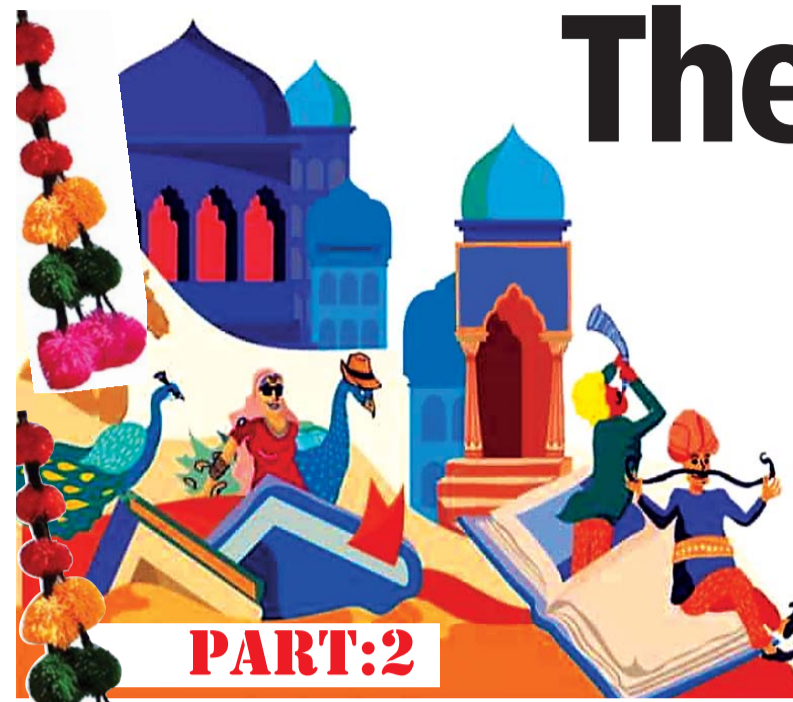


Freethinkers Day

Freethinkers Day falls on the birthday of Thomas Paine, a prominent thinker whose work and publications, promoting a philosophy of Enlightenment, heavily influenced the course of the American and French revolutions. Although he was English-born, Paine was a courageous man whose life and work was an inspiration for those who wanted to find their independence (particularly from his native land of England). Particularly, his efforts promoted the rejection of abstract authority that embodied power and self-promotion over reason.

The Mela Fete Bazaar Exponentially

A notable feature of JLF 2025 is its commitment to linguistic diversity. Sessions will be conducted in multiple Indian languages including Hindi, Bengali, Rajasthani, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Odia, Sanskrit, Assamese, Malayalam, Marathi, Punjabi, and Urdu. This initiative not only broadens the festival's reach but also celebrates India's rich tapestry of languages, making literature accessible to a wider demographic. The event will showcase works in 26 languages, including 13 Indian and 13 international languages, highlighting the importance of multilingual appreciation.



PART:2



Shruti Kothari

Jaipur Literature Festival will continue its tradition of fostering literary thought and engaging with the most pertinent global themes, albeit a little out of reach to the college enthusiast. A little bit out of the easy way and more expensive than the pocket allowance of the student. More circus-spect and the riff-raff shall stay away. There will be space for intellectual engagement, where ideas are debated and stories shared, more quietly. The halls will have better acoustics, and warmer. My mother, and also my father, have been to this extravaganza earlier, and are iffy about it this time. They have been tempted by me to attend the books bonanza in languages other than English. I hope they will listen to me.

But the Jaipur Literature Festival is not just about books, it's a cultural extravaganza. The event integrates music, art, and the traditional crafts of Rajasthan into its fabric. From Khartal maestro Bhungar Khan to performance artists at the heritage evening at Amer Fort, JLF 2025 will be a sensory feast. That is planned as it used to be. The festival's commitment to showcasing local culture is evident in the colourful bazaar, set up by local artisans, offering everything from handmade jewellery to traditional Rajasthani attire. So now, it is truly a mela, fete, bazaar, whichever you prefer, all in one. Additionally, the festival includes a dedicated music stage, where artists from various genres perform, adding a musical dimension to the literary discussions.

Geetanjali Shree



Geetanjali Shree, also known as Geetanjali Shree, is an Indian Hindi-language novelist and short-story writer based in New Delhi. She is the author of several short stories and five novels. Geetanjali Shree made history by winning the 2022 International Booker Prize for translated fiction, with her novel 'Ret Samadhi' (Tomb of Sand), becoming the first South Asian non-English language novelist to receive this accolade. Translated into English by Daisy Rockwell, the novel follows the life of an 80-year-old Partition survivor, who crosses borders to revisit her roots. The novel was also shortlisted for the Emile Guimet Prize.



