

INDIA
INTERNATIONAL
CENTRE



Annual Report
2025-2026





INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

Annual Report
2025-2026

IIIC 

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Executive Summary

It has been another eventful and thriving year for the Centre. What follows is a concise overview of the main activities and programmes held between February 2025 and January 2026.

It is indeed a matter of pride for the Centre that several of its Members have received honours and awards during the year. In this year's national honours list, one Member has been awarded the Padma Bhushan, and five have been awarded the Padma Shri.

The Centre celebrated the 21st edition of its annual festival, 'The IIC Experience: A Festival of the Arts', from 10 to 14 October 2025. This year's theme was '*Sā-Vanitā: Thus, She Speaks*', focussing on women's voices, their multidimensional growth, and women-led initiatives across various fields. The keynote address was delivered by Mrinal Pande on 'Depth Sounding Our Unseen Histories'. Panel discussions by eminent panellists were held on the changing role of women in politics, media, architecture, the informal economy and the North Eastern region. As is customary, the *IIC Quarterly*, Autumn 2025, was released during the Festival.

IIC's 64th Annual Day was celebrated on 22 January 2026. A special tea with the Members was followed by a soulful vocal performance of Bhakti and Sufi music by Sonal Kalra.

The 43rd annual C. D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture was held on 14 January 2026. This year's talk, titled 'India in a New Asia', was delivered by George Yeo, former Cabinet Minister in the Singapore Government.

The Centre held 574 programmes this year. Several new initiatives were taken apart from continuing with the ongoing series and programmes. New lecture series on 'Critical Themes in History and Society' and 'Architecture' have been initiated. The IIC has entered into a collaboration with ITC-Sangeet Research Akademi, Kolkata, to bring both eminent and upcoming artists to perform at the Centre. A law series titled 'The Working of the Indian Constitution: Stories and Scholarship' held three talks focussing on important court judgements and cases. Special focus has been on talks and discussions about Climate Change, Mitigation and Resilience, with more than 15 programmes on the topic.

The annual theme issue of the *IIC Quarterly*, titled 'Energy Transition and Climate Justice: A Path Less Travelled' (Winter 2024–Spring 2025, Volume 51, Numbers 3 & 4), (Guest Editors: Mritunjoy Mohanty and Runa Sarkar) was released in April 2025 with a panel discussion. Eight IIC Policy Papers were published as an outcome of the internal and public discussions of the IIC Sectoral Policy Groups. Two Occasional Publications were also published.

The Centre signed an MoU with the Ministry of External Affairs for the second phase of the project SAMHiTA (South Asian Manuscript Histories and Textual Archive). An MoU was signed with Bharat ki Soch Foundation for a research programme on pre-modern Indian texts focussing on education, health, nutrition and wellbeing. A conference was held on 'South Asia's Manuscript Traditions and Mathematical Contributions', where Fields Medallist Manjul Bhargava delivered the keynote address. This was accompanied by the exhibition, 'The Mathematical Sciences: South Asia's Contributions', inaugurated by the Minister for External Affairs, S. Jaishankar. The 'Guru Conference: Life and Legacy of Atiśa Dīpaṃkara Śrījñāna' was organised. It opened with a message from the Dalai Lama, read by Shyam Saran. Minister of Culture, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, inaugurated the conference. This was accompanied by an exhibition of sites and rare artefacts associated with the 11th century Buddhist teacher. As part of the lecture series 'Kriti-SAMHiTA: The Plurality of Indian Knowledge Systems', two talks: 'Buddhist Sanskrit Manuscripts of Nepal: Continuity of Ancient Indian Textual Traditions in the Himalayas' and 'Recovering the Plays of Māyurāja' were organised. Three edited volumes: *Pluralism in India and Indonesia: Diversity in the Quest for Unity*, *Confluence of India and Central Asia through the Ages* and *India and Africa: Legacy of Exchanges and Cultural Affinities* were released and discussed.

The Library increased its book collection and the number of book discussions also increased considerably. In new services provided, chapter alerts and Magzter, which provides unlimited access to over 10,000 national and international magazines, are notable additions. A 'Digital Security Training Workshop' was held in collaboration with Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP); and a 'National Conclave on Odyssey of AI: Challenges and Opportunities Beyond DeepSeek' was organised.

Applications for Short-Term Associate Membership (STAM) enrolment were invited this year. After scrutiny of the applications by the STAM Selection Committee, 169 new Short-Term Associate Members were inducted in December, 2025.

The income of the Centre during the financial year 1 April 2024–31 March 2025 was ₹7,412.21 lakh as against an income of ₹6,886.69 lakh in the previous financial year. The expenditure during the financial year also increased to ₹7,488.39 lakh from ₹7,228.02 lakh in the previous financial year. The net deficit, after making a provision for depreciation for ₹338.72 lakh was ₹76.19 lakh as against a deficit of ₹341.33 lakh in the financial year 2023–24. The corresponding provision for depreciation during the previous year was ₹315.80 lakh. The investment at the end of the financial year 2024–25 stood at ₹109.20 crore as against ₹106.51 crore on 31 March 2024. A General Body Meeting to discuss financial performance of the Centre during FY 2024–25 to consider and pass audited accounts of the said FY was held in September 2025. The Investment Policy of the Centre continues to ensure that the Centre's funds are put in risk-free instruments. In order to achieve better returns, part of the Centre's funds is also now being invested in the debt-instrument of mutual funds.

The IT server room has undergone a comprehensive renovation. The IIC website is undergoing extensive redesign to make it more user friendly. The Instant Payment System using Smart Cards has been functioning effectively. As many as 98 per cent of Members have acquired Smart Cards. The Member's portal offers a range of services including venue booking, food order placement, bill payment, and profile updation. Access to the portal is available via the URL <https://member.iicdelhi.in/> or through a touchscreen kiosk at the Main Reception. IIC's social media presence provides Members and the interested public with updates about programmes at the Centre. Notably, the IIC's Instagram account has reached 10,000 followers through organic growth. SKY, Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software has been developed in-house and implemented. It offers modules on Accounts, Budget, Food and Beverage Costing, Purchase and Stores, as well as a Vendor Portal, thus streamlining operations across departments.

A total of 21 Hostel rooms have been renovated and the renovation of 16 Annexe Hostel rooms is being carried out. The Annexe Lounge and Bar have been refurbished with SPC flooring for a better finish and enhanced space management. Annexe Lecture Room I has been redeveloped and refurbished as a multipurpose venue. It is also now an alternate venue for screening movies. A new Compactor unit has been installed at Basement 2 of Kamaladevi Block. The unit can house about 15,000 Library books and Publications, Membership and Catering records in a clean and protected environment. In the first phase of the Kitchen Renovation Project, the renovation of the Kamaladevi Kitchen on the ground floor and stores in the two basements of the Kamaladevi Block have been completed. Work on the second phase of the project covering Kamaladevi Block Basement 1, Butchery and Annexe Lounge has commenced. A sewage treatment plant (STP) has been installed to treat the wastewater generated from the Annexe building. The project was funded by IREDA under its CSR programme.

This year the grass on the main lawn was re-laid and, as always, plants were nurtured in pots by IIC Garden Staff and made available for sale. Additionally, good quality compost manure is being produced using kitchen and garden waste. Part of it is being used in the Centre's lawns and gardens and the rest is being sold to the Members.

Training and awareness programmes on firefighting, disaster management and enforcement of the laws on Prevention of Sexual Harassment at the Workplace, as well as medical wellness camps were organised by the IIC Administration for the Centre's staff and Members. The Centre recycled old records and papers stored in the basements.

As the detailed Report would show, a wide range of programmes and events were held at the Centre; and hence, it is difficult to capture all of them in this summary. It has been a fruitful year. Participation of Members in the Centre's activities and increasing number of visitors at the Centre encourage us to perform better and to maintain and carry forward the legacy and ideals of the Centre.

Annual Report 2025–2026

The 65th Annual Report of the India International Centre (IIC) for the period from 1 February 2025 to 31 January 2026 will be placed before the 70th Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of the Centre, to be held on 30 March 2026.

Elections to the Executive Committee (EC) and the Board of Trustees (BoT) of the Centre for two years, 2025–2027, were initiated as per the schedule.

These elections were conducted in two modes: e-voting and physical voting via Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). The elections were for one Member for the BoT in the Individual category, one Member for the BoT in the Institutional category, two Members for the EC in the Individual category, and one Member for the EC in the Institutional category (other than Universities).

The Centre engaged National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) to assist in e-voting services, which were conducted over four days (10–13 March 2025). Physical voting took place on 22 March 2025, and the counting of votes and the declaration of results were also carried out on the same day.

Ashwajit Singh (M-3661) and Dr. Mahesh Verma (CM-252) were elected as Trustees under Individual and Institutional categories, respectively.

In the EC, P. K. Tripathi (M-4568), Sanjeev Chopra (M-3995) and K. Padmanabhaiah (CM-003) were elected as Members, with the first two from the Individual category and the latter from the Institutional category (other than Universities). Among the nominated Members of the EC are Neelam D. Sabharwal (M-3908) and Syamdas B. Menon (M-4591). Ranjana Jha (CM-350) has been nominated as a Member of the EC from the Corporate Foundation and Universities category.

It is a matter of pride for the Centre that some of its Members have received honours and awards this year. In this year's national honours list, Kallipatti Ramasamy Palaniswamy (M-3608) has been awarded the Padma Bhushan, and Buddha Rashmi Mani (M-4630), Satyanarayan Nuwal (A-6237), K. Vijay Kumar (A-6527), Deepika Reddy (AT1951), and Prabhakar Basavprabhu Kore (CM-281) have been awarded the Padma Shri.

The Centre has worked unstintingly for about six decades to live up to the vision of its founders—to promote understanding and amity between the different communities of the world by undertaking and promoting the study of their past and present cultures. The Centre continues to be the venue of choice for scholars, thinkers and writers to gather

and debate global issues. The Centre attempts to do this through creation, dissemination and exchange of knowledge. Members of the Centre come together in different groups to organise seminars, roundtables and discussions on subjects that cover a wide spectrum like education, environment, economics, history and archaeology, health, international affairs, media, politics and governance, science and technology, security and society, gender and several other social issues.

Apart from organising its own programmes, the Centre also collaborates with educational institutions, non-government organisations and research bodies, and facilitates the programmes of like-minded institutions. Many lectures and talks are webcast and can be viewed on the IIC website. Many such programmes are also placed on the Centre's YouTube channel.

The Centre records the contribution of the 46 Members who passed away during the period of this Report. Some of them had been closely associated with the activities of the Centre for many years, and their departure is a great loss.

The untiring efforts of IIC's regular and contractual staff need special mention. They were duly motivated and inspired by their Heads of Departments and Senior Management of the Centre. Without them, it would be impossible to run this unique institution 365 days, round the clock, efficiently.

IIC Experience

The Centre celebrated the 21st edition of its annual festival, ‘The IIC Experience: A Festival of the Arts’, held from 10 to 14 October 2025. The theme of this year’s festival was ‘*Sā-Vanitā: Thus, She Speaks*’, focussing on women’s voices, their multidimensional growth, and women-led initiatives across various fields. Through talks, discussions, exhibitions, films and cultural performances, the festival highlighted the evolving role and status of women in society. Among the highlights was the food festival by the women of ‘We The Chefs’, who presented a delightful selection of cuisines for gastronomes.

Talks and Discussions

Three talks and three discussions were organised as part of the Festival:



Depth Sounding Our Unseen Histories

In her keynote address, ‘Depth Sounding Our Unseen Histories’, Mrinal Pande observed that a woman is the product of layered history, shaped by what is seen and what remains unseen. She recounted her childhood, marked by a complete lack of privacy and the imparting of traditional wisdom about gender roles. Pande then traced women such as *Brahmavadinis* (women ascetics), Maitreyi and Gargi, in ancient texts and times. Moving

into modern times, she observed that although women have been protesting since the 1970s, the issues like dowry, domestic violence and reproductive rights such as abortion, foeticide and family planning, remain unchanged.

In ‘Breaking the Frame: Women’s Shifting Roles in Media’, the panellists, Malini Parthasarathy, Sunetra Choudhury and Neerja Chowdhury, shared their experiences, challenges and the transformations they witnessed as women journalists. Chowdhury cited exchanges from 1977 to 1982: one in which a publication sought a three-year undertaking to foster commitment; and another in which *The Statesman* aimed to hire more women because they were more hardworking and conscientious than men. Parthasarathy observed that while women journalists have moved from ‘soft’ feature beats to covering wars, they have had to work twice as hard as their male counterparts

to make an impact. Choudhury noted that the normalisation of working from home after COVID-19 and the widespread use of mobile phones have enabled live reporting from any location, empowering the current generation of journalists.

Madhavi Desai's talk on 'Women in Architecture in India: Changing the Historical Canon' highlighted the relative anonymity of women architects' contributions to the building of post-colonial India, including those of Eulie Chaudhary and Gira Sarabhai, and discussed various aspects of their roles, challenges, injustices and achievements. Desai showcased the works of trailblazers such as Pravina Mehta, Hema Sankalia and Revathy Kamath, and contemporary figures such as Chitra Vishwanath, Abha Narain Lambah, Anupama Kundoo and Brinda Somaya, underlining the shift towards impactful practices led by women in recent times.

In 'Role of Women in Politics in India—Then and Now', panellists Aparajita Sarangi, Atishi Marlena and Iqra Hasan offered a critical discourse on women's political participation. The discussion stressed that the legal provisions for increasing seats starkly contrast with the persistently low levels of actual representation in legislative bodies. The panel also emphasised the importance of strategic feminism for navigating the male-dominated political arena—setting aside superficial identity questions to focus



Women's Shifting Roles in Media



Women in Architecture in India



Role of Women in Politics in India

on larger societal battles. Two key paths were highlighted to foster future leadership: constitutional reservation to ensure representation and mandatory internal reservations within parties to cultivate organic leadership from the grassroots.



Women, Work, Resilience and Peace

Founded in 1972 by Ela Bhatt, Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) today represents over 3.2 million women across 18 states, many of whom are home-based workers, street vendors, small farmers and artisans. In, 'Women, Work, Resilience and Peace: SEWA's Role in the Empowerment of Women in India's Informal Economy', Reema Nanavaty spoke about the Association's mission to secure full employment and self-reliance

for every woman and her household. Among SEWA's recent innovations are green energy livelihoods, climate insurance and initiatives that connect women producers to sustainable supply chains. The discussion was attended by several members of SEWA from various districts across India, who shared their inspiring stories of empowerment.



Working for an Equal World

The discussion, 'Working for an Equal World', centred on women's empowerment, gender inequalities in the North-East and how women's emancipation relates to broader issues across the seven states. Rakhee Kalita Moral spoke about young, educated women who joined rebel groups in the late 20th century. Patricia Mukhim offered insight into women having to fight patriarchy in the matrilineal society of Meghalaya. Stuti Goswami's

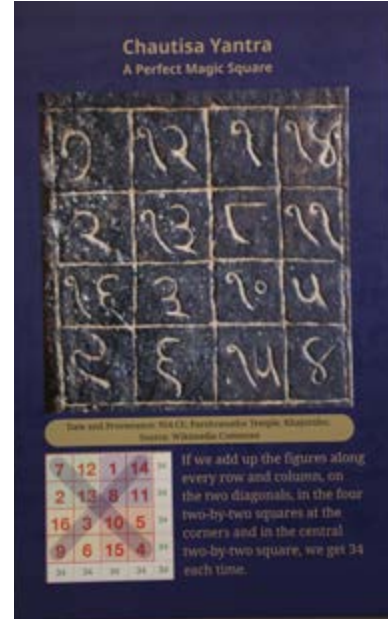
talk focussed on five prominent women from the North-East, including freedom fighters, educationists and writers, and on the contributions of female writers to pre-Independence literary periodicals published in Assam up to around 1935. Purnima Barman spoke about her conservation efforts for the greater adjutant stork (*hargila*) in Assam, which changed the bird's status from 'Endangered' to 'Near Threatened'.

Exhibitions

‘Shunya: The Power of Zero’, part of IIC-IRD’s project, SAMHITA, explored India’s mathematical heritage, particularly the concept of zero and its impact on subjects such as algebra, astronomy and music. There were five sections: ‘Conceiving of Nothing’ examined the emergence of shunya from the Vedic period; ‘Signifying Nothing’ traced the development of the zero symbol from a decimal placeholder to an algebraic entity; ‘Zero Across Cultures’ highlighted the Mayans’ use of zero as a placeholder, dating back to 36 BCE; ‘Around Zero’, examined zero as a cultural, religious and philosophical concept; and ‘Zero Fills the Void’, explored the metaphysical idea of shunya in music, ghazals and poetry.

‘Ink and Eternity: Priceless Collections of Nalanda and Darbhanga’ was organised in collaboration with Lalit Narayan Mithila University, Darbhanga; Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University; Nava Nalanda Mahavihara; and Nalanda University. It underscored Bihar’s monastic traditions, royal patronage, and institutional custodianship of manuscripts and rare books. Panels along the walls introduced the participating institutions and their histories. Highlights included four manuscripts: a late-15th-century Tibetan *Ārya Astasāhasrikā Prajñāpāramitā Sūtra*; a *Kammavācā* ritual text in old Burmese script; a Pali grammar in Khmer script; and a *Visuddhimagga* in Sinhalese script. Also on display were 12 rare printed volumes, including *Description Historique et Géographique de l’Inde* by Joseph Tieffenthaler; *Asiatic Researches* (Vol. 1) and *An Account of the Kingdom of Nepal* by Colonel Kirkpatrick.

Organised in collaboration with DAG, ‘Forms in Continuum: Narratives in Modern Indian Sculpture’ featured works by five artists. Chennai-born S. Dhanapal (1919–2000) bridged classical South Indian forms with a modern sensibility. On display was his lifelike



Shunya: The Power of Zero



Ink and Eternity



Forms in Continuum: Narratives in Modern Indian Sculpture



bronze bust of Gandhi. Navjot Altaf, who lives between Bastar and Mumbai, was represented by three life-size dogs crafted in Bastar's bell-metal traditions. Known for his male and female figures, Musui and Maiya, K. S. Radhakrishnan's 'The Ramp' or 'Standing Musui' depicted collective humanity through figures moving forward. Latika Katt's (1948–2025) work, 'Fence', showed both boundary and openness, strength and reflection. Kiron Sinha's three life-size concrete works—'Bulbul', 'Purnima' and 'Angel with Flute'—were dedicated to his daughter, who passed away at the age of 27.



A Star Named Arundhati

The exhibition, 'A Star Named Arundhati', celebrated the life of the multifaceted artist Arundhati Devi. Curated by Tapati Guha-Thakurta and Mrinalini Vasudevan, the exhibition—divided into various sections—featured family archives, photographs, diary pages and other memorabilia, as well as scenes from her films. 'A Dhaka Childhood' showcased her early solo and family photographs; 'A Santiniketan Upbringing' depicted her life there; 'Radio and Gramophone Days'

depicted her entry into public life as a Rabindra Sangeet singer; 'The Hollywood Album' showed her representing the Indian film industry; 'A Bhadrashila Actress' showcased her work through stills from various films; 'Life with Tapan Sinha' and 'Arundhati in Tapan Sinha's Films' exhibited her personal and professional life with her second husband; and 'Forays into Direction and Production' showcased her other creative ventures.

Performances

Malavika Sarukkai's reimagination of conventional narratives through her expressive interpretations and fluid movements was showcased in her Bharatanatyam recital. In her opening piece, '*Gangavataran*', Sarukkai brought to life the journey of the Bhagirathi River from the matted locks of Lord Shiva to its merger with the Alaknanda River, forming the Ganga. Her second piece, '*Thimmakka*', paid tribute to environmentalist Saalumarada Thimmakka (1911–2025). Her concluding piece, '*Vrindavan*', featured verses composed by the eighth-century Tamil poet-saint Andal, known for her love and devotion to Krishna. Through DanceSpeak, a technique she developed, Sarukkai made the body speak and invited the audience to see what she sees and feel what she feels.



Bharatanatyam recital by Malavika Sarukkai

'*Divas: The Triumph of Women in Opera*' featured 11 young sopranos and mezzo-sopranos singing in six languages, accompanied by a pianist. Presented by an all-women's ensemble from The Neemrana Music Foundation (TNMF), the programme was divided into three thematic 'Acts' and an 'Epilogue'. Act I, 'The Dream of Love', opened with all the singers joining in the 'Bridal Chorus' from Wagner's *Lohengrin*, followed by solo



Divas: The Triumph of Women in Opera

pieces such as Juliette's aria '*Ah! Je veux vivre*' from Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*. Act II, 'The Seductress', opened with the duet '*Via resti servita*' from Act I of Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, sung with a display of competitive spite. Act III, 'The Defeat', featured operatic excerpts of a more tragic nature, including a choral arrangement of '*Lascia ch'io pianga*' from Handel's *Rinaldo*. The 'Epilogue' concluded the evening on a light note with Anne Trulove's mock-heroic aria 'I go, I go to him' from Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*.

Devotion was the theme of Vishakha Hari's '*Stree Ratnas: Women Composers of Bharat*', in which she led the audience on a sacred journey, weaving together philosophy,



Stree Ratnas by Vishakha Hari

on the deity Vithoba of Pandharpur, and Tharikonda Vengamamba's '*Muthyala Harati*' for Venkateshwara on Tirumala. The songs of Rajasthan's Karmabai, devoted to Odisha's Jagannath of Puri, and of Tamil saint Andal for Lord Ranganatha were also performed. Hari concluded with Mirabai's bhajan, '*Payoji Maine Ram Ratan Dhan Payo*'.



The Splendour of Malay Dance

footwork, spins, jumps, and joyful twirls reflected the Portuguese influence, while the use of accordion, violin and fiddle demonstrated the musical influence. Another traditional piece, Zapin, with its roots in the Arab world, was brought to Malaysia by traders from the Middle East many centuries ago. The final two dances were choreographed with sharp, precise and energetic movements, combining the artistry of ballet and contemporary dance.

The Hindustani vocal recital by Sniti Mishra, trained by Raghunath Sahu and Dilshad Khan of the Gwalior and Kirana Gharanas, respectively, moved effortlessly between classical, Sufi, ghazal and film music. The recital began with '*Lagi Mori Lagana*', in the

mythology and belief. Accompanied by violin and mridangam, Hari punctuated her Harikatha, a genre of folk performance that combines music, dance and *pravachana* (religious discourse) to convey the glories of Hari (Vishnu). She began with a couplet paying obeisance to Krishna, followed by Mirabai's '*Thothi Maina*', Kashmiri mystic Lalleshwari's '*Dehace Lare Dare Bar Troparim*', '*Thatiche Abhang*' by saint Muktabai from Maharashtra, centred

'The Splendour of Malay Dance: From Tradition to Contemporary Dance', presented by six dancers from Malaysia's ASK Dance Company (ADC), showcased the country's historical and cultural connections with the Portuguese and Arab nations, and how the fusion of these cultures has enriched Malaysian traditions and dance styles. The opening performance of Joget offered a glimpse of this cultural confluence. The coordinated



*Hindustani vocal recital
by Sniti Mishra*

evening raga Puriya Dhanashree, presented first in *bada khayal*, followed by a *chhota khayal* and a Tarana composition. This was followed by the Farsi Tarana '*Khabaram Raseed Imshab ki Nigaar*', attributed to Amir Khusrau. Mishra presented the *madhyam-pradhan* ('Ma' note dominant) raga Malkauns with the composition '*Hara Hara Mahadev*'. The recital then shifted to lighter classical pieces with '*Naina More Taras Gaye*', a thumri in raga Bhairavi. Mishra concluded with the ghazal '*Jalte Hain Jiske Liye*', popularised by Talat Mahmood.

An episode from Indian mythology was presented by Usha Nangiar in 'Nangiar Koothu: Emancipation of Ahalya'. Traditionally performed by a solo female artiste, Nangiar Koothu is a related form of Koodiyattam



Nangiar Koothu by Usha Nangiar

or Kuttiyattam. *Ahalya Vimochanam* (Emancipation of Ahalya) depicts the story of Ahalya, wife of the sage Gautama; her seduction by Indra through deceit; her husband's curse that she be turned into a stone; and her eventual release from this penance by Rama. Nangiar transformed herself into each character through minimal gestures and subtle facial expressions, conveying Ahalya's vulnerability and suffering, Indra's cunningness, Gautama's fury and Rama's grace. The accompanying artistes on the *mizhavu* (large clay drums), the *idakka* (a small hourglass-shaped drum) and the *talam* (vocal and rhythmic support) complemented the performance.

Film Festival

'Women at the Centre', curated by Shivendra Singh Dungarpur, featured an array of 13 films, predominantly women-centred works from India and overseas. It included a line-up from Indian cinema with strong performances by actresses in leading roles, such as Ritwik Ghatak's *Meghe Dhaka Tara* (1960), Tapan Sinha's *Kshudhita Pashan* (1960), Shyam Benegal's *Bhumika* (1977), Mahesh Bhatt's *Arth* (1982) and Kalpana Lajmi's *Rudali* (1993), alongside Western classics such as Joseph L. Mankiewicz's *All About Eve* (1950),



Film Festival



The Last Migration

Alfred Hitchcock's *Rear Window* (1954), Fred Zinnemann's *The Nun's Story* (1959) and Robert Stevenson's *Mary Poppins* (1964). Films from more recent times included Taylor Hackford's *An Officer and a Gentleman* (1982), Steven Soderbergh's *Erin Brockovich* (2000), Joe Wright's *Pride and Prejudice* (2005) and Todd Field's *Tár* (2022).

Apart from the women-centric films, there was a special screening of wildlife documentarian and conservationist Mike Pandey's *The Last Migration—Wild Elephant Capture in Sarguja*, which depicts a man-animal conflict and its resolution in a remote corner of Chhattisgarh.

Food Festival



Food Festival

Aligned with this year's festival theme and curated by Sourish Bhattacharyya and Pushpesh Pant, the women of 'We The Chefs' presented a range of delectable cuisines.

The tasty tour began with ‘Spice Route: Culinary Journeys Along the Coromandel Coast’, curated by Rekha Rigo, followed by ‘Ruposhi Bangla: A Bengali Culinary Tapestry’, curated by Samita Halder; ‘Sunday Brunch: Flavours of Gujarat’, prepared by members of SEWA, Gujarat; ‘Begum-e-Dilli: Street Food of Delhi’, curated by Gunjan Goela; ‘La Table Française’, prepared by the Centre’s own Executive Chef, Vijay Kumar Thakural; and ‘Baghar-e-Magadh: Earthy & Flavourful Bihar’, curated by Shacchi Anand.

Release of the IIC Quarterly, Autumn 2025; and India and Africa: Legacy of Exchanges and Cultural Affinities

Following tradition, the *IIC Quarterly, Autumn 2025*, was released during the Festival by N. N. Vohra at the Gandhi-King Plaza. *India and Africa: Legacy of Exchanges and Cultural Affinities*, edited by H. H. S. Viswanathan and K. N. Shrivastava, drawing on the proceedings of IIC-IRD’s 2020 conference ‘Understanding Africa: Continuity and Change’, was released concurrently.



Release of the IIC Quarterly, Autumn 2025 by N. N. Vohra

Annual Day

The Centre's Annual Day was celebrated on 22 January, commemorating its 64th anniversary. Continuing the tradition, the evening began with a Members' special tea, followed by a cultural programme. This year's performance, 'Nirgun—The Confluence of Sufi and Bhakti' by acclaimed singer and composer Sonam Kalra, brought to life the layered nuances of Sufi–Bhakti traditions. Presenting five compositions, Kalra began with '*Ik Onkar*', based on the opening verse of the Guru Granth Sahib, originally written by Guru Nanak. This was followed by Sufi poet Hazrat Zaheen Shah Taji's '*Main Hosh Mein Hoon to Tera Hoon*', Amir Khusrau's '*Ae ri Sakhi More Piya Ghar Aaye*', and the popular devotional song '*Chhaap Tilak*', also composed by Khusrau with both Sufi and Bhakti elements. Kalra concluded the evening with Bulleh Shah's compositions, including '*Dama Dam Mast Qalandar*', leaving the audience enchanted.



IIC Annual Day 2026

The celebration continued with dinner, featuring a sumptuous spread of Thai cuisine for Members at the Seminar Halls.

C. D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture, 2026

The 43rd C. D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture 2026, titled 'India in a New Asia', was delivered by George Yong-Boon Yeo, Singapore's former cabinet minister and the first Singaporean to receive the Padma Bhushan.

In the presence of India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, as chief guest, Yeo discussed the significance of India–China relations during the Trump administration. He revisited the Panchsheel Agreement, signed



C. D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture, 2026

between India and China in 1954, and stressed on the Five Principles outlined in the agreement: mutual respect for sovereignty, non-aggression, non-interference, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. Yeo proposed a 'Panchsheel 2.0' to address the challenges of a multipolar world, particularly those related to artificial intelligence and climate change. He also noted India's withdrawal from the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a free trade agreement that unites 15 Asia-Pacific nations, including China, to form an integrated market. Yeo expressed his belief that 'eventually, India will join RCEP in its own time', with terms that reflect its domestic needs.

Yeo observed that the consolidation of a multipolar world, 'one that the US, for the first time, appears willing to openly acknowledge', had been underway for years. The first few weeks of January 2026 offered a preview, with crises unfolding in rapid succession in Venezuela, Greenland, Cuba and Iran. Amid this, China's technological strategy is diverging sharply from that of the US. In Southeast Asia, countries have learned how to 'manage China'—benefitting from its growth without falling into its grasp. 'Naturally, we look to India as a counterbalance,' he said.

While noting that ties between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and India remain far below their potential, Yeo argued that India's growth 'is organic and irreversible' and that nowhere are the stakes higher than in India's relationship with China.

IIC Series

The Working of the Indian Constitution: Stories and Scholarship

This series emerged from the special issue of the *IIC Quarterly*, ‘The Working of the Indian Constitution’ (Winter 2021–Spring 2022). Its aim is to focus on the five themes in the Preamble: Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic. This is a collaboration with Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy.

The following discussions were held under ‘Great Cases’:

—‘Justice, Demolitions & the Rule of Law in Peace and Conflict’ examined the November 2024 Supreme Court directives on unlawful demolitions, the role of due process and the broader implications for democracy in India.

—In the discussion on the *Pragya Prasun v. Union of India* case, the panellists highlighted how it affirms the right to accessibility under Section 46 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and reinforces the State’s duty to develop inclusive digital ecosystems that serve all citizens, especially the most marginalised.

—The discussion on *State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu* examined the Supreme Court’s interpretation of the Governor’s duties in relation to assenting to bills and the constitutional implications of prescribed timelines.

Music Appreciation Promotion

The illustrated talk, ‘Leonard Bernstein: Composer, Conductor, Teacher, Humanist’, by Punita G. Singh, celebrated the life and legacy of ‘Lenny’, as he was affectionately called, whose intellect and humanism continue to inspire and educate.

Vidya Rao’s presentation on ‘The Many Routes to Bhav in Thumri’ focussed on thumri as expressed through the voices of singers such as Naina Devi, Mahadev Prasad Mishra, Shipra Bose and Birju Maharaj. It explored the various ways they used sound and silence, voice modulations and rhythmic play to create *bhav*—the multiple meanings and narratives within a single text.

