

# Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival much awaited in Kolkata

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KOLKATA: What would one expect a book authored by an actor who is also a grand-niece of Khushwant Singh to boot, to be titled? No marks for guessing — it's "Acting Smart".

And what could be more interesting than reading this well-received book? Well, hearing the author, Tisca Chopra, speak about it and the romance of Bollywood with writer Ruchir Joshi and publisher Amrita Chowdhury at "The Big Fat Bollywood Bubble" which is but just one of the many interesting sessions that promise to make the forthcoming Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF) 2015 a landmark event in this city's literary calendar.

AKLF 2015, being held in association with The Times of India, will feature 28 sessions over five days from January 14. All the sessions have been designed to appeal to all sections of people, say festival co-directors Maina Bhagat and Anjum Katyal. The lit fest will start with a Manipuri dance choreographed by Priti Patel in the central courtyard of the Indian Museum, followed by a discussion on tangible and intangible heritage among Shashi Tharoor, Jawhar Sircar and Charles Allen. Swapan Chakraborty will moderate the discussion.

The first session of day 2 will see the launch of "The Colonel Who Would Not Repent: the Bangladesh War and Its Unique Legacy" by Salil Tripathi who will talk with Bangladeshi writer and publisher K Anis Ahmed. Shashi Tharoor appears next to read from an anthology, "A Clutch of Indian Masterpieces", edited by David Davidar. Tharoor will also launch "Indian Shastra: Points Of View", a collection of essays on contemporary India. Krishna Bose will release the book. A conversation with journalist Sandip Roy will follow. Upamanyu Chatterjee will launch his novel, "Fairy Tales at Fifty", in the fourth session.

Saad bin Jung's book on African travel writings and a stage rendition of Vikram

Seth's poetic parables by Naseeruddin Shah, Ratna Pathak Shah, Heeba Shah and Kenny Desai make for the last two sessions of the day.

Day 3 will start with leadership coach Jeroninio Almeida (author of "Karma Kurry") speaking to students on the importance of character, karma and individual social responsibility on Apeejay Lawns on Park Street. This session is in memory of Apeejay Surrendra Group mentor Jit Paul. A crime writer's conclave follows with one French and two Swedish crime writers talking about crime writing with Kishwar Desai.

"The Big Fat Bollywood Bubble" follows, and next on the cards is a session in which Australian indigenous writers Ali Cobby Eckermann, Lionel Fogarty and Alexis Wright will be in conversation with fellow writers from Northeast India — Mona Zote, Esther Syiem and Robin Ngangom. The awards ceremony for "The Great Indian Blogging Contest" presented by The Times of India and Oxford Bookstore will be held next, followed by release of John Elliott's "Implosion: India's Tryst With Reality" by Calcutta University vice-chancellor Suranjan Das.

Day 3 will also see launch of Shekhar Gupta's "Anticipating India; the Best of National Interest" and a celebration of 125 years of National Geographic magazine where renowned Paris-based photographer Reza Deghati will present her award-winning photographs.