



14th Edition of Jaipur Literature Festival embraces a paradigm shift with specially curated virtual experiences

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HIGHLIGHTS

- **Festival dates** - A virtual edition of the Jaipur Literature Festival 2021 is scheduled from 19 - 21 February and 26 - 28 February 2021.
- **First list of speakers announced** - The Festival has announced its first list of speakers. With over 100 speakers expected to attend the 2021 edition, the first list includes Albie Sachs, Bibek Debroy, Carlo Rovelli, Daniel Simpson, John Zbrzycki, Marina Wheeler, Michael Sandel, Moin Mir, Moni Mohsin, Navtej Sarna, Oliver Craske, Prasoon Joshi, Priya Atwal, Ramachandra Guha, Ranjit Hoskote, Sarbpreet Singh, Shashi Tharoor, Shylashri Shankar, Simon Winchester, Stephen Brusatte.

For over a decade, Jaipur has played host to the annual Jaipur Literature Festival, dubbed the ‘greatest literary show on Earth!’, a haven for literature-lovers and festival-goers alike. This year, a time of many firsts, the Covid-19 pandemic shifted paradigms of engagement to the virtual world, and the Jaipur Literature Festival too will feature an online programme spread over two extended weekends in February 2021. After much anticipation, Teamwork Arts, the Festival producer, announced the dates for its 14th edition today, setting them between 19 - 21 February and 26 - 28 February 2021.

The live virtual sessions will showcase a plethora of themes and writers curated specially for audiences across the world. Audiences will be offered an immersive experience that will recreate the magic of the original literary extravaganza with augmented reality and



TEAMWORK ARTS PVT. LTD.

Mansarovar Building, Ground & 1st Floor,

Khasra No-366 Min, Village Sultanpur, Delhi - 110030, India

Tel : +91 11 26801430, 26802084 | +91 9643302036, 9643302037

Email: info@jaipurliteraturefestival.com

Website: jaipurliteraturefestival.org, teamworkarts.com



virtual venues replete with a bookstore, a bazaar featuring traditional handcrafted goodies, and various engagement zones. In its ability to reach out to geographies across the world, the online edition of the iconic Festival will actually be a dream-come-true for many who have craved to be at Jaipur every January in the last 14 years. In its milestone online edition, the Festival aims to be even wider in its reach and longer in duration covering two extended weekends.

The Festival continues to remain committed to its core values: to serve as a democratic, non-aligned platform offering free and fair access to all. The programming this year will bring together a diverse mix of the world's greatest writers, thinkers, humanitarians, politicians, business leaders, sportspersons, and entertainers, speaking on a range of subjects to enthusiastic audiences. Some of the themes that the Festival will explore this year include Technology & AI, Politics & History, Environment & Climate Change, Mental Health, Business & Economics, Translations, Poetry & Music, Food & Literature, Geopolitics, Science & Medicine, Democracy & Constitution, Water & Sustainability, Historical Fiction, Film & Adaptation, Travel etc.

The first list of speakers released today includes former South African Constitutional Court Justice **Albie Sachs**, a distinguished lawyer, anti-Apartheid activist, scholar & author; **Bibek Debroy**, writer, translator, Sanskrit scholar and Chairman of India's Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister whose recent books include the translations of *Bhagavata Purana* and the *Markandeya Purana*; **Carlo Rovelli**, renowned theoretical physicist and bestselling author of *Seven Brief Lessons on Physics*, *The Order of Time* and the recently released *Helgoland*; **Daniel Simpson**, Yoga philosopher & author of *The Truth of Yoga*, a comprehensive guide to the history of practice; **John Zubrzycki**, an Australian



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journalist, researcher and author of *The House of Jaipur: The Inside Story of India's Most Glamorous Royal Family*; **Marina Wheeler**, British lawyer, columnist and author of *The Lost Homestead: My Mother, Partition and the Punjab*; **Michael Sandel**, American political philosopher, Harvard University professor and author of *The Tyranny of Merit: What's Become of the Common Good?*

The list continues with **Moin Mir**, author of *Surat: Fall of a Port, Rise of a Prince: Defeat of the East India Company in the House of Commons*, which traces the annexation of Surat; **Moni Mohsin**, famous for writing the long-running satirical column 'The Diary of a Social Butterfly' for *The Friday Times* and author of *The Impeccable Integrity of Ruby R*; **Navtej Sarna**, author, columnist, and former diplomat and India's Ambassador to the United States; **Oliver Craske**, author of the biography *Indian Sun: The Life and Music of Ravi Shankar*; **Prasoon Joshi**, celebrated poet, writer, lyricist and screenwriter and Chairperson of India's Central Board of Film Certification; **Priya Atwal**, a historian of the empire, monarchy & cultural politics in Britain and India and author of *Royals and Rebels: The Rise and Fall of the Sikh Empire*.

