DAY 01 NLF Schedule

Kathashala

Kahani Manch

Announcement Ceremony

Stages	Sessions for Young Children		Sessions for Adults	
9.30-10.30 AM	+ Performance by Goshtarang Girne Laga Asman - When a tiny rabbit thinks the sky is falling after a leaf lands on his head, panic spreads through the forest—until the wise lion uncovers the real truth. + Winning Big For 6-8YR Join author Mamta Nainy to discover how young cricketer Palwankar Baloo chased his big dreams and courageously broke barriers on and off the cricket field, in her book Baloo's Big Win: How Palwankar Baloo Broke the Caste Barrier in Oricket*.	10min (Hindi) 45min	Time-Travel Back and Forth Award-winning author Uma Krishnaswami revisits the beloved world of Book Uncle and Me by following the main characters in two new sequels, Birds on the Brain* and The Sunshine Project, exploring how children's individual passions grow into community causes.	45min
10.30-11.30 AM	+ Just Like Mama, Just Like Papa, Just Like Me! For 5-7YR Join author Nandita da Cunha for two stories about love, change, and becoming your own kind of wonderful. + Performance by Goshtarang Sheela and Leela - Sheela is timid and Leela is brave, and together in a field of yellow grass, their unique friendship shines, as penned by Neetu Sharma.	45min 10min (Hindi)	Tracing Our Story River Sam Leith, author of The Haunted Wood: A History of Childhood Reading, is in conversation with Devika Rangachari, historian and author of Queen of Water, about the river of stories that our heritage draws on.	50min
11.30AM-12.30 PM	Left, Right, Left FoR 6-8YR Left-handed Paru goes up against bullying classmates, a mean teacher, and unfriendly stationery in her quest to be a comfortable 'leftie.' Join Bijal Vachharajani, author of Left-Out Paru, for some sinistral shenanigans. Performance by Goshtarang Mehke Sari Gali Gali - A compilation of Hindi children's poems from the 20th century.	45min 10min (Hindi)	+ The Noise Inside Boys Carnegie Medalist Anthony McGowan and New York Times bestselling author Pablo Cartaya discuss how stories can help boys move beyond stereotypes and grow into kind, caring friends and partners.	50min
12.30-1.30 PM	+ We, the People of India For 6-8YR What makes the Indian Constitution so special? How did it come into being, and how does it celebrate our diversity? Find out with Ashok Rajagopalan, creator of 5 Fantastic Facts about the Indian Constitution. - Performance by Goshtarang Fakruddin ka Fridge - Little Fakruddin, a worrier with endless questions, must figure out how to survive the summer without his fridge— and maybe stop being Frantic Fakru—in this lively tale set in Bhopal, written by Meenu Thomas.	45min 10min (Hindl)	* Bringing History Alive Award-winning Science writer Sam Kean speaks about his most recent release, Dinner with King Tut: How Rogue Archaeologists Are Recreating the Sights, Sounds, Smells, and Tastes of Lost Civilizations. What may readers look forward to, and what does the author hope they take away from the book?	45min
1.30-2.30 PM	* Lu	nch	Break *	
2.30-3.30 PM	* Make Some Noise For 6-8YR What would it be like if sounds had a life of their own? Could they dance, or play hide-and-seek, or be grumpy? Go on a sonic journey through Sound Town with author Vibha Batra * Performance by Goshtarang Elephantantrum - Ellie, who always gets what she wants, demands an elephant— but when one finally arrives and misbehaves, she learns a little something about sharing and gratitude, in this story by Gillian Shields	45min 10min (English)	Verse Novels and Resistant Readers Verse novels combine poetic language and white space to make stories feel more inviting, authentic, and less intimidating—especially for resistant young adult readers. Joanna Cardenas, associate publisher, Kokila Books, moderates a discussion with Newbery Honoree Rajani LaRocca, award-winning writer Varsha Seshan, and teacher-librarian Nadine Bailey	50min
3.30-4.30 PM	Good Friends and Marvellous Mixups FoR 5-7YR Everyone needs a friend, including Cactus. Only he's a bit prickly and pokey, so his search for one is taking a little longer than he' Do you think he'll find a friend in the end? Join Neil Flory, autho. Cactus Wants a Hug, to find out. You'll also meet some Marvella Mixed Up creatures along the way, like a Hipsquirrot, a mix of a has Squirrel, and a Parrot. Oh my! Performance by Goshtarang Mai To Billi Hu - Little Tinti tries to fool everyone by acting like a cheeky cat, but when her mom puts her kitty skills to the test, chaos erupts, in this story by Rinchin.	y 'd like. or of ously	Non-Fiction Now Katie Day, Head of Senior Library, Tanglin Trust School, Singapore, who is the Jury Co-Chair for the 2025 Neev Book Award and Nadine Bailey, Middle School Librarian, American School of Dubai, and a jury member for the 2025 Neev Book Award, hold forth on the diversity of non-fliction available to cater to readers' needs today	50min
4.30-5.30 PM			2025 Neev Book Awards Appouncement Ceremony	*

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5min	k Award	10 Su Rishit
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iOmin	*This title is shortlisted for the 2025 Neev Book Award	11.1 Sa Lav
	shortlisted	11.30
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The day		
* *	2.30-3.30 PM	
	CONTD.	
Book Signing		
Marketplace	3-3.15 PM	
	Devashish Makhija	
	Aparna Kapur	
10.30-11.30 AM		
	3.15-3.30 PM	
10.30-10.45 AM	Ashok Rajagopalan	
Uma Krishnaswami		
Adithi Rao		
10.45-11 AM	3.30-4.30 PM	
Sutapa Basu	3.30-4.30 FM	
Rishita Loitongbam		
	3.30-3.45 PM	
11-11.15 AM	Paro Anand	
Saisudha Acharya	Priya Kuriyan	
11.15-11.30 AM	3.45-4 PM	
Savie Karnel	LeUyen Pham	
Lavanya Karthik	Vera Brosgol	
	Vaishali Shroff	
	4-4.15 PM	
11.30AM-12.30 PM	Rajani LaRocca	
	Bahar Dutt	
11.30-11.45 AM	Sailai Bact	
Nandita da Cunha	4.15-4.30 PM	
Shabnam Minwalla	Canato Jimo	
11.45 AM-12 PM		
Ogin Nayam		
Madhurima Vidyarthi	4.30-5.30 PM	
Mamta Nainy & Saumya Oberoi		А
	4.30-4.45 PM	,
	Neil Flory	1
12-12.15 PM	Anushka Ravishankar	wh
Sam Leith	Sujatha Padmanabhan	Q W
Vinitha	Aditi Krishnakumar	an
Devika Rangachari		wh
12.15-12.30 PM	4.45-5 PM	An
Rohan Chakravarty	Suresh Eriyat	
Chatura Rao	Poile Sengupta	
Gratara		
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12.30-1.30 PM	2/2/2	
	(623)	
12.30-12.45 PM	6	
Bijal Vachharajani	Book	
Samina Mishra	Interactions	
Pratyush Gupta		
12.45-1 PM	Performing Arts Studio	
Anthony McGowan	Ground Floor	
Pablo Cartaya		
abio Gai taya	9.30-9.45 AM	
1-1.15 PM	Where does it Hurt?	
Vibha Batra	Samina Mishra	
	FOR 5-7YR	
1.15-1.30 PM		
Kripa	10-10.15 AM	
Sam Kean	A Moon Full of Ants	
	Aparna Kapur For 5-7YR	
	POR 3-71K	
2.30-3.30 PM		
	10.30-10.45 AM	
2.30-2.45 PM	Zooni's Alarm Clock	
Mallika Ravikumar	Vibha Batra	
Kavita Singh Kale	FOR 6-8YR	
Veera Hiranandani		
0.45.0.511	11-11.15 AM	
2.45-3 PM	This is how I see it Mamta Nainy	
Sandipan Deb & Swagata Deb	FOD 6-0VD	

Arundhati Venkatesh

FOR 6-8YR

Masterclasses - Hands-On Workshops 1ST Floor 11.30-11.45 AM Be Careful, Bappa Vinitha 9.30-10.30 AM **FOR 9-12YR** 12-12.15 PM The Case of the Mysterious Witches Mallika Ravikumar **FOR 9-12YR** 12.30-12.45 PM 10 Scientists Whose Extraordinary Work You May Not Know Vaishali Shroff **FOR 9-12YR** 1-1.15 PM The Wall Friends Club Varsha Seshan **FOR 9-12YR** 2.30-2.45 PM Murder in the Jungle Sutapa Basu **FOR 9-12YR** 3-3.15 PM The Cuckoo Capers Biial Vachharajani FOR 6-8YR 3.30-4.15 PM **Bagful of Good Regards** FOR 5-7YR All the children seem to know hat they want to be when they grow up. But Gawa only knows what he wants to do. Join Gawa nd his friends as they talk about hat they want to be and do, with nushka Ravishankar, author of Gawa's Bag of Good Regards.

Feeling Shy, Feeling Brave FOR 9-12YR 45min Explore the making of the picture book Thoithoi Feels Shy Room 103 with author-illustrator Rishita Loitongbam. Making A Nation FOR 9-12YR Who are the people who came together to frame the ideas that would define our country? Learn more with Sutapa Basu, author of The Constitution of India: An Illustrated Children's Book. Room 104 A Pinch of Salt, A Demon! FOR 9-12YR Put on your detective hats and join author Lavanya Karthik author of A Demon in Dandi, on a journey through time! Travel to the Salt March of 1930 to meet some unlikely heroes, solve a mystery ...and catch a demon! Room 105 Colours of Courage FOR 9-12YR Step into the world of brave women and bold symbols with author Vinitha, as she brings to life the inspiring story of Bhikaji Cama, an Indian freedom fighter, in her book The Girl Who Wouldn't Stay Within The Lines. Room 106 Of Monsters and Roses FOR 9-12YR 60min Wander through the streets of downtown Srinagar with award-winning author Adithi Rao to uncover the story of The Scent of Roses. Room 111 Become a History Detective FOR 13-15YR 45min Learn how to question evidence, challenge myths, and piece together clues just like real historians and archaeologists, with Saisudha Acharya, author of History Unpacked: The Why, Room 109 When and What of Ancient India Secret Missions, Open Courage FOR 13-15YR 45min Step into the world of wartime espionage and raw courage with Savie Karnel, author of Laxmi Panda: The Story of Netaji's Youngest Spy. **Room 110** 10.30-11.30 AM Double Trouble FOR 9-12YR 45min Dina and Dorab Sethna are on their senior section head Tinaz Toddywala's watch list. One wrong move, and things could go very wrong for the duo. What do they decide to do next? Room 108 Find out with Shabnam Minwalla, author of Jumble Sale. Wordless Warmth FOR 9-12YR Join author-illustrator Ogin Nayam to get a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the making of his wordless picture book, When the Sun Sets*. Mirror Pages FOR 9-12YR Until the last 5 years in the UK, lots of children did not see their ethnicities and backgrounds represented in books. How do readers in India feel? Dive into exploring this further with Emily Drabble from BookTrust, who was the former editor of The Guardian children's books website. Room 104 Enchanted Quests FOR 9-12YR 45min In Sona and the Golden Beasts, Newbery Honoree Rajani LaRocca takes us on a quest in which a girl and a boy set off, with a wolf pup, to find a cure for a deadly illness. Room 105 Found Objects, Found Stories FOR 9-12YR 45min Learn to weave memory and meaning into a story based on the things we carry and find with Award-winning author Room 110 Chatura Rao Boundless FOR 13-15YR A desire to carve out a space for girls and women in 19th century Bengal led to the creation of a school that went against all the rules of the time. Author Madhurima Vidyarthi tells us more in her book, The School for Bad Girls. Room 109 Avian Antics FOR 13-15YR 45min Get a front-row seat to the everyday dramas of Indian birds in Bird Business with Rohan Chakravartv, creator of **Room 106** Green Humour. Beyond the Mirror FOR 15-18YR In a world bombarded with ever-shifting beauty standards, what does it mean to be comfortable in our own skin? Navigate these questions with Vinitha, editor of the anthology Hug Yourself: Body Positivity and Room 107 Empowerment Stories for Teenagers.

Crossing Borders, Building Connections FOR 9-12YR Roop's world is splitting into fragments. What will she carry of her home, what will she leave behind? Learn more from Samina Mishra, author of Roop and the River Crossing, set	45min
during the Partition of India.	Room 110
Science Writing FoR 9-12YR Interact with author Sam Kean as he traces the path he	45min
followed to become a widely acclaimed science writer.	Room 108
Everyday Heroes For 9-12YR Journey with Aranya and Prakriti as they visit the worlds that	45min
environmentalists created with author Bahar Dutt in her book <i>Planet Protectors: Storie</i> s of Green Heroes.	Room 106
Write Your World FOR 9-12YR	45min
Join author Niyatee Sharma as she reveals how celebrating individuality can be transformed into beautiful non-fliction picture books, through her work with <i>Perfect the Way You</i> <i>Are</i> and <i>My Nest is the Best</i> .	Room 109
Crafting Books that Pop, Sing and Glow FOR 13-15Y	R 45min
Author, designer and singer Pratyush Gupta shines light on his book <i>Master of the 7 Swars</i> .	Design Room
Book Launch - Spotless Owning Your Story FOR 13-15YR	45min
Step into the shoes of Raga Rachel Mathew, a standout 14-year-	
from Vibha Batra's powerful new novel-ln-verse, Spotless.	Room 111
Making, Caring, Dissenting or 15-18YR Can art be a vital tool of critique and protest? Follow Kripa's	45mir
lines of enquiry in the BolognaRagazzi Award-winning Art is a Voice*.	Room 105
Weaving Stories For 9-12YR	45mir
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11.30AM-12.30 PM		2.30-3.30 PM CONTD.		
Crossing Borders, Building Connections FOR 9-12YR Roop's world is splitting into fragments. What will she carry of her home, what will she leave behind? Learn more from Samina Mishra, author of Roop and the River Crossing, set during the Partition of India.	45min Room 110	The Cost of a Wish FOR 9-12YR Oliver finds a mysterious mallbox that seemingly makes all his wishes come true. At what cost? Find out with Caldecott Honoree Vera Brosgol as she tells the story in her new illustrated middle-grade novel, Return to Sender		
Science Writing FOR 9-12YR	45min	Young MacDonald, Pre-Farm For 9-12YR		
Interact with author Sam Kean as he traces the path he followed to become a widely acclaimed science writer.	Room 108	What if old MacDonald, from the nursery rhyme, started off not liking animals? Hear from Caldecott Honoree LeUyen Pham, illustrator of <i>The Man Who Didn't Like Animals</i> , on how		
Everyday Heroes FOR 9-12YR	45min	images can tell a different story from the words.		
Journey with Aranya and Prakriti as they visit the worlds that environmentalists created with author Bahar Dutt in her book <i>Planet Protectors</i> : Stories of Green Heroes.	Story Swirls FOR 13-15YR			
Write Your World FOR 9-12YR Join author Niyatee Sharma as she reveals how celebrating individuality can be transformed into beautiful non-fiction picture books, through her work with Perfect the Way You Are and My Nest is the Best.	45min Room 109	Illustrated elements add to the storytelling in the book Baloo's Big Win* by creating a sense of atmosphere and consistency. In this hands-on workshop with illustrator Saumya Oberoi, create a picture book spread and learn to draw beyond the text to add layers of stories within stories. Writing Submerged Stories For 13-15YR		
Crafting Books that Pop, Sing and Glow FOR 13-15Y: Author, designer and singer Pratyush Gupta shines light on his book Master of the 7 Swars.	R 45min Design Room	Join author Vaishali Shroff as she lifts the veils on the stories that flow between the pages of her book, Submerged Worlds		
Book Launch - Spotless Owning Your Story FOR 13-15YR Step Into the shoes of Raga Rachel Mathew, a standout 14-year-		Drive Through FOR 13-15YR Find out from award-winning author Pablo Cartaya about his journey with writing the story in A Hero's Guide to Summer Vacat Step into Gonzalo's shoes with an activity from the author		
