



Bharat Shakti Pondy Lit Fest 2023

www.pondylitfest.com

Dates:

15th to 17th September 2023

Venue:

Hotel Atithi, Puducherry

Theme:

India's Strategic Autonomy

Organisers:



Indologue Events and Ideas

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Pondy Lit Fest



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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.”

-Sri Aurobindo

The year 2023 has turned out to be an interesting one for India. Putting the uncertainties of the pandemic behind us, we have emerged as an important power on the move. Often, we have spoken about becoming “atma-nirbhar”, and assuming the role of a “vishwaguru”. Perhaps for the first time though, in practical terms, we have achieved high levels of something our republic has always strived towards - strategic autonomy.

From the country’s leading scientists to some of the most influential socio-political voices, from soldiers at the highest rungs of the Indian military to experts who study crucial periods and personalities, PLF 2023 will take you on a vibrant thought-provoking journey. It will include lectures, presentations, interviews, panel-discussions, and interactions between a high-quality audience and some of India’s foremost thinkers. It will focus on sub-themes like Sri Aurobindo’s vision for a robust India, the visions that many other great personalities had for India, technology, science, military, economics, foreign policy; and how all these verticals come together to make India strategically autonomous.

The Pondy Lit Fest thanks our partners.

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Session Partner



Speakers



Abhijit Iyer Mitra

Senior Fellow,
Institute of Peace
and Conflict Studies



Abhijit Majumder

Journalist, Co-founder
and Editor in Chief of Earshot.in



Abhinav Agarwal

Author



Prof. Alope Kumar

Associate Prof. IISc Bangalore



Prof. Anand Ranganathan

Professor at Jawaharlal Nehru
University, Author and Columnist



Air Marshal Anil Chopra Retd.

Former Test and Fighter Pilot IAF,
Director General, Centre for Air
Power Studies



Arun Krishnan

Author



Ashok Chowgule

Vice President,
Vishwa Hindu Parishad, India



Deep Halder

Journalist and Author



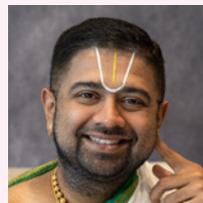
Devdip Ganguli

Faculty Member, Sri Aurobindo
International Center of Education



Disha Ahluwalia

Field Archaeologist
and PhD research scholar at MSU
Baroda



Dushyanth Sridhar

Vedic speaker, writer, researcher



Gautam Chikermane

Vice President,
Observer Research Foundation,
Author



Prof. Gautam Desiraju

Scientist and Author



Lalitha Kumaramangalam

Former Chairperson,
National Commission for Women



Dr. Meenakshi Jain

Historian



Monika Halan

Personal Finance Writer, Author, Speaker



Nandini Sengupta

Journalist and Author



Dr. Pariksith Singh

Physician, Entrepreneur, Writer



Partho

Writer and Teacher



Prafulla Ketkar

Editor, Organiser Weekly



Prasenjit K Basu

Economist, Author of Asia Reborn



Rahul Shivshankar

Progressive Conservative Journalist



Rashmi Samant

Author - A Hindu in Oxford



Dr. Ratan Sharda

Author



Dr. Sampadananda Mishra

Director, Center for Human Sciences, Rishihood University



Sandeep Balakrishna

Founder and Chief Editor, The Dharma Dispatch, Author



Sandeep Unnithan

Journalist and Author



Prof. Shailja Singh

Professor, Special Center for Molecular Medicine, Jawaharlal Nehru University



Shehzad Poonawala

BJP National Spokesperson



Shiv Aroor

Journalist and Author



Shivakumar GV

Author



CMDE. Srikant Kesnur Retd.
Former Director, Maritime Warfare
Centre and Officer in Charge
Naval History Project



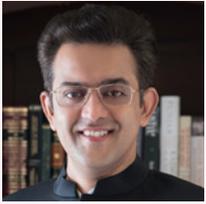
Dr. Swapan Dasguta
Former Member of Parliament,
Author



