

Curtains up @ JLF 2025

The Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) has always been a platform for the convergence of literary luminaries, sparking discussions and debates within the Indian writing community. With its eighteenth edition commencing today, all eyes are on how the event is going to perform this season. Literary enthusiasts and organizers alike are curious to witness the crowd turnout, the reception of dignitaries, the culinary offerings, and the overall ambiance. Expectations are high as attendees eagerly anticipate the festival's ability to elevate its stature and resonate with both seasoned attendees and newcomers. While the excitement builds to engage with diverse audiences, savour delectable delicacies, peruse merchandises, and revel in musical performances, the lineup of dignitaries adds another layer of anticipation to this season's JLF experience.



Shruti Kothari

The lineup of speakers, who have written books of remarkable value, is growing. In fact this time, they are quite a nice number, crossing three hundred. The JLF is fast becoming the venue for book releases, and publisher-author conclave. The business of writing is refined by the storytelling that each venue offers. This festival serves as an essential meeting point, a vibrant crossroad, where narratives from diverse geographies, cultures, and perspectives intertwine. It's a space where conversations around vital ideas are not simply presented but actively engaged with. The new arena is going to be 'Bookmark', a platform for budding authors looking for publishers, to find each other. It seems that this is going to take off more healthily than any other effort at JLF. Through all these changes, however, the core mission of the Jaipur Literature Festival remains unwavering, to celebrate the magic and profound influence of the written word, fostering a lasting appreciation for the art of storytelling in all its forms.

Diverse Themes and Engaging Sessions

JLF 2025 is set to explore a multitude of themes that resonate with contemporary societal discourses.

- **Democracy and Equality:** Sessions will delve into the enduring pursuit of justice and the realities underlying constitutional ideals, fostering critical conversations on governance and civil rights.
- **Crime Fiction:** This segment will captivate audiences with narratives filled with mystery and suspense, highlighting the genre's evolution and its cultural impact.
- **Biographies and Memoirs:** Attendees can anticipate intimate glimpses into extraordinary lives, offering perspectives that inspire and provoke thought.
- **Gastronomy:** For culinary enthusiasts, discussions will celebrate food traditions and flavours that bridge cultures, emphasizing the unifying power of cuisine.
- **Theatre, Cinema, History, and Culture:** A broad spectrum of sessions will present diverse viewpoints, honouring the narratives that shape our shared heritage.

As we move forward on our journey, let's continue to learn about the distinguished individuals and award winners attending the event.



Venki Ramakrishnan

Venkatraman 'Venki' Ramakrishnan is a Nobel Prize-winning biologist, whose many scientific contributions include his work on the atomic structure of the ribosome. As the site within living cells where genetic information is read to synthesise proteins from amino acids, improved understanding of the ribosome has yielded many fundamental biological insights.

He determined the atomic structure of the 30S ribosomal subunit followed by structures of the entire ribosome in many different states and in complexes with several antibiotics. More recently, he has been using electron microscopy to visualise ribosomes in action in higher organisms. This work has advanced our understanding of how the ribosome works and how antibiotics inhibit it.



In the past, he has also worked on histone and chromatin structure, which help us to understand how DNA is organised in cells.

Venki received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his work on ribosomal structure and was knighted in 2012. He is a Member of the US National Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina and EMBO, and a Foreign Member of the Indian National Science Academy. He was President of the Royal Society from November 2015 until November 2020.

- **Inaugural Ceremony**
Address by Namita

Gokhale, William Dalrymple, Sanjoy K. Roy and Priya Agarwal Hebbur.

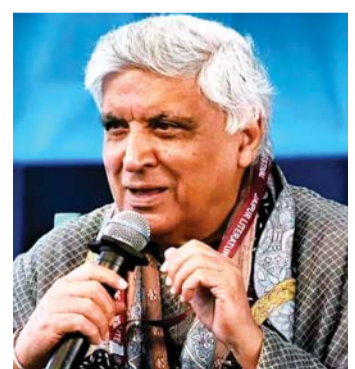
Keynote: Bridging the Divide between the Arts and Sciences: Venki Ramakrishnan
Jan 30, 2025 | 9:50 AM - 10:50 AM
FRONT LAWN

- **Why We Die: The New Science of Ageing and the Quest for Immortality**
Venki Ramakrishnan in conversation with Roger Highfield
Feb 01, 2025 | 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM
FRONT LAWN

Javed Akhtar

Son of well-known Urdu poet and film lyricist, Javed Akhtar and Safia Akhtar, teacher and writer, Javed Akhtar belongs to a family lineage that can be traced back to seven generations of writers. The highly respected Urdu poet, Majaz was his mother's brother and the work of Muzter Khairabadi, his grandfather, is looked upon as a milestone in Urdu Poetry.

