

Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival presents the Book Launch of 'The City of Devi' by Manil Suri

Kolkata, 11th January, 2013: Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2013 hosted the launch of 'The City of Devi' by Manil Suri, an Indian-American mathematician and eminent writer, with Bloomsbury India. Renowned journalist, Sandip Roy was in conversation with the author on the multi layered novel that not only encompasses a searing love story but also encapsulates the varied facets like mythology, politics, religion and India's global emergence.

'The City of Devi' is a stunning novel that intelligently narrates the story of Sarita, a thirty-three-year-old statistician in search of her physicist husband Karun, who mysteriously goes missing after a nuclear holocaust. The story line is set against the backdrop when Mumbai has emptied under the threat of imminent nuclear annihilation; gangs of marauding thugs rove the desolate, bombed-out streets. Embarking on her quest for Karun, she is accompanied by Jaz - a handsome and glib Muslim man in search of his own lover. As Sarita and Jaz travel through the landscape, they are inevitably drawn to the real-life incarnation fusing myth and movie - the patron goddess Devi ma, who has reputedly materialised in person to save her city from any apocalypse. With a compelling plot the novel combines the thrill of Bollywood with the pull of a thriller. A story of love lost and found amidst of the catastrophic setup.

About the author:

Manil Suri was born in Bombay in 1959 and is a professor of mathematics at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He has written two novels other novels, 'The Death of Vishnu' and 'The Age of Shiva.' His fiction has been translated into 27 languages, long listed for the Booker Prize, shortlisted for the PEN Faulkner, LA Times, PEN Hemingway and W H Smith awards, and has won the McKittrick and the Barnes & Noble Discover prizes. He was named by Time Magazine as a 'Person to Watch' in 2000. He lives in Maryland, USA. His new book, 'City of Devi' by Bloomsbury India is just out.

About the book:

'**The City of Devi**' is wickedly satirical, fearlessly provocative and disturbingly possible; the novel upsets assumptions of politics, religion and sex in India, while exuberantly sending up the country's reputation as a rising global superpower. Ground breaking and multi layered, this compelling tale of sexual consciousness and of individuals balancing on the sharp edge of fate demonstrates that, in the fallout of our mass media world, we are left seeking the presence of those we love the most.

About Bloomsbury India

Launched on 21st September 2012, Bloomsbury India upholds Bloomsbury's tradition of publishing books of the highest quality in fiction, non-fiction, children's, academic, business and education by both Indian and international authors. Bloomsbury India's launch list includes the first Wisden India Cricketers' Almanack 2013, the spectacular Return of a King: The Battle for Afghanistan by William Dalrymple, whose previous books were Number 1 bestsellers in India and Manil Suri's bold and controversial new novel The City of Devi. Bloomsbury has an exceptional list of South Asian writers including Kamila Shamsie, Romesh Gunesequera, Rajesh Parameswaran, Roshi Fernando, Jaspreet Singh and Tishani Doshi. Bloomsbury India's authors include the international bestselling writers J K Rowling, Khaled Hosseini and Elizabeth Gilbert; Booker Prize winners Margaret Atwood and Howard Jacobson; Nobel Prize winner Nadine Gordimer; Orange Prize winners Madeline Miller and Anne Michaels and cookery books by the Michelin starred Chefs Heston Blumenthal, Atul Kochhar and Raymond Blanc and bestselling Anthony Bourdain. Bloomsbury India will distribute both UK and US Bloomsbury imprints including the critically acclaimed and popular Arden Shakespeare. A rigorous academic list will focus on business, economics and management.

About Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF) 2013:

A Community initiative by the Apeejay Surrendra Group, the annual literary festival hosted since 2010 in Kolkata is the first international literary festival in Kolkata, a city celebrated for its intellectual depth and cultural heritage. An array of special curated discussions, performances and some of the finest literary events are scheduled for the fourth edition from 9th- 13th January, 2013. A noteworthy literary and cultural representation from across India and overseas will be seen at the Festival, amongst the finest minds from India and overseas. Prominent personalities attending will be Ramachandra Guha, William Dalrymple, Shyam Benegal, Pavan Varma, Yasmin Ali Bhai Brown, Amit Chaudhuri, Leila Seth, Manil Suri, Ruchir Joshi, Onir, Urvashi Butalia, Shobhaa De and Tishani Doshi and several others. Events are scheduled at significant cultural and heritage venues across Kolkata like National Library, St John's Church, banks of Hooghly, Lascar Monument, and at India's finest and most loved 92 year old iconic bookstore- Oxford Bookstore, Kolkata. Amongst the many highlights is Festival's collaboration with the Tibor-Jones South Asia Prize to recognize and encourage new and emerging writers in the South Asian region.

For event videos & pictures Log On to <http://www.aklf.in/>

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