

SAARC CHARTER DAY

December 8, 2010

Celebrations Extended Over 6, 7, 8 December, 2012

The Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL) observes the SAARC Charter Day with a lot of gusto and festivity.

It is an occasion that we treat as the beginning of a new era of South Asian Mutual Cooperation. For us it is the beginning of discovering our neighbours and creating an atmosphere of dialogue and partnership through Track II efforts.

The celebrations of the SAARC Charter Day, 2011, was spread over three days.



Ms. Indira Jaising, Additional Solicitor General of India, Ajeet Cour, and Mr. Suneet Chopra, eminent art critic, at the Opening of the Exhibition of paintings by physically handicapped artists.

It started on December 6th with the opening of an Exhibition of the works by physically challenged artistes and painters. **Dr. Indira Jaising**, Additional Solicitor General of India, and Ajeet Cour, President of FOSWAL inaugurated the exhibition. Dr. Indira Jaising was the Chief Guest. The Guest of Honour was Mr. Suneet Chopra, the noted art critic.

Ajeet cour, President of FOSWAL said in her Presidential speech that it is of utmost importance that the physically challenged artistes should be made a part of the art mainstream. For this it is necessary that their



The audience interacting with each other and being shown around by the artists.

works should be shown in the important galleries of the capital. It is our effort that maximum number of visitors attend this exhibition, and also lend a helping hand to these artistes through buying their works.



Some of the artists appreciating the works of other fellow painters.

Arpana Caur, who is the strength behind the promotional work of the Arpana Art Gallery, was present throughout the three day festivity, introducing the physically challenged artistes to the dignitaries, and pointing out the finer nuances of their works to the discerning viewers.

The SECOND DAY of the celebration was reserved for the Ambassadors, High Commissioners and other Officials of the member countries of SAARC, and of Embassies of other countries.

Foundation had sent out invitations to all the Ambassadors and High Commissioners to join us in marking this day as an important landmark of our collective history. High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam along with the Deputy High Commissioner Ms. Mahishini Colonne, Karen Oddner and Jeenette Ohlsson of Sweden and high officials of embassies of other countries.

And the Hon'ble Minister Prof. Kiran Walia graced the occasion.



On October 7, Ajeet Cour with H.E. Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in India and Ms. Mahishini Colonne, Deputy High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in India, at the exhibition by the physically handicapped artists held at Arpana Fine Arts Gallery.



From left : Dr. Q.O.R. Hashmi, Prof. Refaqt Ali Khan, Hon'ble Minister Prof. Kiran Walia, Prof. Masooma Ali Khan, Ajeet Cour, Arpana Caur and Mr. Manoj Kumar.

All of those present were kind enough to join us in our festivity, stayed for lunch on December 7th. They visited the Exhibition and greatly appreciated the work that is being done to promote different aspects of art and literature through the Foundation.

The focus of the three day celebrations was of course December 8th which is the actual day of signing of the SAARC Charter. This day was for writers and artistes. Ms. Kiran Walia, the Health Minister of the Delhi State Government was the Chief Guest. Speaking on the occasion she lauded the effort that was being made by the Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature in forging peace and friendship between the SAARC nations. Kiran Walia also went round the exhibition and met the artistes present.

Present amongst the invited dignitaries were scholars and writers like Prof. Refaqt Ali Khan, Mrs. Masooma Ali Khan, Dr. Bulbul Dhar, Vipul Mittal, Manish Maheshwari, Shreekanth Dubey, Ajey Kumar Behra, Jeenette Ohlsson, Dr. R. Hashmi, Rajesh Kumar, Mahender Singh, Rajat Bhan, Kiran Kaur, Karen Oddner, B. B. Behra and others. On this occasion a home-made lunch was organized and enjoyed by all the guests in a very festive mood.



Arpana Caur and Ajeet Cour with Prof. Kiran Walia, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Women and Child Development and Languages, in deep discussion about the works and contribution of the Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature.



From left : H.E. Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in India, Ajeet Cour, Ms. Mahishini Colonne, Deputy High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in India, Ms. Noor Zaheer, Chief Coordinator FOSWAL.



Dr. Q.O.R. Hashmi, Jeenette Ohisson and Karen Oddner of Sweden, and Prof. Refaqt Ali Khan at the Buffet Lunch.



Arpana Caur, Prof. Kiran Walia, Ajeet Cour and Prof. Refaqt Ali Khan sharing their views with each other.