



22 - 26  
JANUARY, 2026

AT THE ALIPORE MUSEUM  
Free Entry | No Registration Required

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## SCHEDULE

### DAY 1 | THURSDAY | 22<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY, 2026

KaLaM Lawns (next to Son Et Lumiere area, The Alipore Museum)

03:30 pm **INAUGURATION**

Readings from Mahasweta Devi's writings by Senjuti Mukherjee and Dana Roy. Inauguration by Banu Mushtaq and Barbara Kingsolver.

04:15 pm **ROMAN STORIES**

Jhumpa Lahiri on her tryst with Rome and her stories from the Eternal City. In conversation with Malavika Banerjee.

05:10 pm **HEART LAMP**

Banu Mushtaq on her International Booker Prize-winning collection of short stories. In conversation with Chinki Sinha.

06:15 pm **STOOD UP  
BY A STAND UP**

RJ Nilam steps in to discuss literature festivals, finding humour in dire situations and funny women. In conversation with Sandip Roy.

06:45 pm **UTTAM SHOTOBORSHO**

Moon Moon Sen, Sanjoy Mukhopadhyay and Srijit Mukherji on the mystique and mastery of Bengal's Mahanayak. In conversation with Balaji Vittal.

AfterWords at The Alipore Museum Courtyard

07:30 pm **MILE SUR...**

Sourendro and Soumyojit celebrate the diversity of India's musical landscape.

## DAY 2 | FRIDAY | 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY, 2026

### KaLaM Lawns (next to Son Et Lumiere area, The Alipore Museum)

11:00 am	<b>THE ART OF BEING FABULOUS</b>	Shalini Passi on her passion for art, the Bollywood wives series and the secret to her positivity. In conversation with Saionee Chakraborty.	
11:40 am	<b>NILA NILABJO</b>	Anupam Roy discusses his book on relationships and arguments. Readings and discussion with Sanchari Mookherjee.	
12:30 pm	<b>INVISIBLE INK</b>	Banu Mushtaq and Lucy Hannah in conversation with Mitakshara Kumari.	
01:10 pm	<b>MAIN HAR EK PAL KA SHAYAR HOON...</b>	Javed Akhtar on the role of poetry and the artiste in times of global change and strife. In conversation with Mudar Patherya.	
02:10 pm	<b>NOWTOPIA</b>	Ritika Biswas and Tathagata Bhattacharya on dystopian futures in art and literature. In conversation with Jashodhara Chakraborti.	
03:00 pm	<b>SHOLAY @ 50</b>	Javed Akhtar and Shivendra Singh Dungarpur on what makes the classic timeless. In conversation with Priyanka Roy.	
03:50 pm	<b>WRITING FROM MEMORY</b>	Geoff Dyer and Ananya Vajpeyi on the past and remembered places. In conversation with Debanjan Chakrabarti.	In partnership with 
04:30 pm	<b>MITAHARA</b>	Rujuta Diwekar discusses wisdom and life lessons from the Indian kitchen. In conversation with Richa Agarwal.	
05:20 pm	<b>COPPERFIELD TO COPPERHEAD</b>	Barbara Kingsolver on her retelling of Charles Dickens' classic. In conversation with Shahana Chatterjee.	
06:10 pm	<b>GHOST-EYE</b>	Amitav Ghosh discusses his long-awaited novel with Malavika Banerjee.	

### KaLaM Hub (between Wards 1 & 2, The Alipore Museum)

11:15 am	<b>FOCUS ON MAHARASHTRA: THE MUSICAL LEGACY</b>	Ashwini Bhide-Deshpande, Suresh Talwalkar and Kathakali Jana on Maharashtra as a nursery of Hindustani Classical music and the need to nurture its syncretic legacy. In conversation with Arunabha Deb.	
12:50 pm	<b>A HISTORY OF SANTINIKETAN</b>	Uma Das Gupta in conversation with R. Siva Kumar.	
02:15 pm	<b>BHIMA'S WIFE</b>	Kavita Kané and Titas Samuho discuss their journeys into the invisibilised world of Hidimbi. In conversation with Priyadarshinee Guha.	
03:10 pm	<b>SARASWATI</b>	Gurnaik Johal discusses his acclaimed novel with Sujaan Mukherjee.	In partnership with 
03:50 pm	<b>THE FORGOTTEN INDIAN PRISONERS OF WORLD WAR II</b>	Gautam Hazarika discusses the price India paid in the eastern theatre of war. In conversation with Jayanta Sengupta.	
04:30 pm	<b>YEH DUNIYA AGAR MIL BHI JAAYE TOH KYA HAI</b>	Nasreen Munni Kabir, Sathya Saran and Shivendra Singh Dungarpur on the melancholy and magic of Guru Dutt. In conversation with Anuurag Poddar.	

