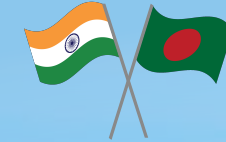




Ministry of Culture
Government of India



2nd SILCHAR-SYLHET FESTIVAL - 2023



October 06-07, 2023
Sylhet, Bangladesh



INDIA FOUNDATION

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In Association with



Bangladesh Foundation
For Regional Studies



75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



6-8 October 2023
Sylhet Bangladesh

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

SYLHET-SILCHAR
FESTIVAL
2nd Round

SILCHAR
FESTIVAL-2023
2nd Round



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2nd SILCHAR-SYLHET FESTIVAL - 2023

October 06-07, 2023
Sylhet, Bangladesh

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About the Festival

The 2nd Silchar-Sylhet Festival 2023 was organised by India Foundation and Bangladesh Foundation for Regional Studies (BFRS) in association with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh & Coordinated by Friend's of Bangladesh on October 6-8, 2023 in the city of Sylhet, Bangladesh.

The cities of Sylhet in Bangladesh and Silchar in Assam share common bonds of history, language, culture, and a multitude of other commonalities, which is reflected in the excellent bilateral ties of an all-encompassing partnership based on sovereignty, equality, trust, and understanding that goes far beyond a strategic partnership. The popularity of the Festival and the sentiment shared on both sides of the border were reflected in the eminent speakers and audience in attendance. The Festival was addressed by 28 Speakers from both India & Bangladesh. This 2-day festival witnessed cultural, historical, literary, & business Interactions.

With the support of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh, facilitated and envisioned by India Foundation, Bangladesh Foundation for Regional Studies (BFRS) & with the active involvement and warm hospitality of the people of Sylhet in Bangladesh, the 2nd Silchar – Sylhet Festival marked a step towards creating potential and opportunities for all involved.



Indian Delegates being received at the Sutarkandi Border, Assam

Indian Delegates being received at the Sutarkandi Border, Assam



6-8 October 2023
Sylhet, Bangladesh



6-8 October 2023
Sylhet, Bangladesh



SYLHET-SILCHAR
FESTIVAL-2023
2nd Round

Organized by: Bangladesh Foundation for Regional Studies
and India Foundation

Bangladesh - India
Friendship Dialogue
11th Round
"Fostering a Comprehensive
and Mutually Beneficial
Partnership"
Sponsored by:
Bangladesh Foundation for
Regional Studies
& India Foundation
Organized by:
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Government
of Bangladesh

Day 1
Inaugural Session

October 06, 2023



“

Bangladesh & India have a solid relationship and share a bond of friendship & cooperation based on shared geography and history. The government of Bangladesh, under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina, will keep making efforts to foster its relationship with India.

H.E. Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen

*Member of Parliament, Hon'ble
Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Bangladesh*

”

“

In the last 10 years, India & Bangladesh have worked together in the areas of trade & commerce, connectivity, security, cultural cooperation, people-to-people links, training and capacity building, environment conservation, and healthcare. These engagements will be mutually beneficial to both our businesses and economies.

Shri Rajkumar Ranjan Singh

Minister of State for External Affairs and Education, Government of India

”





“

The festival aims to bring people together who share the same identities, cultural, and historical backgrounds, which are divided by political boundaries. To overcome the differences, the festival aims to celebrate the commonalities that the people share. The Silchar-Sylhet Festival is a small attempt to pilot the Indo-Bangladesh relationship.

Shri Shaurya Doval
Member, Governing Council
India Foundation

”

“

The Silchar-Sylhet Festival is a very important initiative which opens up a new vista in the India-Bangladesh relationship. This will mark a widening of the entire narrative of what constitutes the Silchar-Sylhet Festival.

Shri Swapan Dasgupta

Former MP, Rajya Sabha
Member, Board of Governors
India Foundation

”





“

Silchar-Sylhet Festival is very appropriate as India is looking towards the east, India is acting east. In this festival, the northeast part of India is the heart of discussions. The city of Sylhet and Shillong have a close connection.

Shri Vincent H Pala
Member of Parliament, Shillong
Meghalaya, India

”

“

Tripura, in Northeast India, shares the same culture with Bangladesh. I'm grateful to India Foundation & Bangladesh Foundation for Regional Studies for organising the 2nd Silchar-Sylhet Festival 2023 which will further strengthen the ties between the two countries.

Shri Ram Prosad Paul

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Tripura, India

”





“

We believe that Sylhet's economic & cultural ties with Silchar will bring magnitude to the bilateral relations between Bangladesh & India. As Silchar is the economic hub of Northeast India, trade with Silchar is a blessing for Sylhet.

