

## PRESS BRIEF



### **SAARC Children's Literary Festival 2025: 'Celebrating Folktales through Children's Literature'**

**30-31 August 2025, Colombo, Sri Lanka**

#### **SAARC Children's Literary Festival Celebrates South Asian Folktales**

SAARC Literary Festival on South Asian Folktales organised by the SAARC Cultural Centre took place on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of August at the Colombo Public Library. The 2025 SAARC Literary Festival themed 'Celebrating Folktales through Children's Literature' featured a range of activities for children aged from 4-15. The Festival was held in collaboration with the Colombo Public Library, the largest library in Sri Lanka. The Festival featured a diverse line-up of activities including a puppetry show, interactive storytelling and storytelling coaching sessions, craft session, open mic session and a panel discussion. The festival was inaugurated by children representing Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka by lighting the traditional oil lamp. More than 120 children via open registration on a first come, first served basis took part in this two-day literary festival.

The Festival dedicated to South Asia's great traditions of folktales provided a unique platform for children to witness and appreciate rich cultural heritage of South Asia and promote cultural and heritage awareness among children. The main objective of this two-day literary festival was to create deeper appreciation for folktales among the children and South Asia's proud tradition of literature and cultural diversity.

As an associated activity of this Festival, an open call for artwork entries from the children of SAARC Member States was circulated via the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs and more than 600 artwork on the theme '**A Scene from my Favourite Folktale/My Favourite Folk Character**' is currently being reviewed by the SAARC Cultural Centre for publication in an e-catalogue.