

## **Curtain goes up on the 10<sup>th</sup> Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2019**

Festival announces second set of speakers, heritage venues  
and unveils new festival logo

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- **SECOND SET OF 45 SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED**: Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF) announced its second list of 45 speakers out of over 60 speakers expected to attend the 2019 edition. The second list of speakers features Anita Ratnam, Arunava Sinha, Ashwin Sanghi, Coonoor Kripalani Thadani, David Davidar, Durjoy Datta, Farooq Abdullah, Meenakshi Alimchandani, Michelle Garnaut, Sudeep Nagarkar, Syeda Hameed, Tridip Suhrud, Ulrike Almut Sandig, and Zameer Uddin Shah among others
- **LOGO UNVEILED**: Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival today unveiled a new logo celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival to be held from January 18<sup>TH</sup> – 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2019.
- **HERITAGE VENUES ANNOUNCED**: The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival will be held at heritage sites on Kolkata's most happening thoroughfare Park street like the majestic Park Mansions and its Grounds, Allen Park, Celica House 1st floor and the iconic Oxford Bookstore

**Kolkata 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018**: The annual Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival today announced its second list of speakers for the much-awaited 10<sup>th</sup> edition, set to take place from 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at four heritage venues at Kolkata's most trendy Park street - Park Mansions building and grounds, Allen Park, Development Consultants Pvt Ltd's Your Space of Celica House and the iconic Oxford Bookstore. As the just-released list shows, Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival will once again be a grand marathon of ideas between idealists, realists, visionaries, intellectuals, the avant garde and the rebels, who will engage in informed, and sometimes rather intense, discourse, united, above all, by an abiding love for books and ideas.

Ms. Maina Bhagat and Ms. Anjum Katyal, Directors, Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival unveiled a specially designed festival logo to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival. The logo in bright hues symbolises celebration. It's a celebration of successfully providing a platform for 10 years where people from all over the world can interact, exchange ideas, motivate and enjoy diverse cultures, traditions, thoughts and extraordinary minds. This celebration is depicted through beautiful vibrant colours and forms. It is like a party where everyone is invited to rejoice.



*On the occasion, Calcutta Heritage Collective exhibited a nostalgic presentation on Park Street as the most fashionable, glitzy and posh street of the city, a neighborhood famed for its cosmopolitan culture, education, nightlife, crooners, music and of course Flurys! The presentation embarked on a journey visiting the heritage locations like Asiatic Society, Stephen Court, St Xaviers College, Queens Mansion, South Park Street Cemetery, North Park Street Cemetery, Masonic Lodge and Grail Club (Apeejay House).*

The Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival has been celebrating Kolkata's literary culture for a decade, beginning in 2010 at Park Street. As it moves on towards completing ten glorious years in upholding the literary values in the City of Joy, it aims to look back and celebrate its roots. Park Street today is an active multicultural hotspot catering to the leisure and intellect of various age groups. Thus, the Festival through the #LetsCelebrate Campaign incorporated the various brands on Park Street to ensure a celebration of the cosmopolitanism of minds and feelings. The #LetsCelebrate campaign would span for a month till the grand AKLF 2019 weekend from 18th -20th January 2019! This campaign celebrates the people, heritage venues, lifestyle and the cultures that are associated with Park Street. The #LetsCelebrate Campaign Partners are India Hobby Center, Chemould, Olypub, Goethe Institute, Alliance Francaise, Wow Momo, Flurys, Anjohn, Bingsho Satabdi, JSM Bajoria Restaurants LLP - Hard Rock Café, Rajniklal Sales, Burlington, Mathew & Co., Subway Systems, Cemeteryier Carworld, AKN Advisors, Tata Starbucks, Carat Lane and DCPL.

The three-day cultural extravaganza will be a feast of interesting sessions, resonating with a mix of old-world charm and a contemporary vibe and is expected to set the pace for discussions on heritage, tradition and current issues alike, **The Great Indian Paradox** (Shashi Tharoor in conversation with David Davidar); **Does Gandhi Still Matter?** (Ramachandra Guha with Tridib Suhrud); **Crossing the Line - Perspectives on the 'Me Too' Crisis** (Anuja Chauhan, Ratna Pathak Shah, Shobhaa De, Anita Agnihotri, Shutapa Paul, Jayant Kripalani, Ruchir Joshi. Mod. Kavita Panjabi); **The Sarkar and the Musalman** (Lt Gen Zameer Uddin Shah, Naseeruddin Shah, Syeda Hameed. Mod Sundeep Bhutoria); **A New Gaze: Change and the Indian Northeast** (With Makepeace Sitlhou, Ronnie Nido and Huidrom Boicha Singh. Mod. Urvashi Butalia).

