

*President's
Welcome Address*

64th Annual General Meeting
on Saturday, September 29, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.
Hotel Le-Meridien
Janpath, New Delhi



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

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OFFICE BEARERS: 2017-2018

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,

I have great pleasure to welcome you all to this 64th 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.

Friends, I feel indebted to you for having assigned me the responsibility of Federation’s presidentship during the period under report, which indeed is a great honour for me and I reciprocate your kind gesture. I was morally as well as officially duty bound to put my best efforts for completing the task assigned to me. It may not be possible for me to narrate each and every proceeding or task carried out during the financial year 2017-2018. However, I am giving a brief account of the work carried out by me and my team anticipating that the efforts made by us will be viewed to your entire satisfaction.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

During the period under report, five meetings of Executive Committee were held at Federation office, New Delhi. During the aforesaid meetings, numerous issues were discussed which included the meeting of Mr. Manas Saikia, Vice President – North (FPBAI) with Mr. K.P.J. Gerald, Under Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of HRD; on matter pertaining to

ISBN. Another meeting of Dr. Manish Arora, Chairman-Copyright, Piracy and Legal Committee of FPBAI with Director of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, New Delhi relating to Limitations and Exceptions for the Libraries and Archives, Research and Training Institutions and Persons with other disabilities. Issues relating to unjustified demand by numerous institutions, such as high security deposit/earnest money; 100% bank guarantees were discussed. Final call was taken on withholding huge payment of publishers by Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida. Issues related to GST; Minimum Wages and dispute resolution were also discussed.

GOC issues were taken up; wherein, GOC Chairman, Mr. S.C. Sethi said that action has been taken against some GOC members who had either not paid their dues or violated the norms of supply with their respective customers.

During the ECMs, issue relating to new FPBAI directory as well as of GOC directory and mini email directory of the Federation was discussed and finalized.

BACK IN OUR FOLD

It is a matter of satisfaction that the two **State associations of Assam and Tamil Nadu** have rejoined the Federation recently after a gap of almost 5 years. The Federation welcomes the two associations for rejoining us. We hope that this tie-up will mutually benefit all concerned.

In addition to the above, one meeting of Journals & Periodicals Subscription Committee was held on November 27, 2017 at Federation office, New Delhi. The issues discussed included:-

1. To discuss the standardization of charging GST on different media of journals.

2. To recommend to the GOC for issuing guidelines for members to follow about GST and the amount that is to be charged for different media.

In addition to the above, a separate meeting was held between FPBAI and Bombay Booksellers' & Publishers' Association (BBPA) on November 6, 2017 at Mumbai. The following issues were discussed during the meeting:-

1. Problems and challenges being faced by Mumbai book traders i.e. retail booksellers, wholesale, booksellers, library suppliers, publishers (small, medium, regional and big publishers).
2. CBSE's decision on schools being allowed to purchase and distribute NCERT books.
3. Shortage of NCERT books and easy availability of pirated NCERT books.
4. Queries regarding GST.
5. Refusal of transporters to ferry goods without GST.
6. During the meeting, BBPA raised the issue of willingness of their members for simultaneously becoming the members of the Federation for which, concession in membership fee was solicited. I assured them that after going to Delhi, I will discuss this issue with office bearers and if passed will further get it approved in the forthcoming 1st ECM. Accordingly, I proposed to condone the entrance fees of Rs. 1000/- for all members, including the BBPA, which was duly approved by the House.

GAUTAM BUDDHA UNIVERSTIY

Some of our members have been facing harassment from Gautam Buddha University, Gautam Buddha Nagar (UP) who have unnecessarily and illegally held payments of some of our members. Responding to the complaints received from the aggrieved members, we wrote to Vice Chancellor, Gautam Buddha University; Mr. Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister of HRD; Mr. Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of UP and Dr. Dinesh Sharma, Deputy CM of UP, but to our surprise, we did not receive any response from anywhere. Ultimately, we have decided to initiate appropriate legal action by the aggrieved members against the university to recover the dues. The proposed action is in the process.

THE NEW DELHI WORLD BOOK FAIR-2018

The New Delhi World Book Fair-2018 was held from January 6 to 14, 2018, at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. However, we at Federation after making visits at the fair venue found many shortcomings over there. A big renovation work causing impediments was going on there which created unhygienic and uneasy conditions at the venue, despite the fact that a large number of foreign visitors and participants had come to attend the fair. The half-hearted approach on part of the organizers was visible, such as lack of public utility services, ill-maintained washrooms, non-availability of transport from gate to pavilions, untrained security and other staffers, against whom frequent complaints of misbehaviour were being received. The Federation conveyed its serious concern on the said issues to the administration.

