

Press Note:

Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2015 – Day 3

Event: Book launch of John Elliott’s ‘Implosion: India’s Tryst with Reality’, followed by a discussion with Sajeda Momin and Shikha Mukherjee

Kolkata, 16th January, 2015: Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival saw the launch of John Elliott’s ‘*Implosion: India’s Tryst with Reality*’, followed by a discussion with journalist, writer and editor **Sajeda Momin** and political commentator **Shikha Mukerjee**. The book was released by Chief Guest **Suranjan Das**, Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University

Elliott both delivers and underwhelms in his book, ‘Implosion: India’s Tryst with Reality’. He has broken the story into seven chapters and 23 sections around the 1991/92 reforms; social change sweeping the country; the overwhelming presence of dynasty; governance or the lack of it; foreign policy; Indian traits of jugaad, chalta hai and ram bharse and, finally, coming to grips with reality.

About the author

John Elliot: John Elliott is a former Financial Times journalist and Asia Sentinel’s India correspondent. His best-selling book *Implosion: India’s Tryst with Reality* has just been published as a paperback. Based in New Delhi, he writes the Riding the Elephant blog on South Asia current affairs, which also appears on the websites of Newsweek (US) and The Independent (UK). He first came to India in 1983 and has also reported for The Economist, Fortune magazine, and the New Statesman.

About the panelist:

Sajeda Momin: Sajeda Momin is a journalist, writer and editor. She has worked as a resident editor at The Asian Age, Assistant Editor at The Statesman, was a foreign correspondent for DNA and features editor of The Bengal Post.

Shikha Mukherjee: Shikha Mukherjee is Advisor, Corporate Social Responsibility, Apeejay Surendra Group. She directly oversees the Anand Paul Education Support Programme in Kolkata for underprivileged children and Apeejay Tea’s CSR and Sustainability programmes. The prestigious The Paul Foundation scholarship programme for academic excellence was started by her. She completed her Masters of Arts from Jawaharlal Nehru University in 1977 and joined the Times of India Group in 1978. She headed the launch of The Times of India edition in Kolkata and remained Political Editor of The Times of India till 2001.

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.

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