

BEGUM KHALIDA MANSOOR (Pakistan)

Begum Khalida Mansoor, born in Faisalabad (formerly Lyallpur) on September 14, 1941, is Masters in Political Science. Affiliated with 'Pakistan Muslim League', She was elected as Member Punjab Assembly,



2002-2007, and is currently Member National Assembly Pakistan. Widely travelled, she has been a crusader for Women's Rights throughout her political and social life.

CHENKYAB DORJI (Bhutan)

Lyonpo Chenkyab Dorji is a well-known and widely respected Bhutanese diplomat. He was Secretary-General of SAARC till 2008. Has served as Director of the Board of International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and as Member of several key institutions of Royal Government of Bhutan. A number of awards have been

conferred on him, in recognition of his outstanding contribution during his career. Mr. Dorji's important publications include: *The National Forest Policy*, *The Bhutan Forest Act*. Mr. Dorji became the first Secretary General of SAARC hailing from Bhutan. He has been constantly involved in building bridges across the SAARC countries. Currently, he is Advisor to His Royal Highness, the King of Bhutan, and also to FOSWAL.

SUDHA PILLAI (India)

Sudha Pillai, born 1st May 1950, a brilliant student throughout joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1972 Batch Kerala Cadre.

A Gold Medalist of Punjab University BA Hons. English Literature, 1968 and Master of Arts Psychology 1970. 1st Rank. Sudha earned Masters in

Public Administration from Harvard University, USA in 1985. A linguist in English, Hindi, Punjabi, Malayalam, and French she started as a District Collector of Trivandrum and worked her way up as The Secretary



Ministry of Labour and Employment Government of India. Currently Mrs. Sudha Pillai, a soft-spoken lady, is Member-Secretary, Planning Commission and holds the rank of Minister of State.

WAJAHAT MASOOD (Pakistan)

Wajahat Masood was born in 1966, and has done his M.A. and LL.M. He has done International Human Rights Training Program, Canadian Human Rights Foundation, Montreal, 1996, and IAF International Leadership Academy (Germany), 1999 & 2001.

His Publications include :

'Pakistan at Cross-Road: Taliban or Democracy',

'Mohasaray Ka Rauznamcha', 'A Prognostic Critique of Fundamentalism: A Case Study of Pakistan',

'Nisab-e-Gul', 'Hundred Years of Democracy', 'What is Fundamentalism?', *'What is Critical Consciousness?'*,

'Walton Camp Nai Mukia', 'What is Secularism?',

'What is Democracy', 'Profiles in Vulnerability',

'Human Rights Situation in the Rural Communities of Pakistan'. And has made documentaries, including:

'Grass on Gallows', and 'Invisible Knots'. He has also translated extensively from English into Urdu. His work profile as a Human Rights Activist, in Pakistan and abroad, is very impressive.



KEKI N. DARUWALLA (India)



Keki N. Daruwalla is an English Poet and Fiction Writer. He has published nine volumes of poetry, two books of children's poetry, and three collections of short stories. Has edited an anthology of Indian poetry in English. Daruwalla has been honoured with Sahitya Akademi Award, and Commonwealth Poetry

Prize (Asia). Daruwalla retired as Secretary to the Government of India in 1995.

SELINA HOSSAIN (Bangladesh)

Selina Hossain is a distinguished fiction writer, essayist and cultural activist of Bangladesh. With 55



books to her credit, she mainly writes novels which examine basic humanitarian issues, drawn from history, folk tradition and contemporary events. Her outstanding research works : on the girl child in Bangladesh, 'Gender Glossary,' 'Women Empowerment : Politics and Movement' and 'Women of Bangladesh and Society'. Has been awarded a number of prestigious awards, including the Bangla Academy Literary Award. Has attended many international Seminars and has worked as Director of Research, Compilation and Folklore Division, Bangla Academy, for several decades.

MUSHIRUL HASAN (India)



Prof. Mushirul Hasan is an eminent historian, an independent and liberal intellectual, former Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia. Held in great respect for his ideas and ideologies. Has been President of Indian History Congress, has edited a number of books on Indian

Islam, the Communal Problem, Partition of India. He is greatly respected in academic circles.

