

*President's  
Welcome Address*

**63rd Annual General Meeting**  
on Monday, November 6, 2017, at 11:30 a.m.  
**Hotel Sea Princess**  
969, Juhu Tara Road, Juhu Beach,  
Santacruz (W), Mumbai



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

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**OFFICE BEARERS: 2016-2017**

*President*

**Sunil Sachdev**

*Immediate Past President*

**S.C. Sethi**

*Vice- Presidents*

North

**Manas Pratim Saikia**

New Delhi

South

**Nitin S. Shah**

Bangalore

West

**Narendra K. Nandu**

Mumbai

*Hony. Secretary*

**Pradeep Arora**

*Hony. Joint Secretary*

**Arunjit Singh**

*Hony. Treasurer*

**Prashant Jain**

## **PRESIDENT'S WELCOME ADDRESS**

### **Distinguished members and friends,**

With great pleasure, I welcome you all to this 63rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of The Federation of Publishers' and Booksellers' Associations in India (FPBAI). I am grateful to all members and guests who have been kind enough to spare their valuable time to be here with us this afternoon. I therefore warmly greet you and wish all the best for all of you.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is not less than a grand festival for the book fraternity. The distinguished members of the Federation assemble here to celebrate, besides discussing, reviewing the way forward for mutual development as well as to elect the new team of apex body's office bearers.

Friends, this 63rd AGM is however different to the previous ones in the sense that for the first time from the inception of the Federation, the AGM is taking place outside Delhi and that no election shall take place in the Federation this year. The reasons for holding AGM at Hotel Sea Princess, Mumbai are;

- 1) That on August 24, 2017, our C.A. M/s. Kapil NK Jain and Company, wrote a letter to me indicating that as per Section 96 (1) of the Companies Act, 2013, every company must hold its AGM within the period of six months from closing of its financial year i.e. on or before 30th September.
- 2) That every AGM shall be called during business hours

(i.e. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.) on any day not a National holiday declared by the Central Government, and shall be held at the registered office or in any place within the city, village, or town in which the registered office is situated.

- 3) That the Federation of Publishers' & Booksellers' Associations in India is registered with Registrar of Companies, Maharashtra and therefore AGM must be held within the State of Maharashtra.
- 4) That as per the Rules, the Federation being registered at Mumbai, the AGM has to be held at Maharashtra for getting the approval of the House for transfer of registered office from Maharashtra to Delhi.

In view of the above, on September 6, 2017, we held a meeting of office bearers at Federation office to discuss the matter in question and the office bearers unanimously agreed that the 63rd AGM should be held at Mumbai. Subsequently, the same day, this matter was discussed vide item no. 2 of the agenda during the 4th ECM at Federation office, New Delhi, which was duly approved by the House unanimously.

With regard to election, it may be pointed out that in the 3rd ECM held on August 10, 2017, at Federation office, New Delhi, Mr. S.C. Sethi, Chairman-GOC, with the permission of the Chair had informed the House that according to the amendment made in Clause 31(c) read as, "Under normal circumstances, election for the Office Bearers is held every year. However, if the members of the Executive Committee feel that election should be held once in two years, they are empowered to decide accordingly." As such,

Mr. Sethi had suggested that there was no need to conduct election this time as the existing team is working very satisfactorily, which should continue.

Whereas, I had expressed my constraints and said that Mr. Sethi's words are honorable for me but practically, I shall not be in a position to continue the next term. Subsequently the members unanimously requested me that the same team can very well continue without undergoing the process of election and the House insisted upon me to reconsider my decision in favour of the unanimous desire of the House. I was therefore obliged to review the verdict of the House.

As such, during the 4th ECM, held on September 6, 2017, Mr. Sethi informed the House that the unanimous request of the House was discussed today at a meeting of office bearers which was held in Federation office in which he proposed that the same team should continue and the same proposal has been accepted by the President. This proposal was then put before the House which was unanimously approved. After getting the approval of the House, Mr. Manas Saikia, Vice President-North announced that the same team will continue working in the next tenure and there will not be any election for the financial year 2017-18.

