



## INTERNATIONAL BOOK YEAR 1972 AND THE WORLD BOOK FAIR, NEW DELHI

The March issue of the *Annals* which happens to be the first issue of 1972, the International Book Year (IBY), very happily coincides also with the holding of the World Book Fair at New Delhi. The issue is naturally devoted to highlight the themes of the International Book Year and consider the implications, from our national point of view, of the slogan of the Year — Books For All. The General Conference of Unesco, at its sixteenth session decided to proclaim International Book Year in 1972. The text of the resolution has been reproduced on page 4. The general objective of IBY is to focus attention on the role of books in society. The main issues affecting books in society today are to be the themes of IBY. A few such themes which have been identified and emphasised by Unesco in its programme of action are as follows:

- I. *Encouragement of authorship and translation, with due regard to copyright*
- II. *Production and distribution of books, including the development of libraries*

1. Increasing the production and distribution of books in developing countries and a two-way traffic between these countries and developed ones.
2. Developing the national circulation of books in all countries.
3. Promoting book manufacture, including more adequate paper supply and improved graphic arts and typographical techniques.
4. Training of personnel in the book field.
5. Fostering libraries and documentation centres of all types.
6. Developing national library and documentation services as well as bibliographical tools, particularly current national and regional bibliographies.
7. Promoting research on books.
8. Developing reading materials for new literates.

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| <p>9. Promoting the provision of books for the physically handicapped, including particularly the blind.</p> <p>10. Increasing book production in national languages.</p> <p>11. Promoting the exchange of experience in the production and distribution of low-cost books for a mass audience with a view to lowering the prices for books and thus increasing readership.</p> <p>12. Stimulating activities to make more readily available to developing countries the paper and other raw materials required for book production.</p> | <p>5. Enhancing the role of books in cultural exchange.</p> <p>6. Preserving the literary heritage of mankind, particularly by the publication in book form of oral literature in danger of extinction.</p> |
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The over-all theme of International Book Year is 'Books for All'. Additional phrases might be associated with the slogan, as needed, to emphasize one or another aspect of the Year.

Now, a few words about the World Book Fair. In a broadcast on 31st January 1972, the then Minister for Education and Social Welfare had said that "The book industry has a complex structure comprising some times apparently conflicting interests. The International Book Year can bring these interests together for the promotion of the human cause. The successful realisation of the objectives of the Year would obviously depend on the cooperation of all concerned with the making and reading of books... Authors, printers, book designers and illustrators, translators, publishers, booksellers, librarians, parents and teachers — all these have their own contributions to make individually and collectively, in realising the goals of the International Book Year". The World Book Fair, apart from displaying a wide range of products of the book industry, has been successful in bringing together the above interests on a common platform through a seminar on Books for the Millions. The paperback, as it is very often said, is the most important single factor in the realisation of the goal of Books for All. The Fair has very thoughtfully arranged to consider the implications of the paperback and take into account the views of different interests like the publishers, booksellers, authors, the printing industry, etc. We hope all these efforts will bear fruit in time in the shape of Books for All.

### III. *Promotion of the reading habit*

1. Making special efforts to encourage the production, nationally or on a co-publication basis, of children's books and their distribution.
2. Increasing the resources and activities of school libraries and cultural centres.
3. Undertaking inquiries into reading habits, including a comparative study of measures employed by individual Member States in this regard.

### IV. *Books in the service of education, international understanding and peaceful co-operation*

1. Promoting the international free flow of books and of the raw materials for book production.
2. Reaffirming the importance of books in lifelong education.
3. Ensuring that the production, distribution and utilization of textbooks and general books are taken into full account in educational planning.
4. Increasing the availability of scientific and technical literature, as well as of reference books.

To get an overall view of the present position of the Indian book world, let us quote the following figures computed by the National Library at Calcutta, based on the coverage of the Indian National Bibliography from 1958 to 1970.

