

## Press Note:

### Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2015 – Day 4

**Event:** An enlightening talk on ‘History between Literature & Social Science’  
by Ramachandra Guha

**Kolkata, 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2015:** Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2015 hosted a thought-provoking session on ‘*History between Literature & Social Science*’ where eminent historian and writer, **Ramachandra Guha**, dissected approaches to history in his signature erudite style. The dialogue was followed by an equally engaging conversation with **Supriya Chaudhuri**, Professor Emeritus, Jadavpur University. The discussion touched upon the topic of how history is termed as a subject of literature as well as social science, with befitting references given by the two historians.

#### About the Panelists:

##### **Ramachandra Guha**

Ramachandra Guha is a historian, author and columnist based in Bangalore. Best described as a multi-faceted personality, he writes on cricket, history, environment and politics. Ramachandra Guha is the author of the internationally acclaimed *India After Gandhi*. His other books include *Makers of Modern India*, *A Corner of a Foreign Field* and *Savaging the Civilized: Verrier Elwin, His Tribals and India*. He has taught at the London School of Economics, Yale, Stanford, and The Indian Institute of Science. He also writes columns for well known Indian newspapers. His latest book, *Patriots and Partisans*, is a wonderfully readable collection of essays on a wide range of topics.

##### **Supriya Chaudhuri**

**Supriya Chaudhuri** is an Indian scholar of English literature. She is Professor Emeritus at Kolkata's Jadavpur University. Her scholarship ranges over many fields, notably literary theory, 18th Century British Literature, modernism, and the Renaissance. She specializes in the history of ideas. She was an Oxford badminton half-blue and holds a black belt in Kyokushinkai karate. She has edited the following volumes: *Writing Over: Medieval to Renaissance* (edited along with Sukanta Chaudhuri), *Literature and Gender: Essays for Jasodhara Bagchi* (edited along with Sajni Mukherji), *Literature and Philosophy: Essays in Connexion, Petrarch and the Renaissance* (edited along with Sukanta Chaudhuri). She is a major contributor to the Oxford Tagore Translations and has translated *Relationships (Jogajog)*.

#### About Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF):

Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF) is Kolkata's pioneering literary festival. Instituted in 2010 by the Apeejay Surrendra Group and its heritage Oxford Bookstore on Park Street, AKLF grows out of the bookstore's year round involvement with books, writers & publishers. In the six years since Kolkata saw her first literary festival in AKLF, literary festivals have mushroomed across the country, but AKLF stands apart with its unique identity as the only one with a now 94-year-old bookstore as its nucleus. AKLF offers an atmosphere of warm, welcoming intimacy, favors depth over size, and includes a variety of subjects from history to the environment. AKLF also celebrates Kolkata's magnificent public monuments and heritage sites as settings for Festival events and eminent literati and cultural stalwarts from across India and overseas join the festival scheduled every year in the second week of January. In 2015 AKLF explores literature as part of our tangible and intangible heritage, a theme that runs through several sessions of the festival. AKLF focusses on younger writers, newer voices and fresh audiences in its ongoing attempt to build an audience for books and reading. Prominent personalities attending will be Hanif Kureishi, Naseeruddin Shah, Charles Allen, John Elliott, Mohammed Hanif, Leila Seth, Michael Buckley, Upamanyu Chatterjee, David Davidar, Shekhar Gupta, Shashi Tharoor, Asish Nandy, Ramachandra Guha, Kishwar Desai, Muzzafar and Meera Ali, Nabaneeta Dev Sen amongst several others. There are some firsts in AKLF 2015. A heritage literary walk, a literary 'adda', a Young Adult litfest for high school students, a bloggers' meet, a children's bookfest crammed with activities, even a standup comic for the college crowd and a leadership training session for young teens on importance of character, karma and individual social responsibility™. Add to that our signature heritage site evenings at The Indian Museum, National Library, Victoria Memorial, Lascar War Memorial, indepth discussions, top of the line authors, thinkers and performers, and you have a literary experience not to be missed. And all absolutely free for Kolkata and her culture-loving audience.

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