



Media Release

Mahindra Kabira Festival ends on a high note with the wisdom of Kabir flowing in abundance by the Ganga

Kailash Kher entralls crowds at Assi Ghat at the closing of the Festival

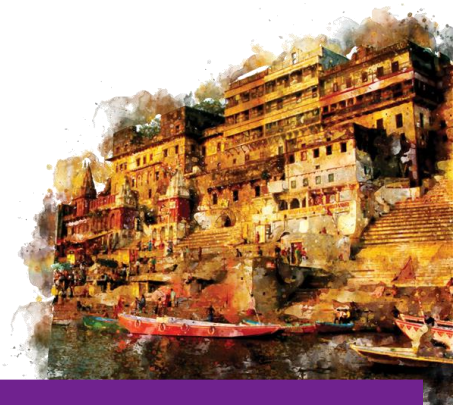
Varanasi, 12 November 2017: The Second edition of the three-day Mahindra Kabira Festival in Varanasi culminated on Sunday with incredible musical performances, conversations on Kabir and explorations through the city's marvelous heritage spots.

In the morning, Darbhanga Ghat, teeming with enthusiastic crowds, witnessed singer Harpreet Singh's beautiful solo renditions of Hindi and Punjabi poets including those of Kabir, Baba Bulleh Shah, Avatar Singh 'Pash', Suryakant Tripathi 'Nirala'. The performance included - Na main dharmi na adharmi, Sai se lagan katin hai bhai and many more.

Sucharita Gupta, the talented Banaras Gharana vocalist followed up with her striking yet tranquil voice. Her performance in her innovative style of light classical singing including Kaun bhagwa nagariya lootan ho and More saiyan nikas gaye main na ladi thi, were both serene and energetic for the audiences. She was accompanied by Pt. Lalit Kumar on the tabla and Dr. Indradev Chowdhary on harmonium.

The day advanced to the Afternoon Literature Session 'Words on Water' where author Vinayak Sapre discussed his book Dohanomics and shared with audiences his unconventional interpretation of Kabir's couplets applied as personal finance and investment advice. He discussed the economic concepts of stocks and mutual funds through the prism of Kabir, in a cohesive and lucid way, covering the behavioural aspect of investing, which plays the most important role for an investor. He said, "Although financial investment was not talked about in India, we had grown up with life lessons of Kabir. Since personal finance largely revolves around human behaviour, I thought why not go back to Kabir! When I read him, I realised there were a lot of personal finance lessons in it."

Curated walks in the afternoon offered an exploration of the mysticism of Kabir, wherein the participants got to visit the sites and locales of cultural significance, and also delved into the traditional flavours at city's most authentic culinary stations. The participants visited Madanpura area and Badi masjid, where the



indigenous handloom industry thrives, and saw jaamdani, patola, traditional banarasi booti and genuine zari weaves.

As the sun set at the Assi Ghat, evening performances commenced with riveting Vedic chants and the splendid Ganga Aarti at the Mahindra Kabira stage. Nathulal Solanki and his troupe had the *ghats* echoing with the sounds of the sacred *shankh* (conch shell) and their signature *nagadas*.

Harpreet Singh Trio, played some of their popular renditions of the saint poets including Maya Maha Thagani, Ganga Ki Ot and the specially curated Bubbly Banarasi which got a thumping applause from the audience.

Following this the stage were set afire by an awe inspiring performance by the duo Kartik Shah and Nirali Kartik of Maati Bani, who presented a confluence of folk and contemporary styles. The duo's verses covering Kabir, Bulleh Shah, Mirabai and many other poets ranged over a spectrum of emotions with their crackling energy making the audience a part of the musical journey.

The headliner of the day was the champion of Indie music Kailash Kher and his band Kailasa, sweeping the audiences off their feet with their high decibel performance as curtains drew on the second edition of the Mahindra Kabira Festival.

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**Entry:** Free Registration for the Literature Afternoons, Morning and Evening Music Performances on Saturday and Sunday. (*Advance registration required for the Literature Afternoons*)

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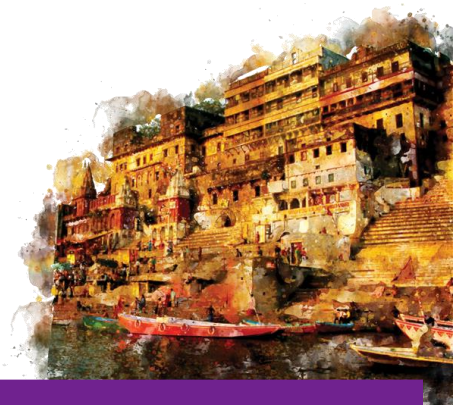
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NOTES TO EDITORS

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