

Press Note:

Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2016 – Day 2

Event: *'Friend and Foe: On being Neighbourly'*
A panel discussion on issues of coexistence

Kolkata, 15th January, 2016: Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2016 hosted a panel discussion on the topic *'Friend and Foe: On Being Neighbourly'*. The session entailed an conversation between Indian political psychologist, social theorist and critic **Ashis Nandy** and renowned historian and politician **Sugata Bose** who discussed issues of coexistence.

The session threw light on how increasing global turbulence, deepening recession, declining expectations of growth in the rest of the world is contributing to enhanced divisions in society, harboring conflicts between cultures, religions, nations, ethnic groups, languages, castes and tribes. The discussion brought to the fore challenges of pluralism and the need for continuing engagement, debate and dialogue, both to better understand ongoing developments and to help and empower all those who value cultural pluralism, tolerance, coexistence, cooperation, and coming together across cultural differences.

Moderated by **Salil Tripathi** Editor and Director of policy at the Institute for Human Rights and Business, the session gave the audience insightful information and different perspectives on the topic.

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

Ashis Nandy, Senior Fellow, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi. He is a distinguished political psychologist, sociologist of science. His research interests centre on the political psychology of violence, cultures of knowledge, utopias and visions, human potentialities, and futures. Presently he is working on genocide. The running themes in his work have been concern and respect for marginalized categories and systems of knowledge and a robust scepticism towards expert-driven, packaged, professional solutions to human problems. Nandy's books include *Alternative Sciences*, *At the Edge of Psychology*, *The Intimate Enemy*, *The Tao of Cricket*, *The Illegitimacy of Nationalism*, *The Savage Freud and Other Essays in Possible and Retrievable Selves*, *An Ambiguous Journey to the City*, *The Romance of the State and the Fate of Dissent in the Tropics*, *Time Warps*, *Time Treks*, and *Traditions, Tyranny and Utopias*. He is also a co-author of *The Blinded Eye: 500 Years of Christopher Columbus and Creating a Nationality*; editor of *Science, Hegemony and Violence* and *The Secret Politics of our Desires*; and a co-editor of *The Multiverse of Democracy* and *The Future of Knowledge and Culture: A Twenty-First Century Dictionary*. Nandy is a Distinguished Fellow of the Institute of Postcolonial Studies, Melbourne, and a member of the Global Scientific Committee for Higher Education (UNESCO). Over the years, he has been also associated with initiatives such as the Centre for Ecology and Food Security, New Delhi; People's Union of Civil Liberties, the Committee for Cultural Choices and Global Futures, Delhi; Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, and the Intercultural Institute of Montreal. Nandy received the Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize in 2007 and was chosen one of 100 top public intellectuals in the world in 2008.

Sugata Bose is an Indian historian and politician.. His fields of study are South Asian and Indian Ocean history. Bose taught at Tufts University until 2001, when he accepted the Gardiner Chair of Oceanic History and Affairs at Harvard University. Bose is also the Director of the Netaji Research Bureau in Kolkata, a research center and archives devoted to the life and work of Bose's great uncle, the Indian nationalist, Subhas Chandra Bose. His best known works include. *A Hundred Horizons: the Indian Ocean in the Age of Global Empire* (2006), *Modern South Asia: History, Culture, Political Economy* (with Ayesha Jalal, 2011) and *His Majesty's Opponent: Subhas Chandra Bose and India's Struggle against Empire* (2011). Since 2014, Bose has served as a Member of Parliament from the Jadavpur Constituency in West Bengal

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, Presidency University, FACES, Open Doors, FREED, The Creative Arts, Poetry Paradigm, MAKAIAS, Tollygunge Club, Max Muller Bhavan - Goethe Institute, The Park, and Modern High School for Girls, Rakshak Foundation, Aishee, Streets of Calcutta, Calcutta Instagrammers, Wikipedia and Caravan. 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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Priyanka 9830615322 | Sramana 9836496930 | Amrita 9836230760