

# ht for mumbai

There's something for everyone at the Hindustan Times Kala Ghoda Arts Festival. What will you attend? What will you take away? What memories will you treasure most? Write in and let us know

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# Singers set the stage on fire

**DAY 9** Festival ends with a bang as musicians Javed Ali and Sukhwinder Singh perform crowd-pleaser Bollywood hits to packed arenas

**Aayushi Pratap**  
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**MUMBAI:** With back-to-back performances by singers Javed Ali and Sukhwinder Singh, the final day of the HT Kala Ghoda Arts Festival ended with a bang.

Hundreds of people gathered at the Asiatic Library steps as Javed Ali started his concert at 6:30pm with a Sufi song.

He and Singh performed as part of the LIC music section co-powered by Fox Life, with events hosted by Fever 104 FM, RJs Urmin and Anuraag.

The young crowd cheered and sang along as Ali lent his lilting voice to Bollywood favourites such as 'Tarif karu kya iski' and 'Abhi na jao chhod ke'.

He also belted out more recent numbers like 'Naina' from Bajrangi Bhaijaan and 'Khawaja mere Khawaja' from Jodhaa Akbar.

Singh took the stage next and began with a stirring rendition of 'Jai ho' from the Oscar-winning Slumdog Millionaire, followed by 'Udi udi jaye' from recent release

Raees, and what is arguably his most-famous number, 'Chaiyya chaiyya' from the movie Dil Se.

As the concert came to an end, there were fans waiting outside just to get a glimpse of Singh.

"We couldn't get in, we were told it was

houseful. We were listening to the songs from outside," said Yash Vardhan, 24, a Vikhroli resident.

"I am a newbie at Kala Ghoda and I've been having a fabulous throughout. These concerts made my day," said Prabhas Das, 27, a banker from Andheri who was lucky enough to make it inside for the gig.

"I was amazed to see a concert this big so well-organised. I follow Bollywood music closely and tonight, Javed Ali covered all the songs I love, especially 'Khawaja mere Khawaja'," said Abhishek Shah, 26, a businessman from Vile Parle.

**ALI LENT HIS LILTING VOICE TO BOLLYWOOD FAVOURITES, WHILE SINGH BEGAN WITH A RENDITION OF 'JAI HO' FROM THE OSCAR-WINNING MOVIE SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE**



• Singers Javed Ali (left) and Sukhwinder Singh perform on the final day of the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival on Sunday. **PRATIK CHARGE/HT**

## A call for a world without borders

**Anubhuti Matta**  
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**MUMBAI:** They say the earth belongs to all and all belong to the earth, but did this hold true for three-year-old Aylan Kurdi, whose body washed ashore a Turkish beach in 2015?

A panel discussion on migration held as part of the HDFC Home Loans literature section of the HT Kala Ghoda Arts Festival sought to explore this question.

The panel featured filmmaker Dibakar Banerjee, visual artist Sharmishta Ray and development studies professor Ashwani Kumar.

It was moderated by Bina Sarkar Elias, director and founder of International Gallerie Magazine.

"When you are forced to migrate, you are stripped of things familiar to you - your home, your family and belongings," said Ray, as she narrated her story of forced migration from Kuwait to Kolkata.

"You lose the idea of possession or what it means. It becomes immaterial because nothing is yours."

Kumar discussed how being able to move from one place to another is a human right.

"All migrants seek is hospitality and that often ends up attracting hostility," Kumar added.

Speaking about his move from Delhi



• (From left) Bina Sarkar Elias, Sharmishta Ray, Ashwani Kumar and Dibakar Banerjee in conversation at a panel discussion on migration held on Sunday. **ANISHUMAN POYREKAR/HT**

to Mumbai, Banerjee said that we often forget that moving cities is also a migration of sorts.

"Why do I not feel like a migrant then?" he asked.

"Because I moved from an educated, English speaking, so-called elite class of one city to a similar one in another city. I may have changed cities but not domains," he said, answering his own question.

"It's all about acceptance," said 43-year-old James Gomes, a professor from Andheri who attended the session.

"Forget borders, let's be humans first."

**When you are forced to migrate, you are stripped of things familiar to you - your home, your family and belongings. You lose the idea of possession or what it means. It becomes immaterial because nothing is yours.**

SHARMSHISTA RAY, visual artist

## YOUNG STORYTELLERS TRY THEIR HAND AT TALES FROM REAL LIFE



• Kids narrate stories at David Sassoon Library on Sunday. **KUNAL PATIL/HT**

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**MUMBAI:** "Who is responsible for the street kids of Mumbai?" This line from a monologue kicked off the Telling Untold Stories session for kids, held on the final day of the HT Kala Ghoda Arts Festival.

