



INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

Annual Report
2020-2021

IIC 

INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

Annual Report
2020-2021



Board of Trustees

Life Trustees

Shri N.N. Vohra, President

Shri Soli J. Sorabjee

Justice (Retd.) B.N. Srikrishna

Shri Shyam Saran

Shri Gopalkrishna Gandhi

Elected Trustees

(April 2019–March 2021)

Prof. Ashis Nandy

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi

(Individual Category)

(Institutional Category)

Executive Committee

(April 2019–March 2021)

Shri K.N. Shrivastava, Director

Smt. Aarti Khosla, Member & Hony. Treasurer

Prof. Anvita Abbi

Ms. Meera Bhatia

Shri K.P. Fabian

Prof. Anil Sahasrabudhe

Prof. Najma Akhtar

Shri Kanwal Wali, Secretary

Finance Committee

(April 2019–March 2021)

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Chairman

Ms. Aarti Khosla, Hony. Treasurer

Ms. Vineeta Rai

Shri K.P. Fabian

Shri K.N. Shrivastava, Director

Shri Kanwal Wali, Secretary

Annual Report 2020⁻²⁰²¹

It is our privilege to present the 60th Annual Report of the India International Centre for the period 1 February 2020 to 31 January 2021.

The year 2020 can be described as a global disaster. The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc, sparing no nation, developed or developing. India was no exception and we have seen the consequences on the economy and society.

The rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus resulted in extensive lockdowns which also adversely affected the Centre's calendar of programmes. The last physical programme was held in March 2020 when a complete lockdown was declared. However, we took the initiative to use online platforms to connect with our Members, and the positive response and feedback were very encouraging. In the month of April, our online programmes were drawn from our archives. In light of this, this year's Annual Report has a separate section on 'Archived Programmes'.

We quickly realised that the impact of the pandemic would have long-term effects and programmes would be virtual and not physical for some time to come. In early May we sought out and featured all new programmes in every category—exhibitions, talks, discussions, book launches and performance. These included video recordings made especially for IIC programmes, and Webinars which began in July. As usual, we were also joined by like-minded collaborators for several programmes. We are happy to note that Members have been watching these programmes with as much enthusiasm as they did when walking in to the venues. The interactive platforms have proved very useful for Members to engage with the participants via chat mode.

This is the first year since its inception that we could not hold the much-awaited *IIC Experience: A Festival of the Arts*. This has been a disappointment, but the norms of

social distancing are crucial to containing the pandemic. We are hopeful that the year 2021 will normalise life.

Apart from programmes, venues like Hostel, Dining and Lounge were also affected by the lockdown. However, this period was gainfully utilised to keep the systems running smoothly. The staff worked relentlessly to maintain all the buildings, from outside and within. Taking advantage of Unlock-1, we took prompt action to start operating the permitted services. The Library opened with all safety measures as early as 4 July for avid readers. A takeaway arrangement was made operational, and with Unlock-2, restricted dining facilities were started. All hygiene and social distancing protocols are being strictly enforced. A progressively increasing number of Members, and their guests, have been making use of the catering, confectionary and takeaway facilities. We thank them for helping the Centre to become functional, as far as is possible, under the present constraints. The Centre's gardens and flowers were not allowed to wither, and were carefully nurtured by our staff despite difficulties.

Four Members were on the national honours' list this year. The Centre congratulates Shri Nripendra Misra (M-3811), Shri Tarlochan Singh (M-3537) and Shri Tarun Gogoi (A-3198 [posthumous]) who received the Padma Bhushan, and Shri Madhavan Nambiar (A-4972) who received the Padma Shri.

This year, on 10 October 2020, the Centre held a memorial meeting to remember and pay tribute to Dr. (Smt.) Kapila Vatsyayan, Life Trustee, IIC, and Chairperson, International Research Division, who passed away on 16 September 2020.

The Centre deeply regrets the loss of 89 Members this year. We applaud their valuable contributions to the activities of the Centre.

Archived Programmes Presented

Series

Music Appreciation Promotion

The north-west Karnataka landscape has nurtured a unique amalgam of Hindustani classical and Carnatic styles of music; Hindustani classical music with its origins in north India seamlessly interweaves with south Indian traditions. In an exploration of these traditions, Jayateerth Mevundi presented a lecture-demonstration in the programme 'Kirana Gharana: Innovations in Traditions', accompanied by Chetan Nigam (harmonium) and Ganesh Singh (tabla).

'In the Light of the Classical' was a presentation by Ashok Vajpeyi who analysed the declining knowledge about classical music, the changing ethos and the dynamics of innovation. He spoke on the influence that classical music has had on him personally for nearly half a century as a poet, as a rasika, as an organiser, etc. He then discussed aspects of his proximity to great musicians of India like Kumar Gandharva, Mallikarjun Mansur and Zia Moiuddin Dagar.

'Hindustani and Carnatic Music: A Comparative Demonstration' was a lecture-demonstration by M. Narmadha, who has mastered both Carnatic and Hindustani traditions. Demonstrating how ragas are used in bandishes and kirtanas, the speaker brought out the distinguishing characteristics of the two systems. She also showed how the strength of riyaz and fidelity to tradition is intrinsic to both, and how, at a certain level, they unite seamlessly.

There was a lecture-demonstration, 'Dancing Music', by Sudha Raghuraman, with demonstrations by Priya Venkataraman and Justin McCarthy, well-known Bharatanatyam artists. The accompanists were G. Raghuraman on flute, and P. Padmanabhan on mridangam. Her lec-dem looked at how music for dance is an art by itself, and how musicians accompanying dance forms are trained especially for this purpose.

It is hard to believe that there is humour in the formal and structured world of Western classical music, but this was amply brought out by theatre/TV personality and musicologist Sunit Tandon in his illustrated talk, 'Jokes and Japes—Humour in Western Classical Music'.

In the programme 'Sufi Raah: The Classical Tradition of Tappa', Shanno Khurana, famous for her renditions of the classical tradition of tappas, was in conversation with Naman Ahuja. She explained why this most arduous of Hindustani musical forms attracted her, the nature of the variety of rendition, and analysed the poetic lyrics to reveal the unique cultural synthesis that lies behind them.

Art Matters

This series features dialogues with major figures of the visual and performing arts wherein the life, career, vision, struggles and anxieties of these artists are explored. Alarmel Valli, Bharatanatyam dancer, was in conversation with Arundhati Subramaniam, poet.

Contemporary times stand witness to a constant deterioration of the meaning of art, and the manipulation of theoretical social and political concepts, as well as their practical significance. Whether they are questions as serious as social and political concerns of human rights or social exclusion affecting a dignified human survival, or

as sensitive as the waning of interest in classical art forms, they call for an urgent need to revisit and discuss the prevalent conceptions. These issues were discussed in the programme, 'The Changing Languages', which featured Krishen Khanna, Kirti Jain, Aditi Mangaldas and Udayan Vajpeyi.

Healthcare in India

G.C. Khilnani spoke on 'Respiratory Diseases and Air Pollution'. He presented statistics and data on air pollution and its sources, its link to diseases and what could be done to mitigate it.

In the programme, 'Meeting the Challenges of Non-communicable Diseases in India: From Prevention to Palliative Care', D. Prabhakaran spoke about the non-communicable disease (NCD) burden in India, and the options before us to reduce this burden. NCDs are fast emerging as a major public health challenge as they mainly affect the young, and adversely impact the economies of low- and middle-income countries.

'How Can We Stop India's Youth from Killing Themselves?' This was the question addressed by Vikram Patel, who sought to create hope for India's youth. He dealt with the issue of youth suicide, why it happens, and solutions to the problem.

Shiv Kumar Sarin delivered a talk on 'Weighty Problem of Liver Fat—Eat and Live for Grandchildren'. Dietary habits are significantly associated with the condition of one's health. A correct diet, associated with a healthy lifestyle, may in fact contribute to the maintenance of a healthy human body. Similarly, the right dietary intake, along with moderate exercise, may help cure both alcoholic and non-alcoholic fatty liver diseases.

Mehfil Series

There was an evening with Gwalior gharana maestro Abdul Rashid Khan, accompanied by Mohammed Hafeez Khan (harmonium), Bilal Khan (tabla) and Arshad Ali (tanpura and vocal support). Khan Sahib presented rare Malhar ragas sung in the monsoon, drawing on *ta'leem* received nearly eight decades ago, as well as some of his own compositions penned under the name 'Rasan Piya'. This was a collaboration with Jnana Pravaha and NaadSaagar Archives; and Documentation Society for South Asian Music.

'Mehfil with Bhuvanesh Komkali' was an engagement with Pandit Kumar Gandharva-bani exponent Bhuvanesh Komkali. Born into a rich legacy of music, Komkali, grandson of Pandit Kumar Gandharva, paid homage to his grandfather with ragas and bandishes created by him.

'Indian Classical Music and Dance Mehfil' featured a mehfil with Jaipur-Atrauli gharana Maestro, Rajshekhar Mansur. In keeping with the tradition of his gharana, Rajshekhar Mansur presented rare and largely unheard ragas like Jait Kalyan, Malavi, Savani Nat and Khokar. He was accompanied by Faiyaz Khan (tabla) and Murad Ali Khan (sarangi).

There was a mehfil with another Jaipur-Atrauli gharana exponent, Manjiri Asnare-Kelkar. She was accompanied by Vinod Lele (tabla) and Vinay Mishra (harmonium). A disciple of Madhusudan Kanitkar, she inherited treasures of the Jaipur-Atrauli gayaki from which she performed ragas Vihang, Bhoop Nat and Kafi Kanhra. This was a collaboration with Jnana Pravaha and NaadSaagar Archives and Documentation Society for South Asian Music.

Science and Technology Lectures

‘What is Mathematics?’ was the topic discussed by Balkrishna Shetty in four sections: an introduction; a search for answers; the question of what is mathematics; and the conclusions. The lecture provided a fresh and simple approach to understanding the nature of mathematics—seen as the study of the logical structure of patterns—based on recent insights from cognitive sciences. It also touched on the relevance of mathematics for 21st century India, especially in the multiple contexts of scientific temper, the so-called ‘demographic dividend’, and the growing importance of information technology.

‘Networks: An Integrative Theme in the Natural and Social Sciences’ was the subject of a talk by Sanjay Jain. Networks underlie some of the most fascinating phenomena around us: life, society and thought. The talk presented some examples of this—networks of molecules in living organisms, of species in ecosystems, social and economic networks in societies, neural networks in brains—and also described how their study was breaking down barriers between disciplines.

There was a talk on ‘Understanding Alan Turing and His Scientific Legacy’ by S.N. Maheshwari. Maheshwari spoke of how Alan Turing delineated the architecture of stored programme computers at a time when these machines didn’t exist, and ‘computers’ meant human beings doing endless repetitive calculations. He highlighted Turing’s role in the development of logic as a revolutionary sequel to Hilbert, Russell and others, also touching on Turing’s influence on fields like pattern formation and mathematical biology. He was also responsible for cracking the ‘Enigma’ code used by German submarines during the war.

Indian Archaeology

The spiritual power of dance in Cambodia has been valued since pre-Angkorian times, and plentiful images of dance and music in the bas-reliefs of the great monuments of Angkor suggest that this tradition was markedly enhanced in the reign of Jayavarman VII, as a contemporary Chinese report attests. In her talk titled 'When the Gods begin to Dance in Angkor—Architecture for the Dancing God: Hall with Dancers in the Jayavarman VII Temples', Swati Chemburkar explored the link between the architecture, associated inscriptions, dance and music rituals evolving in Angkor and contemporary Chola temples that housed several mandapas.

Archived Programmes Presented

Other Programmes

Governance

In the C.D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture 2012, ‘Beyond Federalism’, Justice B.N. Srikrishna presented his thesis that federalism as understood in India is nothing but *anirvachniya*—a Vedantic concept meaning that which cannot be clearly labelled or defined. Examining Indian federalism through the lens of history, of political theory as well as Supreme Court judgements in India, he said that it is neither unitary nor federal, but it has been a success story because of the strong sense of unity underlying diverse constituents.

The C.D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture 2017, ‘Through a Different Lens: Should India Adopt a More Civilisational View of the World?’, was delivered by Shiv Visvanathan. The idea of civilisation has been used more to grasp the sacred, the sense of heritage and the idea of tradition. Words like Nationalism, Development and Globalism seem more appropriate for contemporary narratives on statecraft or policy. Visvanathan suggested that maybe a civilisational view of India is more relevant than a nationalist perspective. It considers a few thought experiments like the idea of South Asia, Climate Change and the notion of Sustainability to develop its argument.

‘The Jurisprudence of the Constitutional Structures’ was a talk delivered by Justice S.H. Kapadia. Justice Kapadia quoted Cardozo who said ‘Law must be stable yet it

cannot stand still!’ He underlined the importance of both the text and the underlying principles of the Indian Constitution in the process of judicial understanding and pronouncements, emphasising that the objectivity and certainty enshrined in the words and principles of the Constitution are vital to decision-making by the judiciary. This was part of the IIC Golden Jubilee Lectures on Governance.

Environment

‘Himalayan Biodiversity’ was an illustrated lecture by Ajay Singh Rawat, followed by a conversation with Vijay Bhushan. This lecture covered a wide gamut of issues ranging from deforestation and land erosion, to imperilled flora and fauna. The narrative was enriched by beautiful slides and personal anecdotes regarding illegal mining, poaching and environmental degradation caused by burgeoning population pressure. It blended sociological, historical and scientific streams to emphasise the complexity of the fragile ecosystem.

Malika Virdhi’s talk, ‘Uttarakhand Forests: A View from the Village’, highlighted that Himalayan degradation is not the consequence of over-population, overuse or backward village communities. Instead, it is the consequence of both geological processes and a systematic whittling away of local self-governance by state and commercial interests. Virdhi, a former Sarpanch, called for an increase in the area under van panchayats, the reduction of governmental interference, and protection from commercial interests.

The IIC has been the trustee of the Himalayan Club Collection for many years, and the intention of the programme ‘Ladakh Revealed’ was to showcase the valuable collection, with the spotlight on Ladakh. Bill Aitken spoke on ‘Introduction to the Himalayan Club Collection’; Janet Rizvi on ‘Ladakhi Trader Routes’; Viraf Mehta on ‘Hidden Petroglyphs of Ladakh’; and Chhaya Bhattacharya-Haesner on ‘The Nubra

Valley and Central Asian Trade’. The Chair, M.S. Gill, spoke of his own experiences with the Himalayan Club and his travels in China.

Science and Technology

D.J. Futuyama delivered a talk on ‘Evolution: The Most Important Theory in Biology’. Despite the simplicity of its central concepts, evolution has had a long history of misunderstandings and, despite its lack of moral or prescriptive content, evolution has been used to justify social policies that range from the admirable to the appalling. Of all the biological disciplines, evolutionary biology has the most far-reaching philosophical implications and the most diverse applications to society.

History and Heritage

In the programme, ‘Visual Archives and Cultural Histories’, the panellists spoke about the varieties of visual genres and technologies involved in archiving, the different forms of archiving practices, and issues of ownership and practice.

‘An Evening with the 18th Century Pahari Painter Nainsukh’ was an illustrated lecture by B.N. Goswamy and Eberhard Fischer. Pahari painting is a miniature style of painting, similar to the Mughal style. Nainsukh combined the two styles—the rich colours of Pahari painting with the naturalism of Mughal miniatures—to create his own.

‘From India to Auschwitz—Remembering the Roma and Sinti Lost in the Holocaust’ was moderated by Punita Singh. India is considered to be the original home of the Roma and Sinti. Multiple reasons, routes and timelines have been proposed for their migration, and their retention of Indian linguistic and cultural traits. Their long journey out of India did not always lead to hospitable new lands. Some roads led

to Auschwitz-Birkenau where, on 2 August 1944, several thousand Roma and Sinti perished in the 'liquidation' of the *Zigeunerfamilienlager* (Gypsy family camp).

'Buddhist Remains of Vadnagar and Taranga in North Gujarat: The Monasteries of Anandpur visited by Xuanzang' was an illustrated lecture by Y.S. Rawat. Archaeological research in recent years in Gujarat has revealed the presence of Buddhist establishments, both within and outside the fortified area of the settlement, as revealed at the sites of Vadnagar and Taranga, highlighting the importance of the region in Buddhist studies in India.

Jawhar Sircar's talk on 'The Construction of the Hindu Identity in Medieval Western Bengal: The Role of Popular Cults' was based on a study of the Dharma cult, one of the major schools of the genre of Mangal Kavyas, and its absorption in the 'greater tradition' of Hinduism in medieval western Bengal.

Literature

In 'Readings and a Conversation', Vikram Seth, in conversation with Chiki Sarkar, spoke about his novel, *The Rivered Earth*, and also the forthcoming sequel to *A Suitable Boy*. What was intriguing was his revelation that it is poetry which is his first impulse, although it is his novels that have made him a household name. This was part of the IIC Golden Jubilee Lectures.

Vidya Rao, well-known vocalist, made a presentation on 'Singing Dakhini Poetry'. She was in conversation with Preeti Bahadur Ramaswamy, art historian. Dakhani came into existence through an interaction between Hindu and Islamic faiths and between Urdu and the languages of the south, as the result of the migration of Sufis, merchants and common people to the Deccan from the 13th century onwards.

Performance

A Kudiyattam recital by Kapila Venu from Kerala, disciple of Ammanuur Madhava Chakya, G. Venu and Kitanagar C.N. Rama Chakyar was webcast.

There was a Kuchipudi recital by Prateeksha Kashi from Bangalore, daughter and disciple of Vyjayanthi Kashi.

The 2013 IIC Annual Day concert by sitar maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan was webcast.

The Bharatanatyam recital performed as part of the Summer Festival of Dance in 2013 was by Kiran Rajagopalan from Bangalore, disciple of A. Lakshman; and was followed by a Manipuri dance recital by Baisali Sarkar and troupe from Kolkata, disciple of Priti Patel and Sruti Banerjee. The Monsoon festival of dance featured Bharatanatyam by Praveen Kumar from Bangalore, disciple of Narmada and C.V. Chandrashekar, followed by Renjith Babu from Chennai, disciple of C.V. Chandrashekhar and the Dhananjayans.

‘Age Cannot Wither Shakespeare 400: Sonnets, Recitation and Song’ was a commemoration of William Shakespeare’s 400th death anniversary, featuring 28 of the poet’s Sonnets, read by Anhad Anand, Sabina Mehta Jaitly, Shormishtha Panja and Sunit Tandon. These were creatively interspersed with music from the time of Shakespeare, featuring six harpsichord solos from The Fitzwilliam Virginal Book and from Elizabeth Rogers Hir Virginall Book, played by Justin McCarthy, as well as seven contemporary settings of songs from Shakespeare’s plays sung by Prabhat Chandola (tenor) and Sunanda Rao Erdem (soprano), accompanied on the harpsichord by McCarthy.

‘About Ram’ was a performance by Kathkatha Puppet Arts Trust India. This was an experimental theatrical piece, using excerpts from the Bhavbhuti Ramayana, and

told through animation, projected images, dance, masks and puppets. As the name suggests, the performance was about Ram.

‘Ustad Bismillah Khan—The Poetry of Shehnai’ was an illustrated lecture by Yatindra Mishra, writer, poet, critic and connoisseur of music.

Culture

‘The Art of Shanta Rao’ was an illustrated lecture by Ashoke Chatterjee. He spoke about the legacy of the pioneering dancer who left an indelible mark on the world of Indian dance. It consisted of MP Film clips from the archives of Omnibus (USA) and BBC (UK).

Naresh Fernandes made a presentation on ‘A Short History of how Jazz became an Indian Music’. From the accounts of most standard jazz histories, it took the genius of American saxophonist John Coltrane to demonstrate in the 1960s how jazz could enrich itself by seeking inspiration from Hindustani classical music. But the reality is more complex. From the 1940s, a passionate group of Indian jazz musicians had been attempting to find an Indian way to play jazz, both in art music and in popular music. The presentation used audio clips and photographs to trace the journey of jazz from New Orleans to New Delhi.

Archived Programmes Presented

IIC Collaborations

Governance

Two Rosalind Wilson Memorial Lectures were presented in collaboration with the Rosalind Wilson Memorial Trust.

The speaker for the Rosalind Wilson Memorial Lecture 2013 was Ashis Nandy. In ‘The Untamed Language of Dissent’, Nandy emphasised the hazards of plugging channels of dissent that had driven people to the margins of desperation. He mentioned two types of dissent: the rational and the irrational.

The Rosalind Wilson Memorial Lecture 2014, titled ‘Quantify to Qualify: The Limitations of Threshold Markers on Social Policy’, was delivered by Dipankar Gupta. A country cannot do well if populations are divided by quantitative thresholds while implementing various social policies. Gupta empirically showed the limitations of threshold markers for social policies, using as examples the parameters of health and education, labour laws and reservation policies.

Environment

‘The Environmentalist of the Poor: A Tribute to Chandi Prasad Bhatt’ was a panel discussion chaired by Pushpesh Pant. Founder of the Chipko Movement, Bhatt, a

Padma Bhushan and Magsaysay award winner, has played a landmark role in the growth and development of the environment movement in India and beyond. The speakers lauded the Chipko Movement as one which took place without any force. This was organised in collaboration with People's Association for Himalaya Area Research (PAHAR); National Book Trust; and Jan Prasar.

Economics

Joseph Stiglitz delivered a lecture on 'Economic Transformation and Learning Insights for India'. He outlined three themes: successful and sustained growth requires creating a learning society; an open, democratic society is more conducive to the creation of a learning society; successful and sustained democratic growth must be inclusive—ideas that are all very different from traditional economic theories. The speaker linked these to address issues on the nature of society. This was a collaboration with the Indian Statistical Institute.

The Durgabai Deshmukh Memorial Lecture 2017 on 'The Moral Economy of the Elite and Why They Can't Confront the Inequality that is Our Greatest Crisis' was delivered by P. Sainath. The speaker said that 1 per cent of India's population owns 58 per cent of national wealth. This big gap between the rich and the poor, and the current state of social apathy and connivance of the elite for self-aggrandisement, have left the oppressed to fend for themselves. He concluded by lauding those few who did speak out. This was a collaboration with Council for Social Development.

History, Art and Culture

The Foundation for Universal Responsibility of H.H. the Dalai Lama jointly organised a monthly lecture series on 'Major Schools of Indian Philosophy: An Introduction in Six Monthly Lectures'. The inaugural talk on 'Vedanta Today' was delivered by

Dr. Karan Singh. The series sought to explore and cultivate an understanding of India's theological and metaphysical heritage in a manner that is accessible to a lay person. This was organised at the urging of His Holiness the Dalai Lama who feels that it is only appropriate to familiarise oneself with the different philosophical systems that were extant before and during the time of the Buddha, to help to not only appreciate the great tradition of Nalanda, but also to understand the Buddha Dharma itself.

The talk 'Past Remains: Hazrat-i-Dehli, 1857–1947–1957' was delivered by Shahid Amin. It was a homage to the Delhi that Amin knows intimately, exploring influence, ideas and power through a 'clutch of stories'—archival, visual and aesthetic. Much material was collated, mulled over and presented. This was a collaboration with Department of History, Jamia Millia Islamia.

'The Idea of Asia' was the subject of the talk by Sugata Bose. Between the late 19th and the early 20th centuries, when imperial domination reached its peak, there was an intense intellectual churning across the entire Asian spectrum. The national ideal did not simply give way to inevitable globalisation in the late 20th century, as is often supposed. Bose revealed instead the vital importance of an intermediate historical space, where interregional geographic entities like the Indian Ocean rim foster nationalist identities and goals, yet simultaneously facilitate interaction among communities. This was a collaboration with South Asian University.

Science and Technology

In the programme 'Answering Gauguin's Questions with the Large Hadron Collider', John Ellis explained how particle physics and cosmology might answer some of the most fundamental questions regarding the Universe raised by Paul Gauguin's famous painting: Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going? In particle physics Gauguin's questions can be interpreted as: What is the status of particle physics?

What may lie just beyond our current understanding of it? What is the ‘Theory of Everything’? In cosmology, What were the earliest stages of the Universe like? What is it made of today? and What is its future? This was a collaboration with the University of Edinburgh.

Literature

In ‘Two Women: Dramatised Readings from Jorasanko’, Minoti Chatterjee and Avereer Chaurey read from Aruna Chakravarti’s novel *Jorasanko* to music by Jayati Ghosh. *Jorasanko* is based on the lives of the women in Tagore’s family during the period 1859 to 1902, a unique phase in the history of Bengal. The Tagore mansion of Jorasanko was at the hub of the Bengal Renaissance, with the family at the forefront of the movement and its women playing a pivotal role. This was a collaboration with Impresario India.

Shahid Amin’s talk, ‘Cooking for a Turkic Brother: The Story of Amina Sati and Ghazi Miya’, was based on his book *Conquest and Community: The Afterlife of Warrior Saint Ghazi Miyan*. He looked into one of the most divisive issues in South Asian history: the Turkic conquest of the subcontinent and the subsequent spread of Muslim rule. He focused on the enduringly popular saint Ghazi Miyan, a youthful soldier of Islam whose shrines are found all over India. Amin showed that Ghazi became an allegory for the history of Hindu–Muslim relations over an astonishingly long period of time. This was a collaboration with Orient BlackSwan.

Media

A debate on ‘Political Courage is Political Suicide’ was moderated by Seema Mustafa. Three speakers spoke for the motion, and three against. Those against the motion were K.C. Singh, S.Y. Quraishi and Pavan K. Varma. Those for the motion were Saeed

Naqvi, Jehangir Pocha and Sajad Lone. This was a collaboration with Centre for Policy Analysis.

Performance

Prahlad Singh Tipanya—one of the most compelling folk voices of Kabir in India today—presented ‘Kabir-sandhya’, a soulful evening of saint–poet Kabir’s poetry from an unbroken oral tradition of singing for 600 years in village after village of the Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh. The artist combined singing and the explanation of Kabir bhajans in the Malwa folk style. This was a collaboration with D.S. Borker Memorial Foundation.

‘Expressions of Muharram’, as they emerged in the Ganga–Jamuni heartland of Awadh, included Marsia, Soz, Salaam and Nauha in Urdu/Hindustani and Awadhi. The month of Muharram commemorates the eternal battle between truth and falsehood, good and evil, fought by a tiny band of 72 men, women and children in the harsh terrain of Karbala over 1,400 years ago. Poetry and ragas, transcending boundaries of language, community and religion, accompany this tradition. The concept, production and Marsia recitation was by Saeed Naqvi. Soz, Salaam and Nauha recitation was by Askari Naqvi, with Turab Naqvi, Tasneem Kausar and Yusra Naqvi. The production was by Aeliya Naqvi with Ghulam Hussain, and scripted and anchored by Farah Naqvi. This was organised in collaboration with The Raza Foundation.

In ‘Carnatic Vocal Padams and Javalis of Smt. T. Muktha’, Subhashini Parthasarathy paid tribute to her Guru, T. Muktha. This was a collaboration with Aalaap.

‘Tami Tango Trio’ was a concert presented by Eduardo Tami (flautist and leader of the group); Emiliano Ferrer (guitar); and Leandro Marquesano (piano); with tango dancers Facundo Barrionuevo and Maria Claudia Marciano. The artists presented a

journey through the greatest exponents of Argentine tango beginning with the well-known Carlos Gardel, to the great Astor Piazzolla, who revolutionised traditional tango into a new style known as 'nuevo tango'. They also performed Argentine folk music. This was a collaboration with the Embassy of Argentina.

'Jazz Concert Cuban Golden Classics' was presented by Van Merwijk's Music Machine from The Netherlands. Members of the ensemble were Lucas van Merwijk (drummer, percussionist and band leader) accompanied by Ramon Valle (Cuban master pianist), Bert Boeren (trombone), and Samuel Albert Ruiz (bass player from Venezuela). This was a collaboration with the Embassy of The Netherlands; Netherlands Fonds Voor Podium Kunsten; and ASB for the Arts.

'Soul of Japan: Shamisen and Nagauta', a concert of the versatile dance and music traditions of Japan, was presented by Baisho Matsumoto (shamisen) with Yoshimi Fujimoto (vocals), Akira Nishizaki (dance) and Kyoko Hibiki (drums), four Japanese masters in traditional dance, drums, folksong and the shamisen. This was a collaboration with the Japan Foundation.

New Programmes

Series

Indian Archaeology

‘Art and Archaeological Significance of Kalinjar Fort’ was an illustrated lecture by Rajendra Yadav. The Kalinjar fort has great archaeological and religious significance. Kalinjar means the destroyer of time in Sanskrit: ‘Kal’ is time and ‘jar’ destruction. Legend says that Lord Shiva achieved victory over death here. The historical background of the fort is replete with numerous battles and invasions. The Hindu princes of different dynasties, as well as the Muslim rulers, fought hard to conquer it, and the fort continued to pass from one ruler to another. In 1812, the British troops marched into Bundelkhand. After a long battle, they were able to annex the fort.

Archaeology and Heritage

Eight lectures were presented in collaboration with Italian Embassy Cultural Centre, New Delhi; and Bell’Italia 88.

- ‘Ages of Rome—A Walk Through History’ was an illustrated lecture presented by Caterina Brazzi Castracane, historian, author and tour guide. The talk was a virtual tour of the city of Rome.
- Caterina Brazzi Castracane also showed us the ancient city of Florence (The Flourishing City) in ‘Florence: A Virtual Tour’. The birthplace of the Renaissance movement, Florence started out as a Roman colony. It remained the secondary centre for many centuries until it began flourishing in the Middle Ages when it

gained autonomy as a city–state, and then blossomed under the aegis of the Medici family. The tour traversed the city’s history, ending with the 17th century.

- Caterina Brazzi Castracane took us on another tour in the programme ‘Myths of Venice: Rediscovery of the Italian City of Venice’. This extraordinary city is home to a priceless heritage of art and history. The tour took in the city’s unique history.
- ‘Venice, the City that Should not Exist’ was the second illustrated lecture on Venice by Caterina Brazzi Castracane. The floating city of Venice was built on 118 islands in the middle of the Venetian Lagoon at the head of the Adriatic Sea in Northern Italy. It seems impossible for such a grand city to be floating in a lagoon of water, reeds and marshland. So how was Venice built? The lecture uncovered this fascinating story.
- ‘Brescia—A Roman City in Northern Italy’ was an illustrated lecture by Francesca Morandini who took viewers on a virtual tour of the Roman city of Brescia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Founded over 3,200 years ago, Brescia (in antiquity Brixia) has been an important regional centre since pre-Roman times. Its old town contains the best-preserved Roman public buildings in northern Italy and numerous monuments. One of the cities in Italy most severely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, the talk was also a tribute to the city and its inhabitants.
- The programme ‘National Gallery of Modern Art, Rome’ was a virtual tour of this Gallery, conducted by Angelina Jimbo. The gallery is a beautiful building, designed in the classical style by architect Cesare Buzzani. In a magnificent part of the Villa Borghese, in true Italian manner, the emphasis is on marble columns and carved details with high-vaulted ceilings.

- ‘Palermo: A Virtual Tour’ was a walk through the ancient city of Palermo, also presented by Angelina Jimbo. Palermo, capital of Sicily, has been at the crossroads of civilisation for millennia. A city at the edge of Europe as well as at the centre of the ancient world, it presents a heady, heavily spiced mix of Byzantine mosaics, Arabesque domes, baroque churches and frescoed cupolas where date palms frame Gothic palaces.
- Angelina Jimbo once again took us on a tour of the ‘Royal Palace and the Palatine Chapel, Palermo’. The Palatine Chapel is the royal chapel of the Norman palace in Palermo, Sicily. The building is a mix of Byzantine, Norman and Fatimid architectural styles, representing the tricultural heritage of Sicily, especially during the 12th century.

An illustrated lecture was delivered by Swapna Liddle on ‘The Qutab Minar Complex—Evolution of Indian Architecture’. The Qutub Minar complex is more than simply a nationally protected monument with grand buildings. Its architecture, spanning many centuries of development, is not only a window to important developments in architecture specifically, but also to culture, society and politics. Liddle discussed some of these developments, which are relevant not only to the Qutub complex, but to the history of architecture in India.

‘The Most Magnificent Palace in the East: The Lal Qila’ by Anisha Shekhar Mukherji explored the many aspects and stories of the Lal Quila, the Red Fort of Shahjahanabad. It took viewers beyond the conventional view that just focuses on the Lahori Gate and the outer ramparts of the Red Fort, uncovering the many layers of the tumultuous history of the Fort that have left their physical mark on its form and function. It also set forth what we could learn from the Fort’s design and planning relevant to contemporary life, and ended by enunciating the way forward to address the conservation issues confronting the Red Fort today.

‘Jantar Mantar, Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh’s Observatory in Delhi’ was the second illustrated lecture by Anisha Shekhar Mukherji. She discussed the reasons behind the creation and location of these enigmatic structures, and contextualised their cultural and scientific value. The talk also touched upon the appropriate conservation philosophy for these structures, specifically for the Delhi Jantar Mantar.

In his illustrated talk titled ‘A Journey through Sher-i-Kashmir, the Historic City of Srinagar’, Saleem Beg presented the history and architecture of Srinagar through maps and photographs. He described wooden structures five storeys high without the use of nails or steel, but which withstood centuries of weathering and earthquakes; elaborate jaali work and aesthetic projections called dab which kept the indoors sunlit and airy; a 15th century mausoleum of bricks, the stone Shahi Masjid; Akbar’s Kathi Darwaza to commemorate Mughal arrival; as well as typical wooden buildings of which the kanqah of Shah Hamdan is most notable. But this syncretic ethos of Srinagar that thrived from 250 BC onwards now needs urgent conservation.

Mapping Sustainable Agriculture

In the programme ‘No Women, No Agriculture’, Kavitha Kuruganti drew on 27 years of experience with development issues, mainly farm livelihoods, food security and seed sovereignty, democratisation of science and technology, and the promotion of ecological farming.

In his talk on ‘WTO Negotiations and Indian Agriculture: Issues and Sensitivities’, Sachin Kumar Sharma spoke about how Indian officials and officials of other developing countries negotiate with developed countries at WTO forums. The perception at WTO negotiations is that Indian agriculture has not fared well. The talk sought to address some of the doubts in the mind of the public.

The discussion on ‘Media mein haashiye par krishi aur kisaan (Indian Media: Farmers on the Margins)’ was presented in Hindi. Harvir Singh, a senior journalist, spoke of his concerns with regard to the lack of coverage of the agricultural sector by the media.

The lecture ‘Reforming Agricultural Markets: Whose Job is it Anyway?’ was delivered by Sukhpal Singh. Agricultural marketing is key to delivering better incomes to farmers. Even now, the markets have not become free, nor is there fair competition.

S. Sivakumar spoke on ‘Perspective of the Private Sector on the Three Ordinances for Agriculture and Food Processing’. Three ordinances approved at a cabinet meeting on 3 June 2020 were hailed as landmark decisions that would benefit Indian farmers and transform the agricultural sector. One of these, the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance 2020, amends the existing act to remove all agricultural commodities from the list of essential commodities. The government assumes that the freedom to produce, hold, move, distribute and supply will lead to harnessing of economies of scale and attract private sector/foreign direct investment into the agriculture sector. It will help drive up investment in cold storages and modernisation of food supply chains.

Sagari R. Ramdas spoke on ‘Livestock, Food Security and the Farm Laws’. Livestock are a critical component of farming livelihoods and contribute vitally to India’s food and nutritional security. The three farm laws recently enacted are set to impact the markets of animals and animal-derived food products, and have consequences for every food consumer in India, particularly the vast majority of nutritionally compromised citizens.

In his talk on ‘The Agriculture–Nutrition Disconnect in India: A Look through Policies and Programmes’, Devesh Roy revealed that the average daily calorie consumption in India is below the recommended level across all groups compared, except the richest

5 per cent of the population. Our diets are unhealthy with large amounts of cereal and not enough protein, fruit and vegetables.

Parmod Kumar's talk titled 'Outlook on Food Security in India—The Future Scenarios to 2033', covered past history, present and future scenarios as regards food security, as well as the reforms required to strengthen agriculture in India.

Neighbourhood First Series

This series is coordinated by Ashok K. Mehta.

In the programme 'Restoring India–Nepal Relations: What Steps to Take', the speakers concurred that India–Nepal relations are at a current low, but the situation is not as grave as it was in 2015. Both countries have enjoyed excellent relations as two adjacent neighbours with open borders and shared history, geography, culture, religion and people-to-people ties. The speakers agreed that the recent slide ought to be arrested and relations restored to an even keel between the two sovereign nations.

Nepal was faced with a constitutional crisis when Prime Minister K.P. Oli suddenly dissolved Parliament, where he had a majority, and ordered elections in April–May 2020. He is now caretaker Prime Minister with a divided Nepal Communist Party. The Supreme Court will either restore the House or uphold Oli's decision for elections. The programme 'Nepal's Constitutional Crisis' addressed the aftermath of the crisis, especially repercussions for Nepal, China and India.

'The Afghanistan Peace Process' explored the trajectory and end state of the peace process. In the more than four-decade long war, an institutional peace process in Afghanistan came into effect on 29 February 2020 by clinching two agreements: one

between the United States and the Taliban; and the other between the United States and Afghanistan. Extraordinary concessions have been made by the United States to the Taliban, still a US and UN terrorist organisation. Unfortunately, a ceasefire, or even a cessation of hostilities, has not been obtained from the Taliban, making this peace process the most violent in the history of conflict resolution.

The unprecedented results of the recent Sri Lankan elections, giving the Rajapaksha brothers an overwhelming majority, meant that the people of the country wanted a strong and cohesive government to deal with strategic issues and take the country forward. In the context of India–Sri Lanka relations, it had swung like a pendulum, especially with reference to minority issues in Sri Lanka. The hope was that ties between the two would improve on all fronts. This was the subject of discussion at the seminar on ‘After 5th August Elections in Sri Lanka’.

In the programme on ‘Elections in Myanmar’, panellists discussed the third elections held in November 2020 under the military-drafted constitution which is part of the army’s roadmap to democracy. They also examined the country’s future, its relations with India and China, and prospects for constitutional reforms.

Frontiers of History

‘Amala Shankar: My Dance Teacher’ was an illustrated lecture by Urmimala Sarkar, specialist in dance studies. This was a tribute to Amala Shankar (1919–2020), noted dancer, choreographer and wife of Uday Shankar. The lecture explored uncharted territory regarding Amala Shankar’s pedagogical contribution to dance teaching and innovation in Indian modern dance.

Music Appreciation Promotion

In the programme 'Traditional and Contemporary Music from West and North Africa', Gautam Mukhopadhaya covered music spanning traditional music and instruments, as well as contemporary rock and jazz.

'Swar-bhed Rahasya: Unveiling the Mysteries of the Sapta-Swar, 12 Notes, 22 Shrutis and Vibrational Harmony in Hindustani Raag Music' was a presentation by Ashish Dha. He explored how Hindustani swar are different from the Western 12-note equal-tempered system; why purists have long deplored the 'corrupting' influence of the harmonium on Indian music; and demystified the legendary '22 shrutis' mentioned in ancient texts, along with making them easy for everyone to listen and be able to play.

'A Half-Century of Woodstock Festival' was an illustrated lecture by Paranjoy Guha-Thakurta. He evoked memories with visuals of live music concerts by a vast range of performers (Joan Baez to Jimi Hendrix, Country Joe to Santana), audience reactions, the incredible turnout, and a strong Indian connection. From stupendous performances by Indian classical maestros such as Ravi Shankar and Alla Rakha, to talks by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, many believe that this was, perhaps, a defining moment when the West started appreciating Indian classical music.

Art Matters

In the programme 'The Writer and Her World: Krishna Sobti', discussants Vasudha Dalmia, Anuradha Kapur and Githa Hariharan spoke about Krishna Sobti's body of work which captures the nature of the human condition and the intrigues, tendencies and existential assertions that make Hindustan what it is.

Healthcare in India

In his talk on ‘Stroke Awareness’, Chandril Chugh said that neurological problems and paralytic attacks or brain haemorrhage have become very common, and discussed how people could be sensitised to this and the basic care required to prevent this.

Gandhi Matters

This is a collaboration with The Raza Foundation.

In ‘Bhasha ki Talash’, Apoorvanand spoke about the language of non-violence, which is being regenerated in the country today, especially as seen in the Shaheen Bagh movement.

IIC/Open Health Systems Colloquium

‘Biomedical Data Sciences—New Name with New Opportunities for Change?’ had a lead presentation by Philip E. Bourne. Biomedicine, always at the forefront of open data aggregation and reuse, is now being influenced by other fields where the application of data science is rapidly expanding. What are other fields telling us, and what do scientists, funders and governments need to do differently to instil a cultural change?

In his talk on ‘Applications of AI in Cancer Research—Preparations, Progress and Predictions’, Eric Stahlberg gave a brief history and overview of the background and development of data science in understanding cancer—the need for data to be converted to useful knowledge through the design of highly scalable machine learning tools. He spoke of the importance of fostering international collaborations in biomedical informatics towards data generation, and development of new tools for using large databases enabling predictions and medical decisions.

River Dialogues

‘The River and I’

This is a series of quarterly river conversations, conceptualised by Kishalay Bhattacharjee, that are critical to re-evaluating histories, reconnecting civilisations, cultures and peoples, ideas and regions, and opening streams of thought for a future with exciting possibilities.

Sumana Roy, author and poet, and Parineeta Dandekar, river researcher and associate coordinator SANDRP, were in conversation with Kishalay Bhattacharjee, journalist and author.

IIC/Media Foundation Dialogues

This series is a collaboration with The Media Foundation.

The programme ‘Streaming Platforms and Digital News Media: Regulation, Self-regulation or no Regulation?’ highlighted the growing debate on whether digital content, so far unregulated in India, should face regulation. If so, how would that impact freedom of expression and creative independence? This programme was the first in this series of conversations.

The Mid-Year Review of the Indian Economy, 2020

This review comes at a critical juncture. The COVID-19 pandemic led to an unprecedented contraction of the economy by nearly 24 per cent in Quarter 1 of 2020–21. Though the pandemic is still continuing, progressive unlocking of the economy, supported by stimulus policies, has led to a strong recovery during Quarter 2 of 2020–21. The challenge now is to sustain and accelerate the pace of this recovery

over the medium to long term. This will require wide-ranging structural reforms in addition to conventional macro-economic stimulation policies. This is a collaboration with National Council of Applied Economic Research.

Keys to Governance

‘Independence of Judiciary’ was the sixth seminar in this series, a collaboration with D.S. Borker Memorial Foundation. Given the ‘tumultuous’ happenings and public debate surrounding the judiciary in the recent past, this seminar came at a crucial time. Among the issues discussed were safeguards to protect courts from government interference; need for transparency; use of technology (live-streaming and case management); post-retirement benefits; introspection by judges; and constitutional morality and the need for well-informed and uninhibited criticism of the judiciary.

IIC–International Research Division

The COVID-19 pandemic also affected the important work done by the IIC–International Research Division. No new activities could take place during the year, but planning is underway for an international conference on Latin America which will take place in the next financial year. Work continued on assembling the proceedings of the following conferences held in the past few years. These books will be published in 2021–22.

1. The Blind Owl: Hooting for 80 Years (17–18 February 2016)
2. Linguistic Diversity in South and South-east Asia (21–23 November 2016)
3. India and Indonesia: Exploring Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Pluralities and Inclusive Identities (19–20 February 2018)
4. India and Central Asia (3–4 December 2018)
5. Understanding Africa: Continuity and Change (10–12 February 2020)

There was a three-day international conference on ‘Understanding Africa: Continuity and Change’, from 10 to 12 February 2020. The main focus was on the cultural and civilisational linkages between India and Africa, African literature, languages, textiles, music, etc. The conference was inaugurated by Shri N.N. Vohra, President, IIC. The Keynote Address was delivered by Ambassador Olabiyi Babalola Joseph Yai, former Chairman, UNESCO Executive Board, and the Valedictory Address was by Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary, Government of India.

Fourteen scholars drawn from 12 African countries, besides several Indian scholars, participated. The discussions highlighted that notwithstanding the historical linkages

between Africa and India dating as far back as human memory can remember, very little written works exist. Ambassador Yai said that the two important conferences—Bandung (1955) and Tri-continental (Havana, 1966)—provided the inspiration and the socio-political programmatic agenda for the new African states that became independent in the 1960s and the 1970s. He, however, noted that if an assessment were to be made of the current situation, it becomes clear that the overall performance is appallingly disappointing. Proposing a different narrative, he said that understanding Africa is predicated on knowing and feeling Africa. Another knowledge of Africa is therefore necessary and possible, based on new ideas and concepts endogenously generated from African intellectual traditions.

Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla noted that from the age of colonialism to the age of globalisation, through thick and thin, India and Africa have done much together. But there are still challenges that need to be addressed, and frontiers that need to be crossed. The conference concluded with performances by two cultural troupes from Africa.

Other Programmes

Governance

Ranabir Samaddar was in conversation with Binod Khadria, speaking about 'Epidemic, Migrant Labour and the Politics of Life'. While scenes of migrant workers walking in long processions attracted the cameras of journalists, it still requires to be asked: What lay behind those long marches? How do caste, race, gender and other fault lines operate in governmental strategies to cope with a virus epidemic? If the fight against an epidemic has been compared to a war, what are the forces of power at play in this war against the pandemic? What, indeed, explains the sudden visibility of migrant workers in the time of a public health crisis?

'V.P. Menon: The Unsung Architect of Modern India' was an illustrated lecture by Narayani Basu, who spoke about V.P. Menon's life, and her own personal journey chronicling his life as his great-granddaughter. Illustrated with rare archival photographs from family albums, the talk explored not just the man behind the public figure, but also the author's discovery of her great-grandfather as one of India's top civil servants at a crucial historical crossroads.

The 4th L.C. Jain Memorial Lecture, 'Fighting for Freedoms: The Supreme Court in the 21st Century', was delivered by Justice A.P. Shah. He spoke about the major cases that had grabbed national attention recently. Sabarimala, Ayodhya, Kashmir and the NRC were centre stage as he mused on the actions of the top court. Confident that the Supreme Court would make a course correction, Justice Shah's optimistic concluding note left some hope for the nation.

'How Robust is India's Democracy?' This was the subject of a discussion that

highlighted the fact that although India is the world's largest democracy, it is not elections alone that contribute towards a vibrant democracy. Issues of grassroots democracy, representation, corruption, the selection of candidates, the independence of institutions, federalism, etc., need immediate attention.

International Affairs

The discussion on 'India–China Relations: Galwan Valley Postscript' was moderated by C. Uday Bhaskar. It began with the recent events of June 2020 on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Galwan Valley that marked the end of a 45-year period which saw no armed confrontation involving the loss of lives. The discussion re-evaluated and re-assessed India's China policy and the way forward.

'President Trump's Foreign Policy: An Assessment' was chaired by K.P. Fabian. The panellists believed that Biden's urgent mission is to return to a well-defined, consistent and predictable foreign policy, and repair the damage done globally by Trump to international institutions. Biden would probably return to the WHO before China takes it over completely. Biden also sees India within an Indo–Pacific context, along with American allies Japan, Australia and Indonesia. India has an important role in repairing the disrupted supply chain of China. In short, one may expect stability in bilateral relations, based on shared concerns.

V. Srinivas spoke on 'Africa's Economic Response to COVID-19'. The COVID-19 pandemic is taking place in a context where African countries are battling rising debt, huge health infrastructure gaps and high unemployment, which have limited the scale and effectiveness of the government's policy response. Government debt, as a share of GDP, has risen sharply in the past five years. The pandemic is a call to African governments to close health infrastructure gaps, implement targeted social security programmes, and adopt economic diversification to overcome commodity price shocks.

The world that emerges free from COVID-19 will be different from what it was before the contagion appeared. What will be the modified geopolitical equations? Will China's rise be accelerated, decelerated, or even reversed? What might be the change in the worldview of the United States after the November 2020 elections? Will the South get appropriate assistance from the North to address the crisis and later to restore its economy? What are the lessons to be learnt? What are the challenges and opportunities facing India now as the contagion is still raging and after it has been contained and, hopefully, eliminated in the whole world? These were the issues discussed in the programme, 'COVID-19 and Geopolitics'.

Scholars of international relations, diplomats and political leaders speak often about our multi-polar world. However, the United States of America can and does impose economic sanctions on states that do not comply with its demands, which run the risk of being penalised by Washington. Is such a system good for the United States? Is it good for the rest of the world? If not, what is to be done to abolish it? This was the discussion in the programme 'The Invisible Elephant of Uni-Polarity in the Room'.

Manjeev Singh Puri, while discussing his book, *Sikh Heritage in Nepal*, said that the links of the Sikh community with Nepal go back to the time of Guru Nanak. These connections are rich, and it would be good if academic research is undertaken to document Sikh shrines in Nepal. The role of Sikhs and Gurkhas in the Indian Army is well known, but the links of the two communities together are fascinating.

In the programme 'India, Nepal and the New Map', speakers Yubaraj Ghimire, Ranjit Rae and Nrip Singh Nepalchyal discussed Nepal's new map claiming territory in the Kumaon district of Uttarakhand, possible reasons for this cartographic aggression, its impact on people living in those areas, and the options available to India.

The South China Sea, one of the most important economic and environmental

regions in the world, contains some of the world's most important shipping lanes. It is also the site of inter-state disputes, primarily because the People's Republic of China (PRC) has violated its provisions in many ways. India, the United States, Australia, Japan, the United Kingdom, France and Germany have insisted that PRC abide by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas. This was the focus of the discussion titled 'The South China Sea: Geopolitics'.

Environment

'The "Other" Shangri-la: Journeys through the Sino-Tibetan Frontier in Sichuan' was an illustrated lecture by Shivaji Das. He gave a vivid account of his travels through the Sino-Tibetan frontier of Sichuan Province, along with his Chinese wife, Lobo. Written in an easy, humourous vein, the travelogue took the audience through some of the region's very beautiful but challenging mountain terrain.

'Uncivil City: Ecology, Equity and the Commons in Delhi' was a discussion based on Amita Baviskar's book, *Uncivil City*. How have two decades of environmental politics shaped nature and society in Delhi? How will the city survive and its commons thrive? Her talk focused on the transformation and appropriation of environmental activism by the elite. This was followed by a discussion with Gautam Bhan.

Education

The discussion on the 'The New National Education Policy 2020' was chaired by Shri N.N. Vohra, President, IIC. The panel deliberated upon the newly drafted national education policy, its rationale, its perspective from the point of view of school education and higher education, and the possible challenges to the implementation of this new directive.

History and Heritage

‘Metal Ware of Tamil Nadu’ was an illustrated lecture by Pradeep Chakravarthy. It delineated the history of metal ware in Tamil Nadu and presented an array of different metal objects—from the humble objects of daily use to grand objects in palaces, many of which have not been seen for several generations.

‘India International Centre and the Attributes of an Indian Modernism’ was an illustrated lecture by Snehanshu Mukherjee. The talk explored aspects of the built structures that house the IIC. Illustrated with sketches, architectural drawings, detailed studies and photographs, his talk shed light on the philosophy of architect Joseph Allen Stein’s masterly resolution of spaces.

‘The Bungalow in 20th Century India: An Imperial Legacy in Colonial and Post-Colonial Times’ was an illustrated lecture by Madhavi Desai that traced the trajectory of the evolution of bungalow typology in India. The British Raj had a far-reaching impact on architecture and urban design in India. Of this legacy, the ‘bungalow’ remains an important symbol. In the 20th century, it emerged as a new house style on the domestic landscape as an alternative to various traditional systems. This change brought about a historical revolution in plan, form and structure of the dwelling. Gradually the simple colonial bungalow became more opulent, growing in size, style, variety and sophistication, eventually being adopted by the middle classes, remaining a popular option till it transformed into the modernist house.

Jayati Bhattacharya spoke on ‘Colonial Crossings: Rethinking Connectivities across the Bay of Bengal’, particularly the 19th and 20th centuries. She highlighted the alternative frameworks of mobility and exchange across global transit points, port cities, and the China trade routes in the intra-Asian economic and diasporic networks that prevailed through the participation of Indian business communities, which were less visible in the dominant Eurocentric narrative.

Responses to the Chinese Belt Road initiative are often presented as corresponding state-led geopolitical and geocultural reactions. 'Point Zero?: Geographies of Heritage on the Maritime Spice Routes' was an illustrated lecture by Marina Kaneti that attempted to answer certain questions in the context of Indonesia's Spice Route and Global Maritime Fulcrum initiatives: How do local communities (re)construct their sense of identity and connectivity? How do community activities fit into national government agendas for 'heritage' promotion and cultural revival? The lecture was followed by the documentary film, *Ternate: Point Zero*, the first instalment of a 'Point Zero' series that takes a look at local community initiatives on Ternate Island, centre of the global spice trade, beyond the realm of geopolitics and international diplomacy.

Srinivas Reddy and William Dalrymple were in conversation in the programme 'A Hindu King in a Cosmopolitan World'. It was based on the book by Reddy, *Raya: Krishnadevaraya of Vijayanagara*. Both speakers underscored the absence of the Deccan in narratives of national histories, and the lacuna of biographical writing in Indian history that even when written, tends to be hagiographical.

In her talk on 'Gandhiji's Views on Arts, Aesthetics and Culture', Varsha Das quoted Gandhiji as saying that 'Indian culture of our times is in the making. Many of us are striving to produce a blend of all the cultures which seem today to be in clash with one another. No culture can live if it attempts to be exclusive.' Unfortunately, she said, we can clearly see that the present generation, instead of being inclusive and expansive, takes pride in becoming exclusive, narrow and shallow. This is quite contrary to Gandhiji's views on culture. It is imperative on the part of those of us who agree with Gandhiji to demonstrate his views in our daily life. We have no other option if we want to survive peacefully and harmoniously.

'Designing for Heritage' was an illustrated lecture by Siddhartha Das. As he journeyed from his days as a student at the National Institute of Design to his projects

in exhibits and museum design at various museums, including Museum Rietberg in Zurich, we saw the sensitivity with which he approached his work. Especially inspiring were the projects at the Jal Mahal Museum in Jaipur and the J.D. Centre of Art in Bhubaneswar.

Shelly Jyoti, visual artist, designer and independent curator, gave an illustrated lecture on ‘Translating Gandhi in the 21st Century: The Journey of a Textile Artist’. She shared her artistic journey which has been informed, inspired and influenced by Gandhiji’s writing and philosophy.

Health

‘Towards a Holistic Long-term Medi-Care System—The Case of COVID-19’ was moderated by Vinayshil Gautam. The discussion presented a multi-disciplinary approach to the pandemic, covering emergency health care systems, safety engines of health care, emergency case developments, evolving social narratives and changes in frameworks of reference.

Meetu Khosla delivered a talk on ‘Mental Health: Perceiving Challenge as Opportunity’. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about drastic changes in our lifestyle, with restrictions and work-from-home routines causing fear, negativity, and poor physical and mental health. The talk provided an insight into perceiving threats and crises as a challenge, seeking out possibilities to deal with uncertainties, and finding opportunities to develop psycho-social skills that enhance creative productivity, personal growth and mental health.

‘Pandemic Musings: History, Mental Health and Marginalisation’ was a conversation with Alok Sarin and other mental health professionals. They looked at histories of earlier pandemics and disasters, at data from the present pandemic and means of

societal coping. They focused on mental health and illness, homelessness, care needs, and issues of development and disruption. Also explored were possible opportunities for change and the imagining of possible futures, keeping in mind the need for social equity and shared humanity.

In the programme ‘Coping with the Uncertainty and Stress of the Corona Pandemic’, Puja Dewan focused on demystifying the virus, and shared methods to cope with stress in a healthy way that would make both individuals and the community stronger. The overwhelming fear and anxiety in both adults and children, and public health actions such as social distancing necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19, resulted in isolation and loneliness, thereby increasing stress and anxiety.

