

***Patrakar* Sir Mark Tully, former Bureau Chief of BBC in New Delhi, to speak about his work as a journalist and (almost) everything else at ICG**

Born in Tollygunge in south Kolkata, Sir Mark Tully, the former Bureau Chief of the BBC in New Delhi, a position he held for more than 20 years, will be at The International Centre Goa (ICG) on Thursday, 19th September 2019 for the next edition of ICG's *Patrakar: A forum for journalists*. Sir Tully will be in a freewheeling conversation with ICG's Director Dr. Pushkar and senior journalist Mr. Sujay Gupta about his long career in journalism, the major stories he has covered, his many books and almost everything else.

After he completed his schooling and college in England, Sir Tully joined the BBC in 1964 and returned to India in 1965 as its India correspondent, only a few years after Goa's liberation. Over time, he established himself as one of the most credible and unbiased foreign correspondents in India and came to be known as 'the voice of India'.

During his long tenure for the BBC in India, Sir Tully reported on nearly all major newsworthy events including Indo-Pakistan wars, the assassinations of Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, Operation Blue Star and the anti-Sikh riots that followed the assassination of Mrs Gandhi, the Bhopal gas tragedy, and the events leading to the demolition of Babri Masjid. He could not however report on India during the period of Emergency (1975-77) when he was barred from entering the country. He left the BBC in 1994 but has continued to work as a freelance journalist and broadcaster based in New Delhi. He also continued his association with the BBC until quite recently, as the presenter of the weekly BBC Radio 4 programme *Something Understood* which engaged in ethical and religious discussions on the larger questions of life.

Sir Tully has written several books beginning with the co-authored books *Amritsar: Mrs Gandhi's Last Battle* (1985) and *Raj to Rajiv: 40 Years of Indian Independence*. He went on to write several other highly-acclaimed books including *No Full Stops in India* (1988), *India in Slow Motion* (co-authored with his partner Gillian Wright) (2002), *India's Unending Journey* (2008) and *Non-Stop India* (2011). He has also written two books which reflect his longstanding interest and education in religion (he studied Theology at Trinity Hall, Cambridge) - *An Investigation into The Lives of Jesus* (1996), to accompany the BBC series of the same name, and *Mother* (1992) on Mother Teresa.

Sir Tully was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1985 and knighted in 2002. The Indian government conferred the Padma Shree in 1992 and the Padma Bhushan in 2005.

A long-time resident of New Delhi, Sir Tully spends much of his time in India, in part because, in his words, "England struck me as a very miserable place" which was "dark and drab, without the bright skies of India." For all his achievements and the exalted status that he enjoys in India and abroad, Sir Tully remains extremely modest. As he once said, "If I had been broadcasting during the days when television had been liberated, I wouldn't have been nearly as well known."

Patrakar: A forum of journalists featuring Sir Mark Tully will be held at The International Centre Goa (ICG), Dona Paula, from 5.30 pm onwards on Thursday, 19th September 2019. Entry to the programme is free and open to general public, however there are limited seats and those interested in attending are required to contact Mr. Galileo Fernandes by phone 8308969300 or email pro@incentgoa.com for their complimentary entry pass.

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