ISBN MATTER

The ISBN had been a hot issue. Members all over the country had been facing harassment and business loss due to the delayed issuance of ISBN; albeit not without great difficulty. The Federation was however successful in sorting out the problem of ISBN once for all, after persistent efforts with the authorities concerned, including an important meeting on the subject matter that took place on November 1, 2017 with Joint Secretary (Book Promotion & Distance Learning), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. As such, all of us have now taken a sigh of relief on the issue of ISBN. Mr. Manas Saikia, Vice President-North played an important role on behalf of Federation in this regard.

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 many disputes were resolved successfully. However, one M/s. Alliance Books Suppliers Pvt. Ltd; Delhi, despite our repeated reminders did not settle the matter with the complainant, M/s. Remote Sensing Applications Centre, Lucknow. Mr. Sethi who was looking after the matter. He was left with no alternative but to expel them from GOC/FPBAI.

GST MATTER

In the result of our sustained efforts and representations made to GST authorities, the books /journals had been exempted from 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 will also obliterate its survival as well.

In view of the above, we sent various representations to Government of India, seeking exemption of GST on authors' royalty as well as taxability of activities carried out by agents in relation to granting excess to e-journals and e-periodicals.

In the result of the aforementioned representation, the GST council gave us an appointment to discuss the matters across the table on July 17, 2018, at GST council office, Jeevan Bharati Building, New Delhi. Accordingly I, alongwith Mr. Raj Mirchandani and Mr. Kapil Jain, C.A. met Mr. Shashank Priya, Joint Secretary GST. The salient features of the meeting have already been circulated on September 11, 2018, alongwith the minutes of the 5th ECM.

It was also submitted by us that we need to have a level playing field for Indian vendors as well as for the Indian/ foreign publishers on the principle of equity guaranteed under Article 14 of the Constitution of India.

As such, we requested them to maintain the 'status quo' as was prevailing before the introduction of GST on e-resources, viz. GST should not be levied on e-books or e-journals for educational institutions whether they go through their own Indian vendors or are purchased directly from publisher.

We also submitted to extend the exemption of GST to all educational institutes in the larger interest of ‘education for all’ mission of the Nation.

OUR REPRESENTATIONS

The Federation sent the representation to Minister of HRD, to get the relief from E-Shodh Sindhu’s arbitrary actions on easing out a large number of agents to perform as e-journals/e-books suppliers especially from foreign publishers. The objective has been achieved.

On December, 2017, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) had sent a circular to all its affiliated school across the country that ‘tuck shop’ operating within school premises will only be allowed to sell NCERT books. In response to the above, we sent a representation to Chairman CBSE Board, notifying that the impugned order infringed the fundamental rights of parents and students and as such the CBSE circular also attracts the provisions of The Competition Act 2002. We also cited the order of the Madras High Court and the Bombay High Court prohibiting CBSE to issue such circulars. In the result of the above, the CBSE withdrew their impugned order.

In the month of January, 2018, we received a complaint from Mr. Dheeraj Gosain, Joint Secretary, All Assam Publishers and Booksellers Association, informing us that the Government of Assam has decided to distribute free text books to all the students upto class XII standard from 2018 onwards. The contention of the Association was that such free distribution of the text books will affect the book sellers very adversely as most of the booksellers and publishers of Assam survive by selling government text books; hence the government should find out some alternative in a philanthropic manner to help the students. Accordingly, we sent

representation to the Chief Minister of Assam, the Union Minister of HRD and the Prime Minister of India to look into the matter philanthropically.

The Federation sent representation to Vice- Chairman, Delhi Development Authority (DDA), New Delhi to resolve the lurking problem of sealing of the premises of some of members by MCD. In the representation, we clarified that we support the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India with respect to the amendments to be made in Master Plan 2021. Whereas, our book industry is non-polluting, non-hazardous and has been an integral part of the cultural heritage of the old city. Moreover, the book industry including book trade and publishing have been existing at Ansari Road, since pre 1960s; after which the Ansari Road has become a world-famous hub for book trade/publishing industry. It was communicated to DDA that some streets of Ansari Road have been approved but some have been left. We therefore requested DDA to approve one and all streets of the Ansari Road at par, on the principle of equity.

