

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 436**  
ANSWERED ON 02.02.2026

**26<sup>th</sup> World Book Fair**

436. Shri Sudheer Gupta:  
Shri Chavan Ravindra Vasantrya:  
Shri Dhairyasheel Sambhajirao Mane:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government recently inaugurated the 26<sup>th</sup> World Book Fair, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of theme, participating countries, publishers recorded in the said Fair;
- (c) the details of expenditure incurred on the organisation of the said Book Fair and the sources of funding;
- (d) whether any special initiatives were taken by the Government to promote Indian languages, regional authors, young writers and publishing in digital formats during the event; and
- (e) if so, the outcomes achieved in terms of promotion of reading culture, literacy, publishing industry growth and international collaboration?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
**(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)**

(a) to (e): The Government of India has framed the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 with an aim to provide holistic, multidisciplinary, flexible and student-centric education which promotes lifelong learning. NEP also emphasis on the importance of strengthening the availability of high-quality books, particularly in Indian languages, through systematic publication, translation, and dissemination. It envisages fostering multilingualism, encouraging wider access to reading materials and support inclusive, equitable, and lifelong learning across the country.

In alignment with the vision of the NEP 2020, the National Book Trust (NBT), functioning under the aegis of the Department of Higher Education, undertakes several initiatives aimed at promoting and strengthening a culture of reading across the country. These initiatives include the organization of book fairs, literary events, exhibitions, as well as other outreach activities aimed to enhance access to books and encourage reading habits.

NBT organized the New Delhi World Book Fair 2026 from 10<sup>th</sup> January to 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi with the theme “*Indian Military History: Valour and Wisdom @75*”. The Book Fair witnessed participation from 37 countries including Qatar as Guest of Honour Country, along with 1,004 publishers.

The Department of Higher Education (DoHE), Ministry of Education, provides grant-in-aid to the National Book Trust (NBT) for undertaking/carrying out its activities, including the organization of Book Fairs. Accordingly, the New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF) 2026 was organized by NBT with the support of grant-in-aid from the DoHE and its Internal Revenue Generation (IRG).

The initiatives during the New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF) 2026 include the creation of a dedicated Children's Pavilion with a focus on *Viksit Bharat*, a two-day National Camp for 43 PM-YUVA authors selected from across the country, representing 22 Indian languages and English, under the PM-YUVA Mentorship Scheme 3.0, designated hall for Indian language publishers etc.

NDWBF 2026 witnessed several outcomes, including the facilitation of international B2B platforms such as the New Delhi Rights Table, which resulted more than 600 business meetings. The fair was also attended by the Directors of prominent International Book Fairs from seven countries, namely the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Mexico, South Korea, Sweden, and Turkey. In addition, eight literary festivals from across the country organized their events and sessions under the platform of the "Festival of Festivals". NDWBF 2026 witnessed footfall of over 20 lakh people.

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