PRASAD KARIYAWASAM (Sri Lanka)

Prasad Kariyawasam, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India, has had diplomatic assignments in Geneva, Riyadh, Washington and New York. His Holiness Pope John Paul II bestowed the insignia of the "Grand-Cross of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great". He has worked in the field of Human Rights, against Racism, Protection of Migrant



Workers, and Disarmament. He has actively participated in international seminars and conferences.

MANMOHAN SINGH MITWA (India)

Manmohan Singh Mitwa, an Ex-Air Force veteran, is a versatile Punjabi, Hindi and Urdu poet, and



a socio-cultural activist. He has adopted a girls' orphanage in a remote Himachal village, and helps in running an Old Persons Home. Manmohan is a popular singer and compere. He has been closely associated with FOSWAL and its programmes. He is the Vice President of FOSWAL.

PAVAN KAPOOR (India)



Pavan Kapoor, born in 1966, is an I.F.S. Officer, and has worked in several important assignments in the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in Moscow, Kyiv, London, Geneva. Currently he is posted in the Head office in New Delhi as Joint Secretary, SAARC Division.

SYED MOHAMMAD AMMAR KAZMI (Pakistan)

Born in 1973 in Lahore, he did Masters in Graphic Design from Hunerkada, Islamabad, in 1997.

A designer by profession, he started his career as a journalist in 1997 with *Daily Jang*. During his stay in *Daily Jang* where he started writing English and Urdu articles on various socio/economic issues.



He has also worked as an Art Director for BMA Technology (software house), Topical (Design and publishing house), and Dot Print (Design and publishing house).

A.N. RAM (India)

A career diplomat and a former senior-most official of the Government of India working in the Ministry of External Affairs, Ambassador A.N. Ram has held senior diplomatic assignments in many countries around the world. He is an economist too and is academically associated with many universities, professional bodies and think-tanks in India and abroad. He has



represented India in over 100 international conferences and has led Indian delegations in bilateral talks with more than thirty countries and multilateral institutions.

ALI SETHI (Pakistan)



Ali Sethi grew up in a family of journalists and publishers. He has written reviews and articles for various publications; local and international. He co-produced and narrated a documentary on student politics in Pakistan. The *Wish Maker* is his debut novel. Ali currently lives in Lahore.

RUBANA HUQ (Bangladesh)

Rubana Huq is a brilliant young poet of Bangladesh. She has shouldered many responsibilities like being Managing Director of Mohammadi Group, Director of Technovista Ltd., Executive Editor of *Southasian*, Chairperson of Sharaf Memorial Trust, Editor and Publisher of www.monsoonletters.com. Currently, Rubana Huq is researching the archives of Writers Workshop, Kolkata, under Prof. P. Lal. A collection of her poems, *Time of My Life*, has been published by Writers Ink, Dhaka.



FOUZIA SAEED (Pakistan)

Dr Fouzia Saeed is a social scientist and a writer from Pakistan. Her books, *Women in Folk Theatre* published by Lok Virsa and *Taboo: The hidden culture of a red light area*, published by Oxford University Press are well known. *Taboo* has been translated into Urdu, Hindi, Marathi and Japanese so far. She has written several other publications on social issue, culture and more specifically on women's rights. As an activist she has been associated with Mehargarh, a human rights organization working



closely with youth and women. She also founded a network called AASHA which worked against sexual harassment for the last ten years. The struggle culminated in passage of two laws against this crime in March last year. She is also a member of the National Commission on the Status of Women, a watch dog body appointed by the Prime Minister to oversee issues related to women's rights.

Dr Saeed has a PhD in Education from the University of Minnesota, USA. She is currently the Director of Mehergarh: A center of learning.

MANU MANJIL (Nepal)

Manu is one of the finest poets in present-day Nepal.

He has a collection of widely acclaimed verses called *Aandhiko Aaveg* (2004) to his credit. He has also translated Nepali poetry into English in Six volumes.



He is the Founding Member and present Chairman of Literary Communication Academy, and founding President of Writers' Circle.

