



# LITERATURE

## SILVER LININGS

### 25TH JAN, SATURDAY

**100 Not Out: Talat Mahmood**

DSL  
Garden

05:30 pm -  
06:30 pm



Join biographer **Sahar Zaman** as she celebrates a century of Talat Mahmood's legacy, accompanied by **Penaz Masani, Amish Tripathi** and **Dhiraj Singh**.

**Culture on the Sidewalk:  
Creating Cities of Freedom,  
Faith and Future**

DSL  
Garden

06:30 pm -  
07:30 pm



**Nancy Adajania, Dr. Aaron Bryant** and **Kalpna Sharma** discuss how art and cultural movements can promote human rights and equitable societies. **Dr. Dinyar Patel** leads them in this conversation, weaving together threads of history, humanity and hope.

**The Spirit of Kala Ghoda**

DSL  
Garden

07:30 pm -  
08:30 pm



In KGAF's silver jubilee edition, meet our bravehearts who have led the festival through its many challenges and transformations. **Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Saryu Doshi, Sangita Jindal, Abha Narain, Vikas Dilawari** and **Rajan Jayakar** join **Brinda Miller** as they launch a special book highlighting this journey over 25 fascinating years. Moderated by **Asad Lalljee**.

### 26TH JAN, SUNDAY

**Remembrance of  
Things Present**

DSL  
Reading  
Room

04:00 pm -  
05:00 pm

Discover how archiving preserves cultural legacies, family histories and broader narratives for future generations. **Ulka Chauhan** and **Samira Sheth** take us through their journey of documenting Goa's 300-year-old heritage homes.

**Mir Taqi Mir: More Than Meets  
the Eye**

DSL  
Reading  
Room

05:00 pm -  
06:00 pm

**Ranjit Hoskote** explores the politics of Mir Taqi Mir's couplets to reflect on our current questions around identity, home and belonging. **Nachiket Joshi** joins him in this journey through time, translation and rebellion.



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### Exploring Mumbai's Blue Heritage

DSL  
Garden

06:00 pm -  
07:00 pm



How has our city's relationship with water changed over time? **Sara Ahmed** considers this foundational question alongside **Minaz Ansari, Ajay Nayak, Sitaram Shelar** and **Sejal Mehta**. Together they share water wisdom and explore ways to create a sustainable and just future.

### Songs of the River with Shantanu Moitra

DSL  
Garden

07:00 pm -  
08:00 pm



Join **Shantanu Moitra** on a journey across language, photography and music, as he recounts his 3,000-kilometer cycling expedition from the Gangotri to the Gangasagar, and his artistic collaborations along the way.

## 27TH JAN, MONDAY

### Eat, Pray, Write: Discover the Memoir Within You

DSL  
Reading  
Room

03:00 pm -  
05:00 pm

This workshop by **Tara Khandelwal** will take you through the process of turning real life events and details into a well-structured and engaging story. Learn to develop a narrative arc, balance facts and feelings, and think from the audience's perspective while staying true to your journey.

### The Ark of Memory: Poems in the Face of Love & Loss

DSL  
Garden

05:00 pm -  
06:00 pm



**Vinita Agrawal, Akhil Katyal** and **Zilka Joseph** explore how their latest books serve as personal archives, with language as a repository for relationships, communities and even species.

### Kamgaar Aahe Me, Talpati Talwar Aahe: The Poetry of Narayan Surve

DSL  
Garden

06:00 pm -  
07:00 pm



**Jerry Pinto** dwells on his translations of Narayan Surve, the revolutionary poet, mill worker and schoolteacher. **Mustansir Dalvi** leads this candid discussion around Surve's unapologetic verses and fierce optimism.

### Crown and Quill: Royal Decree, Turmoil and Words from Tripura

Kitab  
Khana

06:00 pm -  
07:00 pm

His Highness the erstwhile King of Tripura, **Pradyot Kishore Manikya** discusses heritage conservation, political turmoil, royal lineage and running a successful magazine, with **Yamini Dand Shah**.



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**Not Just Dhan & Dhokla:  
The Gujaratis**

DSL  
Garden

07:00 pm -  
08:00 pm



**Salil Tripathi** offers a portrait of a community that spans history, politics, business and migrations. **Amrita Shah** joins him in a no-holds-barred charcha that is as deep as it is wide.