### Talkies @ KaLaM at The Alipore Museum Auditorium

02:00 pm	<b>FILM SHOW</b>	Documentary on Guru Dutt by Nasreen Munni Kabir. (85 mins)
04:00 pm	<b>FILM SHOW</b>	Zwigato by Nandita Das. (106 minutes)
05:45 pm	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Discussion on Zwigato with Nandita Das.

### KaLaM at The Bengal Club

04:00 pm	<b>STORIES FROM THE FAULTLINES</b>	Sanjoy Hazarika and Ipsita Chakravarty in conversation with Sumona Chakravarty.	
04:50 pm	<b>WHEN IN ROME</b>	Jhumpa Lahiri on her tryst with Italian. In conversation with Rudrangshu Mukherjee.	

### AfterWords at The Alipore Museum Courtyard

07:15 pm	<b>EKOK</b>	Rupam Islam Unplugged.
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**DAY 3 | SATURDAY | 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2026**

**KaLaM Lawns (next to Son Et Lumiere area, The Alipore Museum)**

11:00 am	<b>BHOOT BANGLA</b>	Arundhati Nath and Jashodhara Chakraborti on giving Bangla ghost fiction a new life through translation. In conversation with Anusha Viswanathan.	
11:45 am	<b>THE HINDI HEARTLAND</b>	Ghazala Wahab discusses her new book with Chinki Sinha.	
12:30 pm	<b>FOCUS ON MAHARASHTRA - TAPESTRY OF TALES</b>	Prafull Shiledar and Kavita Kané discuss trends, themes and challenges for Marathi literature. In conversation with Jerry Pinto.	
01:20 pm	<b>AS TIME GOES BY</b>	Geoff Dyer discusses his last two books, <i>The Last Days of Roger Federer</i> and <i>Homework</i> . In conversation with Arunabha Deb.	In partnership with 
02:20 pm	<b>SATI TO SHIKHANDI - THE STORIES THEY DON'T TELL YOU</b>	Devdutt Pattanaik in conversation with Milee Ashwarya.	
03:10 pm	<b>MAHASWETA DEVI @ 100</b>	Salil Tripathi and Ankhi Mukherjee on Mahasweta Devi's presence in world literature. In conversation with Sohini Chattopadhyay.	
04:00 pm	<b>AUSTEN-TATIOUS</b>	Kate Evans and Debnita Chakravarti on the life, the books and the influence of Jane Austen.	
04:50 pm	<b>CHAPAL RANI, THE LAST QUEEN OF BENGAL</b>	Sandip Roy discusses his new theatre biography with Sunandini Banerjee. In conversation with Shahana Chatterjee.	
05:40 pm	<b>OTP PLEASE</b>	Nandita Das and Vandana Vasudevan discuss the invisible world of delivery agents. In conversation with Mitakshara Kumari.	
06:30 pm	<b>THE HUSH OF THE UNCARING SEA</b>	Upamanyu Chatterjee discusses his collection of novellas with Pritha Kejriwal.	
07:10 pm	<b>CENTENNIALS FOR MILLENNIALS</b>	Priyambada Jayakumar, Shamy Dasgupta and Nasreen Munni Kabir on lessons that youngsters can glean from the legacy of MS Swaminathan, Ritwik Ghatak and Guru Dutt. In conversation with Balaji Vittal.	

