

Press Note: Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2016 – Day 4

Event: Shotgun Says *Khamosh* at AKLF 2016

Book Release of 'Anything but Khamosh: The Shatrughan Sinha Biography'

Kolkata, 17th January, 2016: Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2016 hosted the launch of ***Anything but Khamosh: The Shatrughan Sinha Biography*** by **Bharati S Pradhan**. The book was released by the actor himself and followed by a conversation between the author and chief guest eminent filmmaker **Goutam Ghose**.

One of the most enthralling personalities of contemporary times, Shatrughan Sinha is everything from an actor par excellence, a fierce orator to a political enigma. From the sonorous 'Khamosh' to the nuanced and intelligent commentaries on politics today, Shatrughan Sinha has been a riveting character to follow. Bharati Pradhan's aptly titled book is a rare biography which captures the actor's life in an honest and unflattering manner. Spanning his early years in the Mumbai Film Industry, how he first met his wife Poonam as a school girl on a train and fell for her to his active participation in Indian politics and his close ties with top Pakistan leaders the book covers an all round perspective on the actor's life.

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 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 Editor:

Bharathi S Pradhan is one of the most sought after film journalists in the country. She has been Editor of Star & Style and Showtime, author of fiction and non-fiction books and also is a columnist with The Telegraph. Her recent work, *Anything But Khamosh* puts to paper the biography of film actor Shatrughan Sinha.

Goutam Ghose is a critically acclaimed filmmaker, music director, and cinematographer who works primarily in Bengali cinema. He is also the only Indian to win the coveted 'Vittorio Di Sica' Award. He was awarded the Knighthood of the Star of the Italian Solidarity in July 2006. Recipient of 16 National Awards for his works, Ghose has been a stalwart in Indian cinema. Ghose has portrayed the role of a Hungry generation poet in Srijit Mukherji's film *Baishe Srabon*. Ghose's upcoming film, '*Sankhochil*' deals with the partition of Bengal.

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.

Stay connected with #AKLF2016  @TheAKLF  apeejaykolkataliteraryfestival

For media related information, please contact: Perfect Relations

Priyanka 9830615322 | Sramana 9836496930 | Amrita 9836230760