**Press Release**

**As many as 4000 children attended the last day of the largest Indian Children Literature festival**

**'BOOKAROO' ENDS WITH GREAT FANFARE AT JKK**

**Jaipur, 1 May:**The second day of the Children’s Literature Festival at Jawahar Kala Kendra (JKK) – 'Bookaroo' ended with immense vigour and zeal. On the last day of the festival as many as 4000 children witnessed a mélange of literary sessions and activities.

Former Minister of Forests and Environment in Rajasthan, Ms. Bina Kak also addressed a session today at JKK. She narrated the tale of the tigress Noor and her cub Sultan. Set in the forests of Ranthambore, the story portrayed the enduring ties of a mother and her son and their intriguing bond with a human being.

In a jam-packed session, Bina Kak enlightened the children about the diverse forests and wildlife of Rajasthan. She narrated anecdotes from her childhood and her love and fascination for tigers. Through the wildlife pictures captured by her in her numerous trips to Ranthambore, she took the young eyes on an adventurous joyride.

Appreciating the initiative by JKK, Ms Kak said that Bookaroo is a great platform to instil the love for book reading in children. She also said that situated in the heart of Pink City, JKK is an apt venue for such festivals.

In another gripping session on wildlife, writer, traveller and wildlife enthusiast, Mr. Deepak Dalal brought alive the fascinating story of the lives of the ancient Jarawa tribe of the Andaman Islands.

Renowned theatre artist, Mr. Parnab Mukherjee, in the session ‘Museum of a Million Hamlets’, decoded the famous Shakespearean play ‘Hamlet’ from a South Asian pair of eyes. It was a tribute commemorating 400 years of William Shakespeare’s passing away.

The young minds were also seen taking keen interest in the art and craft workshops. In ‘Urban Clutter’ by Priya Kuriyan, the kids created characters with paper cut outs, junk and everyday objects.

Phad painter, Kalyan Joshi in the session ‘The Wonderful World of Phad’, unravelled the timeless stories passed down generation to generation.

Mr Ajay Dasgupta, Founder, The Kahani Project, sharing his insight said, “In the age of smart phones and iPad, the family members should imbibe in children the habit of reading and listening to stories. I feel listening to stories is the fundamental right of every child.”

Following his session ‘Khel, Khel Mein Kahaniyaan’’, Mr Dasgupta had an fun-filled session with the kids. He danced and played with the kids and told innumerable stories.

In collaboration with The Japan Foundation, New Delhi, JKK is also presenting an exhibition of the works of renowned award winning Japanese Artist and illustrator of Children’s book, Chiharo Iwasaki and the works of other picture book artists from Japan. The exhibition will be on display upto May 10 at JKK.

**Photo Captions**

DSC\_0011: Bina Kak interacting with the children in her session ‘Noor and Sultan’ at Bookaroo’ today at JKK

DSC\_0027: A mono act by Parnab Mukerjee in a session titled ‘Museum of Million Hamlets’’ today at JKK

DSC\_0030: Jerry Pinto during his session titled ‘Hey, That’s An A’ today at JKK

DSC\_0017: In a story-telling session ‘Snake- Foe or Friend’, Arefa Tehsin interacts with the children during ‘Bookaroo’ at JKK today.

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