from Vibha Batra's powerful new novel-in-verse, Spotless. Making, Caring, Dissentingfor 15-18YR Can art be a vital tool of critique and protest? Follow Kripa's lines of enquiry in the BolognaRagazzi Award-winning Art is a Voice*.	45min Room 105	Capturing Change FOR 15-18YR Acclaimed journalist Bahar Dutt delves into the realities of environmental journalism in India—its triumphs, its challenges, and the way forward.		
12.30-1.30 PM		Visual Storytelling and Beyond For 15-18YR Author-Illustrator and Pratham Books' art director Canato Jimo shows how picture books hold rich layers of meaning and cultural nuance, making them powerful for every age.		
Weaving Stories FOR 9-12YR	45min			
Join author-illustrator Kavita Singh Kale as she takes you on a journey through Ladakh in her book, <i>The Song of Life</i> .	Room 103	3.30-4.30 PM		
Pandemonium in Pink For 9-12YR	45min	Stories from the Snow FOR 9-12YR		
Learn more about the creation of Go Go Flamingo, with author Devashish Makhija and illustrator Priya Kuriyan.	Design Room	Hear the voices of the animals and children of Ladakh through three books from the region: A Roof For Norbu, Ghost of the Mountains, and Bumboo the Donkey Who Would		
The Hat Trick FOR 9-12YR Arundhati Venkatesh gives us a peek into her process for the bestselling Ramanujan: From Zero to Infinity and her	45min	Not Budge. Author Sujatha Padmanabhan tells us more about her experience making these books		
latest, Raman and Chandrasekhar: Lighting Up the Stars.	Room 106	Stuff of Legend For 9-12YR Step into the spooky and humorous world of P. N. K. Panicker's		
1 Person, Multiple Ways of Being FOR 9-12YR In her new picture book Many Things At Once, Newbery	45min	Ghost Stories with writer and award-winning animation film maker Suresh Eriyat.		
Honoree Veera Hiranandani speaks about what it is like to embrace multiple communities and identities.	Room 111	An Open Mind FOR 9-12YR		
Unlocking the Universe FOR 13-15YR Examine the simple and complex questions at the heart of physics, with Swagata and Sandipan Deb, authors of Why the Apple Falls, and learn the fundamentals of popular science writing.	45min Room 105	Being open to new experiences and thinking on one's feet serves Dini, protagonist of <i>The Grand Plan to Fix Everything</i> and its sequel <i>The Problem with Being Slightly Heroic</i> , well. Find out more with award-winning author Uma Krishnaswami about her inspiration for these books.		
Shifting Perspectives FOR 13-15YR In An Absence of Squirrels, author Aparna Kapur explores the art of shifting perspectives—sometimes even to objects!—as she guides readers through the	45min	A Coming-of-Age Roundabout FOR 13-15YR Acclaimed author Poile Sengupta tells a story of what happens when communal hatred and loss come together in A Higgledy Piggledy Growing Up.		
inventive, surprising storytelling of her island-set novel.	Room 110	Unlikely Heroes FOR 13-15YR		
Sewing A Nation Together FOR 15-18YR Find out from the author Mallika Ravikumar who dives deep into it in 565: The Dramatic Story of Unifying India.	45min Room 107	In his new book, <i>The Beck</i> , author Anthony McGowan dives into the story of Kyle and his granddad as they fight to save the fragile ecosystem of their local stream, keeping it from being filled with concrete. What would you do in Kyle's place?		
2.30-3.30 PM		Transcending Time FOR 15-18YR Revel in this murder mystery that will leave you rooting for the protagonist in The White Lotus by Aditi Krishnakumar		
Wild Friendships and Brave Hearts FOR 9-12YR Uncover the magic of stories that give you courage! Join celebrated author Paro Anand and illustrator Priya Kuriyan for a lively masterclass featuring their book, A Girl, a Tiger and a Very Strange Story.	45min Room 111	Story Worlds For 15-18YR Find out more from Sam Leith, author of The Haunted Wood: A History of Childhood Reading, literary editor of The Spectator, who also writes about video games, about narrative techniques that beckon us to step in and explore.		



45min

Room 103

45mii

45mir