## 28TH JAN, TUESDAY

**'Heroes, Villains and  
Inbetweens: Everyday Lives,  
Extraordinary Characters'**

DSL  
Reading  
Room

03:00 pm -  
05:00 pm

Unleash your creativity and uncover the secrets behind creating realistic, complex, multidimensional characters that stay with your readers long after the story ends with **Aishwarya Javalgekar**.

**Happily Ever After  
(More or Less)**

Kitab  
Khana

05:00 pm -  
06:00 pm

If, as Khalil Gibran said, your joy is your sorrow unmasked, what does it truly mean to be happy? In this soulful discussion, **Ashdin Doctor**, **Sonali Gupta** and **Janki Santoke** navigate the space between grief and happiness.

**Kolatkar and Friends:  
A Poetry Crawl with  
Bombay Poets**

Starting  
point:  
Bagdadi  
Restaurant

04:30 pm -  
06:00 pm

Imagine bumping into Eunice de Souza and Adil Jussawalla at Samovar Cafe, Arun Kolatkar in the bars of Colaba? Join **Saranya Subramanian** for a walk through the by-lanes of Kala Ghoda inhabited by poets such as Namdeo Dhasal, Kaifi Azmi, Geive Patel and others.

**Art, Artifact, Artificial:  
Creativity and AI**

DSL  
Garden

06:00 pm -  
07:00 pm



Could the world's best art and literature be produced by AI one day? What are the consequences? **Anil Menon** brings together **Amrita Mahale**, **Appupen**, and **Gautam Bhatia** for a wild ride exploring creativity in the Age of the Artificial.

## 29TH JAN, WEDNESDAY

**Imagine there's no Heaven:  
Imagination and its Limits in  
Spec-Fic**

DSL  
Garden

05:00 pm -  
06:00 pm



Surreal biologies. Alternative societies. Fantasy worlds with iron rules. **Varun Mathew** talks with **Gautam Bhatia**, **Gigi Ganguly** and **Tashan Mehta** about the role of the imagination (and its limits) in their recent spec-fic novels.



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**Marriage, Murder and Mythology**  
with **Devdutt Pattanaik**

DSL  
Garden



06:00 pm -  
07:00 pm

Join **Devdutt Pattanaik** in this expansive session as he explores the stories of union and separation that shape our mythology.

## 30TH JAN, THURSDAY

**There's a Bluebird in my Heart**

Kitab  
Khana

05:00 pm -  
06:00 pm

Based on the verses of Charles Bukowski, Maya Angelou, Gulzar and others, Poetrusic's immersive performance explores the search for love. Performers: **Neeti Singhi, Shivali Parkash** and **Shubha Shah**.

**The Long and the Short of It**

DSL  
Garden



06:00 pm -  
07:00 pm

Which stories call for the short form and which ones need a novel for their telling? **Anindita Ghose** engages with **Prayaag Akbar** and **Murzban Shroff** about how their chosen forms shaped their recent books.

**Bole Kabir Burn Down Your House**

DSL  
Garden



07:00 pm -  
08:30 pm

**Shabnam Virmani** brings the timeless mystical provocations of Kabir to new light with her compilation of his poetry, anecdotes and stories. **Rajni Bakshi** joins her for this unique presentation that inspires a re-examination of the social and the spiritual.

## 31ST JAN, FRIDAY

**Conversation With Those Who Understand the Earth Best**

DSL  
Garden



05:00 pm -  
06:00 pm

**Sourav Roy**, CEO of Tata Steel Foundation, leads **Tsewang Nurboo**, **Mijing Nazary** and **Kiran Khalko** through this important and layered conversation.

**The Global and the Local:**  
**Marathi Kavita**

DSL  
Garden



06:00 pm -  
07:00 pm

Gobar has gone global and local has gone loco. In this spirited session, **Hemant Divale**, **Sachin Ketkar**, **Minakshi Patil** and **Saleel Wagh** reflect on how globalization has transformed Marathi poetry in the last few decades.