Along with his ex-partner, Salim, he scripted super-hits like Zanjeer, Deewar, Sholay, Haathi Mere Saathi, Seeta Aur Geeta, Don, Trishul, etc. Salim-Javed, as a writer-duo, gave to Indian Cinema the memorable persona of the 'Angry Young Man.'



After the split from his partner Salim (in 1981), he has written a list of successful films. Notable among them are Sagar, Mr. India, Betaab, Arjun and Lakshya.

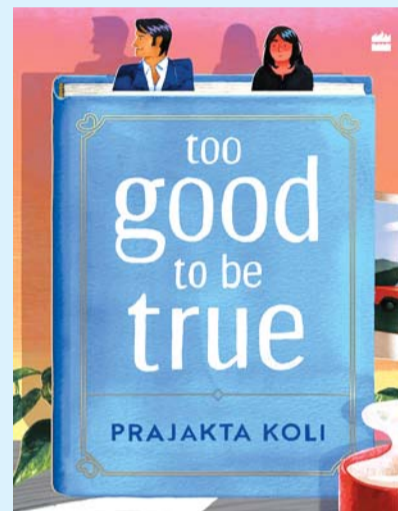
Javed Akhtar started writing Urdu poetry in 1980. His first collection of *Nazms and Ghazals* entitled, 'TARKASH' had a very successful release in 1995. It is already in its ninth edition in Hindi, and fifth edition in Urdu.

It has received rave reviews both as a book and as India's first audiobook (available on cassettes and CD) brought out by PLUS MUSIC. The audiobook has sold more than a hundred thousand copies.

- **Gyan Seepyan: Pearls of Wisdom**
Javed Akhtar in conversation with Atul Tiwari
Jan 30, 2025 | 2:00 PM - 12:50 PM
FRONT LAWN

#JLF2025

Prajakta Koli



Prajakta Koli, born on 27 June, 1993, is an Indian YouTuber and actress. She is also known for her roles in *Mismatched* and *Jug Jugg Jeeyo*, she will release her debut novel, *Too Good To Be True*, in 2025. Prajakta is the UNDP's first Indian Youth Climate Champion and serves on the Gates Foundation's Goalkeepers advisory group. A voice for climate action and girls' education, she has featured in Michelle Obama's Emmy-winning docuseries.

Koli began her career as an intern at Fever 104 FM radio station in Mumbai, and launched a YouTube channel. Prajakta launched her channel *Mostly Sane* in February 2015. Koli is now a leading digital creator, actor, and activist with over 17 million followers. Known for her roles in *Mismatched* and *Jug Jugg Jeeyo*, she will release her debut novel, *Too Good To Be True*, in 2025. Prajakta is the UNDP's first Indian Youth Climate Champion and serves on the Gates Foundation's Goalkeepers advisory group. A voice for climate action and girls' education, she has featured in Michelle Obama's Emmy-winning docuseries.

- **Too Good to be True**
Prajakta Koli in conversation with Priyanka Khanna
Jan 31, 2025 | 3:00 PM - 3:50 PM
FRONT LAWN

Justice R.S. Chauhan

Raghvendra Singh Chauhan (born on 24 December, 1959) is an Indian judge. He is former Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court and Telangana High Court. He has also served as Acting Chief Justice of Telangana High Court and Judge of Telangana High Court, Karnataka High Court and Rajasthan High Court.



Justice R. S. Chauhan is B.A., LL.B. He started his career as an Advocate on 19 November, 1983 in the Rajasthan High Court. His field of specialization is in criminal and service matters.

He was appointed an Additional Judge of the Rajasthan High Court on 8 November, 2018.

