



**REPUBLIC** TV



**THE  
PONDY  
LIT FEST 2019**

**27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

**Venue:  
Shenbaga Convention Centre**

**[www.pondylitfest.com](http://www.pondylitfest.com)**

# BHARAT SHAKTI

“India is the Bharat Shakti, the living energy of a great spiritual conception, and fidelity to it is the very principle of her existence.”

It is with these words of Sri Aurobindo that the Pondy Lit Fest was conceived. From the beginning, we sought to create a platform that brought together people who wished to see India attain her full potential, and who did not shy away from expressing as much through their words and actions. In a sense, our lit fest changed the definition of literature festivals in India. No longer were they a gathering where the pessimistic elite pondered about the country's backwardness and poverty. Here, we discussed the growth of India's economic and military might, her increasingly important geopolitical role, and how we could reconcile her vibrant past with her bright future. Neither did we shy away from proclaiming that ours is the greatest civilization in the world, nor did we shy away from enunciating clearly what it is that makes it thus: Bharat Shakti, the living energy of a great spiritual conception.

The first edition of our festival was a roaring success. The foremost thinkers of the country were present, shedding light on various issues. What set our speakers apart was that they weren't hollow have-beens, but men and women who were experts in their fields and had the clout to bring about large-scale change in India. Lawmakers, policymakers, historians, economists, journalists, filmmakers, scientists - most of them didn't even need an introduction- that's the quality of discourse that the Pondy Lit Fest brought about.

As we begin working towards a grander second edition, the signs that India is finally leaving behind the non-assertive mentality and the narrative of victimhood that had become synonymous with her, are all around us. But the challenges are starker than ever. As new India breaks one shackle after another and begins her inevitable rise, the second edition of the Pondy Lit Fest will attempt to serve as a platform for the architects of new India to share their thoughts about the challenges we face and how new India will overcome them.

## CURATORS



**Kanchan Gupta**

Senior Columnist,  
Distinguished Fellow at ORF



**Anand Ranganathan**

Professor, JNU

## ORGANISERS



**Partha Hariharan**

Managing Director



**Alo Sud**

Director



**Ajit Datta**

Director



**Gayatri Iyer**

Director

**Media Partner**



**Social Media Partners**



## INAUGURAL



**Dr. Kiran Bedi**

Honourable Lt Governor  
of Puducherry



**Shri V. Narayanasamy**

Honourable Chief Minister  
of Puducherry

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Shri Arif Mohammed Khan**

Honourable Governor of Kerala



**Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma**

Honourable Minister of Finance,  
Health and P.W.D., Assam



**Ram Madhav**

BJP General Secretary,  
Governor, India Foundation



**Shri Kanchan Gupta**

Senior Columnist,  
Distinguished Fellow at ORF

## IN CONVERSATION



**Dr. Anirban Ganguly**

Director at SPMRF,  
author of Amit Shah  
and The March Of BJP



**Shri Prasoon Joshi**

Noted Lyricist,  
author of Thinking Aloud



# Speakers



**AARTI SINGH TIKOO**  
Senior Journalist



**AASHISH CHANDORKAR**  
Public Policy Analyst,  
author of The Fadnavis Years



**ABHIJIT CHAVDA**  
Theoretical Physicist,  
Researcher of History



**ABHIJIT IYER MITRA**  
Senior Fellow at the Institute of  
Peace & Conflict Studies



**ABHIJIT MAJUMDER**  
Senior Journalist And  
Political Commentator



**ABHINAV PRAKASH**  
Assistant Professor  
at Delhi University, Columnist



**ADITYA RAJ KAUL**  
Journalist Covering Internal Security,  
Conflict and Foreign Affairs



**ALOKE KUMAR**  
Assistant Professor  
at IISC Bengaluru



**AMRITA BHINDER**  
Columnist



**ANKUR SINGH**  
Social Media Activist



**ANURAAG SAXENA**  
Co-Founder of India Pride Project



**ARAVINDAN  
NEELAKANDAN**  
Columnist,  
co-author of Breaking India



**ASHISH DHAR**  
Founder of UpWord and Pragyata



**ASHUTOSH MUGLIKAR**  
Columnist



**BAIJAYANT PANDA**  
BJP Vice-President,  
author of Lutyens Maverick



**DEEP HALDAR**  
Executive Editor at India Today,  
author of Blood Island



**GANESH  
LAKSHMINARYANAN**  
Author of Vaakaiaidith Thedal and  
Thaamiraparani Ennum Sinehithi



**GAUTAM CHIKERMANE**  
VP at ORF, author of 70 Policies  
That Shaped India



**GAUTAM CHINTAMANI**  
Film Historian,  
author of Rajneeti



**HARAN PRASANNA**  
Editor at Valam Magazine



**HARINI SRINIVASAN**  
Author of The Curse of Anuganga



**HARSH GUPTA**  
Columnist, Public Policy Expert



**JATAAYU**  
Editor at Valam Magazine, author of  
Kaalam Thorum Narasingham



**JUSTICE JAICHANDREN**  
Former Judge  
at the Madras High Court



**KHALID B SHAH**  
Associate Fellow  
at ORF And Kashmir Expert



**MALINI AWASTHI**  
Renowned Folk Singer



**MARYA SHAKIL**  
Political Editor at CNN News 18,  
Columnist

# Speakers



**MEENAKSHI JAIN**  
Noted Historian,  
author of Flight of Deities



**NAGARAJAN**  
Temple Rights Activist



**NANDINI SENGUPTA**  
Journalist and  
author of The King Within  
and the Poisoned Heart



**NAVDEEP SINGH**  
Former Military Reservist  
and Lawyer,  
author of Maimed By The System



**NIKHIL SINGH RAJPUTT**  
Filmmaker,  
Director of Blood Buddhas



**NIRAJ RAI**  
Scientist



**NUPUR J SHARMA**  
Editor at Oplndia.com



**PRADEEP BHANDARI**  
Sephologist



**PRAFULLA KETKAR**  
Editor at Organiser Magazine



**PRASANNA  
VISHWANATHAN**  
CEO at Swarajya Magazine



**PRASENJIT BASU**  
Economist, author of Asia Reborn



**RAGHAVAN  
JAGANNATHAN**  
Editorial Director  
at Swarajya Magazine,  
author of Jobs Crisis In India



**RAHUL PANDITA**  
Senior Journalist,  
author of Our Moon Has Blood Clots



**RAHUL ROUSHAN**  
Founder of Oplndia.com



**RAJAT SETHI**  
Political commentator, author of  
The Last Battle of Saraighat



**RAJEEV SRINIVASAN**  
Columnist, Blogger and  
Public Affairs Commentator



**RAMACHANDRAN  
NAGASWAMY**  
Distinguished archaeologist,  
historian and epigraphist



**J SAI DEEPAK**  
Senior Lawyer And  
Constitutional Expert



**SAI SWAROOPA AIYAR**  
Author of Draupadi



**SAMPADANANANDA  
MISHRA**  
Director at SAFIC,  
author of Sri Aurobindo and Sanskrit



**SANDHYA JAIN**  
Senior Journalist and Columnist,  
author of J&K: Invisible Faultlines



**SANDIP GHOSE**  
Corporate Leader, Columnist



**SANJEEV SANYAL**  
Principal Economic Advisor,  
Historian, author of Land Of  
The Seven Rivers



**SANKRANT SANU**  
Author of  
The English Medium Myth



**LT. GEN. SATISH DUA**  
Retired Chief  
of Integrated Defense Staff,  
Planned & Executed  
the Surgical Strikes



**SHEFALI VAIDYA**  
Columnist,  
author of Ghar Hindate Aakashi



**SHUBHRASTHA**  
Columnist, co-author of  
The Last Battle of Saraighat

# Speakers



**SOMDUTTA SINGH**  
Serial Entrepreneur



**SREEMOY TALUKDAR**  
Senior Editor at Firstpost.com



**SUNIL AMBEKAR**  
National Organising Secretary, ABVP



**SURJIT BHALLA**  
Economist, Psephologist,  
Cricket Buff, author of Citizen Raj



**SG SURYA**  
Founder of Kathir News and  
author of Yogi Orr Aanmiga Arasiyal



**SUSHIL PANDIT**  
Advertising Guru



**SWAPAN DASGUPTA**  
Member of Parliament,  
author of Awakening Bharat Mata



**SWATI GOEL SHARMA**  
Journalist at Swaraja Magazine



**TAVLEEN SINGH**  
Senior Journalist and Columnist,  
author of Durbar and  
India's Broken Tryst



**TUHIN SINHA**  
Political commentator,  
author of Let the Reason Be Love



**MA VENKATESAN**  
Author of Hindutva Ambedkar



**MR VENKATESH**  
Columnist and  
Political Commentator,  
author of Dr. Manmohan Singh-  
A Decade of Decay



**S VENKATESH**  
Author of Kalkoot



**VIKRAM SAMPATH**  
Founder of BLF,  
author of Savarkar- Echoes  
Of A Forgotten Past



**VIKRAM SOOD**  
Former R&AW Chief, Advisor at ORF,  
author of The Unending Game



**S VISHWANATHAN**  
Writer,  
Water and Sanitation Expert



**VIVA KERMANI**  
Writer And Environmentalist



**YOGINI DESHPANDE**  
Chief Editor at Indic Today

## PERFORMING ARTISTES



**Rina Das Baul**



**Raju Das Baul**



**Avinash Tripathi**



**Dr. Dipankar Roy**

## CULTURAL ADVISER



facebook.com/pondylitfest



@pondylitfest



pondylitfest@gmail.com