Both print media and television have been educating the public regarding the individual’s role in protection and prevention from the COVID-19 infection. The panel of experts in the programme ‘Promise and Pitfalls of COVID-19 Infectious Disease Modeling’ illuminated the many behind-the-scene tasks shouldered by experts in the field of public health. They described how the models in different infectious diseases were adapted to interpret the spread of the current virus and its related maladies; the responsibilities of community behaviour in regulating, and therefore reducing, the spread of the illness; the need to promote knowledge of the efficacy of vaccination, etc.

Literature

Penned by Namita Gokhale and Malashri Lal, the dramatic reading of the play in English, ‘Betrayed by Hope’, explored maverick poet and dramatist-extraordinaire Michael Madhusudan Dutt’s life journey from alienation to a return to selfhood. Innovative and insightful effective reading, with visuals and evocative music, captured Dutt’s disillusionment with Europe, its culture and treatment of others.

‘When Lakshman Undergoes a Fire Ordeal: The Aesthetic World of Gond Ramayani’ was an illustrated lecture by Molly Kaushal. The Gond Ramayani begins where the plot of the canonical text ends. It is composed of seven tales with Lakshman as its hero. However, rather than locating the Gond Ramayani within the larger Ramayana traditions, the talk explored its origins and semantics within the narrative repertoire of the Gonds, and in the background of their socio-cultural practices, religious pantheon, metaphysics and rituals of death.

Culture

In ‘Ahimsa Conversations on Non-violence’, Ashis Nandy and Ramin Jahanbegloo reflected on the possibilities of non-violence based on their own intensive experiences with striving for non-violence.

Performance

The ‘IIC Double Bill Dance and Music Recitals’ included:

- Odissi by Madhulita Mohapatra from Bengaluru, disciple of Aruna Mohanty; Vrinda Chadha from Delhi, disciple of Ranjana Gauhar; Puspa Panda from Cuttack, disciple of Meera Das; and Vinod Kevin Bachan from Delhi, disciple of Ranjana Gauhar.
- Bharatanatyam by Anannya Chatterjee from Delhi, disciple of Jayalakshmi Eshwar; Sharanya Chandran from Delhi, daughter and disciple of Geeta Chandran; Rupali Yadav from Delhi, disciple of Saroja Vaidyanathan; and Swati Biswas from Delhi, disciple of Jayalakshmi Eshwar.
- Kathak by Moumala Nayak from Delhi, disciple of Birju Maharaj and Vaswati Mishra; Sucharita Dattaghatta from Kolkata, disciple of Amita Datta and Sushmita Mishra; Manjiri Kiran from Jaipur, disciple of Rohini Bhate and Suresh Talwalkar;

and a kathak group recital by Deepak Aurora and party from Delhi, disciples of Rajendra Gangani.

- Kuchipudi by Nandini Nitin from Delhi, disciple of Swapna Sundari.
- Sattriya recital by Meernanda Barthakur from Guwahati, disciple of Jatin Goswami.
- Mohiniattam by Malavika Menon from Kerala, disciple of Vinitha Nedungadi.
- Vilasini Natyam by Purvadhanashree from Delhi, disciple of Swapna Sundari.

Vocal recitals included:

Hindustani vocal by Padmaja Chakraborty from Delhi, disciple of Girija Devi, accompanied by Shubhendu Das on tabla and Sonali Roy on tanpura; Mitali Sengupta from Kolkata, disciple of Sangitacharya Nutu Mukhopadhyay; Nishant Panicker from Bengaluru, disciple of Vidushi Lalith J. Rao, accompanied by Shashibhushan Gurjar (tabla), Surya Upadhyaya (harmonium) and Krishnendra Samarth (tanpura); Amit Chaudhuri from Kolkata, disciple of Govind Prasad Jaipurwale; Madhumita Chattopadhyay from Kolkata, disciple of the late Vidushi Purnima Chaudhury and Vidushi Manju Sundaram; Ashish Ranade from Nasik, disciple of Anand Bhate; Samina De from Delhi, disciple of Amarnath and Vidushi Shobha Gurtu; Lalit Deshpande from Pune, disciple of Ramesh Kanole, Vijay Koparkar and Anand Bhate.

Classical instrumental included:

- Hindustani flute by Rajat Prasanna from Delhi, grandson and disciple of Raghunath Prasanna; and Sudip Chattopadhyay from Kolkata, disciple of Debaprasad Banerjee.
- Harmonium recital by Vinay Mishra from Delhi, disciple of Mehatab Khan and Appa Shaheb Jalgaonkar.
- Hindustani violin recital by Asghar Husain from Delhi, disciple of Zahoor Ahmed Khan and Iqbal Ahmed Khan.

- Sitar recital by Debojyoti Gupta from Mumbai, disciple of Buddhadev Dasgupta.

‘Virtual Premiere of Rain’ was an ensemble work in Bharatanatyam choreographed by Justin McCarthy. It was partially based on verses from Kalidasa’s *Ritusamhaaram*, in which the expressional and technical aspects of dance respond to rain—rain as conceived both in traditional poetry, as well as rain in its simple, mundane aspects.

‘In the Forest of My Soul—Beethoven and His Art’ was a brief series of concerts, films and talks to mark the 250th birth anniversary of the renowned German composer, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827). Conceptualised by Justin McCarthy, the two-fold aim of the programme was to celebrate Beethoven’s music as well as to provide a cohesive platform for Indian musicians who play European music. All four recitals were specially recorded for online performances at the IIC.

- The first recital featured three young pianists. The second focused on Bombay-based musicians: a singer, a violinist and a pianist. The third recital featured 11 non-professional pianists (including children), playing some of Beethoven’s miniature pieces for piano, ‘accompanied’ by lines from the poetry of Schiller, the poet who penned the words for Beethoven’s famous ‘Ode to Joy’. The fourth and final recital was a solo piano recital in which some of Beethoven’s lesser-known compositions were highlighted.

‘Celebrating Poetry’ was a programme held on Christmas Day, featuring Meera Bhatia, Sunit Tandon and Satish Jacob, who recited the poems of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Janab Krishna Mohan. Meera Bhatia read two poems of Janab Krishna Mohan in Urdu, and two poems of Vajpayee translated from Urdu, in Hindi. Sunit Tandon read three poems: two of Vajpayee’s, and one of Krishna Mohan’s in Urdu. Satish Jacob recited Krishna Mohan’s poetry in Urdu.

'Christmas at Home' was a selection of Christmas carols, songs and spoken words presented by Prabhat Chandola, Aching Shaiza, Aalaya Chandola, Mene Chandola and Temsunaro Rongsen Chandola. The artists presented a concert of well-loved carols and songs.

IIC Collaborations

Governance

The 28th Anniversary of the Working Group on Alternative Strategies was marked by Amit Bhaduri's talk on 'Indian Nationalism and Economic Development'. Indian nationalism, never a unified stream, assumed greater coherence through the anti-colonial struggle. Independence required redefining it as a 'nation-building' state-led project of economic development through industrialisation. A distinct break came with economic liberalisation and globalisation. There is now an increasing attempt at redefining nationalism in majoritarian cultural terms. The jury is still out, but early signs indicate that cultural majoritarianism is itself undergoing mutation.

The Social Change Golden Jubilee Lecture 2020, held in collaboration with Council for Social Development, on 'Home to the Borders: Violence Against Women, Impunity and Resistance', was delivered by Uma Chakravarti. She traced the 'arc of violence' against women that connects across locations. The first location is custody—of the family and the state. The streets and the fields embody another location, and the class and caste dimensions in this arc. The long history of communal violence in India has seen sexual violence as central to the violence against minorities. The final link of this arc is the violence against women at the borders.

The Centre once again collaborated with The Raza Foundation and the Foundation for Creative Social Research to present the 7th edition of the 'Creative Theory Colloquium 2020'. A critical concern these days is the definition of democracy. The last few decades have seen a shift in definition and practice of democracy, and the accompanying complexities of the technological revolution makes the state

more capable of manipulating the politics of socialist republican imagination. The colloquium addressed this issue and questioned if there were counter strategies to reclaim democracy.

International Affairs

‘Towards an Ethical Refugee Policy in India’ was a consultation which examined the history of the refugee policy in India, and the economic and political impact of the migration of refugees to India. It also contextualised India’s refugee question at the international level, looking for best practices globally. The specific needs of the north-east were also addressed. Ideas were proposed which could contribute to a humane and ethical refugee policy. This was a collaboration with Centre for Equity Studies; and Rosa Luxemburg-Stiftung.

The 40th anniversary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC, 1980–2020) was marked by the programme ‘Post COVID-19 Path to Recovery: SADC and India’, moderated by Suhas Borker. India and the 16-nation SADC have had deep ties of cooperation in the past, and there is a need to support and assist each other in the post COVID-19 scenario. The path to recovery calls for out-of-the-box strategies to counter the fallout of the economic downturn, and to meet the challenge of emergent priorities. This was a collaboration with Southern African Development Community, Heads of Mission Group, New Delhi; and Working Group on Alternative Strategies.

The V.P. Dutt Memorial Lecture 2020, titled ‘India as a Teacher by Negative Example: Chinese Perceptions of India during the British Colonial Period and their Impact on India-China Relations’, was delivered by Shri Shyam Saran, Life Trustee, IIC. The history of ancient civilisational links between India and China, including the spread of Buddhist religion and philosophy from India to China, are often cited as the enduring

basis for the India–China friendship. However, contemporary relations have been much more influenced by Chinese encounters with British imperialism, with Indians playing the role of subordinate instruments of British depredations in China. These perceptions persist and influence Chinese policy towards India in contemporary times and need careful analyses. This was a collaboration with Institute of Chinese Studies.

Joseph Shevel was the speaker in the programme ‘Galilee Israel Amid COVID-19 and India’. He focused on the Israeli experience of coping with crisis in general, with the present crisis in particular, and the lessons for India. He spoke about Galilee Institute’s work and experience, including the recently concluded special online intensive course, conducted jointly with the World Health Organisation, which focused on hospital management in times of a pandemic. Shevel also spoke about Galilee Institute’s experience in agricultural training and education. This was a collaboration with Galilee International Israel.

‘Long Walk with Mandela’. The third instalment of the Nelson Mandela Lecture was delivered by Gopalkrishna Gandhi, formerly India’s High Commissioner to the Rainbow Nation, and Life Trustee, IIC. His lecture included personal reminiscences and observations on Mandela’s courage, his ability to pay attention to small details, his generosity of spirit, and his recognition of the role of Indians by giving them high judicial and ministerial posts. This was a collaboration with Working Group on Alternative Strategies; and South African High Commission.

There was a Roundtable on ‘India’s Power Profile: Leading/Regional/Major?’ led by T.V. Paul. India must play an ‘aggressive economic’ role in South Asia to win over smaller states in the region in the face of the growing challenge to its influence from China, he said. India has not played a leading role in the region like it should have, particularly with respect to the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC). This was a collaboration with Society for Policy Studies.

Environment

To mark World Environment Day on 5 June 2020, The Climate Change Research Institute collaborated in the programme, 'Post COVID-19: Future of Biodiversity'. This year's campaign marked society's unified and digital response to our environmental crisis. V.S. Verma and Malti Goel spoke on how biodiversity and COVID-19 are linked, the challenges we face and how we can safeguard it post- COVID-19.

Education

'National Library Conclave on Copyrights—2021' focused on three issues of contemporary relevance: (i) One Nation—One Subscription, including key issues and services, and infrastructure that should be built around this; (ii) Copyright Provisions for Library: Guidelines for Librarians; and (iii) Copyright Challenges in the Digital Era. This was a collaboration with JNU and Sanrachana, a policy think tank, along with eight knowledge partners.

Economics

The Durgabai Deshmukh Memorial Lecture 2020 titled 'Are Today's Crises Catastrophic Enough for Neoclassical Economists and Neoliberal Politicians to Change their Mindsets?' was delivered by Ashok Khosla. Historically, for deep structural and transformative change in society we have had to depend on crises. The crises of today are the life-threatening products of grossly flawed intellectual and ethical choices that we have made in our search for 'development', particularly during recent decades. It is now a matter of civilisational, human and planetary survival that we urgently and fundamentally change the assumptions and practices of both the 'science' and praxis of economics. This was a collaboration with Council for Social Development.

‘Declining Savings Rate in India—New Policy Options’ was the first programme in a new limited series of discussions focusing on the broad trends in banking and finance, organised in collaboration with Research and Information System for Developing Societies (RIS). The key issues discussed were the relevance of the national savings rate being considered a driver for traditional economic growth models; declining savings rate; the need for the Indian economy to be business enabling for greater local manufacture and services; and government investment in infrastructure, sanitation, healthcare and nutrition.

What are the prospects of Indian manufacturing and rural economy with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic shock? How will *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* take care of aggregate demand and growth? What is the role of fiscal policy in the Covid-19 scenario, especially in the context of migrant labour? Why are the farmers protesting? Will the new farm laws transform Indian agriculture and benefit farmers? What is the status of central government finances and its implication for economic recovery? Why does the stock market rise while the real economy is in decline? What strategies should be adopted to counter the fallout of the economic downturn? These critical issues were debated in the programme ‘State of India’s Economy’, organised in collaboration with Working Group on Alternative Strategies.

Women and Society

Speakers in the programme ‘She Speaks Ed8.0: Celebrating International Women’s Day 2020’ stressed on the empowerment of women through meditation and healing, and the importance of spirituality, health and interpersonal relationships. This, they believed, would lead to improvements in work life, family life and the development of inner strength. This was a collaboration with Aambra Foundation.

Panellists at the seminar 'Pathway to Women in Politics' discussed women's participation in India's freedom movement, and the fact that the Constitution ensures equal rights for women. However, post-independence, women constitute merely 9 per cent in Parliament. It was felt that both Hindu and Muslim women should work together; *stree shakti*, they said, is a parallel force in which women work along with men. This was a collaboration with Stree Shakti.

History, Art and Culture

Participants in the programme 'Shaping National Consciousness: The Works and Words of Khwaja Ahmed Abbas' included scholars and eminent personalities who have worked on the writings and/or films of Abbas, and who presented papers in Hindi, English and Urdu. The interdisciplinary seminar concentrated on the concerns and thoughts around nation-building that emerge in the works of Abbas. The keynote address was by Shri M. Hamid Ansari, former Vice President of India. This was a collaboration with the Khwaja Ahmed Abbas Memorial Trust.

Asha Baxi's keynote address at the international seminar on 'Costumes: Past, Present and Conserved' evoked a touch of nostalgia for that ageless garment, the sari. She traced its origins, its evolution from ancient times to its incarnation as khadi during the freedom struggle, and the sari as haute couture today. This was a collaboration with Textiles and Clothing Research Centre; and Indian Institute of Crafts and Design.

There was a special webinar on 'India's Heritage of Karuna and Ahimsa', delivered by H.H. the Dalai Lama, who dwelt at length on his four commitments. First, his commitment as a human being to promoting the idea of the oneness of seven billion human beings through the secular practice of the Indian tradition of karuna and ahimsa. Second, his responsibility as a Buddhist monk to promote religious harmony. Third,

his commitment towards Tibet—although he had retired from political responsibility, he was committed to preserving the thousand-year-old Tibetan–Buddhist tradition that came from India. Fourth, his commitment to reviving ancient Indian knowledge. This was a collaboration with Foundation for Universal Responsibility of H.H. the Dalai Lama.

In light of the Government of India’s National Education Policy 2020, the discussion on ‘Education for Artisans: Past, Present and Future’ explored educational avenues for traditional artisans. The discussants examined educational paradigms, where traditional oral learning and apprenticeships have been deepened and extended through the layering-on of formal education for artisans. This was a collaboration with Craft Revival Trust; and Global InCh Journal.

Lata Bothra presented an illustrated lecture on ‘Jain Architecture in Eastern India’. Jainism has influenced and contributed to many artistic spheres in India, such as painting, sculpture and architecture. The earliest Jain monuments were temples based on the Brahmanical Hindu temple plan and monasteries for Jain monks. Among the earliest Jain monuments are the Udayagiri and Khandagiri caves in Orissa, carved out as residential blocks for Jain monks during the reign of King Kharavela of Kalinga (193–170 BCE). This was a collaboration with Bhogilal Leherchand Institute of Indology.

‘Gandhi Katha’ on the spiritual leadership and the wellness practice of Mahatma Gandhi was introduced by A.K. Merchant and presented by Shobhana Radhakrishna. The narration was accompanied by Gandhi katha hymns and songs by Swati Bhagat and Deepak Kalra. The theme of the katha was Anasakti yoga, a philosophy and way of life advocated by Mahatma Gandhi. It also presented an insight into Gandhiji’s own practices of wellness of body, mind and spirit. This was a collaboration with Sarvodaya International, New Delhi.

Shernaz Cama was in conversation with Adil Writer, ceramic artist, painter and architect, in the programme 'From Chocolates to Ceramics: Tracking Adil Writer'. His work is full of memory in his creations of ceramics, stone and paintings. As he said, 'I am a Parsi Zoroastrian. I find fossilised customs unnecessary...but am constantly drawn to my Zoroastrian heritage.' Yet, it is not religion, but culture that defines his creativity. The 'Red-Dot' is Adil's trademark, a homage to the symbolism of India, signifying blessings, festivity and life itself. This was a collaboration with Parzor and Jiyo Parsi.

In the same collaboration, Penaz Masani, classical ghazal singer, was in conversation with Saleema Ali, stage and television anchor and scriptwriter. In the conversation that was interspersed with archival photographs and video recordings, Penaz traced her journey as a Parsi in the world of ghazals, her training under Madhurani, her work in the film industry, and her performance art.

Literature

'Subliminal Bridges' was an inter-disciplinary programme with poetry recitations by the Be Lagaam poets, dance, sound in poetry, sketching and painting. It also included 'Rtusamhara', a mentorship programme for poetry, and the launch of *Laamaakan*, a poetry anthology. This was a collaboration with the Poesis Society for Poetry.

In his introduction to the programme, 'Chinese Life and Culture through the Poetic Lense', H.K. Kaul mentioned the close friendship between India and China. The programme on Tianhe was dedicated to the late Ganga Prasad Vimal. The session began with the release of Tianhe's work, *Toiling for a Grain of Paddy*, translated into English and Hindi by Rita Malhotra and Sadhna Agrawal, respectively. Tianhe went to the Chinese countryside to pen his memorable verses, depicting hardship, suffering and pain with sensitivity. Hemant Adlakha and Shreeparna Roy gave a historical

account of Chinese poetry from the classical to the modern. This was a collaboration with The Poetry Society, India.

‘Derakht-E-Doosti—Tree of Friendship’ celebrated 70 Years of Indo–Iran Friendship. It included an exhibition and a talk by Syed Akhtar Husain on ‘Mirza Ghalib: The Simorgh of Indo–Persian Literature’. He spoke about Ghalib, and invoked the legendary Simorgh of Iranian mythology, who had cast the ‘Seed of Wisdom’ through his Persian and Urdu poetry in the subcontinent. Besides being a bilingual poet, he was also a great writer of Persian and Urdu prose. This was a collaboration with Parzor and Institute of Indo–Persian Studies.

Three programmes were held in collaboration with Parzor and Jiyo Parsi.

- In ‘Scheherazade Reborn: Telling Tales of Survival on Story Telling’, Coomi S. Vevaina expressed her belief that storytelling, as a potent and joyful way of bringing about social change, was clearly demonstrated by stories as well as psychological and educational study samples. The aim for a positive future lies in developing human skills in youth, and creating empathy for a better world. In a post-COVID scenario, the aims have shifted from overwhelming consumerist desires to working for, and with, nature and humanity. This is how we have a shared heritage, and hopefully a shared future.
- In ‘The Man Behind the Mask’, two creative spirits came together to discuss a life of choice, passion and puppetry. Sanjoy Roy discussed life with Dadi Pudumjee, who followed his dream of reviving the puppet traditions of India. This journey came alive through photographs from family albums and from history. It was followed by ‘Ma’afret—The Awakening’, a puppet performance based on creation myths of the Zoroastrians. Created by Pudumjee and presented by the Ishara Puppet Theatre Trust, with music composed by Amit Bhavasar, the programme brought alive the

eternal clash of values in a dramatic performance using large puppets, brilliant lighting and music.

- Shernaz Cama was in conversation with Sabeena Gadihoke, filmmaker and Vyarawalla's biographer, in the programme, 'The Many Lives of Homai Vyarawalla'. Vyarawalla was India's first woman press photographer, best known for her compelling photographs of political events leading up to Partition, as well as the exhilaration of post-independence India. Her life and character came alive through photographs, film interviews and memories.

There was a launch of *The Brass Notebook: A Memoir* by Devaki Jain. The discussants included Devaki Jain, Romila Thapar and Antara Dev Sen. Kalpana Sharma, who skillfully moderated the conversation, quoted from the book, 'I seized freedom disregarding conventions'. What had made that possible? Devaki Jain reflected that the experiences and thinking of the 1960s and 1970s had motivated her to think about justice and equality, leading to investigation into the causes of women's impoverishment and the nature of economic development. The title of the book, inspired by Doris Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*, is both a tribute to an earlier feminist and an embedding in context, in that brass, a 'lower metal', is well-featured in Indian homes, including that of the author. This was a collaboration with Speaking Tiger Books.

In how many ways can one consider failure and in what way does it come to us all? At the 5th University of East Anglia Symposium in the 'literary activism' series, organised in association with Ashoka University, academics, film directors, poets, critics and actors came together to deliberate on the unique nature of failure and the many ways it affects our private, political and community lives. The symposium is an 'in-between space' that is removed both from the 'tyranny' of the celebratory nature of literature festivals and the serious tenor of academic conferences.

‘Aaj Kavita’, a collaboration with The Raza Foundation, gives a platform to poets across the country. The poets featured were Naresh Saxena (Lucknow), Anil Misra (Ahmedabad), Anupam Singh (Delhi) and Sughosh Mishra (Lucknow).

Media

To mark the 30th Anniversary of the Presidential Assent to the Prasar Bharati Act, there was a discussion on ‘State of Indian Media: News or Noise, Watchdog or Lapdog’ with N. Ram and other panellists. The judiciary has been subverted, federalism is under threat, and during all this, where is the media, the fourth pillar of democracy? This was the question to which the panel was trying to find an answer. This was a collaboration with Jan Prasar.

The B.G. Verghese Memorial Lecture 2020, titled ‘Preserving and Protecting Fundamental Rights—Freedom of Speech, Expression and Right to Protest’, was delivered by Justice Madan B. Lokur. He began by arguing that the erosion of the right to freedom and expression was leading to the gradual destruction of the right to dissent and protest, and impacting the liberty ‘of all those who dare to speak up’. He said that while the Constitution has placed reasonable restrictions on exercising the right to free speech, today it was being eroded through ‘twisting and turning’ the law. The lecture was preceded by the presentation of the 2019 Chameli Devi Jain Award for an Outstanding Woman Journalist. This was a collaboration with The Media Foundation.

Performance

‘In Memory of Ustad Nasir Faiyazuddin Dagar’ consisted of a Hindustani vocal recital by Bholanath Mishra, accompanied by Akhtar Hassan on the tabla, and Zakir Dhaurpuri on the harmonium. It was followed by a Dhrupad recital by Faiyazuddin

Wasifuddin Dagar, accompanied by Mohanshyam Sharma on the pakhawaj. This was a collaboration with the Dagar Brothers Memorial Trust.

‘Sadabahr Aravalli’ was a concert by *saperas* or former snake charmers. Although their performance was banned by the government in the 1990s, there was a re-thinking on the importance of their ancillary skills: a knowledge of medicinal herbs; ability to identify and classify snakes; and above all, their musical skills using the *been*, a wind instrument made from bottle gourd with bamboo pipes, and the *tumba*, a percussion accompaniment. This was a collaboration with Centre for New Perspectives with the support of Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

In ‘Project Bapu Geetika’, Kalpana Palkhiwala spoke about ‘Bapu Geetika—Songs for the Mahatma’, a platform for disseminating songs of, and for, Mahatma Gandhi. A compendium of 108 songs that celebrate Gandhiji, its intention is to take this music and connect people with Gandhiji’s life and message across India and beyond. It comprises the work of 100 illustrious poets in 14 Indian languages set to music, spanning 70 years from Gandhiji’s lifetime to the present. This was a collaboration with Gujarati Club, New Delhi.

A Hindustani classical vocal recital was presented by Shaukat Hussain Khan from Ahmedabad of the Agra–Atrauli gharana, recipient of the Sanskriti–Pt. Vasant Thakar Memorial Fellowship 2019. The accompanists were Vinod Lele on the tabla and Vinay Mishra on the harmonium. This was a collaboration with the Sanskriti Pratishthan.

Another Hindustani classical vocal recital was by Sawani Shende from Pune. Organised in collaboration with Sarvajanic Utsav Samiti, New Delhi, the concert was in memory of Vasant Sathe.

In a Carnatic vocal recital by P.B. Kanna Kumar, the accompanists were Delhi R. Sridhar (violin); Kumbakonam N. Padmanaban (mridangam); and P. Adithya Narayan (kanjira). This concert was organised as part of the Dr. Madurai Soma Sundaram centenary tribute and was a collaboration with Gayathri Fine Arts.

There was a concert by the 'Bianca Gismonti Trio' with Bianca Gismonti on the piano; Julio Falavigna on drums/percussion; and Paolo Andriolo on bass guitar. A leading jazz-oriented pianist from Brazil, Gismonti's compositions revealed a vigorous interaction and sensitivity, along with rich Brazilian rhythmic gestures, lyric harmonies and inspiring melodies. This was a collaboration with the Embassy of Brazil.

'Famous Classical and Musical Theatre Songs' was a concert presented by Farah Ghadiali (soprano); Firdause Wadia (baritone); and Kersi Gazdar (tenor). The artists presented a concert of well-known pieces from opera, semi-classical music and musical theatre, including 'The Phantom of the Opera' and 'The Sound of Music'. This was organised in collaboration with Parzor Foundation and Jiyo Parsi.

'Moldvian Folk Music and Dance' was presented by the Borsa Band from Moldva, Romania. The band, founded in 2011, has been collecting old records, folk tunes and traditional instruments such as the koboz (an East European type of lute), as well as the various forms of Csango dances, which they present wearing medieval costumes. This programme was organised in collaboration with the Hungarian Information and Cultural Centre.

Festivals

To mark International Women’s Day 2020, the ‘16th IAWRT Asian Women’s Film Festival’ was organised in collaboration with International Association of Women in Radio & Television, India Chapter; UN Women; Friedrich Ebert-Stiftung; Sangat; Marwah; and with the support of Jamia Bank and Canon. Over 52 films from 15 countries were screened that sought to reflect on the idea of, and many claims on, democracy. The festival included animation, short fiction, documentary and feature films, as well as a section on ‘Her Upside Down Gaze’, the myriad ways in which women filmmakers are re-imagining the craft of filmmaking. One of the highlights was a special focus on films from the UAE. ‘Women and Photography’ brought together the work of women photographers and collectives, with each photographer/curator speaking about her project, and an exhibition of photographs.

The Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) of INTACH organised the ‘INTACH–IIC Children’s Film Festival Open Futures: Filmit India’ festival in which students from over 35 schools participated. Its aim was to generate awareness amongst children about the local heritage of their cities. The project completed 12 years this year, and is being undertaken in 14 cities.

Organised in collaboration with New Imaginations, Jindal School of Journalism and Communication, ‘ArtEast 2020: The Story of Telling’ was curated by Kishalay Bhattacharjee. It raised pertinent questions through intersections in art, livelihood, social justice, climate change, communication, history—past and present—issues that have a far-reaching impact on the everyday lives of people, and of the nation. Through talks/discussions, exhibitions, films and performances, the festival addressed the Northeast through the lens of the region’s diverse languages, and visualised a new imagination of understanding the people and their histories.

The annual festival, 'Words in the Garden 2020', explored 'Dilli ki Sanskriti' over three days. The various sessions and performances were centred on Delhi's cultural stalwarts: Habib Tanvir, Ebrahim Alkazi, Birju Maharaj, Ram Kumar, Agyeya and Rajeev Sethi. Curated by Ashok Vajpeyi, in collaboration with Sanatan Sangeet Sanskriti and IILM, the festival had several interesting discussions, a screening of *Ram Kumar: Nostalgic Longing*, and evening performances by Birju Maharaj, and by Prerana Shrimali, who presented the poetry of dance.

Organised in collaboration with Ramakrishnapuram South Indian Society, Purandardasa Tyagaraja Festival featured a Carnatic vocal recital by Bhavya Hari from Chennai, disciple of Sangita Kalanidhi S. Sowmya; and by Sreehari and Sreerag from Delhi, disciples of Prasanth Gopinatha Pai.

'A Festival of Plays' was organised in collaboration with Italian Embassy Cultural Centre. Four plays by Pippo Delbono, well-known Italian theatre actor and director, were streamed through Vimeo links. Presented by the Emilia Romagna Teatro Fondazione, Italy, each of the plays featured leading actors from theatres in Modena, Cesena, Vignola and Castelfranco Emilia.

- 'Orchids' (Orchidee) is a collage of texts and music, with musical pieces taken from Pietro Mascagni, Enzo Avitabile, Deep Purple, Miles Davis and Philip Glass, and theatrical verses taken from Shakespeare ('Romeo and Juliet' and 'Hamlet') and from Chekhov, whose leitmotif is the passion for life, until the poignant final of 'The Cherry Orchard'. The play is a tribute to a loved one who is no longer there, a wake for a dying mother also realised through the images (sometimes raw) of the main character's real agony in the hospital.
- 'Gospel' (Vangelo) is a choral work, which began as a contemporary opera: it first took shape in Zagreb, performed by the orchestra, choir, dancers and actors at

the Croatian National Theatre, together with the acting company that has been working with Pippo Delbono for many years. It markedly reveals the memories of its Croatian performers who lived through the traumatic events of the war that reshaped the history, places and boundaries of their native land.

- ‘After the Battle’ (Dopo la battaglia) is an investigation of the relationship between body and text, action and sound. Delbono draws his inspiration from encounters with social outcasts. Stemming from his firm belief that people on the margins can understand the truth better than ‘normative’ people, he incorporates these performers in his theatre groups and works, weaving a subtle and unique human fabric. In this theatrical event, Delbono’s theatre group mixes up a brew of irony, provocation and tenderness, peppered with music, dance and poetic texts.
- ‘Questo buio feroce’ (This Fierce Darkness) is based on the autobiographical book by Harold Brodkey, one of the most intense voices of American literature of the second half of the 20th century. The play fearlessly faces the theme of disease and death.

Four films were screened at the Dutch Film Festival in collaboration with the Embassy of The Netherlands.

- *T.I.M.*, directed by Rolf van Eijk, is the story of 11-year-old Tibor and his only friend: his outdated house robot T.I.M. When his father replaces the faulty robot, Tibor manages to save T.I.M. from destruction, and they set out for the mythical robot maker who is rumoured to live in the far north in an ancient lighthouse.
- In *Dummie de Mummie*, directed by Pim van Hove, shy 11-year-old Gus’ life is changed irrevocably when he finds an Egyptian mummy in his bed; an actual mummy of an actual young Egyptian prince, brought to life by a lightning

bolt that struck his enchanted golden scarab, just as he was being transported to a nearby museum.

- *Secrets of War*, by Dennis Bots, is set against the backdrop of WWII. Tuur's friendship with Lambert is tested when both boys befriend the new girl, Maartje. The secret she holds will put all three lives in danger.
- Barbara Bredero's *My Giraffe* is the story of a young boy's friendship with his next door neighbour, Raf the giraffe. The two are inseparable until Patterson starts school and realises that Raf can't come with him. Unbeknownst to his teacher, Patterson hatches a brilliant plan to bring Raf to school and enjoy the company of his new friends.

The 'Latin American Festival of Films on Migration', organised in collaboration with Indo Cine Appreciation Foundation; Embassy of the Argentine Republic; Embassy of Chile; Embassy of Guatemala; and Embassy of Mexico, featured four films.

- In 1931, the US government closed the border and ordered the massive deportation of Mexican farm labourers. Meanwhile, the Mexican government ordered that the Chinese immigrants in the country should be sent into exile and stripped of their property. Under pressure from the Sonora government, a diverse group of people were forced to take a trip to Mexicali, where they faced racism and dangers of the desert. This was the story of *Sonora* (The Devil's Highway/Mexico), directed by Alejandro Springall.
- To be treated as less than human is arguably the greatest injustice anyone can experience. For the many Haitian immigrants who relocate to Chile in pursuit of better living conditions, it is a heartbreaking reality, one that is told in the film *Perro Bomba* (Chile), directed by Juan Cáceres.

- *Abused: The Postville Raid* (Guatemala), by Luis Argueta, is at once an epic story of survival, hope and humble aspirations, and of triumph, defeat and rebirth. The face of immigration is revealed through the gripping personal stories of the individuals, the families, and the town that survived the most brutal, most expensive, and the largest immigration raid in the history of the United States.
- German director Nele Wohlatz's *The Future Perfect* addresses the increasingly complicated challenges of intercultural communication. Divided into three parts with each meant to correlate with the linguistic structure of past, present and future, the film chronicles Xiaobin, a Chinese teenager trying to learn enough Spanish to hold a job in Buenos Aires.

Organised in collaboration with Polish Institute, New Delhi, the Polish Film Festival presented seven feature films.

- During the Second World War, about 300 people, mainly Jews, found shelter at the Warsaw Zoo. With the help of re-enacted scenes with animals, interviews with survivors and archival footage, the surreal atmosphere of those events was revived in the film *Of Animals and Men* directed by Lukasz Czajka.
- *Supernova* by Bartosz Kruhlik tells the story of a few hours in the life of a rural community, and raises questions about the essence of chance and destiny.
- Maciej Kornet and his beloved daughter Wiktoria set out across Poland for a long series of tennis tournaments. The two are inseparable, training together for twelve years, but the dynamics of their relationship changes with the arrival of Igor, a young, promising tennis player. This is the story of the film, *A Coach's Daughter* (Córka trenera) by Lukasz Grzegorzek.
- *All for My Mother* (Wszystko dla mojej matki), by Małgorzata Imielska, is the

story of Olka, a tomboyish 17-year-old who must endure life in a court-ordered reformatory as she plots a way to find her mother.

- *Birds are Singing in Kigali* (Ptaki spiewaja w Kigali) by Joanna Kos-Krauze and Krzysztof Krauze is a multi-layered drama of two women, Polish ornithologist Anna Keller and Rwandan Claudine Mugambira, who survived the Rwandan genocide of 1994.
- *Chitraanjali—Stefan Norblin in India* by Malgorzata Skiba tells the forgotten story of Polish artist, Stefan Norblin (1892–1952), who found safe haven in India during WWII, and spent six eventful years working for the royal families of Morvi, Ramgarh and Jodhpur.
- The Festival closed with a special focus on ‘Gypsy Stories’, about the Roma and Sinti people of Poland. There was a talk on ‘The History of the Roma’s Exit from India to Europe’, an online concert presented by Bartosz Smoragiewicz Ensemble from Poland who presented Gypsy Bossa, and the last film, *Papusza* (Doll), also by Joanna Kos-Krauze and Krzysztof Krauze. It is a biopic on Papusza, the first Roma woman to write and publish her poems, thereby contesting the traditional role of women in her gypsy community.

Eight feature films were screened as part of ‘Day of Hungarian Film: A Festival of Classic Comedies’, organised in collaboration with Hungarian Information and Cultural Centre, New Delhi, and presented by the Hungarian National Film Institute.

- *Hyppolit, the Butler* is an evergreen comedy about a typical parvenu whose wife strives to live a sophisticated lifestyle. When she engages a butler, Hyppolit, their whole life is turned upside down.

- *Mickey Magnate* is the triangular story of a railway engineer, a countess disguised as a peasant, and her husband who wants the railway to go across his lands.
- *Liliomfi* is a tale of the hurdles faced by two lovers at the hands of Liliomfi's tyrannical uncle.
- *Csinibaba* (Dollybirds) is set in the actual 'Ki Mit Tud?' talent contest in 1962 that threw up 'Omega', a phenomenally successful Hungarian rock band.
- *The Witness* features the great triad of dam-keeper Joseph Pelican, comrade Blossom and comrade Bastion who remain vivid caricatures forever.
- In *Moszkva Ter* (Moszkva Square), all Petya and his friends, who are about to graduate high school, care about are the only important things to them: parties, girls and making some easy cash.
- *Don't Panic, Please!* (Csak semmi pánik) features mysterious murders in the area of Lake Balaton, where the Germans had hidden a huge treasure in WWII, and the search for that treasure.
- *Sparrows Are Birds Too* (A veréb is madár) is a comedy about twin brothers: Sándor, who emigrated and became a rich man, and Zoltán, who stayed in Hungary and lived the life of an average working-class man.

'Classics with You: A Festival of Spanish Films (1973–1997)', organised in collaboration with Cervantes Institute, New Delhi, featured five exceptional films from Spain.

- *The Spirit of the Beehive* (El espíritu de la colmena) by Victor Erice portrays the awakening of little Ana to the mysteries of adult life. Through the wonderful images of this film we see the image of Frankenstein circulate as one of the icons of cinema, but also as the mythical character that allows Ana to deal with her fears in the sad post-war period of a small Castilian town.
- An adaptation of Miguel Delibes' novel of the same title, *The Holy Innocents* (Los santos inocentes) by Mario Camus, recalls, in a series of flashbacks, the lives and quotidian grind of Franco's Spain where life is feudal and brutal. While Camus places his sympathy firmly with the innocent victims, rather than their morally impoverished employers, his mood is nevertheless one of restraint, shot through with moments of symbolism and dark spirituality.
- Victor Erice's 1983 gem, *The South* (El sur), a haunting tale of family secrets and post-war loss, is seen through the eyes of Estrella Arenas, a rural Spanish teenager with a rich imagination, who tries to piece together her mysterious father Agustín's secret history.
- *The Lucky Star* (la Buena estrella) by Ricardo Franco depicts the romance between Rafael and Marina, which is threatened by Daniel, her abusive former lover.
- *The Heifer* (La vaquilla), set in the Spanish Civil War, dealing with the attempted robbery of a heifer by republican soldiers from a town taken over by rebels, is a true satire on the war. Director Luis Garcia Berlanga presents a corrosive look at the struggle for life that also defines the humanity of the poor soldiers, apart from what is involved in the horror of war.

An exhibition and a film festival, titled 'Framing Abilities', commemorated International Day of Persons with Disabilities. It comprised 10 award-winning

short documentaries from Burma, Japan, Lebanon, India, Iran, Italy, and Trinidad & Tobago. The films delved into the lived realities of ordinary people living with disabilities in their search for meaning and joy as they confront the barriers of an able-bodied society. Both the expositions drew attention to the relatively unexplored area of disability art, moving beyond the mere representations of persons with disabilities through art to the creative potential of artists with disabilities. The global sweep enriched the experience of the viewer by highlighting the pan-human nature of both disability and art.

Films

One film was screened in the 'Films of the Spirit' series this year, a collaboration with Foundation for Universal Responsibility of H.H. the Dalai Lama, and curated by Rajiv Mehrotra.

- *Ghatashraddha* (The Ritual; Kannada), Girish Kasaravalli's first feature film, is set in a rural orthodox Brahmin Karnataka village. The film tells the story of a child widow who befriends the village school teacher and becomes pregnant. Soon the villagers find out and, terming it 'immoral', make her a social outcast by performing the 'Ghatashraddha' ritual.

While the Constitution of India deems the right to shelter as a fundamental one, there is no law in the country to protect this right. *A Place to Live*, directed and edited by Sanjiv Shah, is structured around conversations with people: their idea of home, their struggles to find a place to live, those forced to the margins of society, as well as those within the system but unable to find/afford it.

Much Ado about Knotting (India) is directed by Geetika Narang and Anandana Kapur. The film, courtesy Public Service Broadcasting Trust, is a light-hearted chronicle of the marriage predicament. Born into a society obsessed with marriage, a young girl, a not-so-young man and an NRI couple are compelled by tradition to look for matches via classifieds, matchmaking bureaus and websites.

Aayi Gayi, also by Anandana Kapur, explores the complex relationships people have with the state through the lens of electricity. In Bihar, 'Sarkar mera bada bhai hai...' is the righteous response to why one may illegally acquire electricity connections or fail to pay bills.

Asli Azaadi is produced and directed by Sagari Chhabra. This landmark film, with interviews of women freedom fighters—known and unknown—who were inspired by Mahatma Gandhi and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, was followed by ‘Hamaara Itihaas Archives’, a discussion on and introduction to India’s first multi-media archive of surviving freedom fighters and witnesses of Partition across India and Southeast Asia.

Andrés Ibañez Dias Infante directs *Shake off your Sorrows* (Sacúdete las penas; Mexico; Spanish), in which Pepe Frituras’ escape from the Palace of Lecumberri—the country’s most dangerous penitentiary—is told through anecdotes filled with music, dance and romance by González, an inmate serving a long sentence. This was a collaboration with Embassy of Mexico.

The Flowers and the Gemstones, directed by Sriram Raja, follows the family of Muthamperumal, who have been weaving garlands (*manikkam maalai*) for the deity in the Padmanabhapuram temple every single day over the last four generations.

Ima Sabitri, directed by Bobo Khuraijam, is a film on the well-known Manipuri theatre actor, Heisnam Sabitri, embodying the stories enacted on-stage and off-stage.

Six award-winning documentaries by independent filmmakers were screened in the programme ‘Framing Lives—1’, in collaboration with PSBT. The films present a different, more complex panorama of life through work that offers a distinctive presentation of issues and situations that affect the everyday life of the people of a complex society, coming to grips with fundamental transformation, and which attempts a deeper level of reflection and analysis.

- *A Drop of Sunshine* by Aparna Sanyal is the story of Reshma Valliappan and her journey of eventual triumph over schizophrenia. Embodying a controversial and contrarian view towards recovery, it proposes that the only treatment that can work

is the one wherein the ‘patient’ is encouraged and empowered to become an equal partner in the process of healing.

- Filmmaker Swati Chakraborty beautifully captures the enriching life of Jeeja Ghosh, who was born with cerebral palsy, in the 28-minute documentary, *I Am Jeeja*. The film focuses on the extraordinary woman, who not only holds a double Master’s degree from the University of Delhi and the University of Leeds (UK), but also has defied every stereotype and expectation to become a social worker.
- *Nirnay*, directed by Pushpa Rawat and Anupama Srinivasan, captures Pushpa’s journey as she tries to make sense of her own life and those of her women friends. Set in a lower middle-class colony, it explores the lives of women who are young, educated and bright, but feel bound and helpless when it comes to taking any major decision regarding their lives.
- *Journey to Nagaland* is a short animated documentary by Aditi Chitre about a young girl who is led to a distant land by the force of her visions and goes on a journey to discover her mother’s origins.
- *Morality TV and the Loving Jihad* by Paromita Vohra looks beyond the frames that weave the frenetic tapestry of breaking news on India’s news channels, to uncover a town’s complex dynamics: the fear of love, the constant scrutiny and control of women’s mobility and sexuality, a history of communal violence, caste brutalisation and feudal mindsets.
- Pratik Biswas’ *On and Off the Records* documents the post-20th century history of Hindustani music and the story of recording in India. The former has constantly been influenced by the growth chart of the latter. How does this constant and continuous interplay affect the aesthetics of one of the oldest musical traditions of

the world? The film tries to understand the equation through intimate discussions on the issue with a group of concerned, conscious and convincing individuals.

Six award-winning documentaries by independent filmmakers from India were screened in 'Framing Lives—II', which were commissioned and produced by PSBT.

- *Mindscaapes.... Of Love and Longing*, directed by Arun Chadha, explores the sexuality of people with disabilities that is often marred by misconceptions, prejudices and myths.
- *Qissa-e-Parsi*, directed by Divya Cowasji and Shilpi Gulati, explores the history of the Parsi community, its relationship to the Indian state and association with the city of Mumbai. It strives to understand the Zoroastrian faith, the philosophy to live, laugh and love that is the backbone of the Parsi way of life.
- Iram Ghufra's *There is Something in the Air* is a series of dream narratives, and accounts of spiritual possession as experienced by women 'petitioners' at the shrine of a Sufi saint in north India. The film invites the viewer into a world of dream and fantasy.
- *Video Game*, directed by Vipin Vijay, deals with the relationship of Man and Machine, and explores two of the greatest inventions of the Industrial Revolution—the automobile and the cinema—that provide unparalleled freedom in terms of time and space.
- *What the Fields Remember* attempts to explore ideas of violence, memory and justice by revisiting the event when 1,800 Bengali Muslims were killed in Nellie and surrounding villages in Assam. Subasri Krishnan, the director, attempts to raise larger questions around collective memory—of what we choose to remember and why we choose to forget.

- Priya Thuvassery's *My Sacred Glass Bowl* raises questions about the notions of virginity and chastity of women across different cultures in India. It is narrated from the vantage point of the filmmaker, sandwiched between two mothers bringing up their daughters in contemporary times.

Lend Me Your Eyes, Baltazars, directed by Dora Elek, tracks the journey of two young Hungarian women who travel to south India in search of self-discovery. The actors are from the only professional theatre company in Hungary (The Baltazar Theatre) whose members are mentally disabled. This film was organised in collaboration with Hungarian Information and Cultural Centre.

Shalom Bollywood: The Untold Story of Indian Cinema (Australia) is directed by Danny Ben-Moshe. The film tells the story of the 2,000-year-old Indian Jewish community and its formative role in shaping the world's largest film industry. When Indian cinema began 100 years ago it was taboo for Hindu and Islamic women to perform on screen, so Jewish women took on female lead roles, which they dominated for decades. The film focuses on the lives of five great Jewish actors. Infused with music and dancing, the documentary unabashedly oozes Bollywood as it uses film motifs to drive the narrative.

In the programme 'The Brahmaputra and its People', Kishalay Bhattacharjee introduced *Nodir Kul Nai*, directed by Parasher Baruah. The short documentary, produced by ArtEast, features singers, boatmen and everyday life on the Chars or numerous sand banks that dot the red river, the Brahmaputra. Through songs and poetry, the miyahs who inhabit the chars explore their relationship with the river, their struggle for survival, and the larger issue of migration and identity. The film was followed by a discussion between Bhattacharjee and Baruah.

'Focus Japan' was a screening of NHK documentary films on Japan's history,

literature, art, culture and heritage. It was organised with the support of NHK World; and Embassy of Japan, New Delhi.

- A series of esoteric rituals accompany an Emperor's ascension to the Chrysanthemum throne. *The People and their Emperor* presents a re-enactment of one such ritual where the Emperor is believed to dine with Shinto deities. At a time when there are only three heirs to the throne, the film also takes a closer look at what this could mean for the people of Japan and the Imperial system.
- *A Vanished Dream: Wartime Story of My Japanese Grandfather* follows the journey of an American photojournalist to look for answers to the disappearance of her paternal grandfather, a Japanese immigrant who was arrested on the day of the Pearl Harbour attack, never to return home.
- A young boy carries on his back the lifeless body of his younger brother, in the devastated city of Nagasaki after the atomic bomb explosion. An American military photographer, Joe O'Donnell, took a picture of him standing stoically near the cremation pit. *Searching for the Standing Boy of Nagasaki* follows the fate of thousands of 'atomic-bomb orphans' and their struggles to survive the aftermath of World War II.
- *Okina—Dance of Life* is the story of this 600-year-old form of theatre, performed only on special occasions such as the New Year. It is considered more of a sacred ritual for peace and abundant harvest.
- *Tokyo Miracle City: Gourmet Capital—Keeping Alive the Spirit of Tsukiji* explores Tokyo's well-known and tantalising food culture, and the role played by the iconic Tsukiji fish market in Japan's culinary history. We learn about the lives of the skilled specialists at the heart of the market and discover their unique contribution in the journey from ocean to table.

- *Geisha: A Sunset Trade?* features Watanabe Kazuko and Mayumi, two women who run a geisha association and have decades of experience in the industry. They explain the challenges they face, and offer insights into how hard it can be to maintain tradition.
- Hanzawa Tsuruko is a master of chaji, a tea ceremony that starts with an exquisitely prepared kaiseki meal and finishes with matcha tea served from the heart. Tsuruko has been travelling around Japan to encounter new people and share chaji with them. In Autumn 2019, at the age of 76, she set off on a tea journey across Germany. *Tsuruko's Tea Journey in Germany* chronicles her month-long odyssey.
- *Toshiyuki Inoko: Changing Perspective with Art* featured an interview with Toshiyuki Inoko of TeamLab, a cutting edge art collective. The film presented one of TeamLab's major exhibitions, created using digital technology and with computer algorithms, that transcended the boundaries between time and space.
- *Kurashiki, Okayama* is a travelogue to Kurashiki, a city in Okayama Prefecture, facing the Seto Inland Sea, that flourished as a commercial centre during the Edo period. The historical quarter of the city has over 600 buildings dating back to the Edo period. With its network of canals and distinctive period warehouses called 'Kuras', the city combines tradition and modernity.
- *The Lights of Fukiya*. In 1977, the small mountain village of Fukiya was designated as an Important Preservation District in recognition of the vintage red-brown townhouses that lined its streets. But with an aging population, it has become more and more difficult to maintain the old houses and shops that make Fukiya so special. Faced with a crisis, 11 local residents with no business experience took a bold step to save their community for future generations.

- *Ink Paintings: Insights into the Heart of Zen.* Ink painting was once part of a Zen monk's ascetic training. It reveals the beauty of space in a simple, refined state and captivates the viewer, while conveying Zen tenets. The art form took hold and matured in Kyoto in the 15th century with masters such as Josetsu and Sesshu, and Jakuchu in modern times, wielding great influence on the genre.
- *Ogawa Jihei Gardens.* From the late 1800s to the early 1900s, dominant political and business figures owned villas in neighbourhoods at the foot of the Higashiyama mountains, flanking the eastern part of Kyoto. Many of their gardens were built by the pioneer of modern Japanese gardens, Ogawa Jihei VII. Rather than blending the style of European gardens to Japanese tastes, or blending foreign and domestic styles, Ogawa's gardens were firmly grounded in Japanese landscaping traditions, which he evolved to fit the lifestyles of those who were driving the country's rapid social and technological change.
- *Geiko Satsuki, Beauty through the Seasons?* The film follows a year in the life of Satsuki, an exceptional geisha who has been the leading geisha for the last seven consecutive years in Gion Kobu. Gion Kobu, the largest geisha district in Kyoto with a history going back over 400 years, has over 60 teahouses in a narrow alley of one square kilometre. The film explored Omotenashi (Japanese hospitality) and traditional geisha games such as Konpirafunefune and Tosenkyo.
- *The Shape of Sound: A Piano Paints the Seasons of Nara* is a series created by Nara videographer Hozan Koichi, and Kawakami Mine, a pianist and composer, who paints the 72 seasons of the year through photography and piano. The film follows Kawakami as she prepares for their next project—the pinnacle of the series—a devotional offering at Kasuga Taisha Shrine.
- Kyoto is home to 2,700 temples, small and large, which shape the ancient

capital's historical landscape. *Buddhist Architecture* looks at some of the most important temples in the city, including Tofoku-ji temple, with its famous Shichidogaran layout symbolising the human body. The film follows traditional carpenters as they carry out major repairs at Chion-in, and thatch Kiyomizu-dera's main hall with cypress bark using traditional roofing methods.

- *Tsubo-niwa* documents traditional Kyoto Machiya townhouses with characteristic narrow entrances, long and deep. At the back are small Tsubo-niwa gardens (courtyard gardens) enclosed on all sides for residents to comfortably endure the intense summer heat.
- *Bamboo Innovation: Creative, Pliable and Sustainable* reveals how the younger generation is working to revive interest in bamboo by infusing modern sensibilities.
- As the finest vegetables and fresh produce came from around Japan at the behest of the Imperial court, the temples and the monasteries, Kyoto cuisine became a hallmark of fine dining. *A Culinary Tale—Trails to Oishii Kyoto* took viewers on midnight fishing expeditions to catch the nocturnal hamo, the fabled saltwater eel; the unique Manganji Togarashi green peppers; the Kamonasu eggplant named after the Kamo shrine; and finally, amidst the tea garden scapes, the making of the Matcha, the green tea processes which came to Japan from China in the 16th century.
- *Satoyama Living: Country Customs Sustaining the Ancient Capital* took us to the mountains north of central Kyoto, where the 'Satoyama' style of living in harmony with nature, and the customs that influenced life in the ancient capital survive to this day.
- Part of the series 'Cycle Around Japan', *Niigata—The Deep Green of Summer*, takes viewers on a 250-km ride through Niigata Prefecture where much of Japan's rice

is grown and is also home to some of the best craftsmen and artisans dedicated to perfecting their art. Climbing up into the mountains, the film presents a glimpse of the traditional style of river fishing and visits a breeder whose Nishikigoi carp are now world famous.

- *Aichi—Heartland of Japan's Craft Traditions* is also part of the Cycle Around Japan series. It documents Aichi Prefecture in Central Japan and its time honoured craft tradition, history and culture. Starting in Nagoya, one discovers a fermented soybean seasoning called Hama natto; a potter who continues to practise a 200-year-old tradition of pottery called Tokoname-yaki, which are teapots made from the rich soil found in the area; and makers of inkstones carved from mountain rocks.

Willa Cather: The Road is All (USA), directed by Joel Geyer, is the biography of Willa Cather, one of the greatest American novelists of the 20th century. She was gifted in conveying an intimate understanding of her characters in relation to their personal and cultural environments.

The film, *Van Gogh: Painted with Words* (UK), by Andrew Hutton, is based on letters that Van Gogh sent to his younger brother Theo. What emerges is a complex portrait of a sophisticated, civilised and yet tormented man. The film has been critically acclaimed for its fascinating insights into the life of the artist, and its unique approach to storytelling.

Remembering Bimal Roy is Joy Bimal Roy's search for his father and a record of the indelible memories of some of the actors and colleagues whose lives the iconic filmmaker touched and changed forever.

When New York newspaper editor Walter Burns discovers that his ex-wife, an investigative reporter, has gotten engaged to a feeble insurance agent Bruce Baldwin,

he unsuccessfully tries to lure her away from tame domestic life with a story about the impending execution of convicted murderer Earl Williams. This is the story of director Howard Hawk's *His Girl Friday* (USA).

A biopic of the legendary Flemish painter, *Rembrandt* (UK), directed by Alexander Korda, shows us how the ageing painter came to terms with both the death of his beloved Saskia (Lanchester) and an increasing hostility to his work.

Ladies and Gentlemen... Mr. Leonard Cohen (Canada), directed by Don Owen and Donald Brittain and produced by National Film Board of Canada, is an informal portrait of Leonard Cohen that captures the noted poet and novelist before he launched his career as a singer-songwriter in 1967. The film is interspersed with interviews and Cohen's own poetry readings.

PBS International Frontline investigated the promise and perils of AI; from fears of work and privacy, to rivalry between the United States and China. *In the Age of AI*, by Neil Docherty and David Fanning, traces a new industrial revolution that will reshape and disrupt our lives, our jobs and our world, and allow the emergence of surveillance.

Eight grandmothers join forces to perform a theatrical production about two historic physicists, Albert Einstein and Niels Bohr. As they reveal untold chapters in the famed scientists' biographies, they also discover new stories about themselves. *A Beautiful Equation—Einstein, Bohrs and Grandmothers* is directed by Robin Truesdale.

Lucknow Diary: My Memories of a City is a nostalgic look at the city from the eyes of some of its residents, written and directed by Mekhela Deva. Exploring how the 'tehzeeb' that the city is known for has seeped into the everyday lives of its citizens. The documentary features a cross-section of people including Ram Advani, Violette

Graf, Rosie Llewellyn Jones, among others.

