

*Presidential  
Annual Report*

**2020-2021**



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

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**OFFICE BEARERS: 2020-2021**

*Patron*

**Mr. S.C. Sethi**

*President*

**Mr. Pradeep Arora**

*Immediate Past President*

**Mr. S.C. Sethi**

*Vice- Presidents*

North

**Mr. Manas Pratim Saikia**

New Delhi

South

**Mr. Gandhi Kannadhasan**

Chennai

East

**Mr. Pankaj Bhagawati**

Guwahati

*Hony. Secretary*

**Mr. Prashant Jain**

*Hony. Joint Secretary*

**Mr. Arunjit Singh**

*Hony. Treasurer*

**Mr. Prateek Ahuja**

# **PRESIDENTIAL ANNUAL REPORT**

## **Distinguished members and friends,**

I have great pleasure to present you the Presidential Annual Report for the financial year 2020-21, 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 book industry for more than four decades, I always endeavour 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, four meetings of Executive Committee were held (virtually) due to the impact of

pandemic COVID-19 and lockdowns. During all the ECMs various sensitive issues were discussed as well as resolved. Some of the salient issues are as follows:-

### **Nomination of Vice-President (South)**

On December 2, 2020, during the 2nd meeting of office bearers of the newly constituted team, Mr. Gandhi Kannadhasan was offered the post of Vice-President (South). Mr. Gandhi accepted the nomination and joined the new team of office bearers.

### **Constitution of Sub-committees.**

After the formation of new team of Federation's executive members for the financial year 2020-21, the first Executive Committee Meeting was held virtually on December 30, 2020. It was a blessing in disguise that during physical meetings, generally participation of members from Delhi and NCR was possible. However, during virtual meeting on Zoom, Vice-President (East), Vice-President (South) alongwith many more members from different parts of the country joined the meeting. During the meeting, sub-committees were formed under the chairmanship of experienced members.

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

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

\* As far as “Journals & Periodical Subscription Committee” is concerned. Mr. S.C. Sethi was appointed as chairman of the Committee. However, subsequently Mr. Sethi resigned and an offer was made to Mr. Jaideep Gurwara of M/s. Globe Publications Pvt. Ltd., on February 26, 2021, which he gladly accepted on March 1, 2021, with Mr. Sunil Sachdev as co-chairman.

### **Representation of waiver of 10% Custom Duty on import of printed books by Nepal Government.**

The Government of Nepal had imposed a 10% custom duty on imported books for the financial year 2019-20. Taking the serious note of the matter, Federation made a representation to the then Minister of Finance, Government of Nepal, Mr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada, on July 5, 2019 intimating him about the adverse impact of this policy. The copies of the representation were also sent to Mr. K.P Sharma Oli, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Nepal, and other Govt. Officials of Nepal Govt., for follow-up. In the result of our sustained efforts, the Nepal Government was pleased to remove 10% custom duty on printed books through cabinet decision. On December 2, 2020, Federation sent letter to the current Finance Minister of Nepal, Mr. Bishnu Prasad Paudel, duly appreciating his efforts in removing the custom duty on printed books.

## **Matter pertaining to delayed ISBN.**

Members were facing lots of problems pertaining to ISBN Agency. Publishers were facing difficulty with regard to the allocation of their ISBN. According to earlier system once ISBN office issued 100 ISBN, the allocation was in chronological order. This made things easier for publishers as they used to incorporate the numbers in the same chronological pattern and were not supposed to wait for an allocation. However, now the department does not allocate the number in a chronological order and pick-up the number randomly; thereby, making the work of publishers very difficult. More so, the process of allocating an ISBN takes anywhere between 2 to 3 weeks, impacting upon their production very badly. Accordingly, the book in question gets delayed for release in the market.

It was also brought to our knowledge that the distress calls of the publishers are not being answered by ISBN office. Their landline no. 011-23341739, as well as the website quite often remains dysfunctional. We stressed upon the need to make arrangements to listen to the queries of the publishers in the interest of mutual cordial relations.

