



Author, activist and social worker, **Ajeet Cour** started her career in the 1960s as a teacher and editor of business journal *Rupee Trade*, which she ran for 32 years. She was chosen by Indira Gandhi to go to Mexico with a kit of 200 books to celebrate the International Year of the Woman. Then came her assignment to the Directory of Indian Women Professionals. She was the first to insist on writers' visas to Pakistan, unthinkable till 1984, for an Indo-Pak Writers' Conference.

By 1987 she was pushing for cultural berths within the structure of SAARC. She not only established the Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature, taking a Writers' Conference to Pakistan, but also managed to make it the only SAARC-recognised cultural body in South Asia.

She has many awards to her credit including Shiromani Sahitkar Award, 1979; International IATA Award, 1984; Sahitya Akademi Award, 1985; Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad Award, 1989; Punjabi Sahita Sabha Award, 1989. At present she is chairperson, Academy of Fine Arts and Literature, New Delhi.