Her first story, 'Bel Patra' (1967), was published in the literary magazine 'Hans' and was followed by a collection of short stories 'Anugoonj' (1991).
 • Our City, that Year
 • Where Does Fiction Come From
 • David Nicholls, V. V. Ganeshanathan
 Geetanjali Shree in conversation with Nandini Nair
 Feb 01, 2025 | 2:00 PM - 2:50 PM
 CHARBAGH

#JLF2025

Akshata Murty is the enigmatic billionaire heiress who became Britain's First Lady. A businesswoman and heiress to a fortune worth billions, she has lived a life divided between three continents. Her father founded one of India's biggest companies, Infosys, while she launched her own eponymous clothing label. Akshata Murty is passionate about education and the positive effects it has on young people. During her time, living in Downing Street, she launched 'Lessons at 10.' This initiative provided children from schools across the United Kingdom with a unique opportunity to go behind the famous black door of Number 10 and learn important life lessons from special guests. She is also a keen supporter of the veteran community in the United Kingdom.

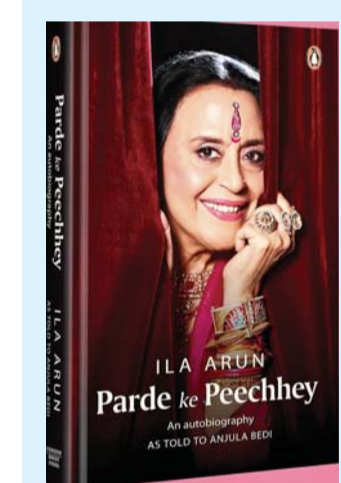
Akshata Murty



Akshata spent over a decade investing in early-stage consumer-focused British companies. Originally from India, Akshata obtained her undergraduate degree from Claremont McKenna College and an MBA from Stanford University. She is on the board of Claremont McKenna College and was previously a Trustee of the San Francisco Exploratorium.

Akshata is mother to two girls, Krishna and Anoushka, who are 12 and 13, and is married to Rishi Sunak, MP.
 • My Mother, Myself
 Sudha Murty and Akshata Murty in conversation
 Feb 01, 2025 | 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM
 FRONT LAWN

Ila Arun



Ila Arun is an Indian actress, TV personality and Rajasthani folk-pop singer, known for her works in Hindi cinema, and Indian pop. She has appeared in many prominent Bollywood films such as Lamhe, Jodhaa Akbar, Shaadi Ke Side Effects and Begum Jaan. Arun was born on 15 March, 1954 at Jodhpur in Rajasthan. She hails from Jaipur.

Jaipur Literature Festival. The city of Jaipur lays a significant role in her story, it's where she spent her formative years, a backdrop to many of her cherished memories, and the place that profoundly shaped her artistic identity. With accolades in Bollywood, international cinema, and a celebrated career as a playback singer, Ila's contribution to the arts has spanned decades. Her memoir will not only chronicle her personal journey, but also reflect on her vast experiences as a writer, composer, and cultural ambassador, highlighting, among other achievements, her founding of the Surnai theatre group, her yearly Ibsen Festival in Mumbai, and being honoured by H.M. King Harald V of Norway with the 'King's Order of Merit-Knight 1st Class.'

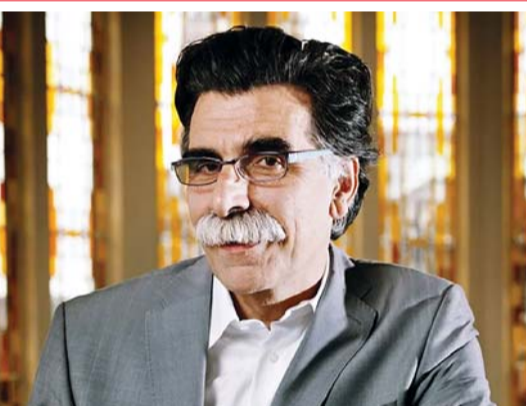
John Vaillant

John Vaillant (born in 1962) is an award-winning American Canadian writer and journalist, whose work has appeared in The New Yorker, The Atlantic, National Geographic, and Outside. He has written both non-fiction and fiction books. His most recent book, 'Fire Weather: On the Front Lines of a Burning World,' was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the U.S. National Book Award, and was named one of the



ten best books of 2023 by The New York Times. It also won Britain's Beilie Gifford Prize and Canada's Shaughnessy-Cohen Prize. Vaillant was born and raised in Massachusetts and has lived in Vancouver since 1998. He is the son of Harvard psychiatrist and social scientist George Eman Vaillant, and grandson to the famed archaeologist, George Clapp Vaillant.
 • The Earth on Fire
 Sunil Amrith and John Vaillant in conversation with Mridula Ramesh, introduced by Deputy Commissioner for Canada to India, Geoffrey Dean
 Feb 02, 2025 | 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM
 CHARBAGH

