

REPORT

Mountain Echoes 2015, Thimphu

19th – 22nd August, 2015

**An India-Bhutan Foundation
Initiative**



Organised by

SIYAH I

Powered by Government of Rajasthan

Sixth Edition of Mountain Echoes 2015



The sixth edition of the Mountain Echoes Literary Festival was held in Thimphu from August 19-22, 2015. An initiative of the India-Bhutan Foundation, in association with Siyahi, the festival coincided with the year-long celebrations of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo Jigme Singye Wangchuck's 60th birth anniversary in Bhutan. This year's Mountain Echoes was sponsored and supported by Reliance and the Government of Rajasthan.

The festival hosted writers, poets, visual artists, curators, film critics and commentators from the world over, who engaged in cultural dialogue and interactions on myriad subjects, in Thimphu for three days.

Preparing the Venues

The 3 days festival was spread across various venues such as Auditorium of Royal University of Bhutan, Hotel Taj Tashi, Tarayana Centre, Nehru Wangchuck Cultural Centre, Clock Tower and Mojo Park in Thimphu.



The Clock Tower stage being prepared



Tarayana Centre being prepped



Inauguration of Mountain Echoes 2015

The festival was inaugurated on 19th August, 2015 by the Chief Royal Patron Her Majesty the Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck at the India House Complex by lightening of the lamp. The inaugural ceremony was attended by the Royal Family, Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, National Assembly Speaker and Government officials amongst others.

Festival began with Lightening of the auspicious lamp



By the Royal Queen Mother





And Others..

Inaugural Addresses



By H.E Ambassador Bambawale



By Hon'ble Lyonchen



**By Her Majesty Gyalyum Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck
(Chief Patron)**



**By Namita Gokhale
(Co-Director)**



**By Kunzang Choden
(Co-Director)**

Performances during the Inauguration (19th August, India House)



By students of Samtse School



By North East Breeze Band



By the band 'Druk Revival' led by Ugyen Pandey



Joenparlegso Zhabdro, a traditional Bhutanese dance performed by students of the Royal Academy of Performing Arts on 20th August

Some of the prominent personalities which were part of this year festival were Anindita Ghose, Ashwin Sanghi, Chetan Bhagat, Dasho Karma Ura, Jamie Zeppa, Kalki Koechlin, Lily Wangchuk, Lucy Hawking, Marcus du Sautoy, Mayur Sharma, Navtej Sarna, Patrick French, Raghu Dixit, Raja Jigme W Namgyal, Rocky Singh, Rupert Arrowsmith, Sorabh Pant, Suhel Seth etc.

There were also workshops, exhibitions and film screenings which added to the attraction of the festival for the general public. Entries to all events were open and were free for all.

Glimpses of Mountain Echoes 2015



Rocky Singh and Mayur with Suhel Seth



Jamie Zeppa sharing her thoughts with Neha



Pierre Bordage in conversation with Lucy Hawking



A one-woman, one-act performance by Kalki Koechlin



“Writing and Publishing Perspectives”

Workshop with Meru Gokhale



Patrick French in conversation with Nayanjot Lahiri



Marcus du Sautoy talks about the importance of symmetry and mathematics in life and nature



Pawo Choyning Dorji talks about Buddhism and Xuanzang



Chetan Bhagat in conversation with Tshewang Dendup



Her Majesty The Queen Mother launches Serena Chopra's book

The Ancients: Bhutan Diaries



Ashwin Sanghi and Anindita Ghose in conversation



Jam packed session at Royal University of Bhutan and Tarayana Centre

Films screened at NWCC

The films screened at NWCC during the three days of Mountain Echoes festival drew large crowd. Some of the films being screened were: Courtland Institute of Buddhist Art: A Fragile Inheritance, Grieving Holy Water by Pelden Dorji, Home Alone, Rent and Grains, Choice is Ours, The Third Eye, The Carbon Merchants, Devi Durga, Chandrayaan I: India on the Moon, Yoga: Aligning to the Source, Flowers of the Valley, Jigme, Lam Drukpa Kinley, Dev D etc.

Exhibitions

Following Exhibitions were held during the festival:

- Natural and Cultural Wonders of Bhutan
- Her Expressions II
- “Where two Kings Meet”



“Where Two Kings Meet”- Exhibition at NWCC

Performances at Clock Tower, Thimphu

An all-star line-up of bands such as Fusion band North East Breeze from Guwahati, Bhutanese bands such as Sunny and The Leones, The Back Beads and The Baby Boomers, were greeted by an enthusiastic crowd at Clock Tower. The festival ended on a high note with Indian band The Raghu Dixit Project playing at Clock Tower.



The Magical Raghu Dixit

The 6th edition of Mountain Echoes 2015 was unique in its own ways. Apart from having the regular literary sessions with the internationally reclaimed personalities, the festival also had a puppet show and a Standup Comedy show to offer to its audience. The talk sessions, Workshops, Exhibitions, movies screened at NWCC attracted huge crowd from all age groups. The festival was specially dedicated to the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, this year being the commemoration year of his 60th birth anniversary.

The three days festival received wide coverage in the local media and was appreciated by one and all.

For more information on Mountain Echoes 2015, please visit the page: www.facebook.com/mountainechoes or log on to: <http://mountainechoes.org/>