Friends, as all of you know that Federation is the umbrella organization of the book traders and publishers, which widely protects their interest. However, most of the members feel reluctant to pay the subscription on time. We must realise one thing that the huge working and administration of the Federation depends on members' payment and if that is not made promptly the work of the Federation gets hampered. I therefore very

humbly appeal all of you to kindly make timely payments of subscription for membership of Federation as well as of GOC.

I would like to emphasize the importance of the Federation's Newsletter, the brain child of Mr. S. C. Sethi, which is not only the mouth piece of the Federation but also the highlighter of the advertisers not only in the book world but beyond that also as the Newsletter has got wide reach. It goes to embassies, ministries, libraries, universities and institutions. Therefore the members, who choose to advertise in Newsletter automatically get an access to all the above areas. Through the medium of Newsletter, we also inform our members about the new developments of the industry.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

During the period under report, four meetings of Executive Committee were held at Federation office, New Delhi. During the aforesaid meetings of the Executive Committee, numerous issues such as GST, plastic identity cards and excessive discount offered by some members were discussed.

In addition to the above, one special meeting of the general body of Good Offices Committee (GOC) was held at Federation office, New Delhi, on May 17, 2017. Another special meeting of Journals and Subscription Committee was also held at Federation office, on May 1, 2017 to discuss issues pertaining to journals subscription. The meeting was presided by Mr. Jaideep Guruwara of M/s. Globe Publication Pvt. Ltd.

## **CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

The Federation of Publishers' & Booksellers' Associations in India (FPBAI) as per its Constitution has mandate vide its Articles 15 & 17 to provide facilities for social interaction between the members of the Federation, to encourage friendly feelings and enhance professional knowledge through the medium of seminars. With the view, the Federation on June 9, 2017 organized a seminar, captioned "GST Awareness" in Federation office, New Delhi, which was participated by 22 members. The deliberations were made by Mr. Kapil Jain (CA) of M/s. Kapil NK Jain & Co.

The members of FPBAI for quite some time had been passing through the state of confusion pertaining to ambiguous procedure of GST. To address this situation, Mr. S.C. Sethi, Chairman-GOC, on June 9, 2017, organized a seminar to be addressed by Mr. Kapil Jain, expert of the field. (The minutes of the seminar had been circulated to all members).

In addition to the above, the Federation appointed Mr. Kapil Jain (CA) as Consultant for our members especially about the complications of GST. We have asked Mr. Kapil Jain to provide all the relevant information to our members free of cost whenever, they make any enquiry till 31st March, 2018. We paid Mr. Kapil Jain a sum of Rs. 75,000/- as his consultation fee for one year.

## **DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Although, there is no express binding on Federation to resolve the disputes between parties of the trade as well as between parties and purchasers; however, there is an implied moral binding on us to intervene for dispute resolution between various parties dealing in the trade for the ultimate healthy growth of the book industry.

In view of the above, the Federation from time to time has been intervening with the disputing parties and has successfully been resolving their disputes without entering into lengthy litigations.

During the period under report a few such cases were resolved by us which include the following: -

We received a complaint on July 31, 2017, from Prof. (Dr.) K.P. Chaudhary, Director, Maharaja Surajmal Institute of Technology (MSIT), C-4, Janak Puri, New Delhi-58, complaining us about non-supply of journals by M/s. Maya Library Services, amounting to Rs, 3,30,203/-. Prof. (Dr.) K.P. Chaudhary in his complaint said that they have sent several reminders to Maya Library Services but they failed to respond to them. Mr. S.C. Sethi, Chairman-GOC pursued the matter with Mr. Amit Prasad of Maya Library Services by talking to him personally and sending him several reminders. Every time Mr. Amit Prasad assured Mr. Sethi that they will return the money of Maharaja

Surajmal Institute of Technology (MSIT) but he never honored his words. Ultimately the GOC had no option but to expel them from the membership of GOC/FPBAI on September 11, 2017, for non compliance.

## **OUR REPRESENTATIONS**

As per the Article 3 of the Memorandum of Association of the FPBAI, the Federation is duty bound to make representations with various authorities for the betterment of the trade.