There was a screening of *In War and Peace: The Life of Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, MC*, organised in collaboration with Parzor and Jiyo Parsi. Directed by Jessica Gupta, the film takes us back in time through his rich and unique life. A tale of heroism, bravery and honesty, told through conversations with his grandson Jehan.

In His Inner Voice: Kuldip Nayar is a tribute to the life, the times and dreams of one of post-independence India's most beloved chroniclers and conscience-keepers. Using extracts and insights from Kuldip Nayar's memory bank: politics, partition, prose, poetry, in his own words. Until his death at the age of 97, Kuldip Nayar was both an active participant in and witness to the journey of independent India. The film was made by Meera Dewan for Films Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Directed by Japna Tulsi, *Windfall of Grace* (India) is a biopic of Sri Baba Neem Karoli Maharaj, also known as Maharajji (1900–1973), a wandering mystic, an avadhoota, a siddha, an exalted bhakti saint of the highest stature who chose to love and laugh amidst ordinary people and thus elevate their lives.

Alfred Stieglitz: The Eloquent Eye (English) is a PBS American Masters series documentary on Alfred Stieglitz, directed by Perry Miller Adato. Stieglitz helped raise the status of photography to the level of an art. As a photographer, publisher and gallery owner, he was a key figure in the birth of American modernism. The documentary also includes interviews with leading Stieglitz scholars and museum curators.

Directed by Leni Riefenstahl, *Triumph of the Will* (Triumph des Willens) (German) chronicles the 1934 Nazi Party Congress in Nuremberg with excerpts from speeches given by various Nazi leaders at the Congress, including portions of speeches by Adolf Hitler, interspersed with footage of massed party members.

Produced by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and directed by Molly Kaushal, *Leela in Kheriya* (India) is based on the Ramlila tradition of village Kheriya near Firozabad town, known for its glass and bangle factories. Kheriya Ramlila is one of the finest examples of India's composite culture. The film portrays the eternal human quest for self-realisation through an exploration of personal life histories of actors and residents of Kheriya, for whom the Ramlila stage becomes a site of healing and self-recovery.

Swedish physician, academic and public speaker Hans Rosling hosts an energetic and informative glimpse of the meaning and impact that statistics has on big data. *The Joy of Stats* (UK), directed by Dan Hillman, takes viewers on a rollercoaster ride through the world of statistics to explore the remarkable power they have to change our understanding of the world.

A Story Nobody Cares About (Ganan Gannethi Kathawak/Sri Lanka), directed by Thisara Mangala Bandara, is the story of 'how a boy nobody cared about, from a country nobody cared about, became someone people do care about'.

Raging Royen (France) by Doris Érelljisé Lanzmann is a portrait of a family confronted by its visceral desire for freedom. Behind the utopian world of seaside resorts, this lucidity spreads like a virus and pulls back the curtain on appearances.

The Carnival of Life (Italy), directed by Laura Aimone, is about a 35-year-old man who has never actively lived, trying to please everyone except himself. On his return from his first trip to the East, he questions his surroundings and begins a difficult battle with himself in the name of his freedom.

Heroine's One Night (Bangladesh) by Tasmiah Afrin Mou deals with the anxiety actors have about maintaining their good looks.

In many societies, women's lives are ruled by patriarchal norms, and religious institutions play a key role in shaping their daily life. Can we hope for something better? This is the subject of the film *Let Her Fly* (Sri Lanka) by Fathima Nafla.

Mamatva (Sisterhood/India), by Kirti Singh, looks at the life of a lower caste midwife from a village in central Uttar Pradesh.

Dolachal (India) by Sreecheta Das tells a tale of joy, loss, guilt and longing, and revolves around two women and how they react to each other, all the while asking an age-old question: 'What makes a mother?'

Three Sisters (India), directed by Putul Mahmood, is about three sisters who were forcibly admitted by their family to the government run Lumbini Park Mental Hospital in Calcutta, twenty years ago. It is a story about their madness, their longing for familial love, and their tremendous grace and dignity in the face of denial of that love.

Uncle Joe (USA), directed by Howard M. Railsback and Raymond E. Swartley, is a whimsical picture of life in rural America in the 1940s. Clare Day is sent to visit her mother's brother Joe in Baysville, Iowa, when she starts going out with a modernistic artist of whom her father disapproves.

I Am Bonnie (India) by Farha Khatun, Satarupa Santra and Saurabh Sourabh is about a man who was born hermaphrodite, raised by poor, illiterate and confused parents as a girl named 'Bandana', and became one of the finest strikers of the Indian Women's football team in her/his short career. It deals with his fight to establish his identity, and his struggle for existence met by a sarcastic society yet to learn to take 'other genders' seriously.

Film Club

The India International Film Club in collaboration with Federation of Film Societies of India presented a 'Retrospective of Films' by Morshedul Islam, well-known indie filmmaker from Bangladesh.

- *Ankhi O Tar Bondhura* (Ankhi and her Friends) is about a blind girl studying in a regular school, whose story inspires other specially-abled children. It is based on the popular novel of the same name by Muhammad Zafar Iqbal.
- Based on a novel of the same name by Humayun Ahmed, *Anil Bagchir Ekdin* (A Day in the Life of Anil Bagchi) is the story of Anil Bagchi's dangerous journey to rescue his family during the 1971 Bangladesh liberation War.
- *Amar Bondhu Rashed* (My Friend Rashed) is also set in the Bangladesh liberation War in 1971, as seen through politically conscious Rashed's eyes.
- *Khelaghor* (Dollhouse) too is set in the war of liberation, and follows the lives of two friends, Yakub and Mukul, and Rehana, who comes to Yakub's village as a refugee.
- *Shorot 71* (Autumn '71) belongs to the Short Film genre and is also set during the war of liberation.
- *Priotomeshu* is the story of Nishat and Pushpa—neighbours and confidants—and Mizan's rape of Pushpa.
- *Chaka* (The Wheel) depicts the landscape and life of rural Bangladesh with great

sensitivity, and revolves around the ordeal of the driver of an ox cart and his companion, who are intimidated into delivering a dead body to a village.

There was a 'Retrospective of Films' by Aparna Sen with a screening of three award-winning feature films. This was followed by 'Face to Face with Aparna Sen', an online conversation with the noted film director.

- *The Japanese Wife* is about Snehamoy, from a small village in the Sunderbans, who finds a pen pal in a Japanese girl, Miyage (Chigusa Takaku), and the everlasting bond they build through a mere exchange of letters that manages to overcome language barriers and different cultures.
- *Paromitar Ek Din* (House of Memories) offers a fresh insight into relationships between women distanced in terms of age, education, attitude towards life and relationships. The film explores the dual themes of friendship and loneliness.
- *Paroma* is a film about a middle-aged, conservative woman's journey of self-discovery, precipitated by an affair that becomes a turning point in her life.

There was a screening of feature films, a short fiction film, and a documentary on noted director, Girish Kasaravalli, in collaboration with Federation of Film Societies of India.

- *Life in Metaphors: A Portrait of Girish Kasaravalli*, directed by Om Prakash Srivastava, journeys into the world of Kasaravalli to understand the language, grammar and the core purpose of storytelling through the medium of cinema.
- *Irumbu*, directed by Pradeesh Unnikrishnan, focuses on the struggle for the right degree and form of punishment for a major crime committed towards minors, who are subjected to assault before being killed.

- Sajin Baabu directs *Unto the Dusk* (Asthamayam vare; Malayalam), a dark film about necrophilia in a seminary. The film follows a non-linear, fragmented, cinematic collection of images that travel back and forth in time in fine detail at times, and just a suggestive glance at others.
- Loosely inspired by the works of William Shakespeare, *Hrid Majharey* (Live in My Heart; Bengali), directed by Ranjan Ghosh, is a journey dotted with love, jealousy and destiny that begins in Calcutta and ends in the Andaman Islands.

In another collaboration with Federation of Film Societies of India, Assam Women's University presented a special screening of feature films, short fiction films, and documentary films by women filmmakers.

- *Onyo Opalaa* (Bengali), directed by Satarupa Sanyal, is a simple tale of a widow, behind whose stoic face lies a life full of compromises.
- Directed by Bobby Sarma Baruah, *Sonar Baran Pakhi* (The Golden Wing), the first in the indigenous Rajbanshi language, is based on the life of Assamese folk singer Pratima Barua Pandey. This biopic examines the 'in-betweenness' that Barua embodies in her life in terms of linguistic identity, gender roles, sexuality and choice of career.
- Reema Bora's *Bokul* (Assamese) is the tale of Raktim's search for his music teacher that leads him to three characters, all named Bokul, whose individual narratives lead him to the final truth.

The following were screened in the third collaboration with the Federation of Film Societies of India and with the support of Films Division India; Celluloid Chapter, Kalamandir Jamshedpur.

- *Alifa* (Bengali; Assamese), by Deep Choudhury, is about a daily wage earner living in the vicinity of a sprawling city, who has to cope with uncertainty, hardship and abuse. He is at the mercy of a forest guard from being evicted from his family's new-found habitat in a green hilly area overlooking the city.
- More than 50 years ago in a remote mountainous village in Tajikistan, travelled lovers Shams and Mekhri. Mekhri, caught by the spell of a transient eclipse, broke the oath of marital fidelity, leading to her murder. Shams, unable to bear the burden of crime he has committed, chooses the path of repentance trying to cleanse himself by serving other people. This is the story of *Tasfiya* (Tajikistan), directed by Sharofat M. Arabova.
- *A Ray of Light* (Ek phaali rodh; India) by Atanu Ghosh observes the reactions of people to different forms of crisis happening around them, and analyses and derives conclusions about human behaviour from them. But all theories and deductions go astray when they come face to face with a real crisis in their own lives and cannot decipher whether the crisis is mock or real.
- Set in the post-Naxalite period in Bengal, *Anu* (India), by Satarupa Sanyal, reveals the failure of the politically revolutionary mind of Sugoto (Anu's lover) to accept a very personal and challenging situation. Anu and the other prominent characters still hope for a better future, choosing to carry out their task in some way or the other, but Sugoto does not find any substance in their efforts.
- *Monitor* (India), directed by Hari Viswanath, is a story told from the perspective of a computer monitor. Based on true events, it tells the story of an IT professional, Rupa, who struggles to balance her career and personal life in an abusive work environment.

- Farha Khatun's *Stop Acid Attack* (India) shows how a beautiful life can end with the heinous act of throwing acid on a human being.
- *Nepal Earthquake Heroes, Survivors and Miracles* (Nepal) by Ganesh Panday is a historical document that vividly portrays the horrifying picture of the devastating situation in Nepal caused by the earthquake of April 2015 and the scars (both physical and psychological) left on the Nepalese people.
- *In the Land of Chhinnopatro* (India; Bengali), directed by Saibal Mitra, and produced by Ministry of External Affairs, travels through Bengal into Bangladesh in a quest to discover Rabindranath Tagore's life away from home.
- *The Jungle Man...Loiya* (Manipuri), also by Farha Khatun, tells the story of Moirangthem Loiya Ngamba, a nature activist who has spent most of the time in the woods to preserve forests in the state of Manipur. He chanced upon an area in Punshilok in Langol hill range in Manipur and created a green space for the local communities. It asks us to reorient our relationship with nature and build a culture of peaceful coexistence.

Six films were screened in 'Chinese Checkers: Focus on Three Directors'.

- *Ju Dou*, directed by Zhang Yimou and Fenliang Yang, is the story of a bitter old man whose stunning young bride is locked in an illicit affair with his nephew behind his back. Opening the door on Chinese culture (in the 1920s) with his interpretation, simplicity and drama—the foundation blocks of his films—this is a masterpiece.
- In *To Live* (Huo zhe), Zhang Yimou depicts gambler Fugui's personal struggles and losses and his endeavour to become a good citizen. Yet, just as things get better, the Cultural Revolution begins and tragedy continues to strike his family.

Despite numerous hardships, Fugui never gives up hope.

- *Not One Less* (Yi ge dou bu neng shao), also by Zhang Yimou, centres on a 13-year-old substitute teacher, Wei Minzhi, in the Chinese countryside. The film addresses education reform in China, the economic gap between urban and rural populations, and the prevalence of bureaucracy and authority figures in everyday life.
- *Happy Together* (Chun gwong cha sit), directed by Wong Kar-wai, tells the tale of Yiu-Fai and Po-Wing who arrive in Argentina from Hong Kong and take to the road for a holiday. The film spins out their relationship woes.
- *In the Mood for Love* (Faa yeung nin wa), Wong Kar-wai's second film, portrays Chow Mo-Wan's and Su Li-zhen's sensual descent into infidelity and their subsequent struggles with the shame and guilt over their own emotional betrayal.
- *Together With You* (He ni zai yi qi), directed by Chen Kaige, is about provincial teenager Xiaochun's journey as a musician and his realisation that playing the violin has as much to do with capitalism as classical music.

'Films on the Line: Focus on Six German Directors' featured seminal films by leading German filmmakers. They were screened in collaboration with Goethe Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan.

- In *Beyond Silence* (Jenseits der Stille), Caroline Link tells the poignant tale of Lara's introduction to, and fascination with, music, and the painful choice she must make between her dependent deaf parents and the music conservatory in Berlin.
- A breathtaking race against the clock, *Run Lola Run* (Lola Rennt) director Tom Tykwiers' playful sensibilities are put to use in this fun-filled mix of romance, thrills

and action as his tireless heroine pounds the pavement and racks her brain to save her lover from danger.

- Director Fatih Akin in *The Cut* takes us back to 1915, when a man survives the Armenian genocide in the Ottoman Empire, but loses his family, speech and faith. His search for his daughters takes him from the Mesopotamian deserts and Havana to the barren and desolate prairies of North Dakota.
- *Me and Kaminski* (Ich und Kaminski), directed by Wolfgang Becker, portrays the covert battle between Sebastian Zöllner, art journalist and master of overconfidence, and the legendary painter Manuel Kaminski. Zöllner, who plans his big coup—a tell-all book about Kaminski, famous as ‘the blind painter’—finds his audacity and cunning no match for the aged artist.
- *Toni Erdmann*, directed by Maren Ade, takes an extended look at the fraught relationship between a young workaholic management consultant determined to get on in her high-flying career, and her widowed father, an irrepressible practical joker with a penchant for disguises.
- In *Greetings from Fukushima* (Grüsse aus Fukushima), Doris Dörrie sets her tale in the aftermath of the Fukushima nuclear disaster of 2011. The film examines the relationship between Marie and the cantankerous old Satomi, the last geisha of Fukushima. The two women, who couldn’t be more different, but who—each in her own way—are trapped in the past, must learn to liberate themselves from guilt and the burden of memory.

Four films were screened in the ‘Retrospective of Films by Tanvir Mokammel’, a critically acclaimed filmmaker from Bangladesh whose work has focused on the Partition in a comprehensive manner.

- *Jibandhuli* (The Drummer; Bengali) is set in the Bangladesh war of liberation in 1971. It is the story of Jibonkrishna Das, a poor lower-caste Hindu drummer, and his plight when the Pakistani army occupied his village. In trying to flee with his family, he alone survived. Forced to return, his life was spared on condition that he play his drum for the marauding forces.
- *Lalon* (Bengali) is a film on Lalon Fakir, a doyen among the Baul-Fakirs of Bengal who composed a few hundred songs of profound spiritual depth with an excellent sense of music. Buddhist Tantricism, Hindu Vaisnavism and Islamic Sufism all have their share of influence on Lalon. Lalon's songs depict asceticism and the transience of life, and express the pathos and pangs of the caste-ridden subaltern rural populace of Bengal.
- In a remote agrarian village, a haggard mullah named Majid suddenly appears, cleans up an old dilapidated grave and declares it as the shrine of a famous 'Pir' (a holy man). A hoax, of course, but the mullah's spell leaves the villagers in no doubt of his sincerity. Showered with offerings over the years, he becomes economically stable and well rooted in society. This is the story of *Lalsalu* (A Tree Without Roots; Bengali).
- After the Partition of India in 1947, Shashikanta Sengupta, an eccentric lawyer, faced the dilemma of whether to migrate from the land in which they had been living for centuries. *Chitra Nodir Pare* (Quiet Flows the River Chitra; Bengali) is about Shashikanta's stubborn refusal to leave his motherland and the politically charged times.

Cervantes Institute, New Delhi, collaborated in a screening of 'Contemporary Films from Spain'. Made by young filmmakers, the selection presented two works of fiction and two documentaries, reflecting the creative versatility of the directors and

also the way in which society has shaped their imagination.

- An industrial warehouse is turned into a stage. Eleven ordinary professionals are hired to do their work in front of an audience with apparent normality: a mason, a butcher, a seamstress, a telephone operator, a waiter, a mechanic, a computer operator and a cleaner. Meanwhile, from the darkness of the auditorium, dozens of visitors observe the ‘wonderful’ work show. *The Invisible Hand* (La mano invisible), directed by David Macián, is the adaptation of the novel by Isaac Rosa, an astonishing parable of work in contemporary society.
- *The Sea Stares at Us from Afar* (El mar nos mira de lejos) by Manuel Muñoz is about the legend of an ancient and forgotten civilisation that lies buried under large expanses of dunes in southern Spain. For a little over a century, several travellers have come to this remote territory looking for traces of the ancient settlers. Ignorant of the myths and romantic illusions of archaeologists and adventurers, a few men, barely visible among the sandbanks, now live in solitude facing the sea.
- *All the Other Days* (Los demás días), directed by Carlos Agulló, opens the door to reflection from the audience on the sensitive topic of palliative care. Through the daily routine of Dr. Pablo Iglesias, we are witness to the world of palliative care and, hand-in-hand with his patients, we experience their doubts and convictions, their hopes and fears, and learn a meaningful lesson about life and death.
- Jonás Trueba’s *The Reconquest* (La reconquista) is about a quest for time, or about the awareness of time: of time lost and time recovered; about what we remember about ourselves and what we don’t remember; about the words, gestures and feelings to which we remain faithful, because they define and compel us today, yesterday and tomorrow.

And Then There Were None (USA) by René Clair is a film adaptation of Agatha Christie's bestselling 1939 mystery novel. Seven guests, a newly hired personal secretary and two staff are gathered for a weekend on an isolated island by the hosts, who are delayed. At dinner, a record is played and the host's message alleges that all of the people present are guilty of murder, and suddenly the first of them is dead, then the next.

Great Expectations (UK), David Lean's adaptation of Charles Dickens' novel, is edged with humour and horror. His story of Pip, a blacksmith's apprentice who comes into a mysterious inheritance, works beautifully even after all these years. Dickens' tome, condensed into cinematic moments, deserves its place in film history.

Becky Sharp (USA), by Rouben Mamoulian and Lowell Sherman, is a sophisticated and witty adaptation of Thackeray's *Vanity Fair* as it charts its cunning heroine's meteoric rise in society. It rightly and explicitly treats her entirely amoral manipulation of sympathetic women and besotted men as an on-going performance of immense versatility.

Combining drama and documentary, *The Story of the Weeping Camel* (Mongolia; Germany; Die Geschichte vom Weinenden Kamel) by Byambasuren Davaa and Luigi Falorni documents day-to-day survival in the Mongolian Gobi desert. For a family of herders who happily eke out their living in this remote dustbowl, crisis comes in the shape of a new-born camel rejected by its mother after an agonising birth.

Set against the backdrop of the American Civil War, *The General* (USA), directed by Clyde Bruckman, tells the story of Johnny Gray, an ordinary engine driver, and his attempt to woo his lady love through his masterly heroism. His true love is a locomotive engine and a beautiful damsel. What unfolds is cinema history's most epic train chase where Johnny is up against a bunch of traitors and rebels who are trying to sabotage the army.

Pot o'Gold (USA; English), directed by George Marshall, tells the story of Jimmy, the owner of a failed music shop, who goes to work with his uncle, the owner of a food factory. Before he gets there, he befriends an Irish family who happen to be his uncle's worst enemy. Jimmy finds himself trying to reconcile the families.

Romance and suspense ensue in Paris as a woman is pursued by several men who want the fortune her murdered husband had stolen. Whom can she trust? This is the story of the much loved classic film, *Charade* (USA), directed by Stanley Donen.

Exhibitions

‘Sacred Architecture of Kashmir—Continuity of the Spiritual Traditions of the Past’ was an exhibition of photographs of temples, stupas, mosques and khanqahs that reflected the continuity of an architectural tradition that evolved more than a millennium ago. This exhibition was presented by INTACH, Kashmir.

‘From My House to Your House’ was a select journey of Indian vernacular architecture (Lok-Sthapatya) curated by Miki Desai. The exhibition explored the plurality of Indian demography in its socio-cultural, religious and temporal ambits. This was followed by a talk on ‘Wooden Architecture of Kerala’ by Miki Desai, based on his book of the same title, and a panel discussion on ‘Rethinking Vernacular in Contemporary Times’. This was a collaboration with UNESCO, New Delhi Office; and Archicrafts.

‘A House for Mr. Yabako’ was an exhibition of photographs by Peeyush Sekhsaria. As part of this exhibition, he presented a talk, ‘Around the World in a Nubian Vault’, based on personal journeys and face-to-face interactions in Burkina Faso, Niger, Egypt and India, and traced the journey of the 3,300-year-old Nubian Vault to the architecture of Hassan Fathy, and from there to Central Asia (Uzbekistan), and even Nalanda in the 7th century, followed by the modern era.

‘The Shahnameh of Ferdowsi and Iranian Identity’ was an exhibition of Iranian handicrafts, calligraphy, manuscripts and paintings from the collection of Noor Microfilm International Centre, an institute for the protection and publication of the Islamic written heritage in India, which produced the world’s largest contemporary illustrated manuscript of the ‘Shahnameh’ in collaboration with Indian artists to keep the dying art of calligraphy and miniature painting alive in India. The panel discussion that followed on ‘Shahnameh’s Response to Contemporary Challenges’ examined the

confrontation of religion and freedom as depicted in Shahnameh's mythological story of Rustom and Sohrab. This was part of the programme 'Derakht-e-Doosti—Tree of Friendship: Celebrating 70 Years of Indo–Iran Friendship', organised in collaboration with Parzor; Iran Culture House; Institute of Indo–Persian Studies; Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and Noor Microfilm International Centre, New Delhi.

'My Latin American and Caribbean Trip' was a collection of award-winning photographs by amateur photographers, selected from over 90 entries from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Panama and Jamaica. This was a collaboration with The Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, India; and Delhi Photography Club.

India's relationship with Japan is far closer than most seem to be aware of. 'Hindu Deities and Sanskrit in Japan' was an exhibition of photographs by Benoy K. Behl which presented some of these shared cultures. Several Hindu deities are very actively worshipped in Japan, including Saraswati, Lakshmi, Indra, Brahma, Ganesha and Garuda. The 5th-century Sanskrit Siddham script, which is no longer used in India, is still preserved and taught in Japan today. Sanskrit is also the basis for the formation of the Japanese alphabet 'Kana'. Following the inauguration of the exhibition, there was a talk and a film screening of *Indian Deities Worshipped in Japan* by Benoy K. Behl.

'The Three Amigos' was an exhibition of black and white photographs of the 1950s and 1960s by Vinoo Bhagat, Kishan S. Rana and Deb Mukharji. They included Bhagat's recollections of eminence—Anthony Quinn playing Henry II at Broadway; Kishan Rana presented rich tapestries, interweaving nature's delights; and Deb Mukharji's tonal variations were seen in the majesty of Humayun's Tomb of 1958 shaded by clouds, palms and foliage.

‘Tic-Tac-Toe’ was an exhibition of illustrations by Ankur Ahuja. It was a collection of portraits of people on the streets of Delhi and engaged with the idea of the ‘new normal’.

Lithuanian artists Aušra Kleizaitė and Gintarė Valevičiūtė Brazauskienė presented an exhibition of drawings, animation and videos called ‘Stream of Passion’. The works explored aspects of sexuality vis-à-vis life in its breath-by-breath continuity. The synthesis of the Western and the Eastern came into play with notions of guilt versus attributions of divinity within the ideas and experiences of sex and sexuality, with the complexities of thought explained in a text by Neringa Stoskute. This was a collaboration with the Embassy of Lithuania.

‘The Prince of Painters: Raphael 1483–1520’ commemorated the 500th death anniversary of Raphael, master painter and architect of Italian High Renaissance. Often compared with Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael was noted for working for the papal court. His work is showcased in the paintings and tapestries in Rome and is marked by the power of detail, and completely realistic imagery. The exhibition also included a webinar recording, ‘Raffaello Sanzio: A Painter Called Master’. There was an illustrated lecture by Caterina Brazzi Castracane on the life and work of Raphael, and a virtual tour of the artworks currently on display at the exhibition ‘Raffaello 1488–1520’ on view at the Scuderie del Quirinale in Rome.

‘A Nomad’s Journey: Travels with Premola’ was an exhibition to celebrate and remember the late Premola Ghose, former Chief, Programme Division, IIC, on her first death anniversary. An avid traveller, interested and curious about the histories and cultures of the people and countries she visited, Premola made friends easily with the locals, getting lost in little bookstores and discovering cafes and lesser-known sites along the way. A wonderful storyteller, travel tales were always linked with vivid memories of food. Her paintings reflect keen observation—of detail, colour, texture

and light. Created between 1996 and 2018, most of these 30 watercolour paintings on travel had not been exhibited before.

‘Plain Abstract’ brought together the work of two leading contemporary artists from Israel, Dani Karavan and Atar Geva. Creative materials such as sand, olive and citrus trees are Karavan’s forte, while Geva uses spilled paint, spreading at will and becoming liquid or solidifying. The exhibition also questioned the idea of the kibbutz. It was organised in collaboration with Embassy of Israel; Givat Haviva, Israel; and The GH Art Center, Israel.

‘Folk and Tribal Art of India’ featured various art forms of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and West Bengal. These included Gond paintings which feature bright colours with the central theme of nature; Kalighat, which depicts Hindu gods, goddesses and other mythological characters in bright colours and bold outlines; Kalamkari, portraying women in yellow, demons in green and red, and gods in shades of blue; Madhubani paintings with multi-dimensional imagery, depicting people and their association with nature and deities from the ancient epics, as well as paintings from the urban lifestyle of people; Pichwai paintings, referred to as Mewar-style textile paintings, usually found hanging on the walls of temples, houses, art galleries and museums; Theyyam, a ritual art form of dance worship from Kerala; and Warli art which innovatively represents the humble life of the Warli tribe. This was a collaboration with Arts of the Earth.

‘The Alchemy of Process’ was an exhibition of etchings, serigraphs, screen printing and lithographs by Seema Kohli. Her work is inspired by and firmly grounded in her extensive knowledge of Indian spirituality, mythology and cosmology, which is most often filtered through the lens of the sacred feminine. An overarching theme in her work has been the regeneration of life which can be seen in the extensive and evolving series, ‘Golden Womb’ and ‘Tree of Life’.

In ‘Urmila—Enchanted Mother’, curated by Anu Jindal, six artists from India and one each from Germany, Canada, South Korea and Japan made it a good mix of East and West, as also of different media and genres. The theme was variously interpreted by each artist, translating mostly into ideas of earth and creation, when not directly portraying the mother. The exhibition was accompanied by a panel discussion on ‘Act of Creation’, which dealt with the act of creation, creativity and what it means for us. The panellists, Anu Jindal, Kishalay Bhattacharjee and Sanjeev Bhargava, said that they were encouraged to develop curiosity in childhood, which helped in the act of creation, and the courage to speak out. Be it music, poetry, dance, art, fiction, journalism, etc., overall sensitivity to the world around us, including mother nature, was necessary to be creative.

‘The Silent Melody of Qutub Minar’ was the first on-site exhibition after the pandemic. On view were reproductions of archival photographs, lithographs, sketches of the medieval monument by engineers and artists, including engineer Ensign Blunt from 1794, and the cameras used for documenting the site. This was a collaboration with the Archaeological Survey of India, Delhi Circle.

‘A Phoenix from the Ashes: The Destruction and Reconstruction of Warsaw, 1939–1955’ was an exhibition of photographs by some of the leading Polish architectural photographers on contemporary buildings. It captured, through photographs and text, poignant memories of a city ravaged by the Nazi regime during the Second World War. Divided into chronological sections, it traced the city from pre-war, to social realism, wartime, post-war reconstruction and ‘Warsaw Today’. This was a collaboration with Polish Institute, New Delhi.

Spiti is a lesser-known terrain in the Lahul and Spiti Valley, a path not often taken. Kishore Thukral captured it through his lens in the exhibition ‘Spiti: Paradise Unveiled’. Photographs of the traditional brightly coloured prayer flags, snow-capped mountains,

rugged terrain, smiling faces and green fields, monasteries, intricate Thankas, elaborate idols and the vigour of chham dances brought Spiti to life.

‘Born to Perform’ was an exhibition of photographs by Vijay S. Jodha to commemorate International Day of Persons with Disabilities. It featured portraits of some of the world’s finest and most inspiring performing artists who happen to be physically challenged. It was a compact, colourful collage of dancers, musicians and singers from more than 10 countries in Asia and Europe. The performers were in elaborate costumes, giving a keen vibrancy to the representations, pushing their physical disability to the periphery of perception. This was a collaboration with UNESCO, New Delhi Office.

‘Living the New Normal: In these Extraordinary Times’, curated by Arshiya Mansoor Lokhandwala, explored the work of five Indian women artists: Anita Dube; Shilpa Gupta; Prakajta Potnis; Pushpamala N.; and Mithu Senthat. The works alluded to the extraordinary but incongruous moment that we are experiencing, the current zeitgeist. This was a collaboration with MASH.

Two centuries ago, British botanists began a visual study of Indian flora. Indian artists were commissioned to make botanical paintings which were sent back to Britain where they survive in collections at some of the Royal botanical gardens. Siddhartha Das Studio has recently commissioned skilled miniature artists to create a series of botanical paintings of Indian flowering plants to celebrate this legacy. These were showcased in the exhibition, ‘Botanical Paintings of Indian Flowering Plants’.

Conceptualised and curated by Dolly Narang, ‘A Brush with Hope’ was an exhibition of art by women inmates of Tihar Jail created during workshops conducted in the early 1990s. A stuffed ball of cloth became a tool for a monoprint, leaves, grasses and the odd flower—subjects of imaginative fantasies for women prisoners.

'Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Solidarity Movement in Poland' exhibited photographs and texts on the first independent trade union movement which contributed to the collapse of communism and brought an end to the world's Cold War divisions. It was a collaboration with Polish Institute, New Delhi.

'Diverse Asia' was an exhibition of photographs by Ajit Rana which captured the diversity of landscape, natural habitats and people through Vietnam, Thailand, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Hong Kong and Bali.

IIC Library

The Library has added 491 books this year, thereby increasing the collection to 54,127 books. This excludes the rare books collection of almost 4,500 titles that includes the India Collection, the Himalayan Club Collection and the Bilgrami Collection. It received approximately 165 periodicals, magazines and newspapers, 124 CD/DVDs, and continues to provide services out of JSTOR database and Granth Sanjeevani. The Library took the initiative to develop information about the chapters in edited books to enhance the value of such books. About 1,023 chapters from edited books have been added this year as part of the Online Public Access Catalogue. In all, a total of 19,271 book chapters have so far been included in the database.

The Library continued to provide inter-library loan services using various network resources, including the services offered by DELNET, and has borrowed 161 books from different libraries and loaned out 127 books to other institutions. During this period, 5,933 books have been borrowed by members from the Library.

Eighteen scholars have been granted temporary membership to use the library facilities for their work.

The Library started the digitisation of its rare collections, some of which are in very brittle condition. So far, over 14 lakh pages, complete in all respects (with metadata creation, quality control, etc.) are ready to be uploaded on the portal for public consumption. The entire portal has been created using Open Source Software (OSS) DSpace that will facilitate free text search as well as retrieval of the documents. Testing of the software has been done and interfaces are being fine-tuned. It is expected that data will be uploaded on the portal and made available to users in April 2021.

Book Discussions

Twenty-three book discussions were organised in this period.

Wasted: The Messy Story of Sanitation in India: A Manifesto for Change by Ankur Bise (Macmillan, 2019) was discussed with panellists Awadhendra Sharan, Nitin Aggarwal and Anurag Yadav. The book highlighted the author's point that the need to focus on sanitation and cleanliness is both urgent and long-term, and commented on his suggested measures to overcome these problems.

A Chequered Brilliance: The Many Lives of V.K. Krishna Menon by Jairam Ramesh (Penguin, 2019) was discussed by T.C.A. Raghavan, Shivshankar Menon and Jairam Ramesh, with M.K. Rasgotra in the Chair. This is a compelling biography of one of India's most controversial and consequential public figures—V.K. Krishna Menon—who continues to command our attention not just because he was Jawaharlal Nehru's confidant and soulmate, but also for many of his own political and literary accomplishments.

Morarji Desai: A Profile in Courage by Arvindar Singh (Niyogi Books, 2019) was discussed with Soli J. Sorabjee as Chair. Panellists Apoorvanand and Rahul Singh, along with the author, focused on the in-depth analysis made through the various phases of Desai's professional life—as a government officer, as a freedom fighter, as the 'iron' Chief Minister of the erstwhile State of Bombay, as Union Finance Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Opposition Leader and Prime Minister.

With Aditya Malik as Chair, Come Carpentier and Vikram Lall discussed *Modern Civilization: A Crisis of Fragmentation* by S. C. Malik (D. K. Printworld, 2020). The book laments that the crisis of the age inheres in this: that notwithstanding the century's mind-numbing disasters, it persists in subscribing to propositions which have logically led to the atomisation of the whole cloth of human experiencing and being. Great

indeed is the value which is placed on the procedure of analytic dismemberment. While the method has certainly been result-producing, materially, in its wake it has brought immense suffering—both physical and spiritual.

Land Lust: Short Stories by Joginder Singh Paul, originally in Urdu, and edited by Sukrita Paul Kumar and Vandana R. Singh (Niyogi Books, 2019), was discussed under the Chairmanship of Anvita Abbi. Panellists Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee and Chandana Dutta, along with the editors, reflected on the poignant glimpses of multiracial relations in colonial Kenya, evoking insightful moments of compassion from within harsh xenophobic environs.

How Do You Know What You Know? by Janki Santoke (Janki Santoke, 2019) brings a fresh approach to investigating real answers to being happier, more successful in work and in relationships, being more peaceful. The author analyses thinking and its effect on the quality of one's life through an interesting amalgamation of such diverse subjects as Indian epistemology, Vedanta and mythology, and Western psychology, logic and literature. The book was discussed under the Chairmanship of Gurcharan Das, with speakers Gopalkrishnan and Janaki Santoke.

2019: How Modi Won India by Rajdeep Sardesai (HarperCollins, 2019) is an intrepid account of how the NaMo effect mesmerised voters across the country. It relives the excitement of the many twists and turns that took place over the intervening five years, culminating in the 2019 election results, and helps the reader make sense of the contours and characteristics of a rapidly changing India, its politics and its newsmakers. This was discussed under the Chairmanship of Pawan Varma, with Syeda Hameed and Rajdeep Sardesai.

The Odyssey of a Diplomat: Through the Corridors of Time by Lakhan Mehrotra (Heritage Publishers, 2020) starts with some touching vignettes from the author's personal

life from the days of India's freedom struggle, and then moves on to portray the history-making events of our time to which he was witness as part of his diplomatic experience. It covers practically every region of the world right up to the Arctic and the Atlantic and at both ends of the Pacific. This book was discussed under the Chairmanship of Natwar Singh, with Shri Shyam Saran, Life Trustee, IIC, K.P. Fabian and Lakhan Mehrotra.

In *Aesthetic Textures: Living Traditions of the Mahabharata* by Molly Kaushal and Sukrita Paul Kumar (D.K. Printworld, 2019), the authors show us the fascinating world of multiple Bharatas, a perennial tale discovered and created afresh at each juncture of time; at each moment of self-doubt and self-exploration; at each rejoicing of self-discovery and self-recovery. The discussion was Chaired by Sachchidanand Joshi, with discussants Radha Vallabh Tripathi and the authors.

Chair Sunil Arora, with speakers Krishnamurthy Subramanian, Kalyani Shankar, Yamini Aiyer and the author, discussed the book *New India: Governance Transformed 2014–2019* by V. Srinivas (Konark, 2019). The book offers readers a glimpse of the numerous challenges in implementation of various welfare state policies. It depicts the success stories of the Swachh Bharat Mission, Ayushman Bharat, Jan Dhan Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana across the country. In addition, it also throws light on the massive strides made under Digital India, Skill India and Make in India initiatives.

The Haunting Himalayas by Rajni Sekhri Sibal (Har Anand, 2020) is a collection of short stories based on real life experiences of eerie sightings, strange sounds and ethereal events. It was discussed under the Chairmanship of Gurcharan Das, with discussants Shormistha Panja, Richa Mishra and the author.

A Ringside Seat to History—An Autobiography by Pascal Alan Nazareth (Konark, 2020) is

a riveting autobiography of a timid, small-town youth, pressured by his father to aspire to the coveted Indian Administrative Service, but who is selected for the Indian Foreign Service, and thus witnesses historic events at close proximity in various parts of the world and plays a role in some of them. It was discussed under the Chairmanship of Shri N.N. Vohra, President, IIC, with Nirupama Rao, T.P. Sreenivasan, Ashok Malik, Gita Dharampal, K.N. Shrivastava and the author.

How can India become a great country once again? This is the question explored in the book *Making India Great Again: Learning from our History* by Meeta and Rajiv Lochan (Manohar, 2020). It addresses young, educated and aspiring Indians from different walks of life who are interested in contemporary issues relating to nation, society and economy. It puts forward some solutions to the problems that India faces. It was discussed under the Chairmanship of K.P. Fabian, and speakers Ravi Budhiraja, Saugata Bhattacharya and the two authors.

Turmeric Nation by Shylashri Shankar (Speaking Tiger, 2020) explores questions like, What exactly is 'Indian' food? Can it be classified by region, or religion, or ritual? What are the culinary commonalities across the Indian subcontinent? Do we Indians have a sense of collective self when it comes to cuisine? Or is the pluralism in our food habits and choices the only identity we have ever needed? It was discussed under the Chairmanship of Ranveer Brar, with discussants Mita Kapur, Jasleen Vohra and the author.

Two books in Hindi by Sachchidanand Joshi, *Pal Bhar Ki Pahchaan* and *Kucch Alpa Viram* (Vidya Vihar, 2019; 2018), were discussed under the Chairmanship of Sudhish Pachauri, with Laxmi Shankar Bajpai, Om Nishchal, Kumud Sharma and the author on the panel. In *Pal Bhar Ki Pahchaan*, the author has tried to present individuals or events in a simple language to the readers without creating rhetoric and exaggerating words. In *Kucch Alpa Viram*, the author has endeavoured to convey that

‘some commas’ cannot be seen by putting it in the slot of any one genre of literature, because it breaks the periphery of the genres and makes a direct connection to the truth of life. It is not necessary that every lesson of life should be learned from a heavy classical book.

Madrasas and the Making of Islamic Womanhood by Hem Borkar (Oxford University Press, 2018) is a ground-breaking narrative of the ambiguities that outline the relationship between young Muslim girls with madrasas in India. It explores how these young women tactically invoke the virtues of safety, modesty and piety learnt in the madrasa to reconfigure normative social expectations around marriage, education and employment. The discussion was chaired by Meenakshi Thapan, with panellists Aparna Rayaprol, Humra Quraishi and the author.

The Making of Aadhaar: World’s Largest Identity Platform by Ram Sewak Sharma (Rupa, 2020) is a first-hand account which provides a lucid and in-depth understanding of the artefact called Aadhaar, and how it continues to change and redefine India. The discussion was chaired by Pradip Baijal, with speakers S.Y. Quraishi, V. Srinivas and Shankkar Aiyar.

Diet in Diabetes Simplified—Your Personal Diabetes Nutrition Coach by Sheryl Salis (Notion Press, 2020) aims to simplify concepts and provide the reader with recent advances, expert advice, myth-busters, easy to make recipes, FAQs, real-life case studies and easy-to-implement practical tips to help bring back the joy of eating while living with diabetes. The discussion was chaired by V. Mohan, with discussants Shobha Udipi, Divya Parashar, Jasleen Vohra and the author.

Isher Judge Ahluwalia’s book, *Breaking Through: A Memoir* (Rupa, 2020), was discussed under the Chairmanship of Omkar Goswami, with discussants Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Gopa Sabharwal, T.C.A. Srinivasa Raghavan and Pranjul Bhandari.

The book is the life story of Isher Judge Ahluwalia, one of India's leading policy economists. Born into a family of 11 children and limited means, she was one of the first to attend university. She chronicles her career as a young policy economist fighting against Indian economic orthodoxy that underpinned the license-permit-quota Raj, and as an institution builder leading the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations.

The Dalai Lama: An Extraordinary Life by Alexander Norman (HarperCollins, 2020) was discussed under the Chairmanship of Shivshankar Menon. Panellists Tenzin Geyche, Rajiv Mehrotra and the author discussed this beautifully illustrated chronicle which is an in-depth, first-hand narrative of the Dalai Lama's life story and the Tibetan saga. From remembrances of those close to him, and a treasure trove of over 400 images of Tibet's priceless visual heritage, it preserves a record of what it was like to create a nation from nothing, in exile, and how His Holiness rallied endlessly for his people.

The Awasthis of Aamnagri by Shubha Sarma (Niyogi Books, 2020) are the quintessential Indian family, who sail through life encountering missing jewels and stolen eggs, deaths foretold, averted, and a suspected suicide with no body. The mysteries are solved by the inquisitive minds of young Lakshmi and Guddu and the saffron-clad Guruji. The book was discussed by Ajay Mathur, Malashri Lal, Madhu Khanna and the author.

Shalva Weil's book, *The Baghdadi Jews in India: Maintaining Communities, Negotiating Identities and Creating Super-Diversity* (Routledge, 2019), explores the extraordinary differentiation of the Baghdadi Jewish community over time during their sojourn in India from the end of the 18th century until their dispersion to Indian diasporas in Israel and English-speaking countries throughout the world after India gained independence in 1947. The speakers were Sara Manasseh, Jael Silliman, Rony Yedidia Clein and the author.

Fragrant Clouds: A Tryst with Words (based on the books *Fragrant Words* and *Clouds End and Beyond* by Rajni Sekhri Sibal (Bloomsbury, 2019; Wisdom Tree, 2016) is a sensitive, thought-provoking and sometimes haunting collection of poems which present a charming journey through the years the author spent in the pristine environs of the Himalayas amidst pine trees and clouds at Mussoorie, as well as the subsequent years negotiating the harsh concrete maze of New Delhi. It was discussed under the Chairmanship of K. Jayakumar, with discussants Kanwal Sibal, Mandira Ghosh, Richa Mishra and the author.

IIC Publications

IIC Quarterly

Weather Report: The Crisis of Climate Change, the thematic volume of the *IIC Quarterly* (Winter 2019–Spring 2020, Volume 46, Numbers 3&4), edited by Ravi Agarwal and Omida Goyal, was released by Dr. Karan Singh, Chairman, IIC Editorial Board. The COVID-19 pandemic-enforced social distancing saw panellists Nagraj Adve and Ruchira Talukdar connect remotely to discuss various aspects of the volume that outlines the specific conditions and responses to climate change in India. The programme was moderated by Ravi Agarwal. The issue also takes an unusual ground-up approach of including voices of those who are researching landscapes and observing changes in them, across disciplines and practices.

With disrupted work schedules as a consequence of a series of lockdowns earlier in the year, the individual Summer and Autumn 2020 issues were brought out as one composite volume. Three papers in the issue explore the impact of pandemics from the perspectives of history, literature and food. Other articles cover the origins of languages, religion and philosophy, knowledge production, comparative literature and political thought. An overview of the handicraft sector, and India's election to the United Nations Security Council and the challenges it will face round off the volume.

Occasional Publications

Freedom & Sons Ltd.: The Enterprise of Free Speech in a Market of Control is the text of the first Professor Mushirul Hasan Memorial Lecture delivered by Shri Gopalkrishna Gandhi, Life Trustee, IIC. Freedom & Sons Ltd. stands for the integrated will of the

Constituent Assembly of 299, its ethos, its conscience. It is in fact their legacy that we, the people of India, are trustees and beneficiaries of. We, freedom's legatees and beneficiaries in today's India see that freedom seriously compromised by three major factors—the role of religion in politics, the role of money in politics, and the role which political power, legitimately derived, democratically received, plays in ways that befuddle the laws and bewilder democracy.

Value-Based Education is based on a lecture by Kishore Singh. There is widespread concern today with the 'values crisis'. Mushrooming of privatisation in education, giving rise to the phenomenon of 'edu-business', fosters this trend. Use of digital devices also adds to this crisis. The challenging task is to evolve a new architecture for education in India, in which core human values derived from India's philosophical legacy and spiritual heritage, as well as from ideals and principles enshrined in India's Constitution, permeate the entire education system.

In *Challenges of States' Re-organisation: Case of Bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. Any Lessons to be Learnt*, Sheela Bhide says that most political analysts are of the view that the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh is one of the most controversial bifurcations of a state in recent history. The author, a senior civil servant, was responsible for recommending the bifurcation of the State Public Sector Units, including government assets and liabilities. The issues have been divided into three categories: political, legislative and administrative. In retrospect, she felt that had the successive state governments in Andhra Pradesh honoured the safeguards extended to the Telangana region under the Six Point Formula, implemented them and ensured that the benefits from industrial services and the construction boom were disseminated equally among the people of Telangana, discontent may not have festered, and possibly the bifurcation of the state could have been prevented.

IIC Diary

As a result of fewer programmes to be covered in the first two months of the pandemic, two less issues of the *IIC Diary* were published. Although all the programmes have been virtual, we have tried our best to include visuals to maintain the appealing design. The Notices and Director's Page continue as before, while the design and format of Departures has been redone.

IIC Membership

The present composition of the Centre's membership is as below:

Class of Membership	Jan-20	Jan-21
Honorary Members	8	7
Patrons	1	1
Life Members	106	96
Members	2048	2030
Associate Members	3883	3865
Overseas Associate Members	538	545
Corporate Members (Universities)	40	30
Corporate Members (Others)	184	195
Corporate Associate Members (Universities)	25	25
Corporate Associate Members (Others)	153	160
Corporate Overseas Associate Members	5	2
Short Term Associate Members	406	547
TOTAL	7397	7503

Review of Strength of all Categories of Centre's Membership

Until now, the Board had not fixed a ceiling on the strength of members in respect of all categories of membership. As mandated under Rule 7 (ibid.), the Board may, as necessary, revise the number of members in any category from time to time. For better regulation and administration, the Board of Trustees (BoT) in its 269th meeting (held on 26 June 2020) considered it necessary to fix the number of members in each category.

In respect of Honorary, Foundation and Life Members, given the very nature of these memberships, there was no requirement for fixing their ceiling strength. However, in the case of Members (M), Associate Members (AM), Overseas Associate Members (OAM), Temporary Members (TM), Corporate Members (CM) and Corporate Associate Members (CAM), it was found necessary to fix the numbers. As regards the category of Short Term Associate Membership (STAM), the Board had already (at its 266th meeting held on 2 August 2019) fixed its strength at 550.

As per Rule 6, an Associate Member (AM) becomes eligible for conversion to Member (M) category after seven years. Likewise, an Overseas Associate Member (OAM) becomes eligible for conversion to AM category after 15 years (earlier it was seven years). For logistical considerations relating to the conduct of the Annual General Body Meetings, the Board had, many years ago, informally taken the view that the ratio of M:AM categories may be maintained at 1:2 (the capacity of the Auditorium is 230).

It is relevant to state that, on an average, about 115 to 125 vacancies arise every year in the regular Membership (i.e., 'M' and 'AM') categories due to deaths and resignations.

As per the new Individual Membership Policy (approved by the Board at its 266th meeting held on 2 August 2019), M + AM categories of Members are to be enrolled only from amongst those applicants who have completed their tenure of STAM for five years (3 + 2 years).

As per the extant policy, the strength of OAM should not exceed 10 per cent of the total strength of regular Members (M + AM categories). In this context, it is to be noted that, on an average, five to eight OAM Members become eligible every year (as per Rules) for conversion from OAM to AM category on completion of 15 years (earlier it was seven years) as OAM.

Considering the existing strength of all categories of membership, and also keeping in view the Centre’s infrastructural facilities and revenue generation requirements, the Board approved the category-wise ceiling strength as follows:

Membership Category	Approved Revised Strength
Honorary Members (HM)	No ceiling is required
Foundation Members (FM)	No ceiling is required
Life Members (LM)	No ceiling is required
Members (M)	2300
Associate Members (AM)	4700
Overseas Associate Members (OAM)	700
Corporate Foundation Members (CFM)	No ceiling is required
Corporate Members (CM)	275
Corporate Associate Members (CAM)	275
Short Term Associate Members (STAM)	550
Total	8800

It was decided to enhance the ceiling strength of STAM, as well as annual intake to this category, considering the increase in the ceiling strength of (M) and (AM) Members. It was decided to increase the intake of STAM by around 350 to 400 a year, and to spread the enhancement over three years. The increased strength shall be enrolled in a phased manner over a period of three years (2020–21, 2021–22 and 2022–23) and effort could be made to enrol an increased number of younger Members.

Institutional Membership—Additional Nominee Cards

The BoT in its 271st meeting (held on 10 November 2020) decided to increase the Subscription Fee for Corporate Members (CM) and Corporate Associate Members

(CAM) in the sub-category 'Institutions Other Than Educational, Research and Cultural' who seek additional Nominee Cards and to fix a ceiling on the number of such cards.

It was observed that no Additional Subscription Fee (ASF) was being charged from such Members who were being inducted over and above the prescribed number of nominees. Additionally, no ceiling had been fixed in regard to the number of additional Nominee Cards which could be issued to Members in the CAM and CM categories.

The Board decided that the ceiling of extra Nominee Cards for CA and CM Members and increase in Admission Fee and ASF, in respect of the extra Nominee Cards, shall be as below:

Category	Maximum No. of additional Nominee Cards which may be issued	Additional ASF to be charged per extra Nominee card per annum	Additional Admission Fee to be charged per additional Nominee Card
Corporate Associate Member	02	₹ 67,500	₹ 5,00,000
Corporate Member	04	₹ 60,000	₹ 5,00,000

Members' Protocol and Memorandum of Association

IIC introduced the Members' Protocol in October 2020 as an information booklet about the protocols to be adhered to as a Member of the Centre.

Additionally, the Memorandum of Association and Rules and Regulations of IIC was

updated in August 2020. The updated version is available and can be viewed on the IIC Website.

Financial Position

The Centre's income during the financial year 2019–20 was ₹ 5,266.11 lakh as against an income of ₹ 5,319.41 lakh in the previous financial year (2018–19). The expenditure during the financial year was ₹ 5,550.52 lakh as against ₹ 5,625.81 lakh in the previous financial year. The net deficit, after making a provision for depreciation for ₹ 298.36 lakh, was ₹ 284.41 lakh as against ₹ 306.40 lakh in the previous financial year. The corresponding provision for depreciation during the previous year was ₹ 305.25 lakh. The audited accounts for the financial year 2019–20 show a satisfactory position.

The Investment Policy of the Centre, as in previous years, continues to ensure placement of funds in risk-free instruments. The investment at the end of the financial year 2019–20 stood at ₹ 84.03 crore as against ₹ 81.75 crore at the end of the previous financial year.

Computerisation

The instant payment system using Smart Card introduced last year has been operating successfully. Most Members (6,142, or 84 per cent) have got Smart Cards made and are settling bills using the Smart Card at the Catering outlets.

In its efforts to conserve paper, the Centre had started sending bills via email for Hostel, Party, Catering, Statement of Account and Receipt. Provision has also been made to pay online. There has been a substantial increase in the number of Members using the online Internet Payment Gateway Services. Members are also being informed about the Catering events, Notices, Smart Card usage and Library dues through SMS.

The Wi-Fi Internet speed has been upgraded to 30 Mbps from 18 Mbps on the IIC campus. The Wi-Fi service is working smoothly and as per the DoT guidelines. Members and their guests are using the facility daily.

Live webcasting of programmes was discontinued due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns. Instead, Webinar services have been introduced. This year, 76 Webinars were arranged successfully which were also steamed live on the YouTube platform. Members are being informed about each Webinar through email. The archives of these Webinars and old webcast videos are available on the IIC YouTube channel ([IIC Lectures](#)). Copies of all webcast programmes are also available to Members in the Audio/Video section of the Library.

Local Area Network (LAN) of 1 Gpbs has been working successfully to facilitate IT services of data sharing, Integrated Software System, Internet access, Webcasting, Webinar, Web OPAC, CCTV, Electronic Signage System, etc.

The Centre has worked with a professional team to create a new Website which was launched on 29 January 2021. Its new design is pleasing and the additional features make for easy browsing. The new Website can be accessed at www.iicdelhi.in. The IIC Website is updated regularly with information on Programmes, Publications, Library, Notices and details of outstanding dues. Virtual exhibitions held during the lockdown are also uploaded on the IIC Website.

Maintenance

The COVID-19 crisis has had a dramatic effect on the way we live and work on a day-to-day basis. Despite this, the challenge to keep the Centre's buildings in working order was faced head-on.

The year began with a structure stability audit of the Centre's buildings by Riacon Labs. We are pleased to inform Members that the structure has been found to be healthy and sound. There were a few minor cracks and fissures, for which remedial action has been taken.

On 9 July 2020, the Centre signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA), a Government of India Enterprise, for setting up Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) at a cost of ₹ 30 lakh under their CSR initiative. The system was commissioned and inaugurated on 8 October 2020 by Shri N. N. Vohra, President, IIC. The Biogas Plant funded by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) at a cost of ₹ 36 lakh under their CSR arm was also commissioned and inaugurated on the same day by the President.

In view of the long-standing demand for the provision of an elevator to access the Dining Hall, Conference Room II and Terrace Pergola in the Main Building, the Centre has drawn up a proposal which has been cleared by the House Committee. The drawings will shortly be submitted to local civic authorities for approval.

The Centre has set up an Architecture and Design Advisory Committee (ADAC) to advise the Director, IIC, in regard to all matters relating to the preservation of the existing architecture and design, as also on issues arising from maintenance and repairs of the buildings. The ADAC will also offer suggestions should there be a need for upgradation of the infrastructural facilities on the campus of the Centre. The ADAC is comprised of IIC Members who are practicing architects, including some who had worked with Joseph Allen Stein.

Administration

Security

The year posed a difficult security challenge due to the impact of COVID-19. Round-the-clock vigil in the Main Complex and Annexe was maintained with the help of security guards and integrated CCTV cameras. Security personnel were needed not only to perform their normal tasks, but also to take on the additional duty of ensuring adherence to various safety protocols for COVID-19, like thermal screening of visitors and employees, wearing of face mask, or simply advising on best practices during the pandemic. The security services played a proactive role in the smooth functioning of the Centre during the pandemic and adherence to laid-down guidelines.

Fire Fighting

Regular monthly fire fighting workshops were conducted for training of employees in fire safety drills and operation of the fire fighting equipment. Special emphasis was laid on training of Kitchen staff in handling fire extinguishers. The complete fire hydrant system, including the sensors, was also tested every month for its functionality.

First Aid

First aid workshops were organised with special training on safety protocols for COVID-19 with the objective of equipping employees with the skills to handle medical emergencies.

Medical Examination of Employees

The Catering and Kitchen staff underwent the annual health check up on 2 and 3 March 2020. Frequent COVID-19 Rapid Tests were conducted for employees

who came in contact with infected persons, and for those who returned from outstation leave.

Staff Day

A High Tea was organised on 21 January 2021 to celebrate Staff Annual Day. Shri N.N. Vohra, President, IIC, felicitated the following employees who have completed 25 years of illustrious service at the Centre: Ms. Rachna Joshi, Shri Narayan Sharma, Shri Raj Kumar, Shri Lawrence Kamal Doloy and Shri Mukhtyar Ahmed. The employees who excelled in their performance and performed beyond the call of duty during the COVID-19 pandemic were specially awarded with certificates of appreciation. The Centre bade farewell to Shri Rajan Kumar Verma, Shri Ritu Raj, Shri Mehfooz Hasan, Shri Ashok Kumar, Shri Rakam Singh Bansal, Shri Govind Ram, Shri Bal Kishan, Shri F. Thomas, Shri Balbir Singh Pawar, Shri Virender Dutt Ratudi and Ms. Indrani Majumdar.