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### Pride and Pronoun: Modern Queer Narratives

DSL Garden 07:00 pm - 08:00 pm



**R. Raj Rao** and **Santa Khurai** examine how the queer narrative cannot be confined into neat categories — not even divisions of genre or form. **Harish Iyer** leads them through this liberating discussion on love in all its shades.

## 1ST FEB, SATURDAY

### Murder, She Wrote

DSL Garden 05:00 pm - 06:00 pm



Murder mysteries and thrillers have long been dominated by male writers and detectives. **Jane Borges** leads **Kalpana Swaminathan**, **Meeti Shroff Shah** and **Unmana** in a refreshing conversation on how their recent novels rewrite the rules —and the gaze— of the genre.

### Connecting Youth with Roots: Indian Languages, Literature and Performing Arts

Elphinstone College Quadrangle 05:00 pm - 06:30 pm



**G.N. Devy**, **Priita Mathur** and **Rajesh Tailang** explore contemporary movements in Indian literature, cinema, theatre and radio. **Yunus Khan** leads them in this through this panoramic interdisciplinary discussion.

### The Urdu Novel and its Discontents

DSL Garden 06:00 pm - 07:00 pm



Urdu literature is notable for its vital tradition of self-criticism. **Anjali Purohit**, **Rahman Abbas** & **Riyaz Latif** examine the state of the art in the Urdu Novel and what remains unwritten.

### Bridging Differences: Love and Hope in Sanskrit and Urdu

DSL Garden 07:00 pm - 08:00 pm



**Rakshanda Jalil**, **Anusha Rao** and **Suhass Mahesh** discuss how two major languages manifest love in all its avatars. **Supriya Nair** joins them in this exploration of the secular, the sacred and the sensual.

## 2ND FEB, SUNDAY

### A Tale of Two Cities




Kitab Khana 04:00 pm - 05:00 pm

Mumbai & New York City are like siblings separated at birth but bound by the same song of freedom and great expectations. **Nisha Nair-Gupta** dissects the influence these great cities have on writers and artists with **Mayur Tekchandany**, **Ria Mirchandani**, and **Shivantika Jain Kothari**.



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<b>Fables and Flavours</b>	YWCA, Fort	04:00 pm - 06:30 pm	Author of the culinary memoir 'Fabulous Feasts, Fables and Family' <b>Dr. Tabinda Jalil Burney</b> teams up with historian and Master Chef <b>Osama Jalali</b> to take you on a nostalgia trip, sharing childhood memories and recreating delicious traditional Aligarhi dishes from her book. Capacity: 25 pax
<b>Written On The Tongue</b>	DSL Garden 	05:00 pm - 06:00 pm	<b>Devashish Makhija, Rochelle Potkar</b> and <b>Anju Makhija</b> come together to dissolve the separations between page poetry and stage poetry. <b>Scherezade Siobhan</b> steers them in this mehfil with poems that are as modern as they are timeless.
<b>It was the Best of Times, It was the Worst of Times</b>	DSL Garden 	06:00 pm - 07:00 pm	How can privilege make way for equality? What does true pluralism look like? <b>Gurcharan Das</b> and <b>Vinutha Mallya</b> discuss the future of liberalism in this expansive session, as they explore why any extreme perspective comes with a short shelf life.
<b>Keep Moving with Milind Soman</b>	DSL Garden 	07:00 pm - 08:00 pm	<b>Roopa Pai</b> leads India's fittest family in a conversation on staying young in mind and body. <b>Usha Soman, Milind Soman, and Ankita Konwar</b> reflect on what keeps them moving and growing!

**Curators:** Pervin Saket, Anil Menon

**Team:** Aaliya Akhun, Kimaya Shringarpure, Anisha Lalwani, Smita Sahay, Dia Jhalani

**Partners:** US Consulate for 'Culture on the Sidewalk: Creating Cities of Freedom, Faith and Future', Asia Society for 'Bridging Differences: Love and Hope in Urdu and Sanskrit', Tata Steel Foundation for 'Conversation with Those Who Understand the Earth Best', EXIM Bank for 'Connecting Youth with Roots: Indian Languages, Literature and Performing Arts'.

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**Entry on first-come-first-served basis. Programmes are subject to change.**