

Second day at Apeejay Bangla Sahitya Utsob 2016, India's pioneering Bangla Literary Festival

USPs of the second edition

- *Half day Literary Heritage Tour of residence and work places of Bangla literary icons*
- *Tracking the evolution of Bangla literature through various forms of writings*
- *Role of Detective stories & Mysteries in Bangla literature*
- *Impact of social media on Bangla Literature*
- *Bangla Literary Quiz, Shabdabaaji,*
- *Bangla Short story and Poetry writing contest online, Kotha Kom Kaaj Beshi ,*
- *Cosplay of favourite Bangla literary characters*
- *Graffiti in Bangla*

Kolkata, 22nd October 2016: The second edition of **Apeejay Bangla Sahitya Utsob (ABSU)**, India's first Bengali Literary Festival was inaugurated yesterday, Friday 21st October at nearly 100 year old heritage Oxford Bookstore Park Street in the distinguished presence of eminent novelists **Nabaneeta Deb Sen**, **Sankha Ghosh**, **Sanjib Chattopadhyay** and **Selina Hussain**, renowned author from **Bangladesh**. Created in association with Patra Bharati it was a two day Utsob.

The 2nd day of Utsob began with a discussion about the Heritage Tour held on 16th October started at the residence of **Raja Rammohan Roy** now **Kolkata Police Museum**, **Residence of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar**, **Rammohan Library**, **Residence of Upendrakishore**, **Sukumar Roy** and **Satyajit Ray** and ended at **Sahitya Parishad**. Followed by **Bangla Sahitya Quiz** hosted with **Xquizit**, the organizers of **Kolkata Quiz Festival** and a special curated game of words, **Shabdabaaji** hosted by **RJ Roy**. Kolkatans witnessed **Cosplay (Bohurupi)** for the first time ever in a literary festival where kids and youngsters dressed up as their favourite Bangla literary characters. A special graffiti has been created by The Indian Artist during the Utsob to pay tribute to the myriad icons of Bangla literature. It was a celebration of the legacy that Bangla Literature has created for itself. The final piece was displayed at the bookstore wherein all the participating delegates signed the canvas, for enshrining it as a representation of the soul of the festival.

The second half of the day witnessed illuminating discussion on '**Mukher Bhasha Ki Sahitya r Bhasha Hoya Uchit ? (Should spoken colloquial language be the language of literature?)**' with prominent authors **Shirsendu Mukhopadhyay**, **Nrisingha Prasad Bhaduri**, and **Ranjan Bandapadhay**. Followed by an intense debate on **Social Media Ki Sahitor Khoti Korche (Is social media hampering literature?)** with eminent panellists **Srijato**

Bandyopadhyay, Procheto Gupto, Binod Ghoshal and Himadrikishor Dasgupta, Rohosho – Romancho – Goenda likhlei jonopriyo? (Detective stories, Thrillers, Mysteries--Are the sure shot ways of becoming best-sellers? With celebrated authors Samaresh Majumder, Anish Deb, Krishnendu Mukherjee and Tridib Chattopadhyay. The last session of the Utsob created an ambience of suspense and thrillers with the discussion aptly name as 'Cinema ta Sahity er Goenda ra' (From page to stage: Literature's detectives on the big screen) with renowned film Director Sandip Ray, Arindam Sil and eminent actors Sabyasachi Chakraborty and Abir Chatterjee.

About panelists:

Nrisingha Prasad Bhaduri: Specialist on Indian epics I currently working on a mammoth project of creating an encyclopaedia of Puranas. I Noted works include *Balmikir Ram O Ramayan, Krishna, KuntiEbongKaunteyo*

Ranjan Bandopadhyay: Bestselling contemporary author. Specializes on Rabindranath Tagore and Swami Vivekananda. *Kadambari Devi's suicide note* and *Pranoshokha Vivekananda* have created a stir in the Bengali book world. Also columnist, critic and TV personality.

Shirsendu Mukhopadhyay: Is the most celebrated author of Bengal. He has written stories for both adults and children. Recipient of several National Awards and many of his works have been adapted into movies and theatre.

Tridib Kumar Chattopadhyay: By profession a publisher, heads Patra Bharati and Editor-in-chief Kishore Bharati. Honorary Secretary of International Kolkata Book fair. Recipient of several national awards including President's award for children literature. Genre of writing range from Historical fiction to detective stories with protagonist Jagumama.

