

# **The Hindu Lit For Life 2026 Returns to Chennai on January 17 & 18**

Category: Business

written by International Khabar | January 14, 2026

# Love every bit of Lit.



Literature isn't bound by the page, It finds you in everything you love.

It moves us in the movies we watch, hums meaning in the songs we love, inspires us in the stories we tell each other, and shapes our perspectives every single day.

Literature finds its way into everyday experiences, but it's not every day we get to celebrate it.

So come, join the celebration of all things literature at *The Hindu Lit for Life 2026*.



**100+ speakers | 50+ sessions**



A.C. Grayling



Banu Mushtaq



D.Y. Chandrachud  
Former Chief Justice of India



Kiran Desai



Laura Spinney



Mari Selvaraj



Megha Majumdar



Satoshi Yagizawa



Shashi Tharoor



Shobhaa De

**January 17 & 18, 2026**  
9.00 am Onwards

Sir Mutha Venkatasubba Rao Concert Hall,  
The Hindu Pavilion & The Hindu Showplace,  
Lady Andal School premises, Chennai



Scan the QR code or visit [newsth.live/LFL2026](http://newsth.live/LFL2026) to register for the event.



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The Hindu Lit For Life, India's sharpest literature festival, returns for its 13<sup>th</sup> edition on January 17 and 18, 2026, at the Lady Andal School premises, Chennai.

The festival celebrates the many ways literature permeates everyday life shaping ideas, culture, creativity, and

conversations far beyond the written page. This year, over 100 acclaimed voices from India and across the world will come together in more than 50 sessions, conversations, and workshops, offering audiences a rich and immersive literary experience.

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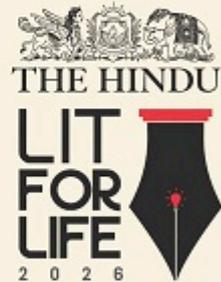
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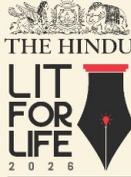


## **The Hindu – Lit for Life 2026**

The 2026 line-up features an exceptional mix of writers, thinkers, journalists, economists, historians, and cultural commentators. From Perumal Murugan and Banu Mushtaq's deeply human narratives and Shobhaa De's sharp cultural observations to Kiran Desai and Satoshi Yagisawa's intimate, borderless storytelling, the festival showcases literature in all its lived forms. Thought leaders such as A.C. Grayling, Shashi Tharoor, and Arvind Subramanian explore ideas around philosophy, democracy, and economics, while Laura Spinney bridges science, history, and narrative.

Lit For Life 2026 has already begun its journey beyond the main festival dates. In November and December 2025, Lit For Life Dialogues and Lit For Life Unplugged have taken the spirit of the festival into cities and communities, extending conversations beyond traditional auditoriums. Chennai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad witnessed engaging discussions led by voices such as Dr. Ambrish Mithal, Sanjaya Baru, Devina Mehra, Manu Joseph, Manu Pillai, Neha Dixit, and Arundhati Ghosh, spanning themes of health, wealth, power, history, identity, and contemporary relationships. Lit For Life Unplugged brought literature into intimate, vibrant spaces ranging from bookstores to pubs.

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**Programme Day 01** Saturday, January 17, 2026

