

Press Note:

Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2016 – Day 2

Event: ‘Casualties as Collateral Damage’

A Panel discussion on researching the human side of war

Kolkata, 15th January, 2016: Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2016 presented ‘*Casualties as Collateral Damage*’, a topical panel discussion about the human side of war. The prominent panel comprised of columnist **Ruchir Joshi**, **Nayanika Mookherjee** anthropologist and writer & veteran journalist **Salil Tripathi**.

The session was organized at the Western Quadrangle inside the heritage premises of Victoria Memorial Hall which worked as an evocative backdrop to the discussion. The panelists engaged in a riveting conversation about how war has a compelling impact on society, the lives of people looking back especially the chaotic period of the two World Wars. They further spoke of personal experiences of the soldiers and civilians who lived through these dangerous and pivotal times and untold personal traumatic stories of those living in a country ripped apart by war. The session was moderated by **Kavita Panjabi**.

About Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF) 2016

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 grew out of the bookstore’s year round involvement with books, writers & publishers. In the seven 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 nearly 100 year old bookstore as its nucleus. AKLF offers an atmosphere of warm, welcoming intimacy, favours 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 2016 AKLF celebrates diverse themes encompassing books, theatre, the arts and cinema. AKLF’s focus is on younger writers, newer voices and fresh audiences in its ongoing attempt to build an audience for books and reading. The 7th edition of AKLF is poised to scale new heights, with an outstanding and meticulously curated programme, bringing the world and the nation to Kolkata. Continuing to celebrate the city’s magnificent public monuments and heritage sites the festival rediscovers the quaint and hidden charms of the city through heritage walks. AKLF highlights several unique concepts with a fresh approach that reflects current concerns such as diversity, gender equality, continuities across borders and youth engagements, which are also broad themes running through the festival. AKLF signature heritage sites include Nandan, Town Hall steps, The Indian Museum, Presidency University, Tollygunge Club and Victoria Memorial. AKLF 2016 has participation from Australia, Israel, Scotland, Italy, Nigeria, Portugal as well as England, France, Germany, Pakistan, Bhutan and others. Some of the prominent personalities who will be part of the literary extravaganza are Ben Okri, Meera Syal, Christine

Manfield, Ashis Nandy, Vir Sanghvi, Bharathi S Pradhan, Shatrughan Sinha, Shobhaa De and more. The four day long, multi-faceted event has several stimulating components designed to give visitors and the audience an enriching experience, with a great blend of literature, culture, art and heritage. And all of this is absolutely free for Kolkata and her culture-loving audience.

Notes to Editors

Ruchir Joshi, is a Writer, celebrated filmmaker, provocateur and widely read columnist for The Telegraph, India Today as well as other publications. He is best known for his debut novel titled The Last Jet-Engine Laugh (2001). He is also the editor of India's first anthology of contemporary erotica Electric Feather: The Tranquebar Book of Erotic Stories, published by Tranquebar Press/Westland. Apart from writing regular columns in newspapers and magazines, Joshi made a film on Bauls in 1992, Egara Mile (Eleven Miles) for which he won international acclaim. He also directed, Memories of Milk City and Tales from Planet Kolkata. He wrote a piece called Tracing Puppa which was published in Granta 109 in a series of recollections regarding fathers. Right now he is penning his second novel, set in Calcutta during the chaotic period of World War II.

Nayanika Mookherjee, is a Reader of Socio-Cultural Anthropology in Durham University, UK. She has published extensively on her research interests: anthropology of violence, gendered violence during wars, ethics and aesthetics. Recent publications include The Spectral Wound. Sexual Violence, Public Memories and the Bangladesh War of 1971 (Foreword by Veena Das, Duke University Press, 2015). Currently she is finishing her manuscript 'Arts of Reconciliation' (contracted with Stanford UP). As a British Academy fellow, her new research is on transnational adoption and conflict.

Salil Tripathi is a contributing editor at Mint and Caravan in India. He is director of policy at the Institute for Human Rights and Business. In the UK, he was board member of English PEN from 2009 to 2013, and with novelist Kamila Shamsie, he co-chaired PEN's Writers-at-Risk Committee. In November 2011, he won the third prize at the Bastiat Awards for Journalism about free societies, in New York. He was a correspondent in India from 1987 to 1990, moved to Singapore (and later Hong Kong) from 1991 to 1999 and finally to London in 1999. Over the last 18 years, he has published nearly 1,000 articles in publications in Asia, Europe and America. Salil has also appeared frequently on television, for stations including CNBC, BBC, Doordarshan, and TCS (Singapore). He is the author of Offence: The Hindu Case (Seagull, 2009), The Colonel Who Would Not Repent: The Bangladesh War and its Unquiet Legacy (Aleph, 2014; Yale, 2016), and Detours: Songs of the Open Road (Tranquebar, 2015). He is currently working on a book about Gujaratis.

AKLF 2016 Partners and Associations:

The AKLF 2016 edition has forged several new, prestigious associations, following its impressive collaborations in first year in 2010. We are proud to welcome on board both our new and regular partners including the Victoria Memorial Hall, Indian Museum, Australian High Commission, Embassy of Italy in India, Bloody Scotland, British Council, Calcutta Debating Circle, Crime Writers Festival, Embassy of Israel in India, Alliance Française, Portugal Embassy, Presidency University, Jaipur Literary Festival, Yes Foundation, FACES, Open Doors, FREED, The Creative Arts, Poetry Paradigm, MAKAIAS, Tollygunge Club, Max Muller Bhavan - Goethe Institute, The Park, Modern High School for Girls, Rakshak Foundation, Aishee, Streets of Calcutta, Calcutta Instagrammers, Wikipedia, Caravan, BEE books, Gubl.in, Bulk Email SMS India, Presto, She and Griffith Review. We also have 91.9 friends FM as radio partner, The Times of India as Print Media Partner, Anderson as Printing Partner, Selvel as Outdoor Partner, Typhoo as Refreshment Partner, Mera Tiffin as Food

Partner, Indismart and Anon Production as special partners. A wide cross section of publishers, which include Niyogi Publishers, Future Publishers, OM Books and others will showcase their authors at AKLF 2016. AKLF is proud of these associations and hope they keep growing year on year.

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For media related information, please contact: Perfect Relations

Priyanka 9830615322 | Sramana 9836496930 | Amrita 9836230760