Kader Abdolah



Kader Abdolah is the pen name of Hossein Sadadi Ghannamghani Farahani. Opposed to the rule of the last Shah and that of the ayatollahs who followed, Abdolah was forced to leave Iran as a political refugee in 1988. He now lives in Holland and writes in Dutch, and left to literary fame after 2005's 'House of the Mosque.' That novel, 'My Father's Notebook' (2000), and 'The King' (2014), have appeared in English, and he has been acclaimed as 'moving and illuminating' (Publishers Weekly), 'captivating and distinctive' (TLS), 'poignant and colourful' (The Economist), and 'clean and lyrical' (Kirkus Reviews).
 • Its Dutch to Me
 Kader Abdolah and Benjamin Moser in conversation with Georgina Godwin
 Jan 31, 2025 | 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM
 SURYA MAHAL

Kailash Satyarthi



Kailash Satyarthi (born on 11 January, 1954) is an Indian social reformer, who campaigned against child labour in India and advocated the universal right to education. Children's rights activist, Kailash Satyarthi, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 'focusing attention on the grave exploitation of children for financial gain.' Another important reason was that he followed the non-violent tradition of Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi. The Peace Prize laureate was born to a high-caste family. He completed a degree in



electrical engineering, but soon gave up his career and his high-caste name, Sharma. Instead, he called himself Satyarthi, which means 'seeker of truth.' Satyarthi founded



the Save the Childhood Movement and the GoodWeave organisation, which certifies carpet manufacturers, who do not use child labour in their production. As of 2014,



Satyarthi and his colleagues had freed 83,000 children from slavery. In 1998, Satyarthi led a global march against child labour. This protest helped

spur the United Nations' International Labour Organisation (ILO) to adopt a convention, protecting children against exploitation and hazardous work.
 • FIRST EDITION: 'Diyasalai' by Kailash Satyarthi in conversation with Puneeta Roy, launch by Namita Gokhale
 Jan 30, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM
 BAITHAK
 To be continued...
 rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com

MUSIC EVENINGS AT JLF

Whether you're a connoisseur of classical traditions, a fan of fusion, or simply a lover of great music, the Jaipur Music Stage has something for everyone.

#JLF



Kamakshi Khanna.

Sushela Raman.



Tusharika Singh
Freelancer Writer and City Blogger

As the Pink City gears up for the 18th edition of the Jaipur Literature Festival, music lovers have an equally exciting reason to rejoice. Running parallel to the literary extravaganza, the Jaipur Music Stage (JMS) promises three unforgettable evenings of eclectic sounds, cultural rhythms, and unparalleled performances from January 30th to February 1st, 2025.

31st January : Soulful Rhythms

The second evening is dedicated to soul-stirring performances that bridge genres and geographies, embodying the essence of global fusion. Kamakshi Khanna, known for her soothing voice and deeply personal lyrics, will enchant audiences with her unique mix of pop, R&B, soul, and folk influences. Sushela Raman and Sam Mills, pioneers in cross-cultural music, will take the stage alongside Nathoo Lal Solanki, a 13th-generation master of the Nagada, and Chugge Khan, a celebrated performer of Rajasthani folk and Sufi traditions. This powerhouse ensemble will deliver an exhilarating fusion of Rajasthani folk, world music, and experimental sounds, transporting the audience to new sonic dimensions.

1st February : The Grand Finale



Kailash Kher.

30th January: A Celebration of Khusrau and Kabir

The opening night sets a poetic tone with a tribute to two timeless literary and spiritual icons, Sufi poet Amir Khusrau and mystic-philosopher Kabir Das. Their profound legacies will be reimagined through music, offering a journey into India's cultural and spiritual ethos. The Amir Khusrau Project by Abhijit Pohankar will interpret Khusrau's

mystical verses with the artist's signature blend of Indian classical fusion and contemporary melodies, showcasing his expertise as a keyboard virtuoso. Kabira Khada Bazaar Mein by Dastan LIVE will seamlessly blend Kabir's lyrical wisdom with an edgy mix of poetry, folk, and rock elements, creating a mesmerizing musical narrative.