The talk, ‘I’m Kabir and I’m Not, says Kabir’, by Anand was based on his book *The Notbook of Kabir: Thinner than Water, Fiercer than Fire*, which compiles 50 Kabir songs with

impressionistic translations. The discussion was interwoven with philosophy, radical thought and musical performances, including songs from Tamil, Marathi, Pali and Braj traditions.

'From Revolution to Evolution: A Journey through 20th Century American Modern Dance' was an illustrated lecture by Sharon Lowen providing a comprehensive visual overview of the origins of modern dance in the 20th century, from early developments through post-modernism to contemporary practices.

Dipankar De Sarkar's lecture, 'Gandhi and Music', examined Gandhi's musical world, highlighting the songs and hymns that motivated him during the darkest hours of India's struggle for independence.

In the illustrated talk, 'Sounds of Mesopotamia: An Introduction to Kurdish Music', Hakan Çifçi traced the rich and diverse tradition of Kurdish music to Mesopotamian civilisation. He treated the audience to an evening of *Dengbej*, a genre sung by *Dengbêjs* (singing storytellers), and a traditional Kurdish dance called *govend*.

In 'The Classical Compositions of Hazrat Amir Khusrau', Madhumita Ray presented notable classical compositions by the Sufi saint, who is regarded as the 'father of Qawwali'. The lecture focussed on rare ragas and showcased his works, drawing on recordings by eminent artists.

Emerging alongside The Beatles in the early 1960s, the Rolling Stones fused early rock with the blues. Their sound experiments drew on influences from gospel, R&B, soul, country, folk and even reggae and disco. Through audio tracks, video clips and stories, Punita G. Singh's talk, 'Rocking and Rolling with the Stones', offered a glimpse into the colourful personalities, lives and oeuvre of these musicians, who continue to attract listeners across generations.

In the illustrated talk, 'Aesthetics of Film Music', Mrudula Dadhe Joshi demonstrated various aesthetic elements observed in the making of Hindi Film Music and examined how features of several Hindustani musical gharanas are applied in this industry.

Mapping Sustainable Agriculture

This series has been conceptualised by Siraj Hussain.

The discussion, 'Trump's America First Trade Policy: Implications and Options', centred on the Presidential Memorandum on reciprocal trade and tariffs issued by Donald Trump in February 2025 to address the 'unfair and unbalanced' aspects of US trade

with foreign trading partners. The panellists examined how this could affect the trade framework established by the WTO and India–US bilateral trade negotiations.

The World Bank, in its *Spring 2025 Poverty and Equity Brief*, stated that only 2.3 per cent of Indians live on less than US\$2.15 a day—the international benchmark for extreme poverty. In ‘The Great Indian Poverty Debate: Has Poverty been Almost Banished?’, discussants debated whether poverty in India has been eradicated and highlighted the state of poverty research in India, with the ongoing lack of data.

The discussion on ‘GDP Base Revision: Time to Regain Confidence’ emphasised that the primary purpose of GDP estimates is to monitor the level and changes across different sectors to assess the economy’s direction. The discussants suggested reviewing the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) data for statistical use, enhancing the estimation of gross value added (GVA) per worker in informal sectors and updating extrapolation methods, among other recommendations.

IIC/The Media Foundation Dialogues

This is an ongoing series of conversations organised in collaboration with The Media Foundation. The dialogues focus on issues challenging the Fourth Estate.

In ‘Challenges Confronting the Indian Language Media’, professionals from regional language media, including Hindi, Malayalam, Marathi, Bengali and Urdu, discussed concerns such as declining readership, ownership by political parties, influence of advertisers and the lack of talent in regional media. The discussants highlighted that the diversification of media from print and television to digital platforms has been a source of empowerment.

‘Operation Sindoor’, India’s military action against Pakistan in response to the terror attack in Pahalgam in April 2025, was followed by several parliamentary delegations visiting various countries to explain India’s position on terrorism originating from its neighbour to the west. The discussants in ‘The Media, Operation Sindoor and India’s Diplomatic Outreach’ examined how meaningful this diplomatic outreach was and how effectively the media reported the issue.

In August 2025, Rahul Gandhi, the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, stated that the Indian National Congress had found evidence of electoral fraud during the 2024 Indian general election. The ECI dismissed the claims and urged him to submit relevant documents in a signed declaration. ‘The Electoral Rolls Controversy and the Media’ analysed the issue and examined how the media had reported it.

The panellists in ‘From Kingmaker to Bystander: Is the Media Still a Force in Indian Elections?’ observed that there was a time when the media ‘created leaders’ and could predict election outcomes. They examined whether the media has lost its edge or political insight, drawing on the outcomes of assembly elections in Haryana and Maharashtra in 2024 and in Bihar in 2025, and questioned whether the media can influence electoral outcomes.

Dialogues in Health and Wellness

This series is conceptualised by Ashwani Kumar. It comprises medical presentations based on early signs, and prevention and management of disease/conditions from a common medical perspective.

Apart from talks, there was a series of workshops and camps on: ‘Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Techniques’; ‘Understanding the Basic and Common Causes of Back Pain’; ‘ENT Workshop on Optimising Personal Communication—Listening and Speaking’; ‘Assessment of Neurological Status’; ‘Breast Cancer Awareness with the Slogan “Pink Together, Stronger Forever”’; ‘Managing Our Weight—What can We Do?’.

To mark World Health Day 2025, the panellists in ‘Ten Commandments for Nurturing the Heart’ outlined practical guidelines, such as regular exercise, a balanced diet, and routine check-ups for cholesterol, blood sugar and blood pressure, for preventing heart attacks and ensuring cardiovascular health. They also recognised that tobacco use, alcohol consumption and prolonged sedentary behaviour significantly increase the risk of cardiovascular disease.

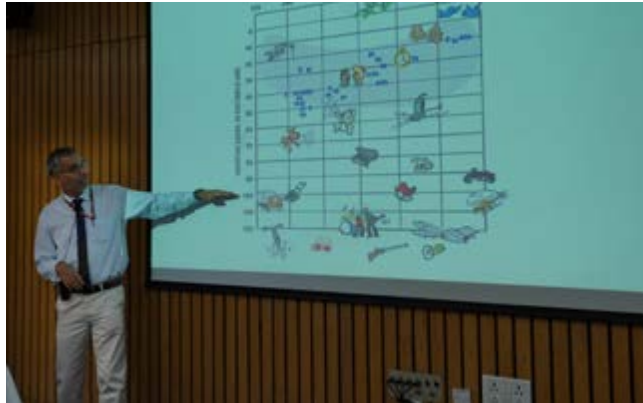


Workshop on ‘Understanding the Basic and Common Causes of Back Pain’



Workshop on ‘Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Techniques’

The discussion on ‘Strong Bones, Pain-Free Life: Tackling Osteoporosis, Arthritis and Back Pain in Ageing’ focussed on bone health, common age-related joint issues, the anatomy of the spine, common causes of back pain and preventive measures such as posture and exercise. The panellists also discussed treatment options, including self-care remedies, physiotherapy and surgical interventions, and explored the connection between mental health and back pain.



Obstructive Sleep Apnea

‘Obstructive Sleep Apnea: A Disorder You Should Not Sleep On’ highlighted that the prevalence of the sleep disorder is increasing in our country and that it can be fatal. Symptoms include excessive daytime sleepiness, loud snoring, waking during the night and gasping or choking. The discussants noted that excessive snoring is not normal and can increase the risk of a heart attack and a stroke.



Women’s Health Beyond Menopause

The session on ‘Understanding Menopause’ covered its onset, symptoms and long-term impacts, including osteoporosis and cardiovascular risk. It also included discussions on ‘Women’s Health Beyond Menopause’ and ‘Wellness in the Second Spring: A Guide to Women’s Health After Midlife’, focussing on screening, lifestyle adjustments, and individualised treatment options, including hormone therapy, supplements and counselling.

‘Protect Your Filters: A Practical Talk on Kidney Wellness’ highlighted the vital functions of the kidneys, early signs of disease and how simple lifestyle changes can make a lasting difference. This was followed by a discussion on ‘Understanding the Triad: Diabetes, Heart Disease and Kidney Health’, which underlined chronic conditions in which dysfunction in one organ system often accelerates damage to the others. This relationship is known as the cardiovascular-kidney-metabolic (CKM) syndrome.



A Talk on Kidney Wellness



Brain Matters

Advancing age can cause memory impairment in some people, but the most common cause is Alzheimer’s disease. Of about 55 million people with dementia, 60 to 70 per cent are estimated to have Alzheimer’s disease. A talk, ‘Brain Matters: Protecting Memory and Brain Health’, followed by a panel discussion on ‘Alzheimer’s Disease and Other Dementia’, highlighted its diagnosis and management.

Although it is commonly believed that vaccination ends with childhood, as adults we remain vulnerable to many preventable infections—flu, pneumonia, hepatitis, shingles, Human Papillomavirus (HPV), and more. The discussants in ‘Vaccination in Adults—My Prescription’ emphasised the importance of vaccines at various stages of adult life, clarified common misconceptions and provided simple, practical guidance for creating a personalised vaccine plan.



Vaccination in Adults



World Diabetes Day 2025

Nearly 90 per cent of people with type 2 diabetes are overweight or obese. Managing obesity through weight loss, achieved through lifestyle changes, medication or surgery,

can be effective, improving glycaemic control, reducing the need for medication and offering the potential for disease remission. ‘Lighten Up for Sugar Control: How Weight Management Transforms Diabetes?’ addressed these concerns.

Rakesh Garg’s talk, ‘Hands to Restart Heart to Save Lives by Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Techniques’, highlighted that CPR is a lifesaving technique in many medical emergencies, such as heart attacks. The session outlined how to recognise and respond to cardiac arrest and demonstrated how to use Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)—medical devices used to restore normal heart rhythm.



*Freedom from Arthritis, Move Freely Again:
The Gift of Joint Replacement*

In ‘Freedom from Arthritis, Move Freely Again: The Gift of Joint Replacement’, Vijay Kumar outlined how joint replacement surgery significantly reduces chronic joint pain and restores mobility in individuals with severe arthritis or joint damage. This was followed by a panel discussion on ‘Restoring Mobility with Conservative Treatments/Joint Replacement’.

History and Heritage: The Afterlife of Monuments

This series is conceptualised by Himanshu Prabha Ray.

Vidya Dehejia commenced her illustrated talk, ‘The Thief Who Stole My Heart: Sacred Bronzes from Chola India’, based on her book, with an introduction to the sacred bronzes created by a master sculptor around the year 1000 CE. She examined questions such as where the Cholas acquired the copper to cast the many temple bronzes, which are solid, heavy pieces of metal.



The Thief Who Stole My Heart

'Follow the River: Maps, Cartographic Truths, and Imperial Frontier-making in the Himalayas in the Long Nineteenth Century' was an illustrated lecture by Sayantani Mukherjee in which she deconstructed the epistemic production of geo-knowledge about the Eastern Himalayas by examining the appropriation and rejection of interlocutors of local and indigenous knowledge, networks and actors.

Recent studies indicate that early Harappan developments date to around 3500 BCE, and unique cultural traits specific to Gujarat formed part of its urban phase. New excavations also reveal the resilience of the Harappans in the face of adverse climatic events and their gradual cultural transformation. P. Ajithprasad's presentation on 'The Harappan Civilisation and Gujarat' covered these discoveries in detail.

Recentring Southeast Asia: Politics, Religion and Maritime Connections, edited by Himanshu Prabha Ray, examines India–Southeast Asia links beyond colonial narratives. In the discussion, 'Recentring Southeast Asia', based on the book, the speakers presented case studies from archaeology and art history, exploring 20th-century developments through the lens of political figures such as Jawaharlal Nehru, the role of the Greater India Society (1926–1959) and Buddhism.

South Asia Beyond Borders: New Research in History and Archaeology

This series is in collaboration with Ashoka University, Sonipat.

M. B. Rajani's talk, 'Beyond Boundaries: New Insights into Bodhgaya's Ancient Landscape', explained how combining modern technology with historical analysis helps uncover hidden archaeological features. Focussing on Bodhgaya, he discussed previously unknown archaeological features, including monasteries, stupas, tanks and clues to the ancient course of the Niranjana River.

In January 2025, the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology released its report, 'Antiquity of Iron: Recent Radiometric Dates from Tamil Nadu', detailing iron objects dated to 2953–3345 BCE found at six sites, challenging widely accepted theories about the timeline of India's history. K. Rajan, who was at the forefront of these excavations, highlighted the findings in 'Recent Archaeological Investigations in Tamil Nadu'.

Aaj Kavita: An Evening of Poetry

This series is in collaboration with the Raza Foundation.

Punjabi poet Amarjeet Kaunke from Patiala and Hindi poets Vinay Vishwas, Raki Garg and Anil Analhatu from Delhi–NCR were part of ‘Poetry Readings’.

At another ‘Poetry Readings’ session, Ibbar Rabbi and Anurag Vats from Delhi, Ketan Yadav from Gorakhpur, and Devesh Path Sariya from Alwar recited their original works.

Ahmedabad’s Ranjana Argade and Delhi’s Shobha Akshar, Vimal Kumar and Vinod Bharadwaj participated in another session of ‘Poetry Readings’.

Hindi poets Rajendra Dhodapkar and Devyani Bharadwaj from Delhi; Parwati Tirkey from Gumla, Jharkhand; and Parag Pawan from Varanasi read their original works.

Several poets, including Neelesh Raghuvanshi from Bhopal, Sandhya Nivodita from Delhi, Utpal Banerjee from Indore and Javed Alam Khan from Delhi, took part in an evening of poetry and reflection.

Art Matters

This is also a collaboration with the Raza Foundation.

In a discussion on ‘Looking at Art’, the panellists examined questions such as whether we look at art in terms of the qualities of the medium, technique, subject, planimetric separation, perspectives, colours, textures, or try to glean insight into the artist’s thoughts; why indigenous art is viewed differently from contemporary art; and whether India’s school curriculum lacks art education, leading to a lack of art appreciation and critical viewing skills.

‘The Philosophy of Tagore: Thinking Across Cultures’ was based on Ramin Jahanbegloo’s book *The Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore: Thinking Across Cultures*, which examines Tagore’s views on human nature, education, intercultural dialogue, nationalism and nonviolence. The panel, which included the author, discussed the relevance of Tagore’s universal humanist ideas in today’s world.

Mani Kaul viewed cinema as a temporal, not a visual, medium, focussed on duration, silence and internal experience, where time stretches to reveal deeper realities and presence. Building on this, the discussants in ‘Cinema and Time’ explored the intricate

relationship between cinema and the experience, representation, and perception of time—across form, storytelling and aesthetics.

A conversation between artist Lal Bahadur Singh and writer and historian Shamsul Islam explored the intersections of art, history and contemporary thought, offering insights into creative practice and socio-cultural narratives.

In a conversation with artist Phaneendra Nath Chaturvedi, art critic and curator Uma Nair noted that artistic influences come from diverse domains and feed into artists' sensibilities, as seen in Chaturvedi's work *Monalisa Mystified*, which draws on the masterpiece. The discussion highlighted how Chaturvedi's practice is rooted in his experiences and what drew him to *Monalisa*.

During a conversation with Ashok Vajpeyi, writer and journalist Ashutosh Bharadwaj discussed his ongoing biography of philosopher and thinker Ramchandra Gandhi. Bharadwaj explained that Gandhi's novelistic figure, his associations with fields such as philosophy, politics, the arts, music, dance and drama, and his influence on a wide range of people inspired him to take on this work.

The panel discussion on 'Life and Work of Anjum Singh' featured the launch of the book that documents the artist's work from 2014 to 2020, the year she succumbed to cancer. The panellists traced Singh's artistic evolution from her earliest experiments to her final works, as her art became inseparable from life and its impending end.

Arundhathi Subramaniam was in conversation with poet and novelist Anamika about *The Gallery of Upside Down Women*, Subramaniam's latest collection of poetry. Subramaniam explained that her work is the result of a long search for female voices that have been either 'erased by the historical record or sanitised by sainthood'.

A panel launched and discussed Ajay Shanker's *The Joint Indian Family Album: Portraits of a Visual Arts Community*, which highlights the depth, artistry and significance of studio portraiture in an era of fleeting images, and celebrates and preserves cultural memory.

Talking Architecture

This series is conceptualised and curated by Anisha Shekhar Mukherji.

In the talk, 'Learning from Jaisalmer', Vinod Gupta presented his work on aspects of desert cities and on alternatives to unsuitable Western models that have replaced traditional Indian tools and methods of working and learning.

Living Landscapes

This series focusses on our relationship with nature and the built environment.

In his presentation, ‘Delhi’s Rutputty Forest—The Central Ridge’, ecological restoration practitioner Pradip Krishen questioned whether the highly degraded forest can be saved from further deterioration. Krishen traced attempts and prospects of restoring the Ridge to a living natural forest, going back to the 1920s.

A Fabric of Narratives: The Many Facets of Northeast India



A Place Called ‘Home’: Identity and Belonging

This series is focussed on various aspects of the region, curated in collaboration with Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER). Apart from talks and discussions, it will include seminars, exhibitions, performances and celebration of cuisines.

In ‘A Place Called “Home”: Identity and Belonging’, Sanjoy Hazarika presented a comprehensive narrative of the Northeast, interweaving historical milestones with personal insights. His account traversed four key phases: pre-Independence dynamics; the prolonged era of insurgency and conflict; the continuous engagement and efforts towards dialogue, peace-making agreements and reconciliation; and the current transition to economic development.

Himalayan Dialogues

This series aims to bring together scholars from India, China and around the world to deliberate on the cultural and historical connections between the two countries. It is coordinated by Rajiv Ranjan.

The discussants in ‘Himalayan Huffing: Culture, Politics and Climate Change’ focussed on two areas: how political boundaries shape cultural interactions, identities and conflicts, drawing on examples such as the porous India–Nepal border and the militarised India–

China border, which affect communities like the Changpas, and why and how the Himalayan community must act together to address the climate challenge in Tibet.

The Indo-Pacific is shifting from a US–China bipolar model towards a multipolar order, driven by rising regional powers, the need to counterbalance China’s growing influence, and nations’ strategic diversification to avoid choosing between the US and China. The panellists in ‘The Indian Way: Constructing Norms in Indo-Pacific’ examined India’s multidimensional and strategic approach to rebalancing the changing order.

The panellists in ‘Tianxia System in the New Era and Limits to China–Pakistan All-Weather Relations’ highlighted the evolving contours of China’s strategic worldview through the ancient concept of Tianxia—‘All under Heaven’. The idea, deeply embedded in Chinese philosophical and political thought, is being reimaged by the Chinese leadership to restructure global hierarchies.

A panel discussed B. R. Deepak’s book *Rising India and China: Strategic Rivalry in the Himalayas and the Indo-Pacific*, which captures the complex dynamics of the India–China boundary dispute. The two-volume work examines the trajectory of Sino-Indian relations, spanning the aftermath of the 1962 war in the Himalayas to the growing conflicts in the Indo-Pacific.

Folk Dance and Music

A series of folk dance and music performances was curated to support and promote folk artists by providing them with a national platform. Organised in collaboration with North Central Zone Cultural Centre (NCZCC), Prayagraj, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, the performances included:

—‘Baul Music’, a Bengali oral tradition of preaching mysticism through song, was presented by Lakshman Das Baul from Birbhum, West Bengal. He was accompanied by Sandip Das on tabla, Radha Shyam Lohar on flute, and Dipankar Bose on kartal and ghungroo.



Baul Music



Songs from Eastern UP



Maati Ki Boli: Essence of Land

—Urmila Srivastava, an exponent of Kajri from Mirzapur, presented an evening of monsoon songs in ‘Badariya Baras Rahi: Songs from Eastern UP’.

—In ‘Maati Ki Boli: Essence of Land’, Shailesh Srivastava, a disciple of Rajan and Sajan Mishra of the Banaras Gharana, presented Maharashtra’s traditional folk music, featuring Gan–Gondhal, Vagya–Murli, Jagran (Khandoba), Gaulang (Gopi–Krishna dialogue), and Baithakichi Lavani. She was accompanied by Madhav Prasad (harmonium), Pravin Kumar (synthesiser), Anil Gawde (dholki), Aashish Pawar (naal), Omkar Gawde (sambal) and Vishal Kumar (percussion).

Federal Democracy Project

The Federal Democracy Project was initially constituted under the overall guidance of N. N. Vohra to examine how federalism and democracy are intertwined, based on the postulate that there is a symbiotic and synergetic relationship between the two which gives dynamism and robustness to India’s parliamentary federalism. Five sub-groups were constituted with Balveer Arora as overall convenor. These are: Institutional Ecosystem; Federal Reforms; Identities, Diversity and Conflicts; Federal Democracy Processes; and Emerging Concerns.

The sub-groups have enlisted experts to debate these issues. The first phase of the project has been concluded. The wealth of information generated by these dialogues has occasioned a second phase that involves the collation of the papers presented. The ultimate objective is to publish a volume comprising the research papers that were presented.

IIC–International Research Division (IRD)

In February 2025, the Centre signed an MoU with the Ministry of External Affairs for the second phase of the project SAMHiTA (South Asian Manuscript Histories and Textual Archive). It focusses on designing the framework for the documentation, digitisation, and online accessibility of manuscripts from India’s neighbourhood (Bhutan, Cambodia, Japan, Nepal and Sri Lanka), Europe (France) and the US. Upon completion of this phase in July 2026, the SAMHiTA web portal (<https://samhita.iicdelhi.in/>) will feature manuscripts in Tamil, Khmer and other Asian languages, in addition to Sanskrit manuscripts.

In April, a team from IIC–IRD visited Nepal to meet representatives from various private and public repositories, introduce them to SAMHiTA, and discuss potential collaborations. Students of Buddhism showed great interest in the project. A follow-up visit was made in October.

The Centre signed an MoU with Bharat ki Soch Foundation, a think tank promoted by ITC, in July for a research programme on pre-modern Indian texts to examine their application in contemporary policymaking and practice. Two research fellows have been appointed to this project. In the first year, the focus is on textual sources related to education, health, nutrition and wellbeing. In January 2026, a scoping meeting was organised with 15 experts, including scholars and practitioners in healing traditions, government officials, and representatives of manuscript repositories. The discussion generated insights and leads on research areas for the project, spanning approaches to mental health, regional traditions and the creation of bibliographic resources.

The IIC–IRD collaborated with the Centre for Traditional Indian Knowledge Systems and Skills (CTIKS), IIT Bombay, to organise the conference, ‘South Asia’s Manuscript Traditions and Mathematical Contributions’, held from 4 to 5 September. Fields Medallist Manjul Bhargava delivered the keynote address, highlighting 10 seminal ‘non-zero’ Indian contributions to



Manjul Bhargava’s keynote address

mathematics. Scholars from India, Germany and New Zealand presented notable papers on India's contributions to geometry, mathematical astronomy, algebra and calculus, combinatorics in music, and mathematical pedagogy. In his valedictory address, theoretical physicist M. D. Srinivas outlined the challenges ahead in studying mathematical manuscripts.

The conference was accompanied by the exhibition, 'The Mathematical Sciences: South Asia's Contributions', held from 4 to 14 September and inaugurated by the Minister for External Affairs, S. Jaishankar. Displays traced the origins of numbers and number systems, geometric thinking and the concept of *shunya* or zero; the spread of mathematical ideas to the rest of Asia and to Europe; engagement between Sanskrit manuscripts, scholars and their Arabic and Persian counterparts; and applications in architecture, music and accounting, among other areas.



*S. Jaishankar inaugurating
'The Mathematical Sciences' exhibition*

The 'Guru Conference: Life and Legacy of Atiśa Dīpaṅkara Śrījñāna', tracing the travels and teachings of the 11th-century Buddhist spiritual leader from eastern India, was organised in November, in collaboration with the Centre for Escalation of Peace (CEP); the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives (LTWA); Ritinjali and Pallavan Learning Centre. The conference opened with a message from the Dalai Lama, read by Shyam Saran. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Culture, inaugurated the conference, speaking of Atiśa's spiritual and physical journeys and of the Buddhist legacy linking different parts of Asia.

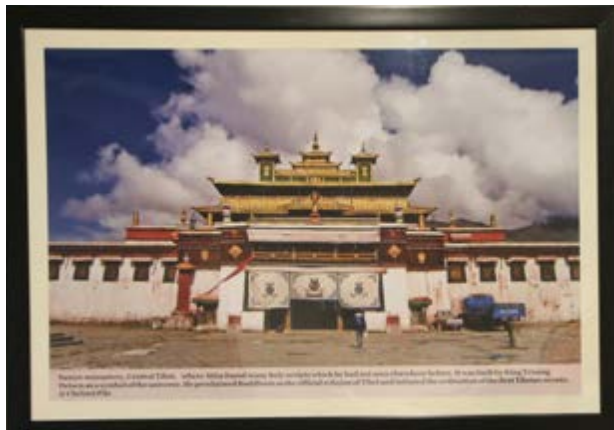


Guru Conference: Life and Legacy of Atiśa Dīpaṅkara Śrījñāna

In his keynote address, Dasho Karma Ura referred to manuscripts of Atiśa’s works in Bhutan. Atiśa’s life, deeds, travels and writings formed the theme of the working sessions, in which 18 scholars and practitioners from India, Indonesia, Tibet and France participated. Geshe Lhakdor led guided meditation sessions each day, coalescing the academic with the experiential. The conference was followed by the screening of Nia Dinata’s documentary *Unearthing Muarajambi Temples*, which explores the historical and cultural significance of this temple complex in Jambi, Indonesia, where Atiśa spent over a decade studying Mahayana and Tantrayana Buddhism, later teaching them in Tibet.



The conference was accompanied by an exhibition curated by Shashibala of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan, featuring photographs of sites in India, Indonesia, Nepal and Tibet associated with Atiśa’s study, travels and teachings. Nazneen Haq provided photographs of Atiśa’s birthplace in Bikrampur (now part of Bangladesh).



Life and Legacy of Atiśa Dipaṅkara Śrījñāna

Also on display were rare artefacts, including a 10th–11th-century thangka painting, preserved in the Beijing Museum and handed over to the Bangladesh Bauddha Kristi Prachar Sangha in 1978; and a hand-printed clay stupa surrounded by letter inscriptions in a script resembling Pali, brought to India in 1959 by monks of the Dzongkar Choede Monastery, Karnataka.

As part of the lecture series ‘Kriti-SAMHiTA: The Plurality of Indian Knowledge Systems’, two talks were organised. In ‘Buddhist Sanskrit Manuscripts of Nepal: Continuity of Ancient Indian Textual Traditions in the Himalayas’, Shanker Thapa gave an overview of the richness and artistry of Nepal’s manuscript heritage and its

connections with Indian Buddhist traditions. On this occasion, Thapa presented the Centre with a collection of 1,200 manuscripts for the project SAMHITA, catalogued and digitised by him from private collections in Nepal. In ‘Recovering the Plays of Māyurāja’, Andrew Ollett and Naresh Keerthi shared the experiences and challenges in their ongoing work of editing and translating two Sanskrit–Prakrit plays—*Tāpasavatsarāja* (Udayana the Ascetic) and *Udāttarāghava* (Raghu’s Exalted Descendants)—by the eighth-century poet.



Buddhist Sanskrit Manuscripts of Nepal

A new SAMHITA–Bharat ki Soch lecture series on ‘Health, Wellness and Nutrition’ was launched in January 2026, with an inaugural talk by Vijaya Jayant Deshpande on ‘Tracing the Footprints of Indian Scientific Heritage’. Deshpande gave an overview of scholarship on early scientific development and traced the relationship between Chinese ophthalmic works attributed to Nagarjuna and Ayurvedic texts such as the *Sushruta Samhita* and the *Ashtanghridayam*.



Pluralism in India and Indonesia

Two edited volumes based on past conferences were released in January 2025: *Pluralism in India and Indonesia: Diversity in the Quest for Unity*, edited by Shankari Sundararaman and Kapila Vatsyayan (New Delhi: Konark Publishers, 2025), and *Confluence of India and Central Asia through the Ages*, edited by Syed Akhtar Husain (New Delhi: Primus Books, 2025). In March 2025, both publications were officially launched, accompanied by discussions.

In the discussion on *Pluralism in India and Indonesia: Diversity in the Quest for Unity*, the panellists highlighted the civilisational connection between the two nations and examined the impact of the colonial period, which reordered state and political structures, casting a shadow over pluralistic cultures.

Confluence of India and Central Asia through the Ages brings together diverse scholarly perspectives in 19 essays, with contributions examining subjects such as Zoroastrian–Hindu connections, Central Asian influences on Urdu literature, and the study of Bukhara’s historical significance. The panellists emphasised that the volume highlights shared heritage, from the Silk Route trade to the convergence of Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam in Sufi traditions.



Confluence of India and Central Asia through the Ages

A discussion on *India and Africa: Legacy of Exchanges and Cultural Affinities*, edited by H. H. S. Viswanathan and K. N. Shrivastava (New Delhi: Konark Publishers, 2025), released during the IIC Experience 2025, was held in December 2025. The volume delves into the growing engagement between Africa and India in the 21st century, exploring ties deeply rooted in centuries of exchange through trade, migration and culture. It draws on the proceedings of IIC–IRD’s 2020 conference, ‘Understanding Africa: Continuity and Change’.

Other Programmes

International Affairs

Diplomatic ties between India and Algeria were formally established in July 1962, coinciding with Algeria's independence from French colonial rule. In terms of trade, Indian exports to Algeria rose from US\$613 million in 2022–23 to US\$848.16 million in 2023–24. Amid the presidential election—scheduled for September 2025—Ali Achoui, Algerian ambassador to India, in his talk, 'Indo-Algerian Relations', reflected on the deeply rooted friendship, prospects for the future, the need to deepen political engagement in the current geopolitical context, and opportunities for culture and people-to-people relations to enhance mutual understanding.



Geopolitics at the End of Time

In his talk 'Geopolitics at the End of Time', Bruno Mações, elucidating the ideas presented in his book *World Builders: Technology and the New Geopolitics*, said that we are in a revolutionary period in which the existing Western-led order is unravelling and suggested that leadership in technology implies geopolitical control. He reflected on conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, the struggles of the American-led order and how the Russian revolutionary leader Vladimir Lenin handled power.

Following the meeting between US President Trump and his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, regarding the Russo-Ukrainian war in February 2025 at the White House, John Cherian's talk, 'Ukraine: Where is it Headed?', examined questions such as whether the war was necessary, how it will end, whether there are any roadblocks, how Europe is being affected, and whether the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is becoming weaker as a side-effect of the war.

In 'The Battle of Haifa: A Catalyst for the Indian Officers in the British Indian Army', the panellists noted that the 1918 Battle of Haifa challenged the prevailing British belief that Indian soldiers lacked initiative and required British leadership. The performance

of Indian cavalymen—the Mysore and Jodhpur Lancers—against Ottoman Turkish gunners assisted by the German Kaiser’s soldiers, which led to the capture of Haifa, forced Britain to rethink and, over time, allowed Indians to join the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, to train as officers.