Abir Chatterjee: Actor I Well known for his portrayal of both Bengali famous literary detectives Feluda and Byomkesh

Anish Deb: By profession he is a scientist and has several patents to his name in the field of applied physics. He focuses on only crime thrillers and science fictions. Receiver of many national awards. Best known works include *Anis her sera 101* and *Teish Ghonta shaat minute*

Himadri Kishore Dasgupta: Most popular for History based fiction. Received several government awards and felicitations. Young author who focuses on writing as a full term career and popularising Bengali literature over Social Media. Best known work *Firingi Thogi* and *Chandrabhagar Chand*

Pracheta Gupta: Journalist by profession and is a promising Bengali novelist and storyteller. Best known for *Shunnyo Khaam* and *Deri Hoye Gache*. His works focus on modern society.

Ranjan Bandopadhyay: Bestselling contemporary author. Specializes on Rabindranath Tagore and Swami Vivekananda. *Kadambari Devi's suicide note* and *Pranoshokha Vivekananda* have created a stir in the Bengali book world. Also columnist, critic and TV personality.

Sabyasachi Chakraborty: Actor | Well known for his portrayal of Feluda and Kakababu | Recipient of Kalakar Awards | Wildlife photography enthusiast and travel writer.

Samare Mazumdar: He is best known for his Animesh series of novels, the second of which (*Kalbela*) won the Sahitya Akademi prize in 1984. He is also known for creation of the detective character Arjun. Receiver of several national awards and accolades. Many of his works have been adapted into movies and theatre.

Sandip Ray: Filmmaker | most well-known works include *BombaiyerBombete*, *Royal Bengal Rohossyo*. | Book: *Ami aar Feluda* which was a bestseller.

Arindam Sil: Actor, Producer and Director | His production company Nothing beyond Cinema has critically acclaimed movies. He adapted Shirsendu Mukhopadhyay's detective Shabor series and got immense accolades. "Eagoler Chokh" is his latest hit movie. He also adapted Sharadindu Bandopadhyay's "Byomkesh" into the large screen

Krishnendu Mukhopadhyay: By profession he is a senior level electrical engineer. Famous for contemporary writing on social crime. Also writes science fictions for teenagers. Best known for *Tushar chitar shondhane* and *Ray mongolpur band*

Anish Deb: By profession he is a scientist and has several patents to his name in the field of applied physics. He focuses on only crime thrillers and science fictions. Receiver of many national awards. Best known works include *Anis her sera 101* and *Teish Ghonta shaat minute*

Our Partners:

Apeejay Bangla Sahitya Utsob 2016 is supported by 24 Ghanta. 94.3 Radio One is the radio partner and Hanglaatherium is a food partner and Kolkata Bloggers as blogging partner. Beside these partners we also have strategic partnership with Shabdabaaji, Xquizit, Let Us Go, First Flush and The Indian Artist.

About Patra Bharati

Patra Bharati started its journey back in the year 1968, with the very reputed juvenile magazine, Kishore Bharati. In 1981 Patra Bharati entered the world of book publishing. It mainly concentrated on Children and Juvenile Literature. With the start of a millennium, Patra Bharati stepped up and started publishing of all Literature across all genres and age groups. The lines of restrictions were removed and a new age publication house that focused on varied forms of Literature was born. Patra Bharati has to its credit Novels, Essays, Compilations, Graphic Novels, Comics, Stories, Non Fiction, Prose and so on. Many titles have received Awards and Accolades and are best sellers in today's time. Very

recently Patra Bharati has also entered into English Publication, under the name BEE Books which has started gaining popularity with some of its titles.

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 dedicated Children's bookstore, Oxford Junior, India's first of its kind tea boutique, Cha Bar, India's only literary festival created by a bookstore, Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival, literary platforms like Hindi Mahotsav and Language Symposium. 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. In December 2012 Oxford Bookstore took a chapter from its growth story in India by launching, Katakali, its first overseas bookstore in the luxurious Sahara Palace at the foothills of the Atlas Mountains in the exclusive palm-filled oasis of the Palmeraie, Marakkech. In April 2013, with the opening of its most architecturally crafted retail store in a stunning new destination in Delhi's historic centre, Connaught Place, Oxford Bookstore carved out yet another incredible space for quiet browsing, reading and contemplation. Its growth story continues. For more information, please also log on to: www.oxfordbookstore.com

For further information please contact:

Candid Communication: Madhurima Das@ 8697727261/ Irani Basu @ 8697727264