In the result of our representations, the Chairman asked us to attend a meeting of the Board of Enquiry and Hearing on June 12, 2018 at Vikas Sadan, New Delhi. I requested our legal advisor, Mr. Vaibhav Arora to attend the meeting, which was very fruitful and the DDA has agreed to de-seal the premises and to recover the conversion charges.

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. 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

MINIMUM WAGES

There was a steep revision of minimum wages by 36% of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers in Delhi with effect from 06/03/2017. Our Federation alongwith Federation of Indian Publishers, Delhi State Booksellers' & Publishers' Association and Federation of Educational Publishers in India through Advocate Vaibhav Arora. After several hearings, now the Division Bench of Delhi High Court has pronounced the order in the late afternoon on 04.08.2018. Both the notifications i.e. constituting committee for recommendation about fixation of minimum wages and the notification dated 06.03.2017 fixing the minimum rates of wages have been quashed, and now the revised minimum rates w.e.f. 06.03.2017 will not be applicable on any employer in Delhi.

NEWSLETTER

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 stakeholders 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"
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PRESENTATION OF AWARDS TO FPBAI MEMBERS

The Federation enjoys the tradition of honouring its leading and distinguished members as token of appreciation for the

commendable work done by them for the Indian Book Industry. As such, conventionally, we have given the following awards to members of outstanding experience and contribution:-

LIFETIME ACHEIVEMENT AWARD

S. No.	Person Name	Company Name	Place
1.	Mr. J.L. Kumar	Anmol Publications Pvt. Ltd.	Delhi
2.	Mr. Baldev Verma	India Book Distributors (Bombay), Ltd.	Delhi

GOLDEN AWARD (50 Years)

1.	Mr. M.G. Arora	Universal Book Traders	Delhi
2.	Mr. S.K. Ghai	Sterling Publishers (P) Ltd.	Delhi
3.	Mr. S.C. Sethi	Indiana Publishing House	Delhi
4.	Mr. B.R. Chawla	Heritage Publishers	Delhi
5.	Mr. A.S. Chowdhry	Goodwill Books International	Delhi
6.	Mr. Suresh C. Shah	Sapna Book House Pvt. Ltd.	Bangalore
7.	Mr. Sudhir B. Shah	B.S. Shah Educational Publishers	Ahmedabad
8.	Mr. N.K. Mehra	Narosa Publishing House Pvt. Ltd.	Delhi
9.	Mr. Om Arora	The Varity Book Depot	Delhi
10.	Mr. Bhim Sen Puri	Central News Agency Pvt. Ltd.	Delhi
11.	Mr. Vinod Kapoor	Bhartiya Sahitya Bhavana	Delhi

SPECIAL AWARD

1.	Mr. Satish Upadhyay	Satyam Books Pvt. Ltd.	Delhi
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FINANCIAL HEALTH OF FPBAI

The Audited Accounts of the **FPBAI** for the financial year ending **31st March 2018** 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. 1,54,67,014/-** during the year as compared to **Rs. 1,36,58,703/-** during the previous year, (an appreciable increase of **Rs. 18,08,311/-**).
2. 'Cash and Cash equivalents' indicates an amount of **Rs. 1,50,83,756/-** for this year compared **Rs. 1,32,41,328/-** in the last year (an appreciable increase of **Rs. 18,42,428/-**).
3. 'Revenue from Operations' shows an amount of **Rs. 33,38,698/-** in this financial year as against **Rs. 31,00,145/-** for the last year, thus registering a total increase of **Rs. 2,38,553/-**. Under the head receipts in respect of 'Subscription from Members' indicate an amount of **Rs. 26,68,190/-** for this year as compared to **Rs. 26,56,245/-** for the last year (increase of **Rs. 11,945/-**) Receipts in respect of GOC indicates an amount of **Rs. 2,84,924/-** in this year as compared to **Rs. 2,83,000/-** for the last year. (Increase of **Rs. 1,924/-**).
4. 'Other Income' shows the interest on Bank Deposits as **Rs. 11,63,781/-** in the year under reports as against **Rs. 10,72,610/-** for the last year, (an increase of **Rs. 91,171/-**).

5. Operation and other expenses' including Salary to Staff, which contains expenditure, shows an amount of **Rs. 22,01,293/-** in this year as compared to **Rs. 25,14,020/-** during the last year, (decrease of **Rs. 3,12,727/-**).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would 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 2017-18.

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.

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