



Lecture Series

125th Foundation Year Celebrations

Shri. Pankaj Rag, IAS

Director General, National Archives of India,

Cordially invites you to the twelfth lecture in the Special Lecture series

by

William Dalrymple

Renowned Author and Literary journalist

On

The Return of a King: An Indian Army in Afghanistan

Date: 4 March 2016 at 3.00 PM

Venue: Conference Room, Ground Floor, National Archives of India (Annexe)

RSVP:

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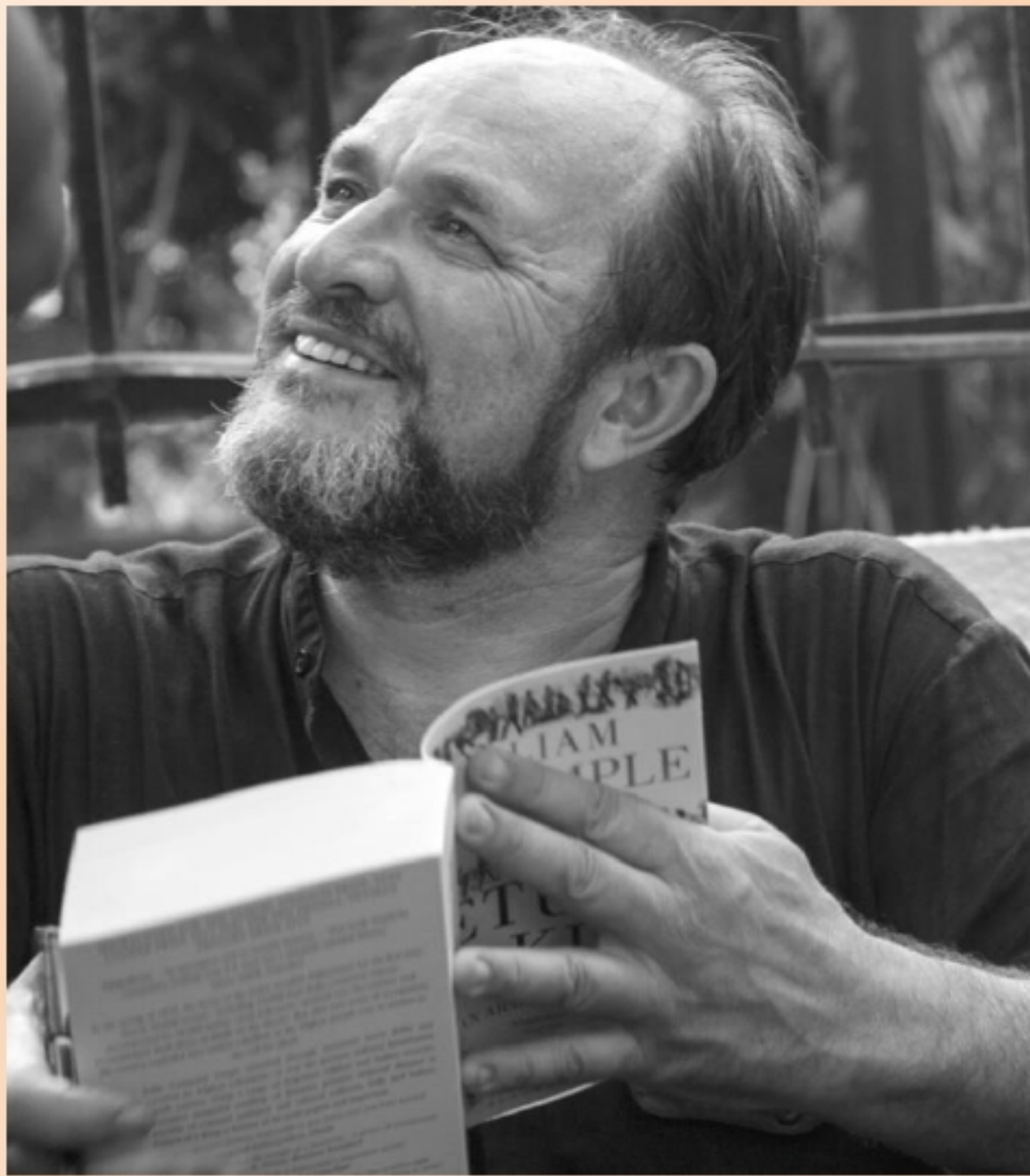
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The Return of a King: An Indian Army in Afghanistan

ABSTRACT

The lecture is based on the book *Return of a King: An Indian Army in Afghanistan*, an account of Britain's invasion and occupation of Afghanistan in 1839–42, known as the First Anglo–Afghan War, which was fought between British East India Company and Afghanistan. The conflict resulted in the near complete destruction of an entire British army, with deaths of 4,500 British and Indian soldiers, plus 12,000 of their camp followers. It was one of the worst defeats Britain would experience during the Victorian colonial era, and considered by many Afghans to be one of the greatest triumphs in their national history. It was the first major conflict of The Great Game, the 19th century competition for power and influence in Asia between the United Kingdom and the Russian Empire.

SPEAKER



William Dalrymple is the bestselling author of *In Xanadu*, *City of Djinns*, *From the Holy Mountain*, *White Mughals*, *The Last Mughal*, *Nine Lives*, and most recently, *Return of a King: An Indian Army in Afghanistan*. He has won the Thomas Cook Travel Book Award, the Sunday Times Young British Writer of the Year Award, the French Prix d'Astrolabe, the Wolfson Prize for History, the Scottish Book of the Year Award, the Duff Cooper Memorial Prize, the Asia House Award for Asian Literature, the Vodafone/Crossword Award for non-fiction and has, prior to the shortlisting of *Return of a King*, been longlisted three times for the Samuel Johnson Prize. The Italian Edition of

Return of a King (*Il Ritorno di un Re*) won the 2015 Hemingway Prize and the prestigious Kapuciński Prize for Literary reportage. He lives with his wife and three children on a farm outside Delhi.