



## ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival 2017 hosts curtain raiser in Mumbai

- *The Mumbai Curtain Raiser of the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival 2017 hosted a special panel exploring music and poetry within the context of literature - Blowing in the Wind: Voice, Music and Lyric Poetry*
- *Legendary poet Gulzar along with lyricist, poet, and playback singer Swanand Kirkire discussed their interactions with popular music and how lyric poetry creates public spaces for literature, bringing together the voice and the word*
- *Themes of ZEE JLF 2017 to include Freedom to Dream: India @ 70, The Magna Carta, Translation and World Literature, Women and Marginalised Voices, Sanskrit, and Colonialism and the Legacy of the Raj*
- *A cashless Festival ensures visitors to ZEE JLF have a relaxed and stress free experience*
- *ZEE JLF is pleased to offer enhanced delegate packages for those who wish to support the Festival, experience its magic, mingle with authors, interact with industry players, relax in the Festival Delegate lounge and enjoy the live music concerts and Heritage Events.*

Mumbai, January 11, 2016; With the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival just a week away, a special evening was hosted in Mumbai to mark the countdown to the world's largest free literary gathering. The organisers of the Festival along with partners Avid Learning hosted a soiree dedicated to music and poetry in literature.

After a welcome speech by Asad Lalljee, SVP, CEO Avid Learning, the Essar Group, the evening featured a special panel that explored music and poetry within the context of literature. Aptly named 'Blowing in



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**the Wind: Voice Music and Lyric Poetry**, it addressed the public spaces for literature and brings together the voice and the word. Following Bob Dylan being awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, this session looked at eminent poets and their interactions with popular music with the panel comprising poet lyricist **Gulzar** along with lyricist, poet and playback singer **Swanand Kirkire**. To mark a grand finale to the event, singer and songwriter Geetu Hinduja entranced the audience in a power packed musical performance.

Both Gulzar and Swanand Kirkire are slated to attend the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival 2017 which runs from January 18 - January 23 at the Diggi Palace Hotel in Jaipur, Rajasthan. Festival Speakers from Mumbai set to attend this year include one of India's most popular film stars **Rishi Kapoor**; writer **Ashwin Sanghi**; writer and mythologist **Devdutt Pattanaik**; poet and lyricist **Javed Akhtar**; writer, playwright, actor & director **Manav Kaul**, lyricist, poet & advertising professional **Prasoon Joshi**; director **Sudhir Mishra**; and director & screenwriter **Imtiaz Ali** among others.

The Festival boasts of a world class programme including winners of the Man Booker Prize **Paul Beatty**, **Alan Hollinghurst** and **Richard Flanagan**; Laurence Olivier award winner and two-time Academy Award nominee **Sir David Hare**, who makes his first visit to the Festival; internationally acclaimed poet **Anne Waldman**; one of the India's significant writers and philosophers **S.L. Bhyrappa**; bestselling author, poet, activist and teacher **Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni**; 2016 Emerging Voices Award winner **Eka Kurniawan**; yogi, mystic and New York Times bestselling author **Sadhguru**; **Nassim Nicholas Taleb**, who predicted the 2008 global financial crisis; writer, journalist and broadcaster **Simon Winchester**, OBE; the 'literary institution of one', Italian writer and published **Roberto Calasso**; **Neil MacGregor**, past director of the National Gallery London and the British Museum and author of *A History of the World in 100 Objects*; American Journalist and Pulitzer Prize-winning **Dexter Filkins**; **Alex Ross**, the music critic for *The New Yorker* and the author of the books *The Rest is Noise: Listening to the Twentieth Century* and *Listen to This*; **Ha-Joon Chang**, whose books include *23 Things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism* and *Economics: The User's Guide*, which will have been translated into 40 languages and published in 43



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countries; and **Linda Colley**, award-winning historian, academic, author and broadcaster who specialises in post-1700 British history and author of *Britons: Forging the Nation 1707-1837* and *Acts of Union and Disunion*.

With around 30 languages represented from India and across the world, the Festival will feature authors writing in Indian regional languages including the popular Volga in **Telugu**, S.L. Bhyrappa and Vivek Shanbhag in **Kannada**, Kaajal Oza Vaidya in **Gujarati**, C.P. Deval and Hari Ram Meena in **Rajasthani**, Kanak Mani Dixit and Binod Chaudhary in **Nepali**, Dhruva Jyoti Borah in **Assamese**, Gulzar and Javed Akhtar in **Urdu**, Jatindra K. Nayak in **Oriya**, Naseem Shafaie and Neerja Mattoo in **Kashmiri**, Arunava Sinha and Radha Chakravarty in **Bengali** and Arshia Sattar, A.N.D. Haksar, and Roberto Calasso in **Sanskrit**. Writers in **Hindi** include Ajay Navaria, Anu Singh Choudhary, Manav Kaul, Mrinal Pande, Narendra Kohli and Yatindra Mishra.

The programme for the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival 2017 will touch upon a multitude of ideas and themes including a look at the nation, **Freedom to Dream - India at 70**, which explores India today in the context of its history as well as its future, **Translations and World Literature**, **Women and Marginalised Voices**, **Sanskrit**, and **Colonialism and the Legacy of the Raj**.

**Sanjoy K. Roy, Director of Teamwork Arts, Producers of the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival** said “We’re delighted to present this evening in Mumbai as we make the final preparations for the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival. We’re barely a week away and look forward to welcoming Mumbai speakers as well as audiences in Jaipur next week. The Festival has always aimed at showcasing the brilliant literary talent of India to the world, in return bringing some of the world’s greatest writers home. The Festival offers a unique opportunity to hear some of the world’s contemporary literary stalwarts at a platform that’s all-inclusive and democratic, brings together diverse thought and opinion, and upholds freedom of thought and expression”



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Online Registration for the Festival is FREE and open to all. All visitors must pre-register on the Festival's website at [www.jaipurliteraturefestival.org](http://www.jaipurliteraturefestival.org).

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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:

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#### 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



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five-day programme set against the backdrop of Rajasthan's stunning cultural heritage and the Digg 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



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Literature Festival, the Ishara International Puppet Festival in New Delhi, the annual Mahindra 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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