Lady Andal School Premises, Chennai

## SIR MUTHA CONCERT HALL LADY ANDAL SCHOOL, CHENNAI

- 9.30 am to 8.45 am Inauguration
- 9.50 am to 10.40 am **Why The Constitution Matters**  
Former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud in conversation with N. Ravi
- 10.45 am to 11.35 am **The Undying Light: A Personal History of Independent India**  
Gopakrishna Gandhi in conversation with David Davidar
- 11.35 am to 11.45 am BREAK
- 11.45 am to 12.35 pm **The Meaning of (Almost) All Things**  
A.C. Grayling in conversation with Chandan Gowda
- 12.40 pm to 1.30 pm **Skewed Perception: Fighting Bias in Journalism**  
Parika Mishra and Samarth Subramanian in conversation with N. Ram
- 1.30 pm to 2.00 pm BREAK
- 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm **Unquiet Minds: A Generation in Crisis Conversations on building a better world for our children**  
Anil Bhatt, Avira Bhatt, and Shejia Sen in conversation with Nihanka Kaul Bhattacharya
- 3.05 pm to 3.55 pm **India's Path to Development**  
Arvind Subramanian and Devesh Kapur in conversation with Narendar Pani
- 3.55 pm to 4.05 pm BREAK
- 4.05 pm to 4.55 pm **Days and Nights at the Morisaki Bookshop**  
Satoshi Yagisawa in conversation with Rachna Singh Davidar
- 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm **The Tamils by Nirmala Lakshman: A Theatrical Reading**  
Artists: Anika Ratsam, Brahadkeshwar C. Chandiyar, Nandhini Subbukshmi, Revathy Kumar, Sarvesh Sridhar, and Tehzeeb Katarji  
Edited and Directed by Prasanna Rameswamy
- 6.05 pm to 6.55 pm **We, The People of India: Decoding a Nation's Symbols**  
T.M. Krishna in conversation with Suhrit Parthasarathy

## THE HINDU PAVILION LADY ANDAL SCHOOL, CHENNAI

- 9.45 am to 10.35 am **How to Reclaim India aka Bharat**  
Ashutosh and Sobhana K. Nair in conversation with Ziya us Salam
- 10.40 am to 11.30 am **The Joys and Challenges of Translating Imayam**  
Imayam and Prabha Sridevan in conversation with Kavitha Muradharan (Tamil)
- 11.35 am to 12.20 pm **In the Heart of The Country**  
Ghazala Wahab in conversation with Vaigheese K. George
- 12.25 pm to 1.25 pm **Diasporic Narratives of Relocation and Belonging**  
Amrita Shah, Sarasa Manickam, and Vijay Krishnamoorthy in conversation with Radha Hegde
- 1.25 pm to 2.00 pm BREAK
- 2.00 pm to 2.45 pm **Women, Know Your Rights**  
Manzai Chaudhuri in conversation with Vidya Singh
- 2.50 pm to 3.35 pm **Supercop!**  
Madhukar Zende in conversation with K.C. Vijaya Kumar
- 3.40 pm to 4.40 pm **Translation: The Bridge Over Lives and Landscapes**  
Chandan Gowda, Gowri Ramnarayan, and Vanamala Viswanatha in conversation with Mimi Krishnan
- 4.45 pm to 5.30 pm **A Guardian and A Thief**  
Megha Majumdar in conversation with Ranvir Shah
- 5.35 pm to 6.25 pm **Enter the Arena**  
Appusen and Perumal Murugan in conversation with Ramya Kannan (Bilingual)
- 6.30 pm to 7.15 pm **A Thousand Loves: Ways of Being Polyanorous**  
Arundhati Ghosh in conversation with Priya Ramani



## THE HINDU SHOWPLACE LADY ANDAL SCHOOL, CHENNAI

- 10.00 am to 10.50 am **In Bad Faith: Violence Against Women**  
Noige Senno in conversation with Priya Ramani
- 11.00 am to 11.45 am **Nowhere People**  
Manoranjan Byapari in conversation with Minakshi Thakur
- 12.00 noon to 12.50 pm **Life's Fleeting Moments: Poems and Songs**  
Ravi Shankar Elbeth
- 12.55 pm to 2.00 pm BREAK
- 2.00 pm to 2.50 pm **Love, Loss and Healing**  
Andalzeb Wajid in conversation with Soma Basu
- 3.00 pm to 3.50 pm **A Woman of No Consequence: Memory, Letters and Resistance in Madras**  
Kajipara Katurabaasen in conversation with Sreemathi Ramnath
- 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm **Footnotes from the Mahabharata**  
K. Srihita in conversation with Nikhita Kishan, Indrani Krishnasier, Geetha Lakshman, Smriti Pasameswar, and Mithula Chettur from The Madras Players will present a dramatised reading of excerpts from the book.