**KaLaM Hub (between Wards 1 & 2, The Alipore Museum)**

11:20 am	<b>SAMUDRER DAAK</b>	Aparajita Dasgupta and Rik Sengupta on their co-authored murder mystery. In conversation with Agnijit Sen.	
12:10 pm	<b>KALODIGHI</b>	Ujjal Sinha and his translator Arunava Sinha on writing and transcreating. In conversation with Mou Mukherjee.	
01:00 pm	<b>RAKTAKARABI</b>	Readings from unpublished manuscripts by Bratati Bandyopadhyay. Biswajit Ray discusses and reimagines Tagore's classic on its centenary in a conversation with Semanti Ghosh.	
02:30 pm	<b>MADE IN NEPAL</b>	Binod Chaudhary discusses his memoirs and life lessons with Harshavardhan Neotia.	
03:20 pm	<b>THE ALLEN GINSBERG CENTENARY</b>	Deborah Baker and Subodh Sarkar in conversation with Pinaki De. Readings by Ahon Gooptu.	
04:10 pm	<b>WHY THE POOR DON'T KILL US</b>	Manu Joseph goes solo on his new title.	
04:50 pm	<b>RIVER MUSE</b>	Sanjoy Hazarika and Gurnaik Johal on rivers as muse. In conversation with Labonita Ghosh.	
05:50 pm	<b>MEET THE KINGSOLVERS</b>	Barbara Kingsolver and Lily Kingsolver about the influences and points of divergence in their writings. In conversation with Tathagata Bhattacharya.	
06:40 pm	<b>CENTRESTAGE</b>	Ananda Lal on his essays on theatre. In conversation with Kathakali Jana.	
07:20 pm	<b>GLORIOUS FAILURE THEN, CULTURAL ALLIES NOW</b>	Robert Ivermee and Chinmoy Guha discuss France's history in India. In conversation with Pinaki De.	
08:10 pm	<b>BISHWASGHATAKER HOTYA</b>	An ode to our freedom fighters by Mir Afsar Ali. Curated by GMT.	

**Talkies @ KaLaM at The Alipore Museum Auditorium**

12:30 pm	<b>JUKTI TOKKO AAR DESHBHAG</b>	Bratya Basu, Srijato, Sanjoy Mukhyopadhyay and Shamy Dasgupta discuss how Partition shaped Ghatak's cinema. In conversation with Jayanta Sengupta.	
01:30 pm	<b>FILM SHOW</b>	Court by Chaitanya Tamhane. (116 mins)	
03:45 pm	<b>MARATHI, INDIAN, WORLD CINEMA</b>	Chaitanya Tamhane on his films, cinema in the time of OTT, global trends and shrinking attention spans. In conversation with Balaji Vittal.	
04:45 pm	<b>GHATAK @ 100: A SOFT NOTE ON A SHARP SCALE</b>	Sudhir Mishra, Shamy Dasgupta, Nirupama Kotru and Salil Tripathi discuss Ghatak beyond Bengal. In conversation with Balaji Vittal.	
06:45 pm	<b>OUR FILMS, THEIR FILMS - INDIAN CINEMA IN THE WORLD</b>	Sudhir Mishra, Chaitanya Tamhane and Nandita Das on Indian cinema and its place in the world. In conversation with Priyanka Roy.	

**AfterWords at The Calcutta School of Music**

07:00 pm	<b>PLAY ON WORDS</b>	Hal Cazalet takes us through PG Wodehouse's musical years on Broadway. Accompanied by Simon Beck on the piano.	
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**DAY 4 | SUNDAY | 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2026**


**KaLaM Lawns (next to Son Et Lumiere area, The Alipore Museum)**

10:45 am	<b>WHILE WE WAIT</b>	Durjoy Datta on his new novel. In conversation with Anusha Viswanathan.	
11:30 am	<b>A HUNDRED TRANSLATIONS AND COUNTING</b>	Arunava Sinha celebrates his 100th translation and discusses ways of bringing Bangla classics to the world. In conversation with Sujoy Prasad Chatterjee. Short readings by Sujoy Prasad Chatterjee and Mou Mukherjee.	
12:20 pm	<b>AFTER NATIONS</b>	Rana Dasgupta in conversation with Rudra Chatterjee.	
01:10 pm	<b>US AND THEM</b>	Manu Joseph and Snigdha Poonam discuss the dynamics across urban-rural and rich-poor divides, from resignation to vendetta. In conversation with Vandana Vasudevan.	
02:10 pm	<b>CHARLOTTESVILLE</b>	Deborah Baker and Dan Morrison on how the USA is changing from within as it tries to change the world in conversation with Rupleena Bose.	
03:00 pm	<b>CLIMATE CHRONICLERS</b>	Barbara Kingsolver and Amitav Ghosh discuss the way their stories engage with a rapidly changing planet. In conversation with Keshava Guha.	
03:50 pm	<b>SONGS OF THEN</b>	Rahul Bhattacharya and Rupleena Bose on how their novels on times gone by frame the India of today. In conversation with Sarojesh Mukherjee.	
04:40 pm	<b>ABSOLUTE JAFAR</b>	Sarnath Banerjee in conversation with Malavika Banerjee.	
05:20 pm	<b>DE FACTO</b>	Shobhaa Dé on what worries her and what gives her hope. In conversation with Sakhi Singhi.	
06:10 pm	<b>WALK LIKE A GIRL</b>	Prabal Gurung discusses his memoirs with Shefalee Vasudev.	
06:50 pm	<b>MAHASWETA DEBIR SHATABORSHO</b>	Nalini Bera, Biswajit Ray and Tathagata Bhattacharya in conversation with Swati Bhattacharjee.	
07:40 pm	<b>ELIASER CHILEKOTHA: AKHTARUZZMANER CHHOTOGOLPO</b>	Chandril Bhattacharya on the writings of Akhtaruzzaman Elias.	

