



## ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival 10@10

### #10 Speakers10Weeks

- *To celebrate its 10th anniversary, the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival will announce 10 speakers every week for 10 weeks every Tuesday at 6.00pm (IST).*
- *These announcements will reveal the names of some of the world's greatest writers and thinkers set to appear at the Festival in January and will be made from Tuesday 18 October to Tuesday 20 December.*
- *Make sure you have liked us on Facebook (JaipurLitFestOfficial) and follow us on Twitter (@JaipurLitFest) to be the first to know.*

New Delhi, Tuesday 20 December, embargoed until 18:30 IST - The final ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival 2017 10@10

2017 marks ten years of the 'greatest literary show on Earth' and its meteoric rise from a small gem of an idea to the world's largest free literary festival, having hosted more than 1300 speakers over the past decade.

The ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival 2017 will take place between 19 and 23 January 2017 in its beautiful home at the historic Diggi Palace Hotel in Jaipur.

The Festival expects to welcome over 250 authors, thinkers, politicians, journalists and popular culture icons to Jaipur this coming January.

Today, the final list of 10 speakers, appearing at the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival 2017 were announced as:



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1. Making his first appearance at the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival in 2017 is 2016 Man Booker Prize-winning author of *The Sellout* **Paul Beatty**, the first American author to win the award since the inclusion of non-Commonwealth English language fiction in 2014. Beatty began his writing career as a poet in 1991 publishing the anthologies *Big Bank Take Little Bank* and *Joker, Joker, Deuce* and the novels, *The White Boy Shuffle*, *Tuff* and *Slumberland*. *The Sellout* also won the National Book Critics Circle Award in 2016.

2. **Amruta Patil** is a writer and painter and the author of graphic novel *Kari*, which was shortlisted for the Shakti Bhatt First Book Award, *Adi Parva: Churning the Ocean*, which was selected as one of 2012's best graphic novels by comic book historian Paul Gravett and her latest, *Sauptik: Blood and Flowers*. Patil has a freewheeling visual style that incorporates acrylic painting, collage and charcoal. Recurring themes in her work include memento mori, sexuality, myth, sustainable living and the unbroken thread of stories passed down from storyteller to storyteller through the ages. This will be her first appearance at the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival.

3. **Nandana Sen** is an actress, screenwriter, children's author and child rights activist. Sen has starred in over 20 feature films from multiple countries and in multiple languages, as well as performing on stage. Her first children's book, *Kangaroo Kisses*, was published in May 2016. She has also written several screenplays and translated the poetry of her mother, Nabaneeta Dev Sen, one of the most prominent authors in contemporary Bengali literature. She will return to the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival in 2017.

4. **Neil Jordan** is an Irish film director, screenwriter, novelist and short-story writer. His first book, *Night in Tunisia*, won a Somerset Maugham Award and the Guardian Fiction Prize in 1979. His film, *The Crying Game*, won an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay in 1992. He has published three novels titled *The Past*, *The Dream of Beast* and *Sunrise With Sea Monster*. His films include *The Company of Wolves*, *Mona Lisa*, which won a Best Actor Golden Globe for Bob Hoskins, and *Interview With A Vampire*. This will be Jordan's first appearance at the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival.



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5. **Valmik Thapar** has spent four decades serving the cause of wild India. During this time, he has authored, co-authored and edited more than 25 books and made or presented nearly a dozen films for the BBC and other networks on the tiger and Indian flora and fauna. His last book was *Saving Wild India: A Blueprint for Change*, which sought to provide workable solutions to protect India's wildlife. Other recent books include *Winged Fire*, the concluding book in the trilogy that features *Wild Fire* and *Tiger Fire*. Thapar is also the founder of the Ranthambore Foundation, a major non-governmental organisation dedicated to conserving wildlife. He is currently a member of the Rajasthan Board of Wildlife and has helped the state government formulate the Van Dhan Yojana, a holistic forest conservation scheme.

6. **Sadhguru** is a yogi, mystic and New York Times bestselling author. His latest book is titled *Inner Engineering: A Yogi's Guide to Joy*. He has spoken at numerous prestigious events such as the UN Millennium World Peace Summit, TED Talks, the World Economic Forum and the Indian Economic Summit. Sadhguru is also the founder of Isha Foundation, an international, nonprofit, volunteer-run organisation with over 7 million volunteers across the world. The Isha Foundation runs large scale grass root projects in health, education and environment and includes Isha Vidhya, a rural education project, and Project GreenHands, the largest ecological project in Asia having planted over 27 million trees.

7. **Shashi Tharoor** is a politician, former diplomat and current Member of Parliament as well as Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs. In addition to his political work, he is an acclaimed author of 15 works of fiction and non-fiction. He worked as a contributing editor for *Newsweek International* and has written for publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and the *Times of India*. He continues to write an internationally syndicated monthly column for *Project Syndicate*. His works of fiction include *The Great Indian Novel* and *Show Business*, and his non-fiction work includes *India: From Midnight to the Millennium*, *Pax India: India and the World of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* and, most recently, *An Era of Darkness: Empire in India*.