## WORKSHOPS

- GROUND FLOOR, ANNEXE BUILDING**
- 10.30 am to 12.30 pm **Beyond the Body: The philosophy of fitness and wholesome living**  
Prith Chawla
- LADY ANDAL SEMINAR HALL**
- 10.30 am to 11.30 am & 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm **Owning Your Digital Self in the AI Era**  
Shantanu Tungare
- 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm **The Many Lives of the Lotus: Between Sacred History and Contemporary Claims**  
Sheran Apparao



Scan to register for the event.



Scan to register for the workshops.

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## The Hindu – Lit for Life 2026 – Schedule – Day 1

Nirmala Lakshman, Curator, The Hindu Lit For Life and Chairperson, The Hindu Group, said, "The festival continues to reiterate that literature can go beyond the pages to light up one's life. As always, we have a scintillating line-up of

*speakers, whose writing and thoughts have inspired many. The festival offers everyone – speakers and the audience – a chance to engage and exchange ideas and experiences not just through the sessions and workshops but also through direct engagement.”*

The festival’s on-ground engagement continues in the weeks leading up to January, with initiatives such as:

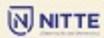
- **A mobile library** travelling across Chennai
- **Storytelling sessions** in government and private schools in Chennai
- Interactive formats including **treasure hunts, quizzes, and contests**

Speaking about the vision behind Lit For Life 2026, **Suresh Balakrishna, Chief Revenue Officer, The Hindu Group**, said, *“Lit For Life has always been more than a festival; it is a cultural platform that brings together ideas, audiences, and partners in meaningful ways. The theme ‘Love Every Bit of Lit’ reflects our belief that literature lives everywhere-in culture, public discourse, and everyday life. We are delighted to see Lit For Life grow beyond two days into a year-round engagement that creates value for communities, partners, and the larger ecosystem.”*

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**Programme**

Lady Andal School Premises, Chennai

**Day 02**

Sunday, January 18, 2026



Scan to register  
for the event.



Scan to register  
for the workshops.

## SIR MUTHA CONCERT HALL

LADY ANDAL SCHOOL, CHENNAI

- 9.30 am to 10.20 am **Heart Lamp: The stories behind the stories**  
International Booker Prize winner Barun Mazhiq in conversation with Parulja Srinivasan
- 10.20 am to 11.15 am **The Loneliness Of Scrias and Sunny**  
Kaan Desai in conversation with Nirmala Lakshman
- 11.15 am to 11.25 am **BREAK**
- 11.25 am to 12.15 pm **The Weight Loss Revolution**  
Dr. Anirish Mithal and Raj Ganpath in conversation with Shivani Vij
- 12.20 pm to 1.10 pm **The Sage Who Reimagined Hindukars**  
Shaali Tharoor in conversation with L.V. Narasimh
- 1.10 pm to 2.00 pm **BREAK**
- 2.00 pm to 2.50 pm **Sex, Sensuality, and Shobhaa De**  
Shobhaa De in conversation with Rosella Stephen
- 2.55 pm to 3.55 pm **Publishing in the Age of Infinite Voices: Curation or Choice?**  
Elizabeth Kuruvilla, Kamalika Gupta and Manasi Subramaniam in conversation with Rosella Stephen
- 4.00 pm to 4.50 pm **The Secret History of Words**  
Laura Spinney in conversation with Aeriia Ozukum
- 4.50 pm to 5.00 pm **BREAK**
- 5.00 pm to 5.50 pm **Why Dieting Made Us Fat: On Weight Loss, Metabolism and Why Food is not the Enemy**  
Rajata Dinkar in conversation with Shonali Muthalaly
- 5.55 pm to 6.45 pm **Crafting Stories from Life Experiences**  
Mari Selvaraj in conversation with Stalin Rajanganam (Tamil)