**KaLaM Hub (between Wards 1 & 2, The Alipore Museum)**

11:00 am	<b>LOVE, LIFE AND DRAMA</b>	Sohini Roychowdhury discusses her book on theatre practices across India with Aritra Sarkar.	
12:30 pm	<b>GOLD SAND, GOLD WATER</b>	Nalini Bera and Hansda Sowrendra Shekhar discuss the journey of Subarnarenu, Subarnarekha. In conversation with Durba Bandyopadhyay.	
01:20 pm	<b>HURT LOCKER</b>	Jerry Pinto and Aarti Pathak on empathy, the need for palliative care, and the resilience of human spirit. In conversation with Shruti Mohta.	
02:10 pm	<b>THE ONLY CITY</b>	Anindita Ghose and Manu Joseph discuss the anthology celebrating Mumbai. In conversation with Labonita Ghosh.	
04:00 pm	<b>STORIES WE WEAR</b>	Shefalee Vasudev and Bappaditya Biswas discuss the politics of appearance and our sartorial choices with Smita Roy Chowdhury.	
04:45 pm	<b>DYSTOPIA CAPITAL</b>	Keshava Guha and Sayantan Ghosh in Delhi as a character in their novels. In conversation with Chaitanya Srivastava.	
05:30 pm	<b>BE THE CHANGE</b>	Lucy Hannah, Nilanjana Dasgupta and Swati Pandey on how it is hope that eventually brings change. In conversation with Pratiti Ganatra.	
06:20 pm	<b>GHOST WRITING</b>	Daisy Rockwell and Arundhati Nath on their new novels. In conversation with Debanjan Chakrabarti.	
07:10 pm	<b>TIME, SPACE AND THE RESTLESS NARRATOR - PHILOSOPHY AND THE STORYTELLER</b>	K Sridhar and Lukáš Cabala in conversation with Supriya Chaudhuri.	 

**Talkies @ KaLaM at The Alipore Museum Auditorium**

12:00 pm	<b>FILM SHOW</b>	Manto by Nandita Das. (116 mins)	
02:15 pm	<b>IMAGINING THE AUTHOR</b>	Nandita Das and Srijit Mukherji discuss their cinematic vision of Manto and Arthur Conan Doyle. In conversation with Jashodhara Chakraborti.	

05:45 pm	<b>DRAWING BOOKS</b>	Kate Evans and Sarnath Banerjee discuss new projects and the growing popularity of illustrated narratives. In conversation with Pinaki De.	
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**AfterWords at GD Birla Sabhagar**

06:30 pm	<b>CHANDAA BEDNI</b>	Play by Rangakarmee	
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## DAY 5 | MONDAY | 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2026

KaLaM Lawns (next to Son Et Lumiere area, The Alipore Museum)