Speaking on the occasion, **Ms. Anjum Katyal, Director, Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival** said, *"The Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival is a wonderful platform for all lovers of books and literature to celebrate their love for culture. The 10<sup>th</sup> edition Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival will witness a confluence of the brightest literary minds from across the globe."*

*"For us at Apeejay Surrendra Group, the festival is an opportunity to connect and engage with people across generations. The festival has established itself as one of the greatest literary gatherings in India and I know that this is one of the best line-ups of authors we've ever had. It will be a beautiful experience in Kolkata in January and people can start planning their must-see sessions and authors,"* added, **Ms. Maina Bhagat, Director, Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival.**

The second list of 30 speakers include trailblazing authours and literary powerhouses such as the bestselling **Ashwin Sanghi**, ranked among one of India’s most popular authors with two New York Times bestselling crime thrillers written along with James Patterson under his belt among other numerous books; the irrepressible, publisher **Coonoor Kripalani Thadani**, Publisher and noted Novelist **David Davidar**, **Durjoy Datta**, author, entrepreneur and a motivational speaker, former J&K **CM Farooq Abdullah**, literary consultant specialising in South Asian Literature and authors **Meenakshi Alimchandani**, **Michelle Garnaut**, one of Asia's most celebrated restaurateurs who also curates an innovative Shanghai festival, **Sudeep Nagarkar**, recipient of the 2013 Youth Achievers’ Award and author of eight bestselling novels, including ‘She Swiped Right Into My Heart’, ‘It Started With A Friend Request’, and ‘All Rights Reserved For You’, **Syeda Hamid**, the former member of Planning Commission of India and author of ‘Born To Be Hanged: Political Biography Of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto’, **Dr Tridip Suhrud** who is working on a multi-volume project of translating and editing the Diaries of Manu Gandhi in association with the National Archives of India and a twenty-volume archival project "Letters to Gandhi" at the archives of Sabarmati Ashram, acclaimed German poet **Ulrike Almut Sandig**, **Lt. Gen. (ret) Zameer Uddin Shah**, the brother of actor Naseeruddin Shah and Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University.

In addition, the list has a diverse mix of historians, impresarios, educationists, activists and administrators including **Shashi Tharoor**, Indian politician; **Shobhaa De**, columnist and novelist; **Anuja Chauhan**, Indian author and screenwriter; **Devdutt Pattanaik**, renowned Indian author; **Upamanyu Chatterjee**, ex Indian civil servant and author; **Ramachandra Guha**, well known Indian historian and writer; **Ravinder Singh**, popular Indian author; **Rujuta Diwekar**, nutrition and exercise science expert; **Naseeruddin Shah**, Indian film and stage actor and director; **Ratna Pathak Shah**, Indian actress and director; **Anuradha Roy** Indian novelist, journalist and editor; **Rajmohan Gandhi**, biographer and research professor; **Seema Goswami**, Journalist, Author, Columnist among others.

The newly announced programme for 2019 is available online at <http://www.aklf.in/> allowing book lovers to plan their schedule of great speakers and topics for three wonderful and inspiring days this January.

Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2019 looks forward to celebrating the literary, cultural and intellectual spirit of Kolkata at its milestone tenth anniversary. To bring literature and arts back into Kolkata’s best-known public spaces, Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival will hold a specially curated heritage walks for visitors to explore the city alongside delegates and writers.

For this milestone event, Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival is celebrating its relevance and reach beyond the boundaries of the three days of the festival with some out-of-the-box ideas. Several inspiring events have been held at Oxford Bookstore round-the-year for the literature enthusiasts of Kolkata.

While **AKLF Conversations** brings to you celebrated authors who interact with the audience and chat informally about everything from their creative process to their favourite teachers, **AKLF 10/10** are provocatively curated topical discussions on everything from trending news and current affairs to social issues, involving leading experts in the field. and **AKLF Premiere** is about book launches of exciting new titles hot off the press. A new addition this year is the **AKLF-Juggernaut New Writers' Competition** - a unique platform to identify and recognize budding writers.

Embracing the wider book and publishing community, AKLF is proud to associate itself with two national awards, both of which are unique. In January, AKLF will host the first edition of a prestigious award for new women writers - the **Prabha Khaitan Woman's Voice Award** in association with Oxford Bookstore, which recognizes fresh voices in women's writings from across the country. The fourth edition of, **The Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize**, will focus on an important aspect of book production that is often overlooked – the book cover. The shortlist for the award will be made public at AKLF in January, while the winner will be announced at the Jaipur Literature Festival later in the month.

For years, Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival has been a literary landmark that is valued, respected, anticipated and celebrated across the city. Join us yet again for another unforgettable experience coming January.