- **Democracy and Equality: The Constitution Story**
Ashwani Kumar, Arghya Sengupta, Saurabh Kirpal and Nitya Ramakrishnan in conversation with R.S. Chauhan
Jan 30, 2025 | 2:00 PM - 2:50 PM
FRONT LAWN
- **Icnic Trees, Fragrant Flowers**
S. Natesh and Justice R. S. Chauhan in conversation with Mridula Ramesh
Jan 31, 2025 | 2:00 PM - 2:50 PM
DURBAR HALL

A.R. Venkatchalapathy

A. R. Venkatchalapathy is a Professor at the Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai, and is a historian and Tamil writer.

Chalopathy took his PhD in History from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, after acquiring his undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Madras and Madurai-Kamaraj Universities. He has taught at Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, the University of Madras, the University of Chicago, and the National University of Singapore, and has held fellowships in Paris, Cambridge, and Harvard.



He has published widely on the social, cultural and intellectual history of colonial and postcolonial Tamil Nadu. His research interests converge at the intersection of history and literature, and his research focuses on the early history of nationalism, the social history of the Dravidian movement, caste politics, politics of language, and literary cultures.

An important dimension of his work is an attempt to create a critical social science discourse in Tamil. Towards this end, he has written/edited over 20 books in Tamil, combining scholarly discipline with literary flair.

- **Swadeshi Narratives**
A.R. Venkatchalapathy in conversation with Sunil Amrith
Feb 01, 2025 | 3:00 PM - 3:50 PM
SURYA MAHAL

Fiona Carnarvon

Fiona, 8th Countess of Carnarvon, is the wife of Geordie, 8th Earl of Carnarvon, and lives at Highclere Castle, known to millions around the world as 'Downton Abbey'. Lady Carnarvon is the best-selling author of six books, an historian, an international speaker, and a fundraiser in the UK and abroad. Her everyday life at Highclere include welcoming visitors to her home, creating events to support charities, restoration and management of the historic buildings, gardening, filming, and the marketing strategy of the Highclere brand, along with global endeavours such as Highclere Castle Gin. Her latest book, *The Earl and the Pharaoh*, was published to celebrate the centenary of the achievement of the 5th Earl of Carnarvon.



THE EARL AND THE PHAROAH
From the Real Downton Abbey to the Discovery of Tutankhamun

THE COUNTESS OF CARNARVON

- **Royal Recipe Traditions**
Rohini Rana and Fiona

Carnarvon in conversation with Meri Gokhale
Feb 02, 2025 | 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM
BAITHAK

- **The Inheritance of Legacy**
Radhikaraje Gaekwad, Fiona Carnarvon in conversation with Sharabi Basu
Feb 02, 2025 | 3:00 PM - 3:50 PM
CHARBAGH
Concluded.