Kamel Zayed Kamel Galal, in ‘India–Egypt: Old Ties & New Frontiers’ traced the relationship between the two ancient civilisations back 4,500 years. Moving to modern times, he stated that Mahatma Gandhi and the Egyptian revolutionary and statesman Saad Zaghloul shared a common vision of independence, and 2014 was an important benchmark when Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Abdel Fattah Saeed Hussein Khalil El-Sisi signed several strategic agreements spanning sectors from defence to security, connectivity and trade.

Amid a changing geopolitical reality, the discussion ‘Neighbourhood Conundrum’ examined India’s complex relationships with its immediate neighbours. Triggered by the April 2025 terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam, the conversation emphasised the volatility and strategic complexity India faces, using the incident as a prism to examine broader regional concerns. The panellists offered varied perspectives encompassing diplomacy, multilateral affairs and media viewpoints.

On 30 April 1975, the Vietnam War ended as North Vietnamese tanks entered Saigon’s Independence Palace. Indian journalist Nayan Chanda was among the foreign correspondents present that day to record the historic moment. In his illustrated talk, ‘When Saigon Fell: An Eyewitness Remembers’, Chanda recounted his experiences reporting from Vietnam, including conversations with leaders, soldiers and civilians, and shared photographs he took at the time.



When Saigon Fell: An Eyewitness Remembers

Prompted by the April 2025 terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam, the discussion on ‘India’s Pakistan Problem post Pahalgam’ examined the attack, the deepening Pakistan–US relationship in its aftermath and India’s long-term response. The panellists noted that the attack was not a surprise and intended to internationalise Kashmir. They stressed that India’s strategic communication needed improvement and that the ministries of information and broadcasting, home, defence and external affairs needed to ‘take control’.



Remembering Hiroshima–Nagasaki

Marking 80 years since the bombings, Gopalkrishna Gandhi's talk, 'Remembering Hiroshima–Nagasaki: Rising Peril of Nuclear Weapons in the 21st Century—A World in Denial', traced the act, the immediate devastation, the casualties and the long-term impact on generations. While the global nuclear weapons count has fallen from 65,000 to 20,000, the talk questioned the security implications of being nuclear-armed and highlighted

threats posed by artificial intelligence and the possibility of terrorist organisations acquiring these weapons.

The talk, 'Israel–Iran War', focussed on the 12-day war in June 2025, which began with an Israeli strike and escalated when the US joined on the ninth day. Following President Trump's claim to have destroyed Iran's nuclear programme—a claim still disputed—a US-brokered ceasefire was declared. The discussion explored why Israel initiated the war, whether the ceasefire could hold, and the broader implications for regional stability, geopolitics and India.

While discussing the impending general elections of India's eastern neighbour in February 2026, the panellists in 'Are We Prepared for the Bangladesh Elections?' noted that India is prepared to work with any party that forms the government, while also acknowledging the challenges it may face if Jamaat-e-Islami comes to power. Recalling the 1971 Liberation War and the atrocities committed at the time, they emphasised the sensitivity of the India–Bangladesh border.

The United Nations (UN), founded in 1945 after the end of World War II to 'save succeeding generations from the scourge of war', celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2025. In the talk 'The UN at 80', K. P. Fabian highlighted its achievements and examined its challenges in preventing or ending wars in the current geopolitical context.

The Russo-Ukrainian war that began in February 2022 shows no clear sign of ending despite the enormous number of civilian and military casualties. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and its member states have provided military, financial and humanitarian support to Ukraine. President Trump has reversed Biden's policy and held talks with Russian President Putin. In 'The Ukrainian War', Gitesh Sarma questioned whether there are any prospects for an early end to this conflict.

India and Israel have formed a strategic partnership centred on defence, economic cooperation and cultural ties. In the discussion, ‘Indo-Israeli Geopolitical Relationship: Ramifications for Global Politics and Moving’, the panellists examined how their evolving relationship affects global politics and future collaborations.

The India–Brazil–South Africa (IBSA) Leaders' Meeting, held on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in November 2025 and chaired by South Africa, focussed on climate-resilient agriculture, digital innovation, UN reforms, terrorism and Global South initiatives. Drawing on this meeting, the panellists in ‘India–Brazil–South Africa: Strengthening Global South Agenda’ discussed the agenda for IBSA in the coming years amid the multipolar world order.

Retired diplomat Gautam Mukhopadhyay was in conversation with US-based historian and writer Thant Myint-U about his book *Peacemaker: U Thant, the United Nations and the Untold Story of the 1960s*, which traces the integral role of his grandfather, the third UN secretary-general, U Thant, in facilitating negotiations during critical crises of the 20th century, including the 1960s Congo mercenaries, the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962, and his efforts to prevent the 1967 Six-Day War between the Arab states and Israel.

The global economic landscape is shifting as the US and China build competing blocs, driven by security concerns and a quest for technological supremacy. In ‘A Global Political and Economic Realignment? Global Supply Chains in the Next Decade’, Rajneesh Narula examined the unravelling of ‘Pax Americana’ and the shift towards a fragmented global economy shaped by inequality and geopolitical realignment.

Governance and Security

Organised by the IIC’s Sectoral Policy Group (SPG) on Governance, with Amitabh Pande as convenor, the conference on ‘Legislatures and Representation’ underscored the decline in deliberative politics and policy formulation, primarily in the Parliament, over the past 10 years. It addressed selected aspects of the problem: the failure of the first-past-the-post (FPTP) system; the absence of minority representation; and the redrawing of district boundaries according to their religious or ethnic composition (as in Jammu), or other methods of distorting the plural equality of the Constitution; among others. These concerns were covered in three sessions: ‘Representation in Parliament through Delimitation’; ‘Representation through Reservation in the Legislature’; and ‘Representation of the Electorate’.

Freedom of Speech is constitutionally guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India. It protects individuals’ right to express their opinions without fear

of state reprisal; however, it is not unfettered. The discussion, ‘How Free is Free Speech in India’, focussed on a critical inquiry into the nature, scope and limits of free speech within India’s constitutional framework. It was organised by the IIC’s SPG on Law and Justice, with Rekha Sharma as convenor.

‘Decoding Hate Speech in India—Strategies and Challenges to Curb It’ featured papers presented by IIC’s SPG on Social Affairs, with Suhas Borker as convenor, examining issues including the legal and constitutional framework and context; misrepresentation of the past; the use of divisive narratives to ‘other’ religious minorities (primarily Muslims and Christians), Dalits, Adivasis and communities from Northeast India; the role of the police, civil administration and media; and the way forward to curb hate speech.

The inaugural Bibek Debroy Memorial Lecture, delivered by Shaktikanta Das, celebrated the life and legacy of the economist and scholar known for his contributions to India’s economic policy and for his translations of the Indian epics Ramayana and Mahabharata. Das highlighted Debroy’s impact on India’s economic transformation, including post-COVID–19, and the importance of self-reliance in the current global landscape. He outlined how India could become a credible economy through stability, structural reforms and strategic initiatives.

Environment and Climate Change

Organised by the IIC’s SPG on Science and Technology, with Renu Swarup as convenor, the seminar on ‘Climate Change: Land Cover & Land Use and Biodiversity—Interplay, Impact, Policy Framework and Way Forward’ underscored the growing interdependencies among climate change, land-use dynamics, and biodiversity conservation through two thematic panels: the first addressed the climate–land-use–biodiversity–agrobiodiversity nexus, while the second explored policy frameworks to address these interlinked challenges.

The Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH), often referred to as the ‘pulse of the planet’ because changes to its cryosphere and biodiversity affect climate and environmental conditions worldwide, faces threats from climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. In ‘Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss and Pollution in the HKH: We Know Enough to Act Now’, Pema Gyamtsho



*Climate Change: Land Cover &
Land Use and Biodiversity*

highlighted how regional cooperation, led by India's soft diplomacy and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development's (ICIMOD) apolitical role, is crucial to securing a resilient, greener and safer future.

In 'The World is not Binary: Reflections from a COP of Truth and a COP of Implementation', Arunabha Ghosh reflected on his time as the special envoy for South Asia at the UN's Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025. Emphasising intensifying climate extremes alongside global crises of development, poverty and debt, he noted that over 60 countries remain in debt distress and that these realities must inform climate negotiations. The ensuing panel discussion highlighted geopolitical and capacity challenges and stressed pragmatic India–China cooperation, technology-led solutions and greater Western investment.



Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss and Pollution in the HKH



Reflections from COP30

Organised by IIC's SPG on Environment, with C. K. Mishra as convenor, the discussants at 'Financing Climate Adaptation in States: Challenges and Opportunities' highlighted the adverse impacts of climate change on social and economic sectors. They identified the challenges faced by Indian states in implementing adaptation actions, the current sources of climate finance, particularly adaptation finance, the instruments and methods used for current financing and proposed possible ways to scale up adaptation finance for states.

For nearly four decades, Lalit and Anuradha Pande have worked across the Kumaon and Garhwal regions, engaging with education, gender, livelihoods, environmental learning in government schools and *balwadis* (pre-schools), and research rooted in local concerns. In 'Voices from the Hills: Re-centring People in the Story of the Himalayas', they reflected on their experiences, drawing on the lived realities of people in rural Himalayan communities.

Education

Organised by IIC's SPG on Education, with Anita Rampal as convenor, the panellists in 'Language Policy: A Formula for Learning?' discussed the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which mandates the teaching of three languages at the school level across all states. Analysing the history, politics and culture of language, the panel raised questions regarding the policy on language education in Indian schools and whether there could be, or should be, a single policy for language education in a multilingual country like India.



The Crisis of Higher Education in India

Delivering the B. G. Deshmukh Lecture 2025, 'The Crisis of Higher Education in India: Disturbing Present and Worrisome Future', Deepak Nayyar assessed the current state of India's higher education system. While acknowledging the critical role of schools, he noted the large number of Indian students attending universities abroad for higher education. He attributed this to 'faltered higher education', citing underfunding, a

lack of institutional autonomy, independent leadership and academic freedom, and political interference.

The symposium, 'Humanities Matter', emphasised that integrating humanistic values is essential for societal well-being, addressing the crisis caused by academic fragmentation and global materialism. Comprising three sessions—'Conceptualising Humanities', 'Humanities and Sciences: An Interface' and 'Humanities as Bedrock of Knowledge'—the discussion highlighted the dangers of disciplinary 'silos' and the erosion of ethical frameworks. It underscored the importance of the humanities in developing well-rounded, thoughtful individuals and outlined practical measures to integrate these values meaningfully into education.

History, Art and Culture

In 'Transformed by India, A Life's Work Guided by Smt. Kamaladevi Chattopadhaya', Stephen Huyler, whose areas of expertise include rural Indian arts and crafts, Hindu devotional rituals, and Indian women's identity and art, traced his 51-year journey of

human connection and discovery across India. He cited Chattopadhyaya's role and shared his engagements with women immersed in everyday aesthetic practices—from *kolams* in Tamil Nadu to the exquisitely painted homes of Odisha's Dongria tribes—and with Chhattisgarh's Sonabai Rajawar, whose creative practices amid personal struggles he captured in a book and a film.

Ritika Kochhar delved into the illustrations of manuscripts commissioned by the Timurid and Mughal courts between the 13th and 18th centuries in 'The Art of the Gurkanis: Myths, Masnavis and Miniatures'. Focussing primarily on Humayun, Akbar, Jahangir, Muḥammad Shah Rangila, Shah Alam II and Bahadur Shah Zafar, she highlighted works inspired by Arabic and Indian legends and epics such as *Layla and Majnun* and the Mahabharata, showing how these works not only served as historical documents but also as expressions of cultural and spiritual imagination.

Focussing on the changing forms of Hindu Gods—from a tree trunk to a stone, an animal and finally a human face—Jawhar Sircar's illustrated presentation, 'Aniconic to the Iconic: Cult of Dharmaraj—The Folk Form of Hinduism', underscored how the evolution and transformation of a deity in Hinduism also alters forms of worship.

In 'Lesser-Known Heritage: The Role of Media', the panellists urged the media to emphasise the potential of often-overlooked heritage sites, such as those in Old Delhi. Noting that many of the 700-listed heritage buildings in Shahjahanabad are being demolished or left in poor condition, they drew attention to examples such as Venice, and closer to home in Goa and Pondicherry, arguing that heritage is a 'huge asset' and that these cities have developed their economies around well-preserved historic infrastructure.

In 'Stories from Asia—A Session for Adults to Listen Again', Neha Bansal led an engaging performance of *The Story of Kiêu*, the 18th-century Vietnamese epic poem by Nguyễn Du, which follows the story of Thúy Kiều, a woman of incredible beauty and intelligence, as she journeys through betrayal, love and loss across Vietnam, China and Japan, showcasing the culture, politics and some policies of these nations.

Excavated in 1898 by William Claxton Peppé from a stupa in Piprahwa, northern India, the Piprahwa Buddhist



What is the Buddha Worth?

Relics include gemstones, precious metals and some cremated remains of the Buddha. Peppé handed most of the finds to the British, some of which were sent to Kolkata's Indian Museum, and the bone relics went to the King of Siam. In May 2025, Sotheby's Hong Kong announced the auction of a selection of relics held by the Peppé family, sparking debate. In 'What is the Buddha Worth?', art historian Naman P. Ahuja explained how relics are defined, the ethical issues they raise and examined questions such as whether the relics of the Buddha can be treated like a work of art to be sold in the market.



Stolen Gods: The Afterlife of Empire in British Museum

In his talk, 'Stolen Gods: The Afterlife of Empire in British Museum', Shyam Bhatia highlighted India's sacred artefacts housed in British institutions such as the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Birmingham Museum, and Clarence House, among others. Basing his talk on the British Museum's exhibition 'Ancient India: Living Traditions', held from May to October 2025 and featuring over 180 objects, including 2,000-year-old

sculptures, Bhatia also discussed efforts towards the repatriation of artefacts.

Rajesh Luthra's talk, 'Designing Edifices for the Empire and the Princely States—Foreign Architects in India at the Turn of the Twentieth Century', traced the contribution of foreign architects, primarily British, to the built environment in India in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Luthra noted that before the 1857 uprising, military engineers constructed buildings for the East India Company with no Indian architectural elements. However, after 1857, when the British Crown took over governance, the construction vocabulary changed, with the incorporation of the Indo-Saracenic style.



Designing Edifices for the Empire and the Princely States

The talk 'Bundi: The Earliest Surviving Royal Murals of Rajasthan' by Joachim Bautze examined the murals of the Badal Mahal, dated around 1610–1620, which were first brought to light in 1986 and are now recognised as among the earliest and

most innovative of all Rajasthani schools of painting. These jewel-like wall paintings are historically significant and are often compared to the Sistine Chapel due to their importance in Rajasthan's art history.

The seminar, 'Conversations Around Textiles: In Honour of Jasleen Dhamija', was a tribute to the life and work of a textile revivalist who spent her lifetime working with and promoting craft traditions in textiles. It began with a session dedicated to craftspeople, who showcased their work, ranging from Phulkari embroidery, Kalamkari and Varanasi's weaving traditions. Three panel discussions with designers and domain experts from various organisations working in the field addressed Dhamija's scholarly works and the potential policy changes stemming from her efforts.

Since 2014, Turkish academic, curator and writer Özge Baykan Calafato has collected 17,000 photographs spanning the late Ottoman Empire through the early modern era, especially the 1920s and 1930s, forming an archive of collective memory of the Turkish Republic. Questioning how photographs travel across borders, lives and generations, her talk 'Memory, Migration and the Archive: The Transnational Afterlives of Family Photographs' traced the intricate entanglements of transnational memory, migration histories and photographic archives.



Conversations Around Textiles

Literature

The editors of *Social Scientists in the Civic Space: Ethical Perspectives on Democratic Involvement*—Arundhati Virmani, Jean Boutier and Manohar Kumar—made a brief presentation on the book, which examines the stakes for the social sciences in relation to four central problems: the challenges of context; modes of intervention; involvement; and the ethical dilemmas for the scholar in a democratic space. This was followed by a discussion based on the proceedings of IIC's 2020 seminar 'Social Scientists in the Civic Space', co-organised with École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS); Centre Norbert Elias, Marseille; and Centre de Sciences Humaines, New Delhi.

In 'From Soldier to Storyteller', Manoj Naravane, former Chief of the Army Staff, was in conversation with Neelanjana Banerjee and Suhas Borker about his novel, *The*

Cantonment Conspiracy: A Military Thriller. This murder mystery explores events in the lives of two young officers, Rohit Verma and Renuka Khatri, posted to a sleepy garrison in western UP.

A panel discussed Harsha V. Dehejia's book *The Third Eye of Indian Art: Aesthetics as Vedanta*, which presents Indian art as a spiritual experience rather than an intellectual or sensory one. Quoting examples from ancient texts such as the Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas, Vedantas and Chitrasutra, Dehejia explains that Indian art should be understood in conjunction with the philosophy of art's beauty and argues that its true appreciation requires a 'third eye' or inner vision.

'Writing in English for the Indian Stage' was a fireside chat between Anuradha Kapur and Vijay Padaki, who has written over 50 original plays in English. Padaki spoke about the challenges of writing and performing in English in India, drawing on his long experience with Bangalore Little Theatre in new play development.

Following the release of Amish Tripathi's latest book, *The Chola Tigers: Avengers of Somnath*, the conversation between Sonia Singh and Tripathi explored the inspirations, research and philosophical underpinnings that shape his storytelling. The discussion focussed on the author's spiritual reflections on divinity and morality, and his reframing of Indian history as a saga of resilience.

Uditha Devapriya's talk, 'Modernism and the Sri Lankan Mind: The Life and Work of Martin Wickramasinghe (1890–1976)', explored the multifaceted legacy of one of Sri Lanka's most celebrated writers, critics and thinkers. Devapriya analysed Wickramasinghe's oeuvre spanning six decades and examined how, through his novels, essays and cultural writings, Wickramasinghe became a bridge between indigenous traditions and modern thought.

With the impending centenary of the All India Women's Conference (AIWC) in 2027, the symposium 'Looking Back: Writing Women's History' highlighted pioneering women writers and reformers from the 1920s to the 1970s. Focussing on multilingual narratives, the discussions foregrounded contributions to health, education, social reform and women's rights across India, celebrating voices that shaped and chronicled women's lives and histories.

Science and Technology

US-based astrophysicist Priyamvada Natarajan was invited to the Centre in March 2025. Various programmes were organised during her visit:

—A roundtable discussion with Natarajan, chaired by Ajay Sood, examined questions such as what it will take to make India a science and technology superpower and what India lacks in this endeavour.

—In ‘Unveiling the First Galaxies and the First Black Holes’, chaired by Dr. Shailesh Nayak, Natarajan presented and discussed the latest results from the James Webb Space Telescope, which are already radically transforming our understanding of the formation of the first stars, galaxies and black holes. She began with the current framework for understanding the cosmos, then outlined the new theories the telescope has begun to test, including her work on a new pathway for the formation of the first black holes through the direct collapse of gas clouds in the very early universe.



Unveiling the First Galaxies and the First Black Holes

In the talk, ‘Cyber Security in the Digital Age’, Mohit Soni focussed on the evolving threat landscape, best practices for online safety and emerging technologies in cybersecurity.

A few decades after Independence, India became vulnerable to frequent famines and financial instability, and struggled with food security. Through numerous efforts and interventions led by M. S. Swaminathan, widely known as the ‘Father of the Green Revolution in India’, India declared itself grain-secure by 1971. The inaugural Prof. M. S. Swaminathan Leadership Dialogue, ‘From Green Revolution to the Evergreen Revolution: New Technologies Reaching the Unreached’, traced how foresight, patience and painstaking



From Green Revolution to the Evergreen Revolution

institution-building carried India from chronic famine to food security, while highlighting the current concerns of malnutrition and climate change confronting India's scientists.

Health and Wellness

With one in seven Indians living with a mental health condition, India established a National Task Force on Brain Health in 2024, comprising neurologists, policymakers, social welfare groups and other stakeholders, to support an evidence-based, integrated, life-course approach to strengthening neurological service delivery in low-resource settings. The discussion, 'Brain Health and its Importance in India's Economic and Social Development', highlighted the impacts on households, educational settings and workplaces, with the projected economic loss due to mental health challenges between 2012 and 2030 estimated at US\$1.03 trillion.

During her talk, 'Oh, Forget it, it's just a Silly Dream!', Madhu Tandan, author of *The Logic of Dreams*, stated that everyone has at least four dreams in a night. The book outlines a straightforward method of dream interpretation—locate the central theme or a lead metaphor and form a bridge to your personal life. Among other areas, Tandan discussed premonitory dreams, stock dreams, whether men and women dream differently, whether dreams reflect the state of our physical health, and techniques for remembering dreams.

'One Health', a term first used in 2003–04, is a collaborative, multisectoral and transdisciplinary approach to achieving optimal health outcomes for people, animals and the environment. It recognises that the health of humans, animals and ecosystems is interconnected and interdependent. At the roundtable, 'One Health—Complexities and Challenges: How it Impacts Life on Earth', organised by IIC's SPG on Science and Technology, key concerns of 'One Health' were discussed, addressing a wide range of

health challenges, including zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, food safety, environmental pollution and climate change impacts on health.

The World Health Organization (WHO) lists old age, high blood pressure, high blood sugar, depression, obesity, smoking and excessive drinking, among others, as risk factors for dementia. The workshop, 'Preventing Memory Loss—



Workshop on 'Preventing Memory Loss'

The Yogic Way’, conducted by Bijoylaxmi Hota, demonstrated simple yogic techniques to reduce these risks and improve memory. Hota also discussed nutrient-dense foods that support better brain health.

Sanya Tyagi and Alka Tyagi’s workshop ‘Yoga Day after Day: Yogic Tools to Take Home’ was an introduction to incorporating its practice into our daily lives through short, 15-minute capsules covering five components—posture, breathing practice, yogic relaxation, mantras and meditation.

The speakers in ‘Live Lightly, Live Fully: A Journey into Sustainable Living and Community in the Himalayas’ explored how intentional living, rooted in sustainability and community, can offer a richer, more meaningful way of being, despite the challenges, drawing on their personal journeys in the remote Himalayan village of Satoli.

Women and Society

Ramin Jahanbegloo’s talk, ‘Hannah Arendt’s Lessons for our Times’, marking the 50th anniversary of the German-American philosopher, examined Arendt from outside the epistemological parameters of the Western world. Jahanbegloo, a political philosopher and expert on Arendt’s writings, explored her ideas from a Gandhian standpoint. While Arendt was not a theorist of nonviolence, she made an intellectual effort to understand it in the context of the ‘shared life’ of the community.

In ‘Women in Higher Education and Implications of the National Education Policy (2020)’, a panel of scholars and practitioners analysed policy gaps, financial concerns and lived realities affecting women in the context of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Concerns included the shrinking availability of public data for gendered analysis, a sharp decline in scholarship beneficiaries among SC and minority women, the erasure of gender and caste concerns, and the invisibilisation of Women’s Studies, among others. This discussion was part of IIC’s SPG on Education, with Anita Rampal as convener.

Girija Borker’s presentation, ‘Combating Sexual Harassment in Public Spaces and Fostering Greater Female Participation in the Workforce’, covered three key aspects—identifying the problem, examining the consequences and proposing policing solutions. Borker emphasised that women’s sense of safety while travelling affects their education, careers and expenditure. Through three case studies—one in Tanzania and two in India—she demonstrated that policing can help reduce severe forms of harassment and that officers with a favourable attitude towards understanding and addressing sexual harassment cases are required.

The panellists in ‘Women’s Health: Navigating your Senior Years—A Comprehensive Approach’ reflected on the importance of understanding the financial, legal, health and lifestyle demands on women as they grow older, and highlighted that being well informed about the management of each can substantially improve quality of life.

Ayurveda practitioner Adarsh T.’s talk, ‘Impact of Air Pollution on Health and how Ayurveda can Help’, explained how pollutants affect the body, outlined lifestyle-based preventive measures and discussed Ayurvedic approaches to managing severe conditions such as acute asthma. The talk was followed by an Ayurveda consultation camp.

India’s rapidly ageing population urgently needs accessible, affordable and regulated home-based care. The presentation, ‘Adding Life to Years: Building Care Systems for Life of Dignity and Quality’ by Pallavi Gupta and Sonali Randhawa, mapped current gaps in services, workforce training, and policy frameworks and argued for integrated medical, functional and social support. This was organised by IIC’s SPG on Health, with Rama V. Baru as convenor, in association with Jindal School of Public Health and Human Development, O. P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat, Haryana.

Performance

The IIC Double Bill Concerts were designed to promote young performing artists by providing them with a national platform. Combining music and dance performances in one evening has proved to be a popular format. This year’s performances included:

- Hindustani violin recital by Johar Ali from Delhi, a disciple of Gohar Ali Khan.
- Kathak recital by Deepti Gupta from Delhi, a disciple of Rajendra Gangani.



Kathak recital by Deepti Gupta



*Carnatic vocal
recital by R. Anirudh
Subramanian*



*Kathak recital by
Ravi Prakash*

—Carnatic vocal recital by R. Anirudh Subramanian from Chennai, a disciple of Abhishek Raghuram and Kunnakudi Balamuralikrishna.

—Bharatanatyam recital by Swarnali Kundu from Delhi, a disciple of Rama Vaidyanathan.

—Kathak recital by Ravi Prakash from Chhattisgarh, a disciple of Rajendra Gangani.

—Bharatanatyam recital by Sudipta Chakraborty from Delhi–NCR, a disciple of Jayalakshmi Eshwar. She was accompanied by Jayalakshmi Eshwar (nattuvanagam), K. Venkateshwaran (vocals), Manohar Balachandran (mridangam) and Raghavendra Prasath (violin).

—Hindustani vocal recital by Dhanashri Ghaisas from Mumbai, a disciple of Ashwini Bhide Deshpande.

—Hindustani instrumental fusion music presented by Aditya Shanker (tabla), Kartikeya Vashisht (flute), Neeraj Kumar (percussion), Shailendra Wakhlu (guitar) and Shambhavi Gautam (vocals).

—Classical guitar recital by Rhitom Sarkar from Kolkata, a disciple of Debashish Bhattacharya and Shyamal Chatterjee. He was accompanied by Nageshwar Karn on tabla.

—Hindustani vocal recital by Nalini Joshi from Pune, a disciple of Prabha Atre and Savita Devi. She was accompanied by Akhtar Hasan (tabla) and Damodar Lal Ghosh (harmonium).

—Kathak recital by Niharika Kushwah from Delhi, a disciple of Prerana Shrimali.



Hindustani instrumental fusion music



Hindustani vocal recital by Nalini Joshi



*Bharatanatyam recital by
Shruthipriya Vignesh*



*Hindustani vocal recital
by Sanika Kulkarni*



*Bharatanatyam recital by
Debaldev Jana*

—Bharatanatyam recital by Shruthipriya Vignesh from Chennai, a disciple of Nithyakalyani Vaidyanathan and Bragha Bessell.

—Hindustani vocal recital by Sanika Kulkarni from Pune, a disciple of Veena Sahasrabuddhe. She was accompanied by Baldev Sisodiya (tabla) and Lalit Sisodiya (harmonium).

—Bharatanatyam recital by Divya Hoskere from Bengaluru, a disciple of P. Praveen Kumar.

—Surbahar recital by Bhushan Koshti from Mumbai, a disciple of Pushpraj Koshti. He was accompanied by Vivekanand Kurangale on pakhawaj.

—Bharatanatyam recital by Debaldev Jana from Kolkata, a disciple of B. Herambanathan and Kalamandalam V. R. Venkitt.

—Carnatic percussion solo recital by Satish Krishnamurthy from Mumbai, a disciple of K. V. Prasad. He was accompanied by R. Sridhar on violin.

—Hindustani vocal recital by Radhika Joshi from Pune, a disciple of Raghunandan Panshikar. The accompanists were Mausam (harmonium) and Chaitanya Sahni (tabla).

—Kathak recital by Anchal Rawat from Delhi, a disciple of Malti Shyam. She was accompanied by Yogesh Gangani (tabla), Sami Ullah Khan (vocals and harmonium), Puneet Sisodiya (sarangi) and Gauri (padhant).

—Odissi recital by Arnaaz Zaman from Delhi, a disciple of Madhavi Mudgal.

—Odissi recital by Khyati Rawat from Noida, a disciple of Jyoti Shrivastava.

—Mohiniyattam recital by Vishnupriya Marar from Delhi, a disciple of Neena Prasad.

—Flute recital by Saurabh Banaudha from Lucknow, a disciple of the late Niranjan Prasad. He was accompanied by Daksh Makwana on tabla.



*Odissi recital
by Arnaaz Zaman*



*Odissi recital
by Khyati Rawat*



Carnatic recital by Satish Krishnamurthy



Flute recital by Saurabh Banaudha



*Odissi recital
by Krishnendu Saha*



Moving Images

—Hindustani vocal recital by Debraj Gupta from Kolkata, a disciple of Aniruddha Bhattacharya, accompanied by Subrata Dandapat on tabla.

—Kathak recital by Neelakshi Khandkar-Saxena from Delhi, a disciple of Rajendra Gangani.

—Odissi recital by Krishnendu Saha from Udaipur, a disciple of Sharmila Biswas.

—Sarod recital by Reeta Das from Patna, a disciple of Sunil Mukherjee, Aashish Khan and Chandrakant Lal Das.

—Carnatic vocal recital by Anagha Manikandan from Delhi, a disciple of T.V. Manikandan. She was accompanied by R. Sridhar (violin) and Manohar Balatchandirane (mridangam).

Conceived by Bharatanatyam dancer Maya Kulkarni, Shilpanatanam departs from the structures of classical dance technique and conventional

dramaturgy, drawing on literature and poetry. In ‘Moving Images—Maya Kulkarni’s Shilpanatanam’, Odissi dancer Mesma Belsaré and Bharatanatyam dancer Kaustavi Sarkar performed in this form.

An ‘Odissi Duet’, curated by Ashish Khokar, was presented by Gokul Sree Dass and Rahul Varshney, disciples of Durga Charan Ranbir. The artists performed in the Odissi style of the Deba Prasad Gharana. They were accompanied by Sukant Kundu (vocals), Dhaneswar Swain (percussion), Pradeep Ray (violin), Abhiram Nanda (flute), Prakash Chandra Mohapatra (sitar) and Prasant Kumar Mangaraj (cymbals).



Odissi Duet by Gokul Sree Dass and Rahul Varshney



The Flute and the Form

‘The Flute and the Form’ was a theatrical dance performance by students of Jyotsna

Shourie Dance Centre. Using couplets from the ‘Krishna Chalisa’, they wove traditional Bharatanatyam dance steps into the performance, accompanied by Carnatic music. The performance was accompanied by vocalists O. S. Arun and Sudha Raghuraman, with recorded music.

‘Kutiyattam Performance: Kamadahanam’ featured a scene from the mythological story of the burning of Kamadeva by Lord Shiva, with verses from Kalidasa’s *Kumarasambhavam*. It was presented by Margi Madhu, son and disciple of Moozhikkulam Kochukuttan Chakyar, the torchbearer of the Ammannoor style of performance, alongside artists of the Nepathya Centre for Excellence in Kudiyyattam.

