

EU authors hog the limelight on fifth day of book fair

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On the fifth day of the World Book Fair, talks by authors from European Union (EU) were a big draw. They talked about their books and shared secrets of writing an effective story and their inspirations. Kallia Papadaki from Greece talked about using words 'economically' to tell a story especially when writing for films.

Jasmin B Frelj from Slovenia, winner of the European Prize for literature, shared his fears about the homogenisation of the world which will eventually lead to the demise of globalisation in his book 'In Half'. Osvalds Zebris from Latvia is part of a group of writers writing a series covering Latvian history in the 20th century titled 'We.Latvia'. He said, "personal experience is necessary to tell a

story rather than relying only on imagination".

Jeanie Keogh, a Canadian author and playwright based in Belgium, said, "development as we know it is just an illusion". Through her short stories and plays she claimed she raised topical issues like women, family, violence, terrorism and environment, to name a few.

David Machado, an economist-turned-writer, in his book 'The Shelf Life of Happiness' shares how the financial crisis of Portugal affected a family and how they struggled to cope with things beyond their control.

Jose Luis Piexoto, one of Portugal's most acclaimed and bestselling contemporary novelist, currently on his fourth visit to India, said he was proud to be informed that his books will be translated into Hindi and Marathi. He said "that

his main inspiration comes from his own life in a small village in southern region of Alentejo (Portugal)".

Monica Malhotra, managing director of Malhotra Books Depot (MBD), showcased her company's efforts in spreading knowledge through books, e-learning and robotics which provide kits for children to create different types of machines. Monica said, "we negotiate with schools so that through their smart classroom e-cademy they can reach out to maximum number of students and help upgrade the technical knowledge of both teachers and students".

Sangeet Books caught the eye for its collection of antique books. Owner AL Verma claimed he had books which were more than 150 years old; like full set of John Ruskins's Modern Painters published in 1914. "But

these books don't come cheap. The prices range from Rs 500-25,000," he remarked.

Another major attraction of the day was a talk by environmentalist and Centre for Science and Environment director general Sunita Narian. She believed, "individualising environmental concerns is the only solution to the pending environmental catastrophe that is staring us in the face".

Three Delhi University students, namely Udayan Singh, Vishal and Kartika, said "they come here every year specially to attend 'Meet the Author' which are very insightful and inspiring". Arjun, Amritesh and Manisha, three civil services aspirants said "they love coming to the book fair every year for the sheer variety of books, especially for students".