8. British film director **Stephen Frears** will attend the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival 2017. His movies



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include *Dangerous Liaisons*, *High Fidelity* and *Philomena*. He has twice been nominated for Best Director at the Academy Awards for *The Grifters* and *The Queen*. His most recent release, *Florence Foster Jenkins*, starring Hugh Grant and Meryl Streep has been nominated for four Golden Globes, including Best Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy, and is tipped for recognition at the 2017 Academy Awards.

**9. Rishi Kapoor** is one of India's most popular film stars. He debuted as a child actor in his father Raj Kapoor's magnum opus *Mera Naam Joker*, winning a National Award for his performance. His first lead role came with *Bobby*, a blockbuster that established a new template for the teeny-bopper romance in Hindi cinema. In the 1970s, a decade known for Amitabh Bachchan's 'angry young man' films, Kapoor not only held his own but also carved a niche for himself in a series of musical hits like *Khel Khel Mein*, *Laila Majnu*, *Hum Kisise Kum Naheen*, *Sargam* and *Karz*. He was also the perfect foil to Bachchan in some of the most celebrated hits of the era like *Kabhi Kabhie*, *Amar Akbar Anthony*, *Naseeb* and *Coolie*. Over the last decade, Kapoor has delivered some of the finest performances of his career in a diverse array of roles ranging from a middle-class school teacher in *Do Dooni Char*, a dreaded don in *D-Day*, a pimp in *Agneepath* and a naughty grand old patriarch in *Kapoor & Sons*; far removed from the chocolate-boy romantic hero of the 1970s.

**10.** Last, but not least, is **Vaasanthi**, a Tamil writer, journalist and columnist who will be returning to ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival in 2017. In a career spanning over 40 years, she has published thirty novels, six short story collections, four volumes of journalistic articles and four travelogues in Tamil. Her works have been translated into Malayalam, Hindi, Telugu, Kannada, English, Norwegian, Czech and Dutch. Two of her novels were made into Malayalam films. She is a recipient of several awards, including Uttar Pradesh Sahitya Sanstan award and Punjab Sahitya Akademi award for her novels that were translated into Hindi and English respectively. Her latest book is *Amma: Jayalalithaa's Journey from Movie Star to Political Queen*, a biography of the late firebrand Tamil Nadu chief minister, Jayalalithaa.

Further information on sessions and more speakers appearing at the 10<sup>th</sup> ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival will



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follow over the coming weeks.

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#### NOTES TO MEDIA PERSONS

Information on **Registration** for the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival can be found here:

<http://jaipurliteraturefestival.org/registration/>

For **media enquiries** on the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival, please contact Edelman India:

[Nitisha.Prabhakar@edelman.com](mailto:Nitisha.Prabhakar@edelman.com) / [Amrita.Sarna@edelman.com](mailto:Amrita.Sarna@edelman.com)

#### About the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival 2017

Described as the 'greatest literary show on Earth', the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival is the world's largest free event of its kind.

The past decade has seen the Festival host 1300 speakers and welcome nearly 1.2 million book lovers.

Celebrating writers from across the globe, past speakers have ranged from Nobel Laureates and Man Booker Prize winners to debut writers including Amish Tripathi, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Eleanor Catton, Hanif Kureishi, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Ian McEwan, J.M. Coetzee, Mohammed Hanif, Oprah Winfrey, Orhan Pamuk, Pico Iyer, Salman Rushdie, Stephen Fry, Thomas Piketty, Vikram Seth and Wole Soyinka along with renowned Indian language writers such as Girish Karnad, Gulzar, Javed Akhtar, M.T. Vasudevan Nair, Uday Prakash as well as the late Mahasweta Devi and U.R. Ananthamurthy.

Writers and Festival Directors Namita Gokhale and William Dalrymple invite speakers to take part in the five-day programme set against the backdrop of Rajasthan's stunning cultural heritage and the Diggi



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Palace in the state capital Jaipur.

Equity and democracy run through the Festival's veins, placing some of the world's greatest minds, humanitarians, historians, politicians, business leaders, sports people and entertainers from all walks of life together on stage. This free and egalitarian access to these renowned thinkers and writers is a powerful statement in a country where access to such individuals remains the privilege of a few. The ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival provides a potentially life-changing opportunity for audiences from Rajasthan, across India and the world to learn from and exchange ideas with contemporary literary stalwarts.

The ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival is a flagship event of Teamwork Arts, which produces over 25 highly acclaimed performing arts, visual arts and literary festivals across more than 40 cities globally, and is produced by Sanjoy K. Roy.

In 2014, ZEE JLF spread its wings beyond the borders of India with an annual event in May in London. In 2015, it headed across the pond to Boulder, Colorado where it hosts a similar event every September.

Website: [www.jaipurliteraturefestival.org](http://www.jaipurliteraturefestival.org)

### About Teamwork Arts

For over 25 years, Teamwork Arts has taken India to the world and brought the world to India.

In countries such as Australia, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Israel, Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, UK and USA, Teamwork produces over 25 highly acclaimed performing arts, visual arts and literary festivals across more than 40 cities.

Teamwork Arts produces one of the world's largest free literary gatherings, the annual ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival, the Ishara International Puppet Festival in New Delhi, the annual Mahindra



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**Excellence in Theatre Awards (META) and Festival**, international festivals **Shared History** in South Africa, **Eye on India** in the United States of America, **India by the Bay** in Hong Kong, **Confluence- Festival of India** in Australia, and many more.

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