To address the grievances of the members, we followed up with the authorities concerned and wrote letter to Mr. Amit Khare, Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, on November 18, 2020, with a reminder on 4th December, 2020. Mr. Prashant Jain, our Hony. Secretary also met Mr. Madan Mohan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education, who is

responsible for ISBN issues, on 10th March, 2021 and apprised him about the practical problems being faced by the publishers.

Due to our interference, we find little improvement in the services, however, we again wrote to Mr. Amit Khare, Secretary, Dept. of Higher Education on April, 12, 2021, as well as to Mr. Madan Mohan, Joint Secretary Dept. of Higher Education on April 16, 2021, seeking their intervention for further improvement in the system.

**Representation to Prime Minister to continue the involvement of Indian vendors of Journals/Subscription in the negotiation process with foreign publishers.**

The Federation on December 15, 2020, sent a letter to the Prime Minister of India requesting him to direct the ministries concerned to continue the involvement of Indian vendors of journals/subscription in the negotiation process with foreign publishers. Copies of the letter were marked to Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of Finance; Mr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Union Minister of Education; Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Science & Technology and Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare; and Mr. Prahlad Patel, Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Culture.

Another reminder was sent to the Prime Minister on 11th January, 2021, mentioning that our publishing industry is facing severe hardship due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as majority of the educational institutions across the Nation

continue to be closed and the retail book trade is also reeling under financial strain, the industry got a set-back, when certain governmental organizations like ISRO (INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION), Dental Council of India, UGC Inflightnet (ESS Consortium), Department of Science & Technology, National Library, Kolkata and so on, breaking the convention of interacting with international publishers through the medium of local vendors started negotiating with the international publishers directly through the Consortium for subscribing to online educational journals/periodicals. The local Indian vendors used to make two to five percent commission for their livelihood and also contributed revenue to the government coffers as tax, thereby saving precious foreign exchange and providing employment to hundreds of people. Citing Prime Minister's scheme of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" and in support of his phrase "Vocal for Local", a request was made to the prime minister to direct the appropriate bodies for continuing the involvement of Indian vendors in the negotiation process on equity and humanitarian ground. We are glad to inform that our letter has been acknowledged by PMO Office on January 22nd, 2021, and hope to have desired results.

### **Representation to Union Minister of Education for providing books to schools under Central School Organization.**

A representation was sent to Union Minister of Education pertaining to non-payment of certain vendors for providing books for Central School Organization requesting him to

intervene. Since, the minister prefers all correspondence in the Hindi language; the letter was drafted and sent to him in Hindi. This task was taken up by Mr. Prashant Jain, Hony. Secretary.

The Central School Organization had advertised in newspapers for the purchase of books. Almost 150 publishers/vendors, most of whom are our members, had received supply orders for selected books at the end of February 2020, prior to the spread of the pandemic. Afterwards, post-unlockdown, the vendors were granted some extended time for the supply of books. Almost all the vendors had supplied the books by June, 2020. However, despite the expiry of almost six months, the Central School Organization had not made the payment to vendors. As such, a representation was sent to the Union Ministry of Education for intervention. In the result payment were made to vendors.

**Representation to Minister of State (I/C) Ministry of Culture pertaining to purchase of books by Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation, from private vendors.**

A representation was made to Mr. Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Culture, Government of India, it was pointed out that Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation has been purchasing books in bulk for the benefit of people associated with publishing industry but the Foundation has not purchased books for last two financial years. Foundation may therefore be advised to purchase

books through private vendors as the market is already very bad due to the COVID pandemic in the country, and the private vendors need support of the Government in this respect.

In response to our letter the additional secretary, Ministry of Culture was directed by the Minister of Culture on February 2, 2021 to initiate action in this regard. Accordingly, on February 19, 2021 the additional secretary, vide her letter wrote to director general, Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation, Calcutta, to take necessary action in this regard under intimation to her for compliance.

