25-years-old Preeti, who has been a regular visitor at the fair, said she is a first-level student in French and is looking for books that could help her learn the language better.

"The French stall here has a huge collection of books which are very helpful in learning French. I have picked up colourful story books which are for children but for beginners they are the best pick due to easy vocabulary," she says.

Hamid from Iran Cultural Institute, is representing the annual Tehran International Book Fair. Art books covering Persian miniatures and calligraphy along with poetry books are popular at the stall.

"Although we have a collection of Iranian literature, classics, contemporary art and poetry but books of paintings and calligraphy are being bought in huge numbers. The relation between Iranian and Indian literature is continuing since ancient times and there are many people in India who are interested in reading Persian novels and poems," he said, adding that translations are also popular with visitors.

Shamen from old Delhi here said she picked up some of her favourite poetry books by sufi poet Amir Khusro.

"I have always been a huge fan of Khusros works. The illustrated manuscripts of his poems that are available at the Iranian stall here are quite interesting," she said.

International agency United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has a pool of researched and well documented books on culture, education, natural sciences, communication and information. Several of their titles explore extinct languages and world heritage sites.

"Since most of our work is at policy level so most of these reports are useful for government organisations and students. Institutions like NCERT are picking up copies for their libraries. World heritage collection is also very popular," Rekha Beri, librarian and documentation officer of UNESCO, said.

Other attractions at the Foreign Pavilion include photography exhibitions on the Indian Diaspora in the EU, the Chinese New Year, and screening of films based on William Shakespeares plays, commemorating the 400th death anniversary of the Bard.

The fair underway at Pragati Maidan here, comes to a close on January 15. PTI RJS TRS TRS