



## Jaipur Literature Festival announces first list of 25 speakers for 2020 edition

~Includes Pulitzer-winning author Stephen Greenblatt~

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### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Festival Dates** - The Jaipur Literature Festival 2020 is scheduled to take place from 23 - 27 January 2020 at the Diggi Palace Hotel, Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- **First list of Speakers Announced** - The Festival announced its first list of 25 speakers out of over 250 speakers expected to attend the 2020 edition. The speakers were unveiled via an online engagement with literature enthusiasts guessing the names of the speakers based on clues shared under the hashtag #WordByWord. The first list of authors includes Anand Neelakantan, Anosh Irani, Asma Khan, Ben Judah, Brian Aivars Catlos, Chitra Mudgal, Frank Dikötter, Hallie Rubenhold, Howard Jacobson, Jung Chang, Keki N. Daruwalla, Kent Nerburn, K R Meera, Kunal Basu, Maaza Mengiste, Marcus du Sautoy, Mishi Saran, Nilanjana S. Roy, Om Swami, Raj Kamal Jha, Sara Rai, Shubha Mudgal, Stephen Greenblatt, Suketu Mehta and Vishal Bhardwaj.
- **Registration and Delegate Packages** - Online registration for the Festival is mandatory and attendees can register via the Festival website. Visitors can also buy Delegate Packages to experience the Festival's magic, while mingling with authors, interacting with industry players, relaxing in the Delegate Lounge, and enjoying the Jaipur Music Stage and Heritage Evening.
- **Volunteer Programme** - The Jaipur Literature Festival runs a successful Volunteer programme that forms the backbone of its operations while offering young enthusiasts an unmatched enriching experience, enabling them to see first-hand what goes into making and managing a festival of this



  
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scale. A 300-strong 'army' of dedicated volunteers work across the Festival's 25 departments. Volunteer registrations are open till October 31, 2019.

The annual Jaipur Literature Festival announced today its much-awaited first list of speakers for its 13th edition, which will take place from 23-27 January 2020 at its beautiful and customary home - the historic Diggi Palace Hotel in Jaipur.

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.

The Festival's core values remain unchanged: to serve as a democratic, non-aligned platform offering free and fair access. A true champion of literary and artistic traditions and democratic discourse, 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, and promotes, above all, a love for literature.

The first list of 25 speakers released today includes **Anand Neelakantan**, author, columnist, screenwriter, television personality and motivational speaker, who has signed a three-book series deal with the producers of the blockbuster film *Baahubali*; **Anosh Irani**, the author of *The Bombay Plays: The Matka King & Bombay Black*, who was a finalist for the Canadian Governor General's Literary Award for Drama; **Asma Khan**, the first British chef to feature in Netflix's Emmy-nominated *Chef's Table*; **Ben Judah**, the author of *Fragile Empire*, the Financial Times Summer Book of 2013; **Brian Aivars Catlos**, author of four scholarly books, including most recently *Kingdoms of Faith: A New History of Islamic Spain*.

The list continues with **Chitra Mudgal**, the first Indian woman to receive the Vyas Samman for her acclaimed novel *Avaan*; **Frank Dikötter**, author of a dozen books on modern China, including *Mao's Great Famine*, winner of the Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction in 2011; **Hallie Rubenhold**, bestselling author



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whose latest book *The Five*, has been longlisted for the Baillie Gifford Prize and shortlisted for the Crime Writer's Association Gold Dagger; **Howard Jacobson**, recipient of the 2010 Man Booker Prize for his book *The Finkler Question*; **Jung Chang**, author of the bestselling books *Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China*, *Mao: The Unknown Story* (with Jon Halliday) and *Empress Dowager Cixi: The Concubine Who Launched Modern China*; **Keki N. Daruwalla**, winner of the Sahitya Akademi Award; **Kent Nerburn**, widely known for his insights into Native American culture, whose trilogy *Neither Wolf nor Dog*, *The Wolf at Twilight* and *The Girl Who Sang to the Buffalo* are core works in multicultural curricula throughout the world; **KR Meera**, winner of the Kendra and Kerala Sahitya Akademi awards whose novel *Aaraachar* has sold around 150,000 copies and its translation, *Hangwoman*, shortlisted for the DSC Prize.

They are joined by **Kunal Basu**, the author of *The Japanese Wife*, the lead story of which was made into an award-winning film; **Maaza Mengiste**, author of *Beneath the Lion's Gaze*, selected by *The Guardian* as one of the 10 best contemporary African books; **Marcus du Sautoy**, author of six books, including the recent *The Creativity Code* and a Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford; **Mishi Saran**, author of *The Other Side of Light*, who shortlisted for the Commonwealth Book Prize; **Nilanjana S. Roy**, author of the award-winning fantasy novel *The Wildings*; and **Om Swami**, the brain behind the fastest-growing meditation and kindness movement in the world, Black Lotus.

