020** indicate that the financial position of the **Federation** is quite sound. The main features of the Accounts are highlighted as follows:

1. The 'Reserves and Surplus' discloses an amount of **Rs. 1,76,73,810/-** during the year as compared to

Rs. 1,66,45,156/- during the previous year, (an appreciable increase of **Rs. 10,28,654/-**).

2. Cash and Cash equivalents' indicates an amount of **Rs. 1,71,00,544/-** for this year compared **Rs. 1,61,88,871/-** in the last year (an appreciable increase of **Rs. 9,11,673/-**)
3. Revenue from Operations' shows an amount of **Rs. 35,74,854/-** in this financial year as against **Rs. 37,92,067/-** for the last year, thus registering a total short of **Rs. 2,17,213/-** Under the head receipts in respect of 'Subscription from Members' indicate an amount of **Rs. 25,88,600/-** for this year as compared to **Rs. 27,08,849/-** for the last year (short of **Rs. 1,20,249/-**) Receipts in respect of GOC indicates an amount of **Rs. 4,73,000/-** in this year as compared to **Rs. 2,91,000/-** for the last year. (Increase of **Rs. 1,82,000/-**).
4. Other Income' shows the interest on Bank Deposits as **Rs. 11,46,770/-** in the year under reports as against **Rs. 10,98,318/-** for the last year, (an increase of **Rs. 48,452/-**).
5. Operation and other expenses' including Salary to Staff, which contains expenditure, shows an amount of **Rs. 30,83,603/-** in this year as compared to **Rs. 27,61,801/-** during the last year, (increase of **Rs. 3,21,802/-**)

Note:

- (i) It is pertinent to mention here that in the result of COVID-19, some of our regular members have not been able to contribute their annual subscription despite repeated reminders sent to them. Due to this reason subscription amount is less in compression to last year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This year was very difficult due to COVID-19 pandemic and I really appreciate the efforts of Mr. N.K. Jain, our chartered accountant and Federation staff specially Mr. H. Khurshid and Ms. Usha who have coordinated with me and I know how difficult it was for me to perform my duty. My Special thanks to Mr. Kapil Jain for extending expert services throughout.

The most important acknowledgement is my colleague Mr. Pradeep Arora, our Hony. Secretary who is perfect in every sphere and he was always ready to extent fullest support on day to day basis.

I can't forget of support of Immediate Past- President, Mr. Sunil Sachdev, Chairman of Journals and Periodicals Subscription Committee.

I also express my gratitude for the cooperation extended to me by vice presidents: Mr. Manas Saikia (North); Mr. Gandhi Kannadhasan (South); Mr. Narendra K. Nandu (West) and Mr. Pankaj Bhagawati (East). I am also thankful to Mr. Prashant Jain, Hony. Treasurer; and Mr. Arunjit Singh, Hony. Joint Secretary.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge the cooperation and support of my colleagues for carrying out the noble activities throughout my tenure as President-FPBAI, during the financial year 2019-20.

I am particularly grateful to the members of the Executive Committee for providing me whole-hearted support and cooperation throughout my tenure. I would also like to convey my sincere thanks to Mr. Raj D. Mirchandani; Mr. Vinod

Vasishtha; Mr. Vijay Ahuja, Mr. KPR Nair, Mr. Bhupinder Chowdhri, Mr. Vikas Chowdhary; Dr. Manish Arora; Mr. J.L. Kumar; Mr. Vinod Kapoor; Mr. Baldev Verma; Mr. S.K. Ghai and Mr. Manish Kumar Gupta.

I also extend my thanks for the staffers of the Federation, Ms. Renuka Sharma and Mr. Naresh Pal for their active support.

It is my prime duty to convey thanks to all the members of the Federation as without their support it would have not been possible for me to bring the Federation to this stage. I am also grateful to all of you for making this grand event successful through your benign presence.

(S.C. Sethi)