**Draft STIP (Science, Technology and Innovation Policy).**

We sent letter on 13th January 2021, to the Director, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, appreciating the policy of government on STIP, as it would nurture research and innovation in India both at an individual level as well as institutional level. We specified that any data/research generated through STI ecosystem will be made available free of cost to all countrymen. It was suggested that in order to generate revenue for processing the research, this outcome of research should be sold outside India through reliable Indian channel partners. The ONE NATION ONE SUBSCRIPTION initiatives of the government as well as its concept of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' were too appreciated by the Federation. However, we suggested the government to include the procurement of these resources through local Indian channel partners of

these foreign publishers. The department of Science and Technology, Government of India, thankfully acknowledged our feedback and suggestions.

**Representation to the Union Minister of Finance to get exemption of GST on authors' royalty and paper; import duty; income tax rebate, as well as increase in financial grants for libraries.**

We have been making great efforts to get exemption of GST on authors' royalty and paper; import duty; income tax rebate, as well as increase in financial grants for libraries. To achieve this aim, we wrote a letter to Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of Finance, on January 8, 2021 requesting her for easing out the imposition of GST after the rights of a book are sold; GST on Authors' royalty to be scrapped; GST on paper to reduce from 12% to 5%; import duty on paper to be scrapped; income tax rebate of 20% to be revived; which used to be earlier, financial grants to libraries may be doubled. We emphasised that the 'publishing trade' is as important for any Nation as the “defence” and 'farming sector', for scientific, technological and socio-economic development. As such, for the past few decades the book trade has been facing numerous challenges for its existence.

**Patron of the Federation in recognition to selfless service.**

It's a matter of faith and emotional touch of our members that a unanimous consensus was made to declare Mr. S.C. Sethi's name as Patron of the Federation. Many members sent

emotional letters to Federation and to Mr. Sethi in response to his letter dated November 19, 2020, intimating them his decision to quit the Federation. However, one such letter was received from Mr. Chander Prakash of M/s. Universal Booksellers, Lucknow, placing before the Federation his desire to recommend Mr. Sethi's name for Patron of the Federation as well as for Padma Shri Award.

Mr. Chander Prakash pointed out that Mr. Sethi's efforts were not for self-gain but for the benefit and best interest of the trade. He said it will be important that the book trade is represented in the 'Awards' list, as we have done tremendous national service for the cause of education, research and for all that India stands today in the international geopolitical arena. The book industry in India has been one of the biggest entrepreneurial success stories not only in India but in all world countries. Government is giving awards to people from all walks of life, so why not to publishers. We have highlighted personalities like APJ Abdul Kalam, Amrthya Sen, etc; but our contribution is underestimated. An effort in this direction would enthuse the entire book trade.

During the 1st ECM on December 30, 2020, the House unanimously approved Mr. Sethi's name for Patron of the Federation as well as to recommend his name for Padma Shri Award. To honour the sentiments of the House, the office bearers requested to Mr. Sethi to apply for the Award in the prescribed proforma to Ministry of Education, Government of India. Mr. Sethi was kind enough to accept the request and accordingly applied for the Award on July 14, 2021.

## **Problems of members from South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC).**

Some of our members in and around Daryaganj/Ansari Road area faced difficulties from the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), who have been harassing them with the threat of sealing their premises on the pretext of recovering conversion charges, parking, Addl. FAR and registration charges, etc. With the view the Federation after detailed deliberations with office bearers referred the matter to legal advisor, Mr. Vaibhav Arora, who prepared a draft reply for the convenience of members to avoid panic.