It is relevant to mention that in publishing industry, securing the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) is the most basic, necessary and important part. No book title can be brought to finality until and unless the ISBN is allotted. Whereas, getting ISBN in the present scenario has become the most difficult and herculean task. The authority granting the ISBN is Raja Rammohun Roy National Agency. To eradicate this nightmarish situation, efforts were being made for quite sometime, which include our delegation headed by past President, Mr. S.C. Sethi, meeting with Union Minister of HRD, Mr. Prakash Javadekar, at his office on July 12, 2016. Prior to this numerous representations were made to former HRD Minister Smriti Irani and Joint Secretary (Book Promotion), Ms. Aparna Sharma. However, in the result of the sustained efforts made by the Federation, on 1st November, 2017, a fruitful meeting was held with the authorities concerned at Ministry of HRD, with representatives of the Federation and other stake-holders, in which numerous issues pertaining to ISBN were discussed to be resolved.

Accordingly, on March 31, 2017, assuming that the Government may not exempt the books/journals from the application of GST, we sent a comprehensive representation as precautionary measure to Mr. Arun Jaitely, Union Minister of Finance, Government of India, requesting the government to keep the

books/journals beyond the domain of GST before the legislation on GST is rolled down.

In our aforesaid letter we had emphasized that 'right to education' is a universal entitlement to education. This right is recognized in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Right as a Human Right and besides being right to free compulsory primary education for all, an obligation to develop secondary education accessible to all, as well as an obligation to develop equitable access to higher education, ideally by the progressive introduction of free higher education. Moreover, imposing tax on print books, e-books, journals, magazines and educational database, will make education expensive and libraries would need more funds to pay GST. As such, the libraries are already starved of funds and this burden of GST will hamper the functioning of the libraries.

It is heartening to point out that the government has kept the books/journals outside the ambit of GST.

However, subsequently a lacuna was noticed in the aforesaid policy; wherein, the Authors' royalty has been brought under the purview of the GST to be taxable @18% and intellectual property @ 12%, both on MRP, which is definitely going to have nightmarish and devastating impact not only on the promotion of printing book industry but also obliterate its survival as well.

In view of the above, we have lodged our protest with Mr. Arun Jaitley, Union Minister of Finance, Government of India, by sending him a comprehensive representation on September 13, 2017.

In response to our representations, the Ministry on 4th October, 2017, wrote to us that the matter has been examined and accordingly the GST at the rate of 12% is liable to be paid on the

royalty amount payable by the publishers to the author. We have however, further sent the representation to the Ministry to review, thereby stressing upon our genuine contentions.

### **Matter – University of Gautam Budh Nagar**

We feel most lamented to mention that the Gautam Budha University of Gautam Budh Nagar has been unreasonably and illegally holding the due payment in large amounts of some of our members for a prolong period to the tune of more than five years. As such, we wrote to the Vice- Chancellor, Gautam Budha University with copies marked to:-

1. Mr. Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister of HRD.
2. Mr. Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh
3. Dr. Dinesh Sharma, Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

We had pointed out that, in case the dues are not cleared, we shall be at liberty to initiate appropriate legal action against the erring university.

In addition to the above, it has been brought to our notice recently that the Ministry of Railway is set to convert the exclusive book shops of A.H. Wheeler & Co; into multi-purpose shops at all railway stations. If this so happens, this will certainly not only reduce considerably but sideline the prospects of books sale, besides eliminating the age old convention of exclusive books sale by A.H. Wheeler & Co.

Soon after getting this information, we moved swiftly by pursuing the matter with Ministry of Railway, Ministry of HRD and the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

## **LEGAL MATTERS**

The members of the Federation quite often face legal problems for which the Federation has engaged the services of a lawyer, Mr. Vaibhav Arora on retainership basis @ Rs. 50,000 per annum.