Mr. Ashim Kumar Ukil
*Member of Parliament, Cultural Affairs
Secretary, Bangladesh Awami League*

”







Cultural Evening



Bangladesh-India Friendship Dialogue 11th Round

Fostering a Comprehensive
and Mutually
Beneficial Partnership







PANEL – I - TRADE & BUSINESS



Day 2

Panel Discussion-I
Trade & Business
October 07, 2023



Shri Ranjit Barthakur
Chairman, Globally Managed Services (GMS)
& Chairman, FICCI Northeast, India



Amb Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa
Member, Governing Council, Asian Confluence
Shillong, India



Shri Ram Prosad Paul
Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Tripura, India



Shri Ravi Patwa
National Advisor - Institute of Internal Auditors - India;
Immediate Past Chairman, Eastern India Regional Council
The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India



Shri PVSLN Murthy
Chairman & Managing Director
NEDFi; Member, Board of Governors
India Foundation



Ms Manjeet Kriplani
Executive Director, Gateway House, India



Lt Gen Arun Kumar Sahni
Member, Governing Council
India Foundation



Mr Ahasanul Islam (Titu)
Member of Parliament, Bangladesh



*Dr. Shah Mohammad Tanvir Monsur
 Director General (Consular & Welfare) Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Bangladesh*



Silchar Festival 2nd Round

SYLHET-SILCHAR
 FESTIVAL-2023
 2nd Round

DAY-TWO
 7th October 2023



PANEL - I - TRADE & BUSINESS

Dr. Shah Mohammad Tanvir Monsur
 Director General (Consular & Welfare)
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh

Shri PVSLN Murthy
 Chairman & Managing Director NEDFI;
 Member, Board of Governors, India Foundation

Ms. Anjeet Kriplesri
 Executive Director, Gateway House

Chair:
Shri Ranjit Barthakur
 Chairman, Globally Managed Services (GMS)
 & Chairman, FICCI Northeast

Keynote:
Ms Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa
 Member, Governing Council, Asian Confluence, Shillong

Speakers:
Lt Gen Arun Kumar Sah
 Member, Governing Council, India Foundation

DAY-TWO
 7th October 2023



PANEL - I - TRADE & BUSINESS

Dr. Shah Mohammad Tanvir Monsur
 Director General (Consular & Welfare)
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh

Shri PVSLN Murthy
 Chairman & Managing Director NEDFI;
 Member, Board of Governors, India Foundation

Ms. Anjeet Kriplesri
 Executive Director, Gateway House

Mr. Eshwar S. Chharia
 Director, Gateway House

SYLHET-SILCHAR
 FESTIVAL-2023
 2nd Round





DAY-TVO
7th octobe 2023



PANEL – II - LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

Chair:

Shri. Jishnu Dev Barman

Former Deputy Chief Minister of Tripura, India

Speakers:

S. M Shahjada

Honorable Member of Parliament

Shri S. Sasannarajan

Editor, Magazine

Shri G. Prakash

Editor, Magazine



Panel Discussion- II
Language & Literature



Shri Jishnu Dev Barman
Former Deputy Chief Minister of Tripura, India



Shri S Prasannarajan
Editor, OPEN Magazine, India



Shri Guru Prakash
National Spokesperson, BJP, India



Shri Taimur Raja Choudhary
Editor, Dainik Samayik Prasanga, India



Mr. S. M Shahjada
Honorable Member of Parliament
Bangladesh



Mr. Abdul Wadud Dara
Former Member of Parliament
Bangladesh







SYLHET-SILCHAR FESTIVAL-2023 2nd Round

DAY-TWO
7th October 2023

VALEDICTORY SESSION & CULTURAL FESTIVAL

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

Valedictory Session



H.E. Mr. Imran Ahmad, M.P.

Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Bangladesh



Mr. Pankaj Nath

Member of Parliament, Bangladesh



Mr. Ashim Kumar Ukil

Member of Parliament, Cultural Affairs Secretary
Bangladesh Awami League



Dr. Radha Tamal Goswami

Pro Vice Chancellor, Adamas University
Working President, Friends of
Bangladesh, India Chapter



Ms. Rami N Desai
Distinguished Fellow, India Foundation





Shri Prabir Banerjea

MD, Globally Managed Services (GMS),
India

PLEDICTORY SESSION & CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Chair:

Pankaj Nath

Honorable Member of Parliament

Chief Guest:

H.E. Imran Ahmad MP

Honorable Minister,
Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment
Bangladesh

Shri. Jishnu Barman

Minister of

MP

Minister of







Cultural Festival









Event Report

The 2nd Silchar-Sylhet Festival 2023 was organised by India Foundation and Bangladesh Foundation for Regional Studies in association with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India & supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh & Coordinated by Friend's of Bangladesh on October 6-8, 2023 in the city of Sylhet, Bangladesh.

