

festival

The reading room

Ooty's first literary festival has over 80 books and insightful discussions



Ooty finally has a literary festival of its own. The picturesque hill station is preparing to welcome the first edition of the Ooty Literary Festival, with titles by over 25 eminent authors. Coimbatore-based author, Yash Muthanna, is the managing trustee and the brain behind the two-day event. "It all started last year when Muthanna initiated the process of setting up a trust for the event, with an aim to put the hill station on the literary map," says Greaves Henriksen, the convenor.

Over the two days, expect a good mix of poetry, fiction, short stories, novels and more. Day one begins with Mansoor Khan (of *Acres Wild*), who, along with CV Ranganathan (former Indian ambassador to China), will talk about the development of econo-



mies, personal health and so on. Topics will range from the flipside of translation and writing for children to writing about Ooty. One of the highlights is the talk by Sir Mark Tully, BBC's former chief of bureau, who has covered major historical events like Operation Bluestar and Indira Gandhi's assassination.

"Most of the books have been brought down by Higginbotham's," shares Henriksen. Authors like Tanya Mendonsa (*The Dreaming House*), Aroon Raman (*The Shadow Throne*) and Gillian Wright (*The Presidential Retreats of India*) will be among those presented. While there, also read about the *toda* tribes, in *The Toda Landscape*, by Tharoon Chhabra

Free entry. September 16-17.
At the Nilgiri Library.
Details: ootylitfest.com

—Karan Pillai