



PRESS RELEASE

VIth edition of Goa Arts and Literature Festival 10th to 13th December 2015

Goa Arts and Literature Festival (GALF) 2015 will showcase an unprecedented lineup of outstanding writers, artists, poets, academics and performers from around the world, along with more than 50 outstanding delegates from Goa and the Goan diaspora. From the Inaugural on December 10, with keynote addresses by world-renowned artist and photographer (and part-time Goa resident) Dayanita Singh, and eminent poet and author, Keki Daruwalla, and the first official session featuring award-winning author and historian Ramachandra Guha (in conversation with Naresh Fernandes of scroll.in), the next three days will be a banquet of readings, conversations, panel discussions, book launches and performances.

In just five years, GALF has firmly established itself among India's premier cultural events, even while maintaining strict independence, and remaining non-profit and volunteer-driven. A labour of love and collaboration between International Centre Goa and members of the vibrant Goa Writers group, GALF is beloved to the writers and readers of Goa, and highly sought after by the foremost talent from around the subcontinent and beyond.

Over years, GALF has unveiled an extraordinary series of highlights, exclusive debuts and launches. This year, the world-renowned, multiple award-winning culinary book author Naomi Duguid will make her India debut at GALF 2015, where highly anticipated exclusive book launches include *'The Adivasi Will not Dance'* by Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar, *'Ancestral Affairs'* by Keki Daruwalla and *'One Point Two Million'* by Mahesh Rao, as well as *'There is more to life than a house in Goa'* by Heta Pandit and *'New Songs of the Survivors'* by Yvonne Vas Ekdani.

GALF has consistently explored the idea of 'different ways of belonging', an idea from the renowned Goan poet, Eunice de Souza. This means an emphasis on regions that are often dismissed as the margins, starting with our own Goa: no literary festival in India has a stronger and prouder connection with its home state and culture. Besides more than 50 delegates from Goa at GALF 2015, the festival also features the debut of highly acclaimed Norwegian-Goan biographer and critic Ivo de Figueiredo, and many other prominent writers, historians and academics from the diaspora.

GALF 2015 will showcase the best history books of our times, with a stunning lineup of historians and authors: Faisal Devji from Oxford, Ines Zupanov from *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique* in Paris, Angela Barretto Xavier from University of Lisbon, Anjali

Arondekar from University of California, besides Ramachandra Guha, Jonathan Gil Harris, Raghu Karnad, Vedica Kant, Goa's own Parag Porobo and Rochelle Pinto, and many others.

As with previous years, GALF poetry lineup is unparalleled: Meena Alexander, Mustansir Dalvi, Arundhathi Subramaniam, Ranjit Hoskote, Desmond Kon, Pooja Nansi, Tania de Rozario, and many others. In other variants of spoken word and performance, the highly acclaimed comedian Radhika Vaz will launch her first book and perform at GALF, and the New York-based "greatest Indian rapper in the world" Himanshu Suri will return for his fourth festival appearance.

GALF 2015 again seeks the collaboration and participation of schools and colleges across the state of Goa, whose students will be welcomed at the festival venue with a range of sessions, discussions, readings and performances ideally suited for students of different ages. The festival remains free and open to all. Everyone is welcome, but it is advisable to register in advance at www.goartlitfest.com.

GALF 2015 Highlights

Composition of Speakers:

- Over 100 speakers from 12 countries
- 6 each from Bangladesh & Singapore, 8 from Pakistan, 3 from UK, 4 from USA and 1 each from Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Norway and Portugal
- Over 50 prominent speakers from India and over 50 prominent speakers from Goa

Keynote Addresses by: Dayanita Singh and Keki Daruwalla

Official Artwork/ Poster:

Loretti Pinto

Countries in Focus: Bangladesh and Singapore

Exclusive debut: Naomi Duguid – multiple award-winning, world-famous food book author and expert on Asian cuisines.

Interesting Sessions:

- Exclusive showcases of the most exciting emerging literary talent from Bangladesh and Singapore
- Extraordinary lineup of historians from around the world.
- Prof Amin public lecture 'Recording the Bhashas and Bolis of Colonial India: G.A. Grierson, Ramgharib Chaube and the Making of the Linguistic Survey of India'
- First session of the festival features Ramchandra Guha (in conversation with Naresh Fernandes)
- Sessions hosted by The *Takshashila* Institution - think tank on India's strategic affairs
- Ambedkar Memorial Lectures by P Sivakami and Prof. Khalid Anis Ansari

Book Launches (selected):

- Angela Barreto Xavier and Ines G. Zupanov's '*Catholic Orientalism*'
- Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar's '*The Adivasi Will Not Dance*'
- Yvonne Vaz Ezdani's '*Songs of the Survivors*'
- Anjum Hasan's '*The Cosmopolitans*'
- Bharat Karnad's '*Why India is Not a Great Power (Yet)*'
- Harsh Mander's '*Looking Away: Inequality, Prejudice and Indifference in New India*'
- Heta Pandit's '*There's more to life than a house in Goa*'
- Keki Daruwalla's '*Ancestral Affairs*'
- Narayan Ramachandran's '*A Visible Hand*'
- Saad Z Hossain's '*Escape from Baghdad!*'
- Sarah Farooqui's '*Distance from Delhi*'
- Vincy Quadros' '*Khell Zalo Vell*'
- Mahesh Rao's '*One Point Two Billion*'
- Zac O'Yeah's '*Hari, Hero for Hire*'

Outreach Programmes:

In 2014, we introduced a new section in GALF, the 'Outreach Programmes' – where some of the delegates are invited to conduct intense and exclusive workshops and interactive sessions in colleges and University just before and during the Festival.

Cultural Programmes/ Performances:

- Performance by award winning street magicians from Delhi
- Stand up comedy by Radhika Vaz
- Performance by Esharp, band from Pakistan
- Performance by Indian-American rapper, Himanshu Suri