Dedicated to the late Munna Shukla, a renowned Kathak guru of the Lucknow Gharana, ‘Ahaetuki—The Grace of a Master’ was a tribute to the guru–shishya tradition. It included the screening of Ruchi Saini’s documentary *The Kettle and the Cup*, created in memory of her guru, Munna Shukla, and showcasing the sacred bond between guru and shishya, offering a glimpse of *maukhik vidya* (oral education). This was followed by a Kathak Baithak featuring ‘Aranya—The Forest Within’, a performance by Saini and her students.

Carnatic vocalist Chitra Srikrishna unveiled a unique component of Indian poetry through her performance ‘Udaan: The Melodic Flight of Indian Poetry’. Exploring how birds have served as literary symbols in India’s multilingual poetic traditions over

centuries, she rendered compositions in Sanskrit, Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Hindi, Marathi and Bengali—seamlessly blending classical, devotional and folk genres. She was accompanied by Arvind Narayanan (violin) and Vignesh Jayaraman (mridangam).

Accompanied by Zaheen Khan (tabla) and Lalit Sisodiya (harmonium), Nirali Kartik's performance of Indian classical music, 'Raga Soirée', paid homage to the Goddesses of learning and strength. She sang compositions that showcased her command of a melange of ragas, including 'Shyamala Vistara' in raga Purvi, 'Durge Bhavani Dayani' at a fast tempo, 'Sakhi Mori' in raga Durga, and 'Sab Sakhiya Chalo Prabhu ke Darsan' in raga Behag.

Dhrupad vocal recital was performed by Pelva Naik, trained in the Dagarvani tradition under the late Zia Fariduddin Dagar at his gurukul in Mumbai, following the immersive guru–shishya tradition. Staying true to Dhrupad's acoustic purity, Pelva avoided a digital tanpura, using two acoustic tanpuras instead. She was accompanied by Sanjay Agle on pakhawaj, with Geeta Bisht and Kunika Singh on tanpura.

'Rubies and Coral: A Necklace of Poems from Medieval Kerala' featured recitations of classical poetry from the state by Kesavan Veluthat and Sudha Gopalakrishnan. It was moderated by Naresh Keerthi.

'Rumi Meets Kabir', presented by Ashwin 'Afraad' and Sawani Shikhare, was a *mehfil* of mystic poetry, Dastangoi and music celebrating the poetic worlds of the two timeless mystics.



Udaan: The Melodic Flight of Indian Poetry



Raga Soirée by Nirali Kartik



Rumi Meets Kabir



Healing Mystic Sufi Sounds on the Silk Road



A Bit of Joy and Pleasure

and featuring dramatic readings by Sunit Tandon, Charu Shankar and Sahiba Bali. The carefully curated selection spanned diverse themes, including humour, suspense and heartfelt moments.

One of the leading figures in Hindi fiction and Indian theatre, Mohan Rakesh (1925–1972) keenly observed the dilemmas of the emerging individual in post-independence India, and this is reflected in his work. ‘*Faulad ka Aakash: Performative Readings of Mohan Rakesh’s Short Stories*’, scripted by Purwa Bharadwaj, highlighted the subtlety of Rakesh’s writing. It was presented by Alka Rajan, Apoorvanand, Purwa Bharadwaj and Raza Haider.

‘Healing Mystic Sufi Sounds on the Silk Road: From Türkiye to India’ was a concert featuring Latif Bolat, a singer, composer and scholar of Turkish music and folklore; Deepak Castelino, a guitarist and banjo artist; and Amjad Khan on tabla.

‘A Bit of Joy and Pleasure: Songs—Classical and Broadway’ was a concert by soprano–contralto R. Excelicia Cunville, who presented works by George Frideric Handel, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Camille Saint-Saëns and others. She was accompanied by Varun Kumar on piano.

It’s Only Words presented ‘A Theatrical Evening—A Colourful Mix of Short Plays and Stories’, directed by Sujata Soni Bali



A Theatrical Evening by It’s Only Words



Faulad Ka Aakash

IIC Collaborations

International Affairs

Organised in collaboration with Bruegel, the ‘IIC-Bruegel Annual Seminar’ focussed on key aspects of India–EU relations: trade, climate governance and the digital economy. It brought together leading experts and policymakers from India and the EU for in-depth discussions. Sessions included contributions by India’s External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar and Bruegel’s Chairman, Erkki Liikanen. This programme offered a platform to examine the India–EU partnership in response to urgent global priorities.

The fourth edition of IIC–WISCOMP Dialogues: Conversations on Mediation, ‘The Transformative Power of Mediation: Compassion in Action’, presented a compelling case for placing compassion at the heart of peace mediation. Drawing on her extensive mediation experience across the US, Africa, Asia, Ukraine, Gaza, Colombia and Syria, Prabha Sankaranarayan delved into mediation as a transformative experience, emphasising compassionate interaction over transactional settlement.

The year 2025 marked the 70th anniversary of the Bandung conference, when the five ‘Colombo Powers’—Burma (Myanmar), Ceylon (Sri Lanka), India, Indonesia, Pakistan—decided to hold an international conference of



IIC–Bruegel Annual Seminar



The Transformative Power of Mediation



Celebrating Bandung @ 70

newly independent post-colonial countries in 1955. This event, viewed as a landmark of anti-imperial third-world sovereignty and often described as the ‘Bandung Spirit’, was marked by ‘Celebrating Bandung @ 70: Bandung Spirit and the Role of the Global South’, which included a cultural programme, seminar and exhibition. It was organised in collaboration with the Council for Social Development, the Bandung India Network and the People’s Forum for a Multi-Polar World.

In collaboration with the Institute of Chinese Studies, a roundtable, ‘Issues and Themes in China’s National People’s Congress (Liang Hui Two Sessions)’, was held with diplomats and academic experts to discuss the implications of the 2025 ‘Two Sessions’ (Liǎng huì)—the concurrent meetings of the National People’s Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). The panellists engaged with critical aspects of these sessions, focussing on domestic policies, including China’s rural revitalisation strategy, increased support for the private sector, efforts to stimulate domestic consumption and reduce reliance on exports, historical perspectives and gender-related policy considerations.

A panel discussion titled ‘Whither India–US–China Relations Today?’ was hosted in collaboration with the Indo-American Friendship Association. The panellists discussed the consequences of the US-imposed tariffs on the global economy.

Rajat M. Nag delivered a lecture titled ‘From Here to Denmark, the Importance of Institutions for Good Governance’ in collaboration with the IC Centre for Governance. Offering insights into how institutions shape effective governance, he emphasised human agency and civic engagement, contextual strategies and the long-term nurturing of institutions.

To mark Mandela International Day 2025 on his 107th birthday, a collaborative programme was organised by Gandhi Yuva Baradari, the United Nations Information Centre and the Working Group on Alternative Strategies. The opening session featured songs by school choirs from Delhi–NCR. A message from the UN Secretary-General António Guterres was delivered by Chandramouli Guha of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC). Anil Sooklal, High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa, and Suhas Borker delivered addresses as part of Mandela Katha Mala.

Lawyer and activist Anand Grover delivered the eighth annual Nelson Mandela lecture, ‘The Legacy of Nelson Mandela’, reflecting on the continued relevance of Madiba’s message of tolerance. In the interactive student segment, youth from across Delhi–NCR shared their views on Mandela’s ideals in today’s world. ‘Madiba and His Struggle’, a painting exhibition by the students of Bluebells School International, added vibrancy to the programme.



The Legacy of Nelson Mandela



Conference on Indo-Portuguese Historical Relations

In ‘Europe’s Security Push: Opportunities for India–EU Defence Industrial Collaboration’, the speakers examined the European Union’s renewed focus on security and defence and explored emerging opportunities for Indian companies in this evolving landscape. The discussion was held in collaboration with the Chintan Research Foundation.

The Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID) and the Centre for WTO Studies collaborated with the Centre for a ‘Policy Roundtable on India’s Trade and Manufacturing prospects amidst Trump Tariffs’. The discussion focussed on the challenges posed by these US tariffs for India’s economic prospects and on policy options to address them.

Marking 80 years since India formally joined the United Nations, a panel discussion on ‘UN@80: Reflections and Visions for the Future’ was held in collaboration with the United Nations, India. The panellists included former UN diplomats, who highlighted the possibilities for India’s role in the UN moving forward.

An international conference on ‘Indo-Portuguese Historical Relations’ brought together eminent historians from both nations to examine the two countries’ engagements across history—from early modern exchanges to intellectual and cultural networks. The two-day programme was organised in collaboration with the Cultural Centre, Embassy of Portugal.

The second TREADS Annual Lecture, delivered by Uttam K. Sinha on ‘The Shifting Logic of the Indus Waters Treaty’, explored how this treaty is being reshaped by changing geopolitical realities, environmental stress, and the erosion of trust between India and Pakistan. It was held in collaboration with the Centre for Policy Research.

Amid global conflicts, polarisation and ecological stress, the two-day conference, ‘Global Diplomacy and Regional Cooperation: India–Nepal Partnership in Buddhist Heritage’ examined how Buddhist principles can inform diplomacy and sustainable coexistence. Organised in collaboration with the South Asia Foundation, it brought together scholars and policy experts from India and Nepal to explore cultural diplomacy, academic collaboration, heritage preservation, and policy-oriented dialogue for regional and global harmony.

As part of the International House Association (IHA)’s Global Forum series on ‘Pathways to Peace: Lessons in Reconciliation’, a panel discussion on ‘World Peace is Most Desirable but Why is it so Difficult to Achieve?’ explored how communities and nations rebuild trust and understanding after conflict and highlighted emerging opportunities for engagement within the expanding International House network. This was a collaboration with IHA, the Indo-American Friendship Association (IAFA) and the University of Chicago Center in Delhi.

Governance

A collaboration with Caucus – The Discussion Forum of Hindu College, ‘Between the Crown and Congress: Rethinking the Politics of Late Colonial India’ had speaker Anil Seal trace the genealogy of the structure of Indian politics in the late colonial period. Seal, one of the founders of the Cambridge School of Indian History, argued that the major contradiction in the British Raj lay between the administrative expedience in a fragmented empire and the lucrative nature of a centralised state with a greater extractive capacity.



Reclaiming the Founding Mothers of the Indian Constitution

Celebrating 75 years of India’s Constitution, ‘Reclaiming the Founding Mothers of the Indian Constitution’ explored the pivotal contributions of women members of the Constituent Assembly. Achyut Chetan, author of *Founding Mothers of the Indian Republic*, drew on extensive archives and rare artefacts to bring forth the compelling yet often invisible voices of the founding mothers. Held in

collaboration with Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP), it also included 'Athena's Ragas: In Search of the Founding Mothers of the Indian Constitution', a workshop series which employed unconventional methodologies, including role-plays, dramatised readings and explorations of original documents, to offer an immersive experience in understanding the enduring spirit of the Indian Constitution.

A discussion on 'Constitution of India – A Bulwark Against Casteist Hegemony' was organised in collaboration with Maharashtra Sanskritik ani Rannaniti Adhyayan Samiti and the Working Group on Alternative Strategies. The speakers addressed whether the bulwarks against caste hegemony, which G. Mohal Gopal called 'twenty weapons of caste destruction', built into the Constitution by B. R. Ambedkar, remain effective or have been breached. Vidhu Verma also highlighted the contemporary divorce of executive power from constitutional constraints and a delegitimising of public demonstrations against injustices. This discussion was part of the Social Justice and Empowerment series, started in 2010, and held every year on Labour Day to commemorate the life and work of B. R. Ambedkar.

Surinder Singh Jodhka, in the Annual Durgabai Deshmukh Memorial Lecture 2025, on 'Re-cast(e)ing the State Policy: Ascription, Identities and Democratic Politics', traced the political journey of caste and its changing relationship with state policy. This followed the announcement to enumerate caste in the forthcoming national census. This lecture was organised in collaboration with Council for Social Development.

The 12th Creative Theory Colloquium on the topic 'Indian Political Theory: Possibilities and Challenges' was held in collaboration with the Association of Creative Theory and Foundation for Creative Social Research; International Herbert Marcuse Society, USA; the Raza Foundation; and Shanti Sahyog. It began with an acknowledgement of the presence of three generations of scholars and participants. The inaugural panel discussion, 'Debating Indian Political Theory: Political Theory in India', affirmed that one should think in terms of political theory from India rather than of India, added a historical perspective on political thought and emphasised that political theory flourishes when both 'political' and 'theory' are conceived expansively.

In 'Digital Sovereignty, FTAs and National Security', an expert panel debated the policy choices that will shape how India safeguards digital sovereignty in Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and the National Security Strategy. The discussion was held in collaboration with Science Indigenous Technology and Advanced Research Accelerator (SITARA) and Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association (B-DIA).

The Sixth ICCfG Sardar Patel Lecture on Governance, delivered by Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor of India, was organised in collaboration with the IC Centre for Governance. Doval noted that contemporary India is undergoing a transformational phase, both domestically and globally, making clarity of vision, effective governance and robust institutions more critical than ever. He stressed the importance of people-centred governance, protection of marginalised groups, women’s empowerment, and the need for efficient implementation of laws and policies. Technology, he observed, can enhance governance, ensure transparency and improve service delivery, but it also introduces new security risks, especially in areas like artificial intelligence and cyber threats.

Economics

As part of the 4th CIS-IEG-Sage Lecture, Kath Weston delivered a lecture on ‘Feverish Financial Systems, Physicians Bankers, Ailing Markets’, based on her forthcoming book, *Capitalism on Life Support: How Scientific and Medical Imagery Shapes Finance*. It was held in collaboration with Contributions to Indian Sociology, the Institute of Economic Growth, and Sage.

‘Harnessing India’s Manufacturing Potential’, a discussion on ISID’s *India Industrial Development Report 2024–25*, was organised in collaboration with Institute for Studies in Industrial Development. The report was presented by Nagesh Kumar, the Institute’s director, followed by a panel discussion by industry experts. This report provides an evidence-based analysis of the challenges and opportunities that India faces as it pursues manufacturing-led transformation, and outlines a policy agenda and institutional framework for accelerating this change.



Asia Economic Dialogue

The Asia Economic Dialogue (AED) is the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India’s annual flagship ‘Track 1.5 Dialogue’ on Geoeconomics, co-hosted in collaboration with Pune International Centre. ‘Navigating Complexity: The Future of Economic Multilateralism’, a series of panel discussions brought together political leaders and senior government officials, as well as academics, policymakers and industry experts from India and

abroad. In a fireside chat with Gautam Bambawale, Atul Sobti spoke of the need for self-reliance, balanced regional development and employment generation.

In 'From Protection to Prosperity: The Promise of Trade Reform', the World Bank's bi-annual report, *South Asia Development Update*, was discussed. This programme, a collaboration with the World Bank, highlighted that South Asian countries rank among the least open to international trade and finance. In a changing global environment, it examined questions such as whether lowering trade barriers could serve as an engine of growth and job creation in the region.

Education

The seventh Social Change Annual Lecture, 'Social Change as an Object of Educational Inquiry', was delivered by Krishna Kumar and was organised in collaboration with the Council for Social Development and Sage India. By examining education as both a structural institution and a personal experience, the lecture provided fresh perspectives on how knowledge and learning shape societal evolution in India.

The fifth Contributions to Indian Sociology–IEG Lecture, titled 'Caste Lasts: The Anatomy of a Resilient Hegemony', was delivered by Arjun Appadurai. The talk offered a conceptual revisit of the topic of caste, framed within the rubric of 'resilient hegemonies', i.e. systems of coercion and humiliation that resist efforts to subvert, reform or exit them for significant periods of time. This was a collaboration with Contributions to Indian Sociology and the Institute of Economic Growth.

The Commemoration of Constitution Day was marked by a discussion on 'The Values of Our Constitution', with speaker Madan Lokur, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India. It was followed by an interactive session with school students from Delhi-NCR, organised as part of the 'Taking Children to Gandhi' series that brings children closer to the enduring legacy of Gandhi's non-violent struggle for equity, pluralism and sustainable development. This was held in collaboration with the Working Group on Alternative Strategies.

James Robson delivered a lecture on 'Connections, Collaboration and Cross-fertilisation: The Enduring Importance of Cross-Cultural Exchanges Between Institutions of Higher Education for the Future of Asian Studies', organised in collaboration with the Institute of Chinese Studies. The talk, chaired by Sabaree Mitra, explored how institutions of higher education in Asia, Europe and the US have shaped the development of Asian Studies and enabled cross-cultural understanding during periods of geopolitical tension.

'Commemoration of the 97th Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the 56th Anniversary of the Gandhi–King Memorial Plaza' was a celebration of the power of nonviolent action and the life of Martin Luther King Jr. (15 January 1929—4 April

1968). A commemoration service by choirs of schools from Delhi-NCR was followed by an interactive session with the students. The theme was drawn from Martin Luther King Jr.'s quote, 'Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.' A short film on his life was also screened. The programme, organised in collaboration with Gandhi Yuva Biradari and Working Group on Alternative Strategies, was part of the 'Taking Children to Gandhi' series.



Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2026

Environment and Climate Change

'Nature-Based Solutions for Hot Cities' was a webinar organised in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission on Climate Change for Asia and the Pacific. The year 2024 was the hottest year in recorded history, leaving cities across the globe grappling with the effects of extreme urban heat. Nature-based solutions (NBS) offer a promising pathway to combat urban heat while delivering a myriad of co-benefits for climate resilience and sustainable living. The discussion explored the latest research, practical applications, and policy frameworks that leverage biodiversity as a transformative tool for cooling cities, enhancing urban resilience and supporting sustainable socio-economic development.

In 'India in the Global Climate Agenda: Baku and Beyond', organised in collaboration with Toxics Link, the moderator apprised the audience that such lectures often reach policymakers and influence their decision-making process. The speakers shared a broad overview of where we are in the fight against climate change and what the future holds, before shifting their focus to COP29 held in Baku, Azerbaijan. The discussion provided a comprehensive overview of the science of climate change, its impacts and our preparedness.

In another collaboration with Toxics Link, the talk, 'Addressing Climate Change with a Just Transition to Clean Energy', examined how India is faring in achieving a just and equitable energy transition that benefits both the environment and the people.

The city of Delhi alone continues to contribute more than 70 per cent of the pollutant load (untreated sewage and industrial effluents) into the river Yamuna. At the ‘Citizens Dialogue for the Rejuvenation of the River Yamuna’, organised in collaboration with Green Circle of Delhi, speakers outlined measures to combat this issue. Expanding and upgrading sewage treatment plants (STPs) is essential; stringent measures are required to prevent industrial pollutants from entering the river system; and concerted action is needed at the national level to save the river.

The 12th edition of the ‘Dialogue to Develop a Vision for the Environment of Delhi’ was also a collaboration with Green Circle of Delhi. The speakers deliberated on an ideal sustainable drainage and waste management system for Delhi, the restoration of the Aravalli range, urban greening and biodiversity parks, as well as a revision of the very concept of development, amidst continuous legal relief granted to corporations at the expense of the environment.

In a panel discussion held in collaboration with the Centre for Policy Research, the speakers pondered the question: ‘Can we rejuvenate Yamuna?’ In his lead presentation, Asok Kumar engaged with the idea of reviving the River Yamuna, building on his experience of leading the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).

An awareness and capacity-building workshop on ‘Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) Technology, Policy and Regulations: Towards a Net Zero Strategy’ was organised in collaboration with the Climate Change Research Institute. The three-day workshop, featuring a keynote address by Alok Kumar and presentations by experts from academia and industry, highlighted recent developments in CCUS, case studies and success stories in sectors such as steel, cement, oil and fertilisers, and policy and regulatory aspects.

In ‘India’s Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies for Climate Change’, the speakers addressed India’s climate action plan, the changing global dynamics and India’s stance, as well as the way forward. The discussion was a collaboration with Toxics Link.

‘The First Lady of Siachen: Fanny Bullock Workman’, a talk in collaboration with the Himalayan Club and The Himalayan Environment Trust, was delivered by Ashok Abbey, a veteran climber with over four decades of experience. The presentation revisited Fanny Bullock Workman’s 1911–1912 expedition, a pioneering exploration of the 76-km-long Siachen Glacier—now the world’s highest battlefield—that mapped its chief tributaries and placed the glacier accurately within the geography of the Eastern Karakoram.

Science, Technology and Innovation

In ‘Technology, Disruption and Future’, organised in collaboration with IC Centre for Governance, Anurag Goel highlighted how exponential technologies are transforming and reshaping the world. Focussing on India, he examined questions such as how businesses should navigate a future where unlimited opportunities and existential threats coexist and what new skills and insights are required to do so.

Another collaboration with the IC Centre for Governance saw a discussion titled ‘Draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules: Of Consent and Concerns’. The conversation focussed on experts’ and citizens’ views of the government’s new draft data protection rules, in light of potential threats to the right to the lawful processing and retention of data and personally identifiable information. These rules were opened for public comment, and keynote speaker Vijay Ramachandran warned that vague legal language would not address the increasingly dangerous hacking of companies in both the private and the public sectors.

A webinar, ‘Cosmic Conundrum’, was organised in collaboration with and as part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Centre for Philosophy and Foundations of Science. It included a lecture by Nobel laureate Roger Penrose, with astrophysicist Alexia M. Lopez, discoverer of the Big Ring and Giant Arc, as panellist, and Ranjit Nair as Chair. They discussed the Conformal Cyclic Cosmology (CCC) model of the universe, proposed earlier this century to explain the extraordinary uniformity of the Big Bang.

Under the auspices of the UNESCO International Day of Light 2025 (IDL2025), a workshop on ‘Familiarisation with Quantum Sciences and Technology’ was held in collaboration with Zaheer Science Foundation, New Delhi. It was conducted by Zahid H. Khan, with John M. Dudley delivering the keynote address titled ‘Quantum Light: Celebrating the International Day of Light and the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology’.



UNESCO International Day of Light 2025

Women and Society

‘Reflections on the Past, Looking to the Future’ was a three-day international conference organised in collaboration with the Centre for Women’s Development Studies (CWDS), revisiting the 1974 *Towards Equality* report as a foundation for discussing the evolution of the status of women in India over the past five decades and facilitating an interdisciplinary dialogue. The keynote address was delivered by Jayati Ghosh, with many academics presenting papers on the subject.

As part of IIC’s dialogues on ‘Her Voice: Engendering the Discourse’, astrophysicist Priyamvada Natarajan was in conversation with Pratibha Jolly, an Indian physicist and principal investigator, GATI (Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions). This conversation, a collaboration with WISCOMP, explored personal trajectories, glass ceilings breached, and the opportunities and challenges for women navigating the discursive terrain of science.



The Sky's the Limit: A Life in Science

History, Art and Culture

A three-day seminar was organised in collaboration with The History Collective, with the support of Heather House LLP and Primus Books. The four themes of this year’s conference, namely ‘Inequalities and Institutions’; ‘The Social and the Quotidian’; ‘Crime and Punishment’; and ‘Myth and Reality’, explored symbiotic relationships between institutions, ideas, morality, materiality and our beliefs, as well as legal systems. The programme also marked the release of the Delhi History Congress volume.

In ‘Global Photographies: Transnationality/Regionality’, the speakers examined how ecological and decolonial discourses around photography reveal the medium’s global entanglements: images produced on one side of the world are intricately connected to the other, including through imperial histories, labour and migration. The talk was a collaboration with the Alkazi Foundation for the Arts; Centre for Research and Education in Arts and Media (CREAM), University of Westminster; School of Digital Arts (SODA) and Arts and Humanities Engagement and Dialogue (AHEAD), both at Manchester Metropolitan University.

A talk was delivered by Rahul Mehrotra and Naman P. Ahuja, organised in collaboration with *Marg* magazine, titled 'Tents: Cities on the Move'. It was based on a recent volume of *Marg* that documents the Kumbh Mela, the largest temporary human habitation space erected every 12 years, alongside grand *qanats* (underground aqueducts) and *shamianas* (ceremonial tents or shelters) of the Mughals, Deccani sultans and Rajputs. The speakers focussed on how India's rich history of tents can be positioned within a global context.



*Alarmel Valli, Leela Samson and Madhavi Mudgal
in conversation*

In collaboration with Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, New Delhi, a conversation with Alarmel Valli, Leela Samson and Madhavi Mudgal was facilitated after performances at the Valaya Dance Festival in March 2025. The three related their journeys, experiences with their respective gurus and each other, and how these had helped them evolve as artists. They advised the younger generation not to lose sight of the substance of their art amidst social media hype.

In collaboration with Tibet House, the Cultural Centre of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the 36th edition of the Annual Padmapani Lecture Series was organised. The lecture by B. R. Mani, titled, 'Excavations at Sarnath: 2013–14: New Evidences', highlighted the latest archaeological findings from one of India's most significant historical sites.

In a series of conversations organised in collaboration with Ahad Anhad, the following programmes were held:

—Syeda Hameed, a former Planning Commission member, author, feminist scholar and educator, shared her stories, insights and memories in a conversation with Sujata Prasad and Oron Das, in 'Ishrat-e-Qatra: The Ecstasy of a Drop'.

—'A Thousand Fireflies', named for a phrase from Banu Mushtaq's International Booker Prize 2025 acceptance speech, saw author–translator duo Banu Mushtaq and Deepa Bhashti in conversation with Sujata Prasad. They situated the award in the context of Indian writing in general, with Mushtaq calling it a win for the country's literature. They further discussed championing Indian Muslim writing, the plurality of languages, especially English and Kannada, and the short story form.

'Image Worlds: Approaching the Bicentennial of Photography', was an international symposium that explored the nomadic cultures of contemporary image production. Oriented towards the bicentennial of photography in 2026, Image Worlds engaged with the aesthetics, politics and global circulation of images in our hyper-visual era. It was held in collaboration with Photo South Asia, The Alkazi Foundation for the Arts, Maze Collective Studio and Offset Projects.

In another collaboration with The Alkazi Foundation for the Arts, a talk on 'Nagaland and the Art of Indigenous Presence in Postcolonial South Asia' was delivered by Akshaya Tankha, a historian of modern and contemporary art in South Asia. Delving into the 2005 story of Lepden Jamir being chastened by the Baptist elders of a village in the predominantly Christian state of Nagaland for making a 'pagan statue' that could awaken the tribal lake-spirit it visualised, Tankha detailed how Jamir defended his wood-carved sculpture by exclaiming, 'I am a Naga and an artist'.

In 'Stories Across Borders: India and France in Comics and Cinema', a collaboration with Alliance Française de Delhi, teachers Krithika S. and Anuj Sharma explored the cultural exchange between India and France, examining how comics and cinema both reflect and influence societies across borders.

In the third Kapila Vatsyayan Memorial Lecture 2025, 'The Present Colonises our Past: The Future Forsaken?', historian Romila Thapar began by invoking how Indian history was framed between two colonial constructs: the Aryan race theory and the Two-Nation theory. She emphasised that education is crucial to ensure that history is not manipulated for political or other reasons. This was a collaboration with the Kapila Vatsyayan Memorial Committee.



Kapila Vatsyayan Memorial Lecture 2025

The Delhi-NCR Round of the INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2025 was held in collaboration with Heritage Education and Communication Service, INTACH. In total, 212 students from 61 schools across the region participated, exploring India's rich heritage through spirited quizzing.

In ‘Delhi and its Textured Pasts’, the panellists, Amar Farooqui, Sohail Hashmi and Shubham Mishra, with Shashank Shekhar Sinha as moderator, explored Delhi’s layered histories—its water bodies, landscapes and colonial transitions. A collaboration with @Crossroads, the discussion examined how water, land and power have shaped Delhi’s multilayered past.

‘Kamaladevi Puruskar 2025’ was a celebration of young crafts persons, organised in collaboration with the Delhi Crafts Council. Chief guest, Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath, presented awards to Amit Kumbhakar from West Bengal practising the craft of terracotta; Padma Sisa from Odisha for weaving of Kisalo Adivasi cloth; Bhavya Soni from Rajasthan practising the craft of Meenakari; Soumya Ranjan Bariki from Odisha practising the craft of Pattachitra painting; Rajni Kaur from Punjab for weaving of Desi Cotton; and Dildar Qureshi from Rajasthan practising the craft of miniature painting.

In collaboration with BML Munjal University, a talk titled ‘Hegel’s Philosophy and the Welfare State: Hegel, Buddhism and Asia’ was organised. The speaker, Klaus Vieweg, delved into Hegel’s philosophy, approaching his idea of freedom in relation to the contemporary crisis of modernity.

The seventh edition in the series on ‘Understanding Qawwali’, conceptualised by Manjari Chaturvedi, was organised in collaboration with the Ganga Jamuna Culture Foundation. The day-long symposium explored many dimensions of this Sufi musical tradition through sessions such as ‘Khanqahi Qawwali to Commercial Qawwali—Understanding the Journey of Qawwali’ and ‘Bollywood and Qawwali’. It also featured the launch of *Qawwali: The Call of Hearts in Love*, edited by Chaturvedi.

For 150 years, from Louis XIV’s reign to Napoleon’s downfall, France was an aggressive imperial power in South Asia and established an empire in India through its East India Company. Robert Ivermee’s book *Glorious Failure: The Forgotten History of French Imperialism in India* offers an account of this period. In his talk, Ivermee reflected on this lesser-known history, addressing topics such as power rivalries and entrenched inequalities. This was a collaboration with Alliance Française de Delhi.

Upinder Singh’s lecture, ‘A Persian Palace in Patna? Looking Afresh at the Mauryas and Achaemenids’, revisited the interface between the Achaemenid Persian Empire (550–330 BCE) and India, and the possible influence of Achaemenids on Ashokan architecture and inscriptions. In this collaboration with @Crossroads, Singh also discussed the American archaeologist and linguist D. B. Spooner’s debated theory of a Persian Palace in Pataliputra (Patna).

To commemorate Martyrs' Day 2026, two talks were held in collaboration with the Sarvodaya International Trust New Delhi Chapter. Anil Nauriya's 'Gandhi, Hind ka Dada and the Shaping of the Nation' examined the correspondence between Gandhi and Dadabhai Naoroji as a resource for educating youth about parts of Indian history that often remain invisible. In 'On the Relevance of Gandhi Today', Usha Ramanathan explored the idea of words that survive while their meanings shift, through the lens of the concepts of law and *ahimsa*.

Literature

'When Women Translate Women', a panel discussion in collaboration with Ashoka Centre for Translation and Zubaan, brought together women translators working across languages such as Norwegian, Tamil, Hindi and English. The discussion focussed on literary translation and the changes that occur when women translate women's writings. The panellists discussed how and whether their gender impacts the translation process, whether they feel more drawn to the work of women, and the 'relationship' between writer and translator when both share the same gender dynamics and hierarchies in society.

'The Non-Peer Reviewed Essay' was a two-day symposium, presented in collaboration with the Centre for the Creative and the Critical, Ashoka University, in partnership with the Institute of Advanced Studies, University College London. This symposium, the 10th in the 'Literary Activism' series, revisited essays that have a deep seriousness of intent but deliberately reject the processes and accoutrements of legitimacy required by academic journals as well as by the conventions of mainstream journalism, non-fiction and popular history.

An illustrated lecture by Nandini Purandare and Deepa Balsavar, co-authors of the internationally acclaimed book *The Sherpa Trail: Stories from Darjeeling and Beyond* (Roli Books, 2024) was organised in collaboration with The Himalayan Club. The book focusses on the Darjeeling Sherpas, who, centuries ago, first migrated from Tibet to Nepal and then to the foothills of the Himalayas in northern India, becoming renowned for their skills as expedition porters from the turn of the 20th century onwards.



