

## All for books

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The prime minister inaugurated a national book fair the other day. It is a good bit of news, for any man or woman who is inclined to the intellectual in these times of inordinate worldliness, to be told that there are places where he or she can choose what to read. A book fair, to such an individual, is always a thing of beauty, always a joy. Forever? There one has one's doubts. No, there is not the slightest attempt at suggesting that books offer no joy. The truth is that much of the joy associated with reading goes out the window once one learns what books cost. And they cost a good deal nowadays.

And this is where we go back to the prime minister. She has, in the spirit of patriotism, asked us all to cultivate our reading habits. Let the heavens smile on her for saying so. She has gone beyond the sermonising, by acquainting us with the news that a national book policy will be in place soon. Nothing could be more wonderful than the spectacle of the nation's prime minister spearheading the campaign for intellectual advancement. But, do we get to read at cheap rates— and everything? Let there be a book policy, by all means. But let no frontiers force the mind into isolation.