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com

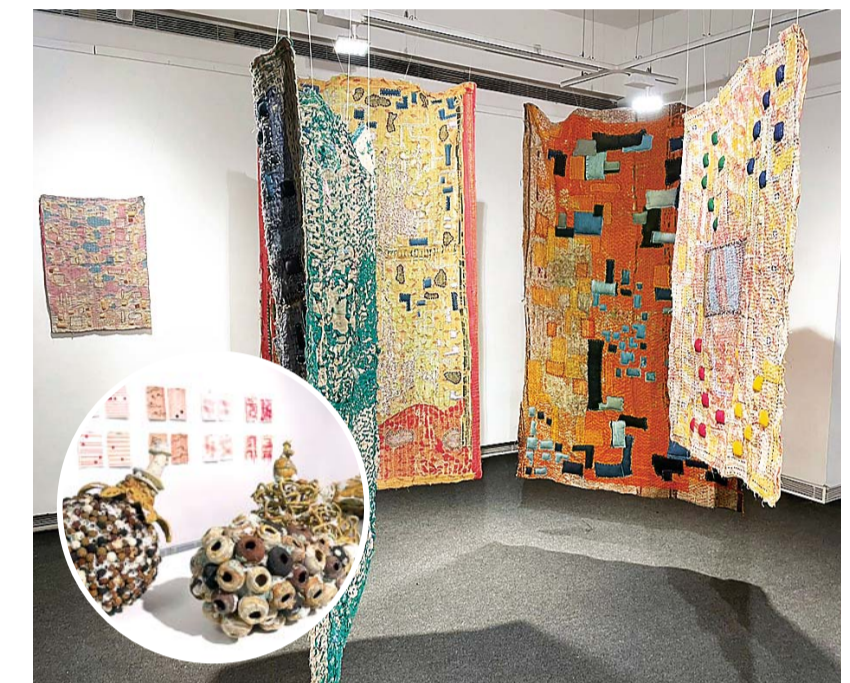
A Thunderous Roar of Art

Jaipur Art Week: Edition 4.0 is transforming the Pink City into a cultural epicenter, blending contemporary art, heritage, and community engagement. With exhibitions, workshops, and international collaborations, it is a celebration of creativity that bridges tradition and innovation.



Tusharika Singh
Freelancer Writer and City Blogger

Jaipur Art Week: Edition 4.0 is unfolding across Jaipur with a vibrant confluence of contemporary art, heritage, and community engagement. Spearheaded by the Public Arts Trust of India (PATI) and its visionary founder, Sana Rezwani, this edition is transforming the Pink City into a dynamic cultural canvas from January 27th to February 3rd, 2025. With a robust lineup of experiential exhibitions, site-specific installations, performances, and workshops, the event is spotlighting Jaipur's rich heritage venues while bridging gaps between art practices and local communities.



Expanding Horizons Through Collaboration

Carrying forward the legacy of previous iterations, Jaipur Art Week is expanding its horizons through meaningful collaborations. Emerging and mid-career contemporary artists are joining forces with acclaimed practitioners, to explore pressing themes like urbanization, social shifts, and resource extraction, all encapsulated in this year's evocative title, *Avato Bairo Baje*, translated as 'The Thunderous Roar of an Impending Storm.'

This poetic metaphor reflects the disruptive yet transformative spirit of the participating artists.

A Platform for Emerging Talent

The event's centerpiece, *Avato Bairo Baje*, is showcasing works by over 20 emerging and mid-career artists with connections to Rajasthan, alongside those of over 10 acclaimed artists. Selected through an open call that attracted over 250 applications, the participating artists underwent a rigorous jury process, guided by esteemed arts professionals like Darius Sami, Judith Greer, Rana Begum, and Jai Danani. Mentorship from celebrated artists like Nandan Ghiya and Manisha Gera Baswani has further nurtured creative journeys of these talents, emphasizing the festival's commitment to fostering artistic growth.

A Dynamic Programme of Events

The programme is bursting with unique offerings. At Hawa Mahal, Lorenzo Vitturi's collaboration with Jaipur Rugs' Manchara artisans is presenting a series of works blending traditional craftsmanship with modern aesthetics. At Albert Hall Museum, the Social Design Collective's large-scale installation is reimagining public spaces with sculptures inspired by Rajasthan's vernacular thresholds. Workshop participants are delving into Kum Kum Fernando's mythology-inspired creative processes and Gaspard Combes' exploration of materials' versatility supported by the Institut Français.

Accessibility and Inclusivity at the Core

PATI's commitment to accessibility is underlined in its completely free format. Artists are benefiting from mentorship and training sessions without any entry or administrative fees, ensuring inclusivity and opportunity for all, regardless of background.

Highlights of Artistic Innovation

Among the many highlights, the festival is debuting several groundbreaking collaborations. Jaipur-based artist Nandan Ghiya is working with local school students on 'Manthan,' a co-commission with Liverpool Biennial that intertwines heritage, colonial histories, and social media's pervasive influence. This project is setting the stage for a cultural dialogue between Jaipur and Liverpool in another remarkable presentation.