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Language	Year													Total
	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	
Assamese	-	105	70	192	179	94	39	90	68	113	236	284	118	1588
Bengali	1082	1095	1022	1040	1233	1111	1094	893	916	1254	1193	1310	914	14157
English (Govt. publications)	1455	1669	1469	1978	1563	1789	1740	1579	1211	2046	2298	1787	1731	22315
English (General)	1844	1576	1689	1902	1773	1847	1810	1760	1840	2183	2239	2101	1909	24473
Gujarati	650	665	594	603	605	621	675	532	412	412	663	602	536	7570
Hindi	2048	1861	1578	1433	1903	2172	2056	1371	1499	1432	2158	2016	1836	23363
Kannada	324	400	297	318	549	472	354	174	284	307	721	663	705	5568
Malayalam	587	544	532	531	449	445	491	412	459	500	615	971	765	7301
Marathi	823	704	708	813	1030	1263	996	1016	1210	1359	1158	1217	1046	13343
Oriya	139	190	171	188	216	444	212	183	122	251	438	318	128	3000
Punjabi	248	125	174	365	244	126	198	148	123	148	308	102	295	1604
Tamil	611	484	540	576	611	756	540	662	491	483	613	501	665	7533
Telugu	716	485	436	647	589	827	694	512	395	723	922	612	623	8181
Urdu	264	262	243	311	189	192	262	143	389	113	121	168	163	2820
<b>Total</b>	<b>10791</b>	<b>10165</b>	<b>9523</b>	<b>10897</b>	<b>11133</b>	<b>12358</b>	<b>11162</b>	<b>9475</b>	<b>9419</b>	<b>11324</b>	<b>13683</b>	<b>12662</b>	<b>11434</b>	

Lastly, a few words about the contents of this issue. There are four contributions on different problems and issues of the Indian book world today. In the first article Mr T S Krishnamurti describes the role of the Government of India in the promotion of book production in the recent past. In spite of some advancement made by the book industry in recent years, one general complaint is about the paucity of college and university level books. Dr. Shankar Narayan brings out, in the second article, the role of the University Grants Commission in this respect. In the third

article, Dr. Malcolm S. Adiseshiah develops in his inimitable style the implications of the right to books and the economic, social, cultural as well as moral grounds on which this right rests. The fourth article, contributed by Shri T. N. Rajan and Shri K Ramaswami, is on the standard book number system. Publishers in some of the developed countries have already adopted the system to identify neatly each publication. Indian publishers should consider whether they too could adopt such a system.

RESOLUTION 4.121  
PROCLAIMING 1972 INTERNATIONAL  
BOOK YEAR

*The General Conference,*

*Considering* the importance of the written word for the progress of human civilization,

*Considering* also that books and periodicals, along with the other material means of expressing thought, play an essential role in social life and its development,

*Considering* that they perform a fundamental function in the realization of Unesco's objectives, namely peace, development, the promotion of human rights and the campaign against racialism and colonialism,

*Noting* that the basic role of the Organization in this field is to promote the writing, production, distribution of, and exchange of information on, books, particularly in accordance with the spirit of the United Nations Charter and of the Constitution of Unesco,

*Noting* further that international non-governmental organizations of authors, publishers, librarians, booksellers and other professional bodies have expressed interest in an International Book Year to focus public attention on the role of books in society,

*Having considered* the report of the Director-General on the matter (doc. 16C/83 Rev.),

I

1. *Proclaims* 1972 *International Book Year*;

II

2. *Invites* Member States, together with competent and interested international non-governmental organizations:

- (a) to initiate and carry out programmes of activities designed to promote the writing, production, circulation and distribution of books and to make the International Book Year a national reading year;
- (b) to establish committees, in co-operation with National Commissions, for the preparation and celebration of the International Book Year at the national level;
- (c) to formulate the principles of book policies, taking into account the objectives of Unesco

and the particular role of the printed word for the transmission of knowledge and the stimulation of ideas;

- (d) to encourage an appreciation, particularly among young people, of the best in thought, philosophy and literature by making books generally and cheaply available;

III

3. *Authorizes* the Director-General:

- (a) to co-operate with regional book centres, with organizations of authors, publishers of books and periodicals, printers, booksellers and librarians, with interested professional organizations and associations, with the principal groups in a position to contribute to the International Book Year in the fields of education, science, culture and communication, and, more generally, with all those throughout the world who are interested in the dissemination of the written word;
- (b) to study the problems involved in the production, circulation and distribution of books and periodicals on the basis of a thorough survey of the world book situation, carried out as broadly and effectively as possible, as was the case for the International Education Year in 1970;
- (c) to encourage the dissemination of books and reading habits among wide sections of the population in Member States;
- (d) to devote the necessary attention, within the framework of the regular programme and, in particular, of the programme of participation in the activities of Member States, to assistance to developing countries in the training of book-publishing personnel;
- (e) to carry out the activities proposed in document 16C/83 Rev., and to this end to draw, as appropriate, upon the relevant budgetary provisions throughout the whole programme and consider the setting up of a special intersectoral unit for the preparation, promotion and organization of the International Book Year.