Recently, the Government of NCT of Delhi abruptly revised the minimum wages by 36% of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers of all employers, publishers being no exception. In view of the above, the Federation asked Mr. Vaibhav Arora to file a petition in the High Court of Delhi, against the impugned order of the Delhi Government. Accordingly, he filed a petition and the matter is under the hearing process. Meanwhile the decision to implement the new wages has been put on hold.

Members are at liberty to seek free advice from him. However, for filing the case, charges will be extra. 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**

As already said that Federation's Newsletter is the brain child of the past president 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 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/- for the same. This amount covers the cost of the Newsletter.

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

Rs.10,000/- and Rs. 6,000/- 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 POSITION OF FPBAI

The Audited Accounts of the **FPBAI** for the financial year ending **31st March 2017** 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. 1,36,58,703/-** during the year as compared to **Rs. 1,21,06,744/-** during the previous year, (an appreciable increase of **Rs. 15,51,959/-**).
2. 'Cash and Cash equivalents' indicates an amount of **Rs. 1,32,41,328/-** for this year compared **Rs. 1,15,54,846/-** in the last year (an appreciable increase of **Rs. 16,86,482/-**)
3. 'Revenue from Operations' shows an amount of **Rs. 31,00,145/-** in this financial year as against **Rs. 27,82,145/-** for the last year, thus registering a total increase of **Rs. 3,18,000/-** Under the head receipts in respect of 'Subscription from Members' indicate an amount of **Rs. 26,56,245/-** for this year as compared to **Rs. 20,12,780/-** for the last year (increase of **Rs. 6,43,465/-**) Receipts in respect of GOC indicates an amount of **Rs. 2,83,000/-** in this year as compared to **Rs. 2,66,895/-** for the last year. (Increase of **Rs. 16,105/-**).
4. 'Other Income' shows the interest on Bank Deposits as **Rs. 10,72,610/-** in the year under reports as against **Rs. 10,32,307/-** for the last year, (an increase of **Rs. 40,303/-**).
5. 'Operation and other expenses' including Salary to Staff, which contains expenditure, shows an amount of **Rs. 25,14,020/-** in this year as compared to **Rs. 22,11,644/-** during the last year, (increase of **Rs. 3,02,376/-**).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I firmly believe that the quarrelsome attitude is the antithesis of development of any kind and the mutual cooperation is the symbol of the breeze of popular favour.

However, not all the people are fortunate enough to apply this belief practically. Whereas, I find myself fortunate that my firm belief of mutual cooperation has been acknowledged and supported by one and all in my team at Federation and as such, I would like to thank and acknowledge the cooperation and support of my debonair and decorous colleagues for carrying out the noble activities throughout my tenure as President-FPBAI, during the Financial year 2016-17.

I am particularly grateful to the members of the Executive Committee for providing me whole-hearted support and cooperation throughout my tenure. My sincere thanks to Mr. S.C. Sethi, who has always been ready to help and advise me wherever it was required. I would also like to convey my sincere thanks to Mr. Raj D. Mirchandani; Mr. Vinod Vasishtha; Mr. A.S. Chowdhry, Mr. Vijay Ahuja, Mr. KPR Nair & Mr. Bhupinder Chowdhri.

I also express my gratitude for the cooperation extended to me by vice presidents: Mr. Manas Saikia; Mr. Nitin S. Shah; and Mr. Narendra K. Nandu. I am also thankful to Mr. Pradeep Arora, Hony. Secretary; Mr. Prashant Jain, Hony. Treasurer; Mr. Arunjit Singh, Hony. Joint Secretary; Mr. Jaideep Gurwara, Mr. Vikas Chowdhary; Dr. Manish Arora; Mr. J.L. Kumar; Mr. Vinod Kapoor; Mr. Baldev Verma; Mr. S.K. Ghai and Mr. Sanjiv Goswami for their all time support.

I also express my thanks for the excellent administrative support rendered for the Federation by Mr. Hasan Khurshid, our PR

Advisor/Executive Secretary, who has done very hard work to make everything so simple to the extent that without his active support we may have not derived the desired results, especially during the Executive Committee meetings. I also extend my thanks for the staffers of the Federation, Ms. Usha, 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.

**Sunil Sachdev**