

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **SOUTH ASIAN LITERATURE FESTIVAL**

October 4, 5, 6, 7, 2018, in Delhi.

The Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL) is organising a SOUTH ASIAN LITERATURE FESTIVAL on October 4, 5, 6, 7, 2018, in Delhi.

This initiative of cultural connectivity among the SAARC countries was launched in 1987 by Smt. Ajeet Cour. It is almost 30 years of continuous endeavour to join the hearts and minds of the people of 8 SAARC countries through culture and literature. This is the 55th mega Festival.

**The Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL) is an APEX BODY OF SAARC working in eight SAARC countries which include : Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.**

**FOSWAL has been authorized by the SAARC Secretariat to organize literature related cultural programmes under the SAARC banner and logo.**

In fact it is a SAARC Literature Festival, but because Pakistan is not participating, we had to change its name to 'South Asian Literature Festival'.

Besides different cities in India, we have been organizing SAARC Festivals of Literature in Dhaka, Kathmandu, Lahore, Islamabad, Colombo, Kandy, Thimphu, Male.

#### **THE HIGHLIGHTS :**

This Festival will be Inaugurated in Multipurpose Hall, Kamladevi Complex, India International Centre at 10 a.m. on 4<sup>th</sup> of October. Then the Festival will continue in I.I.C. till 8.00 in the evening which will include a film by Buddhadeb Dasgupta, the eminent film maker.

For the next three days the Festival will be brought to our beautiful space in the Academy of Fine Arts and Literature on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

The Academy is just opposite the main gate – Gate No. 2 – of Siri Fort Auditorium, in Siri Fort Institutional Area. The middle building No. 4 in a cluster of 9 buildings. The only red brick building which bears the Address: 4/6, Siri Fort Institutional Area, New Delhi-110049, is Academy of Fine Arts and Literature, the venue.

This SAARC Festival of Literature has attracted a large number of writers, poets and intellectuals of outstanding stature representing all parts of South Asia.

The number of delegates from each SAARC country has been on the increase year after year. Among the SAARC countries, Afghanistan is being represented by 30

delegates; Bangladesh is being represented by 53 delegates, Nepal is being represented by 12 delegates, Sri Lanka is being represented by 14 delegates, Bhutan is being represented by 4 delegates and Maldives by 2 delegates.

**Total number of delegates including those from India is of more than 190.**

In the inaugural session well-known eminent intellectuals will participate. They include :

- **Prof. Chandrashekhara Kambara**, President Sahitya Akademi, prominent poet, playwright, folklorist, film director, who is our Chief Guest.
- **Prof. Ashis Nandy**, eminent scholar, will be the Keynote Speaker.
- **Mr. Buddhadeb Dasgupta**, Eminent Movie Maker, will speak on the 'Films and Literature'.
- **Mr. Piyush Shrivastava**, Joint Secretary SAARC in the Ministry of External Affairs.

**Senior diplomats** will address the congregation with specific message of their country and culture. The diplomats include : H.E. Mr. Shaida Mohammad Abadali, Ambassador of Afghanistan in India; H.E. Mr. Syed Muazzem Ali, High Commissioner of Bangladesh in India; H.E. Dr. V. Namgyel, Ambassador of Bhutan in India; H.E. Mr. Bharat Kumar Regmi, Ambassador of Nepal in India; Her Excellency Ms. Chitranganee Wagiswara, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in India.