

KOVALAM LITERARY FEST RETURNS: 10 OCTOBER 2015, VJT HALL, TRIVANDRUM

Well known writer, thinker and former civil servant Gopalkrishna Gandhi who was also governor of Bengal from 2004 to 2009 will deliver the eighth K.C John memorial lecture at the Kovalam Literary festival , in VJT hall on October 10, Saturday.

Mr Gandhi is the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and son of Devdas Gandhi and Lakshmi Gandhi, daughter of C. Rajagoplachari. He will be speaking on Punishing By Death, on the folly of the death penalty. He was one of the anti-death penalty campaigners who appeared before the Law Commission which recently recommended taking away the death penalty apart from terrorism related cases.

The Kovalam Literary Festival is coming back to Trivandrum after a two year break with a star line up of speakers including Gopal Gandhi and Rajdeep Sardesai at the VJT Hall in Trivandrum on October 10, according founder director Binoo .K. John

Well known TV anchor Rajdeep Sardesai will talk about the 2014 elections, the subject of his book and will take it through to the forthcoming Bihar elections.

Kiran Nagarkar, perhaps India top novelist writing in English now, will read from the last of his Ravan and Eddie trilogy which has just been released.

Akshaya Mukul, author of the phenomenal buzz book of this year, Gita Press and the Rise of Hindu India, will talk about the origins and rapid growth of the Hindu extreme right in India.

"Akshaya Mukul presents us with a rare treasure trove...Mukul tells us the fascinating story of how the Hindutva project was seeded and consolidated in the public imagination. This book will greatly enhance our knowledge and understanding of the disturbing situation India finds itself in today," Arundhati Roy says about the book.

There will also be a session on statist violence and the grisly underbelly of counter terrorism. Arun Ferreira, the Mumbai journalist who was arrested on suspicion of being a Nazal sympathiser will address this session along with manisha sethi, professor of Jamia Milia University in Delhi, author of Kafkaland.

Kerala Tourism and Taj Vivanta are supporting the Festival which will be a one-day affair. Admission is free.