The Sherpa Trail

A symposium on 'Krishna Baldev Vaid and the Hindi Literary Culture' was held in collaboration with the Raza Foundation. Led by Hindi critic Madan Soni, the speakers read from Vaid's published works, situating him within the pantheon of Hindi literary history. The talk was followed by a screening of Amit Dutta's *Jayein to Jayein Kahaan* (2025, Hindi), which delves into Vaid's life and career as a fiction writer and playwright known for his experimental and iconoclastic narrative style.

Sunil Malhotra delivered a lecture on his book *YOGAi: Interplays of Yoga and Artificial Intelligence*. Drawing on the author's professional journey and shaped by conversations with thought leaders such as Dr. Karan Singh, Ervin Laszlo, Satish Kumar and John Maeda, YOGAi offers a unique perspective on the convergence of ancient wisdom and modern technology. It was held in collaboration with the IC Centre for Governance.

Organised in collaboration with Publishing Next, 'Five Years On: Mapping the New Terrain of Indian Publishing' began with Gaëlle Bohé's keynote address, which offered an overview of her work at the Fontaine O Livres, a French organisation supporting independent publishers. This was followed by a panel discussion by Indian and international publishers who examined the industry's evolution since the pandemic and how political, policy and technological shifts are redefining the future of books in India. It concluded with an award ceremony that recognised excellence in various aspects of publishing.

Media

The felicitation ceremony for the Chameli Devi Jain Award 2025 for Outstanding Woman Media Person of the Year was held in collaboration with the Media Foundation. Journalist Jatinder Kaur Tur was conferred the award. The Vishwa Nath-Delhi Press Award for Fearless Journalism and the Kamla Mankekar Award for Journalism on Gender were also presented. The ceremony was followed by the B. G. Verghese Memorial Lecture 2025 on 'Media, Courts and Freedom of Expression', delivered by S. Muralidhar, a former judge. He highlighted India's downward trajectory on the World Press Freedom Index. He concluded on a hopeful note, acknowledging the growing number of journalists and influencers online who continue to speak fearlessly.

The 24th BCF Annual Lecture was delivered by Lakshmi Sharma on 'The Journey and Impact of Khabar Lahariya and Chambal Media'. Khabar Lahariya is India's only women-led rural news network, with grassroots women reporters across Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Chhattisgarh. It runs a hyperlocal, video-first channel with over 600,000 YouTube subscribers. The lecture was held in collaboration with the Business and Community Foundation.

A discussion on the state of the Indian media titled ‘Is Journalism Facing an Existential Crisis in the Emerging Indian Media Ecosystem?’ was organised in collaboration with Jan Prasar. The discussion highlighted challenges such as the unregulated power of digital platforms, rapid technological disruption, shrinking business models and the increasing influence of algorithms on news consumption. This conversation marked the 35th Anniversary of the Presidential Assent to the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 and was the 32nd discussion in the annual series started in 1994.

In another collaboration with Jan Prasar to commemorate Public Service Broadcasting Day (Jan Prasaran Divas) 2025, Basudha Banerji and S. N. Sahu recalled Usha Mehta’s tryst with freedom on the radio. During the Quit India Movement, Mehta was arrested on 12 November 1942 for her association with the Secret Congress Radio in Bombay, and the underground radio transmitter was confiscated. This day also marks Mahatma Gandhi’s first and only live broadcast on All India Radio, when, in 1947, he addressed more than 2 lakh refugees at the Kurukshetra Camp from Broadcasting House, New Delhi. The commemoration was followed by a discussion on ‘Public Service Broadcasting: Broadcasting as a Public Resource’.

Health and Wellness

A conference on ‘Managing Diabetes for Healthy Ageing: An Integrated Approach’ brought together leading naturopaths, endocrinologists, ophthalmologists and physicians to explore the transformative potential of integrated diabetes management with a focus on geriatrics and healthy ageing. The conference was a collaboration with Venu Eye Institute.

An evening of sitting, walking and Tea Meditation, ‘Mindfulness is a Source of Happiness’ was led by Brother Phap Dung and other teachers and monastics in the Plum Village

tradition, held in collaboration with the Ahimsa Trust. The programme also included the release of a book *The Mindfulness Survival Kit: Five Essential Practices* by Thich Nhat Hanh, published by Aleph Book Company.

A one-day ‘Empowering Health & Nutrition’ conference on the ‘Impact of Millets and Herbs in Daily Life for Better Health and Energy for the



Empowering Health & Nutrition Impact of Millets

Elderly and Persons with Disabilities’ was held as part of an ongoing research project by the Brotherhood organisation. The sessions featured Khader Vali, popularly known as the ‘Millet Man of India’, and a panel of distinguished speakers who explored themes including nutritional benefits, traditional practices and recipes, accessibility and inclusivity, and scope of start-ups.

A panel discussion on ‘Leprosy in India: Down but Not Out—What are We Doing About It?’ was held in collaboration with the NLR India Foundation. The panellists outlined how, with improved early detection, treatment, contact tracing and preventive measures, India has a real opportunity to eliminate leprosy and reduce disability caused by this bacterial disease.

A talk by K. K. Shailaja, popularly known as ‘Shailaja Teacher’, whose exemplary leadership during the COVID–19 pandemic in Kerala earned her global recognition, was organised in collaboration with the Business and Community Foundation. Titled ‘Public Health, Social and Gender Justice with Empathy’, her lecture focussed on injecting empathy into public health programmes, as well as social and gender reforms.

‘Healing through Nada Yoga: Breath, Sounds and Stillness’ was a two-day immersion seminar with Anand Balayogi Bhavanani and Sangeeta Biagi. A collaboration with the Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the workshop integrated breath, sound and stillness to cultivate resilience, compassion and inner clarity. It was followed by a conversation with Rajiv Mehrotra, titled ‘Yoga Beyond the “Branding”’: Reclaiming the Sacred’.

Isaac Mathai, a holistic physician, delivered a lecture titled ‘Ayurveda to Integrative Health: A Holistic Path to Well-Being’. The talk explored the possibilities of integrative healthcare in today’s world and was held in collaboration with Ritinjali and SOUKYA International Holistic Health Centre, Bengaluru.

A ‘National Consultative Meet on Dementia Strategy’ was organised in collaboration with the Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences (IHBAS) and Dementia India Alliance. The meeting brought together key government, academic and non-profit stakeholders to discuss this medical issue, which the WHO has identified as an ‘urgent global challenge’.

In collaboration with Sanjivini Society for Mental Health, a panel discussion on ‘Mental Health and Mobile Usage’ was held to mark World Mental Health Day. Professionals, Sanjivini Volunteers and mental health advocates explored the impact of mobile use on mental health, offering diverse perspectives and practical takeaways for everyday life.

Performance

Several programmes were organised in collaboration with the Dagar Brothers Memorial Trust. A Vichitra Veena recital by Gianni Ricchizzi in memory of Nasir Faiyazuddin Dagar was followed by a Dhrupad recital by F. Wasifuddin Dagar, with Mohanshyam Sharma accompanying him on the pakhawaj.

In memory of Ustad Nasir Zahiruddin Dagar, a rare film of a concert by the Dagar Brothers, N. Faiyazuddin Dagar and N. Zahiruddin, was screened. This was followed by a Dhrupad recital by Faiyazuddin Wasifuddin Dagar accompanied by Mohanshyam Sharma on pakhawaj.

The fourth edition of 'Kirtaniye – The Invisible Divine', titled '*Jin Prem Kiyo tin Prabh Payo*', was presented by Bindhu Malini from Bangalore, Vidya Rao from Hyderabad and Radhika Naayak Sood from Mumbai. This festival of Women's Voices in Gurbani Sangeet (Dakshin) was held in collaboration with the Enable India Foundation.

Another festival of Women's Voices in Gurbani Sangeet, titled '*Kudrat de Sab Bande*', and the fifth edition of Kirtaniye, also in collaboration with the Enable India Foundation, celebrated the oneness of all creation as envisioned by the founder of the Sikh faith. It featured performances by girls from Baru Sahib School (Himachal Pradesh), Gurleen Kaur (Uttarakhand), Avanti Patel (Mumbai) and Nivedita Singh (Patiala).



*Performance in Memory of
Ustad Nasir Faiyazuddin Dagar*



Kirtaniye – The Invisible Divine



Kirtaniye – Kudrat de Sab Bande



T. M. Krishna Sings Guru

collaboration with Backwaters Collective, Nool Archives, Sree Narayana Mandira Samiti and Uru Art Harbour.

T. M. Krishna regaled audiences with a soul-stirring performance, exploring the works of Narayana Guru, with Akkarai S. Subhalakshmi (violin), K. Arunprakash (mridangam) and Sunil Lumar (kanjira) providing accompaniment. Titled 'T. M. Krishna Sings Guru: The Prosody of an Emerging New', the programme was an immersive experience, with the performance weaving together poetry, music and philosophy. It was a



*Flute recital by Hariprasad Chaurasia
in memory of Vasant Sathe*

A Carnatic music recital was organised in collaboration with Shanmukhananda Sangeetha Sabha. The programme featured Vishwas Hari on mandolin and Charulatha Chandrasekar on veena, with Abhishek Avadani on mridangam and Ujith Udaya Kumar on tabla.

The Hindustani classical vocalist Kalapini Komkali, known for her profound explorations of Nirgun bhajans and rare ragas, presented a recital in collaboration with Sarvajanic Utsav Samiti, New Delhi, and Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Memorial National Committee. The evening continued with a flute recital by Hariprasad Chaurasia, performed in memory of Vasant Sathe.



Nayi Dhara Bhakha

A folk music vocal recital was organised in collaboration with Nayi Dhara Bhakha. The programme featured a lecture-demonstration by Mannu

Yadav, a folk artist from Varanasi. He presented the various folk music traditions of his region, with a special focus on songs of Basant, such as *Hori*, *Jogira* and *Phaag*.

To mark K. L. Saigal's 121st birth anniversary, Gaurav Sood, a disciple of L. K. Pandit, presented a vocal recital. The concert, a collaboration with K. L. Saigal Memorial Circle, was preceded by a tribute to K. L. Saigal and Pran Nevile by Shalini Bhargava.

The ITC Sangeet Research Academy collaborated with the Centre to present a Hindustani vocal recital by Brajeswar Mukherjee, accompanied by Durjay Bhaumik (tabla), Sumit Mishra (harmonium) and Debjani Das (tanpura).



Hindustani vocal recital by Brajeswar Mukherjee

A Carnatic classical vocal recital was presented by Swarnalatha Subramanian and her disciples, Rahul, Sangeetha, Nandita Krishna Kumar, Arti Mehta, Shreyas Hariharan and Poornima Gopal. They were accompanied by E. S. Ashwini, Sowmya Kannan and Kiran Pandey (violin), Ratul S. Kumar and G. Swaminathan (mridangam), M. Sriram (kanjira) and Shounok Bannerji (ghatam). This was a collaboration with Gayathri Fine Arts.

In another collaboration with Gayatri Fine Arts, a Carnatic vocal recital was hosted, followed by a recital by Vivek Mozhikulam from Chennai. The accompanying artists enchanted the audience with the violin, the mridangam and the kanjira.

'Saving the Himalayas', held in collaboration with The Mountain Climate Trust, began with a talk by Ashok Abbey. It was followed by a short film directed by Shankar Barua, which won Best Animated Short Film at the Makizhmithran Film Festival and the Indian Independent Film Festival. The evening concluded with a musical programme, 'Celebrating the Rains' by Minu Bakshi.

'Ram-Shyam' was a Janmashtami celebration featuring dance choreography by Uma Sharma and her disciples. The accompanists were Madho Prasad (vocals), Vinay Prasanna (flute), Khalid Mustafa (sitar), Yograj Panwar (*padhant*/reciting rhythmic syllables). It was organised in collaboration with Uma Sharma School of Dance and Music, Bharatiya Sangeet Sadan.

In collaboration with The Vyas Academy of Indian Music, a programme was organised to celebrate the 'Artistry and Legacy of Gyanacharya Pandit Narayanrao Vyas'. The evening featured performances by Vidyadhar Vyas, accompanied by Shailendra Mishra (tabla) and Vinay Mishra (harmonium), as well as by Vineet Goswami, Anand Oak, Richa Verma, Sanika Goregaonkar and Gatikrishna Nayak, disciples of Vidyadhar Vyas. The concert included a Prarthana composed by Vishnu Digambar Paluskar.

An evening of Hindustani classical music, 'Celebrating the Birth Centenary of Pt. K. G. Ginde and Maa Annapurna Devi and the 125th Anniversary of Acharya S. N. Ratanjankar' was organised in collaboration with the Shanti Agrawal Association of Music, Arts and Literature (SAAMAL). It featured Anuran Dasgupta (vocal), Soumitra Thakur (sitar) and Priya Purushothaman (vocal), accompanied by Ujith Uday Kumar (tabla) and Mausam (harmonium).

To celebrate Bijoya Sammelan, a Hindustani vocal recital was presented by Sounak Chattopadhyay, in collaboration with Impresario India.

Shatavisha Mukherjee performed a Hindustani vocal recital, accompanied by Durjay Bhaumik (tabla) and Vinay Mishra (harmonium). The presentation was a collaboration with ITC Sangeet Research Academy.



Bijoya Sammelan

'The Bard and The Balladeer: A Musical Tribute to Bharat Ratna Bhupen Hazarika' was presented by his nephew, Mayukh Hazarika, and Laili Dutta. Held in collaboration with the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER), the programme marked the centenary year of Hazarika through performances interwoven with personal recollections and lesser-known stories behind his iconic songs.

A Bharatanatyam recital was presented by Mahati Kannan, a disciple of Padma Subrahmanyam, who performed under the Sanskriti-Madhobi Chatterji Memorial Fellowship. This was in collaboration with Sanskriti Pratishthan.

A *qawwali* and Kathak performance had three parts: Qawwal Danish Hussain Badayuni's ensemble from Badaun, Uttar Pradesh, were complemented by Manjari Chaturvedi's Kathak performance. Delhi qawwals Sibtain Nizami and Saqlain Nizami offered a tribute to the late Meraj Ahmed Nizami of Qawwal Bacchon ka Gharana. The final performance,

‘Qaul – Khanqahi Qawwali’ by Hyderabad’s Hussaini Brothers, was dedicated to qawwal Ahsan Hussain Khan Bandanawazi. This was a collaboration with Ganga Jamuna Culture Foundation.

‘Beyond Grace: A Journey of Dance, Peace, Voice and Womanhood’ was a performance and a reflective talk by Vijayalakshmi, an internationally acclaimed exponent of Mohiniyattam, that explored connections between art, peace and womanhood. Through her innovative choreography, music and narratives, she traced her journey as a dancer while honouring the artistic legacy of her mother and guru, Bharati Shivaji. This was a collaboration with The Raza Foundation and WISCOMP.

‘At the Edge of the Ocean’ treated audiences to an evening of Lama Doboom Tulku’s poetry. Maya Joshi led a session of reading and reflection on Tulku’s words. The programme, organised in collaboration with the World Buddhist Culture Trust, concluded with Dancing Eloquence by the ‘StoryDancer’, Zuleikha.

‘Six Strings, Many Lands: A Guitar Odyssey’ was a solo guitar concert by Sidharth Sarangi, a classical guitarist, pianist and composer from Odisha. The artist presented compositions by F. Tárrega, I. Albéniz, A. Bárrios, Gary Ryan, P. Steidl, and C. Domeniconi, in a collaborative programme with Delhi Music Society.

The shamisen is a three-stringed banjo-like instrument played with a plectrum or pick called a *bach*i. A Tsugaru-Shamisen concert, referring to the genre of music that originated from the Tsugaru Peninsula of Aomori Prefecture in northeastern Japan, was presented by Nobuto Yamanaka. This was a collaboration with The Japan Foundation.



Beyond Grace: A Journey of Dance, Peace, Voice and Womanhood



Six Strings, Many Lands: A Guitar Odyssey



Tsugaru-Shamisen Concert

A Western classical vocal concert was presented in collaboration with the Embassy of Russia, featuring Karina Khovalyg (soprano) and Mikhail Loginov (baritone), with Stanislav Chermukhin at the piano.

In collaboration with Delhi Music Society, a tribute concert was organised in memory of Prof. Samaresh Chatterji. The performance by the String Quartet of the Symphony Orchestra of India featured Shynar Barlykova (violin), Prayash Biswakarma (violin), Mikhail Bulgakov (viola) and Sherali Mukhanbetkali (cello).



The Legacy of Situ Singh Buehler

A concert of 'Opera Arias and Art Songs' was organised to celebrate the life of Situ Singh Buehler (1948–2025), a pioneer in Western classical music education. The concert featured soloists from the Lyric Ensemble of Delhi performing a repertoire from Baroque to Romantic styles.

A concert by young musicians of the Vladimir Spivakov International Charity Foundation featured Snezhana Zagorodnyaya on bassoon and Zakhar

Atamanenko on piano, both gifted scholarship recipients and laureates of major international competitions who have performed with leading orchestras across Russia and the CIS. The evening was organised in collaboration with the Russian Cultural Centre, Embassy of the Russian Federation in India.

Wings Cultural Society presented *PTA*, an English play exploring grief and the search for answers in the aftermath of tragedy, written and directed by Chandini Agarwal and Jonas David. The play opened with a parent-teacher conference between Meera, a mother who had just lost her son to suicide, and Karan, his teacher.

A 'Panorama of Bengal Arts' was presented over two days in collaboration with Impresario India. The programme featured a selection of plays, including *Sandhikhon* and *Uttara*, by the companies Theatrewala and Prarambh, respectively. Kolkata's Rabi Parampara group performed *Shunchhe Shey Shongeeeter Moto*, presenting unsung heroes of our freedom struggle, through narration and songs.

Nabhya Theatre Group presented *Dastaan-e-Laila*, a comedy play directed by Vishaal Vashishtha, offering an ironic take on the Laila-Majnu love story set in today's times.

The Delhi chapter of The Sarvodaya International Trust collaborated with the Centre to celebrate Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of his 156th birth anniversary. The programme began with *'Vaishnava jan to'*, a dramatic performance and tableau by the students of Springdales School, Dhaula Kuan. It was followed by 'Readings on Secularism' by Jyoti Bose, Syeda S. Hameed and Danish Iqbal, and *'Swatantra ka Naara'*, a rousing repertoire of songs by Livingroom Theatre.

'Meet Mark Twain' was a solo theatrical performance by Keshav Roy with conceptualisation, scripting and direction by Renu Roy. Organised with the support of KCT Group and The Lalit, Delhi, it was based on Twain's most memorable commentaries on life, love, relationships and satirical takes on human frailties.

'Power Within', an intimate theatre programme, was presented in collaboration with the Centre for Creative Expressions. Directed by Dilip Shankar, the play followed a tentative woman as she shared her journey of realising the power 'within her' through situations and relationships. She explored visualisation to navigate life and practiced her power of choice in her journey.



Power Within

Anand Hi Anand presented the story of the relationship between Bollywood's Anand brothers—Chetan, Dev and Vijay (Goldie)—in collaboration with Three Arts Club and Katyayani as part of the biographical series, 'Lives Lived'. The theatrical narration, featuring personal anecdotes by their niece, Sohaila Kapur, was interwoven with clips from their films.



Anand Hi Anand

Festivals

Thirty-six schools from Delhi–NCR took part in ‘Filmit India: IIC/INTACH Children’s Film Festival’, organised in collaboration with Heritage Education and Communication Service, INTACH. It featured screenings of notable films showcasing India’s cultural diversity by students from participating schools, followed by an awards ceremony where they received certificates.



Words in the Garden

Organised in collaboration with IILM University, the three-day annual festival, ‘Words in the Garden—A Celebration of Literature, Arts and Ideas: Hamari Dili—Ancient Soul, Global Heart: Delhi’s Living Heritage’, brought together renowned figures from literature, art, social sciences and other public spheres to celebrate the creativity, imagination and ideas that Delhi generates, sustains and embodies. It featured panel discussions on ‘Crossroads of Empire:

How Delhi Shaped and Reflects Indian Identity’, ‘The Intersection of Technology, AI, and Cultural preservation’ and ‘How Performance Arts Reflect and Shape Delhi’s Social Fabric’; discussions on books *2024: The Election that Surprised India* by Rajdeep Sardesai, *The Girl with the Seven Lives* by Vikas Swarup and *The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World* by William Dalrymple; the Sanatan Sangeet Puraskar Ceremony 2025; and performances including ‘Retro Bollywood Music Recital’ by Aarushi Bhargava and ‘Kathak Recital’ by Ragini Maharaj.

The three-day ‘20th IAWRT Asian Women’s Film Festival’, celebrating International Women’s Day 2025, featured a screening of 40 fiction, non-fiction, animation, and short films from various parts of Asia. Curated by Bina Paul, other highlights included masterclasses with filmmakers, producers and cinematographers; an exhibition and panel discussion on ‘Memory as Movement: Archiving Feminist Histories’; and a workshop on ‘The Once and The Future of the Documentary’. It was a collaboration with the International Association of Women in Radio & Television, Chapter India; NFDC Cinemas of India; the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India; the Embassy of France; the Institut Français, New Delhi; Friedrich Ebert Stiftung; Delhi



20th LAWRT Asian Women's Film Festival

Tourism; Max Müller Bhavan—Goethe-Institut; Kerala Travels; The Japan Foundation; InKo Centre; Yellow Streets; and Kumbaya.

‘Vasant Utsav: A Festival of Folk Arts’ was a two-day celebration of traditional folk art, organised in collaboration with NCZCC, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India. It included performances, exhibitions and screening of documentary films:



Vasant Utsav: A Festival of Folk Arts

—‘A Desert Trail—Musical Journey’ by Meghwal singer Moorlala Marwada was an eclectic mix of Kabir and Mirabai bhajans, Sufi Kalam and folk songs deftly set to music on the santar, a traditional stringed instrument popular in Kutch.

—In ‘Aawazon ke Jaadugar’, mimicry artist Bhairav Dutt Bhatt performed a scene from the jungles of Uttarakhand.

—‘Love Ballad of Jharkhand’ by Megha Sriram Dalton featured folk music from Jharkhand interwoven with anecdotes.

—‘Pattachitra tradition with Story Telling Session’ by Sahajan Chitrakar from West Bengal showcased his traditional folk paintings and musical narrations of stories from the Ramayana and other deities depicted in the paintings.



Visualising Oral Traditions

—The exhibition, ‘Visualising Oral Traditions’, a collaboration between Gond Pradhyan artists Kailash Pradhan and Ajay Marko, showcased the transfer of memory (*smriti*) within the Pradhyan Gond community, forging a link between spoken traditions and visual narratives.

—Shefali Bhushan's documentary *Colours of Earth* (2003; English) takes viewers on a journey across rural India, showcasing folk music as it is traditionally performed in villages and small towns.

—Pabuji is considered an *avatar* (manifestation) of Ramayana's Laxmana and is worshipped as a warrior saint in Rajasthan. In Shammi Nanda's documentary *Pabuji ka Phad* (2005; English), produced by Films Division, the *bhopas* (shamans) of the Bhil Community sing his story against the backdrop of a 15-foot-long painting called a *phad*.



Discussions on the Plurality of Shadow Puppets

—Produced by the Public Service Broadcasting Trust (PSBT) and directed by Supriyo Sen, *Unfolding the Pata Story* (2014; Bengali with English subtitles) documents the lives of traditional scroll painters, or Patuas, of Odisha and their struggles to maintain a sustainable livelihood.

‘PuppetOscope (Out of the Shadows): International Puppet Film Festival’, dedicated to Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, was organised in

collaboration with Kathkatha Puppet Arts Trust and with the support of the Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan. It included the seminar ‘Out of Shadows: Discussions on the Plurality of Shadow Puppets’, with a keynote address and presentations by national and international academics, scholars and artists; three shadow puppetry performances—‘Episode from Ramayana’ from the Tamil Nadu shadow puppetry tradition, ‘Sita Apaharan: Ram-Raavan Yuddha’ from Karnataka shadow puppetry tradition and ‘Shadow Puppet Theatre’, presented by UNIMA Puppeteers Trust-India; and a screening of 19 films.

A two-day celebration around World Dance Day 2025, organised in collaboration with Natya Vriksha; and the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, with the support of Friends of Natya Vriksha, included:



World Dance Day—Movement Workshop

—‘Movement Workshop’, conducted by Tanushree Shankar, focussed on both technical precision and expressive storytelling. It was open to dancers trained in all styles.

—The sixth ‘Natya Vriksha Lifetime Achievement Award’ was presented to Kiran Seth, the founder of the SPICMACAY Movement.

—The talk ‘Dancing Away’ by Ashok Vajpeyi was a poetic and philosophical

reflection on how dance, while rooted in the present, opens portals to imagination, memory and transcendence.

—‘Young Dancers Festival’ featured four performances—Bharatanatyam recital by Madhura Bhrushundi, Kathak recital by Dheerendra Tiwari, Kuchipudi recital by Abhinaya Nagajyothy and Odissi recital by Shashwati Garai Ghosh.

—‘Avatarana—The Story of Natya’ was a theatrical retelling of a 2,500-year-old saga, scripted and performed by Ramaa Bharadvaj.

Six documentary films were screened under ‘Mountain Film Fest’, organised in collaboration with the Indian Mountaineering Foundation:

—Neha Dixit’s *In Search of Kasturi-Musk deer* (2024) is an exploration of the filmmaker and her team to find the elusive and mystical Himalayan musk deer.

—*Life Uphill-The Tenzin Dolma Story* (2024), directed by Akshat Jain, tells the story of a child bride and a young mother, Tenzin Dolma, who one day unexpectedly takes up marathon running in the northern India Himalayas.

—Jain’s other film, *Gaddi-Life of a Himalayan Shepherd* (2024), explores the isolated, peripatetic life of Gaddi shepherds who tend to their flocks far from family and urban life.

—Produced by Red Bull, *Fastest Known Time-Deo Tibba* (2022) follows ultramarathon runner Kieren D’Souza’s attempt to climb a 6,000-metre peak (Mt. Deo Tibba) in the

Himalayas. What normally takes professional mountain climbers eight to 10 days was achieved in 19 hours and 38 minutes.

—Eshika Fyzee’s *Feral in the Mountains* (2023) explores the issues of human–wildlife conflict, particularly the impact of feral dogs on the mountain wildlife in Ladakh.

—*Ganga Girls* (2024), produced by Simplify, is about an all-women’s white water rafting team, entirely comprised of local women living by the banks of the Ganges.

To mark World Portuguese Language Day 2025, ‘Lusophone Film Festival 2025—Africa’ was organised in collaboration with all the Embassies and Honorary Consulates of Portuguese-speaking countries.



Lusophone Film Festival 2025—Africa

—Pedro Costa’s *The Daughters of Fire* (As Filhas do Fogo/Portugal) (2023; with English subtitles) follows three young sisters who sing about their fears after being separated by the eruption of Fogo volcano in Cape Verde and arriving in a European port.

—In Basil da Cunha’s musical *Manga d’Terra* (Switzerland/Portugal) (2023; with English subtitles), a young woman named Rosa moves to Lisbon to give her children a better life.

—*Big Bang Henda* (Portugal) (2023; with English subtitles) is a documentary–poem by Fernanda Polacow about the work of Angolan artist Kiluanji Kia Henda.

—Sofia Borges’ *Sulu S’Aua* (São Tomé and Príncipe/Portugal) (2023; with English subtitles) explores the collective memory of Portuguese colonialism in São Tomé and Príncipe through scenes that depict fear and the search for the disappeared.

—In Margarida Cardoso’s *Banzo* (Netherlands/Portugal/France) (2024; with English subtitles), physician Afonso is assigned to treat the psychological trauma of slavery on a colonial plantation in 1907.

Dedicated to the memory of R. P. Jain and Samaresh Chatterji, and curated by Sunit Tandon, this year’s edition of ‘Summer Sonata—A Festival of Opera, Ballet and Concert Films’, included six screenings:

—The Royal Ballet’s *Giselle* (2016), composed by Adolphe Adam in 1841, features their principal dancer Marianela Núñez in the titular role of a woman betrayed by her lover, who joins the ghostly women seeking revenge on unfaithful men.

—*Orfeo ed Euridice* (1982), an opera composed by Christoph Gluck in 1762 and based on the classic Greek myth, features mezzo-soprano Janet Baker in the titular male role.

—Friedrich Gulda’s *Mozart Concertos* features the 1986 concert at the Münchner Klaviersommer, where Gulda plays and simultaneously conducts Mozart’s Piano Concertos Nos. 20 and 26.

—Tuned to the original music of Léo Delibes (1870), Ninette de Valois’ *Coppélia* (2019) is a classic of the Royal Ballet repertory—a story of love, mischief and mechanical dolls, starring Marianela Nuñez and Vadim Muntagirov.

—The 2006 Zurich Opera production of Gaetano Donizetti’s popular opera *Don Pasquale* (1843), featuring Ruggero Raimondi in the title role, is a comic work about an elderly man seeking a young bride.

—Gustav Mahler’s *Symphony No. 3 in D minor* (1991), completed in 1896, features one of his sunniest, most extrovert scores. It is also his longest symphony, lasting at least an hour and a half.

The two-day ‘IIC Spring Festival of Music and Dance’ included:

—Sitar recital by Partha Pratim Roy from Kolkata, a disciple of Debi Prasad Chatterjee and Ajoy Singha Roy, accompanied by Subhas Kanti Das on table.

—Hindustani vocal recital by Arati Thakur Kundalkar from Pune, a disciple of Prabha Atre and Sanjeev Shende.

—Odissi recital by Sarita Mishra from Bangalore, a disciple of Bichitrananda Swain and Aruna Mohanty.

—Kathak recital by Varsha Dasgupta from Delhi, a disciple of Abhimanyu Lal.

The two-day ‘IIC Summer Festival of Music’ included:

—Carnatic and Hindustani classical instruments recital—an ensemble of Indian percussion featuring Shankar Narayanaswamy from Kolkata (mridangam), Mandola



Odissi recital by Sarita Mishra

Joy (shreetaar), Sohoni Ghosh (tabla), Anand R. Jayaram (violin and vocal), K. G. Prasad (ghatam) and Akash Mukherji (vocal).

—Dhrupad recital by Radha Govind Das from Delhi, a disciple of Vidur Malik.

—Hindustani flute recital by Rajat Prasanna from Mumbai, a disciple of Ravi Shankar Prasanna.

—Hindustani vocal recital by Arindam Chakraborty from Kolkata, a disciple of Aloke Kumar Chatterjee.



Dhrupad recital by Radha Govind Das

The two-day 'IIC Monsoon Festival of Dance' included:

—Bharatanatyam recital by Sujatha Ramanathan from Mumbai, a disciple of Adayar K Lakshman, Lata Raman and Sujatha Mohan.

—Kathak recital by Shipra Joshi from Delhi, a disciple of Prerana Shrimali. She was accompanied by Karan Gangani (padhant), Vijay Parihar (vocals and harmonium), Parminder Singh (tabla) and Fateh Ali Khan (sitar).

—Manipuri recital by Shrobana Mitra Das from Kolkata, a disciple of Priti Patel.

—Kuchipudi recital by Washim Raja from Delhi, a disciple of Vanashree Rao.



*Bharatanatyam recital by
Sujatha Ramanathan*

'Goa Film Festival', organised in collaboration with Goenkaranchho Ekvot, featured three films in the Konkani language with English subtitles:

—Jojo D'Souza's *Pedru Poder* (2020, with English subtitles) is a romantic comedy that delves into the life of Pedru, a traditional Goan baker (*poder*) who aspires to break free from his humble origins and achieve wealth.

—*Mogacho Korar* (2025, with English subtitles) by Silverio Cardoza explores family relationships, particularly between a daughter-in-law and mother-in-law.

—#Mog! (2023, with English subtitles), also by D’Souza, depicts an NRI chef, Lionel, who returns to Goa to sell his deceased father’s café.

‘Travelling Film South Asia 2025—A Festival of South Asian Documentaries’ featured 16 non-fiction films from South Asia produced in the last two years, encapsulating the flavours of the subcontinent with films about people from India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It also included the panel discussion, ‘Rooted Across Borders: Transnational Ecological Solidarities in South Asia’ with South Asian University (SAU).

The theme of Bhoomi Festival 2025 was ‘The Nature of Nature—Earth’s Metabolic Disorder’. It included the exhibition ‘Indian Women Farmers’ Knowledge—Living Diversity of Our Organic Farms’, and panel discussions on ‘Agroecology: Solutions for a Reset of Earth’s Metabolic Disorder’ and ‘Food and Health: The Gut-Earth Connection’. This was a collaboration with Navdanya.

The fourth edition of ‘People’s Festival of Innovations (PFoI 2025)’, organised in collaboration with Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP), Bengaluru, and Gujarat Grassroots Innovation Augmentation Network (GIAN), Ahmedabad, brought together grassroots and deep-tech innovators from across India, showcasing affordable, inclusive and scalable solutions that address key challenges in healthcare, agriculture, the environment and clean energy. With this year’s theme, ‘From Spark to Scale: Transforming Innovative Ideas to Socially Relevant Solutions’, the festival provided space for interaction and networking with policymakers, mentors, investors and technical experts, and for participation in theme-based sessions. It also included the exhibition, ‘Deep Tech and Grassroots Innovation’, showcasing nearly a hundred innovations in these fields from across India.



People’s Festival of Innovations 2025

Organised in collaboration with Dhanu Bihar Trust, the ‘Curtain Raiser Show of Nalanda Literature Festival 2025’ was hosted at the Centre. The Festival celebrated India’s cultural and literary heritage, with a special focus on the rich linguistic traditions of Bihar and the Northeastern states—Angika, Bhojpuri, Bajjika, Magahi, Maithili, Surjapuri, Bodo, Mizo and Assamese, among others—through thought-provoking sessions and creative exchanges.



Sitar recital by Saptarshi Hazra



Odissi recital by Prapti Gupta

The two-day 'IIC Winter Festival of Music and Dance' included:

—Sitar recital by Saptarshi Hazra from Kolkata, a disciple of Netai Basu, Buddhadev Dasgupta and Pratyush Banerjee, accompanied by Ashis Sengupta on tabla.

—Hindustani vocal recital by Priyanka Mitra from Kolkata, a disciple of Ajoy Chakraborty, Ulhas Kashalkar and Anjan Majumdar.

—Odissi recital by Prapti Gupta from Ghaziabad, a disciple of Aruna Mohanty and Alpana Nayak.

—Bharatanatyam recital by Sowmya Laxmi Narayanan from Delhi, a disciple of Geeta Chandran.

Films

Svetlana Ryzhakova's ethnographic documentary *Bhavai of Gujarat: Traditional Theatre of India* (India) (2025; English) is based on her extensive research and fieldwork from 2014 to 2023. It depicts the traditional folk theatre performed by artistes from the Targala community through interviews, conversations, songs and dances. It was screened in collaboration with the Russian House of Culture.

'Films of the Spirit' is a series curated by Rajiv Mehrotra, in collaboration with the Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The following films were screened under this:

—*Still Tibet* (US) (2015; English), directed by Miguel Angel Cano Santizo, documents his journey through a remote Tibetan region, now in China's Sichuan province, untouched by tourists. It offers a portrait of a vulnerable civilisation that has preserved its mystical essence.

—Raja Choudhury's *America's First Guru* (US) (2024; English), which premiered on the USA's PBS (Public Broadcasting Service), explores how yoga and Indian philosophy first entered mainstream American discourse with Swami Vivekananda's historic speech at the first Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893.

—*Nanak Shah Fakir* (India) (2015; Hindi/Punjabi with English subtitles), directed by Sartaj Singh Pannu, is a biopic about the life and teachings of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism.

—*A Fly on the Wall* (India) (2024; English) documents Chika Kapadia's final eight days, filmed by two of his closest friends, Shonali Bose and Nilesh Maniyar, as he opts for physician-assisted suicide in Switzerland.

—*Windfall of Grace* (India) (2020; English), directed by Japna Tulsi, is a documentary about the life of Neem Karoli Baba (1900–1973) through accounts of his devotees and a blend of *kirtans* (devotional songs).



A Fly on the Wall

Directed by Monty Gupta and produced by Lata Bhasin, *Advent of the Truth* (India) (2006; English) is a documentary about Auroville, an international community established in 1968 by Mirra Alfassa based on the ideals of Sri Aurobindo, free from government, money, religion and conflict. The screening was followed by a discussion on ‘The Idea of Community Living Sustained by Shared Convictions’ with the film’s producer.

Laurent Bregeat’s *S. H. Raza: The Very Essence* (India) (2013; English), screened in collaboration with the Raza Foundation, offers insight into the artist’s life in France and how he preserved the Indian element in his works. Through a series of conversations with Raza, it explores his ideology, the meaning of his art and his journey towards his final non-representational style that manifested in the iconic ‘Bindu’.

Swing Time in Limousin (France) (2019; French with English subtitles), directed by Dilip and Dominique Varma, tells the little-known story of how jazz arrived in Limoges, a small town in France, after World War II. Through the recollections of French drummer Jean-Marie Masse, it explores his connections with jazz musicians and legends, such as Duke Ellington and Lionel Hampton.

Screened in collaboration with the Alzheimer’s Related Disorder Society of India, Parthaa Akerkar’s *Antarnaad—The Voice Within* (India) (2024; Hindi) shows how mental health conditions affect the lives of patients, caregivers and their families. It was followed by a talk on ‘Women’s Health’ by neurologist Manjari Tripathi.

Devi Prasad Mishra’s *Ek Aur Vivek Ki Khoj* (India) (Hindi) traces the life and work of the renowned Hindi writer and critic, the late Devishankar Awasthi. It was screened in collaboration with the Raza Foundation.

Set in the aftermath of World War I in 1919, David Ferrario’s *Blood on the Crown* (Malta) (2021; English/Maltese) depicts the Maltese people’s uprising for independence from British rule. The film highlights the courage, sacrifice and resilience of those who challenged power, laying the groundwork for Malta’s eventual independence.

Churning the Earth (India) (2024; English), produced by Srishti Films and Kalpavriksh for Vikalp Sangam (Alternatives Confluence), highlights various initiatives in sustainable farming, community-led ecotourism and conservation, revival of crafts, activity-based learning, decentralised water harvesting, local governance and direct democracy across different Indian states. It was screened in collaboration with Kalpavriksh.

The House in the Hills (India) (2024; English), written and directed by Mekhela Deva, intertwines the restoration of Dil Bahar, a heritage house in Mussoorie, with the story

of pre- and post-Independent India as portrayed through the growth and development of a small hill town.

In Aranya Sahay's *Humans in the Loop* (India) (2024; Hindi with English subtitles), a tribal woman from Jharkhand finds herself interacting with artificial intelligence (AI) while working as a 'data labeller', unravelling its hidden biases and ethical dilemmas.



The House in the Hills

Richard K. Wolf's ethnographic film, *Pots of Millet, Faces of Gold: Transformation* (US) (2025; English), explores the changes over the past century in the Kota community of South India, which has traditionally been craftspeople and musicians for other groups in the Nilgiri Hills. It includes footage collected between 1990 and 2025, along with archival recordings from 1938. It was shown in partnership with the American Institute of Indian Studies.

Aunty Sudha Aunty Radha (India) (2019; Hindi), directed by Tanuja Chandra, chronicles the lives of two widowed sisters, aged 86 and 93, who have retired to Lehra village in Uttar Pradesh, where they spend their days with their adopted family of domestic help.

Despite patriarchy, in the fifth century BCE, women could be ordained as bhikkhunis and lead nunneries. Over time, restrictions ended full ordination in many regions, and female monastic lineages declined. Two films on the subject were screened under 'Women and Buddhism', followed by discussions.

—Malati Rao's *The Geshema is Born* (India/Nepal) (2020; English) traces the journey of a remarkable nun, Namdol Phuntsok, the first woman ever to be awarded the highest degree in Tibetan philosophy—the Geshema degree, which signifies the 'knower of virtue'.

—*White Robes, Saffron Dreams* (Thailand/India) (2013; English), directed by Teena Gill, is a documentary exploring gender, intersectionality and discrimination in Theravada Buddhism in Thailand.

Geleck Palsang's *Amala: The Life and Struggle of Dalai Lama's Sister* (India) (2022; English) is a tribute to Ama Jetsun Pema—the first female cabinet minister of the Tibetan government-in-exile and the driving force behind the Tibetan Children's Village (TCV), home to thousands of Tibetan children in exile. It was screened in collaboration with the Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

A Tale to Begin With (India) (2024; English and Odiya), directed by Bishweshwar Das, explores the life and works of Jayanta Mahapatra, a prominent figure in Indian English poetry. The film interweaves his poetry with his travels during the final year of his life.

Unchanged since the industrial revolution and powered by steam, jute mills outside Kolkata work to the dictates of profit and century-old machinery. Nishtha Jain's *The Golden Thread* (India/Netherlands/Norway/Bosnia and Herzegovina) (2022; Hindi, Bengali with English subtitles) follows the weft and warp of jute work, linking the 'fibre of the future' with the struggles of its workers.

Screened in collaboration with the Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Alexander Kronemer's *The Sultan and the Saint* (US) (2016; English) is a historical docudrama set during the Crusades. It recounts the true story of Saint Francis of Assisi, who crossed enemy lines to meet Sultan Muhammad Al-Kamil of Egypt, promoting peace between Muslims and Christians during a time of brutal conflict.

Ramesh Sharma's documentary *Chronicles of a Forgotten Genocide* (India) (2025; English) is a post-mortem of the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War and genocide, and the subsequent military coup that led to the assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the country's founding leader, in 1975.

Phule (India) (2025; Hindi), directed by Anant Mahadevan, is based on the true story of India's pioneering couple Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule, who challenged caste and gender norms and played a pivotal role in advancing women's rights and education in Maharashtra. It was screened in collaboration with Maharashtra Sanskritik ani Rannaniti Adhyayan Samiti.

Directed by Philip Delaquis and Barbara Miller, *Wisdom of Happiness* (US/Switzerland) (2024, English with subtitles) features the Dalai Lama, who, at nearly 90 years old, offers practical advice for navigating the challenges of the 21st century. It was screened in collaboration with the International Campaign for Tibet.

Screened in collaboration with the Raza Foundation, Sangeeta Gupta's *Qissa Be-Lagam* (India) (2024; Hindi) is a documentary about the acclaimed Hindi writer Mridula Garg.

My Childhood, My Country: 20 Years in Afghanistan (UK/Germany) (2022; English subtitles) by Phil Grabsky and Shoaib Sharifi traces the life of Mir Hussain over two decades, from boyhood to adulthood, amidst the conflict in Afghanistan. It was screened in collaboration with the Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Makarand Waikar's *My Radio My Life* (India) (2023; English, Hindi, Marathi with subtitles) explores the golden era of radio, before the advent of television, mobile phones and social media. It features a vintage radio museum in Bengaluru, the 1969 Apollo 11 moon landing commentary, the significance of ham radio in disasters like the Tsunami, and programmes like 'Binaca Geetmala' and cricket commentary.

Suhas Borker's documentary *Jagaran aur Gavahi: Tees Janvari* (India) (1991; Hindi), which he co-produced with Ramachandra Gandhi, highlights Mahatma Gandhi's message of truth, non-violence and peace using archival footage and voices of leaders like Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, and the Dalai Lama.

Jatugriha (The Burnt Home) (India) (1964; Bengali with English subtitles) by Tapan Sinha depicts the strained relationship of Satadal, a civil engineer, and his wife Madhuri, due to the emotional stress of childlessness. It was screened as part of the exhibition 'A Star named Arundhati', held during the IIC's Festival of the Arts 2025.

Directed by Japna Tulsi, *Darshan: Gaze of Grace* (India) (2024; English) is a documentary about the sage Ramana Maharshi (1879–1950), exploring his stillness through stories, poetry and songs. It was screened in collaboration with the Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

O. P. Srivastava's documentary *The Dirty Sky* (India) (2025; English) highlights the growing crisis of orbital pollution. Through powerful visuals and expert voices, it reveals the dangers of space debris, legal shortcomings and militarisation, while spotlighting global clean-up efforts.

Mita Vashisht's *Mani Kaul and that Thing Called the Actor* (India) (2025; English and Hindi) is a tribute to the late director with whom Vashisht collaborated on many films as an actress. The documentary examines the lessons Vashisht absorbed from Kaul while shooting for *Siddheshwari*, Kaul's contemplation on the life of Siddheshwari Devi, one of the greatest thumri singers of the 20th century.

Released by Sri Aurobindo Ashram—Delhi Branch, *Sri Aurobindo: An Indian Mystic Who Worked for Human Unity* (India) (2022; English) presents Sri Aurobindo's life, teachings and vision of human unity. The screening was followed by a discussion with the scriptwriter, Ramesh Bijlani. This was a collaboration with the Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

In *Ram Kumar: Nostalgic Longing* (India) (2010; English), French filmmaker Laurent Brégeat explores the life and philosophy of the reclusive, introspective abstractionist writer and artist Ram Kumar (1924–2018), and how his views shaped his work. The film was screened in collaboration with the Raza Foundation.

Lulu Men's documentary *Voices of Deoli* (US) (2025; English with subtitles) delves into the complexities and commotions of immigration through the lens of a small community in the US and Canada—the survivors of the Deoli internment camp in Rajasthan, where they were imprisoned for up to five years after the Sino-Indian War in 1962. The screening was followed by a conversation with Dilip D'Souza, co-author of the *Deoliwallahs*, which records untold stories of the Deoli internment through interviews with seven survivors.

Robert H. Gardner's *Enemy of the Reich: The Noor Inayat Khan Story* (US) (2014; English) follows the life of Noor Inayat Khan, a young woman of partly Indian origin, recruited by Britain's Special Operations Executive during World War II. She served as a covert radio operator in Nazi-occupied Paris and became the only link to the French Resistance. The screening was organised in collaboration with the Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

In Mitul Patel's *Mercy* (India) (2025; English and Hindi), on a silent Christmas Eve, Shekhar is forced to decide whether to end his mother's life. As machines beep and hope fades in the hospital room, he is torn between love, guilt and duty.

Vishal Bhutani's *Menace* (India) (2025; English and Hindi) examines the debate over stray dogs in Delhi–NCR following the 2025 Supreme Court order through the voices of lawyers, veterinarians, policymakers, rescue workers and citizens. The screening was followed by a discussion with the director, Ayesha Christina Benn and Jasmine Damkewala, moderated by Vineet Bhalla.

Directed by Terhi Ahava, *One Fire: A Documentary Film about Theosophy* (India) (2025; English) celebrates 150 years of the Theosophical Society. Ahava traces the movement from its inception in New York in 1875 by Helena Petrovna Blavatsky and Henry Steel Olcott to its global influence across philosophy, education, science and the arts. The screening was organised in collaboration with the Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Shuvendu Sen's *Broadway, Bars, and Fortune* (US) (39 min; English) centres on four formerly incarcerated individuals and a Broadway personality. Through interviews and personal interactions, the documentary highlights the healing effects of the arts and theatre in the rehabilitation of former inmates. The screening was followed by a discussion between the director, Narayanan Hariharan (also the guest of honour) and Sanjay Upadhyay.

Directed by Savita Sharma Nagar and Rajesh Amrohi, *Chowk University ka Vice Chancellor—Padma Bhushan Amritlal Nagar* (India) (2025; Hindi with English subtitles) is a docu-feature on one of the most significant voices in modern Hindi literature. Produced

by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and shot across Lucknow, Banaras, Mumbai and Delhi, it traces Nagar's journey through rare archival material, interviews and AI recreations. A discussion with the directors followed the screening.

Gail & Bharat (India) (2025; Marathi and English), directed by Somnath Waghmare, traces the lives and work of sociologist and Dalit rights activist Gail Omvedt and Bharat Patankar, respectively, capturing their shared journey through India's anti-caste and social justice movements. The screening was followed by a discussion with Smita Patil, Rahul Dev and the director.

Film Club

Five films were screened under 'British Film Classics':

—In David Lean's *Brief Encounter* (1945; English), a woman is tempted into an extramarital affair when she meets a stranger at a railway station. It received multiple awards, including the Grand Prize of the Festival, Cannes Film Festival 1946; National Board Review (NBR) Award for Top Ten Films, USA 1946; and New York Film Critics Circle (NYFCC) Award for Best Actress, 1946.

—*I Know Where I'm Going!* (1945; English), directed by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, tells the story of a young Englishwoman who, on her way to the Hebrides to marry her older, wealthier fiancé, begins to have second thoughts when the weather keeps them apart on different islands.

—In Robert Hamer's *It Always Rains on Sunday* (1947; English), an escaped convict attempts to hide at his former lover's house, but she has since married and is reluctant to help him.

—*Kes* (1969; English), directed by Ken Loach, follows a working-class English boy who spends his free time caring for and training his pet kestrel. It received the BAFTA Film Award for Most Promising Newcomer to Leading Film Roles and the BAFTA Film Award for Best Supporting Actor, BAFTA Awards 1971; Crystal Globe Award, Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 1970; NBR Award for Top Ten Films, USA 1971; and Writers' Guild of Great Britain Award 1971 for Best Screenplay.

—Terence Davies' *The Long Day Closes* (1985; English) is a reflection on a young boy in Liverpool growing up in the 1950s, surrounded by his loving family and the stern Catholic Church, as he begins school, develops a fascination with films, and yearns for companionship. It received the award for Best Screenplay, Evening Standard British Film Awards 1993; and Golden Spike for Best Film, Valladolid International Film Festival 1992.

Under 'Spotlight on Turkish Cinema', six films were screened:

—In Memduh Ün's *Three Friends* (Üç Arkadas) (1958; with English subtitles), three slum dwellers help a panhandler, a girl with visual impairment who brings new hope to their lives, especially to the one who falls in love with her. The film is one of Turkey's best-loved classics, a perennial feature on 'Top Ten' lists, as well as a poetic portrait of a rapidly expanding Istanbul.

—*Dry Summer* (Susuz Yaz) (1963; with English subtitles) by Metin Erksan follows a tobacco farmer who constructs a dam to divert water to his land during an exceptionally dry summer. It also depicts his affair with his brother's wife. It received the Golden Berlin Bear, Berlin International Film Festival 1964; and the Biennale Award, Venice Film Festival 1964.

—Nuri Bilge Ceylan's *The Small Town* (Kasaba) (1997; with English subtitles) shows a small town in Turkey through the eyes of children and depicts the growing complexity that comes with adulthood. It received multiple awards, including the Caligari Film Award at the Berlin International Film Festival in 1998; the FIPRESCI Prize (National Film Competition) and Special Prize of the Jury at the Istanbul Film Festival in 1998; and the Silver Award for Best Film at the Tokyo International Film Festival in 1998, among others.

—*Love in Another Language* (Baska Dilde Ask) (2009; with English subtitles) by Ilksen Basarir follows Onur, a deaf librarian who feels disconnected from the world, and his relationship with Zeynep, a woman unhappy with her life. It received multiple awards, including awards for Best Actor, Best Cinematography, Special Award of the Jury, Best Actress and Most Promising Writer, Ankara International Film Festival 2010; the Golden Aphrodite Award for Best Film, Cyprus International Film Festival 2010; and the Special Jury Award for Best Film, Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival 2009, among others.

—In Ismail Günes' *Where the Fire Burns* (Atesin Düstüğü Yer) (2012; with English subtitles), when a conservative family discovers that their 16-year-old daughter is pregnant, they must, according to tradition, kill her. It received the Grand Prix des Amériques and FIPRESCI Prize (World Competition), Montréal International Film Festival 2012; the Crystal Apricot Award for Best Music, MUFF Malatya International Film Festival 2012; and the Sadri Alisik Cinema Award for Best Actress, Sadri Alisik Theatre and Cinema Awards 2013.

—Two poets in Yilmaz Erdogan's *The Butterfly's Dream* (Kelebegin Rüyası) (2013; with English subtitles), suffering from tuberculosis and struggling to survive the famine-stricken times of World War II, compete through poetry when they both fall for the same girl. It received multiple awards including the Public Choice Award, World Soundtracks Award 2013; Foreign Film Score Award for Best Film Score, Atlantis Awards for Best Film Music, Feature Narrative and Best Male Actor, Moondance International Film Festival 2013; and SIYAD Awards for Best Actor, Best Supporting Actress, Best Cinematography and Best Music, Turkish Film Critics Association Awards 2013, among others.

In collaboration with the Polish Institute, eight films were screened under 'Spotlight on Films from Poland':

—In Andrzej Wajda’s *Ashes and Diamonds* (Popiół i diament) (1958; Polish with English subtitles), as World War II and the German occupation come to an end, the Polish resistance and the Soviet forces turn against each other to compete for leadership in Communist Poland. It received the FIPRESCI Prize at the Venice Film Festival in 1959.

—*Ida* (2013; Polish with English subtitles) by Pawel Pawlikowski follows Anna, a young novice in 1960s Poland, who is on the verge of taking her vows when she discovers a family secret dating back to the years of the German occupation. It received multiple awards, including the Oscar Award for Best Foreign Language Film of the Year, the Academy of Motion Pictures 2015; BAFTA Film Award for Best Film Not in the English Language, BAFTA Awards 2015; and European Film Awards for European Director, European Screenwriter and its People’s Choice Award in 2014, among others.

—Two sisters, one born with cerebral palsy and the other a national ballet dancer, struggle with the limitations of their bodies in Kinga Dębska’s *Feast of Fire* (Święto ognia) (2023; Polish with English subtitles). It received many recognitions, including the awards for Best Debut Actor, Best Supporting Actress and Golden Kangaroo for Best Film, Polish Film Festival 2023; Audience Award for Best Film, Polish Film Festival in America 2023; and Festival Awards for Best Actress, Best Director and Best Film, Ekran–Toronto Polish Film Festival, 2023, among others.

—In Klaudiusz Chrostowski’s *Ultima Thule* (2023; Polish with English subtitles), 30-year-old Bartek embarks on a solitary journey to the ‘furthest point’—the Scottish island of Foula—leaving behind his family and career after his father’s unexpected death. It received the Stanislaw Różewicz Award for Best Director, Koszalin Festival Debiutow Filmowych, Młodzi i Film 2023; and Best Film Award, Polish Film Festival 2023.

—Andrzej Jakimowski’s *Song of Goats* (Poland/Greece/Ireland) (2023; English) follows Andreas, a Polish man who travels to a Greek island after inheriting a field from his uncle. In a series of unexpected events, he falls in love and faces a dark reality. It received multiple awards, including the January Awards for Best Supporting Actress, Best Supporting Actor, Best Original Score and Best Feature Film, Rome Prisma Independent Film Awards 2024; January Award for Best Actress, Sweden Film Festival 2024; Best Film Award, Alexandria Mediterranean Film Festival 2024, among others.

—*Imagine* (France/Poland/Portugal/Great Britain) (2012; English and Polish with English subtitles) by Andrzej Jakimowski is about a blind teacher who breaks the rules to help a female student rediscover the pleasures of life. It received the Audience Award for Feature Film and Best Director Award, Warsaw International Film Festival 2012; Golden Reel Award for Best Polish Film, Association of Polish Filmmakers Critics Awards

2013; and Hollywood Eagle Award for Best Film, Polish Film Festival in Los Angeles 2013, among others.

—Malgorzata Skiba's *Chitraanjali: Stefan Norblin in India* (India/Poland) (2011; English) is a documentary about Polish artist, Stefan Norblin (1892–1952), who sought refuge in India during World War II and spent six eventful years working for the royal families of Morvi, Ramgarh and Jodhpur.

—The documentary *Enlightened Soul: The Three Names of Umadevi* (India/Poland) (2015; English) by Tonmoy Das explores the life of Wanda Dynowska, a Polish theosophist who supported three nationalist causes: the Indian independence movement, the Polish resistance against Nazi occupation, and the Tibetan government in exile after Chinese occupation. The Tibetans called her Tenzin Chodon (the Keeper of the Faith), and Gandhi named her Umadevi (the Bearer of Light).

'Four British Classic Films' featured:

—Alfred Hitchcock's *The 39 Steps* (1935; English) follows a Canadian man in London who becomes embroiled in a spy ring and is falsely accused of murder, forcing him to go on the run while trying to stop the spies.

—In Anthony Asquith's *The Winslow Boy* (1948; English), a young man in pre-World War I England is expelled from a naval academy over a minor theft, and his parents stir a political storm by demanding a trial.

—A young governess for two children believes that the house and grounds are haunted in Jack Clayton's *The Innocents* (1961; English).

—Joseph Losey's *The Servant* (1963; English) is a social allegory in which upper-class Tony hires a servant named Hugo Barrett, who turns out to have a hidden agenda.

Five films were screened under 'Summer at the Movies':

—Hiroshi Shimizu's *Mr. Thank You* (Arigatô-san/Japan) (1936; Japanese with English subtitles) portrays a bus journey through the mountains to the nearest train station.

—After a life defined by coldness, an ageing professor must confront the emptiness of his existence in Ingmar Bergman's *Wild Strawberries* (Smultronstället/Sweden) (1957; Swedish and Latin with English subtitles).

—In Jean Renoir's *Picnic on the Grass* (Le déjeuner sur l'herbe/France) (1959; French with English subtitles), a scientist advocating for artificial insemination for social betterment hosts an aseptic picnic to celebrate his engagement to a German cousin.

—*The Garden of the Finzi-Continis* (Il giardino dei Finzi Contini/Italy) (1970; Italian with English subtitles) by Vittorio de Sica depicts the story of the Finzi-Continis, a noble family from Ferrara, during the Jewish persecution in 1930s Italy.

—In Wim Wenders' *Paris, Texas* (West Germany/France/UK) (1984; English and Spanish), Travis Henderson, a drifter who has been missing for four years, wanders out of the desert to reconnect with society, himself, his life and his family.

'French Cinema Classics' included the screening of seven films:

—*The Rules of the Game* (La règle du jeu) (1939; with English subtitles) by Jean Renoir is a satirical comedy drama that depicts bourgeois life in France at the onset of World War II, as the rich and their servants gather at a French chateau. It received the 1966 Bodil Award for Best European Film.

—Jean Cocteau and René Clément's *Beauty and the Beast* (La Belle et la Bête) (1946; with English subtitles) is an adaptation of Jeanne-Marie Leprince de Beaumont's version of the fairy tale where a young woman takes her father's place as the prisoner of a mysterious beast, who wishes to marry her. It received the Prix Louis Delluc 1946.

—In Henri-Georges Clouzot's *Diabolique* (Les Diaboliques) (1955; with English subtitles), the wife and mistress of a despised school principal plan to murder him with what they believe is the perfect alibi.

—A small-time criminal, pursued by the authorities for a car theft and the murder of a police officer, tries to persuade an American journalism student to escape with him to Italy in Jean-Luc Godard's *Breathless* (À bout de souffle) (1960; with English subtitles).

—Agnès Varda's *Cléo from 5 to 7* (Cléo de 5 à 7) (1960; with English subtitles) follows Cleo, a singer and hypochondriac, who becomes anxious that she might have cancer while waiting for test results from her doctor. It received the Critics Award for Best Film from the French Syndicate of Cinema Critics in 1963.

—In Alain Resnais' *Last Year at Marienbad* (L'année dernière à Marienbad) (1961; with English subtitles), a man becomes acquainted with a woman in an isolated chateau and insists that they have met before.

—*My Night at Maud's* (Ma nuit chez Maud) (1969; with English subtitles) by Éric Rohmer is about a devout Catholic man whose principles are challenged during a one-night stay with Maud, a divorced woman with a strong personality.

Four popular films from the US, France and India were screened under 'Frames without Borders':

—In Henry King's *The Snows of Kilimanjaro* (US) (1952; English), writer Harry Street reflects on his life as he anticipates his death from an infection while on safari beneath Mount Kilimanjaro.

—*Spellbound* (US) (1945; English), directed by Alfred Hitchcock, follows a psychiatrist who safeguards the identity of an amnesia patient accused of murder while trying to recover his memory.

—M. S. Sathyu's *Garm Hawa* (Hot Winds/India) (1973; Hindi and Urdu with English subtitles) portrays post-Partition India, where a Muslim businessman and his family struggle for their rights.

—*The Bride Wore Black* (*La Mariée était en noir*/France) (1968; French with English subtitles) by François Truffaut is about a woman who methodically murders five men who were responsible for her husband's death on their wedding day.

'Resonance: Films that Stay with You' featured five films:

—In John Huston's *Moby Dick* (US/UK) (1956; English), an adaptation of Herman Melville's 1851 novel, the only survivor of a lost whaling ship recounts the story of his captain's self-destructive obsession with hunting the white whale, Moby Dick.

—*Ace in the Hole* (US) (1951; English) by Billy Wilder is about a cynical, discredited reporter who stirs up a media frenzy surrounding a man trapped in a cave in rural New Mexico to regain a job at a major newspaper.

—*The Last Emperor* (Italy/China/UK/France) (1987; English) is director Bernardo Bertolucci's Oscar-winning dramatisation of China's 11th and final monarch of the Qing dynasty: Emperor Puyi.

—Andrzej Wajda's historical drama *Katyn* (Poland) (2007; Polish, Russian, German with English subtitles) portrays the events at Katyn, a village in Russia, told through the eyes of women—mothers, wives and daughters—of the victims executed on Stalin's orders in 1940.

—In John Houston's *The Maltese Falcon* (US) (1941; English), private investigator Sam Spade becomes involved with a varied group of criminals, including a deceitful woman, in his search for a valuable falcon statuette.

'Two Masters, One Century: Remembering Ritwik Ghatak and Raj Khosla' featured four films from the oeuvres of the legendary Indian filmmakers:

—*Do Raaste* (Two Paths) (1969; Hindi with English subtitles), directed by Raj Khosla, explores the life of a lower-middle-class joint family and the conflicts that threaten to divide its members.

—Khosla's *Bambai ka Babu* (Gentleman from Bombay) (1960; Hindi with English subtitles) is inspired by O. Henry's short story 'A Double-Dyed Deceiver'. It follows childhood friends Babu and Malik who take different paths after a youthful crime, with Malik becoming a police inspector and Babu turning to crime.

—*Subarnarekha* (The Golden Thread) (1965; Bengali with English subtitles) is the final instalment of Ritwik Ghatak's trilogy of films on Partition and its impact. The film follows a young man's determination to support his sister and their adopted friend as they struggle for survival.

—Ghatak's *Titash Ekti Nadir Naam* (A River Called Titas) (1973; Bengali with English subtitles) is an adaptation of Adwaita Mallabarman's 1956 novel of the same name. Set in pre-independence India, a woman rescued from river bandits decides to raise her child alone, challenging traditions surrounding marriage, motherhood and social order.

'Yuletide Stories in Films' featured films reflecting the spirit of Christmas:

—Claude Jutra's *My Uncle Antoine* (Canada) (Mon oncle Antoine) (1971; French with English subtitles) depicts life in rural Québec (Canada) before the Asbestos Strike of 1949. Set at Christmas, the story is told from the perspective of 15-year-old Benoît, who is coming of age in a mining town.

—In George Seaton's *Miracle on 34th Street* (US) (1947; English), a divorced New York mother hires an old man to play Santa Claus at Macy's, and is startled by his claim to be the genuine article. When his sanity is questioned, a lawyer defends him in court by arguing that he's not mistaken.

—Written and directed by Brian King, *Night Train* (US) (2009; English) is a mystery thriller about two passengers and the conductor who discover that a man has died in their night train cabin while travelling during the Christmas holidays.

—*The Apartment* (US) (1960; English) by Billy Wilder follows an insurance clerk who, in the hope of climbing the corporate ladder, lets his superiors use his Upper West Side apartment for their extramarital affairs.

—*About a Boy* (US) (2002; English), directed by Paul and Chris Weitz, is an adaptation of Nick Hornby's 1998 novel. It follows Will, who attends single-parent meetings to impress women, and he meets Marcus, a troubled 12-year-old boy. As they become friends, Will learns to be responsible while helping Marcus with his studies.

—Hrishikesh Mukherjee's *Satyakam* (India) (1969; Hindi with English subtitles) is an adaptation of Narayan Sanyal's Bengali novel of the same name. Set in late British-ruled India, the film follows engineer Satyapriya, who marries Ranjana and faces family strife because of his unwavering honesty, which brings hardship.

Five films were screened as part of 'The Queen of Crime: A Cinematic Tribute to Agatha Christie' to mark her 50th death anniversary:

—*Laura* (US) (1944; English), an American film noir directed by Otto Preminger, is based on Vera Caspary's 1943 novel of the same name. It follows police detective Mark McPherson as he investigates the murder of a young woman who was shot. The film received five Oscar nominations, winning Best Black and White Cinematography.

—*Where the Sidewalk Ends* (US) (1950; English), another film noir by Otto Preminger, is inspired by the novel *Night Cry* by William L. Stuart. A cop, Mark Dixon, is already in trouble with his superiors for his brutal tactics when he accidentally kills a murder suspect.

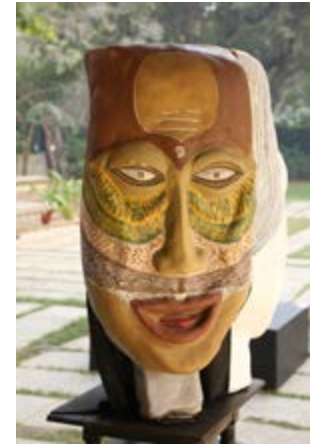
—In Ida Lupino's independent film noir thriller *The Hitch-Hiker* (US) (1953; English), two friends are taken hostage by a serial-murdering hitchhiker during a road trip to Mexico. It was the first mainstream-released American film of its type directed by a woman.

—Billy Wilder's *Witness for the Prosecution* (US) (1958; English) is an adaptation of Agatha Christie's 1953 play of the same name. A top-flight barrister attempts to defend a murder suspect accused of murdering a widow for the fortune she left behind. Elsa Lanchester received the 1958 Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in the film.

—Another adaptation of Agatha Christie's work of the same name, *Murder on the Orient Express* (UK) (1974; English), directed by Sidney Lumet, follows renowned Belgian detective Hercule Poirot, who is called upon to solve the murder of an American businessman while returning home on the Orient Express. Ingrid Bergman received the 1975 Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in the film.

Exhibitions

'Perceiving Pneuma Energy' featured sculptures by Vijay Kowshik, marking a shift from the artist's usual glasswork creations to bronze, and exploring a new artistic direction.



Perceiving Pneuma Energy



Canopy Reverie: Creations in Harmony with Nature

'Canopy Reverie: Creations in Harmony with Nature' was a textile exhibition by Pooja Jayan, using leaf imprints, natural dyes and fibre art.

Andretta, a village in Himachal Pradesh, has been home to a vibrant artist community for several decades. 'A Path to Andretta' showcased the works of its artists, potters, printmakers and musicians, including Mansimran Singh, Mary Singh, Gauri Sharma, Sheila Sedgewick, Lipoklemla Ao, Shubham Sankhyan, Manish Arora, Yamini J. Paul, Bianca Bellantyne, Suchika Rathode and Arjun Sen.



Wabi Sabi Watercolour Artworks

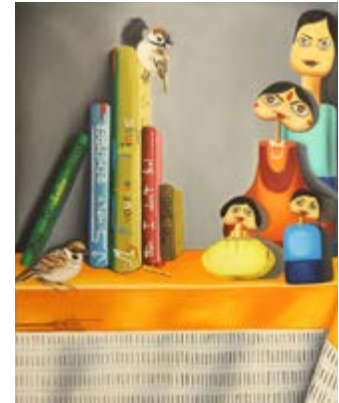


A Path to Andretta

'Wabi Sabi Watercolour Artworks' featured paintings by Shefali Upadhyay inspired by diverse plant life, from grape leaves to delicate lotus flowers, resonating with the timeless philosophy of finding perfection in imperfection.

In 'Symphony of Colours', organised in collaboration with Arth Art International, paintings and artworks by artists from India and Southeast Asia, including the

Philippines, Indonesia and Singapore, were showcased. On display were works by Nemi Miranda, August Santiago, Bernardo Balagtas, Dolphee Alcantara and Aaron Bautista from the Philippines; Maria Tiwi from Indonesia; Dion Khoo from Singapore; and Shobhita Hariharan, Sita Sudhakar, Stanley Suresh, Ratnaa Sharma, Lal Ratnakar, P. J. Stalin, Sandeep Udayagiri, Ashima Sehgal, Monalisa Mehta, Maitreyi Kumar and Gurcharan Singh, among others from India.



Symphony of Colours

‘Chitrakar Legacy: A Journey through Nepal and India’, showcased Nepal’s royal, political, cultural and spiritual life, as well as the cultural continuities between Nepal and India, documented by four generations of the Chitrakar family—Dirgha Man Chitrakar (1877–1951), Ganesh Man Chitrakar (1916–1985), Kiran Man Chitrakar, and Swaraj Man Chitrakar. It also included a curatorial walkthrough and an illustrated lecture titled, ‘Nepal Remembered: Historical Images from Dirgha Man and Ganesh Man Chitrakar’—both conducted by Cristeena Chitrakar. Curated by Kiran Man Chitrakar and Cristeena Chitrakar, it was a collaboration with the Embassy of Nepal, New Delhi; and the B. P. Koirala India–Nepal Foundation.



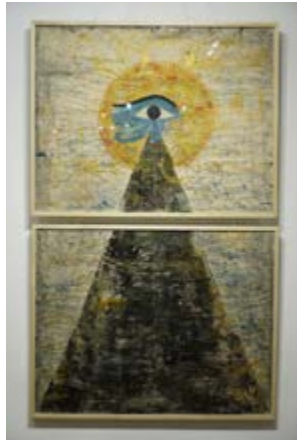
*Chitrakar Legacy:
A Journey through Nepal and India*

Curated by Richa Jha, ‘Becoming’ celebrated the past and present of 130 years of art in printed children’s literature in India. It featured illustrations by 60 artists, including Abanindranath Tagore, Sukumar Ray, Satyajit Ray, K. G. Subramanyan, Mickey Patel, Pulak Biswas, Jagdish Joshi, Sigrun Srivastav and Atanu Roy. As part of the exhibition, three workshops—‘The Art of Picture Book Making’ by Ruchi Shah, ‘Illustrating for Children’s Magazines’ by Taposhi Ghoshal and ‘Creating a Wordless Picture Book’ by Suvidha



Becoming

Mistry—along with a guided tour by the curator, were held. It was a collaboration with Pickle Yolk Books.



Coexistence of Past and Present

Featuring mixed media paintings by Md. Anirul Islam, 'Coexistence of Past and Present', curated by Gaidunliu P. R., examined the connection between history, modernity and nature, analysing how the old and new, the natural and man-made, converge.

'Power of Energy' showcased paintings and installations by Nilansu Bala Sasamal, exploring energy as a vital, unseen force present in all aspects of life—from nature to the human spirit.



Power of Energy

'Speaking Stones: Rock Art of Ladakh' showcased Ahtushi Deshpande's photographs from her book of the same name, featuring petroglyph galleries from Ladakh. It included a curated walkthrough by the author as well as a discussion on the book between Alka Pande and her.



Speaking Stones: Rock Art of Ladakh



*From Eight with Art—
Painting the Soul of
Northeast India*

Curated by Sentila T. Yanger as part of the series, 'A Fabric of Narratives: The Many Facets of Northeast India',

'From Eight with Art—Painting the Soul of Northeast India' showcased works by eight artists from the region, who drew inspiration from ancestral stories, craft techniques, landscapes, botanical art and visual traditions. On display were works by Sujit Das, Phaibhakupar Karlukhi, Millan Laishram, Lalhming Mawii, Mrinmoy Debbarmann, Tase Vinei, Pill Reniya and Karma Tenrab. It was a collaboration with the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.

'Galliyon se Guzarti Nazar' (A Glance through the Lane), was an exhibition of watercolour, ink and charcoal by Mohd. Israr, depicting the narrow streets and quiet corners of Old Delhi as seen through the artist's eyes.



Galliyon se Guzarti Nazar



Dear Kundun

‘Kundun’ means ‘the presence’, or ‘the one who is present’, used reverentially within Tibetan Buddhist communities for the 14th Dalai Lama. ‘Dear Kundun’ celebrated the spiritual leader’s 90th birthday by featuring artworks and reflections by 90 Tibetan children from around the globe who shared their personal messages for him. It was a collaboration with the Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama; and Khadhok: Tibetan Arts’ Collective.

Shubhendu Sarkar’s monochromatic drawings, created using cross-hatching and textured shading techniques, in ‘Tracing the Unseen’, brought to life the unseen realities of India’s daily-wage workers.



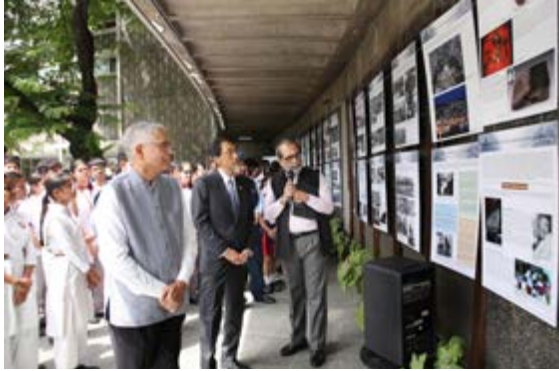
Tracing the Unseen

Based on Aditi Mehta’s three-volume cultural memoir-cum-ethnographic work of the same name, ‘Playing with the Goddess: Gavri of the Mewar Bhils’, showcased a selection of photographs by Sudharak Olwaye, taken from the book. It showed the Bhil tribe’s rituals and performances during the 40-day festival called Gavri.



Playing with the Goddess: Gavri of the Mewar Bhils

‘Vinyl Visions: Exploring the Dynamic Art of Film Soundtrack Album Covers’, curated by Munjarita Mondal from the collection of Arunabha Ghosh, was a sensory journey through the art of the album cover, exploring



Remembering Hiroshima–Nagasaki

how the physical aspects of records—their sleeves, textures, and imagery—evoke a personal connection to the music.

‘Remembering Hiroshima–Nagasaki’ revisited the nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan 80 years ago in 1945. The photo exhibition began with the causes, casualties and suffering of the bombings, followed by a section on disarmament treaties and India’s evolving positions. It included a talk by Rakesh Sood, attended by students from various Delhi schools.



Hamaara Itihaas Archives of Freedom Fighters

‘Hamaara Itihaas Archives of Freedom Fighters’, curated by Sagari Chhabra, highlighted oral testimonies of India’s forgotten freedom fighters from around the world. It featured photographs, documents, audio clips and the film *Asli Azaadi*. The work, ongoing since 1995, placed a particular emphasis on women freedom fighters.



Memories in Blue & White: Explorations in Cyanotype

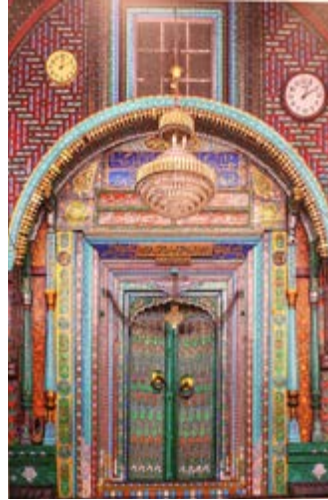
‘Memories in Blue & White: Explorations in Cyanotype’ showcased 30 solar cyanotype prints by Nova Bronstein Kak, exploring interior and exterior landscapes, portraits, and abstract compositions.

Images in Rhimon Bose’s ‘Handbreak’ explored the interplay of factors influencing choices between personal and societal spheres, merging art and fashion as part of the narration.

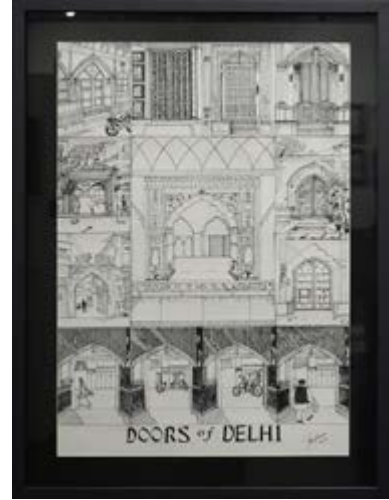
‘Naqsh...The Imprint’ showcased photographs and translations of architectural epigraphy in Kashmir from the 14th to 19th centuries based on detailed documentation undertaken by Sameer Hamdani, Mehran Qureshi, Tabish Haider Gazi, Umar Farooq, Zoya Mehraj



Handbreak



Naqsh...The Imprint



Between Delhi and the Clouds

Khan and Taha Mughal. As part of the exhibition, a panel discussion on 'Material Imaginations: Understanding Kashmir through Architecture and Text', moderated by Sameer Hamdani, was held.

'Between Delhi and the Clouds' featured T. K. Manoj Kumar's pen-and-ink sketches spanning over two decades, capturing Delhi's timeless chaos alongside Mussoorie's Himalayan charm.

Paintings by Anirudh Kumar, created with natural colours and ash, blending historical themes with a contemporary style, were showcased in 'Ancient Mystery: A Unique Journey'.



Ancient Mystery: A Unique Journey

Curated by Jyoti A. Kathpalia, 'Weaving Water: Feminine Countercultures in Paint and Print', showcased the works of 15 women artists across various media, including painting, printmaking, sculpture and mixed media, alongside the writings of Ajeet Cour, focussing on their shared experiences of discrimination and lived realities.

A collaboration with Ganga Jamuna Culture Foundation, 'I Am a Qawwal' showcased photographic documentation of qawwali performers from Kakori, Malerkotla, Rampur and Hyderabad. The exhibition served as a visual and anthropological record, capturing them in their natural environment and highlighting their distinctive personalities as they uphold and carry forward a 700-year-old legacy.

Within the strict vocabulary of black-and-white photographs, visual artist and art director Iman Sengupta presented moments from everyday life, highlighting what is often overlooked in the exhibition 'In Plain Sight'.



Weaving Water: Feminine Countercultures in Paint and Print



In Plain Sight

'Journey of an Artist: An Exhibition of Ceramic Sculptures and Drawings' by Sonali Chouhan presented sculptures inspired by nature, folk culture and everyday life in Madhya Pradesh. Blending clay, symbolic leaf motifs and human forms, the artworks reflected the artist's emotional connection to folk traditions.



Journey of an Artist



Heads and Tails: New Watercolours and Drawings

Golak Khandual's 'Heads and Tails: New Watercolours and Drawings' brought together intimate portraits of real and imagined people—friends, family, workers and characters shaped by the artist's encounters. Drawing on life and memory, the works explored shifting identities and the masks we wear, revealing how reality and imagination continually blur.

'Three Moderns: Himmat Shah, Krishen Khanna, Thota Vaikuntam', curated by Uma



Three Moderns

Nair, offered a rare confluence of three Indian modern masters through an ensemble of 12 sculptures exploring the human form, lived experience and everyday rituals. On display were Himmat Shah's evocative heads, sculptures from Krishen Khanna's Bandwalla series, and Vaikuntam's Dravidian bronzes.

'Choti Si Aasha: Children for a Better World', featured paintings by the students of Vidya Niketan Senior Secondary School, New Delhi. Through themes such as peace, equality, women's empowerment, environmental conservation, artificial intelligence, discrimination and global conflicts, the exhibition reflected the children's empathy, awareness and creative responses to the world around them.



Choti Si Aasha

Held in collaboration with the All India Working News Cameramen's Association (WNCA), the seventh edition of 'The Big Picture 2025', showcased images by 69 photojournalists from across India. The works reflected the role of photojournalism in documenting history, balancing authenticity with evolving technologies, and capturing candid moments that reveal the depth, diversity and immediacy of life. As part of the exhibition, Dheeraj Paul delivered a lecture on 'Photojournalism in the Times of Artificial Intelligence (AI)'.



Remembering the Forest

Curated by Tejal Shah and coordinated by Ritu-Ngapnon Varuni, 'Remembering the Forest: An Exhibition of Himalayan Natural Art' showcased artworks by women artists from Mountainwind Himalayan Ecoversity. Presented in collaboration with the Himalayan Rilung Foundation (THRILF), the artworks were created using forest-sourced pigments and handmade tools, highlighting natural art practices, ecological learning, and sustainable creativity.

'Salsabil' presented a selection of abstract photographs and videos by artist Saba Hasan, drawn from her travels and walks through cities, rivers, lakes and natural landscapes.



Salsabil

'Stories on Scroll: *Patachitra*' featured traditional Patachitra scroll paintings by Sahajan Chitrakar



Stories on Scroll

from West Bengal, created using natural pigments and handmade materials. His works narrated epics, folk legends and contemporary social themes rooted in Bengal's living scroll tradition.

Qamar Dagar's calligraphy was presented alongside Pashmina shawls by Ehsaas in 'Ehsaas-e-Qalam aur Pashm'. Curated by Manisha Gawade, with Hindustani Classical music by Wasifuddin Dagar, it brought together pictorial calligraphy by Qamar Dagar, music and Pashmina as interconnected art forms, celebrating strokes, sound and craft. This was a collaboration with Qalamkaari Creative Calligraphy Trust.

Library

To honour Durgabai Deshmukh, freedom fighter, one of the architects of India's Constitution, and a pioneer in social and educational reforms, Shyam Saran, President, IIC, inaugurated the renaming of the Library on 9 July 2025. The IIC Library is now called the Durgabai Deshmukh Library.



*Renaming of the Library
to the Durgabai Deshmukh Library*

The Library has added **699** books this year, increasing the collection to **57,070** books. This does not include the rare books collection, which comprises almost **5,540** titles, across the India Collection, the Himalayan Club Collection and the Bilgrami Collection. It received about **160** periodicals, magazines and newspapers, and continues to provide services via the DigiLib Portal, the JSTOR database, the Grant Sanjeevani Critical Collective and other open access e-resources. The Library has taken the initiative to provide information about the chapters in edited books, enhancing the value of these books. As many as **1,202** chapters from edited books have been added this year to the Online Public Access Catalogue. In all, **28,787** book chapters have been included in the database so far.

The Library continued to provide inter-library loan services using various network resources, including those offered by DELNET, and borrowed **209** books from other libraries and loaned **233** books to other institutions. During this period, **12,114** books were borrowed by Members from the Library. A total of **391** CDs/DVDs were added to the database, increasing the collection to **7,861** CDs/DVDs.

The Library has introduced a new alerting service to keep Members informed about themes and ideas explored in recent edited volumes and publications across various disciplines. Two important resources have been added to the Library: Magzter, which provides unlimited access to over 10,000 national and international magazines and newspapers; and *BluePrint*, an exclusive monthly magazine from *Business Standard* focussing on defence and geopolitics.

Fifty-six scholars were granted temporary membership to use the Library's facilities for their research work.

A ‘Digital Security Training Workshop’ was held on 3 September 2025 in collaboration with Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP); Asia Centre, a Bangkok-based civil society research institute; and Google. It featured a technical presentation by Asia Centre’s Sanjay Gathia and James Gomez. It trained users and consumers to recognise digital threats, adopt strategies for prevention and protection, and strengthen digital hygiene and well-being. Participants received a joint certificate from Google, Asia Centre, WISCOMP and IIC.

National Conclave on ‘Odyssey of AI: Challenges and Opportunities Beyond DeepSeek’



*Odyssey of AI:
Challenges and Opportunities Beyond DeepSeek*

Held on 29 April 2025, the seminar brought together scholars and practitioners at the intersection of science, ethics and society. The theme, ‘From Code to Conscience: Rethinking AI’s Role in Society’, positioned Artificial Intelligence (AI) not only as a technological phenomenon but also as a crucible for confronting moral and philosophical imperatives. It included four sessions: ‘Navigating the New World of AI/ML: A User’s Perspective’ emphasised that AI is

already embedded in the daily realities of knowledge creation, transforming scientific workflows and experimental design; ‘The Societal Impact of AI’ explored the ethical terrain of algorithmic power, from reinforcing bias to challenging structures of inclusion and justice; ‘Computational Gastronomy: Blending Food with AI/ML’ showcased how data science and AI are applied to culinary practices and food systems; and ‘Trust in AI Systems’ outlined three essential pillars of responsible AI—transparency, accountability and explainability.

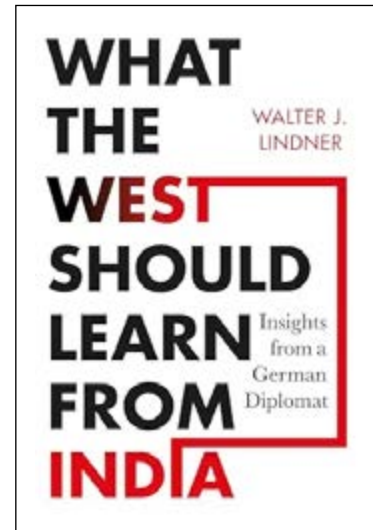
Book Discussions and Webinars

In all, 104 book discussions and literary programmes, both virtual and in-person, were organised:

Kanha Trehan’s *A World Within: Tales & Triumphs of Growing up with Autism* (India: Self Published, 2024) was discussed with Shayama Chona as Chair. The discussants were

K. N. Shrivastava, Merry Barua, Rohit Verma, Neha Bhimwal and the author. Trehan's memoir details his experiences as an autistic person through short stories, tracing the challenges that have affected daily activities such as eating, drinking, walking and communication, and how he navigated these obstacles with the support of his family and friends.

What the West Should Learn from India: Insights from a German Diplomat by Walter J. Lindner (New Delhi: Juggernaut, 2024) was discussed by Jawed Ashraf, Ronen Sen, Meera Shankar and the author, with Constantino Xavier as moderator. In his book, Lindner discusses India from a Western perspective—for instance, its democracy, how it has been shaped and challenged by Hindu nationalism, its caste system, poverty and violence against women.



Musaliar King: Decolonial Historiography of Malabar's Resistance by Abbas Panakkal (New Delhi: Bloomsbury India, 2024) was discussed by Saleena Kuzhuppil Basheer, Syed Iqbal Hasnain, Pallavi Raghavan and the author. K. P. Fabian was the Chair. Historically, the Malabar resistance has been interpreted through colonial lenses, with terms such as 'rebellion', 'revolt', 'fanaticism', 'feminism' and 'Moplah Amazon' shaping the narrative. The book explores the rich and nuanced history of Malabar from a decolonial perspective.

Ramayana in World Art and Thought, edited by Shovana Narayan (Gurugram: Shubhi Publications, 2025), was discussed with Dr. Karan Singh as Chair and Murli Manohar Joshi as chief guest. The discussants were Yatindra Mishra and the editor. The volume presents 18 essays by authors, including historians, litterateurs and scholars, who reflect on the Ramayana from different perspectives, ranging from the historical connection between Ayodhya and South Korea to Rama's footprints in Punjab, the Ramayana in Mughal paintings, Hanuman's devotion, Sita's shakti, among others.

Idea of Order: Perspectives from Central and Eastern Europe (1989–2022) by Rakesh Batabyal (New Delhi: KW Publishers, 2024) was discussed under the Chairmanship of T. C. A. Raghavan. Among the discussants were Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Gulshan Sachdeva, Margit Koves and the author. In 1989, many countries in Central and Eastern Europe began moving towards a new world defined by neoliberal economic and political systems. The book presents the major frames shaping the idea of order, influenced by the socio-economic and cultural histories of different locations in Central and Eastern Europe.

At the Heart of Power: The Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh by Shyamlal Yadav (India: Rupa Publications, 2024) was discussed with Ram Bahadur Rai as Chair. The discussants were Sushma Yadav, Qamar Wahid Naqvi and the author. The book delves into the lives and times of the 21 chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh, from Independence to the present day, navigating the tribulations and triumphs of the socio-political terrain during their terms and offering insights into their ideologies, policies and leadership styles.

How Women Become Poems in Malabar by Smitha Sehgal (New Delhi: Red River, 2023) was discussed by Sanjay Jain, Archana Pathak Dave, Sahana Ahmed, Jonaki Ray and the author. Sukrita Paul Kumar was the Chair. The book centres on three themes: the feminine experience, transformation and the unique setting of the Malabar coast along the Arabian Sea.



Edited by N. N. Vohra, *India's National Security Challenges* (New Delhi: Primus Books, 2023) was discussed with Shyam Saran as Chair. The discussants were Deependra S. Hooda, C. Raja Mohan, Indrani Bagchi, R. Banerji and the editor of the book. A volume comprising 10 chapters, written by eminent professionals from the military and strategic community, the book elucidates the importance of formulating a national security policy while underlining India's evolving security challenges.

Kalpna Sutaria's *Cooling our Environment: An Architect's Vision to Combat Global Warming* (Austin: Atmosphere Press, 2024) was discussed with Suhas Borker as Chair. The discussants included Anumita Roychowdhury, Ashok B. Lall and the author. With over 40 per cent of all emissions coming from buildings, Sutaria's book argues that the way buildings are designed, constructed and operated affects both the environment and human health.



'In Memoriam: Humra Quraishi—A Poetry and Prose Tribute' was held in memory of the veteran journalist and author who passed away in January 2025. The programme included readings and recitations by Jayshree M. Tripathi, Amarendra Khatua, Swati Pal, Sahana Ahmed, Deepa Agarwal and Mustafa Quraishi.

Memory Keepers: Poems by Payal Nagpal (New Delhi: Signer, 2024) was discussed with Taisha Abraham as Chair. The discussants were Anand Prakash, Radha Chakravarty and the author. Nagpal's poems capture the subtlety and nuance of feeling, noting autumnal chinars, golden foliage, pebbles and heaps of edged stone, and the moist air.

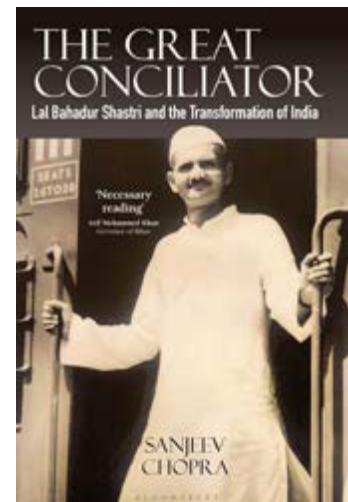
Historical Perspectives: Illuminating Minds on Blue Waters by Pascal Alan Nazareth (New Delhi: Konark Publishers, 2025) was discussed virtually by Shyam Saran, K. N. Shrivastava, Ashok Sajjanhar, T. P. Sreenivasan, K. P. R. Nair and the author, with Ranjan Mathai as moderator. After retiring from his diplomatic career, Nazareth was invited to deliver 35 enrichment lectures on cruise ships, covering regions from Edinburgh to Wellington and from Kobe to Rio de Janeiro between 1995 and 2018. The book covers 20 lectures he delivered on Asia and Europe.

Genome to Om: Evolving Journey of Modern Science to Meta-science by Bhushan Patwardhan and Indu Ramchandani (Noida: BluOne Ink, 2024) was discussed by Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Santishree Pandit, Sachin Chaturvedi, Kavita A. Sharma and the authors. The book explores the desired transition from modern science to meta-science, blending ethical, moral and spiritual insights while recognising the interconnectedness of all aspects of life.

Kaia Roy's book of poems *Midnight Haze* (New Delhi: Authorspress, 2025) was discussed with Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath as Chair. The discussants were Sunit Tandon, Sukrita Paul Kumar, Malashri Lal and the author. Roy's debut collection navigates the complexities of identity and the haziness that often accompanies it, reminding us to look inward and to get to know, accept, and love oneself, despite imperfections.

Vasna Ek Nadi Ka Naam Hai, a collection of Hindi poems by Savita Singh (New Delhi: Vani Prakashan, 2024), was discussed by Rohini Agrawal, Sudha Singh, Aditi Maheshwari and the author, with Sukrita Paul Kumar as Chair. Singh's book comes almost 25 years after her first collection of poems, *Apne Jaisa Jeevan*, and showcases a transformation in Indian society and Hindi poetry through themes such as lust, passing through life, sleep, consciousness under immense pressure, Palestine and grief, among others.

The Great Conciliator: Lal Bahadur Shastri and the Transformation of India by Sanjeev Chopra (New Delhi: Bloomsbury India, 2025) was discussed with Arif Mohammed Khan as the chief guest. The discussants were Adarsh Shastri, Shekhar Gupta, Aishwarya Pandit and the author. Chopra's biography



of India's second prime minister, who established institutions that put India on the path to self-sufficiency and helped defend against external aggression during his approximately 18-month term, delves into the former PM's background, his rise from humble beginnings and the sacrifices made along the way. The author has used available documents, accounts from those who worked closely with him and interviews with family members.

Unpolitically Correct: The Politics and Economics of Governance by Satya Mohanty (New Delhi: Rupa Publications, 2024) was discussed with Shashi Tharoor as Chair. The discussants were Ashutosh Varshney, Nitin Desai and the author. The book examines issues related to inequality, health, education, banking, insurance and employment from varied perspectives, dissecting the narratives perpetuated by successive governments, parts of academia and the media.

Stout and Tender: A Collection of Poems Pure and Impure by Badri Raina (New Delhi: AuthorsUpFront, 2024) was discussed by Shashi Tharoor, Mani Shankar Aiyar, Ratna Raman, B. Mangalam and the author. Srinagar, Kashmir, where Raina spent his childhood and youth, is the backdrop to both tender and hard-hitting outpourings. In his poems, the academic-poet, while musing and being introspective, engages with contemporary brutalities; anguish, sad and reviling ironies; the slow, stabbing death of humanism; and societal change inflicted by the digital age.

