

## Mahindra Kabira Festival 2021 to make the iconic ghats of Varanasi echo notes from Kabir

Varanasi, the birthplace of legendary 15th-century mystic – Kabir - unparalleled for its unique ambience, soul and history, will once again play host to the fifth Mahindra Kabira Festival, to be held from the 26th-28th of November 2021. Acclaimed artistes will make the iconic ghats of Varanasi reverberate with sublime music celebrating the works of the poet-saint Kabir.

Audiences at the Festival can enjoy Morning Music, Afternoon Literature Sessions and Evening Music at the beautiful Guleria Ghat and explore the city through curated 'Heritage Walks' traversing the ancient alleys of Varanasi. Conceived by the Mahindra Group and pioneering performing arts and entertainment company, Teamwork Arts, the fifth edition of the Festival will feature a rich two-day programme highlighting the fascinating aspects of Kabir's philosophy as well as the city of his birth through music, discourse, walks, boat-rides and local cuisine.

On the first day at Guleria Ghat, at Morning Music, audiences will awake to uplifting musical performances by Sangeet Praveen and Sangeet Martand **Anoop Misra** with his melodious *Khayal*. They will also witness performances by contemporary Indian classical ensemble **Anirudh Varma Collective**. Evening Music will feature eminent Indian classical vocalist **Nirali Kartik** and famous folk musician & classical singer **Padmashree Malini Awasthi**. The 1<sup>st</sup> day will conclude with Carnatic music by world-renowned and celebrated Indian classical vocalists and violinists **Ranjani** and **Gayatri**.

As the sun rises on a golden, gleaming, misty Ganga on the second day, Varanasi-based classical musician **Prateek Narsimha** will highlight the musical heritage of the city and a musical conversation by **The Aahvaan Project** will focus on creating a space for harmony in the rigmarole of everyday life. The concluding evening will see a rock opera on **M.K Raina's** masterpiece '*Kabira Khada Bazaar Mein*' presented **Dastaan Live** as well as performances by acclaimed sitar maestro **Purbayan Chatterjee**, popular playback singer **Gayatri Asokan** and the young **Kalapini Komkali**, widely recognised as one of the finest classical vocalists of her generation.

This year, the 45-minute-long Heritage Walk will traverse Alamgir mosque, the Tailang Swami Math, and Bharatendu Harish Chandra's (also known as Shakespeare of India) house. There will be a special Kashi Vishwanath Temple visit as well. The walks will be exclusively organised for Festival Delegates and Hosted Media.

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**NOTES TO EDITORS**

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The Mahindra Group has a clear focus on leading ESG globally, enabling rural prosperity and enhancing urban living, with a goal to drive positive change in the lives of communities and stakeholders to enable them to Rise.

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**About Teamwork Arts:**

For over 30 years, Teamwork Arts has taken India to the world and brought the world to India, presenting the finest of Indian performers, writers and visual artists in the cultural and art space in India and abroad.

Every year, we produce over 25 performing, visual arts and literary festivals in several countries including Australia, Egypt, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, the UK and the USA as well as many eclectic festivals across India. We produce the world's largest literary gathering: the annual Jaipur Literature Festival; JLF international now travels to the US, UK, Canada, Qatar and Australia and we have recently launched several digital series - JLF Brave New World, JLF First Edition, JLF Voices of Faith and JLF WORDS ARE BRIDGES. Our musical extravaganza, Bollywood Love Story - A Musical, continues to tour the world with sold-out shows everywhere it is held.

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