The Jaipur Music Stage 2025 concludes with a spectacular finale, promising an electrifying mix of classical depth and contemporary vibrancy. Hrishii, acclaimed for his genre-defying fusion of classical and popular music, will present an innovative set that pushes musical boundaries. The evening culminates with Kailash Kher's *Kailasa*, a band celebrated for its distinctive blend of traditional instruments and modern beats. Frontman Kailash Kher's soulful, powerful voice is bound to leave a lasting impression, making the finale a fitting crescendo to this musical celebration. The Jaipur Music Stage is more than just a place for literature-enthusiasts to unwind after an exhilarating day of talks, it is a musical confluence, opening audiences up to new sounds. A night market, with a range of merchandise and diverse cuisines, will add sizzle to this unique medley of the popular and the subtle. The tickets for the Jaipur Music Stage can be booked online.



Kabira Khada Bazaar Mein.

Championing Linguistic Diversity

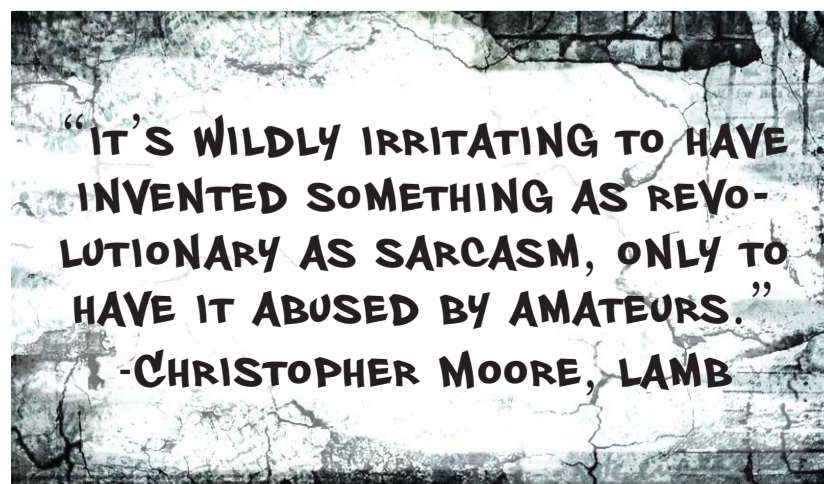
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Sustainability at the Heart

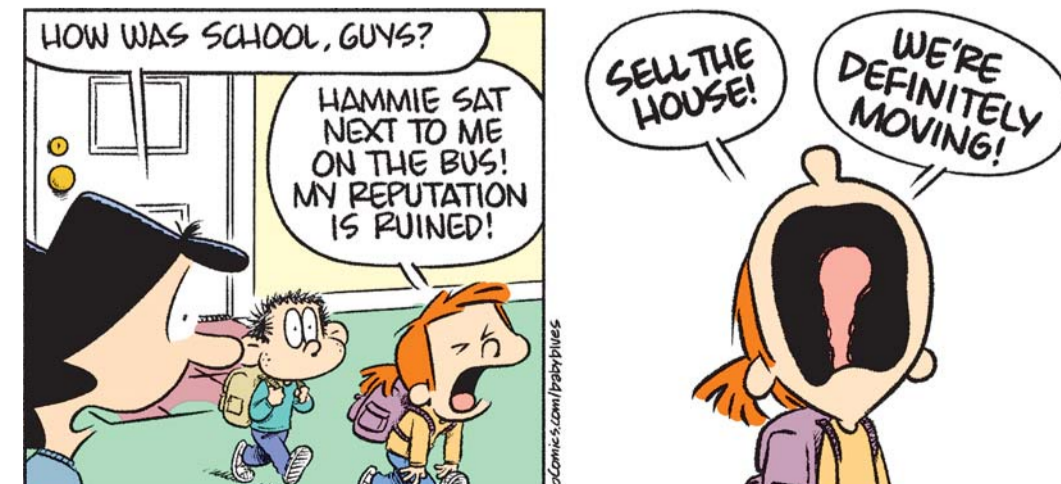
With an increasing global consciousness towards environmental issues, JLF has taken steps towards sustainability. The 2025 edition will focus on environmentally-conscious practices, aiming to reduce the carbon footprint of such a large gathering. This includes initiatives like minimizing waste, promoting digital over physical resources, wherever possible, and encouraging green transport options for attendees. This year's festival will be a testament to how cultural events can also lead in environmental stewardship. A host of authors and thinkers will present their latest works, enriching discussions with fresh ideas and perspectives. So, where do we make the bedtime to what's offering? Let us take a look!



THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman