

MEDIA RELEASE

Acclaimed artistes to gather in a celebration of 'Kabir in Every Sense' at the [Mahindra Kabira Festival](#) in Varanasi

16th – 18th November 2018

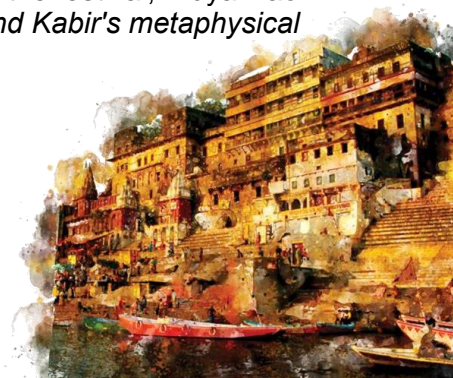
- Morning Music at Guleria Ghat begins at 7:00 AM with Hari Prasad Paudyal and YOGI by Barnali Chattopadhyay on Saturday, November 17 and on Sunday, November 18 with Pandit Rabindra Narayan Goswami and Vidya Rao
- Evening Music will feature Shruthi Vishwanath, Sonam Kalra, and Malini Awasthi on Saturday, November 17 and Lakha Khan, Moorlala Marwada and Kaushiki Chakraborty on Sunday, November 18 at the Shivala Ghat 6:30 PM onwards
- Festival Delegate Packages also include Afternoon Literature Sessions at the Kabir Math with Devdutt Pattanaik on November 17 and Purushottam Agrawal on November 18 as well as Heritage Walks through the city on both days

New Delhi. October 30, 2018. Kabir's birthplace, Varanasi, unparalleled for its unique ambience, flavour, soul and history, will once again be host to the Mahindra Kabira Festival, which will be held from 16-18th November 2018.

Acclaimed and celebrated artistes will come together to celebrate the mystic poet saint Kabir with music performances by the *ghats* at sunrise and sunset. Delegates at the Festival can also enjoy Afternoon Literature Sessions at the Kabir Math and heritage walks through the bylanes of the Varanasi. Conceived by the [Mahindra](#) group and pioneering performing arts and entertainment company [Teamwork Arts](#), the third edition of the festival will feature a rich two-day programme for audiences to explore the fascinating aspects of Kabir's philosophy as well as the city of his birth.

At Guleria Ghat for Morning Music, audiences will awaken to uplifting musical performances by Varanasi-based Hindustani classical flautist Hari Prasad Paudyal, *thumri* singer Barnali Chattopadhyay and her ensemble YOGI, *sitar* player Pandit Rabindra Goswami and Hindustani classical singer Vidya Rao.

Talking about how Kabir's philosophy weaves itself into her current work for the festival, Vidya Rao says, "I've been interested in the relationship between the 'nirguni thumri' and Kabir's metaphysical



oeuvre, and have experimented with singing Kabir in the 'andaaz' of 'thumri', thus bringing together the yearning of 'thumri' with the deep 'nirguni' philosophy of Kabir. And this is what I will be presenting at the Mahindra Kabira Festival 2018. It is good to see that organisations like the Mahindra Group and Teamwork Arts are focusing on Kabir's thought and poetry with a festival like MKF."

Adding to this, Barnali Chattopadhyay says that her music single YOGI captures the essence of selflessness present in Kabir's philosophy. *"Kabir's vision of life is what I chose to mold with my music. Varanasi as a place enhances the charm as it has been witness to an ancient cultural civilisation. It has been a birth-giver to a mystic mind like Kabir."*

Evening Music, with headline performances by renowned Indian folk singer Malini Awasthi and Indian classical vocalist Kaushiki Chakraborty, will mark the culmination of each day at the popular Shivala Ghat. Talking about the Mahindra Kabira Festival, Kaushiki says that it is *'one of the greatest ways of keeping Kabir and his philosophy alive and to make it more relevant to today's artists and audiences'*.

She further shares how Kabir's philosophy is integral to her upcoming performance for MKF. *"I am basically trying to align myself to the thought process and philosophy of his writings and I am composing some of the songs and trying to put the ideology of Kabir together to weave them into a structure of a song."* she adds.

Evening Music will also feature performances by award-winning singer-songwriter and composer Sonam Kalra, musician and composer Shruthi Vishwanath, nationally-renowned *sarangi* player and vocalist Lakha Khan and Sufi folk singer Moorlala Marwada.

In the Afternoon Literature Sessions at the Kabir Math, experts will discuss ideas inspired by Kabir's poetry. These sessions will feature writer and mythologist Devdutt Pattanaik and renowned Kabir and Bhakti scholar, Purushottam Agrawal, who will be talking about Kabir in the context of vernacular modernity against the problems posed by colonial modernity in our understanding of Kabir and his era.

Talking about the Festival, Purushottam Agrawal says *"Surely, bringing together a range of Kabir scholars and his lovers in a festival like MKF is going to be an exciting opportunity for the audience to have a closer look at various aspects of his poetry and sadhana, and to interact with various perspectives. Come and experience it."*

Specially guided 'Kabir Initiation Walk', curated by local experts, from Guleria Ghat to Kabir Math and back will unlock the city's mysteries and help delegates understand the gentle passion of



Kabir's ideology. This will be a highlight even for those who have visited this historic city several times before.