Tejasvi Surya
National President BJP Yuva Morcha,
Member of Parliament



Vijayalakshmi Vijayakumar
Author



Dr. Vikram Sampath
Historian, Fellow,
Royal Historical Society



Vishnu Shankar Jain
Lawyer [Advocate On Record]
Supreme Court of India

Schedule

Day 1 - 15th September 2023 - Friday

4.30 pm to 4.35 pm	Lamp Lighting A Namassivayam, Tejasvi Surya, Partha Hariharan, Alo Pal, Ajit Datta
4.35 pm to 4.50 pm	Speeches Partha Hariharan, A Namassivayam, Kanchan Gupta's Message
4.50 pm to 5.30 pm	SMaRT-Swarajya Awards
5.30 pm to 6.00 pm	Keynote Address Tejasvi Surya
6.00 pm to 7.00 pm	Sri Aurobindo, India, and the World Nandini Sengupta [Moderator], Gautam Chikermane, Dr. Sampadananda Mishra, Dr. Pariksith Singh, Devdip Ganguli
7.00 pm to 8.00 pm	Hindus of Hindu Rashtra [Book Launch and Discussion] Alo Pal [Moderator], Prof. Anand Ranganathan, Adv. Vishnu Shankar Jain, Dr. Meenakshi Jain, Dr. Ratan Sharda

Day 2 - 16th September 2023 - Saturday

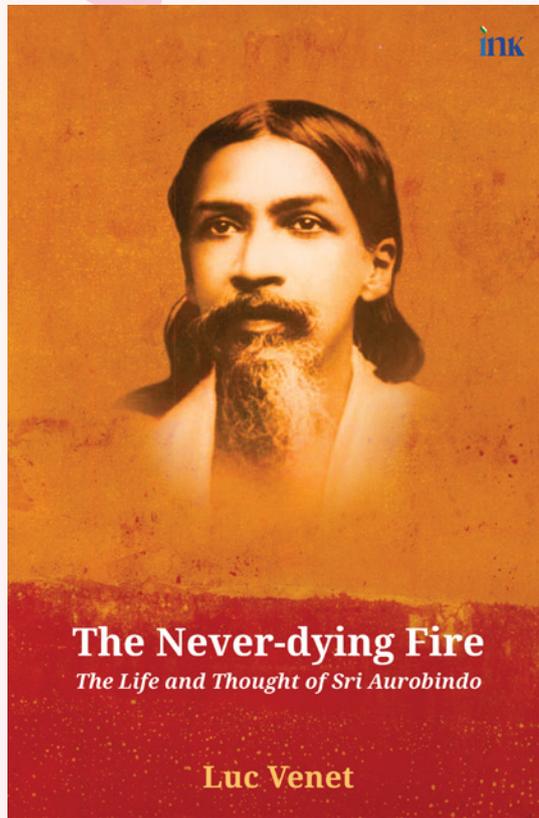
9.30 am to 10.15 am	Veer Savarkar and the Early Revolutionary Movement in India Dr. Vikram Sampath
10.15 am to 11.00 am	This Is Sanatan Dharma [Book Launch and Discussion] Gautam Chikermane [Contributing Moderator], Partho
11.00 am	Book Stall Break

11.15 AM to 12.15 pm	Indian Knowledge Systems and the Perpetuity of Civilization Prafulla Ketkar [Contributing Moderator], Sandeep Balakrishna, Dr. Sampadananda Mishra
12.15 pm to 1.00 pm	Godi Media - Supine, Constructively Critical or Pointlessly Combative? Abhijit Iyer Mitra [Contributing Moderator], Shehzad Poonawala
1.00 pm to 1.30 pm	The Past as Present: Battles Over History Dr. Swapan Dasgupta
1.30 pm	Lunch Break
2.30 pm to 3.30 pm	Civilizational Memory Validated: The Case for Mathura and Kashi Alo Pal [Moderator], Adv. Vishnu Jain, Dr. Meenakshi Jain
3.30 pm to 4.15 pm	Resurgent Indic Narratives Arun Krishnan, Abhinav Agarwal [Contributing Moderator], Shivakumar GV
4.15 pm to 5.15 pm	Vedas Made Simple [Book Launch and Discussion] Dr. Pariksith Singh, Dushyanth Sridhar
5.15 pm to 6.00 pm	Chandrayaan And Beyond: India's Space Race Prof. Alope Kumar, Prof. Gautam Desiraju
6.00 pm	Book Stall Break
6.15 pm to 7.00 pm	India's Neighbours: Pakistan, China and the Seas Shiv Aroor [Moderator], CMDE. Srikant Kesnur, Air Marshal Anil Chopra
7.00 pm to 8.00 pm	Domestic Politics and Strategic Autonomy Rahul Shivshankar, Rashmi Samant, Ashok Chowgule, Dr. Ratan Sharda [Moderator]

Day 3 - 17th September 2023 - Sunday

9.30 am to 10.00 am	India's Strategic Autonomy and Air Power Air Marshal Anil Chopra
10.00 am to 11.00 am	History, Narratives and Research Nandini Sengupta [Contributing Moderator], Disha Ahluwalia, Prasenjit Basu, Vijayalakshmi Vijayakumar
11.00 am	Book Stall Break
11.15 am to 12.30 pm	Breaking News Into Pieces: What Ails the Media Deep Halder [Moderator], Shiv Aroor, Rahul Shivshankar, Monika Halan, Abhijit Majumder
12.30 pm to 1.30 pm	India's Soft Power Lalitha Kumaramangalam, Dr. Swapan Dasgupta, Abhijit Iyer Mitra [Contributing Moderator]
1.30 pm	Lunch Break
2.30 pm to 3.30 pm	India's Neighbours: Looking East Abhijit Iyer Mitra [Contributing Moderator], Sandeep Unnithan, Deep Halder, CMDE. Srikant Kesnur
3.30 pm to 4.30 pm	Is India Witnessing Amrit Kaal? Prof. Gautam Desiraju, Monika Halan [Contributing Moderator], Prasenjit Basu, Ashok Chowgule
4.30 pm to 5.00 pm	The Never Dying Fire [Book Launch and Discussion] Devdip Ganguli, Rakhal Venet
5.00 pm to 5.45 pm	Tackling Neglected Diseases - Indian Healthcare Breakthroughs Prof. Anand Ranganathan, Prof. Shailja Singh
5.45 pm	Book Stall Break

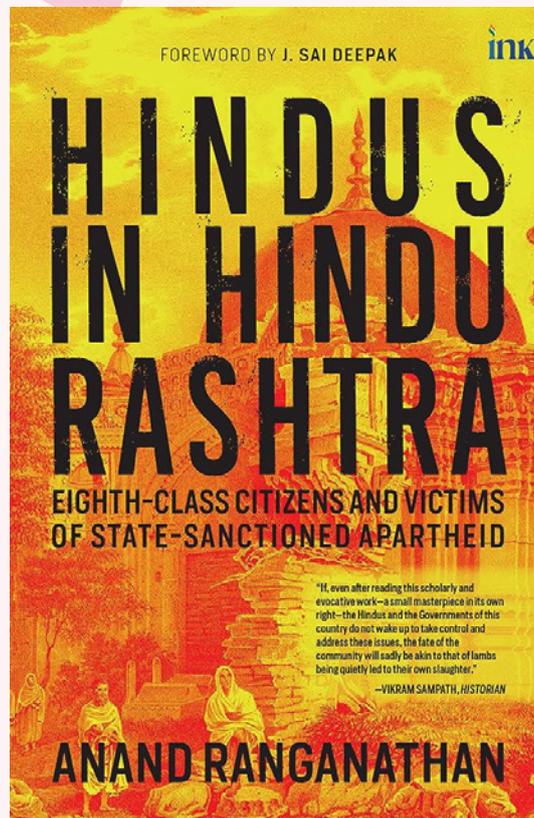
6.00 pm to 6.45 pm	26/11: 15 years on Sandeep Unnithan, Shiv Aroor
6.45 pm to 7.15 pm	Revisiting Ganga-Jamni Tehzeeb Dr. Meenakshi Jain
7.15 pm to 8.15 pm	Is the Indian state designed to fulfill our strategic goals? Prafulla Ketkar, Abhijit Iyer Mitra, Abhijit Majumder, Anand Ranganathan [Contributing Moderator]



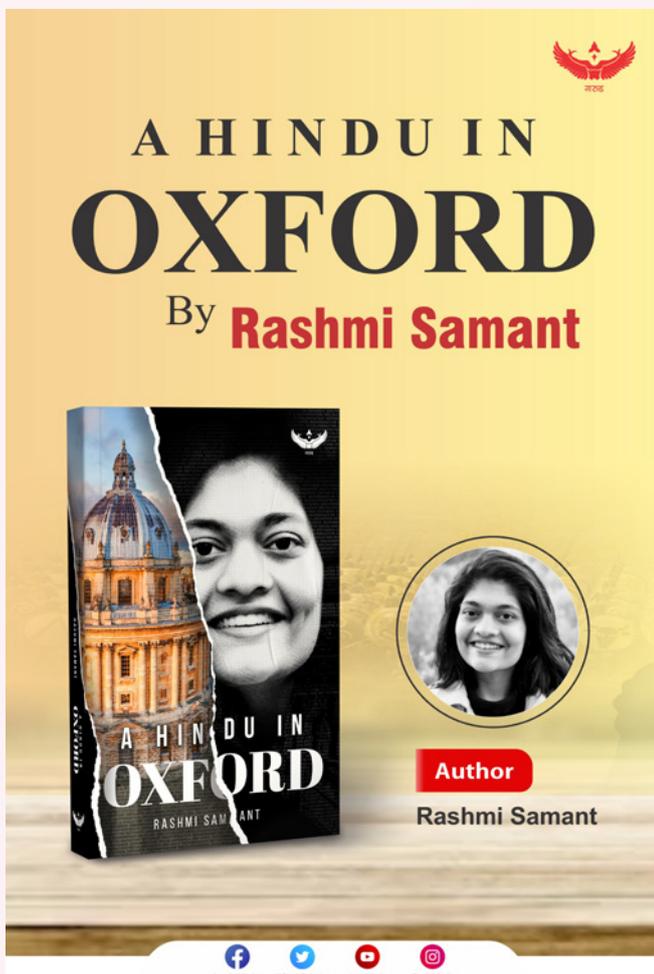
Luc Venet's book, 'The Never-dying Fire', will be launched at the Pondy Lit Fest on 17th September 2023, at 4.30 pm. It will be followed by a conversation.



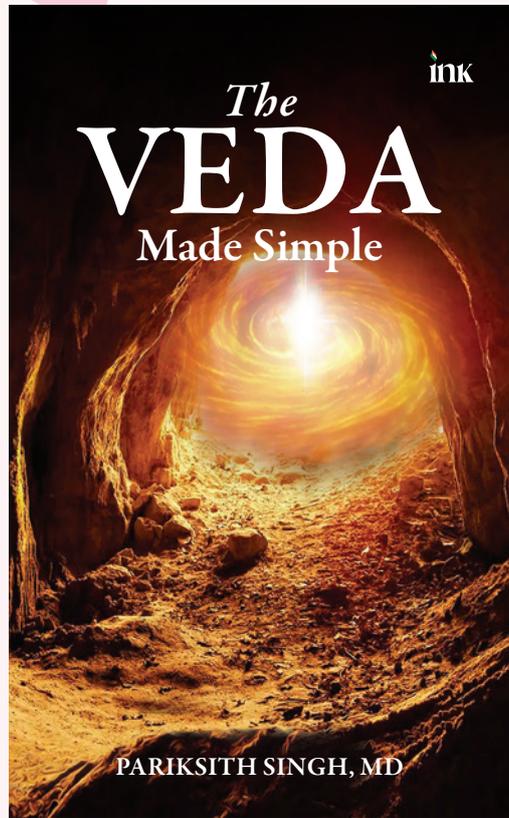
Partho's book, 'This Is Sanatan Dharma', will be launched at the Pondy Lit Fest on 16th September 2023, at 10.15 am. It will be followed by a conversation with the author.



Anand Ranganathan's book, 'Hindus in Hindu Rashtra', will be launched at the Pondy Lit Fest on 15th September 2023, at 7.00 pm. It will be followed by a panel discussion in which the author will take part.



The Puducherry launch of Rashmi Samant's book, 'A Hindu In Oxford', will take place at the Pondy Lit Fest on 16th September 2023, at 7.00 pm.



Dr. Pariksith Singh's book, 'The Veda Made Simple', will be launched at the Pandy Lit Fest on 16th September 2023 at 4.15 pm. It will be followed by a conversation with the author.



The seventh edition of Swarajya Awards will be presented on September 15th during a special session at the Pandy Lit Fest 2023

Four awards encompassing economics [Dr B R Shenoy Award], politics [Dr S P Mukherjee Award], society[Sree Narayana Guru Award] and cultural [Ustad Bismillah Khan Award] spheres will be presented.



The Motwani Jadeja Foundation's flagship initiative, the Rajeev Circle Scholars Program, will be introduced at Ponds Lit Fest 2023.

The Rajeev Circle Scholars Program seeks to publish high quality, well-researched and accessible popular books on Indian history each year through the grant of a coveted Fellowship awarded to eligible scholars.

“With 17 percent of the world already living in India (and an estimated population of 1.5 billion by 2030), it is imperative that the citizens of India leapfrog into the future as rapidly and efficiently as possible. We need new systems, a new way of looking at the world and a new to make this possible.”

-Asha Jadeja Motwani

Also at the Ponds Lit Fest

PLF Book Stall

The stall will feature several titles published by various publishers. Titles by BluOne Ink, Subbu Publications, Sri Aurobindo Ashram and INDICA Books will be specially featured.

The festival will also feature independent stalls by the following publishers and organisations:

- **Garuda Prakashan**
- **Vitasta Publishing**
- **Anaadi Foundation**
- **Coolture Designs**
- **Story Mirror Infotech**