

## Press Note:

### Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2015 – Day 2

**Event:** Book launch of 'Fairy Tales at Fifty' by Upamanyu Chatterjee followed by book reading and conversation with Jeet Thayil

**Kolkata, 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2015:** Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2015 hosted the launch of '*Fairy Tales at Fifty*' by Upamanyu Chatterjee, one of Country's the iconic authors. The theme of the novel is focused on a 'separated at birth' story, filled with twisted souls. The launch was followed by an engrossing book reading and enlightening discussion with poet, novelist, librettist and musician, **Jeet Thayil**, which provided a gateway to new perspectives proving to be a delightful experience for the audience present at the launch.

'*Fairy Tales at Fifty*', is a magical, wildly imaginative tale with drawings from myth and fable, swarming with serial killers, ogres, voluptuous men-women combinations, and hauntingly surreal imagery and a privileged, cynical and rather unheroic Stephanian hero, the impotent prince who exemplifies the apathy of those living in a decaying immoral world.

#### **About the author**

**Upamanyu Chatterjee:** Upamanyu Chatterjee joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1983. His published works include short stories and the novels *English, August: An Indian Story* (1988), *The Last Burden* (1993), *The Mammaries of the Welfare State* (2000), which won the Sahitya Akademi Award for writing in English, *Weight Loss* (2006) and *Way to Go* (2011). In 2008, he was awarded the Order of Officier des Arts et des Lettres by the French Government for his contribution to literature. His latest novel is titled *Fairy Tales at Fifty*.

**About Jeet Thayil:** Jeet Thayil is an Indian poet, novelist, librettist and musician. He is best known as a poet and is the author of four collections: *These Errors Are Correct*, *English*, *Apocalypso* and *Gemini*. His first novel, *Narcopolis*, was shortlisted for the 2012 Man Booker Prize as well as the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature. He is the editor of the *Bloodaxe Book of Contemporary Indian Poets*, *60 Indian Poets* and a collection of essays, *Divided Time: India and the End of Diaspora*. He is the author of the libretto for the opera *Babur in London*, commissioned by the UK-based Opera Group with music by the Zurich-based British composer Edward Rushton. Thayil is also known as a performance poet and musician. As a songwriter and guitarist, he is one half of the contemporary music project *Sridhar/Thayil* (Mumbai, New Delhi). In 2012, Thayil's poetry collection *These Errors are Correct* was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award for English. He was short-listed for the Man Booker Prize 2012 and The Hindu Literary Prize (2013) for his debut novel *Narcopolis*. In 2013, Jeet Thayil became the first Indian author to win the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature.

### **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, 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.

Stay connected with #AKLF2015 -  [@TheAKLF](https://twitter.com/TheAKLF),  [Facebook/aapeejaykolkataliteraryfestival](https://www.facebook.com/aapeejaykolkataliteraryfestival)

For event videos & pictures Log On to <http://www.aklf.in/>

---

**For media related information, please contact: Perfect Relations**

Priyanka 9830615322 | Sramana 9836496930