## THE HINDU PAVILION

LADY ANDAL SCHOOL, CHENNAI

- 9.30 am to 10.15 am **India and Her Futures**  
Gopalakrishna Gandhi in conversation with T.M. Krishna
- 10.20 am to 11.10 am **The Kashmir Connection**  
A.S. Dulat and Ziya us Salam in conversation with Sobhana K. Nair
- 11.15 am to 12.00 noon **The Chessmaster and His Moves**  
Vasavirathan Anand in conversation with K.C. Vijaya Kumar
- 12.05 pm to 1.05 pm **The Reservation You'll Never Get: India's Coolest Chefs, the Country's Hardest Tables and Why Everyone Wants In**  
Chef Kavan Kuttappa, Chef Hussain Shohrad, and Chef Vinesh Johny in conversation with Shonali Muthalaly
- 1.05 pm to 1.45 pm **BREAK**
- 1.45 pm to 2.35 pm **The Piece of Fiction**  
Andaleeb Wajid and Keshava Guha in conversation with Radhika Samthornom
- 2.40 pm to 3.40 pm **Poets on Poets**  
Ashwari Kumar and K. Srijata in conversation with Parviz Shah. Prize Giving Ceremony for the Poetry with Praveen Poetry Contest 2025
- 3.45 pm to 4.35 pm **Resilience and Hope: Women and Their Mental Health Journeys**  
Neha Kirpal and Dr. Lakshmi Narasimhan in conversation with Soma Basu
- 4.40 pm to 5.25 pm **Parivar: Icon and Iconoclast**  
A.R. Venkatasubramanian in conversation with Kavitha Muralidharan
- 5.30 pm to 6.20 pm **How to Become Wealthy At Any Age**  
Devina Mehra and Rohit Sarin in conversation with Lavanya Mohan
- 6.25 pm to 7.15 pm **The New Laws of Manu: Why The Poor Don't Kill Us**  
Manu Joseph

PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO CHANGE



## THE HINDU SHOWPLACE

LADY ANDAL SCHOOL, CHENNAI

- 10.30 am to 11.20 am **Icons Who Helped Build Modern India: M. Visvesvaraya and M.S. Swaminathan**  
Aparajith Ramnath and Piyambada Jayakumar in conversation with Ranjita Kannan
- 11.30 am to 12.20 pm **Are Your Gadgets Bringing You Down?: Back Health in the Workplace**  
Phil Chavala
- 12.30 pm to 1.20 pm **The Song of the Clay Pot**  
Suman Chandra Sekhar in conversation with Akhila Kishanourthy
- 1.20 pm to 2.00 pm **BREAK**
- 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm **Inside Outside**  
Janice Parlat and Jim Kasson in conversation with Aeriia Ozukum
- 3.15 pm to 4.05 pm **Re-imagining Stories**  
Deepa Shastri in conversation with Nandini Krishnan



## WORKSHOPS

- GROUND FLOOR, ANNEXE BUILDING**
- 10.30 am to 12.30 pm **Unlocking Wealth: Secrets to Getting Rich at Any Age**  
Rohit Sarin
- 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm **From Page to Stage: How to write a play**  
Govind Ramnarayan

## LADY ANDAL SEMINAR HALL

- 11.00 am to 12.30 pm & 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm **Screening of Mid Tamil Nada**  
Produced by Sundaram Festivals, directed by Kalpana Varma, with music by Ricky Raj and narration by Anand Sivaraj

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The Hindu Lit For Life 2026 continues to strengthen its position as a platform where literature meets society, culture, and commerce offering brands, institutions, and communities a unique opportunity to engage with informed, discerning audiences.

The Hindu Lit For Life is presented by The all-new Kia Seltos. In association with: Christ University, MITTE, Associate Partners: Orchids- The International School, Hindustan Group of Institutions, State Bank of India, IndianOil, Indian Overseas Bank, New India Assurance, Akshayakalpa, United India, ICFAI Group, Chennai Port Authority and Kamarajar Port Limited, Vajiram & Sons, Life Insurance Corporation of India, Mahindra University, Realty Partner: Casagranda, Education Partner: SSVM Institutions, State Partner: Government of Sikkim, Official Timekeeping Partner: Citizen, Regional Partner: DBS Bank India Ltd, Tourism Partner: Bihar Tourism, Bookstore Partner: Crossword and Water Partner: Repute.

For the detailed agenda, speaker line-up and registration, visit [www.thehindu.com/lit-for-life](http://www.thehindu.com/lit-for-life).