## **Draft Master Plan Delhi- 2041.**

The Delhi Development Authority has prepared a draft Master Plan Delhi-2041; and has invited suggestions from stakeholders in a suggestive format. Accordingly, we have submitted our observations highlighting therein the priorities of book industry's hub viz. Daryaganj / Ansari Road areas. We have emphasized that Daryaganj/Ansari road areas (walled city) internationally renowned as 'book hub' since 1960, which may specifically be mentioned in MPD-2041, from cultural/traditional excellence point of view, in the light of concept paper on 'Delhi Heritage Centre in Daryaganj' vide letter of Mr. Vijay Singh, Deputy Commissioner, MCE (City zone), . No. F. No. DC (CZ)/2008/DHC/(Proj)/46 dated 24.12.2008 on subject: "Delhi Heritage Centre - Publishers and Book Centre in Daryaganj". Also requested that the proposed promotional network should also be enumerated in the scheme.

## **Matter related to 5% custom duty on imported books.**

Suggestions from some of our members including Mr. Ravi Ahuja of M/s. Shankars Book Agency Pvt. Ltd, Delhi, were received, requesting us to take up the case for exemption of 5% custom duty on imported books, as the custom duty is hitting the importers badly. We discussed the issue among the office bearers and with the Chairman of the Import Committee, Mr. Raj Mirchandani and forwarded our request with suggestions and justifications to the office of CEO MyGov, CGO complex, Lodhi Road, with a copy given to Union Minister of Finance for necessary action. We have sent a representation in the prescribed format as well as by written communication on July 22, 2021.

### Suggestion given in the format.

To our understanding government's move of imposing 5% custom duty on imported books has not gone well in the interest of book industry as well as the cause of knowledge. It has rightly been said that “book is the light house in the great ocean of the knowledge”. Education is an investment and is one of the most fruitful investments we can make. Hence, the knowledge i.e. the books should not be taxed. Books are part of free flow of knowledge and culture and should be made accessible. Imported books are generally expensive and the 5% custom duty further makes the books more expensive, which burdens the students of higher education.

As desired, we have also submitted justifications in support

of our suggestion;

(i) The move is against the spirit of Florence Agreement i.e. the Agreement of the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Material dated November 22, 1950.

(ii) Most of the books imported into India are sought for high level research material from all over the world by the students of Engineering, Medicine and Technology areas which are anyway expensive. As such a further 5% custom duty is making the book more expensive.

(iii) The books are delivered to schools, colleges, libraries, institutions, IITs, premier central and state universities, highly respected research laboratories particularly those set up by the Central Government like CSIR, ICAR DST, Dept, of Atomic Energy etc; and by imposing the custom duty, the cost of imported books automatically increases and the burden of which is ultimately falling upon the coffers of the State.

(iv) The Government of Nepal had imposed 10% custom duty on imported books for the financial year 2019-20. Whereas, on our suggestion, the Government of Nepal was pleased to withdraw the imposition of custom duty on imported printed books from India and other parts of the world.

### **Case filed in CCI by a member against Federation.**

It is to bring to the notice that one of our members M/s. International Subscription Agency, Lucknow, had filed a

complaint against Federation before the Competition Commission of India (CCI), New Delhi; on 20.11.2019, pertaining to GOC matter. In this regard the CCI passed a final order on 23.02.2021.

The cause of action arised when one of our members reported to Federation that M/s. International Subscription Agency, Lucknow, have violated the terms of the tender as advised by GOC and was giving discount to parties' disproportionably. On August 5, 2019, Mr. S.C. Sethi, chairman-GOC sent them a letter to clarify whether they have given discount to the party or not? However, instead of communicating with GOC; M/s. International Subscription Agency, lodged a complaint against GOC before CCI; making past President Mr. Sunil Sachdev and chairman-GOC, Mr. S.C. Sethi, party to the case matter. On January 2, 2020, Mr. Sunil Sachdev and Mr. S.C. Sethi appeared before the Commission. Whereas, on February 23, 2021; the Commission in its order handed out a fine of Rs. 1 Lakh each on Immediate past president and Chairman-GOC, Mr. S.C. Sethi and the present Chairman- Export Committee, Mr. Sunil Sachdev respectively and a fine of Rs. 2 Lakh on Federation.