11:30 am	<b>PRINTING A REPUBLIC</b>	Harinder Baweja, Jyotsna Mohan and Sanjoy Hazarika on chronicling the republic in black and white. In conversation with Shreevatsa Nevatia.	
12:20 pm	<b>TUMHARI AUQAAT KYA HAI</b>	Piyush Mishra discusses his book with Mir Afsar Ali.	
01:00 pm	<b>THE LONELINESS OF SONIA AND SUNNY</b>	Kiran Desai discusses her new novel with Shahana Chatterjee.	
01:50 pm	<b>ACROSS GENRE, LANGUAGES AND DECADES</b>	Kunal Basu discusses past and future books with Pinaki De and Rituparna Roy.	
02:40 pm	<b>IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE?</b>	Sanjoy K Roy and Aruna Chakravarti on ghosts, spooks and the unknown. In conversation with Vikram Iyengar.	
03:30 pm	<b>SILVERWARE ON THE INDIAN BOOKSHELF</b>	Ankhi Mukherjee, Daisy Rockwell, Kanishka Gupta and Upamanyu Chatterjee on the importance of literature awards and the elusive literature Nobel. In conversation with Sandip Roy.	
04:20 pm	<b>LIGHTNING KID</b>	Viswanathan Anand discusses his new book and life lessons gleaned from the chessboard. In conversation with Anupam Roy.	
05:00 pm	<b>THE FIRST 25 YEARS</b>	Jhumpa Lahiri and Kiran Desai on completing 25 years of writing and being chroniclers of the quarter century. In conversation with Anindita Ghose.	
05:50 pm	<b>NEW YORK, NEW YORK</b>	Prabal Gurung, Deborah Baker and Dan Morrison on the city as muse, home, aggravation and hope. In conversation with Ankita Mukherji.	
06:40 pm	<b>THE END OF THE WEST IS NOT THE END OF THE WORLD</b>	Amitav Ghosh, Salil Tripathi and Rana Dasgupta discuss what a changing world order means for the arts. In conversation with Ankita Mukherji.	

KaLaM Hub (between Wards 1 & 2, The Alipore Museum)

10:30 am	<b>ROBIN HOODS TO A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS</b>	Unknown tales from the freedom struggle to unsung foreign policy makers of the 1950s. Narayani Basu and Indranath Mukherjee in conversation with Kanishka Gupta.
11:10 am	<b>THE REPUBLIC OF POETRY</b>	Readings by Abhijeet Gogoi, Prafull Shiledar, Nilanjan Bandyopadhyay and Kadambari Kaul.
12:00 pm	<b>RAILSONG</b>	Rahul Bhattacharya in conversation on his new novel. In conversation with Sandip Roy.
02:00 pm	<b>MY DEAR KABUL</b>	Lucy Hannah on the stories of Afghanistan through the eyes of displaced women. Video uplink with Marie Bamyani. In conversation with Payal Mohanka.
02:50 pm	<b>FAMILY ALBUMS</b>	Bhawana Somaaya and Jonathan Gil Harris on how personal histories and world history shape the destiny of families. In conversation with K Mohanchandran.
03:40 pm	<b>FOR HOME, FAMILY AND NATION</b>	Aparajita Dasgupta discusses the lives of women in Bengal through a period of social and political flux. In conversation with Debnita Chakravarti.
05:50 pm	<b>JOURNEYING INTO ONESELF</b>	Namita Devidayal, Aritra Sarkar and Jonquil Cooper discusses their journey, journals and serendipity. In conversation with Priyambada Jayakumar.

AfterWords at The Alipore Museum Courtyard

07:45 pm	<b>KALAM FINALE</b>	Sarod recital by Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash. Accompanied by Satyajit Talwalkar and Anubrata Chatterjee on tabla.
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| 11:00 am | GRANDILOQUENCE<br>TO EMOJIS    | Hal Cazalet and Atri Bhattacharya on the use of language at a time of Snapchat, LOL and smileys. In conversation with Ahon Gooptu.   |
| 11:50 am | CANINES AND COYOTES            | Lily Kingsolver and Anjana Basu discuss stories from nature and the cautionary tales within them. In conversation with Sakhi Singhi. |
| 12:45 pm | MAHIDADUR ANTIDOTE             | Dipanwita Roy discusses her award-winning story with Agnijit Sen.  |
| 01:40 pm | PARASHURAMER<br>SANGRAHA @ 100 | Biswajit Ray, Agnijit Sen and Srijato in conversation.   |
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| 10:30 am | JANE AUSTEN @ 250           | Kate Evans and Anusha Viswanathan on why it is a universally acknowledged fact that Austen's books are timeless. In conversation with Priyadarshinee Guha. |
| 11:20 am | OIRABOT AR DRAGON<br>MASTER | Anupam Roy in conversation with Chandrimaa Roy.  |
| 12:10 pm | LIGHTNING KID               | Viswanathan Anand on being a champion in his teens. In conversation with Satyajit Banerjee.  |

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## Kolkata Centre for Creativity | Amphitheatre

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| 11:00 am | PENGUIN ~ JUNIOR KOLKATA LITERARY MEET QUIZ |
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## EPILOGUE | TUESDAY | 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2026

at The Alipore Museum Courtyard

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| 06:00 pm | POOR ECONOMICS<br>REVISITED | Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee discusses the new edition of his book, and what has changed since its first edition with Jyotsna Mohan. |
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