The Centre deeply mourned the untimely demise of Shri Raj Kumar Koli of the Maintenance Department.

Staff Welfare

Staff Welfare Committee meetings were held periodically and issues relating to the welfare of employees dealt with on a priority basis. The Group Medical Insurance scheme for employees was renewed and the Star Health Medical Insurance Scheme through Howden India is in force. With this, employees and their dependents can get the best treatment from reputed hospitals on a cashless basis. The Centre has also entered into an agreement with M/s. Apollo Pharmacies from where the staff can procure medicines on discount and on a cashless basis.

Manpower Rationalisation

The National Productivity Council has carried out a study of the Centre in order to rationalise the manpower of various departments as per their tasks and responsibilities. The Centre is now in the process of assigning roles, reviewing the staff organisational structure, and preparing a comprehensive 'Compendium of IIC Rules' for employees.

Catering

Like all activities at the Centre, Catering too was adversely affected by the pandemic-induced lockdowns. However, as soon as restrictions lifted, we opened the doors of the Main Dining Hall, Lounge and Lotus Lounge for limited numbers, ensuring all norms of social distancing. Members gradually began coming to the Centre. Taking a cue from this, a takeaway service was added that proved extremely popular.

The Annexe, which has remained closed since the outbreak of the pandemic in March 2020, will open in March 2021 as an increasing number of Members have started visiting the Centre, and space in the main Dining Hall and Lounge is running short.

An initiative that has been greatly appreciated are the weekly food festivals which have featured both national and international cuisines. Since August 2020, almost all states of India have been represented by their distinctive cuisines. In addition, there were some specials like Maharashtrian street food during Ganesh Chaturti, in collaboration with Maharashtra Sankritik Ani Rannaniti Adhyayan Samiti; Navratri fare for the festive season; Bengali cuisine at the time of Durga Puja; and Manjit Singh Gill Special, showcasing his innovative culinary style. International cuisine featured an Asian Basket from East and Southeast Asia; Italian, with a wide choice of

seasonal ingredients; French delights to light up the festival of Diwali; and European food to go with the Christmas spirit. The Bakery section added a few specials on these weekends.

Housekeeping

All the 48 single rooms in the Main Building were refurbished with new upholstery and carpets. Additional items of furniture and new refrigerators have also been added to these rooms.

IIC Gardens

The re-laying and weeding of lawns was undertaken in a phased manner this year. All varieties of Chrysanthemum bloomed exceedingly well which were procured as root cuttings.

Begonia venusta (Flame Vine) and *Saraca asoca* (Sita Ashok) were in full bloom in the month of April.

Winter annuals such as Pansy, Petunia, Larkspur, Gazania, Dianthus, Sweet Pea, Anemone, Geranium, Carnation, Oriental and Asiatic Liliun, Ranunculus, Poppy, Paper Flower, Ice Plant, single and double Dahlia were in full bloom in January and are expected to continue blooming.

Delicate bulbous plants and others such as Freesia, Daffodil, Tulip, Gladioli, Tuberose, Amaryllis and Narcissus made a beautiful and enchanting garden.

Management of the Centre

The Board of Trustees, which provides overall direction for the management of the Centre's affairs, held three meetings this year, in the months of June, August and December. The Executive and Finance Committees both met twice this year and gave very useful inputs. Our heartfelt thanks to the Members of all these bodies.

President has been actively participating in the Centre's activities and has held meetings via virtual and physical modes.

All our officers and staff have worked consistently and with dedication throughout the year, while adhering to pandemic-induced guidelines. I thank them for their commitment.

Finally, I and my team wish to express our gratitude to our Members for supporting the Centre in these troubled times.

K.N. SHRIVASTAVA

Director

Appendices

Contents

I	Seminars	127
II	Talks	131
III	Discussions	165
IV	Cultural	193
V	Festivals	210
VI	Films and Exhibitions	227
VII	Film Club	248
VIII	Collaborating Institutions	281

APPENDIX I *Seminars*

1 **International Seminar on Costumes: Past, Present and Conserved**

Welcome Address: Anamika Pathak, President, Textiles and Clothing Research Centre (TCRC)

Keynote Address: Asha Baxi

(Collaboration: Textiles and Clothing Research Centre; and Indian Institute of Crafts and Design)

6 **Seminar on Pathway to Women in Politics**

Panellists: Smt. Chitra Mudgal, Hindi writer; Dr. Bijaylaxmi Nanda, Principal of Miranda House; Kalpana Sharma, Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha and Ms Neerja Chowdhry, eminent journalist

Chief Guest: Heena Vijay Kumar Gavit, Chairperson, Women Empowerment Committee Awardee, Dayawati Modi Stree Shakti Samman

(Collaboration: Stree Shakti)

10 **Inaugural session of International Conference on Understanding Africa: Continuity and Change**

Introduction to the conference: H.H.S. Viswanathan, Coordinator of the Conference, Distinguished Fellow, Observer Research Foundation and former Indian High Commissioner to Nigeria

Keynote Address: Olabiyi Babalola Joseph Yai, former President, UNESCO Executive Board

Chair: Shri N.N. Vohra, President, IIC

(Organised by the IIC-International Research Division)

14-15 **Symposium: 'On Failing'**

Speakers included Tiffany Atkinson, poet, Professor of Creative Writing, University of East Anglia; Dhritiman Chatterji, actor; Michel Chaouli, critic, Director, Center for Theoretical Inquiry in the Humanities, Indiana University; Amit Chaudhuri, writer, Professor, University of East Anglia and Ashoka University; Jon Cook, critic and biographer, Professor of Literature, University of East Anglia; Ranajit Das, poet; Lydia Davis, short story writer, novelist, essayist and translator; Sunetra Gupta, novelist and

scientist, Professor of Epidemiology, Oxford University; Anurag Kashyap, filmmaker; Clancy Martin, novelist and philosopher, Professor, University of Missouri and Ashoka University; Pratap Bhanu Mehta, writer, Professor of Political Science, Ashoka University; Suresh Rao, entrepreneur; and Sumana Roy, poet, essayist, novelist, Associate Professor in English and Creative Writing, Ashoka University

The 5th University of East Anglia symposium in the Literary Activism series organised in collaboration with Ashoka University

20 She Speaks Ed8.0 Celebrating International Women's Day 2020

Speakers: Hon'ble Justice (Shri) D. Chandrachud, Supreme Court of India; H.E. Mr. Ugo Astuto, EU Ambassador to India; Shri Sanjay Bhatia, IAS, Chairman, Mumbai Port Trust; Anshu Prakash, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Communications; Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Rajesh Pant, National Cyber Security Coordinator; Ramesh Abhishek, IAS, former Secretary, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Ms Shazia Ilmi, BJP Spokesperson; Ms Rakhee Gupta Bhandari, IAS; Ajay Yadav, IPS; Shri Sunjoy Joshi, Chairperson, Observer Research Foundation; Mary Evans, Head of Department, Dept. of Gender Studies, London School of Economics; Dr. Bijaya Laxmi Nanda, Principal, Miranda House, JURY *She Speaks Writers Nook*; Raghav Chandra, IAS and author of *Kali's Daughter*; Ms Swati Rangachari, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Sterlite Technologies Ltd.; Ms Vinita Bakshi, author and Founder, She Speaks, President, Aambra Foundation; and Sandeep Bhargava, former EVP, Vodaphone and Member, She Speaks Advisory Board

(Collaboration: Aambra Foundation)

29 Shaping National Consciousness: The Works and Words of Khwaja Ahmed Abbas

The Keynote Address was delivered by Shri M. Hamid Ansari, former Vice-President of India

Speakers included scholars and eminent personalities who have worked on the writings and/or the films of Abbas to present papers in Hindi, English and Urdu. The interdisciplinary seminar concentrated on the concerns and thoughts around nation-building that emerge in the works of Abbas

(Collaboration: Khwaja Ahmed Abbas Memorial Trust)

SEPTEMBER 2020

5 & 6 Creative Theory Colloquium on Reclaiming Republican Democracy in the 21st Century

The colloquium was dedicated to the late Prof. A.P.S. Chauhan

Organised in collaboration with Foundation for Creative Social Research (FCSR); and The Raza Foundation, the colloquium was conducted virtually. Welcome Remarks were delivered by Shri K.N. Shrivastava, Director IIC along with Shri Ashok Vajpeyi, Trustee, The Raza Foundation and Shri M.N Thakur, Trustee, FCSR

Speakers at the Colloquium included political theorists as well as academicians and practitioners from other disciplines such as the arts, cinema, theatre etc. to re-examine the issue and definitions of democracy. In light of the significant shifts in the definition and actual practice of republican democracy as we understand it, the colloquium explored the nature of this transition, its future consequences and the counter strategies to reclaim republican democracy across the world

DECEMBER 2020

21 Mid-Year Review of the Indian Economy 2020-2021

Welcome: Shri K.N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC; and Dr. Shekhar Shah, Director-General, NCAER

To be presented by Dr. Sudipto Mundle, Distinguished Fellow, National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER); Dr. Bornali Bhandari, Senior Fellow, National Council of Applied Economic Research; and Dr. Rudrani Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy

Discussant: Ms Aditi Nayar, Principal Economist, ICRA; and Dr. Tirthankar Patnaik, Chief Economist, National Stock Exchange of India

Chair: Dr. Shekhar Shah

The Mid-Year Review 2020 comes at a critical juncture. The Covid-19 pandemic led to an unprecedented contraction of the economy by nearly 24 per cent in Q1 of 2020-21. Though the pandemic is still continuing, progressive unlocking of the economy, supported by stimulus policies has led to a strong recovery during Q2 2020-21. The challenge now is to sustain and accelerate the pace of this recovery over the medium-long term. This will require wide-ranging structural reforms in addition to conventional macro-economic stimulation policies.

(Collaboration: Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust; and National Council of Applied Economic Research)

JANUARY 2021

18-25 On 21st January 2021 from 10 am to 2 pm

National Library Conclave

Welcome Address: Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Special Address: Shri N.N. Vohra, President, IIC

Inaugural Address by the Chief Guest

One Nation–One Subscription

Keynote Address: Prof. K. Vijayaraghavan, Principal Scientific Adviser to Govt. of India

The half-day seminar addressed issues of *Copyright Provisions for Library: Guidelines for Librarians*; and *Under Covid-19 Copyright Challenges in the Digital Era*

Organised in collaboration with Atal Behari Vajpayee School of Management & Entrepreneurship, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and Sanrachana–A Policy Think Tank

APPENDIX II *Talks*

FEBRUARY 2020

3 **HEALTHCARE IN INDIA** **Stroke Awareness**

Speaker: Dr. Chandril Chugh, Senior Consultant and Head Interventional Neurology, Max Saket Hospital, Delhi

10 **FOURTH L.C. JAIN MEMORIAL LECTURE 2020** **Fighting for Freedoms: The Supreme Court in the 21st Century**

Speaker: Justice Shri A.P. Shah

Chair: Prof. Romila Thapar

(Collaboration: ADR; and LC Jain Family)

11 **The Bungalow in 20th Century India: An Imperial Legacy in Colonial and Post-Colonial Times**

Illustrated lecture by Madhavi Desai, architect, researcher, writer and teacher. She is the co-author of *Architecture and Independence: The Search for Identity, India 1880 to 1980* (Oxford University, 1997); author of *The Bungalow in Twentieth Century India: The Cultural Expression of Changing Ways of Life and Aspirations in the Domestic Architecture of Colonial and Post-Colonial Society* (Ashgate, 2012); her recent book is *Women Architects and Modernism in India: Narratives and Contemporary Practices* (Routledge, 2017)

Chair: Prof. Partho Datta

13 **GANDHI MATTERS** **Bhasha ki Talash**

Speaker: Prof. Apoorvanand, Delhi University

(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation)

16 **In Conversation**

With Ms Kalpana Palkhiwala: **Project Babu Geetika**

An audio compilation of 108 songs/poems on Mahatma Gandhi

Babu Geetika–Songs for the Mahatma is a platform for disseminating songs of and for Mahatma Gandhi. A compendium of 108 songs that celebrate Gandhiji. It comprises the

work of 100 luminary poets in 14 Indian languages set to music, spanning 70 years from Gandhiji's life time to the present.

Ms Kalpana Palkhiwala was in conversation about this project with Ms Kalpana Ben Palkhiwala, formerly Deputy Director, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Gandhian who has translated many books, articles and is a Guest Lecturer at Gujarat Vidyapeeth

(Collaboration: Gujarati Club, New Delhi)

17 MAPPING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Reforming Agricultural Markets: Whose Job is it Anyway?

Speaker: Prof. Sukhpal Singh, Professor and Chairperson, Centre for Management in Agriculture, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad

24 SOCIAL CHANGE GOLDEN JUBILEE LECTURE 2020

Home to the Borders: Violence Against Women, Impunity and Resistance

Delivered by Uma Chakravarti, eminent historian, feminist scholar and filmmaker

(Collaboration: Council for Social Development)

27 MUSIC APPRECIATION PROMOTION

Swar-bhed Rahasya: Unveiling the Mysteries of the sapta-swar, 12 notes, 22 shrutis and Vibrational Harmony in Hindustani Raag Music

Presentation by Ashish Dha, Hindustani *raagdaaree* composer-performer, music researcher, sound designer and *naad* yog/musical meditation practitioner based in Dublin and New Delhi

This lecture-demonstration explored how Hindustani *swar* is different from the Western 12-note equal-tempered system; why purists have long deplored the 'corrupting' influences of the harmonium on Indian music; and tried to demystify the legendary '22 *shrutis*' mentioned in ancient texts

28 INDIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

Art and Archeological Significance of Kalinjar Fort

Illustrated Lecture by Dr. Rajendra Yadav, Superintending Archaeologist, Bombay Circle, Archaeological Survey of India

Chair: Shri V.N. Prabhakar, Director, ASI (Exploration and Excavation)

29 *Uncivil City: Ecology, Equity and the Commons in Delhi*

How have two decades of environmental politics shaped nature and society in Delhi? How will the city survive and its commons thrive?

Illustrated lecture by Amita Baviskar based on her new book

Followed by a discussion with Gautam Bhan

Chair: Gautam Bhan, Indian Institute of Human Settlements

Amita Baviskar is a sociologist who works on the cultural politics of environment and development

MARCH 2020

3 **DERAKHT-E-DOOSTI–TREE OF FRIENDSHIP**

Celebrating 70 Years of Indo-Iran Friendship

Mirza Ghalib: The Simorgh of Indo Persian Literature

Speaker: Prof. Syed Akhtar Husain, Professor, Centre of Persian and Central Asian Studies, School of Languages, Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

(Collaboration: Parzor; and Institute of Indo-Persian Studies)

7 **Indian Nationalism and Economic Development**

Speaker: Dr. Amit Bhaduri, well-known economist

Introduction: Suhas Borker, Convener, Working Group on Alternative Strategies

Indian nationalism, never a unified stream, assumed greater coherence through the anti-colonial struggle. Independence required redefining it as a ‘nation-building’ state-led project of economic development through industrialisation which started changing course gradually as the anti-colonial nationalism began losing steam. A distinct break came with economic liberalisation and globalisation. The private corporations became increasingly important in this process. Output growth increased dramatically and then slowed, while employment growth went down equally dramatically. Indian democracy began shifting its centre of gravity. The way out is being sought increasingly in the attempt at redefining nationalism in majoritarian cultural terms. While the control of the corporations over the economy continues to increase and there is rising economic, political and social inequality, popular resistance is also getting greater coherence. The jury is still out, but early signs indicate that cultural majoritarianism itself is undergoing mutation

The talk marked the 28th Anniversary of the Working Group on Alternative Strategies

(Collaboration: Working Group on Alternative Strategies)

APRIL 2020

**20-26 HEALTHCARE IN INDIA
Respiratory Diseases and Air Pollution**

Speaker: Prof. G.C. Khilnani Chairman, PSRI Institute of Pulmonary Critical Care and Sleep Medicine

Chair: Shri K.N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC

Webcast recording of the programme held on 6th December 2019

Economic Transformation and Learning Insights for India

Speaker: Prof. Joseph Stiglitz, economist, University of Columbia

Introduction: Shri Suman Bery

Chair: Arnab Sen

(Collaboration: Indian Statistical Institute)

Webcast recording of the programme held on 4 November 2011

The Art of Shanta Rao

Illustrated lecture by Shri Ashoke Chatterjee, Trustee, National Folklore Support Centre, Chennai, who spoke about the legacy of the pioneering dancer who left an indelible mark in the world of Indian dance

MP Film clips from the archives of Omnibus (USA) and BBC (UK)

Chair: Dr. (Smt.) Kapila Vatsyayan

Webcast video recording of the programme held on 1st September 2011

27 Apr An Evening with the 18th Century Pahari Painter Nainsukh

to 3 May Illustrated lecture by Prof. B.N. Goswamy and Professor Eberhard Fischer Art-anthropologist, former Director and Senior Director, Museum Rietberg Zurich and specialist for African and Indian art

Chief Guest: Dr. Karan Singh, MP, President, ICCR

Introduction: Dr. Jyotindra Jain

Webcast recording of the programme held on 23 November 2011

HEALTHCARE IN INDIA

Meeting the Challenges of Non-communicable Diseases in India: From Prevention to Palliative Care

Speaker: Prof. D. Prabhakaran, Vice-President, Research and Policy, Public Health Foundation of India

Chair: Shri K.N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC

Webcast recording of the programme held on 4 June 2019

Golden Jubilee Lectures Readings and a Conversation

Readings by Vikram Seth followed by a conversation with Chiki Sarkar, Publisher, Penguin India

Introduction: Shri Soli J. Sorabjee

Webcast recording of the programme held on 14 April 2012

MAY 2020

4-10 Historic Landscapes from Habitat to Monument

Speaker: Dr. Narayani Gupta, Professor of History (Retd.), Jamia Millia Islamia

Chair: Shri Mohammad Shaheer, landscape architect

Webcast recording of the programme held on 2nd August 2012

HEALTHCARE IN INDIA

How Can we Stop India's Youth from Killing Themselves?

Speaker: Prof. Vikram Patel, The Pershing Square Professor of Global Health and Wellcome Trust Principal Research Fellow, Professor, Dept. of Global Health and Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Chair: Shri K.N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC

Webcast recording of the programme held on 9 July 2019

Uttarakhand Forests—A View from the Village

Speaker: Smt. Malika Virdhi, former Sarpanch, Munsiyari

Chair: Prof. Pushpesh Pant, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Webcast recording of the programme held on 7 June 2012

11-17 ROSALIND WILSON MEMORIAL LECTURE 2013

The Untamed Language of Dissent

Speaker: Dr. Ashis Nandy

(Organised by the Rosalind Wilson Memorial Trust)

Webcast recording of the programme held on 28 July 2013

HEALTHCARE IN INDIA

Weighty Problem of Liver Fat–Eat and Live for Grandchildren

Speaker: Dr. Shiv Kumar Sarin, senior Professor, Hepatology and Director, Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences

Chair: Shri K.N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC

Podcast recording of the programme held on 18th November 2019

DR. C.D. DESHMUKH MEMORIAL LECTURE

Beyond Federalism

Speaker: Justice (Shri) B.N. Srikrishna, former Judge, Supreme Court

Chair: Shri Soli J. Sorabjee, President IIC

Webcast recording of the programme held on 14th January 2012

GOLDEN JUBILEE LECTURES

Origin of the Universe

Speaker: Prof Paul Davies, Regents' Professor and Director of the Beyond Center for Fundamental Concepts in Science, Co-Director, ASU Cosmology Initiative, and Principal Investigator, Center for the Convergence of Physical Science and Cancer Biology, Arizona State University

Chair: Prof. M.G.K. Menon, Life Trustee, IIC

Cosmologists agree that the universe as we know it began with a big bang about 13.7 billion years ago, but many questions remain. What, if anything, came before the Big Bang? Can a universe appear from nothing? Was the Big Bang also the origin of time and space? Can such an event ever be fully explained scientifically? This lecture tackled such deep and important topics. It also reviewed the history of the universe from the first split second to the present epoch, as well as predicted the ultimate fate of the cosmos

Webcast recording of the programme held on 21st December 2012

25-31 Point Zero?: Geographies of Heritage on the Maritime Spice Routes

Talk followed by a film

Illustrated lecture by Prof. Marina Kaneti, Assistant Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. Her research explores questions of global governance, diplomacy, and migration. She is currently finalising a book manuscript on diplomacy, power, and legitimacy in the age of the Belt and Road

Introduction: Haojun See

Responses to the Chinese Belt Road initiative are often presented as corresponding state-led geopolitical and geocultural reactions. Yet, how are narratives and memories of connectivity activated at the level of local communities? How do local communities (re)construct their sense of identity and connectivity? How do community activities fit into national government agendas for 'Heritage' promotion and cultural revival?

This talk explored such questions in the context of Indonesia's Spice Route and Global Maritime Fulcrum initiatives

Ternate: Point Zero (7.5 min; English)

For centuries, Europeans imagined Ternate as 'Point Zero': the island many died to reach, the place at the heart of a global spice trade. How do people at Point Zero think of their past? At a time when China is intensifying a Silk Road geocultural diplomacy, do local communities still see themselves as the centres of the Maritime Silk and Spice Routes? Do they take advantage of the resurgent interest in the maritime past? How do they think of and understand their pre- and post-European heritage?

With these questions in mind, and as part of an overarching journey to understand maritime roots and identities, Marina Kaneti and graduate students from the National University of Singapore, made their way to Ternate in December 2019. This documentary is a first instalment of a 'Point Zero' series. It takes a look at local community initiatives—beyond the realm of geopolitics and international diplomacy

Webinar recording of the talk for IIC online programmes

MUSIC APPRECIATION PROMOTION

Ustad Bismillah Khan—The Poetry of Shehnai (110 min)

Illustrated lecture by Yatindra Mishra, writer, poet, critic and connoisseur of music

Chair: Smt. Sunanda Sharma

Webcast recording of the programme held on 27th February 2013

GOLDEN JUBILEE LECTURES

Unity and Diversity of India—A Genomic Reconstruction from Ancestral Footfalls (85 min)

Speaker: Dr. Partha P. Majumder, Director, National Institute of Biomedical Genomics

Chair: Prof. Samir K. Brahmachari, Secretary, Dept. of Scientific and Industrial Research, Govt. of India, and Director General, CSIR

Webcast recording of the programme held on 1st December 2012

Yadgar Wa Jashn i Manto A Greater Story Writer than God

Speakers: Shri Shamim Hanafi; Dr. Rakhshanda Jalil; Dr. Alok Sarin; and Ms. Urvashi Butalia

Chair: Prof. Shahid Amin

Followed by

The Dastaan of Manto

Presented by Mahmood Farooqui and Danish Husain

Webcast recording of the programme presented on 11th May 2014

JUNE 2020

1-7 TO MARK WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY ON 5TH JUNE 2020 Post Covid-19: Future of Biodiversity

Speakers: Prof. V.S. Verma, former Member, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and Member Planning, Central Electricity Authority; and Dr. Malti Goel, President, Climate Change Research Institute and former Scientist 'G' and Emeritus Scientist, Ministry of Science and Technology

Corona virus crisis is reshaping our world. World Environment Day, which falls on 5th June, aims to create awareness about Biodiversity, as a theme of the year. This year, the Environment Day campaign marks society's unified and digital response to our environmental crisis. The Climate Change Research Institute in association with IIC presented a discourse on global pandemic Covid-19 on this World Environment Day, on how biodiversity and Covid-19 are linked, the challenges we face and how we can safeguard it post Covid-19

Zoom recording of a talk for IIC online programme

A HINDU KING IN A COSMOPOLITAN WORLD—RAYA

Discussion around the new book *Raya—Krishnadevaraya of Vijayanagara* by Srinivas Reddy (New Delhi: Juggernaut Books, 2020)

Prof. Srinivas Reddy, Visiting Assistant Professor, Brown University Guest Professor, IIT Gandhinagar in conversation with William Dalrymple, well-known author, and historian

Zoom recording of the IIC talk and conversation held on 27th May 2020

A Short History of How Jazz Became an Indian Music (43 min)

Presentation by Shri Naresh Fernandes, author of the book, *The Taj Mahal Foxtrot: The story of Bombay's Jazz Age*

Introduction: Ms Shubha Chaudhuri

From the accounts of most standard jazz histories, it took the genius of American saxophonist, John Coltrane to demonstrate in the 1960s how jazz could enrich itself by seeking inspiration in Hindustani classical music. But the reality is more complex. From the 1940s, a passionate group of Indian jazz musicians had been attempting to find an Indian way to play jazz, both in art music and in popular music. The presentation used audio clips and photographs to trace the journey of jazz from New Orleans to New Delhi, exploring how an American transplant became a vibrant Indian hybrid in the fertile soil of the subcontinent

*Webcast recording of the programme held on 26th November 2014 as part of the exhibition **Jazz in India** on view from 26th to 30th November 2014*

THE INDIAN MODERN AND NEHRU

The Nehruvian Modern Moment: A View of Delhi's Architecture and Design—1947-1985 (105 min)

Speaker: Shri Ram Rahman, photographer

Chair: Shri Romi Khosla

Introduction: Shri Sohail Hashmi

Webcast recording of the programme held on 29th August 2015

8-14 MUSIC APPRECIATION PROMOTION

Pandit Ravi Shankar—Tansen of Our Times (78 min)

On his 94th birth anniversary, musicologist and writer S. Kalidas remembered the extraordinary genius of the late Pandit Ravi Shankar, his life and his music

Webcast recording of the programme held on 3rd April 2013

THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LECTURE SERIES

Universe—Its History and Mysteries (77 min)

Speaker: Prof. T. Padmanabhan, Distinguished Professor and Dean, Core Academic Programmes, IUCAA, Pune

Chair: Prof. Mohammad Sami, Director, Centre for Theoretical Physics, Jamia Millia Islamia

Second in the series of lectures coordinated by Prof. Shobhit Mahajan, University of Delhi on the developments in science and technology together with the excitement of engaging in an intellectual pursuit. Science and Technology are omnipresent in our lives. Modern medicine, electronic and communication technologies, transportation and a host of other benefits have transformed our lives in ways that could not be even imagined a century ago. Technology is of course what we see all around us—but it is actually the underlying science that makes it all possible

Webcast recording of the programme held on 3rd May 2013

THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LECTURES

Humayun's Tomb Conservation A Scientific Approach (90 min)

Illustrated lecture by Shri Ratish Nanda, Project Director, Aga Khan Trust for Culture

Introduction: Prof. Shobhit Mahajan, University of Delhi

Chair: Dr. Janhwij Sharma, Director, Conservation, Archaeological Survey of India

From traditional scientific knowledge in the preparation of lime mortar to state-of-the-art use of laser scanners—Humayun's tomb has benefitted from a host of scientific conservation practices

Webcast recording of the programme held on 15th March 2015

15-21 Raffaello Sanzio: A Painter Called Master (55 min)

Illustrated lecture by Ms. Caterina Brazzi Castracane, historian, author and tour guide

Introduction: Dr. Andrea Baldi, Director, Italian Embassy Cultural Centre

To mark the 500th death anniversary of the great Renaissance painter, Raphael Sanzio, a webinar on the life and works of the great master, as well as a virtual tour of the art works currently on display at a major exhibition at the Scuderie del Quirinale in Rome which brings together numerous artworks from many different museums

Video recording of the webinar held on 11th June 2020

Organised in collaboration with Italian Embassy Cultural Centre and Bell'Italia 88

Buddhist Remains of Vadnagar and Taranga in north Gujarat: The Monasteries of Anandpur visited by Xuanzang

Illustrated lecture by Y.S. Rawat, former Director, Gujarat State Archaeology, Archaeological Survey of India

Archaeological research in recent years in the state of Gujarat has highlighted the importance of the region in Buddhist studies in India. The talk provided insight into these archaeological sites. It also emphasised the presence of Buddhist establishments both within and outside the fortified area of settlement as revealed at the sites of Vadnagar and Taranga, located in proximity of each other

Video recording of the paper presented at the Conference on 'Challenging Stereotypes in Early Buddhism' organised by the Centre from 11th to 13th February 2019

MUSIC APPRECIATION PROMOTION

Jokes and Japes—Humour in Western Classical Music (95 min)

An illustrated lecture by Sunit Tandon, noted theatre and television personality and currently the President, Delhi Music Society

Webcast recording of the programme held on 5th June 2015

Answering Gauguin's Questions with the Large Hadron Collider (100 min)

Speaker: Prof. John Ellis, King's College London and CERN Theory Division, Geneva

Paul Gauguin's famous painting *Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?* deals with some of the most fundamental questions of the Universe. Eminent CERN theoretician Professor John Ellis explained how the Large Hadron Collider might address Gauguin's questions as seen by particle physics and cosmology.

In particle physics Gauguin's questions can be interpreted as: What is the status of particle physics, what may lie just beyond our current understanding of it, and just what is the 'Theory of Everything'? In cosmology: What were the earliest stages of the Universe like, what is it made of today, and what is its future? Physicists at CERN's Large Hadron Collider in Geneva are hoping to provide some of the answers in the near future

Collaboration: University of Edinburgh

Webcast recording of the programme held on 15th February 2013

29 June Colonial Crossings: Rethinking Connectivities across the Bay of Bengal to 5 July Speaker: Dr. Jayati Bhattacharya, Senior Lecturer, National University of Singapore

Introduced by Ms. Claudia Chia Yi En, South Asian Studies Programme, National University of Singapore

This lecture focused on the historical connectivities across the Bay of Bengal in the colonial period, particularly the 19th and 20th centuries, and proposed to highlight the alternative frameworks of mobility and exchanges through the participation of Indian business communities in the intra-Asian economic and diasporic networks that prevailed, but was less visible in the dominant Euro-centric narrative across global transit points, port cities and the China trade routes

Zoom recording of a talk for IIC online programmes

Epidemics and Witch Hunts

Illustrated lecture by Marina Montesano, Professor of Medieval History, University of Messina, Italy

An expert on the history of witchcraft, Prof. Montesano explored the concept of witches and how they came to be persecuted throughout history. In light of the scholarship available on the subject, the lecture investigated the link between epidemics and this social phenomena

Webinar recording of the talk held on 25th June 2020

DR. C.D. DESHMUKH MEMORIAL LECTURE 2017

Through a Different Lens: Should India Adopt a more Civilisation View of the World (49 min)

Speaker: Dr. Shiv Visvanathan, social scientist, currently Professor at O.P. Jindal Global University

Chair: Shri Soli J. Sorabjee, President, IIC

The talk was an attempt to ask a question for contemporary times. The idea of civilisation has been used more to grasp the sacred, the sense of heritage and the idea of tradition. Words like Nationalism, Development and Globalism seem more appropriate for contemporary narratives on statecraft or policy. We dramatise ourselves within the frame-work of the nation-state with its accompanying ideas of citizenship, boundary, security and contract. This lecture suggested that may be a civilisation view of India is more relevant than a nationalist perspective. It considered a few thought experiments like the idea of South Asia, Climate Change and the notion of Sustainability to develop its argument

Webcast recording of the programme held on 14th January 2017

JULY 2020

Webinar on 3rd July

MAPPING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE Perspective of the Private Sector on the Three Ordinances for Agriculture and Food Processing

Speaker: Shri S. Sivakumar, Group Head, Agri & IT Businesses, ITC Limited. He is well-known as the architect of ITC's revolutionary 'e-Choupal' initiative

Moderator: Dr. Siraj Hussain, Visiting Senior Fellow, ICRIER

6-12 THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LECTURES SERIES

Understanding Alan Turing and His Scientific Legacy (90 min)

Speaker: Prof. S.N. Maheshwari, Emeritus Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

Introduction: Prof. Shobit Mahajan, University of Delhi

Chair: Prof. Rajendra Bhatia, Indian Statistical Institute

Webcast recording of the programme held on 6th September 2013

Webinar on 10th July

Coping with the Uncertainty and Stress of the Corona Pandemic

Speaker: Dr. Puja Dewan, Medical Consultant, Gynaecologist and Musician

Moderator: Smt. Rajul Ashok, voice over artist

The talk focused on demystifying Corona; gave stress help tips; mindfulness; and music therapy

MUSIC APPRECIATION PROMOTION Dancing Music (120 min)

By Sudha Raghuraman

With demonstrations by Priya Venkataraman and Justin McCarthy, well-known Bharatanatyam artists

Accompanists: Shri G. Raghuraman on flute and Shri P. Padmanabhan on mridangam

Her lec-dem looked into how music for dance is an art by itself and how musicians accompanying dance form are trained especially for this purpose. Sudha Raghuraman hails from a family of distinguished musicians. She is a much sought after singer of

Delhi and is the recipient of the noted Ustad Bismillah Khan Puraskar by the Sangeet Natak Akademi

Webcast recording of the programme held on 15th May 2014

13-19 Singing Dakhini Poetry (86 min)

Presentation by Vidya Rao, well-known vocalist

Introduction to Dakhini Poetry and the artist by Dr. Preeti Bahadur Ramaswamy, art historian and one of the two curators of the noted exhibition, 'Nauras' held at the National Museum who will also speak about Dakkhani art and culture

Webcast recording of the programme held on 12th August 2015

Webinar held on 15th July

DR. DURGABAI DESHMUKH MEMORIAL LECTURE 2020 Are Today's Crises Catastrophic Enough for Neoclassical Economists and Neoliberal Politicians to Change their Minesets?

Speaker: Dr. Ashok Khosla, eminent environmentalist and Founder, Development Alternatives

Introduction: Prof. Nitya Nanda, Director, Council for Social Development

Remarks: Prof. Muchkund Dubey, President, Council for Social Development

Historically, deep structural change in society has originated either from charisma or from crisis. Since charismatic leaders seem to arise only once in several hundred years, for most transformative change we have to depend on crises. The crises of today are the life-threatening products of grossly flawed intellectual and ethical choices that we have made in our search for 'development' over the past few centuries—particularly during recent decades...Despite the mindsets of those who make decisions at the highest levels, with their interests so deeply vested in the status quo, it is now a matter of civilisational, human and planetary survival that we urgently and fundamentally change, and in many cases turn upside down, the assumptions and practices of both the 'science' and praxis of economics.

(Collaboration: Council for Social Development)

Webinar on 18th July

NELSON MANDELA LECTURE Long Walk with Mandela

Speaker: Shri Gopalkrishna Gandhi, former Indian High Commissioner to South Africa and former Governor of West Bengal

Welcome remarks: Suhas Borker, Convener, Working Group on Alternative Strategies

Closing remarks: H.E. Mr. Joel Sibusiso Ndebele, South African High Commissioner to India

Chair: Shri N.N. Vohra, President, IIC

(Collaboration: Working Group on Alternative Strategies; and South African High Commission)

**20-26 Golden Jubilee Lecture on Governance
The Jurisprudence of the Constitutional Structures (51 min)**

Speaker: Justice S.H. Kapadia, Chief Justice of India

Welcome & Introduction: Shri Soli Sorabjee, President, IIC

Chair: Prof. M.G.K. Menon, Life Trustee, IIC

Webcast recording of the programme held on 25th August 2012

Cooking for a Turkic Brother: The Story of Amina Sati and Ghazi Miyan (73 min)

Speaker: Professor Shahid Amin, former Professor of History, University of Delhi

Chair: Professor Bijoy H. Boruah, Professor of Philosophy in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences of IIT Delhi

The talk is based on Prof. Amin's book *Conquest and Community: The Afterlife of Warrior Saint Ghazi Miyan*

(Collaboration: Orient Blackswan)

Webcast recording of the programme held on 11th January 2016

Webinar on 24th July

**MUSIC APPRECIATION PROMOTION
A Half-Century of Woodstock Festival**

Illustrated lecture by Paranjoy Guha-Thakurta, journalist, author, educationist, documentary filmmaker and publisher

Moderator: Prithviswar Sen, amateur guitarist

What made a music festival held in a farm in upstate New York on 15th August 1969 unique in the world? And why does it still resonate among many fifty years later? The answer lies in the manner in which it fused and mixed music and politics

27 July INDIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

to 2 Aug When the Gods Begin to Dance in Angkor—Architecture for the Dancing God: Hall with Dancers in the Jayavarman VII Temples (65 min)

Speaker: Dr. Swati Chemburkar

Chair: Shri B.M. Pande

The spiritual power of dance in Cambodia has been valued since pre-Angkorian times, and plentiful images of dance and music in the bas-reliefs of the great monuments of Angkor suggest that this tradition was markedly enhanced in the reign of Jayavarman VII, as a contemporary Chinese report attests. Focusing on the ‘halls with dancers’, a distinct architectural feature of Jayavarman VII’s temples, the lecture explored the link between the architecture, associated inscriptions, dance and music rituals evolving in Angkor and contemporary Chola temples that housed several mandapas. The lecture argued that the architecture of the halls with dancers worked in tandem with ritual practices to provide a symbolic and possibly actual space for encountering the divine

Webcast recording of the programme held on 20th April 2017

MUSIC APPRECIATION PROMOTION

Sufi Raah: The Classical Tradition of Tappa (96 min)

Famous for her renditions of the classical tradition of *tappas*, Shanno Khurana explained why this most arduous of Hindustani musical forms attracted her, what is the nature of their variety of rendition and analysed their poetic lyrics to reveal the unique cultural synthesis that lies behind them.

Dr. Shanno Khurana, musician and musicologist, Padmabhushan and Fellow of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, has commanded the Indian performing stage for seventy years ever since her first broadcast from Lahore Radio station in 1945.

Dr. Shanno Khurana in conversation with her grandson, Prof. Naman Ahuja

Webcast recording of the programme held on 23rd September 2016

**The Construction of the Hindu Identity in Medieval Western Bengal:
The Role of Popular Cults (85 min)**

Speaker: Shri Jawhar Sircar, CEO, Prasar Bharati

Chair: Prof. Dipankar Gupta

Lecture based on a study of the Dharma cult, one of the major schools of the genre of Mangal Kavyas, and its absorption in the ‘greater tradition’ of Hinduism in medieval western Bengal—from the longer historical perspective. Though it began from an

anthropological field study of Jamalpur in Bardhaman district of West Bengal in the 1990s and later covered 271 other sites of the cult—the speaker has expanded his theme to cover the complex terrain of a longer period of social history

Webcast recording of the programme held on 29th March 2016

AUGUST 2020

3-9 **Linguistic Diversity in South and Southeast Asia (67 min)**

Keynote Address: Dr. Ganesh Devy, Chairman, People's Linguistic Survey of India

Introduction: Prof. Anvita Abbi, Seminar Coordinator; Honorary Director, Centre for Oral and Tribal Literature, Sahitya Akademi

Guest of Honour: Dr. D.P. Pattanayak, eminent linguist

Chair: Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan, Chairperson, IIC-International Research Division

Organised by IIC-International Research Division

Webcast recording of the programme held on 21st November 2016

Evolution The Most Important Theory in Biology (99 min)

Speaker: Prof. D.J. Futuyma, Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Environment, State University of New York and Member of the National Academy of Sciences of USA who has written a number of scholarly books

Chair: Prof. R. Geeta, Botany Department, University of Delhi

Despite the simplicity of its central concepts, evolution has a long history of misunderstandings and despite its lack of moral or prescriptive content, evolution has been used to justify social policies that range from the admirable to the appalling. Of all the biological disciplines, evolutionary biology has the most far-reaching philosophical implications and the most diverse applications to society. Prof. Futuyma outlined some of the major principles.

Webcast recording of the programme held on 15th April 2013

10-16 **Webinar on 14th August**

Exploring Notions of Bhakti in the Making of Ram in a Hindu-Muslim Ramlila Tradition

Illustrated lecture by Dr. Molly Kaushal, Professor of Performance Studies and Head, Janapada Sampada Division, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

Introduction: Prakash Tripathi

Discussant and Chair: Shri Shrivatsa Goswami

Shamshad Ali has been playing Ram for almost eight years now in the Ramlila of Kheriya, a small village in Uttar Pradesh. What does it mean to play the role of Ram for him, a 'devout Muslim' as he describes himself. The presentation was based on interviews with Shamshad about his life's journey and the process he went through that made him 'identify with his role completely'

17-24 Himalayan Biodiversity

Illustrated lecture by Dr. Ajay Singh Rawat, former Professor of History, Kumaon University, and author of *Forestry in Central Himalayas* and *Forest History of Mountainous Regions of the World*. This was followed by a dialogue with Shri Vijay Bhushan, Member of the State Wildlife Board of Himachal Pradesh, and Executive Director, Narain Dharamarth Aushdhalaya Trust, highlighting Dr. Rawat's work as an environmental activist.

Webcast recording of the IIC programme held on 2nd May 2012

ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE

Ages of Rome—A Walk Through History (45 min)

An illustrated lecture presented by Caterina Brazzi Castracane, historian, author and tour guide

An initiative of the Italian Embassy Cultural Centre, New Delhi and Bell'Italia 88, the talk presented a virtual tour of the city of Rome

MAJOR SCHOOLS OF INDIAN PHILOSOPHY: AN INTRODUCTION IN SIX MONTHLY LECTURES

Vedanta Today (45 min)

Speaker: Dr. Karan Singh, M.P.

Chair: Shri Rajiv Mehrotra, Trustee, Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama

An overview of the six orthodox schools, with special reference to the Vedas

Organised in collaboration with the Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Webcast recording of the programme held on 30th January 2013

Live webcast on 21th August

5th IIC/Open Health Systems Colloquium

Applications of AI in Cancer Research—Preparations, Progress and Predictions

By Eric Stahlberg, Ph.D., Director, Biomedical Informatics and Data Science, Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research (FNLCR)

Chair: Prof. Phil Bourne, Stephenson Chair of Data Science and Director of the School of Data Science and Professor, University of Virginia

Eric Stahlberg has played a leadership role in many key partnerships, including a major collaboration between the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the Department of Energy (DOE), USA. Under the Joint Design of Advanced Computing Systems for Cancer (JDACS4C), NCI and DOE are accelerating progress in precision oncology and computing. The collaboration is rooted in three major national initiatives; the Precision Medicine Initiative, the National Strategic Computing Initiative, and the Cancer Moonshot

(Collaboration: Open Health Systems Laboratory)

24-30 **ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE**

Brescia—A Roman City in Northern Italy

An illustrated lecture by Dr. Francesca Morandini, archaeologist and Director, Santa Giulia Museum in Brescia

Dr. Morandini took viewers on a virtual tour of the Roman city of Brescia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Founded over 3,200 years ago, Brescia (in antiquity Brixia) has been an important regional centre since pre-Roman times. Its old town contains the best-preserved Roman public buildings in northern Italy and numerous monuments. One of the cities in Italy most severely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, the talk was also a tribute to the city and its inhabitants

An initiative of the Italian Embassy Cultural Centre, New Delhi and Bell'Italia 88

Mental Health: Perceiving Challenge as Opportunity

Speaker: Dr. Meetu Khosla, Associate Professor, Psychology Department, Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi

Moderator: Prof. Chandra Mohan, Chair, ICLA Standing Research Committee for South Asian Literature, Culture and Environment

Video recording of a talk on Webinar for IIC online programmes

THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LECTURES

What is Mathematics? (80 min)

Speaker: Shri Balkrishna Shetty, IFS (Retd.), former Indian Ambassador and currently Guest Faculty at IIT, Delhi who is teaching Number Theory and is the author of *What is Mathematics* (National Book Trust India, 2013)

Introduction: Prof. Shobhit Mahajan

Chair: Prof. Parvin Sinclair, Director, NCERT

Webcast recording of the IIC programme held on 7th March 2014

26 Webinar on 26th August

MAPPING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

No Women, No Agriculture

Speaker: Ms Kavitha Kuruganti, Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture (ASHA)

Moderator: Shri Siraj Hussain, Visiting Senior Fellow, ICRIER

Kavitha Kuruganti has around twenty seven years of experience working on development issues, mainly on farm livelihoods, food security and seed sovereignty, democratisation of science and technology, and the promotion of ecological farming. She is a Development Communicator by qualification, with a Master's degree in Communication from the Central University of Hyderabad

31 Aug Past Remains Hazrat-i-Dehli, 1857-1947-1957 (84 min)

to 6 Sept Speaker: Prof. Shahid Amin, A.M. Khwaja Chair in Social Sciences, Jamia Millia Islamia

Chair: Prof. Sunil Kumar

(Collaboration: Department of History, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi)

Webcast recording of the IIC programme held on 11th May 2017

ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE

National Gallery of Modern Art, Rome (40 min)

A virtual tour of the National Gallery of Modern Art, Rome conducted by Angelina Jimbo

The museum, located on the edge of the magnificent park of Villa Borghese, houses the largest collection of modern and contemporary art in Italy.

An initiative of the Italian Embassy Cultural Centre, New Delhi and Bell'Italia 88

Webinar on 2nd September

Metalware of Tamil Nadu

Illustrated lecture by Pradeep Chakravarthy, author of several books on Tamil Nadu's heritage and art who regularly presents heritage tours of Tamil Nadu; and curator of the Sarasvati Mahal Library exhibition presented as part of the IIC Experience 2015

Chair: Ms Ritu Sethi, Chairperson, Craft Revival Trust

From 2000 years ago till date, metal touches our lives in many different ways. The talk delineated the history of metal ware in Tamil Nadu and presented an array of different metal objects—from the humble objects of daily use to grand objects in palaces, many of which have not been seen for several generations

SEPTEMBER 2020

7-13 The Idea of Asia (73 min)

Speaker: Prof. Sugata Bose, Gardiner Professor of Oceanic History and Affairs at Harvard University

Introduction: Prof. Dev Pathak, South Asian University

Welcome: Dr. Kavita A. Sharma, President, South Asian University

Chair: Prof. Sanjay Chaturvedi

Organised in collaboration with The South Asian University and Society and Culture in South Asia, The Journal of the Department of Sociology, SAU co-published with Sage India

Webcast recording of the IIC programme held on 29th August 2016

14-20 Scheherazade Reborn: Telling Tales of Survival on Story Telling

With Dr. Coomi S. Vevaina, formerly Professor and Head, Dept. of Education, University of Mumbai and Founder Director, Centre for Connection Education and Management

In the presentation, Dr. Vevaina focused on questions such as 'Why do stories have such a great impact on us? How can we promote mental and emotional health with stories?' etc.

Video recording of the programme organised in collaboration with Parzor Foundation; and JiyoParsi

DURGABAI DESHMUKH MEMORIAL LECTURE 2017

The Moral Economy of the Elite and Why they Can't Confront the Inequality that is Our Greatest Crisis (110 min)

Speaker: P. Sainath

(Collaboration: Council for Social Development)

Webcast recording of the IIC programme held on 15th July 2017

MUSIC APPRECIATION PROMOTION

Hindustani and Carnatic Music: A Comparative Demonstration (97 min)

Lecture-demonstration by Dr. M. Narmadha, who has mastered both Carnatic and Hindustani traditions

Chair: Shri Ramaswamy R. Iyer

Demonstrating how ragas are used in *bandishes* and *kirtanas*, the speaker brought out what distinguishes the two systems. She also showed how the strength of *riyaz* and fidelity to tradition is intrinsic to both, and how at a certain level they unite seamlessly

Webcast recording of the IIC programme held on 17th August 2012

21-27 ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE

The Most Magnificent Palace in the East: The Lal Qila (48 min)

A walking dialogue through space and time with Anisha Shekhar Mukherji, conservation architect and author

Webinar on 23rd September

MAPPING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

WTO Negotiations and Indian Agriculture: Issues and Sensitivities

Speaker: Prof. Sachin Kumar Sharma, Associate Professor, Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT, New Delhi

Moderator: Shri Siraj Hussain, Visiting Senior Fellow, ICRIER

Webinar on 26th September

Jain Architecture in Eastern India

Illustrated lecture by Dr. Lata Bothra, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) from Bharatiya

Siksha Parishad, Lucknow, and D.Litt from the Indian Institute of Oriental Heritage, Kolkata. Her special interests have been in the ancient archaeological specimens, cultural and philosophical aspects of Jainism

Special Guest: Prof. Neeru Misra

Lectures on Jain Art organised in collaboration with Bhogilal Leherchand Institute of Indology

28 Sept The Man Behind the Mask: Dadi D. Pudumjee and His Magical World

to 4 Oct Dadi D. Pudumjee, Founder, Ishara Puppet Theatre Trust in conversation with Sanjoy Roy, Managing Director, Teamwork Arts

Video recording of the conversation organised in collaboration with Parzor Foundation and Jiyo Parsi

ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE

Palermo: A Virtual Tour (37 min)

A virtual tour of the ancient city of Palermo conducted by Angelina Jimbo

Palermo, capital of Sicily has been at the crossroads of civilisations for millennia. A city at the edge of Europe and at the centre of the ancient world, it presents a heady, heavily spiced mix of Byzantine mosaics, Arabesque domes, baroque churches, frescoed cupolas where date palms frame Gothic palaces

An initiative of the Italian Embassy Cultural Centre, New Delhi and Bell'Italia 88

THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LECTURES

Networks: An Integrative Theme in the Natural and Social Sciences (80 min)

Speaker: Prof. Sanjay Jain, Professor of Physics, University of Delhi

Chair: Prof. Ajoy Ghatak, former Professor of Physics, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

Networks underlie some of the most fascinating phenomena around us: life, society, and thought. The study of these networks is part of a new movement in science that respects the essential indivisibility of the complex systems that exhibit these phenomena and attempts to understand them as wholes and not just as the sum of their parts. The talk gave some examples of this—networks of molecules in living organisms; of species in ecosystems; social and economic networks in societies; neural networks in brains; and also describes

how their study is breaking down barriers between disciplines. An example of how such an approach helps illuminate the origin of life was discussed.

Webcast recording of the IIC programme held on 1st October 2014

OCTOBER 2020

5-11 ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE

The Qutab Minar Complex—Evolution of Indian Architecture (38 min)

Illustrated lecture by Dr. Swapna Liddle, historian, Convener, Delhi Chapter of INTACH. She is the author of *Delhi: 14 Historic Walks* and *Chandni Chowk: The Mughal City of Old Delhi*.

Video recording of a talk for IIC online programmes

FRONTIERS OF HISTORY

Amala Shankar: My Dance Teacher (34 min)

Illustrated lecture by Dr. Urmimala Sarkar, specialist in Dance Studies, who joined the Uday Shankar India Culture Centre and trained under the great danseuse Smt Amala Shankar and was later associated with the Centre as dancer and administrator. Dr. Sarkar is presently Associate Professor, Theatre and Performance Studies, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Introduction: Prof. Partho Dutta

A tribute to Smt. Amala Shankar (1919-2020), noted dancer, choreographer, and wife of Uday Shankar. The lecture explored uncharted territory regarding Amala Shankar's pedagogical contribution to dance teaching and innovation in Indian modern dance

Video recording of a talk for IIC online programmes

ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE

The Royal Palace and the Palantine Chapel, Palermo (34 min)

A virtual tour of the royal chapel in Palermo conducted by Angelina Jimbo

The Palantine Chapel is the royal chapel of the Norman palace in Palermo, Sicily. The building is a mix of Byzantine, Norman and Fatimid architectural styles, representing the tricultural heritage of Sicily especially during the 12th century

An initiative of the Italian Embassy Cultural Centre, New Delhi and Bell'Italia 88

Webinar on 6th October

The 'Other' Shangri-la

Journeys through the Sino-Tibetan frontier in Sichuan

Illustrated lecture by Shivaji Das, Singapore based author of the recently published book (Konarak Publishers: India/USA, 2020), travel writer, photographer and Managing Director-APAC for Frost and Sullivan, a research and consulting company

Chair: Shri Ravi Bhoothalingam

The 'Other' Shangri-la, gives a vivid account of Shivaji Das' travels through the Sino-Tibetan frontier of Sichuan province, along with his Chinese wife Lobo. Written in an easy, humourous way, the travelogue takes the reader through some of the region's very beautiful but tough mountain terrain

Webinar on 7th October

V.P. DUTT MEMORIAL LECTURE 2020

India as a Teacher by Negative Example: Chinese Perceptions of India during the British Colonial Period and their Impact on India-China Relations

Speaker: Shri Shyam Saran, Life Trustee IIC, Governing Council, ICS and former Foreign Secretary

Introduction: Shri K.N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC

Moderator: Amb. Ashok Kantha, Director, Institute of Chinese Studies

The history of ancient civilisational links between India and China, including the spread of Buddhist religion and philosophy from India to China, are often cited as the enduring basis for India-China friendship. However, contemporary India-China relations have been much more influenced by Chinese encounters with British imperialism, with Indians playing the role of subordinate instruments of British depredations in China, including the dumping of opium on China. India was held up by Chinese intellectuals as a teacher by negative example, its easy subjugation by the British being the result of its stagnant and stratified society, its fragmented and disunited polity and a slavish temperament among the people. China would need to avoid these dangers if it were to regain its full independence and modernisation. These perceptions persist and influence Chinese policy towards India in contemporary times and need careful analysis

(Collaboration: Institute of Chinese Studies)

On 8th October

Galilee Israel amid Covid-19 and India

Speaker: Dr. Joseph Shevel, President, Galilee International Israel

Introduction: Shri Tirthankar Goyal, CEO Galilee Israel

Moderator: Shri K.N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC

Dr. Joseph Sheval focused on the Israeli experience of coping with crisis in general; with the present crisis in particular; and the lessons for India. He spoke about Galilee Institute's work and experience, including the recently concluded special online intensive course, conducted jointly with the World Health Organisation which focused on hospital management in times of a pandemic crisis. Dr. Shevel also spoke about Galilee Institute's experience in agricultural training and education

(Collaboration: Galilee International Israel)

12-18 B.G. VERGHESE MEMORIAL LECTURE 2020

Preserving and Protecting Fundamental Rights—Freedom of Speech, Expression and Right to Protest

Speaker: Justice (Shri) Madan B. Lokur, former Justice of the Supreme Court

The lecture was preceded by the presentation of the 2019 Chameli Devi Jain Awards for an Outstanding Woman Journalist

Video recording for IIC online programmes organised in collaboration with The Media Foundation

The Many Lives of Homai Vyarawalla (84 min)

Dr. Shernaz Cama in conversation with Ms Sabeena Gadihoke, filmmaker and biographer of Homai Vyarawalla

Homai Vyarawalla, India's first woman press photographer, is best known for her compelling photographs of political events leading up to Partition as well as the exhilaration of post-independent India

Organised in collaboration with Parzor Foundation and Jiyo Parsi

Webinar on 14th October

MUSIC APPRECIATION PROMOTION

Traditional and Contemporary Music from West and North Africa

By Gautam Mukhopadhaya

Moderator: Partho Dutta, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University

The programme covered music from West and North Africa spanning traditional music and instruments as well as contemporary rock and jazz

Gautam Mukhopadhyaya retired from the Indian Foreign Service after serving as Ambassador of India to Syria, Afghanistan and Myanmar. Music and travel are two of his hobbies. He last presented a MAP on 'Traditional and Contemporary Music from Syria to Korea'

19-25 ROSALIND WILSON MEMORIAL LECTURE 2014

Quantify to Qualify: The Limitations of Threshold Markers on Social Policy (45 min)

Speaker: Prof. Dipankar Gupta, well-known sociologist

Chair: Shri Soli J. Sorabjee

Organised in collaboration with the Rosalind Wilson Memorial Trust

Webcast recording of the IIC programme held on 28th July 2014

MUSIC APPRECIATION PROMOTION

In the Light of the Classical (84 min)

Presentation by Shri Ashok Vajpeyi, a Hindi poet-critic who has written critically about classical music in Hindi and English besides establishing institutions of music and organising major events

Shri Vajpeyi spoke on the influence that classical music has had on him for nearly half a century as a poet, as a rasika, as an organiser, etc. He discussed aspects of his closeness with maestros such as Kumar Gandharva, Mallikarjun Mansur, Zia Moiuddin Dagar in particular. The changing ethos, the dynamics of innovation, the declining knowledge about classical music was also analysed

Webcast recording of the IIC programme held on 12th February 2016

Webinar on 21st October

Africa's Economic Response to COVID-19

Speaker: Shri V. Srinivas, Additional Secretary, Govt. of India and Director General, National Center for Good Governance

Chair: H.E. Ms. Jainaba Jagne, High Commissioner of the Republic of Gambia

The COVID-19 pandemic is taking place in a context where African countries are battling rising debt, huge health infrastructure gaps and high unemployment which has limited the scale and effectiveness of government's policy response. Government debt as a share of GDP has risen sharply in the past 5 years. Africa has witnessed a commodity price shock amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic is a call to African governments to close health infrastructure gaps, implement targeted social security programmes, and adopt economic diversification to overcome commodity price shocks.

