

**Pondicherry/Auroville Poetry Festival 2025 – SCHEDULE**  
**SUBJECT to CHANGE (16 February 2025)**



day 1: GOLDEN DAY (noon)

date: 1 March 2025 (Saturday)

time: 2:00 pm–3:00 pm (arrival of all participants)

venue: SHARANAM

address: Ousterimedu, Sri Aurobindo Society, Poothurai Road, Near, Vazhudavoor Rd, Vanur, Taluka Villupuram, Tamil Nadu 605111

<b>12:00 pm – 1:00 pm</b>	<b>LUNCH</b> for all those arriving before 1:00 pm	Prior notice should be given for lunch ( <b>by 16th February to Gayatri</b> )
<b>1:00 pm onwards</b>	<b>Refresh &amp; Rest</b>	Allocation of rooms and other formalities

\*All the meals mentioned are for outstation participants residing at SHARANAM except where indicated ('for all participants')

day 1 (evening session)

date: 1 March 2025 (Saturday)

time: 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm

venue: SHARANAM (indoor hall)

<b>4:45 pm – 5:00 pm</b>	<b>TEA</b>	
<b>5:00 pm – 5:15 pm</b>	Welcome to P/APF 2025	Anju Makhija   Gayatri Majumdar   Chandranath
<b>5:15 pm – 5:35 pm</b>	Vishendevi Award 2025	Anju Makhija   Dr Jayaramesh
<b>5:35 pm – 5:55 pm</b>	Invocation	Gautam Mitra and Shivam Ojha
<b>5:55 pm – 6:45 pm</b>	Panel Discussion: 'A Crisis of Belonging: Can poetry be the common language?'	Maitreyee B Chowdhury*   Bidhan Acharya (Nepal)   Neera Kashyap   Dr Sudhir Saxena   Rozio Yohannan, Smitha Sehgal   Anju Makhija
<b>6:45 pm – 6:55 pm</b>	<b>TEA BREAK</b>	
<b>6:55 pm – 8:30 pm</b>	Poetry Readings on 'Inner and Outer Belonging' (six poets – 10 min each)  Six volunteer-poets (5 mins each) including students from Tagore Government College of Arts & Science, Pondicherry	Yusuf Muhammed (Bangladesh)   Sehdev Kumar (Kabir in English/Chinese & German))   Anandi Zhang   Alka Balain   Neel Adhiraj Kumar   Anita Kamaali (Iran/Auroville)  Harsh Vardhan (Hindi) & Karthigasri   Nirmala   Kuberan  Pragathi   Gunasegaran**
<b>8:30 pm – 8:50 pm</b>	Indian Folk Songs	Gautam Mitra and Shivam Ojha
<b>8:50 pm onwards</b>	<b>DINNER &amp; GOOD NIGHT</b>	Dinner for all participants and attendees

\*Moderator

\*\* Moderator: Gayatri

day 2 (morning sessions)

date: 2 March 2025 (Sunday)

time: 6:30 am to 8:30 am

venues: 1. MATRI UDYAN (Mother's Garden) Ousteri/Ossudu Lake, near Pondicherry  
& next to SHARANAM

2. SHARANAM (indoor hall)

<b>6:30 am – 8:30 am</b>	'Learning from NATURE' (the trees & bees) with Kavita Dutta (presented by Aurovanam)	Farm Walk – with tea ( <b>confirm participation by 22 February</b> )
<b>8:30 am – 10:00 am</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	
<b>10:00 am onwards</b>	Refresh	
<b>11:15 am – 12:00 pm</b>	Talk: 'The Future of Children's Poetry'	Deepa Agarwal (with additional readings)
<b>12:00 pm onwards</b>	<b>LUNCH &amp; REST</b>	

day 2 (afternoon session)

date: 2 March 2025 (Sunday)

time: 3:30 pm to 8:45 pm

venue: Unity Pavilion

International Zone, Crown Road, Auroville

<b>3:30 pm</b>	Assemble at designated venue (at SHARANAM)	Bus to Auroville
<b>4:15 pm – 4:30 pm</b>	Welcome Talk: 'The Art of Belonging'	Jaya Berggreen-Clausen (Auroville)
<b>4:30 pm – 5:50 pm</b>	Poetry readings (eight poets – 10 min each)	Bhishma Upreti (Nepal)   Smitha Sehgal   Beenu Marcus   Rita Nath Keshari*   Debasish Lahiri   Bidhan Acharya (Nepal)   Neera Kashyap   Neel Adhiraj Kumar
<b>5:50 pm – 6:40 pm</b>	'A Place Called Home': A Poetic Drama	Jill Navarre & Five Friends
<b>6:40 pm – 6:50 pm</b>	<b>TEA BREAK</b>	
<b>6:50 pm – 8:15 pm</b>	Poetry readings (contd.) (eight poets – 10 min each)	Riozio Yohannan   Lily Arul Sharma   Maitreyee B Chowdhury   Anita Kamaali   Dr Sudhir Saxena (Hindi)   Yusuf

		Muhammed   Manjiri Prabhu   Anju Makhija   Gayatri Majumdar*
<b>8.20 pm</b>	<b>Back to SHARANAM</b>	<b>By bus</b>
<b>9:00 pm onwards</b>	<b>DINNER &amp; GOOD NIGHT</b>	

\*Moderator

day 3 (morning session)

date: 3 March 2025 (Monday)

time: 10:15 am to 12:30 pm

venue: SHARANAM (indoor hall)

<b>8:30 am–9:45 am</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	
<b>10:15 am – 10:50 am</b>	TALK: ‘Art and Poetry with Insights from Sri Aurobindo’	Dr Beloo Mehra
<b>10:50 am – 11:40 am</b>	Poetry Readings/Paper Presentations: ‘Love and Gratitude in a Fractured World’ (five participants – 10 min each)	Bidhan Acharya (Nep)   Bhisma Upreti* (Nep)   Gayatri Majumdar   Yusuf Muhammed (Bang)   Neera Kashyap
<b>11:40 am – 11:55 am</b>	Book Launch	Launch-reading of Manjiri Prabhu’s poetry book, <i>Halos of the Heart – Poems to Remember</i>
<b>11:55 am – 12:05 pm</b>	<b>Tea break</b>	
<b>12:05 pm – 12:25 pm</b>	Presentation: ‘A Glimpse of Sri Aurobindo’s Life through His Poems’ (The making of an audiobook)	Gayatri Majumdar with Victor Banerjee
<b>12:30 pm onwards</b>	<b>LUNCH &amp; REST</b> [NOTE: In the afternoon participants are free to explore Pondicherry and/or Auroville (and reach the venue, Palais de Mahe, at 5:15 pm)]**	<b>MEAL (Lunch) EXPENSES ON THIS DAY TO BE BORNE BY PARTICIPANTS</b> (except for those who wish to stay back at SHARANAM)

\*Moderator

\*\*Vehicle can be arranged on request (to confirm with Gayatri by 23rd February)

day 3 (evening session)  
date: 3 March 2025 (Monday)  
time: 4:15 pm to 8:45 pm  
venue: Palais de Mahe (CGH Earth), Pondicherry  
address: 4, Bussy Street, Pondicherry

<b>4:15 pm</b>	Assemble at designated venue (at SHARANAM)	Bus to Palais de Mahe, Pondicherry   OR reach venue on your own
<b>5:15 pm – 5:30 pm</b>	<b>TEA</b> upon arrival	
<b>5:30 pm – 5:35 pm</b>	Welcome	Anju Makhija
<b>5:35 pm – 6:05 pm</b>	Talk: ‘The Art of Writing Dramatic Poetry’ (with reading)	Debasish Lahiri
<b>6:05 pm – 8:15 pm</b>	<b>Eight books</b> launch + Q&A & book signing (15 min each)	Alka Balain   Anandi Zhang   Smitha Sehgal   Deepa Agarwal   Manjiri Prabhu   Anju Makhija     Sehdev Kumar   Gayatri Majumdar*
<b>8:15 pm</b>	Thank You!	Gayatri
<b>8:15 pm onwards</b>	<b>DINNER &amp; RETURN TO SHARANAM</b>	Dinner in Pondicherry (for all participants) by Pondicherry Poets FRIENDS; Return by bus

\*Moderator

day 4 (morning)  
date: 4 March 2025 (Tuesday)  
time: 8:30 am – 11:00 am  
venue: SHARANAM

<b>8:30 am – 10:00 am</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	
<b>11:00 am onwards</b>	Depart from SHARANAM GOODBYE!	Please arrange your own vehicle