There's also **Raj Kamal Jha**, award-winning journalist, internationally-acclaimed for his novels which have been translated into more than a dozen languages; **Sara Rai**, author of *Im Labyrinth* which won the Coburg Rückert Prize 2019 for its German translation by Johanna Hahn; **Stephen Greenblatt**, recipient of the Pulitzer Prize; **Shubha Mudgal**, veteran Hindustani vocalist, who has written a collection of short stories which revolve around the music that has nurtured her; **Suketu Mehta**, author of *Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found*, which won the Kiriya Prize and the Hutch Crossword Award, and a 2005 Pulitzer finalist; **Vishal Bhardwaj**, acclaimed film director, writer, composer and producer, who published his first book of poems titled *Nude* in 2018.



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The Festival will open as usual with its B2B arm, Jaipur BookMark (JBM), now in its seventh edition, with a full day of programming on 22 January at Diggi Palace followed by sessions at a dedicated JBM venue at the Festival Hub from the 23-25 January. 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 meet, talk business and listen to major global industry players.

**Namita Gokhale**, writer, publisher and Co-director of the Jaipur Literature Festival, said, *"The upcoming edition of the Jaipur Literature Festival arrives with the same magical promise of books and authors, ideas and creativity, generating a collective intellectual energy unparalleled anywhere. We have a stellar lineup of authors from India and around the world, including celebrated chef Asma Khan, classical singer Shubha Mudgal with her acclaimed new collection of short stories, brilliant Hindi writer Sara Rai, mathematician and science writer Marcus du Sautoy, writer and journalist Ben Judah, and so very many others. Vision 2020 will be a new voyage of discovery to help us understand and reflect on the ever-changing world around us."*

**William Dalrymple**, writer, historian and Co-director of the Jaipur Literature Festival, said, *"This is unquestionably one of the best lists we've ever gathered: five days of non-stop genius. Can't wait to see everyone there!"*

**Sanjoy K. Roy**, Managing Director of Teamwork Arts who produce the Jaipur Literature Festival, said, *"At Jaipur Literature Festival in 2020, we look forward to strengthening our core values- to create a platform that celebrate ideas, reaches out to young people and allows them free access to knowledge and education This year Teamwork Arts has extended the Festival into two overseas locations, Belfast and Toronto by making the Festival more accessible and taking India to the world!"*

The Jaipur Literature Festival sets literary conversations and dialogue against a cultural backdrop promoting India's traditional heritage including curated art installations, cultural evenings and the Jaipur Music Stage, which runs parallel to the Festival.



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While entry to the Festival is free and open to all, attendees can choose to purchase Delegate Packages, which offer a special experience of the Festival and take them on a compelling cultural journey.

As a former Festival Delegate said, *“A wonderful experience. As a delegate, I had the opportunity to meet people from all parts of the world and share our love of literature and writing. The concerts were amazing - the venue, music, food and people combined to create an unforgettable experience.”*

In addition to enjoying the Festival programme, Delegates get access to the Delegate Lounge, reserved seating at selected sessions, free entry to the Music Stage, invites to special heritage evenings, shop at the Festival Merchandise Area, lunches with authors and fellow delegates, a cocktail evening and much more.

-- ENDS --

#### NOTES TO MEDIA PERSONS

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

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

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

[IndiaJLF@edelman.com](mailto:IndiaJLF@edelman.com)

#### About the Jaipur Literature Festival 2020

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

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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 Digg 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.

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

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The arts of India are unrivalled in their depth, diversity and mystery and showcasing it to global audiences requires a deep understanding of our culture, an acute sense of relevance in programming and an unflinching attention to detail. Above all, we at Teamwork Arts believe in love and respect for the artist.

Teamwork Arts is a highly versatile production company with roots in the performing arts, social action and the corporate world. Our expertise lies in the area of entertainment and includes documentary and feature films, television, the conceptualisation and development of contemporary performing/visual arts and literary festivals around the world, and in nurturing new talents across all art forms.

For over 25 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 25 performing/visual arts and literary festivals in 11 countries, including Australia, Canada, Egypt, Germany, France, Hong Kong, Israel, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, the UK and the USA. Teamwork Arts produces the world's largest free literary gatherings, the annual Jaipur Literature Festival, the Ishara International Puppet Festival in New Delhi, the annual Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META) Festival, international festivals Shared History in South Africa, India by the Nile in Egypt, 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.

Our musical extravaganza, Bollywood Love Story: A Musical, continues to tour the world and has sold out shows in Austria, Germany, Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland and Egypt.

Our international festivals in India have included the bi-annual Bonjour India, a festival of France with more than 200 events across 18 cities in India and featuring over 250 artists, designers, researchers and entrepreneurs, and OzFest, a festival of Australia in India.

For more information, visit: [www.teamworkarts.com](http://www.teamworkarts.com)



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