He has participated in several international literary events including SAARC Festival of Poetry in Orissa in 2008, the 29th SAARC Writer's Conference in Agra, and the 31st SAARC Writer's Conference in Delhi last year.

MUHAMMAD ASIM BUTT (Pakistan)

Muhammad Asim Butt is a journalist, fiction writer and translator. Author of 19 books, including two collections of short stories, one novel, ten books of translations from English into Urdu and vice versa. He started his career with *The News*. He is also a human rights activist and has worked with Aurat Foundation. These days he is with Pakistan Academy of Letters, Islamabad, as Editor of the literary magazine *Adabiyaat*.



ANAMIKA (India)

Anamika is a leading contemporary Hindi poet. She is equally at ease in writing in English – both creative and critical writing, and in Hindi. As a creative writer,

her focus is on gender relations, and she portrays the plight of the girl child in South Asia with rare sensitivity. Prof. Anamika has several published works to her credit, and many Awards and Honours.



ALI AKBAR NATIQ
(Pakistan)



Ali Akbar has an M.A from Baha ud Din Zakria University, Multan, Ali Akbar Natiq has worked in different department literary as well as non-literary. His literary work has been published in different literary magazines of India and Pakistan. His volume of poems : *BE YAKEEN BASTIUN ME*

and his collection of stories is *QAIM DEEN* are published by Oxford University Press.

ARUNDHATHI
SUBRAMANIAM (India)

Arundhathi Subramaniam is a poet, critic and editor. She has published three books of poetry, most recently *Where I Live: New and Selected Poems* (Bloodaxe, UK, 2009). She is co-editor of *Confronting Love*, a Penguin anthology of contemporary love



poems in English. She is Editor of the India domain of the Poetry International Web. Her poetry has been translated into several languages and featured in leading anthologies in India and abroad. She has also authored a prose work, *The Book of Buddha* (Penguin, 2005) and a biography of a contemporary mystic, *Sadhguru: More Than A Life* (Penguin, 2010). She has written on literature and dance for several national and international publications.

SWAMI AGNIVESH (India)

Swami Agnivesh, a major voice for Anti Corruption and Human Rights, is the Founder-Chairperson of Bandhua Mukti Morcha (Bonded Labour Liberation Front) since 1981. He has been Member of Haryana



Legislative Assembly (1977-1982) and Minister of Education in Haryana 1979. He is the National Coordinator – Adhyatma Jagran Manch since April 2003, and Convenor, Sarva Dharma Sansad (Parliament of Religions) since 5th October 2007.

His mission is focused on perpetuating the fight against the Hedonistic Model of Development. Striving for establishing a liberal, egalitarian society based on tolerance and mutual accommodation. Coordinating efforts under the banner of “Religions for Social Justice”. He led a multi religious Pilgrimage to the site of the senseless killing of Graham Stewart Staines and his two little sons in Orissa in the month of March 1999. He has pioneered several peace initiatives to promote harmony and friendship between Southeast Asian countries in general and India and Pakistan in particular. His outstanding work for Bonded and Child Labour, for women's Causes, for Dalits, Harijans and Backward Classes, is exemplary. His Published works include: 'Vedic Socialism', 'Religion Revolution and Marxism', 'Rajdharama', 'Kranti Dharmi', 'Hinduism in the New age'.

SONAM ONGMO (Bhutan)

Sonam Ongmo, has done Journalism, New York University, 1998. Has been working with Straits Times 1992-95, Singapore Daily, Save the Children USA and National Environmental Commission. Moved to New York in 1980.

Continued to write for newspapers in Bhutan like Bhutan Times, The Journalist, Kuensel and magazines, Tashi Delek and Drukpa. In the U.S started writing book, novels, and short stories, while working in United Nations International School. The National Museum of Native American Indian (Smithsonian), The Rubin Museum of Art, United Nations Population Fund 2009-2010. and Currently Regional Editor for “Future Challenges” and writes online for Bertelsmann Foundation in Germany, and “Global Voices”. She also writes on issues on social justice on her own blog.