After receiving the Platinum Level Green Event Certification from Yale last year, the festival that celebrates the life and works of Kabir in his birthplace continues to imbibe in its execution this philosophy of cleanliness in thought and deed. The festival has taken a number of measures on different aspects of sustainability and Green practices have been ingrained within it right from curation to execution.

The detailed artiste line-up and more information please visit www.mahindrakabira.com

~~~

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018

**General Entry:** Free Registration for the Morning and Evening Music Performances on Saturday and Sunday.

**Delegate Entry:** The exclusive one-day (INR 13,000) and two-day (INR 25,000) delegate packages, with various options offer a chance to choose the kind of 'festival experience' tailored to you.

**Accommodation Package:** Hotel packages offer a wide range of choices. Note: accommodation packages mandate the additional purchase of the two-day Delegate Package (per person) since all hotel stays come with 2-day, 3-night durations. Starting from Rs. 20,000/- for 3 nights and 2 days and up to Rs. 1,46,000/- at select hotels across the city.

For more information on the Delegate Packages, please email [delegates@teamworkarts.com](mailto:delegates@teamworkarts.com)

~~~



Mahindra Kabira Festival Programme 2018

Day 1

Saturday, 17th Nov 2018

Morning Music

7:00 AM onwards | Guleria Ghat
Hari Prasad Paudyal
YOGI by Barnali Chattopadhyay

Kabir Initiation Walk*

10:00 AM-12:30 PM
From Guleria Ghat to Kabir Math

3:00 PM -5:30 PM

From Kabir Math to Guleria Ghat

Literature Afternoon*

2:00 PM -3:00 PM | Kabir Math
Devdutt Pattanaik

Evening Music

6:30 PM onwards | Shivala Ghat
Shruthi Vishwanath
Sonam Kalra
Malini Awasthi

**Exclusively for Mahindra Kabira Festival Delegates*

For more information visit www.mahindrakabirafestival.com

For media queries, please contact:

Teamwork Arts

Vidushi Khera: vidushi@teamworkarts.com

Deeksha Purohit: deeksha@teamworkarts.com

Zimisha Communications

Imitaz Alam: imtiyaz@zimisha.com / 9810227818

Santosh Kumar: santosh@zimisha.com/9990937676

Day 2

Sunday, 18th Nov 2018:

Morning Music

7:00 AM onwards | Guleria Ghat
Pandit Rabindra Narayan Goswami
Vidya Rao

Kabir Initiation Walk*

10:00 AM-12:30 PM
From Guleria Ghat to Kabir Math

3:00 PM -5:30 PM

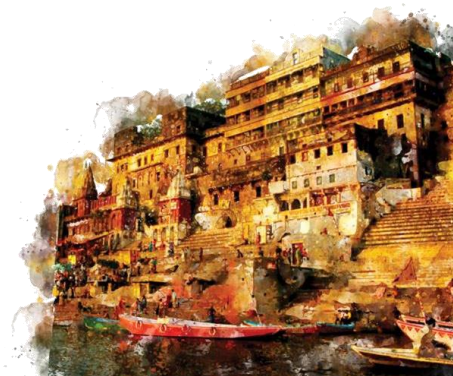
From Kabir Math to Guleria Ghat

Literature Afternoon*

2:00 PM -3:00 PM | Kabir Math
Purushottam Agrawal

Evening Music

6:30 PM onwards | Shivala Ghat
Flakha
Khan
Mooralala Marwada
Kaushiki Chakraborty



NOTES TO EDITORS

About Mahindra - The Mahindra Group is a USD 20.7-billion, multi-national federation of companies that enables people to rise through innovative mobility solutions, driving rural prosperity, enhancing urban living, nurturing new businesses and fostering communities. It has a leadership position in utility vehicles, information technology, financial services and vacation ownership in India and is the world's largest tractor company, by volume. It also enjoys a strong presence in agribusiness, components, commercial vehicles, consulting services, energy, industrial equipment, logistics, real estate, steel, aerospace, defence and two wheelers. Headquartered in India, Mahindra employs over 200,000 people across 100 countries.

Learn more about Mahindra on www.mahindra.com / Twitter and Facebook: @MahindraRise

About Teamwork Arts: For over 25 years, Teamwork Arts has taken India to the world and brought the world to India. In countries such as Australia, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Israel, Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, UK and USA, Teamwork produces over 25 highly acclaimed performing arts, visual arts, and literary festivals across more than 40 cities. Teamwork Arts produces one of the world's largest free literary gatherings, the annual [ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival](#), the [Ishara International Puppet Festival](#) and the annual [Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards \(META\) and Festival](#) in New Delhi, international festivals [Shared History](#) in South Africa, [Eye on India](#) in the United States of America, [India by the Bay](#) in Hong Kong, [Confluence-Festival of India](#) in Australia, [India@70 2017: Year of Culture in the United Kingdom](#), and many more.

Website: www.teamworkarts.com

-ENDS-