Whereas, M/s. International Subscription Agency, Lucknow, did not find the judgment of the CCI to their satisfaction and calling it the impugned Order have filed an appeal before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal, New Delhi, against the judgment of CCI, which is subjudice. The Federation has appointed M/s. Khaitan and Co; a leading law firm, to handle the case.

## **Transfer of Registration of FPBAI under the Companies Act from Mumbai to Delhi.**

The Federation was earlier registered in Mumbai in the year 1955; whereas, it was felt necessary that the registration of the Federation should be transferred to Delhi from Mumbai. Accordingly, Federation having by special resolution altered the provision of its Memorandum of Association with respect to the place of the Registered Office by changing it from the State of Maharashtra to Delhi and such alteration having been confirmed by an Order of Regional Director bearing the date 26/2/2021, issued by the Registrar of Companies ROC-Delhi on 8th April 2021.

## **New Delhi World Book Fair (Virtual).**

The New Delhi World Book Fair (virtual) was held between 6 to 9 March 2021, with 160 participants. The feedback received from some of the participants, including Mr. S.K. Ghai of Sterling Publishers and Mr. Prashant Jain of Indica Publishers & Distributors Pvt. Ltd, Delhi indicated that the 1st day of the Fair, there was some technical issue and people could not register and enter the Fair. The website was not functioning, practically; there were no promotions of the Fair in print or social media. Overall business was not satisfactory and participants were not able to recover even the stall charges. It was a view of some participants that the Book Fair cannot be successful if held virtually, despite the fact that the virtual exhibition portal by NBT was quite impressive.

## **Greeting and representation letters sent to new cabinet ministers.**

Soon after the induction of the new ministers in the central cabinet; we sent greetings to the newly appointed education minister, Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan and minister of state (culture), Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi. Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi acknowledged our letter on 21st July, 2021. A physical meeting with the education minister Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan was arranged by Mr. KPR Nair, for July 27, 2021 and a delegation of the FPBAI comprising myself, Mr. Sunil Sachdev (past president, FPBAI) and Mr. KPR Nair was to meet, but due to some unavoidable circumstances, it could not be done. The matter is being pursued again.

## **Letter to The Registrar of Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, (C.S.J.M), Kanpur**

Some members of the Federation got objectable tender notices; wherein, The Registrar, Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University (CSJM), Kalyanpur, Kanpur (UP) had invited tenders for supply of print books with unusual demands. Some of our members as well as members of other book associations expressed their concern about the aforementioned tender.

We wrote a letter to The Registrar of Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, after due deliberations with office bearers, Mr. Vinod Kapoor, chairman, Bookselling and Library Supply Committee and Mr. Raj D. Mirchandani, co-chairman. In response to our letter, The Registrar of

Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, on 23rd July, 2021, placed a corrigendum on their Website and lowered down the requirement of satisfactory supplies to Universities by vendors, lowered down the requirement of minimum turnover in the last 3 years from 300 Lakhs to 200 Lakhs, and Single Order of worth Rs. 75 Lakhs to 50 Lakhs.

### **Upgradation of Federation's website**

We have engaged M/s. Media Designs, for maintenance and upgradation of Federation's website for the past several years. Whereas, the web designer submitted to us a proposal for further upgradation of website, the contents of which being obsolete and out of date need to be upgraded. Accordingly, the re-designing and upgradation of website is being carried out, under the supervision of Mr. Prashant Jain, Chairman, PR and IT Committee and Mr. Prateek Ahuja, Co-chairman, and we are sure that the new upgraded website will be functional soon.

### **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:-

- Chamber No. 306A,  
Block – 3, Delhi High Court, New Delhi.