Webinar on 23rd October

MAPPING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Media mein haashiye par krishi aur kisaan (Indian Media: Farmers on the Margins)

Speaker: Shri Harvir Singh, senior journalist and former Editor, *Outlook Hindi*

Chair: Shri Siraj Hussain, Visiting Senior Fellow, ICRIER

The three farm legislations have resulted in enormous interest in agriculture and for a change, have been widely covered by media across the board—whether in print, broadcast or online.

The lecture was presented in Hindi

26 Oct India International Centre—and the Attributes of an Indian Modernism to 1 Nov (24 min)

Illustrated lecture by Snehanshu Mukherjee, practising architect and academic and partner in TEAM. He continues to pursue his academic interests and is currently, Adjunct Professor at Indian Institute of Art and Design

The talk was a personal exploration of the architecture of India International Centre as a reference to what constitutes an appropriate modernism in Indian architecture

Video recording of a lecture for IIC online programmes

ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE

Florence: A Virtual Tour (48 min)

A virtual tour of the ancient city of Florence (The Flourishing City) conducted by Caterina Brazzi Castracane, historian, author and tour guide

Florence, known as the birthplace of the Renaissance movement, started out as a Roman colony. It remained the secondary centre for many centuries until it started flourishing in

the Middle Ages when it gained autonomy as a city-state, and then really blossomed in all its glory under the aegis of the Medici family. It was the home of some of the greatest Italian artists, and of the Italian language, thanks to Dante Alighieri. The tour travelled through the city's history ending with the 17th century

An initiative of the Italian Embassy Cultural Centre, New Delhi and Bell'Italia 88

Webinar on 26th October

SPECIAL WEBINAR

India's Heritage of Karuna and Ahimsa

Speaker: H.H. the Dalai Lama

Welcome Address: Shri N.N. Vohra, President, IIC

Moderator: Shri Rajiv Mehrotra

(Collaboration: Foundation for Universal Responsibility of H.H. the Dalai Lama)

NOVEMBER 2020

2-8 The Parsi Ghazal Queen

Penaz Masani, well-known classical ghazal singer in conversation with Sameena Ali, stage and television anchor and scriptwriter

In a free-wheeling conversation interspersed with archival photographs and video recordings, Penaz re-traced her unusual journey as a Parsi in the world of ghazals. Beginning with her training in classical Hindustani music to her introduction to ghazals under the tutelage of the then Queen of Ghazals, Madhurani; her work in the film industry; and as a performing artist

Organised in collaboration with Parzor Foundation and Jiyo Parsi

Webinar on 4th November

In the Times of Covid—What We Do, What We Don't, and What We Should?

Illustrated lecture by Prof. Naresh Gupta, MD, Medical Consultant, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi and Advisor for Haemophilia, Govt. of NCT Delhi

Chair: Dr. Amita V. Joseph, Director, Business and Community Foundation India

The talk focused on the relevance of safeguards and preventive measures in the prevailing times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting with some of the salient features in the virus

infection, its transmissibility, and the masquerading nature of Covid. The uncertainties and constant accumulation of information creating anxiety and stress in the mind and the action of common citizens. The knowledge-based interventions to be practised and needed to make precautions more effective for safe and harmonious living in the current times

(Collaboration: Health Environment Foundation)

9-15 A Journey through Shehr-i-Kashmir, the historic city of Srinagar
(47 min)

Illustrated lecture by Shri M. Saleem Beg, Convenor, INTACH, Jammu and Kashmir

Saleem Beg presented a comprehensive lecture, illustrated with maps and photographs on the history and architecture of Srinagar. With 500 years of living tradition, Srinagar is a riverine city with the Jhelum and other waterways and canals bisecting it. The talk traced the historicity of the city through its architecture

Video recording of a talk for IIC online programmes

From Chocolates to Ceramics: Tracking Adil Writer

Adil Writer, ceramic artist, painter and architect in conversation with Shernaz Cama

Organised in collaboration with Parzor Foundation and Jiyo Parsi

23-29 Webinar on 25th November

MAPPING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The Agriculture-Nutrition Disconnect in India: A Look through Policies and Programmes

Speaker: Dr. Devesh Roy, Senior Research Fellow, GIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health, International Food Policy Research Institute

Moderator: Shri Siraj Hussain, Visiting Senior Fellow, ICRIER

Dr. Devesh Roy's recent paper on *A Comparison of Indian Diet with Eat-Lancet Reference Diet* has revealed that the average daily calorie consumption in India is below the recommended 2503 kcal/capita/day across all groups compared, except for the richest 5 per cent of the population. Indian diets, across states and income groups, are unhealthy. Indians consume excess amounts of cereals and not enough proteins, fruits, and vegetables.

DECEMBER 2020**7-13 ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE****Myths of Venice: Rediscovery of the Italian city of Venice (50 min)**

A virtual tour of the city conducted by Caterina Brazzi Castracane, historian, author and tour guide

The floating city of Venice, one of the most extraordinary cities in the world was constructed on a swampy area, made up of over a hundred small islands and marshlands in between. A miracle of creative genius, a city built on mud, sand and the slime of a difficult, inhospitable landscape; and yet few cities can claim such a priceless heritage of art and history as Venice. The tour will travel through the city's history and focus on some of the unique construction methods adopted there.

An initiative of the Italian Embassy Cultural Centre, New Delhi and Bell'Italia 88

21-27 V.P. Menon: The Unsung Architect of Modern India

Illustrated lecture by Narayani Basu, historian and foreign policy analyst and author of the recently published book of the same title

V.P. Menon was unarguably the architect of the modern Indian state and yet startlingly little is known about this bureaucrat, patriot and visionary. Narayani Basu, speaks about V.P., his story, life and her own personal journey chronicling his life as his great-granddaughter. Illustrated with rare archival photographs from family albums, the talk explores not just the man behind the public figure, but also the author's discovery of her great-grandfather as one of India's top civil servants at a crucial historical crossroads.

Video recording of a talk for IIC online programmes

Webinar on 23rd December**MAPPING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE****Outlook on Food Security in India—The Future Scenarios to 2033**

Speaker: Prof. Parmod Kumar, Professor, Agricultural Development and Rural Transformation Centre (ADRTC), Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru

Moderator: Shri Siraj Hussain, Visiting Senior Fellow, ICRIER

The talk covered food security—past history, present and future scenarios as well as the reforms required to strengthen agriculture in India

28 Dec ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE

to 3 Jan Jantar Mantar, Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh's Observatory in Delhi
(40 min)

An illustrated lecture by Anisha Shekhar Mukherji, conservation architect and author, the talk featured some of the most photogenic—and probably the least understood—pieces of architecture that comprise the heritage of our world. It presented the reasons behind the creation and location of these enigmatic built structures, and put into context their cultural and scientific value.

Drawing on research and field studies undertaken since 1999 as part of the Jantar Mantar Redevelopment Project, the talk also discussed what should be the appropriate conservation philosophy for the Jantar Mantars, specifically for the Delhi Jantar Mantar

Video recording of the talk for IIC online programmes

JANUARY 2021

4-11 Designing for Heritage

Illustrated lecture by Siddhartha Das, curator, designer and visual artist

Siddhartha Das drew upon his experience as a cultural consultant. His practice spans over two decades and his body of work includes curating and designing museums and exhibitions at the Museum Rietberg, Zurich; the Jodhpur Museum; the Crafts Museum and adapting the heritage building of Jal Mahal. He works closely with artisans and craftspeople

Video recording of a lecture for IIC online programmes

ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE

Venice, The City that Should not Exist (40 min)

Illustrated lecture by Ms Caterina Brazzi Castracane, historian, author and tour guide

The floating city of Venice, one of the most extraordinary cities in the world was built on 118 islands in the middle of the Venetian Lagoon at the head of the Adriatic Sea in Northern Italy. For travellers who have visited Venice, it seems impossible for such a grand city to be floating in a lagoon of water, reeds and marshland. So how was Venice built? The illustrated lecture uncovered the fascinating story of how the city has been built

Organised in collaboration with Italian Embassy Cultural Centre and Bell'Italia 88

Webinar on 5th January 2021

When Lakshman undergoes a fire ordeal: The Aesthetic World of Gond Ramayani

Illustrated lecture by Dr. Molly Kaushal, Professor of Performance Studies and Head, Janapada Sampada Division, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

The Gond Ramayani begins where the plot of the canonical text ends. It is composed of seven tales with Lakshman as its hero. However, the present talk rather than locating the Gond Ramayani within the larger Ramayana traditions, explored its origins and semantics within the narrative repertoire of the Gonds and in the background of their socio-cultural practices, religious pantheon, metaphysics and rituals of death

Chairperson: Prof. Aditya Malik, Vice-Chancellor, K.R. Mangalam University

18-24 Gandhiji's views on Arts, Aesthetics and Culture

Speaker: Dr. Varsha Das, former Director, National Book Trust and National Gandhi Museum and art critic

The talk explored Gandhiji's views on art and culture, his views on beauty and aesthetics and the role of art in life

Video recording of the lecture for IIC online programme activities

Webinar on 23rd January

MAPPING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Livestock, Food Security and The Farm Laws

Speaker: Dr. Sagari R. Ramdas, veterinary scientist and member Food Sovereignty Alliance, India who is learning to be an agro-ecological food farmer. A popular educator at The Kudali Intergenerational Learning Centre, Telangana in the areas of women and food sovereignty; Adivasi, indigenous resilience and Buen Vivir and agro-ecological livestock production in the context of Food Sovereignty and Climate Change. She has published widely on gender, ecological governance and social movements.

Moderator: Shri Siraj Hussain, Visiting Senior Fellow, ICRIER

Livestock are a critical component of farming livelihoods and contribute vitally to India's food and nutritional security. The three farm laws recently enacted in India, are set to impact the markets of animals and animal derived food products, and have consequences for every food consumer in India, particularly the vast majority of nutritionally compromised citizens. The lecture presented the connections through the lens of milk, meat and eggs

25-31 Translating Gandhi in the 21st Century: The Journey of a Textile Artist

Illustrated lecture presented by Shelly Jyoti, visual artist, designer and independent curator

The lecture was an attempt to share the creative journey of a textile artist whose art practice has been informed, inspired and influenced by Gandhiji's writing and philosophy.

Video recording of a lecture for IIC online programme activities

Webinar on 29 January

Gandhi Katha

On the spiritual leadership and the wellness practice of Mahatma Gandhi

Introduction: Dr. A.K. Merchant, former Chairman, Sarvodaya International, Delhi Chapter

Presented by Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishnan, acclaimed international speaker on the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi and founder of the SCOPE Gandhian Forum for Ethical Corporate Governance in India

The narration was accompanied by Gandhi Katha hymns and songs by Swati Bhagat and Deepak Kalra

The theme of the katha is *Anasakti* yoga, a philosophy and way of life advocated by Mahatma Gandhi. It also presented an insight into Gandhiji's own practices of wellness of body, mind and spirit

Organised in collaboration with Sarvodaya International, New Delhi to mark Mahatma Gandhi's martyrdom

APPENDIX III *Discussion*

FEBRUARY 2020

7 RIVER DIALOGUES

The River and I

Sumana Roy, writer and poet; and Parineeta Dandekar, writer and Associate Coordinator, South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRIP) in conversation with Kishalay Bhattacharjee, author and journalist

(Collaboration: New Imaginations, Jindal School of Journalism and Communication, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat)

4TH IIC/OPEN HEALTH SYSTEMS COLLOQUIUM

7 **Biomedical Data Sciences—New Name with New Opportunities for Change?**

Lead presentation by Prof. Philip E. Bourne, Stephenson Dean of the School of Data Science, Professor of Data Science and Professor of Biomedical Engineering, University of Virginia, USA

Discussants: Dr. Vijay Bhatkar, Architect of India's initiative in supercomputing and Chancellor, Nalanda University, Bihar; Dr. B. Jayaram, Professor Emeritus, Supercomputing Facility for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi; Dr. Anand Deshpande, Founder, Chairman and Managing Director, Persistent Systems; and Dr. Jefferey Buchsbaum, Radiation Oncologist and Programme Director, Radiation Research Programme, National Cancer Institute, NIH, Bethesda

Chair: Dr. Renu Swarup, Secretary, Dept. of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology

Biomedicine, always at the forefront of open data aggregation and reuse, is now being influenced by other fields where the application of data science is rapidly expanding. What are other fields telling us and what do we, scientists, funders and governments need to do differently to instill a cultural change, which is never easy?

10 **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

Wasted: The Messy Story of Sanitation in India, a Manifesto for Change

By Ankur Bisen (Macmillan, 2020)

Discussants: Prof. Awadhendra Sharan, Professor, Centre for the Study of Developing

Societies; Shri Niti Aggarwal, CEO and Co-Founder, Attero; and Shri Anurag Yadav, Secretary, Urban Development and State Mission Director Swacch Bharat Mission (Urban), Govt. of Uttar Pradesh

Chair: Dr. Rajat Kathuria, Director and Chief Executive, ICRIER

18 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

A Chequered Brilliance: The Many Lives of V.K. Krishna Menon

By Jairam Ramesh (New Delhi: Penguin, 2020)

Introduction: Shri K.N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC

Discussants: Shri T.C.A. Raghavan, former Indian high Commissioner to Pakistan; and Shri Shivshankar Menon, former National Security Adviser and former Foreign Secretary

Chair: Shri M.K. Rasgotra, former Foreign Secretary

18 ART MATTERS

The Writer and Her World: Krishna Sobti

Discussants: Vasudha Dalmia; Anuradha Kapur; and Githa Hariharan

(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation)

21 The Invisible Elephant of Uni-Polarity in the Room

Panellists: Ambassador Niraj Srivastava, who has served in several Indian missions abroad, is presently self-employed as an Independent International Affairs Analyst based in New Delhi, and Ambassador Arun Kumar Singh, who served as the Indian Ambassador to the United States is now a senior fellow with the Asia Program at the German Marshall Fund of the United States

Chair: Amb. K.P. Fabian

IR (International Relations) scholars, diplomats, and political leaders speak often about our multi-polar world. However, the United States of America can and does impose economic sanctions on states that do not comply with its demand to stop trading with a particular state, say, Iran. The states that do not comply run the risk of being penalised by Washington.

Is such a system good for the US? Is it good for the rest of the world? If not, what is to be done to abolish it?

24 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Morarji Desai: A Profile in Courage

By Arvindar Singh (New Delhi: Niyogi Books, 2020)

Discussants: Sir Mark Tully; Prof. Apporvanand; and Shri Rahul Singh, senior journalist and former Editor, *The Indian Express*

Chair: Shri Soli J. Sorabjee

26 *Sikh Heritage of Nepal*

A discussion around the new book by Manjeev Singh Puri

Chief Guest: Dr. Manmohan Singh

Illustrated presentation by Amb. Manjeev Singh Puri, former Indian Ambassador to Nepal

Discussants: H.E. Mr. Nilamber Acharya, Ambassador of Nepal to India; Shri Naresh Gujral, MP; and Gen. J.J. Singh, PVSM, AVSM, PSM, ADC, former Chief of the Army Staff

MARCH 2020

6 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Modern Civilization: A Crisis of Civilization

By S.C. Malik (New Delhi: D.K. Printworld, 2020)

Discussants: Prof. Come Carpentier, writer, analyst and convener, World Affairs Editorial Board; and Shri Vikram Lall, senior architect and writer

Chair: Prof. Aditya Malik, Indologist and Vice-Chancellor, K.R. Mangalam University

13 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Land Lust: Short Stories

By Joginder Paul, originally in Urdu, this edition has been edited by Sukrita Paul Kumar & Vandana R. Singh (New Delhi: Niyogi Books, 2019)

Discussants: Dr. Anvita Abbi, eminent linguist and scholar; Shri Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, eminent litterateur and editor; Ms Chandana Dutta, translator, editor, writer; Dr. Sukrita Paul Kumar, editor of the book; and Ms Vandana R. Singh, Editor of the book

The programme included dramatised readings of a story from the book

APRIL 2020

20-26 Crossing Cultural Frontiers in the Study of the Past

Dialogue between Dr. Irene Winter, William Dorr Boardman Professor Emerita, History of Art and Architecture, Harvard University; author of the recently published two volumes of collected essays, *On Art in the Ancient Near East* and Professor Shereen Ratnagar, archaeologist; interested in both South Asia and Mesopotamia; author of *Understanding Harappa*

Chair: Prof. S.C. Malik, inter-disciplinary anthropologist and archaeologist

Organised as part of the Seminar: Asian Encounters: Networks of Cultural Interactions

Webcast video recording of the programme held on 4th November 2011

27 Apr Visual Archives and Cultural Histories

to 3 May Panellists: Dr. Jyotindra Jain, CIVIC; Dr. Malavika Karlekar, CWDS; Dr. Yousuf Saeed, Tasveer Ghar: A Digital Archive of South Asian Popular Visual Culture

Moderator: Dr. Tapati Guha-Thakurta, curator of the exhibition, and Professor of History, CSSSC

(Collaboration: Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta)

Webcast video recording of the programme held on 28th March 2012

MAY 2020

4-10 Ladakh Revealed

Speakers: Mr. Bill Aitken on 'Introduction to the Himalayan Club Collection'

Dr. Janet Rizvi on 'Ladakhi Trade Routes'

Dr. Chhaya Bhattacharya-Haesner on 'The Nubra Valley and Central Asian Trade'

Shri Viraf Mehta on 'Hidden Petroglyphs of Ladakh'

Chair: Dr. M.S. Gill, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

Programme held on 23rd August 2012

18-24 ART MATTERS

The Changing Languages

Panellists: Shri Krishen Khanna, eminent painter; Smt. Kirti Jain, theatre director; Dr. Udayan Vajpeyi, poet; and Ms. Aditi Mangaldas, classical dancer

Moderator: Shri Ashok Vajpeyi, Executive Trustee, Raza Foundation

(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation)

Programme held on 10th September 2012

JUNE 2020

21-28 Art Matters (95 min)

Alarmel Valli, Bharatanatyam dancer in conversation with Arundhati Subramaniam, poet

Introduction: Ashok Vajpeyi

(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation)

Webcast recording of the programme held on 18th September 2015

Ruth Destined to Write (98 min)

Introduction: Ms Renana Jhabvala followed by a short film interview with Ruth Jhabvala

Chair: Shri Harish Khare

Readings from Ruth Jhabvala's work by Avereer Chaurey and Minoti Chatterjee

Introduction to Ruth Jhabvala's fiction writing by Smt. Aruna Chakravarty

An Interpretation of the last two works—*My Nine Lives* and *Love Song for India*

Speaker: Shri Ramesh Chandra Shah, well-known Hindi writer

*Programme organised as part of the IIC Film Club programme **Ruth PravarJhabvala Festival** in December 2014*

Webcast recording of the programme held on 15th December 2014

JULY 2020

6-12 The Past Before Us Historical Traditions in Early North India (105 min)

Opening remarks: Prof. Romila Thapar

Prof. Kesavan Veluthat, Dept. of History, University of Delhi; Prof. Najaf Haider, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and Dr. Kumkum Roy, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University discussed *The Past Before Us: Historical Traditions in Early North India* by Romila Thapar (New Delhi: Permanent Black, 2013)

Chair: Prof. Uday Kumar, Dept. of English, University of Delhi

Webcast recording of the programme held on 5th December 2013

13-19 Webinar on 17th July

India, Nepal and the New Map

Speakers: Mr. Yubaraj Ghimire, Editor, *Deshsanchar* multimedia news portal; Amb. Ranjit Rae, former Indian Ambassador to Nepal; and Shri Nrip Singh Napalchyal, former Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand

Moderator: Prof. Sangeeta Thapliyal, Inner Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Vice-President, Association of Asia Scholars, New Delhi

Nepal's parliament has passed a new map claiming territory in the Kumaon district of Uttarakhand. Many questions have been raised on the reasons for Nepal's cartographic expansion, on whose behest was such a decision taken, and its impact on relations with India. The panel also discussed the geographical location of the area, what does Nepal gain from such cartographic aggression and how does it impact the people living in the areas directly impacted by the new map? And what are the options available to India.

AUGUST 2020

3-9 Webinar on 5th August

India-China Relations: Galwan Valley Postscript

Speakers: Col. Ajai Shukla (Retd.), Consulting Editor (*Strategic Affairs, Business Standard*); Shri Ananth Krishnan, journalist with *The Hindu* and author of the forthcoming book *India's China Challenge*; and Prof. Hemant Adlakha, Associate Professor, Centre for Chinese and South Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Moderator: Cmde. C. Uday Bhaskar, Director, Society for Policy Studies, New Delhi

The discussion takes off from the recent events of June 2020 on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Galwan valley that marks the end of a 45-year period which saw no armed confrontation involving the loss of lives. The discussion re-evaluated and re-assessed India's China policy and what is the way forward

Webinar on 7th August

Epidemic, Migrant Labour, and the Politics of Life

Speaker: Prof. Ranabir Samaddar, Distinguished Chair in Migration and Forced Migration Studies, Calcutta Research Group

In conversation with Prof. Binod Khadria, Professor of Economics and Education, and Chairperson, Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University

While scenes of migrant workers walking in long processions caught the cameras of the journalists, it still requires to be asked: What lay behind these long marches? How do caste, race, gender, and other fault lines operate in governmental strategies to cope with a virus epidemic? If the fight against an epidemic has been compared with a war, what are the forces of power at play in this war against the pandemic? What indeed explains the sudden visibility of the migrant workers in the time of a public health crisis?

Webinar on 8th August

Towards a Holistic Long term Medi-Care system—The case of Covid-19

Panellists: Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, Niti Aayog; and Prof. K. Srinath Reddy, President, Public Health Foundation of India

Opening Remarks: Shri N.N. Vohra, President, IIC

Moderator: Prof. Vinayshil Gautam, Founder Director, IIM-K; 1st Head, Manag. Dept. IIT-D; Leader Consulting Team, IIM-S; and ex-KPMG

The discussion presented a multi-disciplinary approach to the pandemic, covering emergency health care systems, safety engines of healthcare, emergency case development, evolving social narratives and change in the frameworks of reference

10-16 The Environmentalist of the Poor: A Tribute to Chandi Prasad Bhatt (110 min; lecture in Hindi and English)

Speakers: Shri Anupam Mishra, Gandhi Peace Foundation; Shri Shekhar Pathak, People's Association for Himalaya Area Research (Pahar); Shri Ramesh Pahari, Aniket; Dr. Ramchandra Guha, New India Foundation; and Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister for Environment and Forest

Chair: Prof. Pushpesh Pant

Shri Chandi Prasad Bhatt was present on the occasion

Panel discussion organised to celebrate the life and work of the great pioneering environmentalist Chandi Prasad Bhatt. Founder of the Chipko movement, Padma Bhushan and Magsaysay award winner, Chandi Prasad ji has played a landmark role in the growth and development of the environment movement in India and beyond

Organised in collaboration with People's Association for Himalaya Area Research (PAHAR); and National Book Trust

Webcast recording of the programme held on 19th July 2011

Webinar on 10th August

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

K File: The Conspiracy of Silence

By Bashir Assad (New Delhi: Vitasta Publishing, 2020)

Discussants: Lt. Gen. Syed Ata Hasnain, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM; Shri Sushil Pandit, activist and Founder, Roots in Kashmir; Dr. Rekha Choudhary, formerly Professor of Political Science, University of Jammu and Kashmir and formerly, Fellow, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla; and Shri Bashir Assad, senior journalist, researcher and author of the book

Chair: Shri N.N. Vohra, President, IIC

The conflict in Jammu and Kashmir is one of the biggest internal security challenges for the Indian state. 2001 saw over 4,500 terror-related deaths in the state. This figure has steadily declined in the last 18 years, making the world wrongly believe this reduction in violence is a sign that Kashmir is moving towards conflict resolution. Bashir Assad argues that there is never going to be a resolution of the conflict in Kashmir and return to peace unless all stakeholders—the Kashmiris themselves, the Indian state and the political parties in Kashmir get together and negotiate peace with the militants.

Webinar on 12th August

Covid-19 and Geopolitics

Panellists: Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, Director-General, Indian Council of World Affairs, former High Commissioner to Pakistan and Singapore and author of *Abdur Rahim—Courtiers and Poets in Mughal India*; *The People Next Door—The Curious History of India's Relations with Pakistan*; and *History Men—Jadunath Sarkar, G.S. Sardesai, Raghubir Singh and Their Quest for India's Past* (2020); and Shri Shrenik Rao, Editor-in-Chief, Madras Courier and Fellow (2016), Reuters Institute of Journalism, University of Oxford

Moderator: Amb. K.P. Fabian

The world that emerges free from Covid-19 will be different from what it was before the contagion appeared, What will be the modified geopolitical equations? Will China's rise be accelerated, decelerated, or even reversed? What might be the change in the worldview of the United States after the November 2020 elections? Will the South get appropriate assistance from the North to address the crisis and later to restore its economy? What are the lessons to be learnt? What are the challenges and opportunities facing India now as the contagion is still raging, and what might be the challenges and opportunities after it has been contained and, hopefully, eliminated in the whole world?

Webinar on 14th August

Exploring Notions of Bhakti in the Making of Ram in a Hindu-Muslim Ramlila Tradition

Illustrated lecture by Dr. Molly Kaushal, Professor of Performance Studies and Head, Janapada Sampada Division, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

Introduction: Prakash Tripathi

Discussant and Chair: Shri Shrivatsa Goswami

Shamshad Ali has been playing Ram for almost eight years now in the Ramlila of Kheriya, a small village in Uttar Pradesh. What does it mean to play the role of Ram for him, a 'devout Muslim' as he describes himself. The presentation was based on interviews with Shamshad about his life's journey and the process he went through that made him 'identify with his role completely'

Webinar on 17th August

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

How do You know What you Know?

By Janaki Santoke (New Delhi: Janki Santoke, 2019)

Discussants: Shri R. Gopalkrishnan, formerly, Executive Director, Tata Sons and Vice Chairman, Tata Motors (Moderator); and Dr. Janki Santoke, Vedanta scholar and author of the book

Chair: Shri Gurcharan Das

Webinar on 17th August

TO MARK THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) 1980-2020

Post Covid-19 Path to Recovery: SADC and India

Speakers: H.E. Baraka H. Luvanda, High Commissioner of Tanzania and Chair of the SADC Heads of Mission Group, New Delhi;

Amb. Shiv Shankar Mukherjee, former Indian High Commissioner to Namibia and South Africa; Prof. Aparajita Biswas, President, African Studies Association of India and former Professor and Director, Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai; and Prof. Mammo Muchie, Professor, South African Research Chair (SARChi) Innovation Studies, Tshwana University of Technology, Pretoria

Moderator: Shri Suhas Borker, Convener, Working Group on Alternative Strategies and Founder Editor, Citizens First TV (CFTV)

India and the 16-nation SADC have had strong and deep ties of cooperation in the past and now there is a strong need to further strengthen these ties to support and assist each other in the Post COVID-19 scenario. The post COVID-19 path to recovery calls for out of the box strategies to counter the fallout of the economic downturn and to meet the challenge of emergent priorities

(Collaboration: Southern African Development Community, Heads of Mission Group, New Delhi; and Working Group on Alternative Strategies)

Webinar on 19th August

NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST SERIES

After 5 August Elections in Sri Lanka

Panellists: Jehan Perera, National Peace Council of Sri Lanka; Dr. Gulbin Sultana, Research Analyst, M.P. Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses; and Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Ashok K. Mehta, former Commander, IPKF South Sri Lanka

Maj. Gen. Mehta also moderated the discussion

The discussion presented an analysis of the election, its implications for the country and relations with India and the region

Webinar on 21st August

Pandemic Musings: History, Mental Health and Marginalisation

A conversation with Alok Sarin, Consultant in Clinical Psychiatrist, Sitaram Bhartia Institute of Science and Research, New Delhi; Sanjeev Jain, Professor in Psychiatry, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences, Bengaluru; Vandana Gopikumar, Founder, The Banyan and BALM, Chennai; Ratnaboli Ray, Founder, Anjali Mental Health Rights Organisation, Kolkata; and Pratima Murthy, Head, Department of Psychiatry, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences, Bengaluru

A discussion between mental health professionals, looking at histories of earlier pandemics and disasters, data from the present pandemic and means of societal coping. In this conversation, mental health professionals from across the country bring to the table lenses of mental health and illness, homelessness, care needs and issues of development and disruption. Also explored are possible opportunities for change and the imagining of possible futures keeping in mind the needs of social equity and shared humanity

24-31 Webinar on 24th August

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

How Modi Won India

By Rajdeep Sardesai (New Delhi: HarperCollins, 2019)

Discussants: Dr. Syeda Hameed, social and women's rights activist, educationist, writer and a former member of the Planning Commission of India; and Shri Rajdeep Sardesai, author of the book and Consulting Editor, India Today

Chair: Shri Pawan K. Varma, former diplomat and Advisor to the Chief Minister of Bihar and former Member of Parliament

Webinar on 28th August

From India to Auschwitz—Remembering the Roma and Sinti lost in the Holocaust

Panellists: Prof. Dr. Hristo Kyuchukov, linguist and educator, specialist on Romani language and education of Roma, he is Professor of Intercultural Education and Psycholinguistics, University of Silesia; Ms Karolina Mirga Danek, Roma activist working on the issues of Roma youth, Roma women and empowerment and one of the founders of Ternype International Roma Youth Network and *Dikh He Na Bister* (Look and Don't Forget)—Roma Genocide Initiative and of the Ride of Happiness organisation

Moderator: Dr. Punita Singh, communication scientist, musicologist and educator based in Delhi. She has worked with the Romani community for several decades and currently serves as a Vice President of International Romani Union

India is considered to be the original home of the Roma and Sinti. Multiple reasons, routes and timelines have been proposed for their migration and their retention of Indian linguistic and cultural traits. Their long journey out of India did not always lead to hospitable new lands. Some roads led to Auschwitz-Birkenau where on 2nd August 1944, several thousand Roma and Sinti perished in the 'liquidation' of the 'Zigeunerfamilienlager' (Gypsy family camp). It is estimated that over half a million Roma and Sinti were lost in the mass murder (Samudaripen) and brutal devouring (Porrajmos) organised by the Nazi regime and their World War II allies

31 Aug Debate: Political Courage is Political Suicide (71 min)

to 6 Sept Moderator: Ms Seema Mustafa

Against the Motion: Amb. K.C. Singh, former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; Shri S.Y. Quraishi, former Chief Election Commissioner; and Amb. Pavan K. Varma, author, and diplomat

For the Motion: Shri Saeed Naqvi, senior journalist and author; Shri Jehangir Pocha, Editor-in-Chief, NewsX; and Shri Sajad Lone, Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference

Organised in collaboration with Centre for Policy Analysis

Webcast recording of the IIC programme held on 9th July 2013

Webinar on 31st August

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Odyssey of a Diplomat: Through the Corridors of Time

By Lakhan Mehrotra (New Delhi: Heritage Publishers, 2020)

Discussants: Shri Shyam Saran, Life Trustee, IIC and former Foreign Secretary; Amb. K.P. Fabian, former diplomat and Foreign Policy Analyst (Moderator); and Amb. Lakhan Mehrotra, author of the book

Chair: Shri K. Natwar Singh, former Union Cabinet Minister

Webinar on 4th September

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Aesthetic Textures: Living Traditions of the Mahabharata

Edited by Molly Kaushal and Sukrita Paul Kumar (New Delhi: D.K. Printworld, 2019)

Discussants: Prof. Radha Vallabh Tripathi, Sanskrit scholar, writer, translator and educationist, former Professor of Sanskrit, Dr. Hari Singh Gour University; Prof. Molly Kaushal, Professor and Head of Janapada Sampada, Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts; and Dr. Sukrita Paul Kumar, poet, critic and academician

Chair: Prof. Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

SEPTEMBER 2020

7-13 Webinar on 9th September

How Robust is India's democracy?

Speakers: Ms Lalitha Kumaramangalam, former Chairperson, National Commission for Women; Prof. Jagdeep S. Chhokar, former Professor and Dean, IIM, Ahmedabad and Founder Member, Association for Democratic Reforms; and Amb. K.P. Fabian, Professor, Indian Society of International Law, and Distinguished Fellow, Symbiosis University

Chair: Shri M.G. Devasahayam, IAS (Retd.), Chairman, People-First Movement

Webinar on 12th September

TO MARK THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ASSENT TO THE PRASAR BHARATI ACT

Discussion on State of Indian Media: News or Noise, Watchdog or Lapdog

Speakers: Shri N. Ram, former Editor-in-Chief, *The Hindu*; Shri Jawhar Sircar, former CEO, Prasar Bharati; and Ms Pamela Philipose, Senior Journalist and Author of *Media's Shifting Terrain*

Moderator: Suhas Borker, Convener Jan Prasar and Editor, Citizens First TV (CFTV)

(Collaboration: Jan Prasar)

14-21 Webinar on 14th September

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Towards a New India: Governance Transformed 2014-2019

By V. Srinivas (New Delhi: Konark, 2019)

Discussants: Dr. Krishnamurthy Subramanian, Chief Economic Advisor, Govt. of India; Ms. Yamini Aiyer, President and CEO, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi; and Shri V. Srinivas, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension, Government of India and author of the book

Chair: Shri Sunil Arora, Chief Election Commissioner

Moderator: Smt. Kalyani Shankar, Senior Journalist

Webinar on 18th September

Education for Artisans: Past, Present and Future

Speakers: Judy Frater, Founder, Kala Raksha Vidhyalaya (KRV), the first design school in India for traditional artisans; Prakash Naran Siju, carpet weaver, graduate of KRV, and advisor of Somaiya Kala Vidya; Mary Anne Wise, American textile artist, curator and advocate of indigenous textile traditions; Sally Holkar, co-founder, REHWA Society who established the Women Weave Charitable Trust and founded the Handloom School; and Shobita Punja, writer, educator, thinker and teacher

Moderator: Ms Ritu Sethi, Editor, Global InCH Journal of intangible Cultural Heritage and Asia InCHencyclopedia; and Founder-Trustee, Craft Revival Trust

In light of the Government of India's National Education Policy 2020, the discussion explored educational avenues for traditional artisans. The discussants examined educational paradigms where traditional oral learning and apprenticeships have been deepened and extended through the layering-on of formal education for artisans

(Collaboration: Craft Revival Trust; and Global InCh Journal)

21-28 Webinar on 21st September

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Haunting Himalayas

By Rajni Sekhri Sibal (New Delhi: HarAnand Books, 2020)

Discussants: Prof. Shormistha Panja, Professor of English, University of Delhi; Ms Richa Mishra, journalist, *The Hindu Business Line*; and Ms Rajni Sekhri Sibal, writer, civil servant and author of the book

Chair: Shri Gurcharan Das

The Haunting Himalayas is a collection of esoteric stories set against the backdrop of pine forests and quaint towns and villages nestled in the Himalayas

Webinar on 25th September

The New National Education Policy 2020

Speakers: Dr. Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan, Chairperson of the National Education Policy 2019 Drafting Committee; Prof. Anurag Behar, CEO, Azim Premji Foundation, Chief Sustainability Officer of Wipro Limited and Vice Chancellor, Azim Premji University; Prof. Krishna Kumar, former Professor of Education, University of Delhi and former Director of National Council of Educational Research and Training; and Prof. Shyam B. Menon, Professor of Education, Central Institute of Education, University of Delhi and former Vice-Chancellor, Ambedkar University

Discussant: Shri Amitabha Bhattacharya, retired IAS Officer, and formerly with UNDP

Chair: Shri N.N. Vohra, President, IIC

28 Sept Webinar on 28th September

to 4 Oct NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST SERIES

Restoring India–Nepal Relations: What Steps to Take

Speakers: Amb. Bhekh Bahadur Thapa, former Ambassador of Nepal to India; Amb. Ranjit Rae, former Indian Ambassador to Nepal; and Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Ashok K. Mehta

Moderator: Maj. Gen. Ashok K. Mehta

India-Nepal relations are at one of their lowest points; but not as bad as in 2015. Both countries have enjoyed excellent relations as two closest neighbours with open borders and shared history, geography, culture, religion and people-to-people ties beyond compare. The recent slide has to be arrested and relations restored to even keel between the two sovereign nations

Webinar on 30th September

Digital launch followed by a discussion

A Ringside Seat to History—An Autobiography

Release of the book by Pascal Alan Nazareth (New Delhi: Konarak Publishers Pvt. Ltd., 2020)

Book release followed by a panel discussion

The book was released by Shri N.N. Vohra, President, IIC

Panellists: Lord Bhikhu Parekh, Member of Parliament, UK; Amb. T.P. Sreenivasan, former Permanent Representative of India to the UN and Governor for India at IAEA, Vienna; Shri Ashok Malik, former Press Adviser to the President of India; and Dr. Gita Dharampal Frick, Professor Emeritus (South Asian History), Heidelberg University

Concluding remarks: Amb. Pascal Alan Nazareth, author of the book

Moderator: Smt. Nirupama Rao, former Foreign Secretary

Webinar on 3rd October

Digital launch of

The Brass Notebook: A Memoir

By Devaki Jain (New Delhi: Speaking Tiger Books, 2020)

The author was in conversation with Dr. Romila Thapar, Emerita Professor of History, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and Ms Antara Dev Sen, literary critic, writer and founder editor, *The Little Magazine*

Moderator: Ms Kalpana Sharma, journalist, columnist and author

In this no-holds-barred memoir, renowned feminist economist and academician, Devaki Jain recounted her own story and also that of an entire generation and a nation coming into its own

(Collaboration: Speaking Tiger Books)

OCTOBER 2020

5-11 Webinar on 5th October

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Making India Great Again: Learning from our History

By Meeta and Rajivlochan (Manohar Books: New Delhi, 2020)

Discussants: Shri Ravi Budhiraja, IAS (Retd.) former Chairman, Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority; Dr. Sugata Bhattacharya, Chief Economist, Axis Bank; Shri Robin Banerjee, Managing Director, Caprihan India Ltd.; Smt. Meeta Rajivlochan, IAS (Retd.) formerly Additional Director General, Foreign Trade, Mumbai and co-author of the book; and Dr. Rajivlochan, Professor of History, Panjab University, Chandigarh and co-author of the book

Chairman: Amb. K.P. Fabian, Professor, Indian Society of International law and Distinguished Fellow, Symbiosis University

Webinar on 12th October

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Turmeric Nation: A Passage through India's Tastes

By Shylashri Shankar (New Delhi: Speaking Tiger Books, 2020)

Discussants: Ms Mita Kapur, Chef, author, restaurateur and Founder/CEO, *Siyahi*; and Ms Shylashri Shankar, Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research and author of the book

Moderator: Ms Jasleen Vohra, Television presenter and commentator

Chair: Shri Ranveer Brar, Celebrity Chef, Television show judge and food stylist

What exactly is 'Indian' food? Can it be classified by region, or religion, or ritual? What are the culinary commonalities across the Indian subcontinent? Do we Indians have a sense of collective self when it comes to cuisine? Or is the pluralism in our food habits and choices the only identity we have ever needed?

Turmeric Nation is an ambitious and insightful project which answers these questions, and then quite a few more

Webinar on 16th October

President Trump's Foreign Policy: An Assessment

Panellists: Prof. K.P. Vijayalakshmi, Professor, Centre for Canadian, US and Latin

American Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Dr. John Cherian, Foreign Editor, *The Frontline*; and Shri Dhruva Jaishankar, Director, US Initiative, Observer Research Foundation and Non-Resident Fellow, Lowy Institution, Australia

Chair: Amb. K.P. Fabian, Professor, Indian Society of International law and Distinguished Fellow, Symbiosis University

The US Presidential election is due on 3rd November 2020. Whether President Donald Trump gets re-elected or not, it is time to take stock of his foreign policy, the motivations behind it, its impact on the US and the rest of the world, and to draw a balance sheet of Trump's contribution, if any, to peace and harmony in the international realm. Has his lack of respect for international law rendered the international order more vulnerable?

19-25 **Webinar on 19th October**

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Two books were discussed

Pal Bhar ki Pahchaan and Kucch Alpa Viram

By Sachchidanand Joshi (New Delhi: Prabhat Prakashan, 2020)

Discussants: Dr. Laxmi Shankar Bajpai, renowned poet and commentator; Dr. Om Nishchal, poet, critics and linguist; Prof. Kumud Sharma, Professor, Dept. of Hindi, Hindi Medium Implementation Directorate; and Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNCAs and author of the books

Chair: Prof. Sudhish Pachauri, former Pro Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi and Cultural and Post-Modern Literary Theorist and Media analyst

26 Oct **Webinar on 28th October**

to 1 Nov BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Madrasas and the Making of Islamic Womanhood

By Hem Borker (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2018)

Discussants: Prof. Meenakshi Thapan, Director, Rishi Valley Education Centre, Andhra Pradesh and formerly, Professor of Sociology, University of Delhi; Prof. Aparna Rayaprol, Professor of Sociology, University of Hyderabad; and Dr. Hem Borker, Assistant Professor, Jamia Millia Islamia and author of the book

Moderator: Ms Humra Quraishi, writer, columnist and journalist

Webinar on 29th October

NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST SERIES

Coordinated by Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Ashok Mehta

The Afghanistan Peace Process

Panellists: Mr. Mahmoud Saikal, Adjunct Professor, University of Canberra, Chair of Kabul Association of Integrity, former Deputy Foreign Minister and former Ambassador of Afghanistan to the UN and Australia; Amb. Rakesh Sood, former Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan; and Maj. Gen. Ashok K. Mehta (Retd.), former India Convenor of Regional Initiative on Afghanistan

Chair: Maj. Gen. Ashok K. Mehta

In the more than four decades long war, an institutional peace process in Afghanistan was hammered out on 29th February 2020 by clinching two agreements: one between the US and Taliban; and the other between US and Afghanistan. Extraordinary concessions have been made by the US to the Taliban, still a US and UN terrorist organisation. Unfortunately, a ceasefire or even cessation of hostilities has not been obtained from the Taliban making the peace process the most violent in the history of conflict resolution. The Webinar explored the trajectory and end state of the peace process

NOVEMBER 2020

2-8 Webinar on 6th November

A Thousand Cranes for India

A discussion based on the book of the same title edited by Pallavi Aiyar

Panellists: Salil Tripathi, senior journalist, Contributing Editor, *Mint* and *Caravan*, Chair, PEN International Writers in Prison Committee; Natasha Badhwar, author, columnist, filmmaker, journalist and media trainer; and Jonathan Gil Harris, Professor and Head, Dept. of English, Ashoka University

Moderator: Pallavi Aiyar, award-winning foreign correspondent and author

A Thousand Cranes for India attempts to direct our attention to the spirit of solidarity that still endures in India and why. This anthology uses origami cranes as a way to create conversations about the fault lines in India

(Collaboration: Seagull Books)

9-15 Webinar on 9th November

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Making of Aadhar: World's Largest Identity Platform

By Ram Sewak Sharma (Rupa, New Delhi: 2020)

Discussants: Shri S.Y. Quraishi, former Chief Election Commissioner of India; Shri V. Srinivas, Additional Secretary, Dept. of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances; Shri Shankar Aiyar, journalist; and Shri Ram Sewak Sharma, former Chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and author of the book

Chair: Shri Pradip Baijal, former Chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

Aadhar is the world's largest identity project that enrolled a billion residents. The book offers insights into the creation of this one-of-a-kind system, at a fraction of the cost of making the alternative, less sophisticated identity system that had been previously tried in India and elsewhere. Ram Sewak Sharma was part of the team led by Nandan Nilekani to develop the technology that undergrids Aadhar, enrolled the Resident population of India, created an online authentication mechanism for the digital world, and operationalised the ecosystem to take advantage of the new identity

Webinar on 11th November

IIC Quarterly Release

Release of the Winter 2019 and Spring 2020 Special issue of the *IIC Quarterly*, *The Crisis of Climate Change*

Edited by Ravi Agarwal and Omita Goyal

Introduction: Dr. Karan Singh, Chairman, IIC Editorial Board

Followed by a panel discussion

Speakers: Nagraj Adve who works and writes on the science, impacts and politics of global warming. His booklet, *Global Warming in the Indian Context: An Introductory Overview* (2019) has been translated into Hindi, Kannada, and Tamil; and Ruchira Talukdar, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia

Moderator: Ravi Agarwal, Founder-Director, Toxics Link and established artist, writer, and curator

This collection seeks to not only outline the specific conditions and responses to climate change in India, but also takes an unusual ground-up approach of including voices of those who are researching landscapes and observing changes in them, across disciplines and practices

Webinar on 12th November

Discussion on State of Parliamentary Democracy in India

Speakers: Shri Kumar Ketkar, veteran journalist and writer, MP Rajya Sabha; Prof. Tarunabh Khaitan, Professor of Law and Legal Theory, Wadham College, University of Oxford and Vice Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Oxford; and Shri K.V. Prasad, Senior Associate Editor, The Tribune

Moderator: Shri Suhas Borker

(Collaboration: Working Group on Alternative Strategies)

16-22 Webinar on 17th November

A Foreign Policy Agenda for President Elect Biden

Panellists: Amb. T.P. Sreenivasan, formerly Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, Vienna, and Governor for India of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna and former Ambassador to Austria and Slovenia; Amb. Meera Shankar, former Indian Ambassador to USA and Germany; and Prof. Devesh Kapur, Director, Asia Program, Starr Foundation Professor of South Asian Studies, Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, John Hopkins University

Moderator: Amb. K.P. Fabian, Professor, Indian Society of International law and Distinguished Fellow, Symbiosis University

Although voting for the presidential election in US was completed by 3rd November, the formal results are yet to be announced. It is clear that Vice-President Joseph Biden and Senator Kamala Harris have won with 279 Electoral College votes, given that 270 is enough to win. However, President Donald Trump has till now refused to accept defeat. Nevertheless, it is appropriate to discuss a foreign policy agenda for President-Elect Biden

Webinar on 18th November

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Diet in Diabetes Simplified

By Sheryl Salis (Notion Press, New Delhi: 2020)

Discussants: Dr. Shobha Udipi, Hon. Director, Integrative Nutrition and Ayurceuticals, Medical Research Centre, Kasturba Health Society; Dr. Divya Parashar, Psychotherapist and Life coach; and Ms Sheryl Salis, registered Dietician, Certified Diabetes Educator, Director, Nurture Health Solutions and author of the book

Moderator: Ms Jasleen Vohra, television presenter and commentator

Chair: Dr. V. Mohan, Chairman and Chief of Diabetology, Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre and President and Director, Madras Diabetes Research Foundation

23-29 Webinar on 23th November

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Breaking Through: A Memoir

By Isher Judge Ahluwalia (Rupa Publications, New Delhi: 2020)

Discussants: Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, former Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission; Prof. Gopa Sabharwal, former Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University and Associate Professor, Dept. of Sociology, Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi; Shri T.C.A. Srinivasa Raghavan, senior journalist and columnist; and Ms Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist, HSBC India

Chair: Dr. Omkar Goswami, Chairman, CERG Advisory Private Ltd.

Webinar on 27th November

NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST SERIES

Coordinated by Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Ashok K. Mehta

Elections in Myanmar

Panellists: Dr. Khin Zaw Win, Director, Tampadipa Institute, Yangon, Myanmar; Amb. Gautam Mukhopadhyaya, former Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, Syria and Afghanistan; and Maj. Gen. Ashok K. Mehta

Discussant: Dr. Avinash Paliwal, Senior Lecturer in International Relations and Deputy Director, SOAS South Asia Institute, School of Oriental and African Studies, UK

Chair: Maj. Gen. Ashok K. Mehta

Myanmar held its third elections on 8th November 2020 under the military-drafted constitution 2008 which is part of the Army's roadmap to democracy. National League for Democracy under Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has won another landslide victory despite incumbency. These elections were held against the background of the Covid-19 pandemic, the ongoing Rohingya crisis, nationalistic Buddhist resurgence—all under the watch of the military which runs the country along with the elected civilian government in a unique hybrid system. China is the key player in the country where India too has age-old ties. India wants to make Myanmar the springboard for its Act East policy. The webinar examined the country's future, its relations with India-China and prospects for constitutional reforms

30 Nov Webinar on 30th November

to 6 Dec BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Dalai Lama: An Extraordinary Life

By Alexander Norman (HarperCollins, New Delhi: 2020)

Discussants: Mr. Tenzin Geyche, former Secretary to His Holiness the Dalai Lama; Mr. Claude Arpi, writer and historian; and Mr. Alexander Norman, scholar of Tibetan history and author of the book

Chair: Shri Shivshankar Menon, former Foreign Secretary

Moderator: Shri Rajiv Mehrotra, author and filmmaker

This beautifully illustrated chronicle presents an in-depth, first hand narrative of the Dalai Lama's life story and the Tibetan saga. From remembrances of those close to him, and a treasure trove of over 400 images of Tibet's priceless visual heritage, it preserves a record of what it was like to create a nation from nothing, in exile, and how His Holiness rallied endlessly for his people. A rich blend of biography, history, and legacy, it captures a detailed account of the tumultuous events through which the Dalai Lama was forced to chart a path, leading to his emergence as an international figure. It illuminates as well his initiatives in the wider world to relieve suffering, overcome global challenges, and foster human flourishing through compassionate universal ethics, working hand in hand with science and ingenuity.

Webinar on 4th December

IIC/MEDIA FOUNDATION DIALOGUES

Streaming Platforms and Digital News Media: Regulation, Self-regulation or no Regulation?

Panellists: Nikhil Pahwa, Founder, *Medianama*; Uday Kumar Varma, former Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; Dhanya Rajendran, Founder, *The News Minute*; and Tarun Katial, CEO Zee5

Introduction: Harish Khare, President, The Media Foundation

Moderator: Shuma Raha, Contributing Editor, Business Standard

There is a growing debate on whether digital content so far unregulated in India should be regulated or not. Should news and video streaming platforms come under regulations like print, broadcast television and films are or should they be subjected to other norms? And if so, how would that impact freedom of expression and creative independence?

First in a series of conversations organised in collaboration with The Media Foundation on issues facing the media. Featuring prominent voices and highlighting different perspectives, the Dialogues will debate issues challenging our times

DECEMBER 2020

7-13 Webinar on 9th December

Promise and Pitfalls of Covid-19 Infectious Disease Modeling

Overview of Infectious Disease Models presented by Prof. Gagandeep Kang, FRS, Professor, Wellcome Trust Research Laboratory, Division of Gastrointestinal Sciences, Christian Medical College, Vellore

Aspects of the India Specific Model—presentations by Dr. M. Vidyasagar, FRS, SERB-National Science Chair and Distinguished Professor, IIT Hyderabad; Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Madhuri Kanitkar, AVSM, VSM, Deputy Chief Integrated Defence Staff (Medical); and Prof. Manindra Agrawal, N. Rama Rao Chair, Project Director, C3iHub Coordinator, CoE Defence Professor, Dept. of CSE, IIT Kanpur

Chair: Shri N.N. Vohra, President, IIC

Webinar on 11th December

The South China Sea: Geopolitics

Panelists: Admiral H.C.S. Bisht, PVSM, AVSM, former Flag Officer; Commander-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command and former Director General, Indian Coast Guard; presently Administrative Member, Armed Forces Tribunal, Chandigarh; and Commodore R. Seshadrivasan, Director, Chennai Center of China Studies, and Regional Director, National Maritime Foundation, Chennai Chapter

Chair: Amb. K.P. Fabian, Professor, Indian Society of International Law; Distinguished Fellow, Symbiosis University

The South China Sea (SCS) located in the Western Pacific Ocean with an area of 3.5 million sq. kms is one of the most important economic and environmental regions in the world. SCS also contains some of the world's most important shipping lanes and is the site of inter-state disputes primarily because People's Republic of China (PRC), although a signatory to UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas), has violated its provisions in many ways. China is only one of the littoral states, along with Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, and Taiwan. Since a rule-based order is of utmost importance for humanity, India, United States, Australia, Japan, United Kingdom, France, and Germany, have insisted that PRC should abide by the UNCLOS.

14-20 Webinar on 14th December

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Awasthis of Aamnagri

By Shubha Sarma (Niyogi Books India: New Delhi, 2020)

Discussants: Prof. Malashri Lal, writer and academic, former Dean of Colleges, University of Delhi; Prof. Madhu Khanna, Tagore, National Fellow and former Director, Centre for the Study of Comparative Religions and Civilizations, Jamia Millia Islamia; and Ms Shubha Sarma, Commissioner & Secretary, Handloom, Textiles & Handicrafts Dept., Govt. of Odisha and author of the book

Chair: Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI)

Webinar on 18th December

Discussion on State of the Indian Economy

Panellists: Prof. Partha Sen, former Director, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi; Prof. Surajit Mazumdar, Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, JNU; Prof. Vikas Rawal, Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, JNU; Prof. R. Kavita Rao, Professor, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy; and Prof. Amit Bhaduri, former Emeritus Professor of Economics, JNU

Moderator: Shri Suhas Borker, Convener, Working Group on Alternative Strategies and Editor, Citizens First TV (CFTV)

What are the prospects of Indian manufacturing and rural economy with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic shock? How will *Aatma Nirbhar Bharat* take care of aggregate demand and growth? What is the role of fiscal policy in the Covid-19 scenario especially in the context of migrant labour? Why are the farmers protesting? Will the new farm laws transform Indian agriculture and benefit farmers? What is the status of central government finances and its implication for economic recovery? Why does the stock market rise while the real economy is in decline? What strategies should be adopted to counter the fallout of the economic downturn?

