

## Press Note:

### Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2016 – Day 2

**Event:** *'Ethics and the Public Intellectual'*

Ashis Nandy in conversation with Prof. Swapan Chakravarty

**Kolkata, 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2016:** Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2016 hosted a thought provoking discussion on *'Ethics and the Public Intellectual'*, that highlighted why a society needs its public intellectuals - people who can ask the right questions at relevant moments and create awareness amongst the others for what is right. **Ashis Nandy** Indian political psychologist, social theorist, and critic was in conversation with **Prof. Swapan Chakravorty** distinguished Professor in the Humanities on the relevance of ethics, science and public intellectuals in today's world and how the new challenges faced by India today can be answered.

The session hosted at the premise of Presidency University threw light on the importance and correlation of ethical values and public intellectual. It is the association between the two that provides an opportunity of wide-ranging critique of policy, and look more creatively at the relation between knowledge and power.

#### **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**

**Ashis Nandy**, 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*. He is also a co-author of *The Blinded Eye: 500 Years of Christopher Columbus and Creating a Nationality*; editor of *Science, Hegemony and Violence* and *The Secret Politics of our Desires*; and a co-editor of *The Multiverse of Democracy* and *The Future of Knowledge and Culture: A Twenty-First Century Dictionary*. Nandy is a Distinguished Fellow of the Institute of Postcolonial Studies, Melbourne, and a member of the Global Scientific Committee for Higher Education (UNESCO). Over the years, he has been also associated with initiatives such as the Centre for Ecology and Food Security, New Delhi; People's Union of Civil Liberties, the Committee for Cultural Choices and Global Futures, Delhi; Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, and the Intercultural Institute of Montreal. Nandy received the Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize in 2007 and was chosen one of 100 top public intellectuals in the world in 2008.

**Prof. Swapan Chakravorty**, is Distinguished Professor in the Humanities, Presidency University, Kolkata. He has served as Professor of English, Jadavpur University, Director General of the National Library of India, Kolkata, Secretary and Curator of Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata. Joint Director of School of Cultural Texts and Records. He has been the Deputy Co-ordinator of the Centre for Advanced Study programme, and part of the Departmental research projects under the ASIHSS programme. He was also Joint Director, School of Cultural Texts and Records. He teaches Renaissance European literature, early modern drama, Shakespeare, Latin classics, textual criticism, history of the book and literary theory. He is internationally acknowledged as an authority on Renaissance drama and the history of the book. He is also the author of several books and articles

### **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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