

## Press Note:

### Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2015 – Day 3

**Event:** TASCHEN celebrates 125 years of National Geographic- Reza Deghai's presentation of award winning photography for National Geography

**Kolkata, 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2015:** Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2015 with TASCHEN, International Publishers of art, design and photography books, jointly celebrated the glorious '*125 years of the iconic National Geographic magazine*'. On the occasion renowned Paris-based photographer **Reza Deghati**, presented his award winning collection of photography aptly dedicated to National Geographic magazine. Reza was in conversation with **Neha Dara**, Deputy Editor, National Geographic Traveller India.

Celebrating the 125th anniversary, TASCHEN has from the archives of the magazine distilled the journey of a lifetime into three prodigious volumes featuring photographs—many unpublished—almost as rich, deep, and colorful as the world itself.

For five generations, National Geographic magazine has dazzled and educated people with its incredible photographs, illustrations, and gripping stories from the four corners of the earth. Combining travel, wildlife, science, history, culture, and conservation, the National Geographic's trailblazing magazine has inspired millions of readers to explore and take an interest in the planet we inhabit.

#### About the Panelists:

**Reza Deghati:** Reza Deghati was born in Tabriz, Iran, is an Iranian-French photojournalist of Azerbaijani origin, who works under the name Reza. Reza has covered much of the globe for National Geographic Magazine. Several films about Reza's work have been produced by National Geographic Television, most notably Frontline Diaries, which won an Emmy Award in 2002. In 2003, Reza served as Creative Director for National Geographic's most viewed documentary, Inside Mecca. As part of its Exceptional Journeys series, National Geographic released a DVD in May 2008 looking at Reza's career as a photojournalist, with special features highlighting his extensive humanitarian work. In 2001, he founded Aina (Persian for The Mirror), an international non-profit organization dedicated to educating and empowering Afghan women and children through the media. By providing educational opportunities in the field of communications and multimedia, Aina aims to equip Afghans with the skills required to build a self-sufficient, democratic, and unified country. In 1991, Reza served as a consultant to the United Nations in Afghanistan, helping to distribute food to populations in war-torn parts of the

country. For his work on such humanitarian causes and because of his work with Aina in Afghanistan, National Geographic awarded him the title of National Geographic Fellow in 2006.

**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, in-depth 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 -  [twitter/@TheAKLF](https://twitter.com/TheAKLF),  [Facebook/apeejaykolkataliteraryfestival](https://www.facebook.com/apeejaykolkataliteraryfestival)

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

---

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

Priyanka 9830615322 | Sramana 9836496930