To know more, visit <http://www.aklf.in/>

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#### **AKLF 2019 Partners and Associations:**

The AKLF 2019 edition has forged several new, prestigious associations, to add to its impressive repertoire of collaborations since the first edition in 2010. We are proud to have as our partners major national and international institutions and corporates such as the Alliance Francaise du Bengale, Goethe Institute, Australian High Commission, Consulate General of Italy, American High Commission, British Council, India Foundation for the Arts, Techno India, NSHM, Jaipur Literary Festival. The Park as hospitality partner. Typhoo, Cha Bar, Barbell Café, Gupta Brothers, Flurys & Food 4 U as beverage partners. A cross section of publishers like Future Publishers & Distributors, Zubaan and Oxford University Press. Other partners include Allen Park, Park Mansions, Development Consultants Pvt Ltd, Oxford Bookstore, Tollygunge Club. We welcome 91.9 Friends' FM as our radio partner. We are delighted to have Navkrit Brand Solution, Inox Leisure Limited, Kolkata Centre for Creativity, Khwaja Ahmad Abbas Memorial Trust, Calcutta Heritage Collective, SPARK (Society for Park Street Rejuvenation Kolkata) as partners as well. AKLF is very proud of these associations and hopes to keep growing year on year.



OXFORD  
BOOKSTORE

### **About Oxford Bookstores:**

Established in 1919, Oxford Bookstore is the best equipped 'base-camp' for journeys of the mind offering its customers the widest range of outstanding titles and consistently courteous and informed service for close to a century. Today, with stores in major metros, India's first of its kind tea boutique, Cha Bar, India's only literary festival created by a bookstore, Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival, Oxford Bookstore offers booklovers access to the very best in publishing enhanced by a variety of events which salute books, visual & performing arts and celebrate the word. Oxford Bookstore measures its success by the smiles on millions of happy customers that the brand has served over the last nearly 100 years. There are a few treats as sumptuous as a visit to Oxford Bookstore in India. Each time you walk into our iconic store in Kolkata where the brand started in 1919, its charm leaves you wanting for more. Our fleet of happy to help expert booksellers and informed hosts work day and night to bring to customers world class reading experience be it through our books or our fine teas and live by the brand's motto - Much more than a bookstore – at every Bookstore. [www.oxfordbookstore.com](http://www.oxfordbookstore.com)

### **About Apeejay Surrendra Group:**

Established in 1910, Apeejay Surrendra Group employs over 43000 people in rapidly expanding operations in Tea, Hospitality, Shipping, Real Estate & Retail and has diversified into new business initiatives, Marine Cluster, Logistics & Knowledge Parks. 2010 was the Group's centenary year. For more Information, please visit [www.apeejaygroup.com](http://www.apeejaygroup.com)

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### **For Further information please contact:**

Deep Banerjee | +91 99039 72360  
Taposova Roy Chowdhury | +91 98307 12124  
Sreyashi Sircar | +91 98304 85013  
Ritleena Sen | +91 8013054178

## **APEEJAY KOLKATA LITERARY FESTIVAL 2019**

### Combined Speakers List

*Updated 12.12.2018*

1. Alka Pande
2. Ameena Saiyid
3. Andrew Sean Greer
4. Andy Conner (UK)
5. Anita Ratnam
6. Anuja Chauhan
7. Anuradha Roy
8. Arunava Sinha
9. Arundhati Ghosh (IFA)
10. Ashwin Sanghi
11. A. S. Dulat
12. Ashwini Devare
13. Benjamin Gilani
14. Chitrita Banerji
15. Coonoor Kripalani Thadani
16. David Davidar
17. Devdutt Pattanaik
18. Durjoy Datta
19. Farooq Abdullah
20. Ira Mukhoty
21. Isheeta Ganguly
22. John Zubryzcki
23. Jonathan Gil Harris
24. Jugal Hansraj
25. Jerry Pinto
26. Julia Roberts (UK)
27. Kota Neelima
28. Leonora Miano (FR)
29. Lorenzo Angeloni (Italy)
30. Madhavi Menon
31. Mahesh Dattani
32. Mallika Basu
33. Meenakshi Alimchandani
34. Michelle Garnaut
35. Naseeruddin Shah
36. Paro Anand
37. Priti Paul
38. Rajmohan Gandhi
39. Ramachandra Guha
40. Ranjit Lal
41. Ratna Pathak Shah
42. Ravinder Singh
43. Ravish Kumar
44. Ravi Agrawal
45. Rohan Murty
46. Rujuta Diwekar
47. Saikat Majumdar
48. Saket Suman
49. Salil Tripathi (UK)
50. Sharmistha Mohanty
51. Shashi Tharoor
52. Shobhaa De
53. Siddhartha Sarma
54. Sirish Rao
55. Siddharth Varadarajan
56. Sudeep Nagarkar
57. Syeda Hameed
58. Tridib Suhrud
59. Ulrike Almut Sandig
60. Upamanyu Chatterjee
61. Urvashi Butalia
62. Zameer Uddin Shah