- C-25/5 Connaught Place, New Delhi -110001  
Mobile: No: 9811848114  
Email: arora.vaibhavarora@gmail.com

## **Newsletter**

Federation's Newsletter is the brain child of Mr. S.C. Sethi. He is also the editor of this Newsletter and always remains occupied developing its quality as well as the contents. It is the mouth piece for 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 Mr. Ahuja 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:(in PDF or CDR file)

One full page : 7" x 9.5"

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 2021** 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. 1,78,25,372/-** during the year as compared to **Rs. 1,76,73,810/-** during the previous year, (an appreciable increase of **Rs. 1,51,562/-**).

2. Cash and Cash equivalents' indicates an amount of **Rs. 1,72,03,658/-** for this year compared **Rs. 1,71,00,544/-** in the last year (an appreciable increase of **Rs. 1,03,114/-**).

3. Revenue from Operations' shows an amount of **Rs. 23,85,338/-** in this financial year, as against **Rs. 35,74,854/-** for the last year, thus registering a total decrease of **Rs. 11,89,516/-** Under the head receipts in respect of 'Subscription from Members' indicate an amount of **Rs. 15,82,888/-** for this year, as compared to **Rs. 25,88,600/-** for the last year. (decrease of **Rs. 10,05,712/-**) Receipts in respect of GOC indicates an amount of **Rs. 3,74,000/-** in this year, as compared to **Rs. 4,73,000/-** for the last year. (decrease of **Rs. 99,000/-**).

4. 'Other Income' shows the interest on Bank Deposits as **Rs. 11,21,448/-** in the year under reports as against **Rs. 11,46,770/-** for the last year, (a short of **Rs. 25,322/-**).

5. 'Operation and other expenses' including Salary to Staff, which contains expenditure, shows an amount of **Rs. 29,97,418/-** in this year as compared to **Rs. 30,83,603/-** during the last year, (short of **Rs. 86,105/-**).

**Note:** 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 comparison 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, I am also thankful to Mr. Kapil Jain for extending expert services throughout pertaining to financial matters. My special thanks to Mr. H. Khurshid, our PR Advisor for his vital contribution in drafting letters, preparation of minutes and overseeing the newsletter contents, etc.

The most important acknowledgement is for Mr. S.C. Sethi, who, as assured, always stood as a rock behind us, and under his guidance we are able to serve the book trade in the best possible manner.

I am grateful to my colleagues, Mr. Prashant Jain, Hony. Secretary and Mr. Arunjit Singh, Hony. Joint Secretary, who co-operated me in every sphere and always ready to extend fullest support on day to day basis.

I also express my gratitude for the cooperation extended to me by vice presidents: Mr. Manas Saikia (North); Mr. Gandhi Kannadhasan (South) and Mr. Pankaj Bhagawati (East). I am also thankful to Mr. Prateek Ahuja, Hony. Treasurer.

I can't forget the support of our Past- President, Mr. Sunil Sachdev, Chairman of Export Committee, whose guidance and whole hearted support always remains with us in delivering our best to serve the book trade.

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 2020-21.

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. Jaideep Gurwara, Mr. Vinod Kapoor, Ms. Kalpana Shukla, Mr. Vinod Vasishtha; Mr. Vijay Ahuja, Mr. Vikas Chowdhary; Mr. Himanshu Chawla, Dr. Manish Arora; Mr. Ravi Ahuja, Mr. Chander Mani Gosain and Mr. Manish Kumar Gupta.

Special thanks to Mr. S.K. Ghai, because of his whole hearted co-operation, Federation was able to conduct successfully the Virtual Meetings on Zoom, and Mr. KPR Nair, who always helped us in arranging meetings with Hon'ble Ministers and Senior Govt. Officials.

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 also appreciate the continued support of the secretarial staff- Ms. Usha, Ms. Renuka Sharma, and Mr. Naresh Pal.

I regret for not being in a position to conduct the physical AGM, albeit, I am grateful to all of you for participating in the virtual meeting. I wish you all a safe and secure life in future.

**(Pradeep Arora)**