(Collaboration: Working Group on Alternative Strategies)

21-27 Webinar on 21st December

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Baghdadi Jews in India: Maintaining Communities, Negotiating Identities and Creating Super-Diversity

Edited by Shalva Weil (New Delhi: Routledge Taylor & Francis, 2020)

Discussants: Dr. Jael Silliman, Curator of Jewish Calcutta, author and artist; Dr. Sara Manasseh, ethnomusicologist and Founding Director, Rivers of Babylon musical ensemble; and Dr. Shalva Weil, Senior Researcher, Seymour Fox School of Education, Hebrew University of Jerusalem and editor of the book

Moderator: Ms Rony Yedidia Clein, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Israel

(Collaboration: Embassy of Israel)

28 Dec Webinar on 28th December

to 3 Jan BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Fragrant Clouds: A Tryst with Words

Discussion based on the books *Fragrant Words* (New Delhi: Bloomsbury Prime, 2019) and *Clouds End and Beyond* (New Delhi: Wisdom Tree, 2016) by Rajni Sekhri Sibal

Discussants: Amb. Kanwal Sibal, former Foreign Secretary, Govt. of India; Ms Richa Mishra, Sr. Asst. Editor and Bureau Chief, *The Hindu Businessline*; and Ms Rajni Sekhri Sibal, poet, writer and Civil Servant

Moderator: Ms Mandira Ghosh, poet and author

JANUARY 2021

4-11 Webinar on 4th January 2021

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Fix it with Food

Superfoods to become super healthy

Discussion based on the book *Fix it with Food* (New Delhi : Rupa Publications, 2020) by Kavita Devgan

Panellists: Dr. Shikha Sharma, Founder & Managing Director, Nutriwel Health (India) Pvt. Ltd.; Dr. Ambrish Mithal, Chairman & Head–Endocrinology and Diabetology, Max Healthcare; and Ms. Kavita Devgan, Writer, Nutritionist & Author of the book

Moderator: Ms. Jasleen Vohra, TV Presenter

Webinar on 7th January

Seminar on Keys to Governance: Independence of Judiciary

Speakers: Justice (Shri) Madan Lokur, former Judge of the Supreme Court; Shri N. Ram, former Editor-in-Chief, *The Hindu*; Dr. Menaka Guruswamy, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India; and Prof. Tarunabh Khaitan, Professor and Hackney Fellow, Wadham College & Vice-Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Oxford

Moderator: Shri Suhas Borker, Editor, Citizens First TV (CFTV), and Managing Trustee, D.S. Borker Memorial Foundation

This is the sixth annual seminar in the series 'Keys to Governance'; the earlier five seminars in the series were on 'Compliance and Delivery' (2016), 'Political Will' (2017), 'Constitution as Ideology' (2018), 'Education as Empowerment' (2019) and 'Steel Frame' (2020)

The annual seminar is held in remembrance of Shekhar Borker, 'Banana Boy' on the Indian postage stamp, private sector administrator, citizen environmentalist and advocate of empowerment of persons of disabilities who passed away in 2015 on 7 January

(Collaboration: D.S. Borker Memorial Foundation)

Webinar on 11th January

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

A Bit of Everything

By Sandeep Raina (New Delhi: Westland Publications, 2020)

Discussants: Ms Anita Nair, critically acclaimed author and Sahitya Akademi award winner; Shri Omair Ahmad, Managing Editor, South Asia, *The Third Pole*; and Shri Sandeep Raina, writer and author of the book

Chair: Ms Janani Ganesan, Editor, Context, Westland Publications

A devastating exploration of what it means to lose one's home, *A Bit of Everything* lays bare the many ways in which the violence of a land tears apart the everyday lives of its people.

Webinar on 12th January

Ahimsa Conversations on Nonviolence

With Dr. Ashis Nandy, political psychologist, social theorist, Trustee, IIC; and Prof. Ramin Jahanbegloo, Executive Director, Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Nonviolence & Peace Studies, and Vice-Dean, School of Law, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat

Moderator: Rajni Bakshi, freelance journalist and author

Ahimsa Conversations is an online forum for a wide range of reflections on the possibilities of nonviolence. The Conversations feature activists, ecologists, scholars, philosophers, politicians and people from the world of business sharing their experiences and ideas about their experiments with nonviolence. In this Webinar, the eminent scholars critically contextualised this attempt to widen the space for Ahimsa in the public discourse. Based on their own intensive experiences with the striving for nonviolence, Dr. Nandy and Prof. Jahanbegloo explored what challenges and difficult questions must be addressed through Ahimsa Conversations going forward

Webinar on 20th January

Declining Savings Rate in India—New Policy Options

Welcome Remarks by: Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS

Inaugural Remarks: Shri N.N. Vohra, President, IIC

Panellists: Prof. Ananth Narayan, Associate Professor (Adjunct), Head of Public Policy, SPJIMR, Mumbai; Dr. Amey Sapre, Assistant Professor, NIPFP, New Delhi; and Professor Manmohan Agarwal, Senior Adjunct Fellow, RIS

Chair: Shri Rajnish Kumar, former Chairman, State Bank of India

First in a new series of discussions focusing on the broad trends in banking and finance, organised in collaboration with Research and Information System for Developing Societies (RIS)

Webinar on 27th January

Neighbourhood First

Coordinator: Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Ashok K. Mehta

Nepal's Constitutional Crisis

Panellists: Prof. S.D. Muni, Professor Emeritus, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Dr. Nischal Pandey, Centre for South Asian Studies, Kathmandu, Nepal; and Maj. Gen. Ashok K. Mehta

Moderator: Maj. Gen. Ashok K. Mehta

Nepal was faced with a constitutional crisis last month when Prime Minister K.P. Oli suddenly dissolved Parliament where he had a majority and ordered elections for April-May this year. He is now caretaker Prime Minister with a divided Nepal Communist Party. The Supreme Court will either restore the House or uphold Oli's decision for elections. The Webinar addressed the aftermath of the crisis, especially repercussions for Nepal, China and India.

Webinar on 28th January

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Two books were discussed

Dar Dar Gange

By Abhay Mishra and Pankaj Ramendu (New Delhi, Penguin Random House: 2013) and

Mati Manush Choon

By Abhay Mishra (New Delhi, Vani Prakashan: 2019)

Discussants: Shri Avinash Das, filmmaker and author; Ms Renu Agal, Editor, *The Print*; and Shri Abhay Mishra, author of the books

Moderator: Shri Pankaj Ramendu, Author and columnist

Chair: Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNCA

APPENDIX IV *Cultural*

FEBRUARY 2020

7 IN MEMORY OF USTAD NASIR FAIYAZUDDIN DAGAR

Hindustani Vocal Recital

By Pt. Bholanath Mishra

Accompanied by Ustad Akhtar Hassan on tabla and Shri Zakir Dhaulpuri on harmonium

Followed by

Dhrupad Recital

By Ustad Faiyazuddin Wasifuddin Dagar

Accompanied by Pt. Mohanshyam Sharma on pakhawaj

(Collaboration: Dagar Brothers Memorial Trust)

11 An Evening of Dance and Music

Presented by cultural troupes from Africa

(Organised by the IIC-International Research Division)

12 Subliminal Bridges

Rtusamhara—a mentorship programme for poetry

Poetry recitations by Be Lagaam poets

Introduction: Anand Khatri

(Collaboration: Poesis Society for Poetry)

14 THE IIC DOUBLE BILL DANCE CONCERT

At 6:00 pm

Odissi Recital

By Puspa Panda from Cuttack, disciple of Guru Smt. Meera Das

At 7:00 pm

Bharatanatyam Recital

By Sharanya Chandran from Delhi, daughter and disciple of Guru Smt. Geeta Chandran

14 Chinese Life and Culture Through the Poetic Lens

Discussion on the Chinese poet, Tianhe's work *Toiling for a Grain of Paddy*

Translations in English and Hindi by Rita Malhotra and Sadhna Agrawal

Guest Speaker: Mr. Zhang Jianxin, Cultural Counsellor, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, New Delhi

Discussants: Prof. Hemant Adlakha, Centre for Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and Dr. Shreeparna Roy, Head, Chinese Studies, Dept. of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi

Readings by Dr. Rita Malhotra and Sadhna Agrawal

Chair: Dr. H.K. Kaul, President, The Poetry Society (India)

Tianhe is one of the eminent poets and an important native voice in poetry in contemporary China. Writing on pastoral theme poetry since 1982, he is the author of more than 14 collections of poems and has won more than thirty poetry awards, including the highest award in China—Luxun Literature Prize, The Prize for Young Chinese Poets

(Collaboration: The Poetry Society, India)

15 Sadabahr Aravalli

A concert by *Saperas* or former Snake Charmers—Shisha Nath; Jagdish Nath; Narain Nath; and Sheru Nath (been players); Mahipal Nath; Rajesh Nath; and Naveen (tumba players); and Rajiv (dholak)

Music composers: Rajat Prasanna (flautist) and Makarand Sanon (percussionist)

Sutradhar (narrator): Shamshad Khan Bahurupiya (traditional impersonator)

Snake charming was banned by the government of India in the 1990s and though this spelt disaster for many, it led to a re-thinking about the importance of what were considered ancillary skills of the *saperas*. These skills included a knowledge of medicinal herbs, particularly those used for the treatment and cure of snake bite, abilities to identify and classify snakes and above all, their superlative musical skills using the *been*, a wind instrument made from bottle gourd with bamboo pipes and the *tumba*, a percussion accompaniment

(Collaboration: Centre for New Perspectives; with the support of Min of Culture, Govt of India)

17 Hindustani Classical Vocal Recital

By Ustad Shaukat Hussain Khan from Ahmedabad of the Agra-Atrauli gharana, recipient of the Sanskriti—Pt. Vasant Thakar Memorial Fellowship 2019

Accompanists: Shri Vinod Lele on the tabla and Shri Vinay Mishra on Harmonium

(Collaboration: Sanskriti Pratishthan)

26 THE IIC DOUBLE BILL MUSIC CONCERT

At 6:00 pm

Harmonium Recital

By Vinay Mishra from Delhi, disciple of Ustad Mehatab Khan and Pt Appa Shaheb Jalgaonkar

At 7:00 pm

Hindustani Vocal Recital

By Amit Chaudhuri from Kolkata, disciple of Pt Govind Prasad Jaipurwale

29 Aaj Kavita

With Naresh Saxena (Lucknow); Anil Misra (Ahmedabad); Anupam Singh (Delhi); and Sughosh Mishra (Lucknow)

(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation)

MARCH 2020

2 Bharatanatyam Recital

By Rupali Yadav from Delhi, disciple of Guru Dr. Saroja Vaidyanathan

Accompanists: Guru Dr. Saroja Vaidyanathan on nattuvangam; vocal support by Smt. Vijayashree; Shri Thanjavur R. Kesavan on mridangam and Shri V.S.K. Annadurai on violin

Chief Guests: Guru Kamalini Asthana and Guru Nalini Asthana

8 Hindustani Classical Vocal Recital

By Sawani Shende from Pune

In memory of Shri Vasant Sathe

(Collaboration: Sarvajanic Utsav Samiti, New Delhi)

11 Concert

By Bianca Gismonti Trio—Bianca Gismonti on piano; Julio Falavigna on drums/ percussion; and Paolo Andriolo on bass guitar

A leading jazz oriented pianist from Brazil, the Bianca Gismonti Duo's music reveals a vigorous interaction and sensitivity. Bianca Gismonti's beautiful compositions come along with a rich Brazilian rhythmic gesture, lyric harmonies and inspiring melodies

(Collaboration: Embassy of Brazil)

12 THE IIC DOUBLE BILL DANCE RECITAL

At 6:00 pm

Kathak Recital

By Sucharita Dattaghata from Kolkata, disciple of Smt. Amita Datta and Smt. Sushmita Mishra

At 7:00 pm

Kuchipudi Recital

By Nandini Nitin from Delhi, disciple of Guru Smt. Swapna Sundari

15 Carnatic Vocal Recital

By Dr. P.B. Kanna Kumar

Accompanists: Delhi R. Sridhar (violin); Kumbakonam Dr. N. Padmanaban (mridangam); and P. Adithya Narayan (kanjira)

Chief Guest: Dr. Saroja Vaidyanathan

Concert organised as part of the Dr. Madurai Soma Sundaram centenary tribute

(Collaboration: Gayathri Fine Arts)

APRIL 2020

20-26 Kirana Gharana: Innovations in Traditions

Conceived and presented by Jayateerth Mevundi, well-known vocalist

Shri Mevundi presented a lecture-demonstration as part of his presentation

Accompanists: Chetan Nigam (harmonium) and Ganesh Singh (tabla)

The North West Karnataka landscape has nurtured a unique amalgam of Hindustani classical and Carnatic styles of music; where Hindustani classical music with its origins in North India seamlessly interweaves with the South Indian traditions

Webcast video recording of the programme held on 26th August 2011

Kudiyattam Recital

By Kapila Venu from Kerala, disciple of Guru Ammanuur Madhava Chakya, G. Venu and Kitanagar C.N. Rama Chakyar

Webcast video recording of the programme held on 27th September 2011

27 Apr Kabir-sandhya

to 3 May A soulful evening of saint-poet Kabir's poetry—from an unbroken oral tradition of singing for 600 years in village after village of the Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh

By Prahlad Singh Tipanya—one of the most compelling folk voices of Kabir in India today who combines singing and explanation of Kabir bhajans in the Malwa folk style. He is a recipient of the Sangeet Natak Academy award and Padma Shri. For this performance he was accompanied by a seven member troupe of singers and instrumentalists

Part of a series to mark the birth centenary of D. S. Borker, civil servant and public sector administrator.

(Collaboration: D.S. Borker Memorial Foundation)

Webcast recording of the programme held on 24th August 2011

MEHFIL

An Evening with Ustad Abdul Rashid Khan, Gwalior gharana maestro accompanied by Mohammed Hafeez Khan (harmonium), Bilal Khan (tabla) and Arshad Ali (tanpura and vocal support)

Khan Sahib (born 1908) presented rare Malhar ragas sung in the rainy season, drawing on ta'leem received nearly eight decades ago, as well as some of his own compositions penned under the name 'Rasan Piya'

(Collaboration: Jnana Pravaha and NaadSaagar Archives and Documentation Society for South Asian Music)

Webcast recording of the programme held on 13th July 2012

MAY 2020

4-10 IIC ANNUAL DAY AND GOLDEN JUBILEE CONCERTS

Sarod Recital (109 min)

By Ustad Amjad Ali Khan

Webcast recording of the programme held on 22nd January 2013

Two Women—Dramatised Readings from Jorsankho

Author of the novel: Aruna Chakravarti

Dramatised readings by Minoti Chatterjee and Avereer Chaurey

Music: Jayati Ghosh

Jorsankho—a novel on the lives of the Tagore women during the period 1859 to 1902 – a unique phase in the history of Bengal. The Tagore mansion of Jorasankho was at the hub

of the Bengal Renaissance with the family at the forefront of the movement and its women playing a pivotal role

Collaboration: Impresario India

Webcast recording of a programme held on 16th May 2012

11-17 SUMMER FESTIVAL

Bharatanatyam Recital

By Kiran Rajagopalan from Bangalore, disciple of A. Lakshman

Followed by

Manipuri Dance Recital

By Baisali Sarkar and troupe from Kolkata, disciple of Smt. Priti Patel and Smt. Sruti Banerjee

Webcast recording of the programme held on 26th June 2013

18-24 Indian Classical Music—Mehfil Series

With Jaipur-Atrauli Gharana Maestro Pandit Rajshekhar Mansur

Accompanied by Ustad Faiyaz Khan (tabla) and Ustad Murad Ali Khan (sarangi)

In keeping with the tradition of his gharana, Pandit Mansur presented rare and largely unheard ragas like Jait Kalyan, Malavi, Savani Nat and Khokar

(Collaboration: Jnana Pravaha and NaadSaagar Archives and Documentation Society for South Asian Music)

Webcast recording of the programme held on 26th September 2012

25-31 Soul of Japan—Shamisen and Nagauta (folksong; 85 min)

Concert presented by Baisho Matsumoto (shamisen) with Yoshimi Fujimoto (vocals), Akira Nishizaki (dance) and Kyoko Hibiki (drums), four Japanese masters in traditional dance, drums, folksong and the shamisen presented the versatile dance and music traditions of Japan

(Collaboration: The Japan Foundation)

Webcast recording of the programme held on 14th February 2013

JUNE 2020

1-7 Carnatic Vocal Padams and Javalis of Smt. T. Muktha (90 min)

A tribute by Dr. Subhashini Parthasarathy to mark the birth centenary of her Guru, Smt. T. Muktha

(Collaboration: Aalaap)

Webcast recording of the programme held on 3rd December 2014

8-14 Tami Tango Trio (80 min)

Concert presented by Eduardo Tami (flautist and leader of the group); Emiliano Ferrer (guitar); and Leandro Marquesano (piano)

With tango dancers—Facundo Barrionuevo and Maria Claudia Marciano

The artists presented a journey through the greatest exponents of Argentine tango. Beginning with the well-known Carlos Gardel to Francisco de Caro, Julian Plaza, Juan Caldarella, Horacio Salgán, Osvaldo Pugliese and the great Astor Piazzolla who revolutionized traditional tango into a new style known as ‘neuvo tango’. The artist will also presented Argentine folk music

(Collaboration: Embassy of Argentina)

Webcast recording of the programme held on 26th March 2015

15-21 Indian Classical Music—Mehfil Series (120 min)

A mehfil with Jaipur-Atrauli gharana exponent

Manjiri Asnare-Kelkar

Accompanists: Pt. Vinod Lele (tabla); and Vinay Mishra (harmonium)

As a disciple of Pt. Madhusudan Kanitkar, Manjiri inherited treasures of the Jaipur-Atrauli Gayaki from which she will share ragas Vihang, Bhoop Nat and Kafi Kanhra

(Collaboration: Jnana Pravaha; and NaadSaagar Archives and Documentation Society for South Asian Music)

Webcast recording of the programme held on 28th October 2013

22-28 Moldvaian Folk Music and Dance

Presented by Borsa Band from Moldva, Romania

With musicians – Noémi Réfi (violin); Katica Manninger (vocals); Péter Tóth (flutes); and Oliver Tóth (koboz)

Dancers: Flóra Csente; Gabriella Erdei; Márk Bence Dunai; and Gergő Porvai

Moldva is a region in Romania with a Hungarian speaking population called Csango who have lived here since the Middle Ages. Moldva is the cultural border between Central Europe and the Balkans. The band founded in 2011 has been collecting old records, folk tunes and traditional instruments such as the koboz (an East European type of lute) and as

well as the various forms of Csango dances which they present wearing medieval costumes

The three video recordings present dance tunes and bride dressing songs

Organised in collaboration with Hungarian Information & Cultural Centre

Jazz Concert Cuban Golden Classics (90 min)

By Van Merwijk's Music Machine from the Netherlands—Lucas van Merwijk, drummer, percussionist and band leader accompanied by Ramon Valle, Cuban master pianist; Bert Boeren on trombone; and Samuel Albert Ruiz, bass player from Venezuela

(Collaboration: Embassy of The Netherlands; Netherlands Fonds Voor Podium Kunsten and ASB for the Arts)

Webcast recording of the programme held on 1st April 2015

29 June Kuchipudi Recital (95 min)

to 5 July By Prateeksha Kashi from Bangalore, daughter and disciple of Guru Vyjayanthi Kashi

Webcast recording of the programme held on 8th March 2016

AUGUST 2020

3-9 Mehfil with Bhuvanesh Komkali (120 min)

Mehfil with Pandit Kumar Gandharvabani exponent Shri Bhuvanesh Komkali (Khayal)

Born into a rich legacy of music, Bhuvanesh Komkali is the grandson of Pandit Kumar Gandharva and Vidushi Vasundhara Komkali and the son of Pandit Mukul Shivputra. He continues to receive guidance from Pandit Madhup Mudgal and Pandita Kalapini Komkali. As a homage to Pandit Kumar Gandharva, Bhuvanesh will sing *ragas* and *bandishes* created by him.

(Collaboration: Shri Harshavardhan Neotia, Chairman, Jnana Pravaha: Centre for Cultural Studies and Research and NaadSaagar Archives and Documentation Society for South Asian Music)

Webcast recording of the programme held on 11 December 2015

10-16 IIC DOUBLE BILL—DANCE AND MUSIC RECITALS

Odissi Recital (30 min)

By Madhulita Mohapatra from Bengaluru, disciple of Guru Smt. Aruna Mohanty

The artist presented *Janasammohini Pallavi* and *Ramate Yamuna Pulina Vane* (an *ashtapadi* from Jayadev's *Geeta Govinda*)

Followed by

Hindustani Vocal Recital

By Padmaja Chakraborty from Delhi, disciple of Guru Smt. Girija Devi

Accompanied by Shubhendu Das on tabla; and Sonali Roy on tanpura

Famous Classical and Musical Theatre Songs (106 min)

Concert presented by Farah Ghadiali (soprano); Firdause Wadia (baritone); and Kersi Gazdar (tenor)

The artists presented a concert of well-known pieces from opera, semi-classical music, and musical theatre (*Phantom of the Opera, Sound of Music* etc.)

Organised in collaboration with Parzor Foundation; and Jiyo Parsi

17-24 Expressions of Muharram (108 min)

As they emerged in the Ganga-Jamuni heartland of Awadh

Marsia, Soz, Salaam, Nauha

In Urdu/Hindustani and Awadhi

Concept, Producer and Marsia recitation: Saeed Naqvi

Soz, Salaam, Nauha recitation: Askari Naqvi with Turab Naqvi, Tasneem Kausar, Yusra Naqvi

Production: Aeliya Naqvi with Ghulam Hussain

Scripted and anchored by Farah Naqvi

The month of Muharram commemorates the eternal battle between truth and falsehood, good and evil, fought by a tiny band of 72 men, women and children in the harsh terrain of Karbala over 1400 years ago. Poetry and ragas, transcending boundaries of language, community and religion, accompany this tradition.

Video recording of the IIC programme held on 21st October 2019

Organised in collaboration with The Raza Foundation

Monsoon Festival of Dance Purushaakaram (140 min)

Bharatanatyam Recitals

By Praveen Kumar from Bangalore, disciple of Guru Smt. Narmada and Prof. C.V. Chandrashekar

Followed by Renjith Babu from Chennai, disciple of Prof. C.V. Chandrashekar and the Dhananjayans

Webcast recording of the IIC programme held on 16th July 2016

24-30 IIC DOUBLE BILL: DANCE AND MUSIC RECITALS

Bharatanatyam Recital

By Anannya Chatterjee from Delhi, disciple of Guru Jayalakshmi Eshwar

The artist presented three items choreographed by Guru Jayalakshmi Eshwar—*Ananda Narthana Ganapatim*; *Keerthanam—Shankara Shri Giri*; and *Thilanna*

Followed by

Hindustani Vocal Recital

By Nishant Panicker from Bengaluru, disciple of Vidushi Lalith J. Rao

Accompanists: Shashibhushan Gurjar (tabla); Surya Upadhyaya (harmonium); and Krishnendra Samarth (tanpura)

Age cannot wither Shakespeare 400

Sonnets: Recitation and Song (68 min)

Recitations: Sunit Tandon; Sabina Mehta Jaitly; Shormistha Panja; and Anhad Anand

Songs: Justin McCarthy (harpsichord) and Sunanda Rao Erdem and others (vocal)

Introduction: Prof. Shormistha Panja

Coordinator: Bhaskar Ghose

Webcast recording of the IIC programme held on 9th December 2016

SEPTEMBER 2020

7-13 IIC DOUBLE BILL—MUSIC AND DANCE RECITALS

Hindustani Flute Recital

By Rajat Prasanna from Delhi, grandson and disciple of Pt. Raghunath Prasanna

Followed by

Kathak Recital

By Moumala Nayak from Delhi, disciple of Pt. Birju Maharaj and Smt. Vaswati Mishra

21-27 IIC DOUBLE BILL—MUSIC AND DANCE RECITALS

Hindustani Vocal Recital (29 min)

By Mitali Sengupta from Kolkata, disciple of Sangitacharya Nutu Mukhopadhyay

Followed by

Sattriya Recital (30 min)

By Meernanda Barthakur from Guwahati, disciple of Shri Jatin Goswami

Ma'afret—The Awakening (33 min)

Based on creation myths of the Zoroastrians

Created by Dadi D. Pudumjee

Presented by The Ishara Puppet Theatre Trust

Music composed by Amit Bhavasar

Video recording of the programme presented as part of Threads of Continuity, The Everlasting Flame International Programme 2016

(Collaboration: Parzor Foundation and Jiyo Parsi)

'In the Forest of My Soul'—Beethoven and his Art

A series of concerts, films and talks to mark the 25th birth anniversary of the renowned composer Ludwig van Beethoven

Conceptualised by Justin McCarthy, pianist and Bharatanatyam artist/guru

Beethoven @250—Recital 1 (58 min)

Piano recitals by three young Indian artists—Keya Kalra Gupta; Priya Ann Sequeira; and Anuvrat Choudhary

Video recording of a concert for IIC online programmes

28 Sept Odissi Recital

to 4 Oct By Vrinda Chadha from Delhi, disciple of Smt. Ranjana Gauhar

Video recording of a recital for IIC

OCTOBER 2020

12-18 IIC DOUBLE BILL DANCE RECITALS

Kathak Recital

By Manjiri Kiran from Jaipur, disciple of Smt. Rohini Bhate and Pt. Suresh Talwalkar

Followed by

Mohiniattam Recital

By Malavika Menon from Kerala, disciple of Guru Smt. Vinitha Nedungadi

Video recording for IIC online programmes

About Ram (53 min; English; 2006)

A performance by Kathkatha Puppet Arts Trust India

Original music score: Abhijit Bannerji

Director: Anurupa Roy

Animator: Vishal K. Dar

An experimental theatrical piece using excerpts from the Bhavbhuti Ramayana and told through animation, projected images, dance, masks and puppets. As the name suggests, the performance is about Ram, the prince who is sent on a long journey far away from his home when he is exiled by his father along with his wife Sita and brother Lakshman.

Video recording of the performance premiered at the IIC on 1st September 2006

19-25 ‘In the Forest of My Soul’–Beethoven and his Art

Concerts, films and talks to mark the 250th birth anniversary of the renowned composer, Ludwig van Beethoven

Conceptualised by Justin McCarthy, well-known dancer, choreographer, Guru and concert pianist

Beethoven @250–Concert 2 (46 min)

Beethoven’s song cycle *An die ferne Geliebte*, or To the Distant Beloved and *Busslied* or Penitence

Presented by Subin Sebastian Mathai (counter tenor) and Nadine Jo Crasto (piano)

Followed by

Beethoven’s Spring Sonata in F major

By Josh Henriques (violin) and Nadine Jo Crasto (piano)

Video recording of the concerts for IIC online programmes

26 Oct Virtual premiere of Rain (23 min; 2020)

to 1 Nov An ensemble work on Bharatanatyam choreographed by Justin McCarthy

Dancers: Veena Kumar, Priya Srinivasan and Abhinaya Penneswaran

Musicians: Venkateshwara Kuppuswamy (Carnatic vocal); Manohar Balatchandirane (mridangam); and Justin McCarthy (nattuvangam)

Video editing: Sandhya Kumar

A recently choreographed piece, it is partially based on verses from Kalidasa’s *Ritusamhaaram*, in which the expressional and technical aspect of dance responds to rain. Rain as conceived both in traditional poetry as well as rain in its simple mundane, aspects

NOVEMBER 2020

2-8 IIC DOUBLE BILL—CLASSICAL MUSIC RECITALS

Hindustani Violin Recital (33 min)

By Asghar Husain from Delhi, disciple of Ustad Zahoor Ahmed Khan and Ustad Iqbal Ahmed Khan

Accompanied by Ustad Akhtar Hasan on the table

Followed by

Hindustani Flute Recital (34 min)

By Sudip Chattopadhyay from Kolkata, disciple of Pt. Debaprasad Banerjee

Accompanied by Subrata Gupta on the table

A video recording of a performance for IIC online programmes

Beethoven @250—Concert 2 (46 min)

Beethoven's song cycle *An die ferne Geliebte*, or To the Distant Beloved and *Busslied* or Penitence

Presented by Subin Sebastian Mathai (countertenor) and Nadine Jo Crasto (piano)

Followed by

Beethoven's Spring Sonata in F major

By Josh Henriques (violin) and Nadine Jo Crasto (piano)

Video recording of the concerts for IIC online programmes

16-22 IIC DOUBLE BILL—MUSIC AND DANCE RECITALS

Sitar Recital

By Debojyoti Gupta from Mumbai, disciple of Shri Buddhadev Dasgupta

Followed by

Bharatanatyam Recital

By Swati Biswas from Delhi, disciple of Guru Smt. Jayalakshmi Eshwar

Video recording of two recitals for IIC online programmes

23-29 'In the Forest of My Soul'—Beethoven and his Art

Concerts, films and talks to mark the 250th birth anniversary of the renowned composer, Ludwig van Beethoven

Conceptualised by Justin McCarthy, well known dancer, choreographer, Guru and concert pianist

Beethoven @250–Concert III

Beethoven and Schiller (21 min)

Piano and poetry

A series of miniature piano pieces by Beethoven played by young, non-professional musicians, and accompanied by verses from Friedrich Schiller's poetry

Poets were an integral part of the arts landscape in Beethoven's day and Schiller was one such well-known poet, whose poetry had a strong influence on the composer

Video recording of short recitals for IIC online programmes

On 28th November 2020 at 3:30 pm

Kamaladevi Puraskar 2020

Presentation of awards to young craftspersons—Arshad Gutti from Ujjain for Batik craft; Samreen from Agra for *Zardozi* embroidery; Sumit Sanjay Chitara from Ahmedabad for *Mata ni Pachedi* painting; Neetu Kumari from Udaipur for appliqué patchwork; Ojum Taba from Arunachal Pradesh for *Gale* weaving; and Nong Moyong from Arunachal Pradesh for *mura* making

Chief Guest: Smt. Ruby Palchoudhuri, President Emeritus, Crafts Council–West Bengal

The presentation ceremony was held online via Zoom Meeting

(Collaboration: Delhi Crafts Council)

30 Nov Odissi Recital (55 min)

to 6 Dec By Vinod Kevin Bachan from Delhi, disciple of Guru Ranjana Gauhar

Video recording of the recital for IIC online programmes

DECEMBER 2020

7-13 Betrayed by Hope (Episode I)

Dramatic reading of the play by Namita Gokhale and Malashri Lal

'Delhi Bengali', Oroon Das and Canada-based 'Bangladeshi Bengali', Inji Zayba Zaheer explore the early origins of modern Bengali identity through the life of poet extraordinaire, Michael Madhusudan Dutt and his journey from alienation to a return to selfhood

Video recording of a performance for IIC online programmes

14-20 **Betrayed by Hope** (Episode II)

Dramatic reading of the play by Namita Gokhale and Malashri Lal

'Delhi Bengali', Oroon Das and Canada-based 'Bangladeshi Bengali', Inji Zayba Zaheer explore the early origins of modern Bengali identity through the life of poet extraordinaire, Michael Madhusudan Dutt and his journey from alienation to a return to selfhood

Video recording of a performance for IIC online programmes

'In the Forest of My Soul'—Beethoven and his Art

Concerts, films and talks to mark the 250th birth anniversary of the renowned composer, Ludwig van Beethoven

Conceptualised by Justin McCarthy, well known dancer, choreographer, Guru and concert pianist

Beethoven @250—Concert IV

Piano recital by Justin McCarthy

Justin presents Beethoven's *Bagatelle* in A major, opus 119, no.4; *Rondo* in G major, opus 51, no.2; *Beethoven: 9 Variations in C minor on a March* by Dressler; and *Sonata in E-flat major, opus 81a*

Video recording of a concert for IIC online programmes

21-27 **Celebrating Poetry** (13 min)

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was not only a highly respected national leader but was also a well-known Hindi poet. His book of poems, '*Atal Bihari Vajpayee ki Nazme*' was translated into Urdu by the renowned Urdu poet, Shri Krishna Mohan. The book of translations was presented by Shri Krishna Mohan to Shri Vajpayee on his birthday. Shri Krishna Mohan is credited with 27 books on Urdu poetry and 4 books in Hindi; he was a recipient of the prestigious All India Hindi Urdu Sangam Award and was a member of the Urdu Academy, Delhi

Smt. Meera Bhatia and Shri Sunit Tandon recited Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's and Shri Krishna Mohan's poems in Hindi

Introduction by Shri Satish Jacob

Christmas at Home

A collection of Christmas carols, songs and spoken words

Presented by Prabhat Chandola, Aching Shaiza, Aalaya Chandola, Mene Chandola and Temsunaro Rongsen Chandola

The artists presented a concert of well-loved carols and songs

Video recording of a concert for IIC online programmes

**28 Dec to 3 Jan IIC DOUBLE BILL RECITALS
Vilasini Natyam**

By Purvadhanshree from Bangalore, disciple of Smt Swapnasundari

Followed by

Hindustani Vocal

By Madhumita Chattopadhyay from Kolkata, disciple of the late Vidushi Purnima Chaudhury and Vidushi Manju Sundaram

Video recording of the recitals for IIC online programmes

JANUARY 2021

11-17 IIC DOUBLE BILL—CLASSICAL MUSIC RECITALS

Hindustani Vocal

By Ashish Ranade from Nasik, disciple of Pt. Anand Bhate

Followed by

Kathak

Group recital by Deepak Aurora and party from Gurgaon/Delhi, disciple of Pt. Rajendra Gangani

Video recording of two recitals for IIC online programmes

18-24 A Beautiful Equation—Einstein, Bohrs and Grandmothers

(53 min; 2014; English)

Director: Robin Truesdale

Recipient of the Platinum Remi Award, Houston Worldfest 2015; and Best International Film, Sunrise Film Festival, Nova Scotia 2015

Eight grandmothers join forces to perform a theatrical production about two historic physicists, Albert Einstein and Niels Bohr. As they reveal untold chapters in the famed scientists' biographies, they also discover new stories about themselves. Their powerful message extends beyond age, gender, and even science—an affirmation of the value of playfulness and imagination within us all

25-31 IIC DOUBLE BILL–CONCERTS

Hindustani Vocal Recital

By Samina De from Delhi, disciple of Pt. Amarnath and Vidushi Shobha Gurtu

Followed by

Hindustani Vocal Recital

By Lalit Deshpande from Pune, disciple of Pt. Ramesh Kanole, Pt. Vijay Koparkar and Pt. Anand Bhate

Video recordings of two concerts for IIC online programme activities

APPENDIX V *Festivals*

FEBRUARY 2020

6 INTACH–IIC Children’s Film Festival Open Futures: Filmit India

Films made by schoolchildren from 42 schools in Delhi on the culture of Delhi

(Collaboration: INTACH)

20-22 ArtEast Festival 2020: The Story of Telling—20 to 22 February 2020

ArtEast is an initiative to raise pertinent questions through Inter/Sections in art, livelihood, social justice, climate change, communication, history—past and present, issues that have a far reaching impact on the everyday life of people and of the nation. The festival included talks/discussions, exhibitions, and performances.

ArtEast 2020: The Story of Telling

proposes to address the Northeast through the lens of its diverse languages and visualise a new imagination of understanding the people and their histories. Speakers at the sessions included well-known linguists and academicians—Ganesh Devy, Anvita Abbi, Harish Trivedi, Lalnunthangi Chhange, among others

Curated by Kishalay Bhattacharjee, Associate Professor and Director, New Imaginations, O. P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat

Organised in collaboration with New Imaginations, Jindal School of Journalism and Communication

Utterances

Art Gallery, Kamaladevi Complex, IIC

Exploring Languages

Calligraphic art by Qamar Dagar

The Exiled Tongue

Cinematographer Parasher Baruah on recording the speech of persecuted and displaced communities like Brus, Chakmas, Rohingyas, Sri Lankan Tamils, Kashmiri Pandits and other ethnicities

पहचान (Identity)

Sakshi Pathak, Naaz Bhardwaj and Nandita Lele, students of NID Haryana conceived an installation on the enmeshed nature of language and identity

We Shall Bear Witness...

Ashima Sharma painted the language of protest on a wall celebrating the return of poetry to the streets and the diversity of languages and cultures that speak in different accents and languages but speak about a common humanity

Kok Sam Lai

Sakshi Pathak sketched a series of fifteen consonants in Meitei Mayek to show the physical articulation of speech

The Shadowed Language

An installation by Ashima Sharma and Akshita Chembolu, about the loss and decline of languages

At 6:30 pm

Inauguration

by Shri K.N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC and Prof. Tom Goldstein, Professor and Founding Dean, Jindal School of Journalism and Communication

At 7:00 pm

Witness Us—A Reading of Miyah Poetry

Poets—Shajahan Ali Ahmed; Ashraful Hussain; Rehna Sultana; and Rafiqul Islam, poet and singer

Miyah poetry is the name given to a collection of poems written by the Bengali-origin Muslims of Assam. The name comes from the street slur 'Miyah' used against this community. When Miyah poetry started in April 2016, the earliest poems tried to re-appropriate this slur, divest it of its negative connotations, and by using it as a badge of honour, turn the word on its head. Over the last four years Miyah poetry has taken different directions—it has talked about the lived experiences of the poets, their shared experiences of living in the chars or fallow lands of Assam, their struggles with constant demands to prove their citizenship and to spread the message of the need for a more inclusive and equal Assam. Today more than 30 poets write Miyah poems across various languages including Assamese, English, Hindi and their own regional dialects. The body of Miyah poetry consists of more than 200 poems. There is no organisational structure to Miyah poetry and the poems are shared via electronic, print and social media according to the discretion of the poets. As such, it is impossible to estimate the exact number of Miyah poems currently in existence

At 7:15 pm

'Wide Open Spaces...'

Concert by Mhademo Leo M. Kikon from Nagaland

Intersections

21st and 22nd February 2020

21st February 2020 at 6:30 pm

Why our Languages are Dying?

Keynote Address by Ganesh Devy, Eminent Linguist, thinker, cultural activist and an institution builder best known for the *People's Linguistic Survey of India* and the Adivasi Academy created by him

Read by Shri Kishalay Bhattacharjee

Followed by the screening of a film

SIKHIRINI MWSANAI (DANCE OF BUTTERFLY)

(65 min; 2019; dvd; Bodo/Hindi/English)

Director: Subasri Krishnan

Synopsis

Sikhirni Mwsanai, literally, dance of the butterfly in Bodo, expresses the delicate almost fragile rhythms of traditional Bodo music and dance. The film traces the journey of 'Sifung Harimu Afad' a cultural troupe of young adult Bodos as they rediscover those rhythms in their efforts to revive live music and dance performance in Chirang district, Assam. Using traditional musical instruments like the *Kham*, *Serja* and *Sifung*, the group attempts to foreground Bodo identity through disappearing cultural forms.

FILMS

22nd February 2002 at 2:00 pm

C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium

Fading Ink–The Dying Art of Naga Tattoos

(60 min/2010)

Directors: Design Stash

Designed as a travelogue, the film journeys to remote villages to document the last practitioners of the traditional art of tattooing. Practised by the Ao, Chang, Konyak, Khemungan, Yimchungrü and Pochury tribes of Nagaland, the film explores the symbolism of these tattoos, their associations particularly amongst communities that have a strong oral tradition

At 3:15 pm

Sabin Alun (The Broken Song)

(52 min/2015)

Script and Direction: Altaf Mazid

Film courtesy: Public Service Broadcasting Trust

Recipient of the Cinema Experimenta Award, John Abraham National Film Awards, Signs, Kerala 2016; Indian Panorama 2016

The film examines the oral singing tradition of the Karbi tribe of Assam. One of the stories that has passed down the generations is a local version of the Ramayana epic, in which Sita is Sinta, the brothers are named Ram and Lokon, and the villain is Ravon. Sabin is the other name for Shurpanakha, whose nose is cut off by Laxman, forcing Ravana take revenge for her humiliation by abducting Sita. Rather than a straightforward information-led documentary that introduces us to the Karbi tradition and includes interviews with the community members, Mazid gets performers to sing and enact episodes from the epic. The documentary brilliantly captures with minimal resources the manner in which the Karbis have merged the themes of the Ramayana with their animistic tenets and agricultural lifestyle

At 4:15 pm

Rong' Kuchak (Echoes)

(30 min/2015)

Director: Dominic Sangma

Recipient of the Volumina Special Awards, Short Ca'Foscari Short Film Festival 9, 2019

Through lanche, a Garo poet, the film tries to understand what it feels to be a poet without a written language. lanche, an accomplished poet finds himself tormented and unable and unwilling to express his feelings through the English alphabet

INTERSECTIONS

22nd February 2020

At 6:30 pm

Whose Language is it Anyway?

Speakers: Harish Trivedi, former Professor of English, University of Delhi, well-known scholar of Post-colonialism and Translation Studies; Lalnunthangi Chhangte, linguist, specialising in the Tibeto-Burman languages of Northeast India; and Shobhana Chelliah, Associate Dean for Research and Advancement, College of Information, University of North Texas, USA

Chair: Anvita Abbi, Eminent Linguist, former Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University and scholar of minority languages

Languages typically belong to a region, and not to a religion. However, the current political climate challenges this notion. Join us for a conversation around language hierarchy and nationalism and why it is more important to focus on language diversity than language divides

20-27 Darakht-E-Dushti–Tree of Friendship

Celebrating 70 Years of Indo-Iran Friendship

Organised in collaboration with Parzor; Iran Culture House; Indian Institute of Persian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Embassy of Islamic Republic of Iran; and Noor Microfilm International Centre

The Shahnameh of Ferdowsi and Iranian Identity

An exhibition of Iranian handicrafts, calligraphy, manuscripts and paintings from the collection of Noor Microfilm International Centre, New Delhi

Introduction by Dr. M. Khajeh Piri, Director, Noor Microfilm Centre

Inaugurated by Shri K.N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC on 20th February 2020 at 16:30

21 February 2020

Panel discussion on **Shahnameh's Response to Contemporary Challenges**

Panellists: H.E. Dr. Ali Chegeni, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran; Dr. Ali Rabbani, Cultural Counsellor, Embassy of Islamic Republic of Iran; Dr. Md. Arshadul Qasemi, Dept. of Persian, University of Lucknow; Dr. Sharif Hussain Qasemi, former Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Delhi

Introduction: Mobed Pedram Suroushpur

Moderator: Mr. Ali Asghar Moghari, Attache, Embassy of Islamic Republic of Iran

25 February 2020 at 18:30 at the C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium

Shahnameh Khani and Musical Performance

A musical performance with simultaneous translations

Storyteller: Mohsen Mirza Ali

Musical performer: Ali Nari

Musicians: Faridolahi (tonbak, percussion); and Kainosh Roozbahani (setar, strings)

28 Feb Dilli Ki Sanskriti: Words in the Garden–A Celebration of Literature, to 1 Mar Arts and Ideas

28 February to 1 March 2020

The annual festival ‘Words in the Garden 2020’ explored ‘Dilli ki Sanskriti’ during three enriching days from February 28 to March 1 2020, where the various sessions and performances were themed around Delhi’s cultural stalwarts like Habib Tanvir, Ebrahim Elkazi , Birju Maharaj, Ram Kumar, Agyeya and Rajeev Sethi. Besides several interesting discussions, some of the highlights of the festival included screenings of the film ‘Ram Kumar: Nostalgic Longing’; two evening performances, the first by classical legend–Pt. Birju Maharaj and the other by Prerana Shrimali, who presented the poetry of dance. This festival was a gathering of Delhi’s prominent names in the fields of performing and non-performing arts, literature, history, photography, fashion, sports and food to bring a cultural bonanza for the Delhi audience this spring

Curated by Ashok Vajpeyi

(Collaboration: Sanatan Sangeet Sanskriti; and IILM)

MARCH 2020

5-7 TO MARK INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY 2020

The 16th IAWRT Asian Women’s Film Festival: 5 to 7 March 2020

The 16th edition of the festival brought together a collection of 52 films from 15 countries, directed by women filmmakers of Asian origin. This edition of the festival reflected the idea of claiming democracy and the many claims on democracy. Women use multiple strategies to claim democratic spaces while being painfully aware of the many ways in which they are made invisible by majoritarian claims. The festival brought together women artists working in films and photographs to both document and intervene in these processes. The festival included animation, short fiction, documentary and feature films as well as a section on *Her Upside Down Gaze*–the myriad ways in which women filmmakers are re-imagining the craft of filmmaking; and a special focus on films from the UAE. ‘*Women and Photography*’ brought together the work of women photographers and collectives with a photographer/curator speaking about their project and an exhibition of photographs. Filmmakers from Bangladesh, India, Turkey and UAE were present to introduce their work

Organised in collaboration with International Association of Women in Radio and Television, India Chapter; UN Women; Friedrich Ebert Stiftung; Sangat; Marwah; and with the support of Jamia Bank; and Canon

Screenings were held in the Auditorium on 5, 6 and 7 March 2020 from 09:00 onwards.

7 PURANDARDASA TYAGARAJA FESTIVAL: 7 and 8 MARCH 2020

Organised in collaboration with Ramakrishnapuram South Indian Society

Carnatic Vocal Recital

By Bhavya Hari from Chennai, daughter and disciple of Late Smt. T.V. Sundaravalli and currently disciple of Sangita Kalanidhi Dr. S. Sowmya

Accompanied by G. Raghavendra Prasath on violin and B. Manohar on mridangam

8 PURANDARDASA TYAGARAJA FESTIVAL

Organised in collaboration with Ramakrishnapuram South Indian Society

Carnatic Vocal Recital

By Sreehari and Sreerag from Delhi, disciples of Dr. Prasanth Gopinatha Pai

Accompanied by Uma Arun on violin; and Kumbakonam Dr. N. Padmanaban on mridangam

May 2020

11-17 Framing Lives–I (Documentaries)

A selection of six award-winning documentaries by independent filmmakers from India. Commissioned and produced by Public Service Broadcasting Trust (PSBT), the films presented a different, more complex panorama of life through work that offers a distinctive presentation of issues and situations that affect the everyday life of the people of a complex society, coming to grips with fundamental transformation, and which attempt a deeper level of reflection and analysis

Organised in collaboration with Public Service Broadcasting Trust. Public Service Broadcasting Trust is a not-for-profit that nurtures and supports the production of documentary films by independent filmmakers. Over the past twenty years, it has mentored 500 of mostly young, starting out talents, producing over 700 documentary films on myriad themes and subjects, travelling to over 1860 film festivals worldwide and winning more than 320 Awards, including 53 National Film Awards, from the President of India.

The six films listed below were made available for viewing on links with English subtitles:

A Drop of Sunshine (39 min/ 2011)

Director: Aparna Sanyal

Recipient of the National Film Award for Best Educational Film 2011; and Indian Documentary Producers' Association Awards, New Jersey, USA

The story of Reshma Valliappan and her journey of eventual triumph over schizophrenia. Embodying a controversial and contrarian view towards recovery, it proposes that the only treatment that can work is the one wherein the ‘patient’ is encouraged and empowered to become an equal partner in the process of healing

I’m Jeeja (28 min/2016)

Director: Swati Chakroborty

Recipient of the Best Film Award on Social Issues, National Film Awards; National Film Awards; Award, FilmSaaz International Film Festival, Aligarh; We Care Fest, New Delhi; among others

Filmmaker Swati Chakroborty beautifully captures the enriching life of Jeeja Ghosh, who was born with cerebral palsy, in the 28-minute documentary, *I Am Jeeja*. The film focuses on the extraordinary woman, who not only holds a double master’s degree from the University of Delhi and the University of Leeds (UK), but also has defied every stereotype and expectation to become a social worker

Nirnay (56 min/2012)

Directors: Pushpa Rawat, Anupama Srinivasan

Recipient of the Pramod Pati Award for Most Innovative Film, Mumbai International Film Festival; Indian Documentary Producers’ Association Awards; Best Documentary, Mumbai Women’s International Film Festival; among others

The film is Pushpa’s journey as she tries to make sense of her own life and those of her women friends. Set in a lower middle-class colony in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, it explores the lives of women, who are young, educated and bright, but feel bound and helpless when it comes to taking any major decision regarding their lives

Journey to Nagaland (26 min/2010)

Director: Aditi Chitre

Recipient of the awards for Best Animation Film and Special Jury Mention for Sound Design, with citation 4th IDSFFK, 2011; Best Animated Short Film (Professional Category), INFOCOM-ASSOCHAM EME AWARDS, Kolkata, 2011; and Golden Conch, MIFF, for Best Animation Film, Mumbai 2012; among others

Journey to Nagaland is a short animated documentary about a young girl who is led to a distant land by the force of her visions and goes on a journey to discover her mother’s origins

Morality TV and the Loving Jihad (30 min/2007)

Director: Paromita Vohra

Recipient of the Award for Best Documentary, International Film Festival, Kerala

The film looks outside the frames that weave the frenetic tapestry of breaking news on India's news channels, to uncover a town's complex dynamics—the fear of love, the constant scrutiny and control of women's mobility and sexuality, a history of communal violence, caste brutalisation and feudal mindsets

On and Off the Records (57 min/2014)

Director: Pratik Biswas

Tareque Masud Award for Best Debut, Film Southasia, Nepal

The post-twentieth-century history of Hindustani music and the story of recording in India are inseparable. The former has constantly been influenced by the growth chart of the latter. How does this constant and continuous interplay affect the aesthetics of one of the oldest musical traditions of the world? The film tries to understand the equation through intimate discussion on the issue with a group of concerned, conscious, and convincing individuals

18-24 Framing Lives—II

Mindscapes...of Love and Longing (54 min/2011)

Director: Arun Chadha

Recipient of the National Film Award for Best Film on Social Issues, 2012; Third Prize, We Care Film Festival, New Delhi

The sexuality of people with disabilities is often marred with misconceptions, prejudices and myths. The film delves into the lives of a few people with disabilities as they explore their sexual identities, within themselves and through relationships. The narrative follows their journeys as they negotiate widely-held biological, medical, social and cultural beliefs and try to claim their sexual rights as individuals with varying physical disabilities. The film attempts to deconstruct the disability and sexuality debate through personal voices and choices they have made as they come to terms with their physical and sexual selves

Qissa-e-Parsi (30 min/2014)

Directors: Divya Cowasji and Shilpi Gulati

Recipient of the National Award for Best Anthropological/Ethnographic film 2014; and Best Documentary, Script Film Festival, Kerala

The film explores the history of the Parsi community, its relationship to the Indian state and association with the city of Mumbai. It strives to understand the Zoroastrian faith, the philosophy to live, laugh and love that is the backbone of the Parsi way of life

There is Something in the Air (29 min/2011)

Director: Iram Ghufra

Recipient of the Mary Kay First Prize, International Women's Film Festival, Seoul, Korea; National Film Award for Best Non-Feature Film Direction, National Film Awards 2011

This film is a series of dream narratives, and accounts of spiritual possession as experienced by women 'petitioners' at the shrine of a Sufi saint in north India. Drama unfolds via dreams, appearances of djinns and disappearances of women. The shrine becomes a space of the expressions of longing and transgression. The film invites the viewer to a world of dream and fantasy. Fear and desire is experienced through dreams and 'afflictions of air'. The shrine is a space where performance becomes the only rule of engagement, and one can begin to think of the possibilities that 'insanity' produces

Video Game (30 min/2005)

Director: Vipin Vijay

Recipient of the Grand Jury Tiger Award, Rotterdam International Film Festival 2006; Best Documentary, SiGNS, Kerala; Golden Pearl, Hyderabad International Film Festival 2006

The film also deals with the relationship of Man and Machine, two of the greatest inventions of the industrial revolution—the automobile and the cinema, providing unparalleled freedom in terms of time and space. The transformation and evolution of technology and its impact on human civilisation. The car used in the film is an old black Ambassador Mark II

What the Fields Remember (52 min/2015)

Director: Subasri Krishnan

The film revisits the event, when 1800 Bengali Muslims were killed in Nellie and surrounding villages in Assam. From the survivors, Sirajuddin Ahmed and Abdul Khayer's retelling of the event, and their struggles of coping with loss and memories that refuse to fade away, the film attempts to explore ideas of violence, memory and justice. How the spaces that witnessed this violence continue to mark people's relationship to history and memory. *What the Fields Remember* also attempts to raise larger questions around collective memory—of what we choose to remember and why we choose to forget

My Sacred Glass Bowl (26 min/2013)

Director: Priya Thuvassery

Recipient of the Indian Documentary Producers Association Award

The film raises questions about the notions of virginity and chastity of women across different cultures in India. Highlighting how our society holds chastity as a benchmark of goodness for women, looks at the concept of virginity as it is perceived by contrasting communities, from the vantage point of the filmmaker, sandwiched between two mothers bringing up their daughters in contemporary times

JULY 2020

20-26 A Festival of Plays

Organised in collaboration with Italian Embassy Cultural Centre, four plays of Pippo Delbono, well-known Italian theatre actor and director were streamed through Vimeo links. Presented by the Emilia Romagna Teatro Fondazione, Italy, each of the plays featured leading actors from theatres in Modena, Cesena, Vignola and Castelfranco Emilia.

The four plays were presented over the four weeks. The plays were in Italian with English subtitles

This Fierce darkness (Questo buio feroce; 110 min)

Written and Directed by Pippo Delbono

Composed of text (Italian and English), music, dance and a remarkable display of visuals, the non-linear show explored the relationship between life and death and the impressions, conscious and unconscious, that fly through our thoughts.

Set in a large white box designed by Claude Santerre and strikingly lit by Robert John Resteghini, the 14 actors, stepping into the production on opening day to replace an ailing company member—play out Delbono’s carnival-like vision. The cast includes a number of non-professional actors, among them street people and others who, for various reasons, some would consider social outsiders

27 July A Festival of Plays

to 2 Aug After the Battle (Dopo la battaglia; 110 min)

Written and Directed by Pippo Delbono

An interdisciplinary work combining theatre, music and dance, and forging new territory in the career of prize-winning Italian writer, actor, and director Pippo Delbono. Delbono stretches the boundaries of his theatrical language and deepens his investigation of the relationship between body and text, action and sound.

Delbono draws his inspiration from encounters with social outcasts. Stemming from his firm belief that people on the margins can understand the truth better than ‘normative’ people, he incorporates these performers in his theatre groups and works, weaving a subtle and unique human fabric. In this theatrical event, Delbono’s theatre group mixes up a brew of irony, provocation, and tenderness, peppered with music, dance, and poetic texts.

AUGUST 2020**3-9 A Festival of Plays****Orchids** (Orchidee; 115 min)

Written and Directed by Pippo Delbono

Orchids is a collage of texts and music, musical pieces taken from Pietro Mascagni, Enzo Avitabile, Deep Purple, Miles Davis and Philip Glass, and theatrical verses taken from Shakespeare (*Romeo and Juliet* and *Hamlet*) and from Chekhov, whose leitmotif is the passion for life. Until the poignant final of *The Cherry Orchard*.

The play was a tribute to a loved one who is no longer there, a wake for a dying mother also realised through the images (sometimes raw) of the main character's real agony in the hospital.

As in all his shows, Delbono brings on stage a cast of 'real' people, a cast that also includes social marginalists, such as the deaf and dumb Bobò, who lived in an asylum for forty years, and Gianluca, a boy down who masterfully interprets characters full of life, who excite the spectators.

10-16 A Festival of Plays**Gospel** (Vangelo; 100 min)

Written and Directed by Pippo Delbono

Pippo Delbono has been experimenting on stage for many years now, exploring the fertile ground between public and personal, between autobiography and history, shaping works that stand out on the international scene for their originality.

Gospel marks a further step along this path. It is a choral work, which began as a contemporary opera: it first took shape in Zagreb, performed by the orchestra, choir, dancers and actors at the Croatian National Theatre together with the acting company that has been working with Pippo Delbono for many years. It markedly reveals the memories of its Croatian performers who lived through the traumatic events of the war that reshaped the history, places and boundaries of their native land

NOVEMBER 2020**23-29 Framing Abilities–I** (45 minutes)

A festival of disability films organised in collaboration with We Care Film Fest and Brotherhood. Ten award-winning short documentaries from Burma/Japan, Lebanon, India, Iran, Italy and Trinidad and Tobago was screened over the next two weeks.

