

# Now a French book section at CP store

About 400 titles hand-picked from Parisian bookstores

**A VERITABLE TREAT**

The new section seeks to celebrate the rich and varied literary traditions of France

**NEW DELHI:** The Embassy of France in India has launched a French book section at Oxford Bookstore in Connaught Place to encourage people to read French literature.

With about 400 titles, the collection has been sourced from famous Parisian bookstores. These books will apprise Indians of French political life, culture, cuisine and other aspects of the European country.

The new section seeks to celebrate the rich and varied literary traditions of France as well as its cosmopolitan literary trends. It has books catering to French expatriates and students of Alliance Française de Delhi.

Launching the new section, French Ambassador Francois Richier said: "We had separate sections for Indian authors in French bookstores, but not vice

versa. So, we came up with this initiative to cater to the French-reading population here."

Newly published French books have been hand-picked by Apeejay Surrendra group director Priti Paul, who runs the bookstore.

"I made frequent trips to Paris to negotiate with book dealers. We have brought books which have been shortlisted for prestigious French awards. I always felt that France has a rich literary tradition and it was high time that Indians were introduced to French literature, politics and social mores."

Pointing out that about 8,000 French citizens live in the Capital, Ms. Paul said the French-speaking people of Morocco and Algeria are also settling down here.

"So the French-speaking pop-

ulation in Delhi needs to connect with their culture," Ms. Paul told *The Hindu*.

French books authored by literary giants like Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore and R.K. Narayan, whose works set in the fictional town of Malgudi connected with generations of bibliophiles, are on display.

Ms. Paul said: "France produces a range of comics which have a different visual language than English ones. So children can choose from a range of comics including Tintin and Asterix."

Noting that literature was not just about the written word, Ms. Paul said it deepens the connections between thought, creativity, governance and society as a whole. "Literature must be nurtured and valued for people and society to evolve."

Ms. Paul, who made Morocco her home about a decade ago, said since the French-speaking population has an abiding interest in books, she has also opened a bookstore, Kathakali, which has books authored by Indian authors.