



# Reimagining Tradition

Where Heritage Meets Tomorrow



## WORDS in the garden

A FESTIVAL ABOUT LITERATURE, ARTS, & CULTURAL EVOLUTION

INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, NEW DELHI

Thursday, 26 February – Saturday, 28 February 2026

This festival explores the delicate tension and enduring harmony between preserving our cultural roots and embracing the frontiers of innovation. From the revival of ancient crafts to the advent of digital art, and from the evolution of classical music to the future of Indian fashion, we invite you to a series of dialogues that bridge the gap between our storied past and a reimagined future.

### Thursday, 26 February 2026

02:15 PM – 02:30 PM C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium	Inaugural Session	
02:30 PM – 02:45 PM	Keynote Address	<b>Raghav Chandra</b> Author, Director Bhopal Literature Festival Professor IIM Calcutta, Former Civil Servant
02:45 PM – 03:30 PM	Panel Discussion <b>Living Crafts: Reimagining Ancient Techniques</b> A dialogue with master textile artists, potters, and metalworkers on adapting heritage skills for contemporary global markets while preserving the soul of their craft.	Moderator: <b>Dr Aswani RS</b> Associate Dean, School of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences IILM University

### Friday, 27 February 2026

02:00 PM – 02:45 PM C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium	<b>Shadows of Conflict: Reporting from the Frontlines</b> A veteran journalist reflects on investigative reporting, conflict journalism, and the courage required to document uncomfortable truths of history.	<b>Harinder Baweja</b> , Author & Senior Journalist in Conversation with <b>Manika Raikwar</b> Former Managing Editor, NDTV COO, IILM University
02:45 PM – 03:30 PM	<b>The New Political Order</b> <b>Why Women Are the Most Influential Vote Bank</b>	<b>Ruhi Tewari</b> , Journalist & Author In Conversation with <b>Nidhi Razdan</b> , Director Department of Communication, IILM University
03:30 PM - 04:00 PM	Short Break	
04:10 PM - 04:45 PM	Dance Performance	<b>Yamini Reddy</b>
04:45 PM – 05:15 PM	Break (Guests to move to Fountain Lawn)	
05:15 PM – 06:10 PM Fountain Lawn	<b>Guest of Honour: Kapil Sibal</b> <b>Former Union Minister of India &amp; Senior Advocate</b>  <b>The Heritage Excellence Awards</b> celebrating luminaries who bridge tradition and modernity across five disciplines Awards	Dance: <b>Yamini Reddy</b> Music: <b>Gul Saxena &amp; Mukhtar Sahota</b> Visual Arts: <b>Chetnaa</b> Literature: <b>Amish Tripathi</b> Ideas: <b>Rohit Bansal</b> <b>Brian Sellas Lifetime Achievement Award</b>
06:10 PM – 06:30 PM	Short Break	
06:30 PM – 08:30 PM	An evening of old classic music	By <b>Gul Saxena &amp; Mukhtar Shah</b>

### Saturday, 28 February 2026

02:30 PM – 03:15 PM C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium	<b>Nalanda: How It Changed the World</b> A comprehensive exploration of the rise, influence, and fall of Nalanda highlighting its global contributions to science, mathematics, philosophy, and education.	In Conversation with <b>Ambassador Abhay K</b> Moderator: <b>Ankita Mukherjee</b> Senior Journalist
03:15 PM – 03:30 PM	Short Break	
03:30 PM – 04:15 PM	<b>Fashion Forward: The Indian Lens</b>	In conversation with leading Fashion CEOs Moderator: <b>Nitika Seth</b> , Dean Department of Design IILM University Gurugram



For registration: <https://bit.ly/witg-2026>

In collaboration with IILM University