Tiny Step (India)

(1:00 min; English subtitles)

Director: Ganga Bharani

Recipient of the Best Film Award and Special Mention, We Care Film Festival

Question of Success (Mai Pakpagee Wahang/India)

(5:01 min; English and with subtitles)

Director: L. Amarendra Sharma

The story of Md. Abdul Haque, a national Paralympic gold medalist in swimming

The Attitude (India)

(5:06 min; Oriya and with English subtitles)

Director: Santosh Kumar Panda

A job interview for Bhagwan Patra aka 'Rintu'

The Fish and I (Iran; 6:10 min)

Director: Babak Habibifar

Multiple award winner including Young Jurors Prize, International Short Film Festival Ingolstadt, Germany 2015; Best Short Film, 6th Skepto International Film Festival, Italy 2015; Jury Grand Prize and Audience Award, Short Story Film Festival, USA 2014; among others

The film recounts the story of a blind man trying to save his fish

Turning a Page (Trinidad and Tobago)

(10:13 min; English and with subtitles)

Director: Miquel Galofre

The film explores how differently abled students relate to the world through creative outlets like a paper recycling project at their school

Elsewhere (Altrove/Italy)

(18:05 min; Italian with English subtitles)

Director: Cesare Cicardini

Recipient of the Award for Best Film, Bluenose Ability Film Festival 2015

A trip beyond boundaries: beyond Italy and beyond stereotypes

30 Nov Framing Abilities–II (45 minutes)

to 6 Dec I am Special, So are you (India)

(2:18 min; English subtitles)

Director: Indraneel Goswami

Means to Live (Hingbagee Lambi/Manipur)

(4:18 min; English subtitles)

Director: L. Amarendra Sharma

Short fiction film on rights, rather than charity

The Blind of the Cathedral (Lebanon)

(18 min; 2016; Arabic with English subtitles)

Director: Nadine Asmar

Multiple award winner including Best Short Film, Short Film Competition of Mediterranean Countries, Alexandria International Film Festival 2016; Jury Prize, Arab Women Filmmakers Competition, Baghdad International Film Festival 2016; Winner–Festival Award for Best Directing, Seize the Film–Films on Disability 2017; among others

Fate led to Hala and Bachir first meeting in front of a cathedral. At first sight, they share nothing in common: she is a 15-year-old student, she is Muslim and she sees. Whereas Bachir is 27, he plays the lute, he is Christian and blind. Hala and Bachir will go through an adventure that will empower their innocent love. But a dark fate awaits them.

Traveller (Myanmar/Japan)

(24:06 min; 2014; English subtitles)

Directors: Nwaye Zar CheSoe, Mine Aung Lin Tun, Pyae Zaw Phyoo

Recipient of the 3rd Prize for The Best International Documentary ASEAN Film Festival, Hanoi, Vietnam 2015; Jury Mention, We Care International Film Festival, India 2016; and Disability Justice Award, Superfest Disability Festival, Los Angeles, USA 2017

A young woman born with a disability searches for a career despite rampant discrimination. She travels to Japan where she finds strength in disability activism and community, and returns home with a newfound sense of pride.

JANUARY 2021

9 Polish Film Festival

Organised in collaboration with Polish Institute, New Delhi. The festival presented eight

award-winning feature films from Poland. Screenings were held every Saturday and Sunday in January 2021

Of Animals and Men

(70min; 2019; Polish with English subtitles)

Director: Lukasz Czajka

Received the Bei Doc Award at the Italian Bellaria Film Festival 2020; awarded the Best Arthouse Film at the Chinese GZDOC 2019 Guangzhou International Documentary Film Festival 2019

The key aim of every zoo is to protect animal species from extinction. In times of war, the most endangered species was the man. Under the Nazis' noses, about 300 people, mainly Jews, found shelter at the Warsaw Zoo during the Second World War. With the help of re-enacted scenes with animals, interviews with survivors, and archival footage, the surreal atmosphere of those events was recreated

10 Supernova

(78 min; 2019; Polish with English subtitles)

Director: Bartosz Kruhlik

Winner of the Best Polish Film Association of Polish Filmmakers Critics Awards 2019; winner of the Best Film at Dublin International Film Festival 2020; winner of the Best Debut Director at Polish Film Festival 2019

Three men, one place and one event that will change the life of each one of them. A universal tale, kept in a realistic style, tells the story of a few hours in the life of a rural community. The film takes a look at the condition of a man in a borderline situation and raises questions about the essence of chance and destiny. A bloody story, oscillating on the edge of drama, thriller and disaster cinema

16 A Coach's Daughter (Córka trenera)

(93 min; 2018; Polish with English subtitles)

Director: Lukasz Grzegorzek

Recipient of the Best Youth Film Award, Cottbus Film Festival of Young East European Cinema, 2018; and Distinction for Best Actor & 'Rising Star' awards, Polish Feature Competition, International Independent Film Festival 'Off Camera', 2019

During one hot summer season, Maciej Kornet (47) and his beloved daughter Wiktoria (17) set out on another journey across Poland for a long series of tennis tournaments. The two are inseparable, training together for twelve years; Wiktoria meticulously follows her father's routine. But at one of the tournaments, the dynamics of their relationship changes with the arrival of Igor, a young, promising tennis player...

17 All for My Mother (Wszystko dla mojej matki)

(103 min; 2019; Polish with English subtitles)

Director: Małgorzata Imielska

Recipient of the Best Debut Actor Award, Polish Film Festival 2019; Audience Award and Special Mention, Warsaw International Film Festival 2019

Olka, a tomboyish seventeen year old must endure life in a court-ordered reformatory as she plots a way to find her mother

23 Birds are Singing in Kigali (Ptaki spiewaja w Kigali)

(113 min; 2017; Polish with English subtitles)

Directors: Joanna Kos-Krauze, Krzysztof Krauze

Multiple award winner including Best Actress Awards at Chicago International Film Festival 2017 & Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2017; Best Performance Award, LET's CEE Film Festival 2018; Best Feature Film, Best Actress & Best Editing, Polish Film Festival 2017; Grand Prix, 10th CinÉast Film Festival 2017; among others

Birds are Singing in Kigali is a multi-layered drama of two women who survived the Rwandan genocide of 1994, Polish ornithologist Anna Keller and Rwandan Claudine Mugambira. Both women, suffering deeply, engage in a complex and piercing psychological process of healing and restoration of their daily lives...

24 Chitraanjali–Stefan Norblin in India

(59 min; 2011; dvd; English)

Director: Malgorzata Skiba

The film tells the forgotten story of Polish artist, Stefan Norblin (1892-1952), who found safe haven in India during WWII and spent six eventful years working for the royal families of Morvi, Ramgarh and Jodhpur. The film is a tribute to the art of the Polish painter and brings back to limelight the fascinating landscape of the Art Deco period in Poland and in India

30-31 Polish Film Festival

The online Festival of Films closed with a special presentation of **Gypsy Stories** focusing on the Roma and Sinti people of Poland on **30 and 31 January 2021**. Three related programmes were screened

Gypsy Stories

The History of Roma's Exit from India to Europe (15 min)

An illustrated lecture on the migration of Roma and Sinti people from India to different corners of Europe including present day Poland and the Balkan states. The talk traces their history and lives in the new homelands

Concert (36 min)

Presented by Bartosz Smoragiewicz Ensemble from Poland who present Gypsy Bossa

Artists: Bartosz Smoragiewicz on clarinet & saxophone; Marcin Skaba on violin; Sebastian Iwanowicz on guitar; and Piotr Domagalski on double bass

Considered the future of Polish jazz, the quartet founded in 2014 combines elements of gypsy swing, musette waltz, bossa and blues in a new and contemporary interpretation

Papusza (Doll)

(126 min; 2013; Polish & Roma with English subtitles)

Directors: Joanna Kos-Krauze, Krzysztof Krauze

Multiple award winner including Best Polish Film, Association of Polish Filmmakers Critics Awards 2013; Special Mention, Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2013; awards for Best Score, Supporting Actor & Best Makeup, Polish Film Festival 2013; Best Director, Best Actor & Youth Jury Award, Valladolid International Film Festival 2013; among others

Biopic on Papusza, the first Roma woman to write and publish her poems thereby contesting the traditional role of women in her gypsy community. The film follows Papusza's life from birth to old age. The well-known Polish poet Jerzy Ficowski, discovered her great talent for poetry and published her works which led to a tragic paradox: a famous poet living in poverty, rejected by the Roma community for betraying their secrets

APPENDIX VI *Films and Exhibitions*

FEBRUARY 2020

1-4 **Sacred Architecture of Kashmir–Continuity of the Spiritual Traditions of the Past**

An exhibition of photographs on sacred architecture of Kashmir—the temples, stupas, mosques and khanqahs all reflect the continuity of an architectural tradition that evolved more than a millennia back

Exhibition presented by INTACH, Kashmir

3 **FILM**

A Place to Live (100 min; 2019; dvd; English with subtitles)

Direction and Editing: Sanjiv Shah who introduced the film

Screening was followed by a discussion

The Constitution of India deems that the right to shelter is a fundamental right. However, there is no law in the country to protect this right. The film is structured around conversations with people: their idea of home, their struggles to find a place to live—those forced to the margins of society, as well as those within the system but unable to find/afford it

4 **FILM**

Much Ado about Knotting (India)

(56 min; 2012; dvd; Hindi/English)

Directors: Geetika Narang, Anandana Kapur

Recipient of the award for Best Film, International Film Festival, Ferizaj, Kosono

Born into a society obsessed with marriage, a young girl, a not-so-young man and an NRI couple are compelled by tradition to look for matches via classifieds, matchmaking bureaus and websites. The film is a light-hearted chronicle of the marriage predicament

Film courtesy: Public Service Broadcasting Trust

11-16 **From my House to your House**

A select journey of Indian vernacular architecture (*Lok-Sthapatya*)

By Miki Desai, former Professor of Architecture, CEPT University, Ahmedabad

Inaugurated by Mr. Eric Falt, Director and UNESCO Representative, South Asia on Monday, 10 February 2020 at 18:00

Followed by a talk on **Wooden Architecture of Kerala**

Illustrated lecture by Prof. Miki Desai based on his book of the same title (Mapin Publishing–DC School of Architecture and Design)

Panel discussion on **Rethinking Vernacular in Contemporary Times**

Panellists: Prof. Narayani Gupta; Prof. Partho Datta; Dr. Rajat Ray; Shri M.N. Ashish Ganju; and Shri Rohit Raj

Chair: Prof. Ashok Behari Lal

(Collaboration: UNESCO, New Delhi Office; and Archicrafts)

12-18 A House for Mr. Yabako

An exhibition of photographs by Peeyush Sekhsaria—a man builds a home for himself once in a life time, where he will return tired at the end of a hard day’s work, where his children will play and grow. Only when Yabako sees that Adama’s family is happy in their new home, a Nubian vault, will he start thinking of building a Nubian vault home for himself

Inaugurated by Sanjay Prakash, Shift Studio on Tuesday, 11th February 2020 at 18:30

As part of this exhibition, there was a talk in the Annexe Lecture Room II on Saturday, 15th February 2020 at 18:30 on

Around the World in a Nubian Vault

Illustrated talk by Peeyush Sekhsaria, photographer who presented a journey of the Nubian Vault, starting from a chance discovery by Hassan Fathy in a Nubian village, north of the Sahara in Egypt. The talk was based on personal journeys and face-to-face interactions in Burkina Faso, Niger, Egypt and India and traced the journey of the 3300 year old Nubian Vault from Nubia to the architecture of Hassan Fathy and from there to Central Asia (Uzbekistan) and even Nalanda in the 7th century, followed by the modern era

Chair: Prof. K.T. Ravindran

13 FILMS OF THE SPIRIT

Curated by Rajiv Mehrotra

Ghatashraddha, (The Ritual/Kannada)

(144 min; 1977; dvd; English subtitles)

Director: Girish Kasaravalli

Recipient of the Golden Lotus Award for Best Film, National Film Awards, India 1978

Set in a rural orthodox Brahmin Karnataka village, Kasaravalli's first feature film tells the story of a child widow through the eyes of a young boy. Yamuna, a young widow stays in an *agrahara* with her father Udupa, who runs a Veda Pathshala. Nani, the new entrant to the school likes her. Yamuna befriends the village school teacher and becomes pregnant. Soon the villagers find out and terming it 'immoral' they decide to outcast her by performing the *Ghatashraddha* ritual

(Collaboration: Foundation for Universal Responsibility; and National Film Archive, Pune)

MARCH 2020

3-8 Hindu Deities and Sanskrit in Japan

An exhibition of photographs by Benoy K. Behl, well-known photographer and Culture Historian

Inaugurated on Friday, 6 March 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

India's relationship with Japan is far closer than most seem to be aware of. There are at least a score of Hindu deities very actively worshipped in Japan including Saraswati, Lakshmi, Indra, Brahma, Ganesha, Garuda and other deities. The 5th century Sanskrit Siddham script which is no longer used in India is still preserved and taught in Japan today. Sanskrit is also the basis for the formation of the Japanese alphabet 'Kana'. This exhibition presented some of these shared cultures

Following the inauguration of the exhibition, there was a talk and a film screening from **11:45 to 13:00** in Seminar Rooms II and III, Kamaladevi Complex

Indian Deities Worshipped in Japan

Talk by Shri Benoy K. Behl

Indian Deities Worshipped in Japan (52 min; 2015; English)

Directed by Benoy K. Behl

Produced by Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India

3 FILM

Aayi Gayi (62 min; 2019; dvd; English subtitles)

Directed by Anandana Kapur who introduced the film

Recipient of the award for Best Film on Human Rights, Woodpecker International Film Festival 2020

Screening was followed by a discussion

Uncovering the consequences of treating access to electricity as a right. In Bihar, where ‘*Sarkarmerabadabhaihai...*’ is the righteous response to why one may illegally acquire electricity connections or not pay bills. A team of academics work on the ground to activate RLSS—the Revenue Linked Supply Scheme—and are met with various degrees of opposition and success. The film explores the complex relationships people have with the State through the lens of electricity

4-12 My Latin American and Caribbean Trip

A collection of award-winning photographs by amateur photographers selected from over 90 entries from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Panama and Jamaica

Previewed on Tuesday, 3 March 2020 at 17:00

(Collaboration: The Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, India; and Delhi Photography Club)

9 FILM

Asli Azaadi (45 min; 1997; dvd; Hindi/Gujarati with English subtitles)

Produced and directed by Sagari Chhabra, award-winning author and film director who introduced the film

A landmark film with interviews of women freedom fighters—known and unknown women who were inspired by Mahatma Gandhi and Netaji Subash Chandra Bose

Followed by

‘Hamaara Iitihās Archives’

Discussion and introduction to India’s first multimedia archive of surviving freedom fighters and witnesses of Partition across India and South-East Asia

Discussant: Prof. Vibha Chauhan

MAY 2020

4-18 The Three Amigos

An online exhibition of black and white photographs of the 1950s and 1960s by Vinoo Bhagat, Kishan S. Rana and Deb Mukharji

11-17 Lend Me Your Eyes, Baltazars (56 min/2017/ English subtitles)

Director: Dora Elek

Recipient of the Best Director, Documentary Feature Film Category, Jaipur International Film Festival 2018

Lend Me Your Eyes, Baltazars is infused with the naturalness, lyricism and humour flooding from the entertainers as the film talks about the journey of two young Hungarian women who travel to the southern part of India in search of self-discovery

Organised in collaboration with Hungarian Information & Cultural Centre

19-31 Tic-Tac-Toe

An exhibition of illustrations by Ankur Ahuja from Delhi

A collection of portraits of people on the streets of Delhi that engages with the idea of the new 'normal'

JUNE 2020

1-13 Stream of Passion, 2019

An exhibition of drawings, animation and video by Aušra Kleizaitė and Gintarė Valevičiūtė Brazauskienė, well-known artists from Lithuania

The exhibition remained on view from 1st to 14th June 2020

Organised in collaboration with Embassy of Lithuania

11 & 12 11 June

Shalom Bollywood: The Untold Story of Indian Cinema (Australia) (76 min/2017/English)

Director: Danny Ben-Moshe

Narrator: Ayesha Dharkar

Shalom Bollywood reveals the unlikely story of the 2000-year-old Indian Jewish community and its formative place in shaping the world's largest film industry. When Indian cinema began 100 years ago, it was taboo for Hindu and Islamic women to perform on screen, so Jewish women took on female lead roles, which they dominated for decades. The film focuses on the lives of five of the great Jewish actors. Infused with music and dancing, the cheekily told documentary unabashedly oozes Bollywood as it uses film motifs to drive the narrative

12 June

A Conversation with Danny Ben-Moshe

On 12th June 2020 at 11:30 a.m., Embassy of Israel hosted a Zoom session with Danny Ben-Moshe, Director of *Shalom Bollywood*.

Screening organised in collaboration with Embassy of Israel in India

15-28 ‘The Prince of Painters’: Raphael 1463–1520

An online exhibition commemorating the 500th death anniversary of Raphael, master painter and architect of Italian High Renaissance, one of the most influential and naturally gifted artists in the history of art

The exhibition also included a webinar recording

Raffaello Sanzio: A Painter Called Master (55 min)

An Illustrated lecture by Ms Caterina Brazzi Castracane, historian, author and tour guide on the life and work of Raphael and a virtual tour of the art works currently on display at the exhibition **Raffaello 1520-1483** on view at the Scuderie del Quirinale in Rome which brings together numerous artworks from many different museums

29 Jun A Nomad’s Journey: Travels with Premola

to 12 Jul An exhibition to celebrate and remember Premola Ghose, Chief, Programme Division IIC on her first death anniversary. An avid traveller, interested and curious about the histories and cultures of the people and countries she visited, Premola made friends easily with the locals, getting lost in little bookstores and discovering cafes and lesser known sites along the way. A wonderful storyteller, travel tales were always linked with vivid memories of food. Her paintings on display reflect a keen sense of observation for details, colour, texture and light.

The exhibition presented a selection of thirty watercolour paintings on travel created by Premola Ghose from 1996 to 2018. Most of the works on view have not been exhibited before.

JULY 2020

13-26 Plain Abstract

An online exhibition by Dani Karavan and Atar Geva from Israel

Curators: Anat Lidror and Noa Karavan

The online exhibition brought together the works of two leading contemporary artists from Israel, Dani Karavan and Atar Geva who meet at Givat Haviva, in its home for art, the GH Art Gallery. Growing into and out of the place, they engaged with the space, with each other, and negotiated the idea of simplicity, the abstract, real, alive and mundane. Creative materials such as sand, the olive tree and citrus trees are Karavan’s art materials, a continuous and endless work of art. Geva’s spilled paint, spreading at will and becoming liquid or solidifying, and the sculptural combustion process, with their

distinctive aroma, are both part of the processes as well as co-creators of the works. The exhibition also questions the idea of the kibbutz, of which Karavan was a member and Geva was born into.

Organised in collaboration with Embassy of Israel in India; Givat Haviva, Israel; and The GH Art Center, Israel)

20-26 The Brahmaputra and its People

Screening of a documentary film followed by a discussion

Nodir Kul Nai (17:11 min; 2019; with English subtitles)

Director: Parasher Baruah

The film was introduced by Kishalay Bhattacharjee

Screening was followed by a discussion with Parasher Baruah on some of the issues raised in the film

The short documentary produced by ArtEast, features singers, boatmen and everyday life on the *Chars* or numerous sand banks that dot the red river, the Brahmaputra. The river does not know boundaries, it just flows. In the film, through songs and poetry, the miyahs who inhabit the *chars* explore their relationship with the river, their struggle for survival and the larger issue of migration and identity. They are as much outsider as water is to land

27 July Living the New Normal: In these Extraordinary Times

to 9 Aug Curated by Dr. Arshiya Mansoor Lokhandwala

The online exhibition explored the work of five Indian women artists that allude to the extraordinary but incongruous moment that we are experiencing, highlighted through their various bodies of work which refer to the current zeitgeist

On view were works by Anita Dube; Shilpa Gupta; Prakajta Potnis; Pushpamala N.; and Mithu Sen

(Collaboration: MASH)

AUGUST 2020

3-9 FILM

In War and Peace—The Life of Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, MC
(60 min; 2003; English)

Director: Jessica Gupta

Produced by UNESCO Parzor Project

Documentary on the life of India's first Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw. The film travels back in time through Sam's rich and unique life through a conversation with his grandson Jehan, making the past come alive. The film re-visits a part of history that many of today's generation know very little about. It is a tale of heroism, bravery, honesty, wit and much more...

(Collaboration: Parzor; and Jiyo Parsi)

10-23 Diverse Asia

An online exhibition of photographs by Ajit Rana

A kaleidoscopic journey across Bali, Hong Kong, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam presenting the diverse landscapes, textures and people of Asia

24 Aug Botanical Paintings of Indian Flowering Plants

to 6 Sept An online exhibition by Siddhartha Das Studio

Two centuries ago, the British botanists began a visual study of Indian flora. Indian artists were commissioned to make botanical paintings which were sent back to Britain where it survives in collections at some of the Royal botanical gardens.

Siddhartha Das Studio has recently commissioned skilled miniature artists to create a series of botanical paintings of Indian flowering plants to celebrate this legacy

31 Aug Focus Japan

to 6 Sept Screening of NHK documentary films on Japan's history, literature, art, culture and heritage. Organised with the support of NHK World and Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

The People and Their Emperor (50 min; English)

Japan's Imperial system is considered to have a 2,000 year old history. A series of esoteric rituals accompany an Emperor's ascension to the Chrysanthemum throne. The film presents a re-enactment of one such ritual where the Emperor is believed to dine with Shinto deities. At a time when there are only three heirs to the throne, the film also takes a closer look at what this could mean for the people of Japan and the Imperial system

SEPTEMBER 2020

1-6 Focus Japan

Screening of NHK documentary films on Japan's history, literature, art, culture and heritage. Organised with the support of NHK World and Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

The People and Their Emperor (50 min; English)

Japan's Imperial system is considered to have a 2,000 year old history. A series of esoteric rituals accompany an Emperor's ascension to the Chrysanthemum throne. The film presents a re-enactment of one such ritual where the Emperor is believed to dine with Shinto deities. At a time when there are only 3 heirs to the throne, the film also takes a closer look at what this could mean for the people of Japan and the Imperial system

7-20 A Brush with Hope

Art by Women Inmates of Tihar Jail created during workshops conducted in the early 1990s

Conceptualised and Curated by Dolly Narang

The online exhibition was on view from 7th to 20th September 2020

7-13 FILM

In His Inner Voice: Kuldip Nayar (60 min; 2017; English)

A film by Meera Dewan

For Films Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India

This documentary biopic is a tribute to the life, the times and dreams of one of post-independence India's most beloved chronicler and conscience-keeper. Using extracts and insights from Kuldip Nayar's memory bank: politics, partition, prose, poetry—in his own words. Until his death two years ago at 97 years, Kuldip Nayar was both an active participant and witness towards the journey of independent India

FILM

Focus Japan

Organised with the support of NHK World and Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

A Vanished Dream: Wartime Story of My Japanese Grandfather (49 min; 2020; English)

To American photojournalist Regina Boone, her paternal grandfather was an enigma. He was a hard-working Japanese immigrant but was arrested on the day of the Pearl Harbour attack never to return home. Regina's father rarely spoke about him throughout his life. It was only on his deathbed that he asked Regina to find out the circumstances surrounding her grandfather's disappearance. The film follows Regina's quest to uncover the trail of her missing Japanese grandfather

14-20 FILM

Focus Japan

Organised with the support of NHK World and Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

Kurashiki, Okayama (15 min; 2019; English)

A travelogue to Kurashiki, a city in Okayama Prefecture facing the Seto Inland Sea that flourished as a commercial centre during the Edo period. The historical quarter of the city has over 600 buildings dating back to the Edo period. With its network of canals and distinctive period warehouses called 'Kuras', the city combines tradition and modernity

Toshiyuki Inoko: Changing Perspective with Art (28 min; 2019; English)

An interview with Toshiyuki Inoko of TeamLab, a cutting edge art collective. The film presented one of TeamLab's major exhibitions created using digital technology and with computer algorithms that transcend the boundaries between time and space

21 Sept **Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Solidarity Movement in Poland**

to 4 Oct An exhibition of photographs and texts on the first independent trade union movement which contributed to the collapse of communism and brought to an end the world's cold war divisions. The exhibition delineates the rise of the Solidarity Trade Union and the historic 31st August 1980 signing of the August Agreement

Was on view in the Quadrangle Garden, from 21st September to 4th October 2020

(Collaboration: Polish Institute, New Delhi)

OCTOBER 2020

5-18 **Moments in Time: Raphael Drawings**

Selected drawings of the Renaissance Master, Raphael Sanzio

Second online exhibition organised to commemorate the 500th death anniversary of Raphael Sanzio (1483-1520), master painter and architect of the Italian High Renaissance, and one of the most influential and naturally gifted artists in the history of art

5-11 **Focus Japan**

Organised with the support of NHK World and Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

Searching for the Standing Boy of Nagasaki (50 min; 2020; English)

A young boy carries on his back the lifeless body of his younger brother, in the devastated city of Nagasaki after the atomic bomb explosion. An American military photographer,

Joe O'Donnell, took a picture of him standing stoically near the cremation pit. This film follows the fate of thousands of 'atomic-bomb orphans' and their struggles to survive the aftermath of World War II

12-18 Focus Japan

Organised with the support of NHK World and Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

Okina—Dance of Life (49 min; 2020; English)

Noh-Kyogen is considered to be the most ancient form of theatre. Among its repertoire is 'Okina—Sanbaso' performed only on special occasions such as the New Year. Unlike other Noh and Kyogen pieces, this 600-year old masterpiece has no storyline or narrative, and is considered more of a sacred ritual for peace and abundant harvest.

19-28 A Phoenix from the Ashes

The destruction and reconstruction of Warsaw 1939—1955

The exhibition revisits one of the most critical chapters in the history of Poland, the destruction of the capital city of Warsaw by German troops and the inspiring reconstruction of the city after World War II. World War II and the Warsaw Uprising of 1944 in particular, left the city with almost nothing to define its identity. Warsaw, the centre of cultural, political and social life, almost ceased to exist. But like a phoenix rising from the ashes, Warsaw was rebuilt and gradually brought back to life. This unique and pioneering nature of the reconstruction of the city was given its due recognition when Warsaw's Old Town was included in the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1980

Polish Architecture

An exhibition of photographs by leading Polish architectural photographers on contemporary buildings

On view at the Art Gallery, Kamaladevi Complex from 19th to 28th October 2020, 11 am to 7 pm daily

(Collaboration: Polish Institute, New Delhi)

19-25 Focus Japan

Organised with the support of NHK World and Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

Tokyo Miracle City: Gourmet Capital—Keeping Alive the Spirit of Tsukiji (49 min; 2020; English)

The documentary explores Tokyo's well-known and tantalising food culture, exploring the role played by the iconic Tsukiji fish market in Japan's culinary history. Actor Sato Takeru

takes viewers on a journey back in time as we learn about the lives of the skilled specialists at the heart of the market and discover their unique contribution in the journey from ocean to table

26 Oct Focus Japan

to 1 Nov Organised with the support of NHK World and Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

Niigata—The Deep Green of Summer

(49 min; 2020; English)

Part of the series Cycle Around Japan, the documentary takes viewers on a 250-km ride through Niigata Prefecture, past green rice fields shimmering under the summer sun. Niigata is where much of Japan's rice is grown and is also home to some of best craftsmen and artisans dedicated to perfecting their art. Climbing up into the mountains, the film presents a glimpse of the traditional style of river fishing and visits a breeder whose Nishikigoi carp are now world famous.

NOVEMBER 2020

2-15 Spiti—Paradise Unveiled

A selection of photographs taken over a period of twenty years in Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh.

An exhibition of photographs by Kishore Thukral

Online exhibition was on view from 2nd to 15th November 2020

2-8 Focus Japan

Organised with the support of NHK World and Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

A Culinary Tale—Trails to Oishii Kyoto (49 min; 2020; English)

Kyoto's cuisine is marked by an interplay between ingredients and seasonality. The city long served as Japan's capital, during which time it developed a unique culinary culture that lives on to this day. That culture includes dining on *hamo*, a kind of eel, at open-air, riverside restaurants, and feasting on fine vegetables that evolved thanks to Kyoto's distinct terrain. Kyoto's colourful, elaborate cuisine is the basis of fine Japanese cooking. Discover what makes Kyoto so delicious: so 'oishii.'

9-15 Focus Japan

Organised with the support of NHK World and Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

Aichi–Heartland of Japan’s Craft Traditions

(27 minutes; 2019; English and with subtitles)

Part of the series Cycle Around Japan, the documentary follows Michael Rice, a long term resident of Japan to explore Aichi Prefecture in Central Japan and its time honoured craft tradition, history and culture. Starting in Nagoya, one of Japan’s biggest cities, he discovers a fermented soybean seasoning called Hama natto. Rice meets a potter who continues to practise a 200 year tradition of pottery called Tokoname-yaki teapots made from the rich soil found in the area and makers of inkstones carved from mountain rocks.

FILM

Windfall of Grace (India)

(129 min; 2020; Hindi/English and with subtitles)

Director: Japna Tulsi

Recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award (Debut Filmmaker), Druk International Film Festival, Bhutan 2020; Best Documentary Film, Indus Valley International Film Festival 2020; Award of Recognition, Impact Docs Award (Documentary Feature), USA 2020; among others

Documentary on the life of Baba Neem Karoli Maharaj (1900-1973), also known as Maharajji.

16-22 Alfred Stieglitz: The Eloquent Eye (87 min; 2001; English)

Director: Perry Miller Adato

A PBS American Masters series documentary on Alfred Stieglitz, the father of modern photography. Stieglitz helped raise the status of photography to the level of art. As a photographer, publisher and gallery owner, he was a key figure in the birth of American modernism. With never before seen footage of Georgia O’Keeffe speaking about Alfred Stieglitz who offered her own show in his popular and avant garde Studio 291 and whom she later married in 1916. The documentary also includes interviews with leading Stieglitz scholars and museum curators

Focus Japan

Organised with the support of NHK World and Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

Geisha: A Sunset Trade? (28 minutes; 2020; English and with subtitles)

Geisha have existed for hundreds of years, but in modern Japan they are declining in number. It is a story that is repeated across many forms of traditional Japanese culture. The documentary focuses on the world of geishas, and the challenges ahead. Watanabe

Kazuko and Mayumi, run a geisha association, and have decades of experience in the industry. They explain the challenges they face, and offer insights into how hard it can be to maintain tradition.

Triumph of the Will (Triumph des Willens)

(114 min; 1935; b/w; German with English subtitles)

Director: Leni Riefenstahl

Recipient of the Award for Best Foreign Documentary, Venice Film Festival 1935

An all-time film classic, one of the best-known examples of propaganda film. It chronicles the 1934 Nazi Party Congress in Nuremberg with excerpts from speeches given by various Nazi leaders at the Congress, including portions of speeches by Adolf Hitler, interspersed with footage of massed party members.

Leela in Kheriya (India) (53 min; 2016; with English subtitles)

Director: Molly Kaushal

Produced by Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts

Leela in Kheriya is a feature length documentary film based on the Ramlila tradition of village Kheriya near Firozabad town, known for its glass and bangle factories. Kheriya Ramlila is one of the finest examples of India's composite culture. The film portrays the eternal human quest for self-realisation through an exploration of personal life histories of actors and residents of Kheriya, for whom the Ramlila stage becomes a site of healing and self-recovery.

23 Nov Born to Perform

to 6 Dec Online exhibition of photographs by Vijay S. Jodha

An ongoing photography project shot in India and abroad, the exhibition features portraits of some of the world's finest and most inspiring performing artists who happen to be physically challenged. The project focuses on some of the world's leading performing artists from Australia, Cambodia, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Micronesia, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Thailand and U.K.

The online exhibition was on view from 23rd November to 6th December 2020

Organised to commemorate International Day of Persons with Disabilities observed on 3 December annually

(Organised in partnership with UNESCO, New Delhi Office)

23-29 Focus Japan

Organised with the support of NHK World and Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

Tsuruko's Tea Journey in Germany (50 minutes; 2020; English and with subtitles)

Hanzawa Tsuruko is a master of *chaji*, a tea ceremony that starts with an exquisitely prepared *kaiseki* meal and finishes with matcha tea served from the heart. A *chaji* can last for four hours and is a spiritual process, in which the participants remove themselves from the mundane world, seeking harmony and inner peace. Tsuruko has been traveling around Japan to encounter new people and share *chaji* with them. In autumn 2019, at the age of 76, she set off on a tea journey across Germany. The film chronicles her month-long odyssey

30 Nov Focus Japan

to 6 Dec Organised with the support of NHK World and Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

The Lights of Fukiya (49 min; 2019; English)

In 1977, the small mountain village of Fukiya was designated as an Important Preservation District in recognition of the vintage red-brown townhouses that lined its streets. Known in former days as a producer of a red pigment called 'bengara,' it became a popular tourist destination. But with an aging population, it has become more and more difficult to maintain the old houses and shops that make Fukiya so special. Faced with a crisis, 11 local residents with no business experience took a bold step to save their community for future generations. This programme follows their progress as they create a corporation and set out to convert an old townhouse into a chic tourist guesthouse.

The Joy of Stats (UK) (59 min; 2010; English)

Director: Dan Hillman

Prof. Hans Rosling, Swedish physician, academic and public speaker hosts an energetic and informative glimpse of the meaning and impact that statistics has on big data. The documentary takes viewers on a rollercoaster ride through the wonderful world of statistics to explore the remarkable power they have to change our understanding of the world.

DECEMBER 2020

7-20 Folk and Tribal Art of India

An exhibition of Gond paintings; Kalighat patuas; Kalamkari; Madhubani paintings; Mata-ni-Pachedi paintings on cloth; Pichwai paintings; Theyyam masks; and Warli paintings

Artists: Rajendra Kumar Shyam, Santosh Shyam Moti, Manoj Tekkam (Gond); Shanwar Chitrakar (Kalighat); Gurappa Chetty, Harinath N. (Kalamkari); Baua Devi, Ajit Kumar Jha, Chandrakala Devi, Avinash Karn, Shalini Karn (Madhubani); Sanjay Manubhai Chitara (Mata-ni-Pachedi); Karan Pichwai, Manish Soni & group, Karan Singh Rajput (Pichwai); Prasanth A.V. (Theyyam mask); and Amit Mahadev Dombhare, Sunil Khadpada, Sarita Suresh Banjara (Warli)

Curator: Meena Varma

(Collaboration: Arts of the Earth)

7-13 Focus Japan

Organised with the support of NHK World and Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

Ink Paintings: Insights into the Heart of Zen

(28 min; 2020; English and with subtitles)

Originating in China, ink painting was once part of a Zen monk's ascetic training. It reveals the beauty of space in a simple, refined state and captivates the viewer, while conveying Zen tenets. The art form took hold and matured in Kyoto in the 15th century with masters, such as Josetsu and Sesshu, and Jakuchu in modern times, wielding great influence on the genre.

Willa Cather: The Road is All (USA)

(90 min; 2005; English)

Director: Joel Geyer

Documentary on Willa Cather, one of the greatest American novelists of the twentieth century, she was gifted in conveying an intimate understanding of her characters in relation to their personal and cultural environments. Awarded the Pulitzer Prize for *One of Ours* (1922), a novel set during World War I, critics have increasingly identified Cather as a canonical American writer, the peer of authors like Hemingway, Faulkner and Wharton.

14-20 Focus Japan

Organised with the support of NHK World and Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

Ogawa Jihei Gardens

(28 min; 2020; English and with subtitles)

From the late 1800s to the early 1900s, dominant political and business figures owned villas in neighbourhoods at the foot of the Higashiyama mountains flanking the eastern part of Kyoto. Many of their gardens were built by the pioneer of modern Japanese garden,

Ogawa Jihei VII. Rather than bending the style of European gardens to Japanese tastes, or blending foreign and domestic styles, Ogawa's gardens were firmly grounded in Japanese landscaping traditions, which he evolved to fit the lifestyles of those who were driving the country's rapid social and technological change.

Van Gogh: Painted with Words (UK)

(80 min; 2010; English)

Director: Andrew Hutton

Produced by BBC Scotland

Recipient of the Rockie for Best Arts Documentary, Banff World Media Festival 2011

Drama-documentary presented by Alan Yentob, with Benedict Cumberbatch in the lead role as Vincent van Gogh. Based on the letters that Van Gogh sent to his younger brother Theo, and of those around him, what emerges is a complex portrait of a sophisticated, civilised and yet tormented man. The film has been critically acclaimed for its fascinating insights into the life of the artist and its unique approach to storytelling

21 Dec The Alchemy of Process

to 3 Jan The journey of Seema Kohli in printmaking

An exhibition of etchings, serigraphs, screen printing and lithographs

The online exhibition was on view from 21st December 2020 to 3rd January 2021

21-27 Focus Japan

Organised with the support of NHK World and Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

Satoyama Living: Country Customs Sustaining the Ancient Capital

(28 min; 2018; English and with subtitles)

In the mountains north of central Kyoto, the 'Satoyama' style of living in harmony with nature, and the customs that influenced life in the ancient capital survive to this day. An old inn in the town of Hanase continues to serve the local specialty *Tsumikusa*, a cuisine of seasonal food foraged from the wild. Miyama is famous for its thatching tradition, and the local artisans use skills passed down for generations to re-thatch Kyoto's many temples and shrines.

28 Dec Focus Japan

to 3 Jan Organised with the support of NHK World and Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

Geiko Satsuki, Beauty through the Seasons

(50 min; 2020; English and with subtitles)

The film follows a year in the life of Satsuki, an exceptional geisha who has been the leading geisha for the last 7 consecutive years in Gion Kobu. Gion Kobu the largest geisha district in Kyoto with a history going back over 400 years has over 60 teahouses in a narrow alley of one square kilometre. Satsuki has emerged as a geisha of the new age. The film explores *Omotenashi*, Japanese hospitality, and traditional geisha games such as *Konpirafunefune* and *Tosenkyo*.

Remembering Bimal Roy (India)

(55 min; 2007; English and with subtitles)

Director: Joy Bimal Roy

Few directors have left such an indelible mark on Indian cinema as Bimal Roy. Joy Bimal Roy who lost his father at the age of 11 years, remembers very little of his father as Bimal Roy obsessed with his work was hardly ever home. The film is a search for his father and a record of the indelible memories of some of the actors and colleagues whose lives the iconic filmmaker touched and changed forever.

JANUARY 2021

4-17 Urmila–Enchanted Mother

Curator: Anu Jindal

A group exhibition of artworks by ten artists from around the world working in different genres and media on the universal theme of mother and the associated sentiments.

Works by NILS-UDO (landscape art, Germany); Himmat Shah (landscape art; India); Rameshwar Broota (visual art; India); Hildegard Westerkamp (soundscape; Canada); Chang-Hoon Woo (painting; South Korea); Kavas Kapadia (painting; India); Ramakrishna Vedala (painting; India); Prabir Purkayastha (photography/digital art; India); Naoyuki Ishiga (*kiri-e* or papercut; Japan); and Anu Jindal (visual art; India)

On 4th January 2021 at 5 pm, there was a virtual opening with a webinar discussion on:

The Act of Creation

Speakers: Kishalay Bhattacharjee, Professor & Vice Dean at Jindal School of Journalism and Communication, O.P. Jindal Global University, Former journalist, NDTV; and Sanjeev Bhargava, Founder Director & Producer SEHER festivals

Moderator: Anu Jindal, Artist, Art Historian & Educator, Former, Visiting Research Professor, International Research Centre for Japanese Studies, Kyoto, Japan

Online exhibition was on view from 4th to 17th January 2021

4-11 Focus Japan

Organised with the support of NHK World and Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

The Shape of Sound: A Piano Paints the Seasons of Nara

(45 min; 2020; English and with subtitles)

'The 72 Pentads of Yamato' produced by NHK Nara has received more than 2 million views online from around the world. Each pentad, or five-day season, reflects the Japanese ideal of living in harmony with nature in Yamato, the ancient name for Nara. The series created by Nara videographer Hozan Koichi and Kawakami Mine, a pianist and composer paints the 72 seasons of the year through photography and piano. The film follows Kawakami as she prepares for their next project—the pinnacle of the series—a devotional offering at Kasuga Taisha Shrine.

11-17 Focus Japan

Organised with the support of NHK World and Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

Buddhist Architecture

(28 min; 2014; English and with subtitles)

Kyoto is home to the head temples of most Buddhist sects, with 2,700 temples small and large which shape the ancient capital's historical landscape. The film looks at some of the most important temples in the city including Tofoku-ji temple with its famous Shichidogaran layout symbolising the human body. Maintaining temples for centuries, the film follows traditional carpenters as they carry out major repairs at Chion-in and thatch Kiyomizu-dera's main-hall with cypress bark using traditional roofing methods.

Ladies and Gentlemen...Mr. Leonard Cohen (Canada)

(44 min; 1965; b/w; English & with subtitles)

Directors: Don Owen & Donald Brittain

Produced by National Film Board of Canada

Recipient of the Canadian Film Award for Best TV Information, Canadian Film Awards 1966

An informal portrait of Leonard Cohen that captures the noted poet and novelist before he launched his career as a singer-songwriter in 1967. The film follows Cohen at age 30 on a visit to his hometown of Montreal, where he comes 'to renew his neurotic affiliations.' Interspersed with interviews and Cohen's own poetry readings mostly taken from *The Spice-Box Earth* and *Flowers for Hitler*

In the Age of AI

(113 min; 2019; English)

Directors: Neil Docherty, David Fanning

PBS International Frontline investigates the promise and perils of AI; from fears of work and privacy to rivalry between the U.S. and China. The documentary traces a new industrial revolution that will reshape and disrupt our lives, our jobs and our world, and allow the emergence of the surveillance

18-31 The Silent Melody of Qutub Minar

An exhibition from the collection of Archaeological Survey of India, Delhi Circle's archives. On view are reproductions of archival photographs, lithographs, sketches of the medieval monument by engineers and artists including engineer Ensign Blunt from 1794 and the cameras used for documenting the site

The exhibition was on view from 18th to 31st January 2021, 11 am to 7 pm at the Art Gallery, Kamaladevi Complex

(Collaboration: Archaeological Survey of India, Delhi Circle)

18-24 Focus Japan

Organised with the support of NHK World and Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

Tsubo-niwa

(28 min; 2016; English and with subtitles)

Traditional Kyoto Machiya townhouses have narrow entrances, and are long and deep. At the back lie small Tsubo-niwa gardens (courtyard gardens), enclosed on all sides. Originally serving to provide light and ventilate the house, they enabled residents to comfortably endure the intense, summer heat. The gardener does not fill it up the space, instead he carefully arranges a few items and links the garden compositionally to his home. And he exploits numerous untouchables: wind direction, sounds, seasons, sunlight, the true and apparent dimensions of empty space.

25-31 Focus Japan

Organised with the support of NHK World and Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

Bamboo Innovation: Creative, Pliable and Sustainable

(28 min; 2020; English)

Bamboo has long been used in architecture and everyday tools. Discover how the younger

generation is working to revive interest in bamboo by infusing modern sensibilities. One artisan uses traditional methods to create fashion accessories. A fence builder promotes bamboo through QR codes and artworks. A master craftsman develops fireproof bamboo and nurtures new talent to expand his market.

Lucknow Diary: My memories of a city

(98 min; 2019; English)

Written and directed by Mekhela Deva

A nostalgic look at the city from the eyes of some of its residents and the filmmaker who regularly visited the city over a ten year period exploring how the 'tehzeeb', that the city is known for has seeped into the everyday lives of its citizens. The documentary features a cross-section of people including Lucknow's famous book seller Ram Advani, political scientist, Violette Graf, historian Rosie Llewellyn Jones and others

APPENDIX VII *Film Club*

FEBRUARY 2020

CHINESE FILM FESTIVAL

5 **Ju Dou**

(95 min; 1990; dvd; English subtitles)

Directors: Zhang Yimou, Fenliang Yang

Multiple award winner including Amanda Award for Best Foreign Feature Film, Amanda Awards, Norway 1991; Silver Condor for Best Foreign Film, Argentinean Film Critics Association Awards 1992; Golden Hugo for Best Feature Film, Chicago International Film Festival 1990; among others

This early Zhang Yimou film quite expectantly has his colour-infused emotional links, his political interpretations, it is steeped in melodrama along with other prime examples of his cinematic signature. The story of a mean, bitter old business owner and his stunning young bride. There are cruel sexual torments she is put through before her eventual defence by the husband's wholesome nephew (also employee). Love then blossoms in a passionate and illicit affair behind the old merchants back. Opening the door on Chinese culture (this time in the 1920's), interpretation, simplicity and drama—these are the foundation blocks of Zhang's films.

The budding romance and rejection of the older man are kept clandestine to the neighbours even to the extent of her bearing a child—a boy. Thought to be the old man's, but in actuality the noble nephew's progeny.

Ju Dou is a masterpiece and for those discovering Zhang as an auteur, this film is the first piece in the larger puzzle

6 **To Live (Huo zhe)**

(133 min; 1994; dvd; English subtitles)

Director: Zhang Yimou

Multiple award winner including Best Actor Award, Grand Prize of the Jury & Prize of the Ecumenical Jury, Cannes Film Festival 1994; Bafta Award for Best Film not in the English Language, Bafta Awards 1995; NBR Award for Top Foreign Films, National Board of Review, USA 1994; among others

Fugui's gambling leads him to lose everything, including his wife, Jiazhen, and his home. Over the following decades, he struggles to live as a peasant. He tries joining a theater troupe, and then he enlists in the Chinese army in hopes of being a good citizen. Yet, just

as things get better—and Jiazhen and their baby daughter return to him—the Cultural Revolution begins and tragedy continues to strike his family. Despite numerous hardships, Fugui never gives up hope

12 **Not one Less** (Yi ge dou bu neng shao)

(106 min; 1999; dvd; English subtitles)

Director: Zhang Yimou

Multiple award winner including Golden Lion, Laterna Magica Prize, Sergio Trasatti Award & UNICEF Award, Venice Film Festival 1999; Audience Award, São Paulo International Film Festival 1999; Film of Merit & Shanghai Film Critics Award for Best Direction, Shanghai Film Critics Circle Awards 1999; among others

The teacher in a village school in China's rural wasteland hasn't been paid for six months. His most precious possession is a box of chalk. Occasionally a child stops coming because of needs at home and all carry their poverty with humour and grace. The teacher sleeps on a mattress in a cramped room at the back with three of his pupils who have nowhere to go. This is his life and the welfare of the children matters desperately to him.

He has to go away for a month to care for his sick mother and a replacement teacher is hired. She turns out to be a 13-year-old girl, who has only taken the job for the money. All she can do is read and write and so makes the children copy sections of a book from the blackboard, while she sits outside the door to stop anyone leaving.

The beauty of Zhang Yimou's film is its simplicity. Using untrained actors, he has achieved a unique and wondrous thing. Wei Minzhi demonstrates fierce determination in the lead role and the children's unselfconscious collaborative effort brings tears to the eye.

This is the story of an obstinate girl's refusal to admit defeat and how her class discovers that not all school work is impracticable. If it wasn't made with such loving care, you might suspect a political agenda. Even the poorest, Yimou seems to be saying, can achieve greatness with perseverance

18 **Happy Together** (Chun gwong cha sit)

(96 min; 1997; dvd; English subtitles)

Director: Wong Kar-wai

Multiple award winner including Best Director Award, Cannes Film Festival 1997; Audience Award for Most Popular Foreign Film, Arizona International Film Festival 1998; Hong Kong Film Award for Best Actor, Hong Kong Film Awards 1998; among others

Yiu-Fai and Po-Wing arrive in Argentina from Hong Kong and take to the road for a holiday. Something is wrong and their relationship goes adrift. A disillusioned Yiu-Fai

starts working at a tango bar to save up for his trip home. When a beaten and bruised Po-Wing reappears, Yiu-Fai is empathetic but is unable to enter a more intimate relationship. After all, Po-Wing is not ready to settle down. Yiu-Fai now works in a Chinese restaurant and meets the youthful Chang from Taiwan. Yiu-Fai's life takes on a new spin, while Po-Wing's life shatters continually in contrast

24 **In the Mood for Love (Faa yeung nin wa)**

(98 min; 2000; dvd; English subtitles)

Director: Wong Kar-wai

Multiple award winner including awards for Best Actor & Technical Grand Prize, Cannes Film Festival 2000; César for Best Foreign Language Film, César Awards, France 2001; NYFCC Awards for Best Cinematography & Best Foreign Language Film, New York Film Critics Circle Awards 2001; among others

There is a recurrent sound of a sensual waltz that accompanies each encounter between Chow Mo-Wan and Su Li-zhen as they invariably cross paths in a crowded residential complex: the first is a polite glance as Mo-Wan leaves the room of a friendly card game; and then during the subsequent encounters on the steps of a noodle shop, where, often denied dinner companionship by their spouses, they stop for a quick meal. One evening, Mo-Wan asks to meet Su Li-zhen in a restaurant, admires her purse, and asks where he could buy one as a present to his wife. She explains that it is a gift from her husband that was purchased during a recent international business trip, and is not locally available. Su Li-zhen, in turn, asks Mo-Wan about his tie, and he responds that it is a gift from his wife. The subtle, underplayed moment is a knowing confirmation of their own nagging suspicions about their spouses' infidelity. The two begin to rehearse scenarios in order to prepare themselves for the seemingly inevitable emotional confrontation: who initiated the affair; how to broach the subject of infidelity; how to react after the shattering admission. When Mo-Wan decides to pursue a lifelong dream of writing a martial arts serial in order to pass the time, Su Li-zhen agrees to proofread his work. However, when their professional collaboration leads to an undeniable attraction, the two find themselves struggling with the shame and guilt over their own emotional betrayal.

Using graceful slow motion sequences and nostalgic music, Wong Kar-wai juxtaposes the romanticism of a lost era with the unrequited longing of an impossible relationship in *In the Mood for Love*

27 **Together with You (He ni zai yi qi)**

(116 min; 2002; dvd; English subtitles)

Director: Chen Kaige

Multiple award winner including Audience Award, Tribeca Film Festival 2003; FIPRESCI Prize – Special Mention, Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival 2003; Silver Seashell for Best Director & best Actor, San Sebastián International Film Festival 2002; among others

Chinese director Chen Kaige returns to home ground for this even-handed drama about a provincial teenager Xiaochun, whose father takes him to Beijing to audition for one of the city's most prestigious music schools. Moving from the countryside to the urban jungle, shy Xiaochun is shocked to learn that playing the violin has as much to do with capitalism as classical music.

In Beijing, Xiaochun's country bumpkin father convinces down-at-heel professor Jiang to take his son under his wing. Jiang, a heartbroken recluse who lives in a hovel surrounded by stray cats, teaches Xiaochun to play with his heart. But when Xiaochun moves on to his next teacher, Professor Yu (played by Kaige himself), things prove rather different.

Held together by a richly eclectic score that sets Debussy and Strauss against traditional Chinese folk music and some compositions by the director, this unashamedly sentimental film plucks at the heartstrings.

MARCH 2020

GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL

4 **Beyond Silence** (Jenseits der Stille)

(109 min; 1996; dvd; English subtitles)

Director: Caroline Link

Multiple award winner including Bavarian Film Awards for Best Direction, Young Film; Best Music; & Best Production, Bavarian Film Awards 1997; Film Award in Gold for Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role; & Film Award in Silver for Outstanding Feature Film, German Film Awards 1997; Most Popular Film Award, Vancouver International Film Festival 1997; Best Screenplay Award & Tokyo Grand Prix, Tokyo International Film Festival 1997; among many others

Lara's parents are both deaf. Since she is the only member of her family who can hear and speak, she has served as a kind of foreign minister for her family from an early age, translating and negotiating for them in even the most absurd of situations. When Lara's vivacious and temperamental aunt Clarissa gives her a clarinet as a present, the girl begins to discover the wonderful world of music. Her father observes this development with waxing unease, as he fears losing his daughter to a world he has no access to. Torn between her love of music and her love of her parents, the growing Lara finally chooses a life of music. When she decides to go to Berlin and attend the music conservatory, the difficult and painful process of leaving home begins ...

13 **Run Lola Run (Lola Rennt)**

(95 min; 1998; dvd; English subtitles)

Director: Tom Tykwer

Multiple award winner including Audience Award, World Cinema, Sundance Film Festival 1999; Audience Award for German Film of the Year; Film Award in Gold for Outstanding Film of the Years; Outstanding Feature Film; Best Performance an Actress in a Supporting Role; Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role; Best Direction; Best Editing; & Best Cinematography, German Film Awards 1999; Golden Space Needle for Best Film, Seattle International Film Festival 1999; among many others

Tom Tykwer cranks up the volume, stiffens the pace, and jettisons us on one of most exhilarating cinematic adventures. A breathtaking race against the clock, *Run Lola Run* straps Tykwers' playfully hip sensibilities to a fun-filled mix of romance, thrills, and action as his tireless heroine pounds the pavement and racks her brain to save her lover from danger. Manni and Lola are twenty-something Berliners, way past cool and desperately in love. When Manni, a local criminal's errand boy, loses twenty thousand Marks, he has twenty minutes to find the money or face retaliation. Not the brightest bulb, Manni turns to the quick-witted, resourceful Lola to devise a plan to save his hide. And so she does, and off she sprints, running for Manni's life, for her love, and to find money somewhere, somehow. Dangling three 'what if' variations on Lola's mission to save her mate, *Run Lola Run* propels us toward each outcome with a delicious peppering of surprises, quirks, and twists. A sure-fire hit with audiences, *Run Lola Run* brings to the screen two actors of immeasurable charisma: Franka Potente as the heroic, flame-haired Lola, and Moritz Bleibtreu as her doltish but devoted lover. Scoring his delirious staccato mix of animation, still photographs, and live action to a pounding techno beat, Tykwer reveals himself a virtuoso of the medium and, at the same time, a passionate believer in destiny and the transcendent power of love

16 **The Cut**

(138 min; 2014; dvd; English subtitles)

Director: Fatih Akin

Recipient of the Audience Award 'Silver Seagull' for Best Film, Sofia International Film Festival 2015; and Vittorio Veneto Film Festival—Special Mention, Venice Film Festival 2014

In 1915 a man survives the Armenian genocide in the Ottoman Empire, but loses his family, speech and faith. One night he learns that his twin daughters may be alive, and goes on a quest to find them.

Mardin, 1915. One night, the Turkish police rounds up all the Armenian men in the

city, including the young blacksmith, Nazaret Manoogian, who is separated from his family. Years later, after managing to survive the horrors of the genocide, he learns his two daughters are also still alive. Determined to find them, his search takes him from the Mesopotamian deserts and Havana to the barren and desolate prairies of North Dakota. On his journey, he encounters a range of very different people from the angelic and kind hearted to the devil incarnate

20 Me And Kaminski (Ich und Kaminski)

(124 min; 2015; dvd; English subtitles)

Director: Wolfgang Becker

“You’re famous. That’s what you wanted. Being famous means having someone like me.” Sebastian Zöllner in Germany shortly before the turn of the millennium.

Sebastian Zöllner, art journalist and master of overconfidence, plans his big coup: a tell-all book about the legendary, but almost forgotten painter Manuel Kaminski, a pupil of Matisse and friend of Picasso who once became famous as ‘the blind painter.’ Zöllner, an unscrupulous and ambitious careerist, makes his way to the remote chalet high in the Alps where the aged artist lives withdrawn and shielded by confidants. Sebastian intrudes into Kaminski’s home, life and past, unceremoniously taking him on a breakneck and insane journey to his childhood sweetheart, who has long been considered dead. On the way, he tries to elicit Kaminski’s secrets with cunning and audacity. But Sebastian soon discovers that, whether blind or not, he’s in no way the old man’s equal.

MAY 2020

4-10 DAY OF HUNGARIAN FILM: A FESTIVAL OF CLASSIC COMEDIES

Organised in collaboration with Hungarian Information and Cultural Centre and presented by the Hungarian National Film Institute to celebrate the ‘Day of Hungarian Film’. A selection of eight feature films were screened and included some of the best, most unforgettable Hungarian comedy films made in the last 80 years

Hyppolit, the Butler / Hyppolit, a lakáj (1931/77 min)

Directed by István Székely

Evergreen comedy about a typical parvenu, an ignorant transportation entrepreneur who has suddenly found himself very rich. Despite their humble origins, his wife strives to live a sophisticated lifestyle. When she engages a butler, Hyppolit, their whole life is turned upside down. It has remained one of the most viewed Hungarian comedies of all time: it is shown regularly and is still extremely popular

Mickey Magnate / Mágnás Miska (1948/95 min)

Directed by Márton Keleti

Baracs Pista, engineer at the construction site of a railway line near the Korláthy estate, falls in love with Rolla, a countess disguised as a peasant girl. The count is giving a party as he wants the railway line to go across his lands

Liliomfi (1954/109 min)

Directed by Károly Makk

Set in the 'Golden Era' of the wandering Hungarian theatre troupes. Mariska and Liliomfi fall in love without suspecting that Mariska's foster father, Professor Szilvay, is also Liliomfi's uncle. Soon the couple must contend with the professor's plan to make Liliomfi give up his 'unrespectable' profession of acting by exposing the professor's hypocrisy, greed, and tyrannical selfishness

Sparrows Are Birds Too / A veréb is madár (1968/80 min)

Directed by György Hintsch

A comedy about two twin brothers—Sándor, who emigrated and became a rich man, and Zoltán, who stayed in Hungary and lives the life of an average working-class man. When Sándor visits his twin brother, they are constantly mistaken for each other, and when Zoltán sees how differently people treat Sándor because of his money and his foreign citizenship, he begins to like being mistaken for him—until he realises that this means he will lose his girlfriend Szöszi...

The Witness / A tanú (1969/103 min)

Directed by Péter Bacsó

There is no mythology in Hungarian film history comparable with that of *The Witness*. Quotes from Péter Bacsó's hilarious satire have become proverbial. The great triad of dam-keeper Joseph Pelican, comrade Blossom and comrade Bastion remains a bunch of vivid caricatures forever. Due to its genius, penetrating both script and acting, the film goes to have an immediate experience of the outrageous absurdity of dictatorship

Don't Panic, Please! / Csak semmi pánik (1982/87 min)

Directed by István Bujtor, Sándor Szőnyi G.

There are mysterious murders in the area of Lake Balaton. These places are shrouded in secrecy and constantly attract hunters: during the Second World War, the Germans had hidden a huge treasure here. Investigation of the murders was entrusted to Major Kardos.

He takes up the case, but in search of treasure he had many competitors. Kardos uses help from his loyal friend—a policeman-superman Etvash aka ‘Droplet

Dollybirds / Csinibaba (1997/100 min)

Directed by Péter Tímár

The movie is set in the actual ‘Ki Mit Tud?’ talent contest in 1962. In reality the contest in dance music category was won by an army brass band. ‘Omega’ which later became one of the most successful Hungarian rock bands came out in the second place

Moscow Square / Moszkva tér (2001/88 min)

Directed by Ferenc Török

Recipient of the awards for Best Debut Film, Best Supporting Actress & Internet Audience, Hungarian Film Week 2001

1989 is an important year in the political history of Hungary. However, Petya and his friends couldn’t care less. They are about to graduate high school. The only important things to them are the parties, girls, making some easy cash. And of course, passing the upcoming exam with the leaked questions

JULY 2020

**29 Jun CLASSICS WITH YOU: A FESTIVAL OF SPANISH FILMS
to 5 Jul (1973-1997)**

Organised in collaboration with Cervantes Institute, New Delhi

Second in the online film series presenting five exceptional films from Spain, created between 1973–1997. Each of the films has received awards at the most prestigious international festivals and are emblematic of the collective memory, continuing to connect with contemporary viewers, offering them a much richer and more complex imagination.

Screenings were held every Friday in July 2020

3 The Spirit of the Beehive (El espíritu de la colmena)

(94 min; 1973; Spanish with English subtitles)

Director: Victor Erice

Multiple award winner including the Golden Seashell Award, San Sebastián Film Festival 1973; CEC Awards for Best Film, Best Actor & Best Director, Cinema Writers Circle Awards, Spain 1974; among others

Victor Erice’s feature debut is a declaration of love for cinema. The awakening of little

Ana to the mysteries of adult life allows the director to pay tribute to the importance of cinema to understand the world, and also our inner world. Through the wonderful images of this film we will see the image of Frankenstein circulate as one of the icons of cinema, but also as the mythical character that allows Ana to deal with her fears in the sad post-war period of a small Castilian town, along with her parents and her sister Elizabeth

10 **The Holy Innocents** (Los santos inocentes)

(103 min; 1984; Spanish with English subtitles)

Director: Mario Camus

Multiple award winner including ASECAN Award for Best Spanish Film, ASECAN Awards 1985; Best Actor Award & Prize of the Ecumenical Jury-Special Mention, Cannes Film Festival 1984; CEC Award for Best Film, Cinema Writers Circle Awards, Spain 1985; among others

An adaptation of Miguel Delibes' novel of the same title, the film is an outstanding example of the cinematographic policies of the eighties which sought new interpretations in cinematic adaptations of books.

In the '60s, a young soldier on leave returns to the humble rural croft of his youth to visit his prematurely ageing parents, and recalls, in a series of flashbacks, the lives and quotidian grind of his family. This is Franco's Spain; and for the poorest workers on the estates, life is feudal and brutal. The scenes speak for themselves: the soldier's father crawling like a dog to sniff out fallen game, too proud of his prowess to notice his debasement; his simpleton uncle gently cradling the family's retarded child, only to infect her with lice; his ever-suffering mother, sadly and stoically accepting the loss of her child's chance of an education. If Camus places his sympathy firmly with these innocent victims rather than their morally impoverished employers, his mood is nevertheless one of restraint, shot through with moments of symbolism and dark spirituality. Save only finally, when the cruelty and claustrophobia are punctured by a moment of cold catharsis. A moving and mournful valediction to an unforgotten and unforgiven past

17 **The South** (El sur)

(93 min; 1983; Spanish with English subtitles)

Director: Víctor Erice

Multiple award winner including Gold Hugo for Best Feature Film, Chicago International Film Festival 1983; CEC Award for Best Director, Cinema Writers Circle Awards, Spain 1985; Critics Award, São Paulo International Film Festival 1984; among others

Victor Erice's 1983 gem remains a haunting tale of family secrets and postwar loss.

Estrella Arenas, a rural Spanish teenager with a rich imagination, dreams of her mysterious

father Agustín, a man who in recent years has drifted away from her. Estrella struggles to piece together Agustín's secret history and recalls her family's sudden unexplained move from Seville, Spain, to the northern countryside in her youth. Estrella decides to return alone to the South, a place warped by years of her father's hazy and nostalgic recollections.

24 The Lucky Star (La Buena estrella)

(102 min; 1997; Spanish with English subtitles)

Director: Ricardo Franco

Multiple award winner including Prize of the Ecumenical Jury- Special Mention, Cannes Film Festival 1997; Goya Awards for Best Director, Best Lead Actor, Best Original Screenplay & Best Film, Goya Awards 1998; CEC Awards for Best Actor, Best Actress & Best Score, Cinema Writers Circle Awards, Spain 1998; among others

After making his daily purchases at the slaughterhouse, Rafael, a butcher, witnesses Marina—a woman with a glass eye—being attacked on the street by Daniel; her long-time acquaintance since the orphanage, where they were both raised as children. He rescues her from Daniel and brings her to his home, where soon a relationship develops between them. Rafael and Marina settle down together as a couple. However, Daniel is released from prison and comes back in search of Marina...

31 The Heifer (La vaquilla)

(122 min; 1985; Spanish with English subtitles)

Director: Luis Garcia Berlanga

Recipient of the ASECAN Award for Best Spanish Film, ASECAN Award 1986

Written and directed by Luis Garcia Berlanga, it was the first comedy made about the Spanish Civil War and the highest-grossing Spanish film in Spain at the time surpassing *The Holy Innocents (Los santos inocentes)*.

Set in 1938 during the Spanish Civil War when a group of Republican soldiers sneak into a village in enemy territory to steal a bull with plans of butchering it to feed themselves. Fate and the bull itself, however, have other plans. One of the surreptitious bull-snatchers knows the village well—he grew up there, but that advantage alone cannot guarantee their success, as it turns out. The group of five would-be thieves dress themselves in uniforms of the Nationalist troops in an attempt to dissimulate their true identity. But instead of a neat getaway with a bull in tow, they are caught up in the 'correo' or running of the bull, they get involved in a religious procession, and in the end, watch as the bull breaks out of a flimsy ring in a bullfight and heads for the hills. Still hungry, the group of men now have to worry about getting back to their own battalion before they are found out

AUGUST 2020

10-16 RETROSPECTIVE OF FILMS BY APARNA SEN

The Japanese Wife (Bengali)

(105 min; 2010; English subtitles)

Director: Aparna Sen

Recipient of the Audience Award, Kerala International Film Festival, 2010

Snehamoy (Rahul Bose), a school teacher in a small village in the Sunderbans, finds a penpal in the Japanese girl, Miyage (Chigusa Takaku), who runs a grocery store in Japan. Snehamoy and Miyage build an everlasting bond through a mere exchange of letters that manage to communicate their devotion and longing for each other, even though they are unsure of their English and are bred in totally different cultures. But Snehamoy connects with his distant wife by flying the beautiful kites she sends him and Miyage dons the bangles and drinks the medicine her husband posts to her, hoping that someday they might be physically together. An unconventional yet undeniable bond that is accepted by all and sundry. And yet, like the mercurial landscape of the Sunderbans, it's a bonding that is not without its turbulence too: unfulfilled passion, deep desire, desperate longing...

Paromitar Ek Din (House of Memories/Bengali)

(130 min; 2000; English subtitles)

Director: Aparna Sen

Recipient of the FIPRESCI Prize, Bombay International Film Festival 2000; Award of the Ecumenical Jury—Special Mention, Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2000; Regional Winner, Best Feature Film in Bengali and Silver Lotus Award for Best Supporting Actress, National Film Awards, India 2000

Paromitar Ek Din offers a fresh insight into relationships between women. Women, distanced in terms of age, education, attitude towards life and relationships. The film explores the dual themes of friendship and loneliness. Sanaka and Paromita are mother and daughter-in-law who, despite differences in age, backgrounds and temperaments, build a strong bond together. But when Paromita's marriage to Sanaka's son breaks down, social mores prevent the women from remaining close friends. While Paromita remarries and begins a new life, her mother-in-law, Sanaka, is left heartbroken and alone and eventually falls seriously ill.

Flashback serves as visual identification of Paromita's memories. It offers permanent shifts between the past and the present, constantly overlapping the elements of time and space, all through the nostalgic eyes of Paromita

Paroma (Bengali)

(139 min; 1985; English subtitles)

Director: Aparna Sen

Recipient of the BFJA Award for Best Actress, Bengal Film Journalists' Award 1985

A 40-year-old married woman, Paroma (Raakhee) whose identity lies in the words 'bahu' (the daughter-in-law), 'kaki maa' (paternal aunt), 'bhabhi' (brother's wife). Her well-settled, very normal and predictable life turns upside down when Rahul (Mukul Sharma), an expatriate photo-journalist working for a magazine chooses her to pose for a photo essay, 'An Indian Housewife'. It begins with a simple question, 'What do you think, Paroma?'. Through Rahul, Paroma rediscovers herself. His photographs of her make her look glamorous. Their affair or rather her discovery of herself becomes a problem when some of the photographs, earlier admired by the family, are published in a journal. Paroma is rejected by her husband and has a mental breakdown. In the end, a doctor suggests prescribing psychiatric treatment and the family is willing to accept her back, but Paroma adamantly refuses any sense of guilt, turning to her friend and asking her if she can help her find a job

13 Face to Face with Aparna Sen

An online live conversation with the noted film Director

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

Documentary Of The Week

Unique (Israel)

(52 min; 2020; documentary; English subtitles)

Director: Nachum Mochiah

Dragonfly Scream (Sri Lanka)

(13 min; 2019; Short Fiction; English subtitles)

Director: Sumudu Athukorala

(Organised in collaboration with Federation of Film Societies of India)

14-16 Shake off your sorrows (Sacúdete las penas/Mexico)

(90 min; 2018; Spanish with English subtitles)

Director: Andrés Ibañez Dias Infante

González, an inmate serving a long sentence, tells the story of Pepe Frituras, Mexico City's

most famous dancer, who would lose his freedom during a night out partying, ending up in the Palace of Lecumberri—the country’s most dangerous penitentiary. Through anecdotes filled with music, dances, and romance, González narrates how he became the only convict that managed to escape the prison walls using the power of his imagination

(Collaboration: Embassy of Mexico)

RETROSPECTIVE OF FILMS BY GIRISH KASARAVALLI

17-23 Irumbu (Malayalam)

(80 min; 2020; with English subtitles)

Director: Pradeesh Unnikrishnan

Irumbu focuses on the struggle for the right degree and form of punishment for a major crime committed towards minors who are subjected to assault before being killed. It is an intense action drama of a happily run family of Antony, wife and two daughters. Life changes unexpectedly when his two daughters are repeatedly gang-raped, humiliated, and left for dead by two men whom Antony hunts down to seek revenge. Antony decides to take the law into his own hands. He eliminates the rapists one by one. A gritty touching story of a family, that holds your attention with its gently piercing background score, moments of silence and dialogue...

Unto the Dusk (Asthamayam vare/Malayalam)

(120 min; 2014; with English subtitles)

Director: Sajin Baabu

The film opens with a scene of the death of a young choir singer in a seminary, evidence pointing to necrophilia. The police suspects and tortures two students. What follows is a non-linear, fragmented, cinematic collection of images that travel back and forth in time in fine detail at times and just a suggestive glance of other times, thus assisting and obfuscating the viewer in the engagement with the film.

According to the director, Sajin ‘It is a film about an unusual spiritual journey. It is neither art nor commercial. It is just a film I wanted to make.’ The film is about the relationship between man and nature. Sajin worked on the script of the film that has no background score or music and no characters with names. ‘We wanted to try a novel approach by exploring visual communication.’

Hrid Majharey: Live in My Heart (Bengali)

(122 min; 2014; with English subtitles)

Director: Ranjan Ghosh

An affair that begins one rainy evening on a lonely Calcutta street. And ends on yet another rainy evening in the Andaman Islands. A journey dotted by love, jealousy and destiny, it is loosely inspired by the works of William Shakespeare. The story is not new. What makes it different is the treatment. Bits of Shakespeare are sprinkled liberally, from the prophecy (Macbeth) to the jealousy that creeps in (Othello), each reference is used well and is intricate to the plot. The protagonist starts by having his views deep-rooted in logic (being a teacher of Mathematics) and has a chance meeting with an amateur soothsayer, who cautions him against falling in love. Not one to believe in such things, the protagonist goes ahead and falls in love anyways. How his life goes downhill from there, and how he deals with the complexities of his conflicts among logic, love and destiny form the crux of the story

SHORT FICTION FILM OF THE WEEK

Krimikosh (Sri Lanka)

(13 min; 2018; with English subtitles)

Director: Tharindu Ramanayaka

Recipient of the Best Film Award of the Festival, Agenda 14 Short Film Festival, Sri Lanka, 2020

Life in Metaphors—A Portrait of Girish Kasaravalli

(85 min; 2018; English)

Director: Om Prakash Srivastava

Life in Metaphors journeys into the world of the master filmmaker Girish Kasaravalli with an urge to understand the language, grammar and the core purpose of storytelling through the medium of cinema.

(Organised in collaboration with Federation of Film Societies in India)

24-30 RETROSPECTIVE OF FILMS BY TANVIR MOKAMMEL

Tanvir Mokammel is a critically acclaimed, award-winning filmmaker from Bangladesh. The only filmmaker from Bangladesh whose work has focused on the Partition in a comprehensive manner, four of his best known works were presented as part of this retrospective

Introduction

Tanvir Mokammel presented an online introduction to his films

Followed by screening of

Jibandhuli (The Drummer/Bengali)

(90 min; 2014; with English subtitles)

Written by Tanvir Mokammel

During the Bangladesh war of liberation in 1971, Jibonkrishna Das, a poor lower-caste Hindu drummer, eked out a living with his wife and two children. A lower-caste, Jibon was subjected to all kinds of humiliation both from his Muslim neighbours as well as by the upper caste Hindus. When the Pakistani army occupied his village, Jibon and his family try to flee to India. Along the way, all his family members are killed in a massacre. Jibon alone survived, and after roaming around the war-ravaged countryside, finally returned to his native village. His village is now brutally ruled by the Razakars, an Islamic auxiliary force collaborating with the Pakistani army. The commander of the Razakars spares Jibon's life on condition that he plays his drum for the marauding forces. Jibon faces a difficult situation entertaining the Razakars until the Bengali freedom fighters arrived

Lalon (Bengali)

(128 min; 2004; with English subtitles)

Written by Tanvir Mokammel

Film on Lalon Fakir (1774–1890), a doyen among the Baul-Fakirs of Bengal who composed a few hundred songs of profound spiritual depth with an excellent sense of music. Buddhist Tantricism, Hindu Vaisnavism and Islamic Sufism all have their share of influence on Lalon. Throughout the decades Lalon's songs, depicting asceticism and transience of life, have expressed the pathos and pangs of the caste-ridden subaltern rural populace of Bengal. Lalon's secular ideas and enchanting lyrics left a deep influence on the subsequent generations of Baul-Fakirs of Bangladesh and India. Though Lalon died only a hundred years ago yet not many details of his life are clearly known and some aspects are still shrouded in mystery. By portraying the milieu of Lalon who was kind of a Guru during his life-time, the film aims to capture the social ethos of his period including some historical personalities, who were prominent in the cultural history of Bengal of that time and came in touch with Lalon.

Lalsalu (A Tree Without Roots/Bengali)

(109 min; 2001; with English subtitles)

Written by Tanvir Mokammel

Recipient of the Merit Awards for Best Feature Film, Best Director, Best Actor in a Leading Role; and Best Actress in a Supporting Role, National Film Awards, Bangladesh 2001

In a remote agrarian village, suddenly a haggard-looking Mullah named Majid appears. He cleans up an old dilapidated grave and declares it as the shrine of a famous 'Pir' (a holy

man). He begins to take care of the shrine and worship it. The villagers, of course, have no clue who the holy man is, and though it is a hoax, gradually give in and begin to believe in the myth. The mystery of the grave, the iconic red fabric covering its oval shaped structure, the glowing candles and the Quranic verses that Majid recites beside the grave, create such an aura that the villagers, mostly simple peasants, completely succumb to Majid's spell. They start to bring rice and money as offerings to the 'holy shrine'. The shrine, over the years, provides Majid not only economic solvency but psychological domination over the community as well. From a vagabond desperado, he becomes a man well-rooted in society. He marries Rahima, a not-so-young but hard working peasant woman who though robustly built, remains a docile wife.

Chitra Nodir Pare (Quiet Flows the River Chitra/Bengali)

(107 min; 1999; with English subtitles)

Written by Tanvir Mokammel

Recipient of the Merit Award for Best Feature Film and Best Director, National Film Awards, Bangladesh 1999

After the partition of India in 1947, Shashikanta's family, like millions of other Hindu families of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), faced the dilemma of whether to migrate from the land in which they have been living for centuries. But Shashikanta Sengupta, an eccentric lawyer, stubbornly refuses to leave his motherland. Widower Shashikanta has two children, Minoti and Bidyut. Anuprava Devi is an affectionate old aunt who lives with the family. The family has a house in Narail, a small provincial town on the bank of the Chitra river. Some Muslim neighbors eye Shashaikanta's house. But the family refuse to migrate. Shashikanta's children Minoti and Bidyut are friends with the neighbouring Muslim children—Badal, Salma and Nazma. Minoti and Badal become more than friends. The children grow up. Badal goes to Dhaka University. Those were the days in 1960s when the atmosphere of the universities was charged with political radicalism. Badal got involved in the anti-military student movement and while participating in a demonstration for democracy was killed by police firing. Shashikanta's brother Nidhukanta is an idealist doctor who lives in their ancestral village on the other side of the Chitra River. During the 1964 riot between the Hindus and the Muslims, his daughter Basanti, a widow, is raped. Basanti commits suicide by drowning herself in the Chitra River. Nidhukanta's family migrate to India. All these untoward incidents happening around affect Shashikanta's failing health. He suffers a heart stroke and passes away. Minoti and Anuprava finally leave for the border en route to Calcutta.

SHORT FICTION FILM OF THE WEEK

A Story Nobody Cares About

(Ganan Gannethi Kathawak/Sri Lanka)

(8 min; 2017; with English subtitles)

Director: Thisara Mangala Bandara

Recipient of the Jury Award: Bronze, Midnapore Film Society, 2018; Best Short Film Award, 6th Derana Film Awards, Sri Lanka 2018

The story of a boy, 'nobody cares' in the country of Nobody Cares who finds a mobile phone

DOCUMENTARY OF THE WEEK

The Jungle Man...Loiya

(21 min; 2018; Manipuri with English subtitles)

Director: Farha Khatun

A documentary about Moirangthem Loiya Ngamba, a nature activist and who has spent most of the time in the woods to preserve forests in the state of Manipur. *The Jungle Man...Loiya* tells the story of this man, a nature lover who chanced upon an area in Punshilok in Langol hill range in Manipur and created a green space for the local communities. At a time when trees are cut down rampantly in the name of 'development', when 'civilisation', 'urbanisation' has come to mean building blocks of concrete, when forests are being cleared and sold off to corporate houses to usher in 'modernity', this film asks pertinent questions as it tells the story of reorienting man's relationship with nature and building a culture of peaceful coexistence

(Organised in collaboration with Federation of Film Societies of India and with the support of Films Division India, Celluloid Chapter, Kalamandir)

31 Aug FILMS BY WOMEN FILMMAKERS

to 6 Sept Screening of feature films, short fiction films and two documentary films by women filmmakers

Onyo Opalaa (Bengali)

(112 min; 2015; with English subtitles)

Director: Satarupa Sanyal

With Rupa Ganguly, Ritabhari Chakraborty, Bhaswar Chatterjee

Middle-aged widow Opalaa runs her inherited rural rajbari smoothly, dividing her time between household management and nostalgia. But her self-contained existence is shaken when she discovers that her son, Atanu, has a lot in common with her deceased husband Shyam, a disciple of Ananta baba. *Onyo Opalaa* is a simple tale of a widow, behind whose stoic face lies a life full of compromises.

The Golden Wing (Sonar Baran Pakhi, Goalpariya/Rajbangshi)

(86min; 2017; with English subtitles)

Director: Bobby Sarma Baruah

Recipient of the Best Audience Award at the 15th Dhaka International Film Festival 2017

Sonar Baran Pakhi (The Golden Wing) is a biographical film based on life of the Assamese folk singer Pratima Barua Pandey, well-known folk singer born into the royal family of Gauripur in Assam. This is the first film that uses the indigenous Rajbangshi-language. The film examines the 'in-betweenness' that Barua embodies in her life in terms of linguistic identity, gender roles, sexuality and a choice of career. Even the narrative style, remains non-linear, operating in leaps and swerves, switching between the different moments in Barua's childhood, adulthood and old age.

Pratima Barua Pande's life is a powerful story of rebellion. She transgresses the norms of early marriage and family to dwell with commoners and sings their songs. Her music ranges across a wide spectrum of themes concerning the female body, desire, sexuality, and spiritual angst to the mundane, everyday lives of people, their traditions, and folklores in undivided Goalpara.

Bokul (Assamese)

(100 min; 2015; with English subtitles)

Director: Reema Bora

Recipient of the Award for Best Film on National Integration; Best Cinematography; Best Audiography; Best Actor Female; and Best Actor Male, Assam State Film Awards 2015-2016

Thirty-year-old Raktim comes back to his town to attend his sister's wedding and is struck by the changes that have taken place during his absence of five years. He also realises that his old music teacher is missing, and sets off on a search to find him. In this search he comes across three characters—an old lonely fisherman who spends his last days in the memory of his only son, a young rickshaw-puller who is bravely fighting off communal prejudice to take care of his family, and a single mother who runs her shop independently. Coincidentally, each of these characters are named Bokul—and Raktim shares their personal journeys in a narrative, that leads him to the final truth

SHORT FICTION FILMS OF THE WEEK

Raging Royen (France)

(50 min; 2018; French with English subtitles)

Director: Doris Érelljisé Lanzmann

Raging Royen is a portrait of a family confronted by its visceral desire for freedom. André, the father, no longer has a taste for anything. To feel free to be and to desire, he must rid himself of his money. Miss Canine, a financial dominatrix, drags him away from his everyday hypocrisy. Doubts about his double life slowly take over his wife and daughter. Rediscovered lucidity has a price. Behind the utopian world of seaside resorts, this lucidity spreads like a virus and pulls back the curtain on appearances.

The Carnival of Life (Italy)

(20 min; 2019; Italian with English subtitles)

Director: Laura Aimone

Multiple award winner including Golden Apricot Film Festival 2019; Sochi International Film Festival & Awards 2019; Asia Peace Film Festival 2019; International Fest Roma Film Corto 2019; Too Short To Wait 2020; Other Movie Film Festival 2020; CRA Fest # laCultura Resta Accesa 2020; and Ramsgate International Film & TV Festival 2020

Lorenzo, 35 years old, has never actively tried to live. He has always chosen the easiest way, trying to please everyone except himself. On his return from his first trip to the East, he questions his surroundings and begins a difficult battle with himself in the name of his freedom. A story with strong citrus notes, against the backdrop of the Ivrea Carnival, an anthem for freedom. Will Lorenzo be able to throw the first orange in the Carnival of his life?

Heroine's One Night (Bangladesh)

(11 min; 2019; Bengali with English subtitles)

Director: Tasmiah Afrin Mou

Heroine's One Night deals with the anxiety actors have about maintaining their good looks

Let Her Fly (Sri Lanka)

(04 min; 2019; Sinhalese with English subtitles)

Director: Fathima Nafla

In many societies, women's lives are ruled by patriarchal norms and religious institutes play a key role in shaping their daily life. Can we hope for something better?

Mamatva (Sisterhood/India)

(30 min; 2018; Hindi with English subtitles)

Director: Kirti Singh

Mamatva looks at the life of a lower caste midwife, from a village in central Uttar Pradesh. It looks at how the birth of a baby boy, born to her younger sister-in-law, sets in motion an outflow of unacknowledged desire within her.

Dolachal (India)

(11 min; 2016; Bengali with English subtitles)

Director: Sreecheta Das

The film tells a tale of joy, loss, guilt and longing, and revolves around two women and how they react to each other, all the while asking an age-old question: 'What makes a mother?'

DOCUMENTARIES OF THE WEEK

Three Sisters (India)

(55 min; 2019; Bengali with English subtitles)

Director: Putul Mahmood (Turquaz Firozi)

Three sisters Shikha, Rupashi and Seema were forcibly admitted by their family to the government run Lumbini Park Mental Hospital in Calcutta, twenty years ago. They have been living there ever since separated from and neglected by their family who never visit them. On a hot humid afternoon in August 2017 an attempt was made to persuade their family to take the three sisters back home. My film crew and I traveled with some social workers and the three sisters to their home near the border between Bangladesh and India. This is a story about the three sisters' madness, their longing for familial love and their tremendous grace and dignity in the face of denial of that love.

I am Bonnie (India)

(45 min; 2016; Bengali with English subtitles)

Directors: Farha Khatun, Satarupa Santra & Saurabh Sourabh

Bonnie (33) is again on the run. He has been on the run from his family and sports fraternity since failing 'sex test' before the Bangkok Asian Games, 1998. A born hermaphrodite, raised by poor, illiterate and confused parents as a girl named 'Bandana', she became one of the finest strikers of Indian Woman's football team in her/his short career. A Sex Reassignment surgery later transformed her/him to a man but left him without home or

career. He left home, took up idol-making for a living. He met Swati (24) then, married soon and moved once again fearing social backlash. His fight to establish his identity, struggle for existence met by a sarcastic society yet to learn to take 'other genders' seriously.

(Organised in collaboration with Federation of Film Societies of India and with the support of Agenda 14; Films Division India; Celluloid Chapter, Kalamandir Jamshedpur; and Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute, Kolkata)

SEPTEMBER 2020

4 **Contemporary Films from Spain**

Organised in collaboration with Cervantes Institute, New Delhi

A selection of four contemporary films from Spain were presented every Friday in September 2020. Made by young filmmakers, the selection presents two works of fiction and two documentaries, reflecting the creative versatility of the directors and also the way in which society has shaped their imagination.

The Invisible Hand (La mano invisible)

(80 min; 2017; Spanish with English subtitles)

Director: David Macián

Recipient of the Best Film Award, Toulouse, Cinespaña 2017

An industrial warehouse is turned into a stage. Eleven ordinary professionals are hired to do their work in front of an audience with apparent normality: a mason, a butcher, a seamstress, a telephone operator, a waiter, a mechanic, a computer operator, and a cleaner. Meanwhile, from the darkness of the auditorium, dozens of visitors observe the 'wonderful' work show. With impeccable performances, and a surprising ending, the adaptation of the novel by Isaac Rosa is an astonishing parable of work in contemporary society.

12 **The Sea stares at Us from Afar** (El mar nos mira de lejos)

(93 min; 2017; Spanish with English subtitles)

Director: Manuel Muñoz Rivas

Recipient of the Award for Best Documentary, Toulouse Cinespaña 2017

The legend of an ancient and forgotten civilisation lies buried under large expanses of dunes in southern Spain. For a little over a century, several travellers have come to this remote territory looking for traces of the ancient settlers. Ignorant of the myths and romantic illusions of archaeologists and adventurers, a few men, barely visible among the sandbanks, now live in solitude facing the sea

18 All the Other Days (Los demás días)

(90 min; 2017; Spanish with English subtitles)

Director: Carlos Agulló

All the Other Days packs a powerful emotional punch and opens the door to reflection from audience members on the sensitive topic of palliative care.

Through the daily work of Dr. Pablo Iglesias, we are witness to the world of palliative care and, hand-in-hand with his patients as we experience their doubts and convictions, their hopes and fears, we are given a meaningful lesson about life and death. Pablo not only relieves their physical pain, but also accompanies them through the emotional and spiritual journey that the end of life entails. The conversations between patients and relatives, young and veteran doctors, nurses and psychologists will allow us to accept death as a natural and essential part of life.

25 The Reconquest (La reconquista)

(103 min; 2016; Spanish with English subtitles)

Director: Jonás Trueba

Recipient of the Award for Best Director, Special Mention & Violette d'Or, Toulouse Cinespaña 2016; and Special Award, Turia Awards 2017

Manuela and Olmo meet in the future as they had promised fifteen years earlier as teenagers, when they lived their first love. *La reconquista* is a film about a quest for time; or about the awareness of time: of time lost and time recovered; about what we remember about ourselves and what we don't remember; about the words, gestures and feelings to which we remain faithful, because they define and compel us today, yesterday and tomorrow

7-13 RETROSPECTIVE OF FILMS BY MORSHEDUL ISLAM

Considered the maestro of independent cinema in Bangladesh, Morshedul Alam is a seasoned filmmaker whose career spans over four decades. An internationally recognised filmmaker whose films have received numerous awards in Bangladesh and abroad, his early works made in the 80s, lent an impetus to the short film movement in his country, creating a platform that capitulated many other filmmakers into the limelight.

Ankhi and her Friends (Akhi o Tar Bondhura)

(114 min; 2017; Bengali with English subtitles)

Recipient of the Bangladesh National Film Award for Best Child Artist in Special Category

Based on the popular novel by Muhammad Zafar Iqbal of the same name, *Ankhi O Tar*

Bondhura revolves around a bunch of youngsters. Ankhi, a blind girl, comes to study at a regular school, where, with the support of a new headmistress, Dr. Raisa, her classmate Titu and others, Ankhi always feels included. When the students go to Banderban to celebrate their victory in a school cricket tournament, they are caught by human traffickers. However, with their smarts and bravery, they escape and help get the perpetrators arrested. Ankhi's story inspires other specially-abled children to join the school.

A Day in the Life of Anil Bagchi (Anil Bagchir ekdin)

(120 min; 2015; Bengali with English subtitles)

Recipient of five National Film Awards, Bangladesh 2015 including for Best Actor in a Supporting Role, Best Music Director, Best Female Playback Singer, Best Feature Film, Best Director and Technical Award for Best Dialogue

Based on a novel of the same name by Humayun Ahmed, *Anil Bagchir Ekdin*, is set against the backdrop of the 1971 Liberation War. It is the story of Anil Bagchi's journey (a shy and scared, 26 year old Hindu boy by nature) who embarks on a dangerous journey to save his family in the village

My Friend Rashid (Amar bondhu Rashed)

(128 min; 2011; Bengali with English subtitles)

Recipient of the Technical Awards for Best Story, Best Cinematography and Best Sound Recording, National Film Awards, Bangladesh 2011

The story of the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971 as seen through the eyes of a young boy. The backdrop happens to be a remote small town, and the characters are a few students of a school. Rashed, the central character, suddenly appears in the school one day. His real name is not Rashed, it is a given name by his teacher along with some of the students. When the small boys fail to comprehend the impact of the extremely troubling days of 1971, in his unique way, politically conscious Rashed explains its significance to them...

Priotomeshu

(138 min; 2009; Bengali with English subtitles)

Recipient of the Special Award for Best Child Artist, National Film Awards, Bangladesh 2009

The story follows Nishat and Pushpa—neighbours and confidantes. Nishat's husband Zahir is a high official while Rakib, Pushpa's husband, has a run of the mill job. Rakib's affluent friend Mizan often comes over with unconvincing excuses to chat with Pushpa. One day, Mizan takes advantage of Pushpa and rapes her

Dollhouse (Khelaghor)

(118 min; 2006; Bengali with English subtitles)

Set during the war of liberation in Bangladesh, Yakub and Mukul are two friends working as teachers. Yakub is timid by nature, but loves his country; while Mukul although not directly involved in the war, supports the freedom fighters. Rehana, a smart and charming girl who had been studying in Dhaka University comes to Yakub's village as a refugee. The sister of his friend Tunu, Yakub readily agrees to give her shelter and together they find refuge in an abandoned house at a corner of the village. A mishap in Rehana's life has changed everything and continues to haunt her...

Autumn '71 (Shorot '71)

(31 min; 2000; Bengali with English subtitles)

Short film set during the war of liberation

The Wheel (Chaka)

(62 min; 1993; Bengali with English subtitles)

Recipient of the FIPRESCI Prize & Interfilm Award–Honorable Mention, Mannheim-Heidelberg International Film Festival, 1993; and Awards for Best Director & Best Film, Dunkirk International Film Festival, France 1994

The film depicts the landscape and life of rural Bangladesh with great sensitivity. It revolves around the driver of an ox cart and his companion, who are intimidated into delivering a dead body to a village. When they reach the village, no one claims the corpse. The two resume their journey to another village hoping to find claimants, to no avail...

DOCUMENTARIES OF THE WEEK

Ima Sabitri (India)

(57 min; 2017; Manipuri with English subtitles)

Director: Bobo Khuraijam

Film on the well-known Manipuri theatre actor, Heisnam Sabitri. Heisnam Sabitri, an artist extraordinary, embodies the stories enacted on stage and off stage. The film narrates the stories from an intimate distance

SHORT FICTION FILM OF THE WEEK

The Nest (Gharta)

(07 min; 2019; Marathi with English subtitles)

Director: Himanshu Singh

The Nest is the story of small boy, curious about a nest he comes across and the birds that make it their home

(Organised in collaboration with Federation of Film Societies of India and with the support of Films Division India; Celluloid Chapter, Kalamandir Jamshedpur)

14-20 Alifa (Bengali/Assamese)

(109 min; 2018; English subtitles)

Director: Deep Choudhury

Recipient of the Golden Lotus Award for Best Debut Film of a Director, 64th National Film Awards 2017; and Best Film Award, Ottawa Indian Film Festival, Canada

Ali, a daily wage earner living in the vicinity of a sprawling city, has to cope with uncertainty, hardship and abuse. He is at the mercy of a forest guard from being evicted from his family's new-found habitat in a green hilly area overlooking the city. He finds solace in his hardworking, young wife and their two children. *Alifa* is a saga of human-wildlife conflict competing with basic questions of love, hatred, dreams and desires as well as the frailties of human nature and wider social bonding

Tasfiya (Tajikistan)

(74 min; 2014; Tajik with English subtitles)

Director: Sharofat M. Arabova

Recipient of the Tajik Film Critics and Film Experts Awards, International Competition, Didor International Film Festival 2014

More than 50 years ago in a remote mountainous village somewhere in Tajikistan, the lovers Shams and Mekhri traveled. Mekhri caught by the spell of a transient eclipse broke the oath of marital fidelity...leading to her murder. Shams, unable to bear the burden of crime he has committed, chooses the path of repentance trying to cleanse himself serving other people.

A Ray of Light (Ek phaali rodh; India)

(105 min; 2014; Bengali with English subtitles)

Director: Atanu Ghosh

Dr. Somshankar Roy, a social scientist, engages Swagato and Anwasha to create a 'mock' crisis on the streets. The aim was to observe the reactions of people to different forms of crises happening around them, and to analyse and derive conclusions about human behaviour from them. But all theories and deductions go astray when they come face to face with a real crisis in their own lives and cannot decipher whether the crisis is mock or real.

Ek Phaali Rodh had its World Premiere at the Shanghai International Film Festival in June 2014

Anu (India)

(122 min; 1998; Bengali with English subtitles)

Director: Satarupa Sanyal

Recipient of the Anandlok Award 1999 for Best Actress & Best Female Playback Singer; and BFJA Film Awards 1999 for Best Film & Best Original Story

Set in the post-Naxalite period in Bengal, the film reveals the failure of the politically revolutionary mind of Sugoto (Anu's lover), to accept a very personal and challenging situation. Anu and the other prominent characters still hope for a better future, choosing to carry out their task in some way or the other but Sugoto does not find any substance in their efforts. After their marriage, Anu finds Sugoto behaving strangely and out of character most of the time and decides to take him to see a psychiatrist. She accidentally discovers Sugoto's diary where he confesses the reasons for his indifference to Anu...

Short Fiction Film of the week

Monitor (India)

(20 min; 2018; Bengali with English subtitles)

Director: Hari Viswanath

Monitor is intended to motivate women to stand up against sexual harassment at the workplace.

The entire film is shown from the perspective of a computer monitor. Based on true events, *Monitor* tells the story of an IT professional, Rupa who struggles to balance her career and personal life in an abusive work environment.

Documentaries of the Week

Stop Acid Attack (India; 02 min; 2019)

Director: Farha Khatun

Produced by Films Division India

The film on how a beautiful life can end with the heinous act of throwing acid on somebody.

Nepal Earthquake Heroes, Survivors and Miracles (Nepal)

(46 min; 2016; English & with subtitles)

Director: Ganesh Panday

The film is a historical document that vividly portrays the horrifying picture of the devastating situation in Nepal caused by the earthquake of April 2015 and the scars (both physical and psychological) left on the Nepalese people

In the Land of Chhinnopatro (India)

(123 min; 2001; Bengali with English subtitles)

Director: Saibal Mitra

Produced by Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India

The film travels through the state of Bengal and onto neighbouring Bangladesh in a quest to discover Rabindranath Tagore's life away from home. It begins with the journey of a young Tagore who travelled across the Padma and Gauri rivers and wrote a series of letters to his niece Indira Devi. Locked in these letters are Tagore's wonderful descriptions and appreciation of nature and his intimate contact with the day-to-day life of the locals. These letters were later published in the book *Chhinnopatro*

(Organised in collaboration with Federation of Film Societies of India and with the support of Films Division India, Celluloid Chapter, Kalamandir Jamshedpur)

28 Sept Pot o'Gold (USA)

to 4 Oct (86 min; 1941; b/w; English)

Director: George Marshall

With James Stewart, Paulette Godard, Horace Heidt

Jimmy, the owner of a failed music shop, goes to work with his uncle, the owner of a food factory. Before he gets there, he befriends an Irish family who happens to be his uncle's worst enemy because of their love for music and an in-house band who constantly practices. Soon, Jimmy finds himself trying to help the band by getting them gigs and trying to reconcile the family with his uncle, an avid music hater, all the while winning the heart of the beautiful Molly

Film source: Internet Archive

OCTOBER 2020

5-11 Uncle Joe (USA)

(50 min; 1941; b/w; English)

Directors: Howard M. Railsback and Raymond E. Swartley

Film Source: Internet Archive/Public Domain

A whimsical picture of life in rural America in the 1940s, Clare Day is sent to visit her mother's brother Joe in 'Baysville', Iowa when she starts going out with a modernistic artist of whom her father disapproves. The four boys who live next door to Uncle Joe remember Clare as a skinny little girl and are shocked by how grown-up she has become

19-25 The General (USA)

(75 min; 1927; b/w; silent with English title cards)

Directors: Clyde Bruckman, Buster Keaton

Recipient of the National Film Registry, National Film Preservation Board, USA 1989; OFTA Film Hall of Fame, Online Film & Television Association 2009

A classic silent comedy, the film lifted Buster Keaton from the ashes of oblivion decades after his name and legacy were forgotten. Audiences and critics in the 1920s did not appreciate this extraordinary masterpiece. Based on a true story, Keaton seized upon the story of a civil war train hijack and embellished it with humour, spectacle and a slightly sour love story.

NOVEMBER 2020

DUTCH FILM FESTIVAL

Screening of four award-winning children's films to celebrate National Children's Day. Organised in collaboration with Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

31 Oct 'My Giraffe' (Dikkertje Dap)

to 1 Nov (Dutch with English subtitles)

Director: Barbara Bredero

Patterson is best friends with his next door neighbour, Raf the giraffe. The two are inseparable until Patterson starts school and realises that Raf can't come with him. Unbeknownst to his teacher, Patterson hatches a brilliant plan to bring Raf to school and enjoy the company of his new friends.

7-8 'Secrets of War'

Director: Dennis Bots

Against the backdrop of WWII, Tuur's friendship with Lambert is tested when both boys befriend a new girl, Maartje. The secret she holds will put all three lives in danger. It is 1943, but for 12 year old Tuur and Lambert, the German occupation is merely inspiration for their exciting cave-war games...

14-15 ‘Dummie the Mummie’ (Dummie de Mummie)

(Dutch with English subtitles)

Director: Pim van Hove

The magic of friendship can break even the strongest curse...

Shy eleven-year-old Gus's life is changed irrevocably when he finds an Egyptian mummy in his bed. An actual mummy of an actual young Egyptian prince, brought to life by a lightning bolt that struck his enchanted golden scarab, just as he was being transported to a nearby museum. Darwishi Uratum Msamaki Minkab Ishaq Eboni, or Dummie for short, is almost the exact opposite of Gus: an unrestrained daredevil who knows no fear or pain and is up for anything. An unlikely friendship is born.

21-22 ‘T.I.M.’

(Dutch with English subtitles)

Director: Rolf van Eijk

Eleven-year-old Tibor has only one friend: his outdated house robot T.I.M. When his father replaces the faulty robot, Tibor manages to save T.I.M. from destruction. Together they set out for the mythical robot maker Hector Sammler, who is rumoured to live in the far north in an ancient lighthouse. During their adventurous quest through uncharted territory, T.I.M. continues to fall apart and their journey ends in a race against the clock to reach Hector in time.

23-29 Charade (USA)

(113 min; 1963; English)

Director: Stanley Donen

Much loved classic film notable for its screenplay, especially the repartee between Grant and Hepburn. Romance and suspense ensue in Paris as a woman is pursued by several men who want the fortune her murdered husband had stolen. Whom can she trust?

30 Nov His Girl Friday (USA)

to 6 Dec (91 min; 1940; b/w; English)

Director: Howard Hawks

With Cary Grant, Rosalind Russel, Ralph Bellamy

Recipient of the National Film Registry, National Film Preservation Board, USA 1983; OFTA Film Hall of Fame, Online Film & Television Association 2012

Considered a gem of Hollywood's golden age, *Walter*, a hard-boiled newspaper editor, discovers that his ex-wife and former employee, Hildy, is set to marry a wet-blanket insurance salesman. Walter, certain that this is the wrong move for a strong-willed and ambitious woman such as Hildy, decides to sabotage her marital plans by enticing her with one last story--the execution of a convicted murderer.

DECEMBER 2020

7-13 **And then there were none (USA)**

(97 min; 1945; b/w; English)

Director: René Clair

With Barry Fitzgerald, Walter Houston, Louis Heyward

Recipient of the Golden Leopard Award for Best Film and Award for Best Direction, Locarno International Film Festival 1946

Film adaptation of Agatha Christie's bestselling 1939 mystery novel of the same name. Seven guests, a newly hired personal secretary and two staff are gathered for a weekend on an isolated island by the hosts, the Owens, who are delayed. At dinner, a record is played and the host's message alleges that all of the people present are guilty of murder, and suddenly the first of them is dead, then the next. It seems that one of them is the murderer...

14-20 **Great Expectations (UK)**

(118 min; 1946; b/w; English)

Director: David Lean

With John Mills, Valerie Hobson, Tony Wager

Recipient of the Oscar Awards for Best Cinematography, Black-and-white; & Best Art Direction--Set Decoration, Black-and-white, Academy Awards, USA 1948; and NBR Award, Top Ten Films, National Board of Review, USA 1947

David Lean's adaptation of Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations* is one of the best literary adaptations ever made. Edged with humour and a surprising dollop of horror, his story of Pip, a blacksmith's apprentice who comes into a mysterious inheritance, works beautifully even after all these years. As he would do with *Oliver Twist* two years later, Lean judiciously uses the bits of the book that he liked and ditches the rest. The result is Dickens' tome, condensed into cinematic moments that deserve their place in movie history.

LATIN AMERICAN FESTIVAL OF FILMS ON MIGRATION

Organised in collaboration with Indo Cine Appreciation Foundation, and Embassy of the Argentine Republic, Embassy of Chile, Embassy of Guatemala and Embassy of Mexico

The festival presented films that engaged with the complex phenomenon of international migration and brought to light the challenges and opportunities that it entailed; and focused on the experiences of migrants across the region of Latin America.

19 **‘Sonora, The Devil’s Highway’ (Mexico)**

(Spanish with English subtitles)

Director: Alejandro Springall

1931, the US government closed the border and ordered the massive deportation of Mexican farm labourers. Meanwhile, the Mexican government ordered that the Chinese immigrants in the country should be sent into exile and stripped of their property. Under pressure from the Sonora government, a diverse group of people were forced to take a trip to Mexicali, where they faced racism and other kind of dangers through the dangerous desert.

20 **‘Perro Bomba’ (Chile)**

(Spanish with English subtitles)

Director: Juan Cáceres

To be treated as less than human is arguably the greatest injustice anyone can experience. For the many Haitian immigrants who relocate to Chile in pursuit of better living conditions, it is a heart breaking reality, one that is told with confronting unease in Chilean drama, *Perro Bomba*.

26 **‘Abused: The Postville Raid’ (Guatemala)**

Director: Luis Argueta

The film is at once an epic story of survival, hope, and humble aspirations, of triumph, defeat, and rebirth. The face of immigration is revealed through the gripping personal stories of the individuals, the families, and the town that survived the most brutal, most expensive, and the largest immigration raid in the history of the United States.

27 **‘The Future Perfect’ (Argentina)**

Director: Nele Wohlatz

German director Nele Wohlatz’s *The Future Perfect* addresses the increasingly complicated challenges of intercultural communication. Divided into three parts with each meant

to correlate with the linguistic structure of past, present, and future, the film chronicles Xiaobin, a Chinese teenager trying to learn enough Spanish to hold a job in Buenos Aires.

28 Dec Becky Sharp (USA)

to 3 Jan (84 min; 1936; English)

Directors: Rouben Mamoulian, Lowell Sherman

Recipient of the Award for Best Colour Film, Venice Film Festival 1935; and Winner of the National Film Registry, National Film Preservation Board, USA 2019

So much has been made of the fact that this was the first feature to be shot in three-strip Technicolor that it's often forgotten just how marvellous a film it actually is. A sophisticated, witty, and beautifully economical adaptation of Thackeray's *Vanity Fair* as it charts its cunning heroine's meteoric rise in society, it rightly and explicitly treats her entirely amoral manipulation of sympathetic women and besotted men as an on-going performance of immense versatility.

JANUARY 2021

4-11 Rembrandt (UK)

(85 min; 1936; b/w; English)

Director: Alexander Korda

With Charles Laughton, Gertrude Lawrence, Elsa Lanchester

NBR Award for Top Foreign Films, National Board of Review, USA 1936

A luminous biopic of the legendary Flemish painter. Alexander Korda considered this to be his finest film. A subtle, touching performance from Laughton as the ageing painter coming to terms with both the death of his beloved Saskia (Lanchester) and an increasing hostility to his work.

18-24 The Story of the Weeping Camel (Mongolia/Germany/Die Geschichte vom Weinenden Kamel)

(93 min; 2003; Mongolian with English subtitles)

Directors: Byambasuren Davaa, Luigi Falorni

Multiple award winner including Audience Award & SIGNIS Award–Special Mention, Buenos Aires International Film Festival of Independent Cinema 2004; Audience Award, Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2004; FIPRESCI Prize, San Francisco International Film Festival 2004; among others

Combining drama and documentary, *The Story of the Weeping Camel* is a lovingly observed and fascinating journal of day-to-day survival in the Mongolian Gobi desert. For a family of herders who happily eke out their living in this remote dustbowl, crisis comes in the shape of a newborn camel rejected by its mother after an agonising birth. They undertake to rear the calf by hand, but the longer he's denied his mother's milk, the more likely it is the little camel will die

APPENDIX VIII *Collaborating Institutions*

Aalaap
Aambra Foundation
Archaeological Survey of India, Delhi Circle
Archicrafts
Arts of the Earth
Ashoka University
Bell'Italia 88
Bhogilal Leherchand Institute of Indology
Canon
Centre for Equity Studies
Centre for New Perspectives
Cervantes Institute, New Delhi
Council for Social Development
Craft Revival Trust
D.S. Borker Memorial Foundation
Dagar Brothers Memorial Trust
Delhi Crafts Council
Delhi Photography Club
Federation of Film Societies of India
Foundation for Creative Social Research
Foundation for Universal Responsibility of H.H. the Dalai Lama
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
Galilee International Israel
Gayathri Fine Arts
Givat Haviva, Israel
Global InCh Journal
Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, India (GRULAC)
Gujarati Club, New Delhi
Hungarian Information and Cultural Centre, New Delhi
Hungarian National Film Institute
IILM
IIT-Delhi
Impresario India
Indian Institute of Crafts and Design
Indian Statistical Institute
Indo Cine Appreciation Foundation

Appendices

Institute of Chinese Studies
Institute of Indo-Persian Studies
Institute of Indo-Persian Studies
INTACH, Kashmir
International Association of Women in Radio & Television, India Chapter
Iran Culture House
Italian Embassy Cultural Centre
Italian Embassy Cultural Centre, New Delhi
Jamia Bank
Jan Prasar
Jawaharlal Nehru University
Jiyo Parsi
Jnana Pravaha
Khwaja Ahmed Abbas Memorial Trust
Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust
Marwah
Ministry of Culture, Government of India
Naad Sagar Archives & Documentation Society for South Asian Music
National Book Trust
National Council of Applied Economic Research
New Imaginations, Jindal School of Journalism and Communication, O.P. Jindal Global University,
Sonipat
NHK World
Noor Microfilm International Centre, New Delhi
Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to Govt. of India (PSA-O)
Open Health Systems Laboratory
Orient Blackswan
Parzor
Poesis Society for Poetry
Polish Institute, New Delhi
Public Service Broadcasting Trust
Ramakrishnapuram South Indian Society
Research and Information System for Developing Societies (RIS)
Rosa Luxemburg-Stiftung
Rosalind Wilson Memorial Trust
Sage India
Sanatan Sangeet Sanskriti
Sangat
Sanskriti Pratishthan

Sarvajanik Utsav Samiti
Sarvodaya International, New Delhi
Seagull Books
Society for Policy Studies
Southern African Development Community, Heads of Mission Group, New Delhi
Speaking Tiger Books
Stree Shakti
Textiles and Clothing Research Centre
The Climate Change Research Institute
The GH Art Center, Israel
The Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS), INTACH
The Japan Foundation
The Journal of Department of Sociology, SAU
The Media Foundation
The Poetry Society (India)
The Raza Foundation
The South Asian University
UN Women
UNESCO, New Delhi Office
University of East Anglia
University of Edinburgh
Working Group on Alternative Strategies

Embassies/High Commissions

Argentina
Brazil
Canada
Chile
Guatemala
Israel
Japan
Lithuania
Mexico
Argentine Republic
Embassy of The Islamic Republic of Iran
The Kingdom of The Netherlands
South African High Commission

Advisory Council Members for the year 2019-2022

Shri N.N. Vohra, Chairman	Dr. Saroja Vaidyanathan
Prof. Shahid Amin	Ms. Arpana Cour
Dr. Uma Chakravarti	Mr. M.K. Raina
Prof. Anita Rampal	Ms. Madhavi Mudgal
Dr. Zoya Hasan	Ms. Nandita Das
Dr. Upinder Singh	Shri K.T. Ravindran
Dr. Farhana Ibrahim	Dr. B.R. Mani
Ms. Naina Dayal	Shri M. Maroof Raza
Prof. Amitabha Bagchi	Cmde. C. Uday Bhaskar
Prof. Furqan Qamar	Dr. Ajai Sahni
Prof. Shyam B. Menon	Amb. Sujan R. Chinoy
Prof. N.V. Verghese	Ms. Deepa Gopalan Wadhawa
Dr. Renu Swaroop	Mr. Ajit Seth
Dr. Chandrima Shaha	Sir William Mark Tully
Dr. Srinath Reddy	Mr. Raj Chengappa
Dr. Naresh Gupta	Ms. Radhika Bordia
Dr. Ajit K. Nagpal	Ms. Shailaja Bajpai
Ms. Anisha Shekhar Mukherji	Ms. Suhasini S. Haider
Ms. Anurupa Roy	Mr. Upamanyu Chatterji
Mr. Mahmood Farooqui	Mr. Keki N. Daruwalla
	Mr. Gurcharan Das

Library Committee

(April 2019–March 2021)

Shri Soli J. Sorabjee, Chairman	Dr. R.C. Agarwal
Prof. Ashis Nandy	Shri Pavan K. Varma
Shri Krishnan Raghunath	Ms. Namita Gokhale
Prof. Neera Chandhoke	Smt. Geeta Dharmarajan
Prof. Mukul Kesavan	Dr. U.K. Sen
Prof. Apoorvanand	Dr. Jagdish Arora
Prof. Syed Akhtar Husain	Dr. S. Majumdar
Prof. Mridula Mukherjee	Prof. Anil Sahasrabudhe
Prof. Narayani Gupta	Shri K.N. Shrivastava, Director

Shri Ashok Sajjanhar
Prof. Sudha Pai

Shri Kanwal Wali, Secretary
Dr. Usha Mujoo Munshi, Chief Librarian
(Co-ordinator)

Editorial Board

(April 2019–March 2021)

Dr. Karan Singh, Chairman
Dr. Malavika Karlekar
Mr. Prateek Kanjilal
Prof. Ashis Nandy

Shri K.N. Shrivastava, Director
Shri Kanwal Wali, Secretary
Dr. Usha Mujoo Munshi, Chief Librarian
Ms. L.S. Tochwang, Chief Prog. Division
Ms. Omita Goyal, Chief Editor

House Committee

(April 2019–March 2021)

Justice B.N. Srikrishna, Chairman
Ms. Meera Bhatia
Ms. Laila Tyabji
Dr. Santosh Jain Passi
Shri Satyajeet Krishnan
Prof. Pushpesh K. Pant

Shri Ratish Nanda
Smt. Usha Malik
Ms. Prima Kurien
Shri K.N. Shrivastava, Director
Shri Kanwal Wali, Secretary

IIC Senior Officers

Ms. Omita Goyal, Chief Editor
Dr. Usha Mujoo Munshi, Chief Librarian
Ms. L.S. Tochwang, Chief, Prog. Div.
Shri Rajul Sharma, Head, Maint. Div.

Shri Shakti Kumar Singh, Admin. Officer
Shri Vijay Kumar, Executive Chef
Shri Inder Butalia, Sr. F&AO
Ms. Anita Sharma, Dy. Manager (H&HK)

Medical Consultants

Dr. Gita Prakash

Dr. Pankaj Agnihotri



INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
40 Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi 110 003