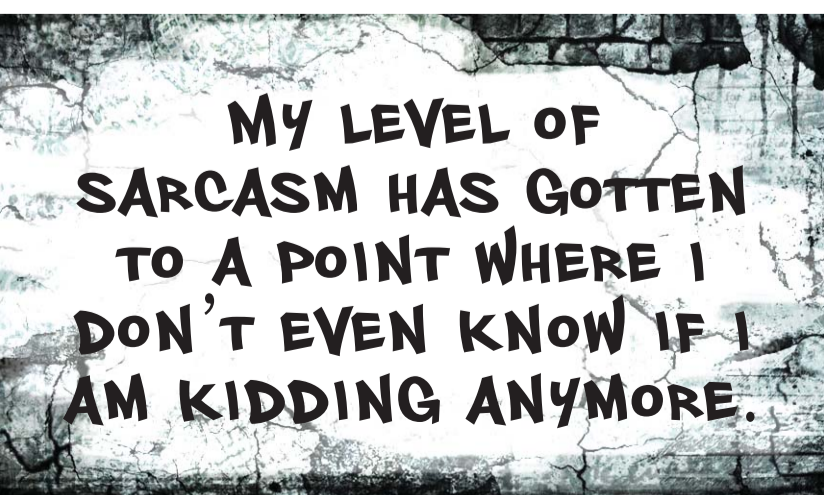
Manisha Gera Baswani's exhibition, developed in partnership with Gallery Espace, is inaugurating PATI's new gallery space in Jaipur. The show weaves connections across Asian traditions, further solidifying Jaipur's position on the global art map. Meanwhile, Erez Navi Pana's 'Inside Out' (2024), a profound exploration of Rajasthan's native and invasive plant species, is travelling to Jaipur after its inception during a residency in Jodhpur.

Exploring Jaipur's Creative Spirit

Art enthusiasts are immersing themselves in curated tours of private institutions like the Amrapali Museum and the Museum of Meenakari Heritage at the House of Sunita Shekhawat, which are illuminating Jaipur's contributions to contemporary and traditional craftsmanship. Workshops, performances, and panel discussions are resonating across venues like Albert Hall Museum, Jawahar Kala Kendra, and Hawa Mahal, offering interactive and educational experiences for all ages.



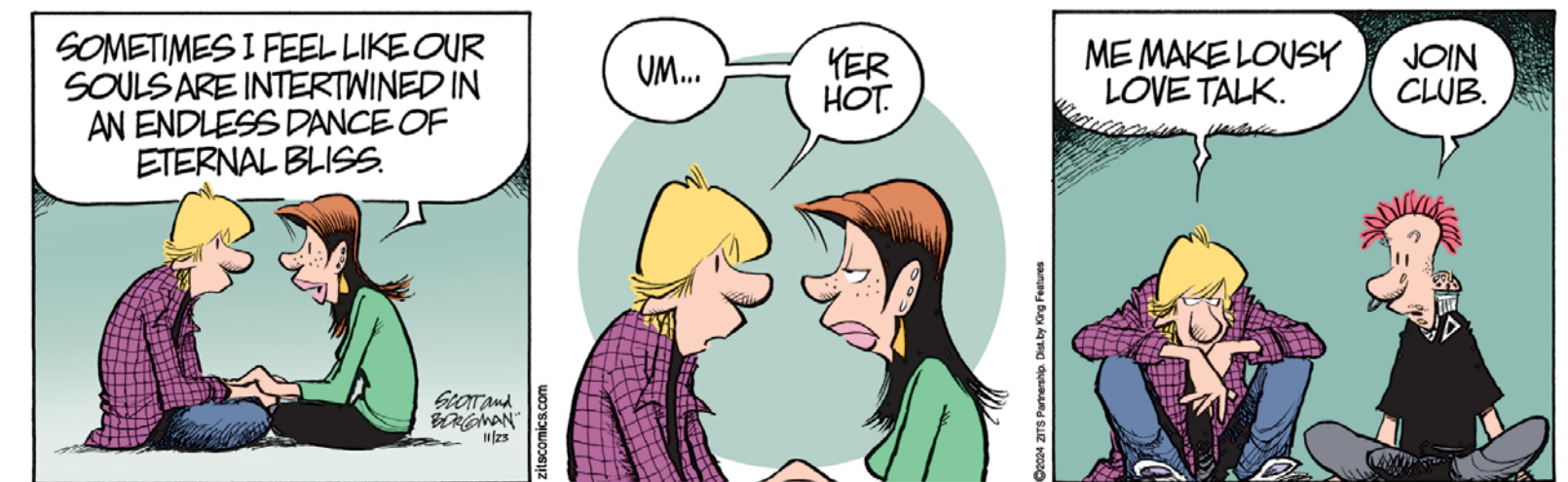
THE WALL



BABY BLUES



ZITS



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman