

## Press Note:

### Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2015 – Day 5

#### Event: ‘The Literary Mile: A Literary Heritage Walk’

**Kolkata, 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2015:** Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2015 organised a literary walk that explored the heritage sites of Kolkata. Presented by Indian National Trust For Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) and the Indian Museum along with the support of Calcutta Walks and Presidency University Literary Society, the heritage walk was specially curated to give literary enthusiasts an enriching experience, with a great blend of literature, culture, art and heritage.

The Literary Walk was conducted by Iftekhar Ahsan of Calcutta Walks who was joined by literary enthusiasts from across the city. The stroll commenced from the main gate of the silent **South Park Street Cemetery** exploring mausoleums of *Lieutenant Walter Landor Dickens, Vivian Louis Derozio, Rose Aylmer, Hindoo Stewart* and others, resurrecting the memory of people left behind by time. The walk then headed towards the **Goethals Indian Library at St. Xaviers College** on Park Street giving the trail walker a sneak peek into the precious collection of books of the then Archbishop of Calcutta, Paul Goethals, S.J. Archbishop Goethals, Archbishop of Calcutta from 1886 to 1901. The trail then followed the path towards **Oxford Bookstore** for a break for tea from Cha Bar, India’s on of it’s kind award-winning tea boutique, heading towards The **Asiatic Society of Kolkata** contextualising the Society’s origins, finally culminating at the **Indian Museum** where the participants were addressed with a brief talk on rare manuscripts and a tour of exhibits within the premises.

The walk resonates the commitment and passion of the Apeejay Surrendra Group to conserve and preserve the city’s rich cultural heritage. Over the last six years, the Apeejay Kolkata Literary festival has been hosting events and activities at various venues - Victoria Memorial, Town Hall, National Library, St Johns Anglican Church amongst others, to celebrate the city’s rich heritage. In a way it was an endorsement of the belief that a city’s heritage plays an important role in the urban landscape re-establishing the city and its citizen’s trust with history and culture, giving the citizen not only a historical perspective but a sense of place and time.

The walk witnessed participation from 30 enthusiastic people from across Kolkata, who immersed themselves into the landscape which influenced and inspired them.

### **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.

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