The cities of Sylhet in Bangladesh and Silchar in Assam share common bonds of history, language, culture, and a multitude of other commonalities, which is reflected in the excellent bilateral ties of an all-encompassing partnership based on sovereignty, equality, trust, and understanding that goes far beyond a strategic partnership. The popularity of the Festival and the sentiment shared on both sides of the border were reflected in the eminent speakers and audience in attendance. The Festival was addressed by 28 Speakers from both India & Bangladesh. This 2-day festival witnessed cultural, historical, literary, & business Interactions.

The Inaugural session was graced by H.E. Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, Member of Parliament, Hon'ble

Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh, Shri Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs and Education, Government of India, Mr. Ashim Kumar Ukil, Member of Parliament, Cultural Affairs Secretary, Bangladesh Awami League, Mr. Ram Prosad Paul, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Tripura, India, Shri Swapan Dasgupta, Former MP, Rajya Sabha; Member, Board of Governors, India Foundation, Shri Vincent H Pala, Member of Parliament, Shillong Meghalaya and Shri Shaurya Doval, Member, Governing Council, India Foundation.

The Panel emphasised the importance of people-to-people ties as the region of Silchar-Sylhet shares the same historical & cultural background. Silchar-Sylhet Festival is a small initiative that aims to bring people together from both regions to celebrate commonalities. India and Bangladesh share ties forged by the liberation war of Bangladesh and the shared history of struggle. The bond is strengthened by festivals such as the Silchar-Sylhet Festival. The Inaugural session was followed by a cultural evening.

Day -2

Panel Discussion - I on “Trade & Business” was chaired by Shri Ranjit Barthakur

Chairman, Globally Managed Services (GMS) & Chairman, FICCI Northeast and the keynote address was delivered by Amb Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa, Member, Governing Council, Asian Confluence, Shillong. The panellists of this session were Mr Ram Prosad Paul, Hon’ble Deputy Speaker, Tripura, India, Mr Ahasanul Islam (Titu), Member of Parliament, Bangladesh, Dr Shah Mohammad Tanvir Monsur, Director General (Consular & Welfare) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh, Shri Ravi Patwa, National Advisor - Institute of Internal Auditors - India; Immediate Past Chairman, Eastern India Regional Council, The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Shri PVSLN Murthy, Chairman & Managing Director NEDFi; Member, Board of Governors, India Foundation, Ms Manjeet Kriplani, Executive Director, Gateway House, and Lt Gen Arun Kumar Sahni, Member, Governing Council, India Foundation.

The panellists discussed the importance of multilateral engagements among the countries of South-East Asia not to only get involved but to be a part of the eco-system. Countries such as Japan, are working towards the development of economic infrastructure and connectivity to improve the investment environment to make Bangladesh a gateway for South and Southeast Asia. To increase trade between the regions, the Governments of both countries should improve air connectivity by making both the Sylhet airport & Silchar airport an international airport. They suggested both regions should start trading using Indian Rupee and Taka.

Panel Discussion - II on “Language & Literature” was chaired by Shri. Jishnu Dev Barman, Former Deputy Chief Minister of Tripura, India. The panellists of this session were Shri S Prasannarajan, Editor, of OPEN Magazine, Shri Guru Prakash, National Spokesperson, BJP, Mr. Taimur Raja Choudhary, Editor, Dainik Samayik Prasanga, S. M Shahjada, Honorable Member of

Parliament, Bangladesh, Abdul Wadud Dara, Former Member of Parliament, Bangladesh.

The panellists emphasised the importance of Language and Literature. Literature is a liberating force that influences the cultural capacities of communities. Literature is the ultimate expression of language. Nowadays, everything is a dispute but literature creates, liberates and unites. Language can be a unifying force in defining our cultural identities across the border. It’s a bridge without any barriers. There’s a common goal & objective to protect the mother language and to promote multiculturalism and multilingualism. Both countries must recognise the shared responsibilities in preserving and promoting linguistic and literary heritage, the path forward lies in collaboration, cultural exchanges and a fast commitment to

nurturing the rich tapestry of Bengali language & literature.

Mr. Pankaj Nath, Honorable Member of Parliament, Bangladesh, chaired the valedictory session. H.E. Mr. Imran Ahmad, M.P., Hon’ble Minister, Ministry of Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas Employment, Bangladesh graced the event as a chief guest. Shri Jishnu Dev Barman, Former Deputy Chief Minister of Tripura, India, Ashim Kumar Ukil, MP, Cultural Affairs Secretary, Bangladesh Awami League, Dr Radha Tamal Goswami, Pro Vice Chancellor, Adamas University, Working President, Friends of Bangladesh, India Chapter, Ms Rami N Desai, Distinguished Fellow, India Foundation. The Valedictory session was followed by a cultural evening.



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