The David Sassoon Library gardens lit up with young stars in broad daylight as kids recalled their experiences of seeing the plight of slum dwellers in the city.

As many as 12 children narrated real-life stories.

"We took these kids to places such as the Kalachowkie slum, where we spent almost three days. We tried to help them understand the realities of the city," said Nalika Braganza, one of the two teachers who set up the session.

"The ultimate aim was to inculcate empathy in children from a young age," she added.

"The kids seemed to enjoy their time onstage as much as they enjoyed telling their stories."

Thirteen-year-old Tabrez Baasha was "very nervous" before he started speaking.

"But, after I went for it, I wanted to continue sharing my experiences," he said. "I want to become an actor when I grow up and appeal to an even larger audience."



## A heritage walk brings poems and history to life

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**MUMBAI:** A unique heritage walk on Sunday saw six performers enact poems from Arun Kolatkar's Kala Ghoda series. The event, called Poetry in Motion, was organised as part of the Fox Life heritage walks section of the HT Kala Ghoda Arts Festival.

The first character to make an appearance was Pi-dog, the all-seeing dog who claims to be a descendant of imported British foxhounds. Another was David Sassoon, the philanthropist and trader, who narrated his journey from Baghdad to Bombay.

The walk also featured poet Nissim Ezekiel narrating his attachment to the city. Performance poet Eloise Stevens led the cast, bringing to life characters ranging from a masseuse to an idli seller.

The trail, packed to its capacity of 70 people, headed from the David Sassoon library towards Rhythm House and the Knesset Eliyahoo synagogue. Along the way, Pi-dog spoke about the history of Wayside Inn, an erstwhile haunt of city poets and intellectuals.

The walk was conceptualised by Kruti Garg, curator of heritage walks section. "The idea was to depict history through characters who make the precinct come alive," Garg said. "The myriad characters offer several perspectives to help the audience experience history in an inno-



• One of the actors at the heritage walk on Sunday. **KUNAL PATIL/HT**

novative way." She added that since this was the festival's final walk, she thought it would be a fitting way to round things up.

Stevens, who moved to Mumbai from the UK a year ago, said she had been fascinated by Kolatkar's poems for a while and decided to experiment with the form. "I thought of walking to the places evoked in his poems and helping the audience visualise the characters. It required a lot of improvisation as the walk and performances were held at public places," said Stevens. She added that it took three months of rehearsals to get the act right.

Ajuna Sharawat, 32, an entrepreneur from Colaba attended three heritage walks this year, but found this one the quirkiest. "The walks transport you to a different era. But, while they focused on theoretical aspects of history, this walk enabled people to experience it."

## PHOTO OF THE DAY

**TODAY'S WINNER: Rahul Pandey @rahulpandey8 on Instagram.**  
Congrats! You can expect your voucher via email.



## Alia, Varun bring the house down at finale for #HTKGAF

**Aayushi Pratap**  
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**MUMBAI:** Actors Alia Bhatt and Varun Dhawan provided a glitzy finale to the HT Kala Ghoda Arts Festival on Sunday.

While this was Alia's first time at the festival, Varun said this was his fourth. "I enjoy the music and food each time I come here," he said.

The actors thrilled the crowds that thronged the Asiatic Library steps by shaking a leg to songs from their upcoming movie, Badrinath Ki Dulhania.

As soon as they saw Alia and Varun onstage, a few children raced to the front. Both stars prompted the kids to dance by shouting words of encouragement.

Perhaps one of the most excited people in the audience was Saahil Shah, a nine-year-old resident of Malad. "I ran after Varun's car to get a picture," he said, panting.

"I had told my parents that I didn't want to accompany them to the festival. I didn't know Varun Dhawan and Alia Bhatt were going to be here. I am so happy I managed to get a selfie with them," he said.



• Actors Alia Bhatt and Varun Dhawan dance to songs from their upcoming movie as part of the HT Kala Ghoda Arts Festival closing ceremony on Sunday. **PRATIK CHARGE/HT**

**I ran after Varun Dhawan's car to get a picture. I didn't know he and Alia Bhatt were going to be at the festival. I am so happy I managed to get a selfie with them.**

SAAHIL SHAH, Malad resident

