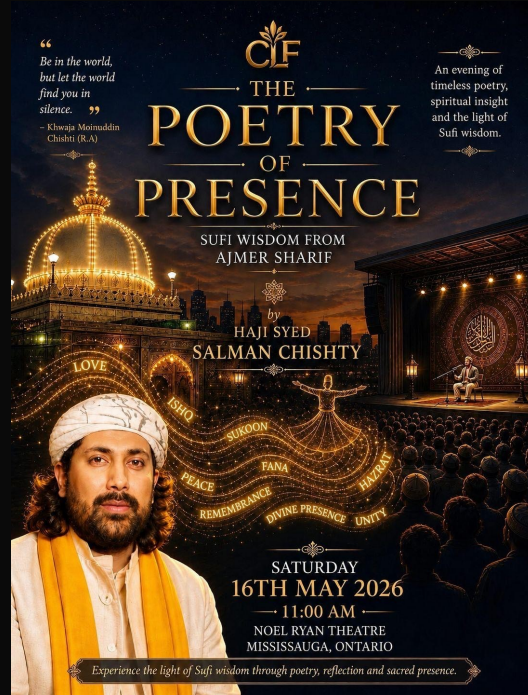


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"What you seek is seeking you."

— Maulana Rumi

Haji Syed Salman Chishty

26th Generation Gaddi Nashin • Dargah Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin Chishty (R.A)

Chairman — Chishty Foundation • Ajmer Sharif, India

Ajmer Sharif → Delhi → Hong Kong → Toronto → Niagara Falls → New York → Ajmer Sharif

PRESS RELEASE

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Haji Syed Salman Chishty Brings 800 Years of Sufi Wisdom to the Canada Literature Festival 2026

Haji Syed Salman Chishty, the 26th-generation Gaddi Nashin of the sacred Dargah of Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin Chishty (R.A) in Ajmer Sharif, India, and Chairman of the Chishty Foundation, made a historic appearance at the Canada Literature Festival (CLF) 2026, held from May 13–18 in Mississauga and Toronto, Ontario.

His participation spanning interfaith panel discussions, the Canadian release of the acclaimed book "Seeking the Infinite" by Yakub Mathew, and an evening of Sufi poetry and spiritual discourse brought together India's 800-year-old Sufi heritage, Canada's multicultural ethos, and a shared vision of peace, unity, and interfaith harmony.

The engagements were attended by H.E. Shri Dinesh K. Patnaik, High Commissioner of India to Canada, and Shri Mahaveer Singhvi, Consul General of India in Toronto, whose presence underscored the significance of cultural diplomacy in strengthening India-Canada bilateral relations.

"The Chishty Sufi tradition has taught for 800 years that unconditional love and service towards the creation is the way leading us towards the Creator. From the blessed Dargah of Khwaja Gharib Nawaz in Ajmer Sharif to the shores of Lake Ontario, message remains the same: Love Towards All, Malice Towards None."

— Haji Syed Salman Chishty, 26th Generation Gaddi Nashin, Dargah Ajmer Sharif & Chairman, Chishty Foundation

Haji Syed Salman Chishty with H.E. High Commissioner Shri Dinesh K. Patnaik in a moment of interfaith warmth



SEEKING THE INFINITE



Haji Syed Salman Chishty & Yakub Mathew in conversation — "Seeking the Infinite" panel, CLF 2026

A highlight was the Canadian release of "Seeking the Infinite: Maha Kumbh 2025", the acclaimed multi-faith coffee-table book by Yakub Mathew, featuring contributions from over 50 global thought leaders. The panel discussion explored interfaith dialogue, spiritual unity, and the universal quest for meaning before a distinguished gathering of the Indian diaspora in Toronto.

"The Infinite is not a place to reach, but a truth to remember — that within you lies a horizon without end. This gathering in Toronto proves that the quest for the Infinite transcends every border."

— Yakub Mathew, Author of "Seeking the Infinite" & Managing Director, Wells Fargo Advisors

Haji Chishty was a featured speaker at "A Confluence of Faiths: Seeking the Infinite" at the Apollo Convention Centre, Mississauga, alongside distinguished speakers Yakub Mathew, Lama Aria Drolma, Rakesh Kaul, and Harry Mann, with acclaimed Cambridge University Prof Prabhu Gupta moderating the esteemed interfaith panel.

Haji Chishty with Prof Gupta & Ajaay Modi at CLF phoenix banner

Sharing Sufi wisdom on stage — Noel Ryan Theatre, Mississauga



THE POETRY OF PRESENCE

At the prestigious Noel Ryan Theatre, Mississauga, Haji Syed Salman Chishty presented "The Poetry of Presence: Sufi Wisdom from Ajmer Sharif" — an evening of timeless poetry, spiritual insight, and sacred presence, offering the Canadian audience a direct experience of the living Chishty Sufi Order and its 800-year mystical tradition.



Opening address at The Poetry of Presence — the CLF banner illuminating the stage at Noel Ryan Theatre



In intimate conversation with Prof Prabhu Gupta — exploring Sufi philosophy / unveiling ceremony with CLF organisers and distinguished interfaith guests

DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT



The Poetry of Presence — Sufi Wisdom from Ajmer Sharif projected in blue & gold at Noel Ryan Theatre

"Platforms like the Canada Literature Festival demonstrate that interfaith peace and harmony are the true foundations of lasting bilateral relations. The mystic traditions and spiritual culture of the noble land of India embodies the shared values of pluralism and mutual respect that India and Canada are committed to strengthening together."

— H.E. Shri Dinesh K. Patnaik, High Commissioner of India to Canada

"Interfaith dialogue and spiritual harmony are the strongest pillars of people-to-people diplomacy. The unity witnessed at CLF 2026 — where voices from every faith tradition came together in a spirit of peace — reflects the very essence of what India-Canada bilateral relations aspire to achieve."

— Shri Mahaveer Singhvi, Consul General of India in Toronto

"CLF was born to celebrate knowledge and dialogue beyond the boundaries of race, language, religion, and culture. CLF 2026 has proven that literature festivals can be powerful instruments of interfaith peace and global understanding — reaffirming the deep civilisational bond between India and Canada."

— Ajaay Modi, Organiser, Canada Literature Festival 2026

Distinguished guests at the CLF 2026 Gala Dinner — Apollo Convention Centre, Mississauga



AUDIENCES & COMMUNITY



A full house at the Aga Khan Museum, Toronto — Sufi spiritual discourse & screening of Umrao Jaan



Embraced by the community — after *The Poetry of Presence* at Noel Ryan Theatre, Mississauga

At the Aga Khan Museum, Haji Chishty drew upon Rumi's Masnavi — "Listen to the reed, how it tells a tale of separation" — illuminating Umrao Jaan's story as the soul's eternal ache for reunion with the Divine Beloved, closing with Rumi's timeless invitation: "Come, come, whoever you are... come."

A heartfelt tribute was extended to the Aga Khan Trust for Culture and the Aga Khan family for their extraordinary contribution to preserving Islamic heritage, arts, and civilisational dialogue globally, with sincere condolences on the passing of His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan IV.

"Be in the world, but let the world find you in silence."

— Khwaja Moinuddin Chishty (R.A)

SUFI MUSAFIR MOMENTS



The Sufi Musafir — a seeker gazing towards the horizon



On the highway with Yakub Mathew — en route to Niagara Falls



Seeking the Infinite
Lake Ontario, Canada

Seeking the Infinite — Haji Syed Salman Chishty in post-Fajr dua at sunrise, Lake Ontario, Canada

"The body travels. The soul remains at the Dargah."

— Haji Syed Salman Chishty

