



[ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival](#) announces [second list of speakers](#) for 2018 edition

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- **Speakers announced** - The annual ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival announced its second list of speakers at a preview event at the iconic Royal Opera House in Mumbai today.
- **Festival Dates** - Set to take place 25-29 January 2018, the 'greatest literary show on Earth' returns to the historic Diggi Palace Hotel in Jaipur for its 11th edition.
- **Festival Curtain Raiser** - This evening's programme was held in partnership with Avid Learning. The second tranche of speakers featured diverse and acclaimed voices from across India and the world, a hallmark of the Festival.

Also known as the 'Kumbh Mela of literature', the Festival has transformed into a global phenomenon, having hosted nearly 2000 speakers and welcomed over a million booklovers over the past decade. This year, the Festival will host over 250 writers, thinkers, politicians, journalists and popular cultural icons from over 35 nationalities, spanning over 15 Indian and 20 international languages as well as those representing major awards such as the Nobel Prize, the Man Booker, the Pulitzer Prize, the Padma Vibhushan and the Sahitya Akademi Award.

A number of Mumbai-based speakers were featured in the second list, including bestselling novelist **Amish** who will discuss his reinterpretations of ancient mythology, including the enigmatic Sita and the complex divinity in Ram, at the 2018 edition of the Festival; **Ashwin Sanghi**, whose work straddles history, philosophy, fantasy and science will shed light on his new book *Keepers of the Kalchakra*; the legendary **Javed Akhtar** and **Shabana Azmi** will discuss their poetic heritage through their respective fathers, Jan Nisar Akhtar and Kaifi Azmi, in a session on the traditions of Urdu literature; author **Kiran Nagarkar** will speak about the ceaselessness of languages and the art of crisscrossing cultural and linguistic landscapes;



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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
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actress **Soha Ali Khan** will reveal all about her disarmingly frank memoir; and director, writer, producer and actor **Anurag Kashyap** will speak on his cinematic sensibility and consciousness.

As expected, international literary stalwarts will also speak at the Festival. Young readers are set for a treat with the unparalleled **Anthony Horowitz**, creator of the multi-million selling Alex Rider series, and the refreshing **Julia Donaldson** whose modern classics, *The Gruffalo* and *The Gruffalo's Child*, have taken countless children on a splendid journey. The brilliant theoretical physicist **Lisa Randall** will also feature as part of the programming with a fascinating discussion that challenges the stereotypes of gender; historian, Harvard professor and author of *The Dawn Watch: Joseph Conrad in a Global World*, **Maya Jasanoff**, discusses the journey of one of the most riveting figures in literary history; writers and journalists such as **Peter Bergen**, the author of *Manhunt*, one of the few to have interviewed Osama bin Laden and the first journalist to gain access into Abbottabad as well as **Suki Kim**, the only writer ever to have lived undercover in North Korea and the author of New York Times bestselling literary nonfiction *Without You, There Is No Us: Undercover Among the Sons of North Korea's Elite*.

The list also features a number of names from the world of Indian literature, culture and media. **Makarand Paranjape** will discuss ritual and identity in a dizzyingly pluralistic world; film-maker **Mira Nair** will speak of her incredible cross-cultural journey as well as the rigours of adapting the novel into a dynamic screenplay; journalist **Rajdeep Sardesai** discusses his recent book on cricket; new age archivist **Rohan Murty**, who with his visionary *The Murty Classical Library*, attempts to make India's magnificent literary legacy accessible to the world; poet **Tishani Doshi** discusses her latest anthology, *Girls are Coming out of the Woods*; and Kannada author and playwright **Vivek Shanbhag** explores the diverse range of regional Indian literature.

For the first time, the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival kicked off its preview tour in Mumbai, bringing together Festival Co-Directors Namita Gokhale and William Dalrymple and Producer Sanjoy K. Roy as they walked down memory lane and gave the audience a glimpse of the making of the world's largest free literature festival. It was followed by a reading from Dalrymple's *The White Mughals* with renditions by





vocalist Vidya Shah. Guests were mesmerised as Dalrymple read from a section on the celebrated and tragic love story of James Achilles Kirkpatrick, an 18th century British resident to the Hyderabad court, and noblewoman Khair-un-Nissa. Shah juxtaposed his powerful narration with hypnotic music from the Hyderabad court of that time and the poetry of the great courtesan Mah Laqa Bai Chanda. A preview event in Delhi is set to take place on 12th December.

As in previous years, the forthcoming edition of the Festival will collaborate with major Indian and global brands in order to envisage and curate a vast canvas of ideas in programming for discerning audiences and followers. Apart from ZEE, the title partner, and Cox & Kings, venue partner, continuing to share the Festival's inclusive vision, Rajasthan Tourism once again supports the Festival and helps bring alive the state's magnificent heritage. Dr. Rajen Kilachand of the Dubai-based Dodsai Group collaborates with the Festival for the very first time this year.

The Getty Foundation, the British Council, the Aga Khan Foundation and Nordic countries too have come together to support and strengthen the Festival. Harvard University Press, The Murty Classical Library, Westland, Kindle Direct Publishing, Avid Learning and Kingfisher (as Good Times Partner) have also partnered with the Festival.

"We take immense pride in being an integral part of the world's largest free literary festival. It is heartening to see the overwhelming support the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival receives from all quarters, the Government, the authors, corporate sponsors and last but not least, the audience that inspires us to do our best year after year. Cultural philanthropy will be a focus for us at ZEE going forward, as we recognise the need for public-private partnerships to revive and propagate the arts," said Shreyasi Goenka, Content Adviser, DNA.

