



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	Raghav Chandra , Author Director, Bhopal Literature Festival Professor, IIM Calcutta, Former Civil Servant
02:45 PM – 03:30 PM	Book Discussion The Art of Being Fabulous 10 Rules for a Beautiful Mind & Life	Shalini Passi , Author, Art Connoisseur, Reality TV Star In conversation with Manika Raikwar Former Managing Editor, NDTV COO, IILM University
03:30 PM - 03:45 PM	Short Break	
03:45 PM – 04:30 PM	Panel Discussion Living Crafts: Reimagining Ancient Techniques A dialogue with master textile artists, potters, and metalworkers on adapting heritage skills for contemporary global markets while preserving the soul of their craft.	Yamini Telkar , Director, Sameksha Art Gallery Rema Kumar , Textile Designer In conversation with Dr Aswani RS , Associate Dean School of Humanities and Social Sciences, IILM University
04:30 PM - 04:45 PM	Short Break	
04:45 PM - 05:30 PM	Book Discussion Op Sindoor: India's New Normal A critical exploration of Operation Sindoor and the strategic shift that reshaped India's security doctrine and geopolitical posture in the 21st century.	Roshni Sengupta , Author, Professor, IILM University Dr Chandni Sengupta , Co-Author, Assistant Professor-History, University of Delhi In conversation with Rahul Mishra , Professor Strategy and International Business, IILM
Friday, 27 February 2026		
02:00 PM – 02:45 PM C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium	Shadows of Conflict: Reporting from the Frontlines A veteran journalist reflects on investigative reporting, conflict journalism and the courage required to document uncomfortable truths of history.	Harinder Baweja , Author & Senior Journalist In conversation with Manika Raikwar Former Managing Editor, NDTV COO, IILM University
02:45 PM – 03:30 PM	The New Political Order Why Women Are the Most Influential Vote Bank	Ruhi Tewari , Journalist & Author In conversation with Nidhi Razdan , Director Department of Communication, IILM University
03:30 PM - 04:00 PM	Short Break	
04:10 PM - 04:45 PM	Dance Performance	Yamini Reddy
04:45 PM – 05:15 PM	Break (Guests to move to Fountain Lawn)	
05:15 PM – 06:10 PM Fountain Lawn	Guest of Honour: Kapil Sibal Former Union Minister of India & Senior Advocate Sanatan Sangeet Puraskar 2026 celebrating luminaries who bridge tradition and modernity across five disciplines Awards	Dance: Yamini Reddy Music: Gul Saxena & Mukhtar Shah Visual Arts: Chetnaa Literature: Amish Tripathi Ideas: Rohit Bansal Lifetime Achievement Award: Brian Silas
06:10 PM – 06:30 PM	Short Break	
06:30 PM – 08:30 PM	An Evening of Old Classic Music	Gul Saxena & Mukhtar Shah
Saturday, 28 February 2026		
02:30 PM – 03:15 PM C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium	Nalanda: How It Changed the World A comprehensive exploration of the rise, influence, and fall of Nalanda highlighting its global contributions to science, mathematics, philosophy and education.	Ambassador Abhay K. Ambassador of India to Azerbaijan In conversation with Ankita Mukherjee Senior Journalist
03:15 PM – 03:30 PM	Short Break	
03:30 PM – 04:15 PM	Fashion Forward - The Indian Lens	Shubhi Sachan , Founder, Material Library of India TEDx Speaker, Lexus India Design Award Recipient Shivani Girdhar , Entrepreneur/Founder, Eutropia & CLCT Gaurav Jagtiani , Creative Director, Linetribe Artist In conversation with Nitika Seth , Dean, Department of Design, IILM University



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



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