

## INVITATION FOR MUKTADHARA - IX

Dear Friend,

Greetings from Jana Sanskriti - Centre for Theatre of the Oppressed!

We are happy to invite you to “Muktadhara-IX: A Forum Theatre Festival, the ninth Festival of its kind to be held in Kolkata, West Bengal, India from ***December 05 to December 20, 2020***. This is a sequel to the tremendously successful Festival organized by Jana Sanskriti in 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010,2012, 2014, 2016, and in 2018 in the same city. We request you to share with us your experiences of Theatre of the Oppressed by participating in it. **Jana Sanskriti will be 35 years old in December 2012. “Long lasting, largest TO movement in the world”- Boal said.**

Jana Sanskriti was the first group in India to practice Theatre of the Oppressed – conceptualized by Augusto Boal in Brazil – a theatre in which the oppressed speak, act and express their social and political will. With this theatre it is possible to build up a culture that is based on humanism and equips people to fight against oppression. Jana Sanskriti came into being in 1985 with a deep commitment towards building up such a culture where people will think collectively before they act.

Today Jana Sanskriti’s work has spread to other states in India – Tripura, Jharkhand, Orissa, Delhi, Maharashtra, Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bihar. The different Forum Theatre groups developed by Jana Sanskriti in different parts of the country during the last twenty years now wish to meet, to come together. Through these groups, Jana Sanskriti has raised a wide range of issues – domestic violence , early girl child marriage, child trafficking, displacement, malpractices in the public distribution system, communalism, exploitation by contractors, undemocratic culture of political parties, corruption in the Panchayat, blind superstitions, , lack of quality in rural primary education, illicit liquor etc..

At Muktadhara-IX, Forum Theatre groups from all over India will come together and engage the people of Kolkata in debate on issues that are local as well as national. At the same time the people of Kolkata will see for themselves that theatre is a process of collective learning. Academics and theatre personalities from all across the globe will participate in this Festival

May I take this opportunity to say that the Festival will be enriched by your presentation and participation. We do hope you will accept the invitation.

Date : 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020.

With regards,  
**Sanjoy Ganguly**  
Director  
Jana Sanskriti  
Centre for Theatre of the Oppressed