Speaking on the occasion, author and Festival Co-Director Namita Gokhale said, *"I have had a long personal association with Mumbai, and I am thrilled and delighted to be here for the ZEE Jaipur*





Literature Festival curtain raiser in this brilliant, beautiful city with its vibrant tradition of creativity and culture spanning film and theatre, literature and the arts.”

Writer and Festival Co-Director William Dalrymple said, “I am very thrilled to launch our line-up and to perform White Mughals with Vidya Shah in Mumbai. The audiences that come to ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival always contain a large number of Mumbai literature-lovers and our list of star writers is always full of leading Mumbai literati. So, it is entirely appropriate that we should be unveiling our list in the magnificently restored Royal Opera House, Mumbai. We hope to see more Mumbaikars than ever at the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival 2018 and I look forward to welcoming them at the Diggi Palace from the 25th to 29th January 2018.”

Sanjoy K. Roy, Managing Director of Teamwork Arts, which produces the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival, said, “We are delighted to preview ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival in Mumbai and present a flavour of what we have to offer at India’s biggest arts event.”

In line with the Festival’s core values to serve as a democratic, non-aligned platform offering free and fair access, entry is free and open to all.

Attendees also have the choice to purchase Festival Delegate Packages, which offer a special experience of the Festival and will take them on a compelling cultural journey. A Festival Delegate pass guarantees access to the Delegate Lounge, dedicated sessions, free entry to world music performances at the Music Stage, invitations to cultural evenings at heritage venues like the majestic Amber Fort and the Hawa Mahal, official Festival merchandise, lunches and dinners with authors and fellow delegates, a cocktail evening and much more.





ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival 2018 - Speaker List

Updated 07.12.17

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Abhijit Kothari | 21. Elizabeth Chatwin | 41. Pranay Lal |
| 2. Gerður Kristný
Guðjónsdóttir | 22. Gaurav Solanki | 42. Raghvendra Singh |
| 3. Lorenzo Angeloni | 23. Giorgio Montefoschi | 43. Robert Dessaix |
| 4. Rajdeep Sardesai | 24. Hansda Sowvendra
Shekhar | 44. Rohan Murty |
| 5. Swapan Dasgupta- | 25. Ikram Rajasthani | 45. Samhita Arni |
| 6. Adrian Levy | 26. Javed Akhtar | 46. Sampat Saral |
| 7. Akshaya Mukul | 27. Julia Donaldson | 47. Sampurna Chatterji |
| 8. Amish | 28. Kiran Nagarkar | 48. Shabana Azmi |
| 9. Anne Cheng | 29. Lathika George | 49. Snigdha Poonam |
| 10. Anthony Horowitz | 30. Leonora Miano | 50. Soha Ali Khan |
| 11. Anu Singh | 31. Lisa Randall | 51. Sreenivasan Jain |
| 12. Arundhati Subramaniam | 32. Lucy Hughes-Hallett | 52. Suchita Malik |
| 13. Ashwin Sanghi | 33. Makarand Paranjape | 53. Suki Kim |
| 14. Avinash Das | 34. Maya Jasanoff | 54. Tishani Doshi |
| 15. Bachi Karkaria | 35. Mira Nair | 55. Tracey Spicer |
| 16. Cathy Scott-Clark | 36. Nand Bhardwaj | 56. Tridip Suvrud |
| 17. Charmaine Craig- | 37. Nicholas Shakespeare | 57. Vimlesh Sharma |
| 18. Chika Unigwe | 38. Paramita Satpathy | 58. Vishal Bhardwaj |
| 19. Chintan Chandrachud | 39. Peter Bergen | 59. Vivek Shanbhag |
| 20. Chitra Mudgal | 40. Pragy Tiwari | 60. Yotam Ottolenghi |

-- ENDS --



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NOTES TO MEDIA PERSONS

Information on **Registration** for the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival can be found here:
<https://jaipurliteraturefestival.org/media>

For **media enquiries** on the Jaipur Literature Festival, please contact Edelman India:
IndiaJLF@edelman.com

About the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival 2018

Described as the 'greatest literary show on Earth' and the 'Kumbh of literature', the ZEE 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 booklovers 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.

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 invite speakers to take part in the five-day programme set against the backdrop of Rajasthan's stunning cultural heritage and the Diggi Palace in the state capital Jaipur.

The Festival showcases a range of voices from India and abroad.

Past speakers have ranged from Nobel Laureates J.M. Coetzee, Orhan Pamuk and Wole Soyinka, Man Booker Prize winners Ian McEwan, Margaret Atwood and Paul Beatty, Sahitya Akademi winners Girish Karnad, Gulzar, Javed Akhtar, M.T. Vasudevan Nair as well as the late 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 and Thomas Piketty.

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

Website: www.jaipurliteraturefestival.org

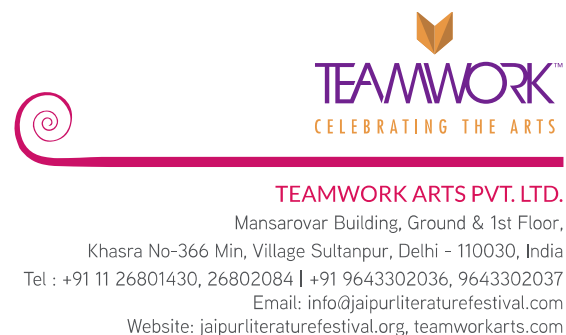
About Teamwork Arts

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 literary gatherings, the annual [ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival](#), the [Ishara International Puppet Festival](#) and the annual [Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards \(META\) and Festival](#) in New Delhi, 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, [India@70 2017: Year of Culture in the United Kingdom](#), and many more.

Website: www.teamworkarts.com



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