

## Press Note:

### Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2016 – Day 3

**Event:** *'The People Speak'*

Book Launch – *Mandate: The Will of The People* by Vir Sanghvi

**Kolkata, 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2016:** Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2016 hosted the launch of **'Mandate: The Will of The People'** authored by **Vir Sanghvi**. The book was released by **Ashis Nandy**, an Indian political psychologist, social theorist, and critic who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The launch was followed by a discussion with **Saba Naqvi** journalist and author.

*Mandate: Will of the People* contains the real story of the declaration of the Emergency, the rise and fall of Sanjay Gandhi, the Punjab insurgencies, the assassination of Indira Gandhi and the bloody riots that followed her death. It tracks the emergence of Rajiv Gandhi and explains the Bofors scandal that contributed to his defeat. Many of the questions that linger over Indian politics are answered here: how did Narasimha Rao become Prime Minister? Why did he liberalise the economy? What was the Ram Mandir agitation really about? Why didn't Sonia Gandhi agree to be PM? And how did Manmohan Singh's weakness clear the way for Narendra Modi.

Vir Sanghvi draws on his personal experiences and memories as well as scores of interviews to piece together an incisive and candid account of what went on behind the scenes. Peppared with little-known details and insider information, this book tells the stories behind the story and brings alive the men and women behind the headlines.

#### **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**

**Vir Sanghvi** is the best-known Indian journalist of his generation. His career straddles print, television, books and now, new media. He has been a member of many professional, academic and government bodies including the National Integration Council. During Sanghvi's time, the Hindustan Times became a multi-edition newspaper opening new editions in Chandigarh, Calcutta, Bhopal, Ranchi, and most successfully in Bombay where it is now the second largest-selling newspaper. He continues to be a regular columnist for the Hindustan Times and an occasional columnist for Mint. Sanghvi has also run a parallel TV career which began while he was still editor of Sunday. Sanghvi's books include Men of Steel (published by Roli Books), one of the biggest paperback bestsellers in the history of Indian publishing which has been translated into 8 Indian languages. His other books are Rude Food and Madharvaro Scindia, a biography (Penguin) and India – Then and Now (Roli). Vir Sanghvi has won many awards during his career for both TV and print. In 1993, he was declared A Global Leader of Tomorrow by the World Economic Forum at Davos. Currently, he is a member of the Broadcast Content Complaint Council (BCCC), a body that regulates content on entertainment TV channels.

**Saba Naqvi** is a senior journalist and author. She is the daughter of famed journalist Saeed Naqvi. She was the Political Editor at Outlook magazine, based out in New Delhi. Naqvi has authored two books In Good Faith: A Journey In Search of An Unknown India published in 2012 and Capital Conquest in 2015. In Good Faith makes a case for pluralism in India through examples of communities that live in perfect communal harmony and received critical acclaim.

**Ashis Nandy** is a 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.

### **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, Portugal Embassy, Presidency University, Jaipur Literary Festival, Yes Foundation, FACES, Open Doors, FREED, The Creative Arts, Poetry Paradigm, MAKAIAS, Tollygunge Club, Max Muller Bhavan - Goethe Institute, The Park, Modern High School for Girls, Rakshak Foundation, Aishee, Streets of Calcutta, Calcutta Instagrammers, Wikipedia, Caravan, BEE books, GIBL.in, Bulk Email SMS India, Presto, She and Griffith Review. 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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**For media related information, please contact: Perfect Relations**

Priyanka 9830615322 | Sramana 9836496930 | Amrita 9836230760