They will be joined by **Ramachandra Guha**, eminent Indian author, historian and biographer; **Ranjit Hoskote**, Indian poet, art critic, cultural theorist and independent curator; **Sarbjit Singh**, author of *The Camel Merchant of Philadelphia* and *Night of the Restless Spirits*; **Shashi Tharoor**, politician, and celebrated Indian author whose recently released book is titled *The Battle of Belonging*; **Shekhar Pathak**, Himalayan traveller and historian whose recent works include *Hari Bhari Umeed* and *The Chipko Movement: A People's History*; **Shylashri Shankar**, Senior Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi and author of *Turmeric Nation: A Passage Through India's Tastes*; **Krish Ashok**,



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author of *Masala Lab: The Science of Indian Cooking*; **Simon Winchester**, New York Times best-selling author of *The Professor and the Madman* and *The Perfectionists: How Precision Engineers Created the Modern World*; **Steve Brusate**, American paleontologist and evolutionary biologist and author of *The Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs*.

Namita Gokhale, writer, publisher, and Co-director of the Jaipur Literature Festival, said, “*The Jaipur Literature Festival 2021 will appear in an exciting virtual avatar, with great writers and stellar speakers from around the planet reaching out to readers and JLF enthusiasts everywhere. These disruptive times have enabled us to curate a uniquely diverse literary platform, and to create what could be termed a living library. The magical spirit of the festival, with its joy, curiosity, and sense of wonder, will be live this coming February for all those who cherish books, ideas and dialogue.*”

William Dalrymple, writer, historian and Co-director of the Jaipur Literature Festival, said, “*Despite pandemics and political upheavals around the world, the Jaipur Literature Festival continues to spread its wings and has transformed itself into one of the world's most popular online spaces for profound discussions about books and writing. While this year's Jaipur will be a quieter affair than usual, our commitment to literary excellence continues undimmed as we present one of our most extraordinary lists to date.*”

Sanjoy K. Roy, Managing Director of Teamwork Arts who produce the Jaipur Literature Festival, said, “*The devastation that the pandemic caused caught the world unawares. Even as gated communities, cities and countries shut down their borders, we wanted to ensure the free flow of knowledge and information across countries and communities. JLF Brave New World was born out of this intention and grossed over 160 episodes and*





4.8 million viewers. As we look ahead to 2021, we look forward to hosting the Jaipur Literature Festival, bringing to our viewers the best thinkers from across the world and presenting varied points of views and themes.”

Jaipur BookMark (JBM), the B2B arm of the Festival will open its eighth edition with an engaging virtual programme between the two weekends of the main Festival. The virtual edition of JBM will run from 22nd to 25th February 2020 hosting two sessions per day. JBM will continue to bring together a wide range of publishers, literary agents, writers, translators, translation agencies and booksellers from across the world and give them an opportunity to exchange ideas and listen to major global industry players.

In addition to enjoying the literary sessions, audiences will also get to savour the Festival’s signature morning and evening music sessions with performances by leading artistes and virtuosos. The customary Festival merchandise and books by participating authors will be available online on the Jaipur Literature Festival’s official website.

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NOTES TO MEDIA PERSONS

For media enquiries on the Jaipur Literature Festival, please contact:

Teamwork Arts

Manash Pratim Deka

manash@teamworkarts.com

Vidushi Khara




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vidushi@teamworkarts.com

About Jaipur Literature Festival:

Described as the 'greatest literary show on Earth', the Jaipur Literature Festival is a sumptuous feast of ideas.

The past decade has seen it transform into a global literary phenomenon having hosted nearly 2000 speakers and welcoming over a million book lovers from across India and the globe.

Our core values remain unchanged: to serve as a democratic, non-aligned platform offering free and fair access.

Every year, the Festival brings together a diverse mix of the world's greatest writers, thinkers, humanitarians, politicians, business leaders, sports people and entertainers on one stage to champion the freedom to express and engage in thoughtful debate and dialogue.

Writers and Festival Directors Namita Gokhale and William Dalrymple, alongside producer Teamwork Arts, invite speakers to take part in the five-day programme set against the backdrop of Rajasthan's stunning cultural heritage and the Diggri Palace in the state capital Jaipur.

Past speakers have ranged from Nobel Laureates J.M. Coetzee, Orhan Pamuk and Muhammad Yunus, Man Booker Prize winners Ben Okri, Margaret Atwood and Paul Beatty, Sahitya Akademi winners Gulzar, Javed Akhtar, M.T. Vasudevan Nair as well as the late Girish Karnad, Mahasweta Devi and U.R. Ananthamurthy along with literary superstars including Amish Tripathi, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Vikram Seth. An annual event that goes beyond literature, the Festival has also hosted Amartya Sen, Amitabh Bachchan, the late A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Oprah Winfrey, Stephen Fry, Thomas Piketty and former president of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai.

The Jaipur Literature Festival is a flagship event of Teamwork Arts, which produces it along with over 25 highly acclaimed performing arts, visual arts, and literary festivals across more than 40 cities globally.



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About Teamwork Arts:

For over 30 years, Teamwork Arts has taken India to the world and brought the world to India, presenting the finest of Indian performers, writers and visual artists in the cultural and art space in India and abroad.

Every year, we produce over 25 performing, visual arts and literary festivals in several countries including Australia, Egypt, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, the UK and USA as well as many eclectic festivals across India. We produce the world's largest literary gathering: the annual Jaipur Literature Festival; JLF international now travels to the US, UK, Canada, Qatar and Australia and we have recently launched a digital series - JLF Brave New World. Our musical extravaganza, Bollywood Love Story - A Musical, continues to tour the world with sold-out shows everywhere it is held.

More information at: www.teamworkarts.com



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