Nalanda: How it Changed the World by Abhay K. (New York: Vintage Books, 2025) was discussed in a conversation between William Dalrymple and the author, moderated by Arpan Tulsyan. The book tells the story of the rise, fall and revival of Nalanda Mahavihara, the world's first residential university. Drawing on historical evidence, travel records and cultural memory, the volume traces how this ancient university shaped the intellectual landscape of its era, influencing generations of thinkers and spiritual leaders.

Unseen Paths: Spirituality and Consciousness, edited by Romola Butalia (New Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishing House, 2024) was discussed by Umesh Kabir, Himanshu Joshi, Sunita Pant Bansal, Trilochan Shastri and the editor. The volume is a compilation of personal insights and journeys from renowned scholars, thinkers and philosophers; practitioners and teachers of different spiritual traditions; and writers and artists. Through introspective essays, it explores the frontiers of consciousness that have captivated humanity for centuries.

The symposium 'Rediscovering Delhi, Rediscovering the City' featured discussions on three publications, facilitated by Janki Devi Memorial College: *Rediscovering the City in Covid Times* and *Rediscovering Shahjahanabad*, both edited by Jitender Gill as part of

the ongoing project ‘Rediscovering Delhi’, led by her, which examines the history of the heritage sites on Delhi’s streets, and *Once Upon a Time: Reimagining Fairytales*, a compilation of works by students of the English Department who rewrote the fairytales they grew up with and have outgrown. The discussants were Alexander Philips, Sohail Hashmi, Swati Pal and Jitender Gill.

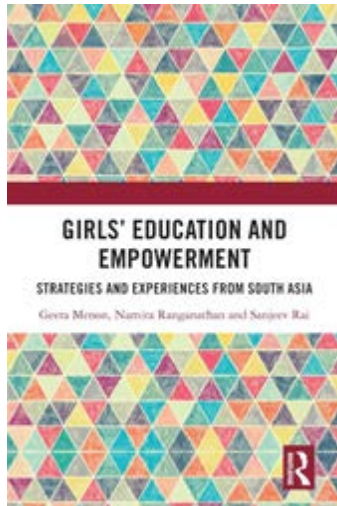
Postcolonial Bollywood and Muslim Identity: Production, Representation and Reception by Nadira Khatun (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024) was discussed with Manjula Narayan as moderator. The discussants were Ira Bhaskar, Mujibur Rehman, Manoj Jha and the author. The book examines how Muslims are represented in postcolonial Bollywood cinema, drawing on earlier questions and concerns about narrative style and the politics of representing Muslims, traditionally portrayed through the lens of religion.

In the programme ‘Meet the Author’, organised in collaboration with Sahitya Akademi, Navtej Sarna was in conversation with Malashri Lal. Sarna, a former diplomat, whose writing spans fiction, non-fiction, history and translation, delved into questions such as what, why and how one writes.

A Place Called Home: Stories by Susham Bedi, edited by Rekha Sethi and Hina Nandrajog (New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 2024), was discussed by Neeta Gupta and the editors, with Malashri Lal as Chair. Eminent Hindi writer, Susham Bedi (1945–2020) wrote extensively about the Indian diasporic experience, focussing on socio-cultural dilemmas and questions of identity and transformation. This anthology presents a selection of her best-known and most beloved short stories, translated into English.

V. K. Cherian’s *Noon Films and Magical Renaissance of Malayalam Cinema* (New Delhi: Atlantic Publishers & Distributors, 2024) was discussed by Shantanu Ray Chaudhuri, U. Radhakrishnan, Eshan Sharma and the author, with K. P. Fabian as moderator. The book offers a glimpse of the new wave in Malayalam cinema during the 1970s and 1980s, the evolution of the film society movement, and the concept of arthouse or parallel cinema. Writer–filmmaker Cherian centres the narrative on the ‘A-team’, comprising Adoor Gopalakrishnan, G. Aravindan and John Abraham.

He Almost Prevented Partition: The Life and Times of Dr. M. C. Davar (New Delhi: Speaking Tiger, 2025) by Praveen Davar was discussed with Dr. Karan Singh as Chair. The discussants were Farooq Abdullah, Mani Shankar Aiyar, Apoorvanand, Wajahat Habibullah and the author. The book covers the final phase of the freedom struggle that led to the subcontinent’s independence and partition, highlighting M. C. Davar’s efforts to prevent partition, his dedication to refugee rehabilitation, and his promotion of Indo-Pak amity and universal peace. The book includes letters to Davar from leaders such as Jinnah, Nehru and Shastri.



Girls' Education and Empowerment: Strategies and Experiences from South Asia by Geeta Menon, Namita Ranganathan and Sanjeev Rai (New Delhi: Routledge India, 2024) was discussed with Parvin Sinclair as Chair. The discussants were Ranjit Rae, Abhimanyu Singh, Krishna Menon and the authors. The book provides an understanding of girls' education and empowerment, and explores macro- and micro-level barriers in South Asian countries, using selected education and gender-related indicators and qualitative data. Country-specific situational issues, such as economic crises, political instability, natural disasters, and conflict, which affect girls' lives and education, are underscored for contextual understanding.

Little Lhasa: Reflections in Exiled Tibet by Tsering Namgyal Khortsa (New Delhi: Speaking Tiger, 2024) was discussed with Swati Chawla as moderator. The discussants were Kaveri Gill, Manjula Narayan and the author. After more than 70 years in exile, a generation of Tibetans has come of age, keeping their culture alive. The book presents diverse voices of the community—students, organisers, practitioners of the faith of Tibetan Buddhism, filmmakers, journalists, writers and ex-political prisoners—through essays and interviews, as the author brings together different strands of the Tibet-in-exile experience.

F. N. Souza: The Archetypal Artist by Janeita Singh (New Delhi: Niyogi Books, 2024) was discussed with K. N. Shrivastava as Chair. The discussants were Alka Pande, Nidheesh Tyagi and the author. Through 21 essays, organised in five sections, the book explores Souza as a feminist artist, his depiction of the female nude, the impact of his early years in Goa and Mumbai, and the carnivalesque and grotesque elements in his work. It concludes with viewing his art through the lens of Jungian analysis and East–West philosophy by highlighting the concepts of *anima* and *tantra* in his oeuvre.

Medusa and Other Poems by Sangeeta Gupta (New Delhi: Prithvi Fine Art and Cultural Centre, 2025) was discussed by Sukrita Paul Kumar, Mandira Ghosh, Radha Chakravarty and the author. Amarendra Khatua was the Chair. Drawing on the myth of Medusa as a feminist symbol, these poems explore themes of identity, rage, healing and inner strength.

Meenakshi Bharat's *Hindi Cinema and Pakistan: Screening the Idea and the Reality* (New Delhi: Routledge India, 2024) was discussed by Ira Bhaskar, Amit Khanna, Nishat Haider, Kamayani Kumar and the author, with Jasleen Vohra as moderator., The book

offers a multi-platform, multi-pronged exploration of the appearances, invocations, representations and treatment of Pakistan and Pakistanis in Hindi cinema, through analyses of films made from the perspectives of war, terrorism, love, sport and humour.

Forever Yours and Other Poems by Swati Pal (New Delhi: Hawakal Publishers, 2024) was discussed with G. J. V. Prasad as Chair. The discussants were B. Mangalam, Manju Kapur and the author. Pal's poems centre on the transience of human life and mark both her personal journey as a poet of/in grief and her engagement with universal themes of loss, pain and memory.

Ahtushi Deshpande's *Speaking Stones: The Rock Art of Ladakh* (New Delhi: Pragati Offset, 2024) was discussed with K. N. Shrivastava as Chair. The discussants were Alka Pande and the author. This richly illustrated monograph showcases petroglyph galleries from Ladakh, with over 260 colour photographs and accompanying text, offering a virtual tour of outdoor galleries across 22,800 square miles. Organised into six sections based on geography and regional significance, it includes night photography and maps for each section.

In Her Footsteps: Women who Made India by Mandira Ghosh (Haryana: Parchment Publications, 2025) was discussed with B. P. Singh as Chair. The discussants were Rita Malhotra, Amarendra Khatua, Reena Pandey, Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee and the author. Structured in three parts, the book highlights the voices of women who shaped India's cultural, literary and historical landscape—from philosophers such as Gargi and Maitreyi, to poets like Mirabai and Kamala Das, and freedom fighters such as Rani Lakshmibai, Kalpana Datta and countless others.

India Inked: Elections in the World's Largest Democracy by Poonam Agarwal (New Delhi: Bloomsbury India, 2025) was discussed by Ashok Lavasa, Jagdeep Chhokar, Pawan Khara, Anjali Bhardwaj and the author, with Chirag Thakkar as moderator. Journalist–author Poonam Agarwal's book recounts her investigation into how electoral bonds carry unique identity numbers visible under ultraviolet light, challenging the Central government's claim that the scheme promised anonymity to political donors, leading to the Supreme Court's landmark judgement that the 2018 Electoral Bond Scheme was 'unconstitutional'.

Disaster Planning and Governance in India: Experts' Experiences and Insights, edited by Sunita Reddy and Anil Kumar Sinha (Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2023), was discussed by Dhananjay Singh, A. K. Mangotra, Chandrani Bandyopadhyay Neogi, Ian Davis and the editors. It was moderated by Anshu Sharma. Written in simple language by disaster professionals, this book provides an overview of disaster management,

including governance issues and scientific and technological advancements in disaster areas, as well as recovery processes, which have significantly reduced the loss of life.

Malashri Lal's *Mandal Dhwani*, edited by Alka Tyagi (New Delhi: Hawakal Publishers, 2024), was discussed with Kriti Sengupta as moderator. The discussants were Anamika, Rekha Sethi, and the author and editor of the book. This collection of poems is the Hindi translation of Malashri Lal's *Mandalas of Time*, originally written in English. The 75 poems offer a rich tapestry of experiences and insights that align the mythical with the contemporary, the past with the present, and the visible with the invisible contours of the Indian nation.

Apostles of Development: Six Economists and the World They Made by David C. Engerman (New York: Viking Penguin, 2025) was discussed by Shivshankar Menon, Montek Singh Ahluwalia and the author, with Suhas Borker as moderator. The book highlights the contributions of six 'third-world development experts'—Amartya Sen, Manmohan Singh, Mahbub ul Haq, Jagdish Bhagwati, Rehman Sobhan and Lal Jayawardena—emphasising that development was primarily a Global South project, aiming to improve conditions in the world's poorest countries.

Vihangam: Gangapath ke Bhagirath Aakhyan by Abhay Mishra (Gurugram: Penguin Swadesh, 2025) was discussed by Rambahadur Rai, Pushpesh Pant, Vaishali Mathur and the author, with Vyomesh Shukla as moderator. The stories along the Ganga River, such as the movement of the deity Varaha, the footprints of displaced people on the banks of Saraswati and the testimony of the 5,100-year-old banyan tree, Akshay Vat, tell the story of the formation of a river culture. The book examines the river's geography and offers a tour through its cultural history.

Through the India–China Border: Kalimpong in the Himalayas by Prem Poddar and Lisa Lindkvist Zhang (New Delhi: Cambridge University Press, 2025) was discussed with Rityusha Mani Tiwary as moderator. The discussants were Ravi Bhoothalingam and Prem Poddar. Focussed on the Himalayan border town of Kalimpong from the 1920s to 1962, the book unearths a history of espionage and political intrigue through rarely used documents from British, Chinese and Indian archives, challenging how remote peripheries are viewed from the 'centres' of nations.

Resisting Military Rule in Burma (1988–2024)—Story of Mizzima Media: Born in Exile, Banned in Myanmar by Nandita Haksar and Soe Myint (New Delhi: Aakar Books, 2025) was discussed by Ghazala Wahab and Nandita Haksar, with K. P. Fabian as moderator. The book chronicles Myanmar's decades-long struggle for democracy through the lens

of *Mizzima News*, an independent news outlet founded by exiled journalists such as Soe Myint, highlighting courage, sacrifice, digital resistance and the relentless fight against military oppression.

M. P. Singh and Rekha Saxena's *Indian National Congress: From Dominance to Decline or Hibernation?* (New Delhi: Routledge India, 2023) was discussed with E. Sridharan as Chair. The discussants were Zoya Hasan, Kiran Walia and the authors. The Indian National Congress (INC), which originated in the national movement for India's freedom, has been experiencing a period of significant decline since the 2014 and 2019 general elections. This book presents a systematic analysis of the rise and decline of the INC since the 1980s.

Viksit Bharat@2047: Governance Transformed, edited by C. K. Mathew, Surendra Nath Tripathi, C. Sheela Reddy and A. P. Singh (Brussels: International Institute of Administrative Sciences, 2025), was discussed by Alkesh Kumar Sharma, Surendra Nath Tripathi and A. P. Singh, with V. Srinivas as Chair. Published in collaboration between the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Government of India, and the International Institute of Administrative Sciences, Brussels, to mark the 75th anniversary of the Republic, the book is a collection of essays by academics and former bureaucrats tracing the development of various sectors over the last three-quarters of a century since Independence from colonial rule.

The Conscience Network: A Chronicle of Resistance to a Dictatorship by Sugata Srinivasaraju (New Delhi: Vintage Books, 2025) was discussed by Ashis Nandy, Coomi Kapoor, Neerja Chowdhury, Dunu Roy and the author, with Suhas Borker as moderator. The discussion was followed by a conversation between the book's principal protagonists, Ravi Chopra, S. R. Hiremath, Anand Kumar and the author. The book traces a parallel history of resistance during the period from 1975 to 1977, when an internal emergency was proclaimed in India. Through an intimate historiographic style, it narrates the lives, actions and worldviews of chosen protagonists who constructed a Gandhian movement.

Reela Hota's *Odissi Dance: Therapeutics, Aesthetics, Metaphysics* (New Delhi: Prabhat Prakashan, 2025) was discussed with Madhu Khanna as Chair. The discussants were Arvind Sharma, Sharon Lowen, Swati Pal, Manindranath Thakur, Mahavir Singhvi, and the author. With a new perspective on Odissi, one of India's oldest classical dance forms, dating back to at least the second century BCE, the book explains how Odissi embodies all forms of yoga and spiritual principles, serving as a pathway to healing and *moksha*, or ultimate liberation.

Modernity, Print and Sahitya: The Making of a New Literary Culture, 1866–1919 by Sumanyu Satpathy (New Delhi: Routledge India, 2023) was discussed with Harish Trivedi as Chair. The discussants were Pragati Mohapatra, Asha Sarangi and the author. The advent of print marked a significant chapter in the history of colonial modernity in South Asia. This volume documents the story of Odia literature through an in-depth study of archival material, tracing the development of new literary practices and cultures, facilitated mainly by the formation of new public and literary spheres, as European education spread rapidly.

Misna Chanu's collection of poems *The Silent Whispers: Voice of the Muffled Melodies* (New Delhi: Authorspress, 2022) explores universal themes of love, loss, war and human relationships through personal and culturally rooted verses, often reflecting her Northeast Indian background. It was discussed by Malashri Lal, Payal Nagpal and the author, with Amarendra Khatua as Chair.

Buddhist Dances: Movement and Mind by Joseph Houseal (New Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishing House, 2025) was discussed by Navtej Johar and the author, with Sharon Lowen as moderator. The volume documents rare and endangered Buddhist dance traditions in 10 countries, including Japan, Bhutan, India, Nepal, China, Tibet, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, England, and the US, through skilful ethnography, interviews with lineage holders, and firsthand observation. Houseal shows that Buddhist dances are not merely performances but embodied teachings that transmit memory, myth and mind-training across generations.

A World in Flux: India's Economic Priorities, essays in honour of Shankar Acharya, edited by Amita Batra and A. K. Bhattacharya (New Delhi: Rupa Publications, 2025), was discussed with Nirmala Sitharaman as the chief guest. The discussants were Shyam Saran, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Shankar Acharya, Sajjid Z. Chinoy and the editors. This festschrift brings together essays examining the evolving global economic landscape and India's policy imperatives. Divided into two parts—global dynamics and the Indian context—it explores critical issues such as global trade shifts, climate change, digital transformation, urbanisation and the future of India's labour market, among others.

Anil Singh's *The Prime Minister: Discourses in Indian Polity* (New Delhi: Har Anand Publications, 2025) was discussed by B. P. Singh, M. P. Singh, Prateek Sharma, Sushma Yadav, K. C. Tyagi and the author. The book provides a historical background to the evolution of the office of the Prime Minister as Chief Executive, from the Government of India Act 1858 to the promulgation of the Indian Constitution on 26 January 1950, examining the role of prime ministers—from Jawaharlal Nehru to Narendra Modi—in the evolution or erosion of the institution.

Interrogating Marginalities across Disciplinary Boundaries: Colonial and Post-Colonial India, edited by Anna Bochkovskaya, Sanjukta Das Gupta and Amit Prakash (London: Routledge, 2024), was discussed with Neera Chandhoke as Chair. The discussants were Vinita Damodaran, Nasreen Chowdhory, Surinder Singh Jodhka and the editors. This volume adopts an interdisciplinary approach to rethink the multiple dimensions of marginality—political, societal, economic, cultural, legal and spatial—and to explore their new representations in colonial and post-colonial India.

The Once and Future World Order: Why Global Civilization Will Survive the Decline of the West by Amitav Acharya (New York: Basic Books, 2025) was discussed by Sachin Chaturvedi, Rashmi Doraiswamy and the author, with Sujana Chinoy as moderator. Surveying 5,000 years of global history, from ancient Sumer, India, Greece and Mesoamerica, through medieval caliphates and Eurasian empires to the present, Acharya reveals that world order—the political architecture enabling cooperation and peace among nations—existed long before the rise of the West.

Mandira Nayar was in conversation with Neena Nehru, the author of *The Revolutionaries: A Novel* (New Delhi: Speaking Tiger, 2025). The novel traces the story of a young Indian couple, Aruna and Sandeep, who live in England in the swinging 1960s, move back to India in the 1970s and are confronted with the ground realities of poverty, caste and untouchability—different from their privileged childhood experience of India.

Dissent with Love: Ambiguity, Affect and Transformation in South Asia edited by Parul Bhandari (New Delhi: Routledge India, 2024) was discussed with Patricia Uberoi as Chair. The discussants were Janaki Abraham, Himadri Roy, Paro Mishra and the author. The book presents multiple articulations of dissenting love in contemporary South Asia, including negotiations with parents to assert the choice of partner, migration, elopement, live-in relationships, singlehood, ‘new’ ideas of masculinities and the embrace of diverse sexual identities.

Dalit Journeys for Dignity: Religion, Freedom, and Caste, edited by Ramnarayan S. Rawat, K. Satyanarayana and P. Sanal Mohan (New York: State University of New York Press, 2025) was discussed by Madhulika Sonkar, Harish Wankhede, Charu Gupta, K. Satyanarayana and Ramnarayan S. Rawat, with Surinder Jodhka as moderator. Drawing on literary and archival sources as well as ethnographic fieldwork, this collection of essays focuses on Dalit struggles for dignity in India, highlighting the search for religious alternatives and the rejection of caste-Hinduism as the first step towards self-respect.

Arvind Sharma’s *From Fire to Light: Rereading the Manusmṛti* (Gurugram: HarperCollins India, 2024) was discussed by Purushottam Agrawal, Bharat Gupt and the author, and

moderated by C. Upender Rao. In his book, academic Arvind Sharma argues that the current understanding of the *Manusmṛiti*—regarded as a text designed by the higher castes, especially the brahmanas, to oppress the lower castes and women—tells only one side of the story when examined against textual, commentarial and historical evidence.

Khari Nadi by Richa Nagar, Mumtaz Begum and Shashikala Rai (New Delhi: Rajkamal Prakashan, 2025) was discussed by Apoorvanand and the authors. The book traces the life of Mumtaz Begum, a 75-year-old woman in Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh, reflecting on her joys and sorrows, including a motherless childhood in Nainital; her self-arranged marriage to a bandsman in UP's armed police; and her married life through the decades as a wife, daughter-in-law, mother and grandmother. It reflects her full embrace of life, humanity and hope, despite hardships defined by gender, place, class and religious politics.

In 'Life and Works of Dr. Jayant Narlikar: A Talk', K. P. Fabian described the astrophysicist and Vigyan Ratna (posthumous), who passed away in May 2025, as 'a Renaissance man'. Somak Raychaudhury structured his talk to mirror Narlikar's *My Tale of Four Cities: An Autobiography*, covering four cities and phases of his life in Banaras, Cambridge, Mumbai and Pune. A proponent of the steady-state model of the universe, Narlikar was the first director of the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune.

Narrative Universes of Disability: Global Perspectives, edited by Someshwar Sati, Shilpa Das and Banibrata Mahanta (New York: Springer, 2025), was discussed with B. Mangalam as Chair. The discussants were Renu Adlakha, Karuna Rajeev, Someshwar Sati and Shilpa Das. This volume explores and critically examines how disability is communicated to and comprehended by individuals and societies, focussing on the shaping of these narratives within diverse disciplinary contexts and their interrelation with institutions such as academia.

Rachna Singh's *Raghu Rai: Waiting for the Divine* (New Delhi: Hawakal Publishers, 2024) was discussed by Roobina Karode and the author, with Mandira Nayar as moderator. Woven with Raghu Rai's iconic photographs, anecdotes and insights, the book captures his devotion to craft and the philosophies that shaped his career, offering an intimate portrait of the master visual storyteller.

Trial by Water: Indus Basin and India–Pakistan Relations by Uttam Kumar Sinha (Gurugram: Vintage Books, 2025) was discussed by Arvind Gupta, T. C. A. Raghavan, Shalini Chawla, Amitabh Sinha and the author, with Gurcharan Das as Chair. In 1947, when the Indian subcontinent was partitioned, the Indus Basin—a unified lifeline of the region, fragmented by sovereign borders—was ruptured. This book traces the history of the Indus Basin and examines how the Indus Waters Treaty, signed in 1960, has been shaped by the region's ever-evolving political dynamics.

At War with the Single Strand: How Indian Science Fought the COVID–19 Pandemic, edited by Renu Swarup, Govindarajan Padmanaban and Narendra Kumar Arora (Singapore: Springer, 2025), was discussed by Vinod Paul, A. K. Sood and the editors. This book offers insights into India’s management of the war against COVID–19, highlighting the scientific response and featuring stories from key players. It also addresses the challenges and the innovative solutions achieved within a short time frame.

From Isolation to Integration: Navigating the Geopolitics of India’s Northeast (1990–2023) by Patricia Mukhim (Shillong: Martin Luther Christian University Press, 2025) was discussed with Shyam Saran as Chair. The discussants were Vrinda Grover, Tiplut Nongbri, Shekhar Gupta and the author. G. K. Pillai was the moderator. Written from an insider’s perspective, drawing on personal experiences with activism, governance, and national advisory bodies, the book argues that colonial policies, such as the Inner Line Permit and the classification of communities, have created lasting divisions and conflicts, exemplified by the situation in Manipur.

Business Strategies and Public Policies in India and Europe: Ideas for a Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Society, edited by Bidisha Banerji and Sheetal Sharma (Berlin: Springer, 2025), was discussed with V. Srinivas as Chair. The discussants were Rumki Basu, Narayanan Madhavan and the editors. The volume examines public policy, business strategies, the building of diverse and inclusive societies, the securing of climate justice, and the building of business resilience for the future, analysing India and Europe simultaneously through a comparative design, with dedicated chapters on a single country or region from each entity.

The Hyderabadis: From 1947 to the Present Day by Daneesh Majid (Gurugram: HarperCollins India, 2025) was discussed by Mujibur Rehman, Dinesh C. Sharma and the author, with A. S. Dulat as Chair and Ruben Banerjee as moderator. Drawing on generational interviews, oral histories, literature in Urdu and English, and his own personal experiences, Majid presents 78 years of Hyderabad’s history, with four major events forming the historical backdrop to these narratives: the Annexation of Hyderabad (1948), the Telangana Rebellion (1946–1951), the decline of the Ashraf Muslim elite and their subsequent recovery through Gulf migration, and, finally, the Telangana statehood movement.

Democracy’s Heartland: Inside the Battle for Power in South Asia by S. Y. Quraishi (New Delhi: Juggernaut, 2025) was discussed by Shivshankar Menon (also the guest of honour), Kavita Sharma and the author, with Shyam Saran as Chair and Pushpesh Pant as moderator. S. Y. Quraishi argues that despite the odds, democracy survives, adapts and even thrives in South Asia. From India’s electoral juggernaut to Pakistan’s power struggles, Bangladesh’s

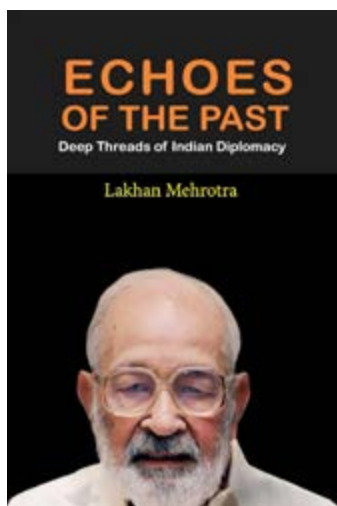
voter resilience to Nepal's constitutional churn, Afghanistan's decline to Bhutan's hesitant first steps, the book offers a comparative tour of the subcontinent's democracies.

Laksmisree Banerjee's collection of poems, *The Red Woman* (Dublin: Black Eagle Books, 2025), was discussed with Amarendra Khatua as Chair. The discussants were Radha Chakravarty, Seema Jain, Mandira Ghosh, Roopali Sircar Gaur and the author. Portraying the complex lives of women in India and around the world, the poems trace many female spaces and times of reprehensible acts, as well as their stories of fortitude and courage, their spheres of positive effervescence, and their resilience in rising from difficult situations.

Ananda: An Exploration of Cannabis in India by Karan Madhok (New Delhi: Aleph Book Company, 2024) was discussed by Omair Ahmad, Khagesh Gautam, Tripti Tandon and the author, with Amritesh Mukherjee as moderator. Cannabis, or *ganja*, is as old as recorded Indian civilisation, with references to the plant found in some of India's earliest written texts and myths. In an engaging and informative style, Karan Madhok examines every aspect of the cannabis plant: botanical, spiritual, medical and recreational.

In the discussion, 'Writing Places: The Importance of Setting in Writing', moderated by Shagufta Siddhi, panellists Rana Safvi, Karan Mujoo and Aishwarya Jha highlighted the importance of setting in writing, the art of bringing towns, cities and their ambience to life, and how places give birth to and shape characters and stories.

The Changing Profile of India's Trade Relations: A Partial and General Equilibrium Analysis, edited by Somesh K. Mathur, Prabir De and Archana Srivastava (Oxon: Routledge, 2025),

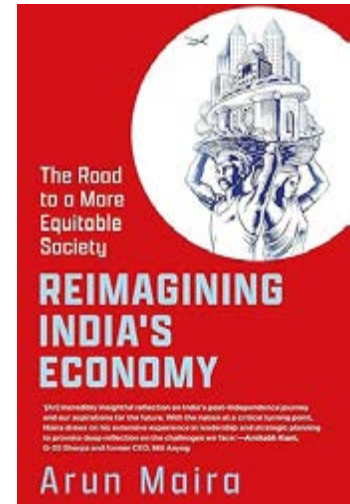


was discussed by Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Pallavi Jain Govil, Manmohan Agarwal, Amita Batra, Rajesh Chadha, Dibyendu Maiti, Kavya Dashora and the editors. Using applied general equilibrium methods to analyse recent debates about the conduct of India's trade policy, the book examines how trade barriers have affected trade flows and evaluates India's recent trade deals with the UAE, Australia, the European Free Trade Area (EFTA), and Mauritius, among others.

Echoes of the Past: Deep Threads of Indian Diplomacy by Lakhan Mehrotra (New Delhi: Heritage Publishers, 2025) was discussed with Dr. Karan Singh as Chair. The panellists were Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Neerja Chowdhury, Amit Kapoor and the author. The book situates India at the crossroads of

ancient caravan and maritime routes and explores intellectual and philosophical continuities that continue to shape the temperament and worldview of its people.

Arun Maira's *Reimagining India's Economy: The Road to a More Equitable Society* (New Delhi: Speaking Tiger, 2025) was discussed by V. Anantha Nageswaran, Sunil Kant Munjal, Shereen Bhan and the author. The book traces the evolution of the Indian economy after 1947, offering ideas for leaders of change and provoking reflection and learning through poetry, philosophy and common sense, rather than through statistics, data analysis and artificial intelligence, as tools to guide public policy.

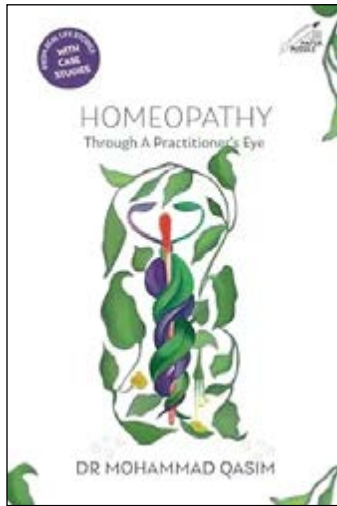


Souls in the Kalyug: The Politics and Cosmologies of Migrant Workers in Contemporary India (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2025) by Shankar Ramaswami was discussed with Ajay Singh Mehta as Chair. Among the panellists were Purushottam Agrawal, Uma Chakravarti, Nandini Sundar, Aseem Shrivastava and the author. The book presents a nuanced and intimate portrait of India's migrant workers through an in-depth study of entanglement and non-cooperation in workers' worlds, and in its analysis of workers' politics, including within and outside labour unions, in interpersonal relationships, and in foundational religious and cosmological worldviews.

Nepal 2043: The Road to Prosperity by Sujeev Shakya (Gurugram: Penguin India, 2025) was discussed by Juan Antonio March Pujol, Shankar Sharma, Shamika Ravi, Suhasini Haidar and the author. Drawing on practical experience and academic insights, the book presents a vision for Nepal's future, exploring key areas such as hydropower, agriculture, tourism, migration and digital transformation.

Anita Chand and Manoj Krishnan's collection of Hindi poems, *Navarasa: Kavya Sankalan* (Greater Noida: Novoquill Publications, 2024), was discussed with Amarendra Khatua as Chair. The discussants were Renu Hussain, Mandira Ghosh and the authors. The poems explore the nine *rasas*—*sringara* (beauty), *karuna* (compassion), *hasya* (humour), *raudra* (fury), *veer* (courage), *bhayanak* (terror), *vibhatsa* (disgust), *adbhuta* (amazement), and *shanta* (peace)—the foundational emotional states in Indian aesthetics, as outlined in Bharata Muni's ancient treatise on performing arts, the *Natyashastra*.

Mohammad Qasim's *Homeopathy: Through a Practitioner's Eye* (New Delhi: Niyogi Books, 2025) was discussed with Suhas Borker as Chair. The discussants were Krishna Kumar, Anita Sehgal, Anil Nauriya and the author. Concepts such as 'vital force' and 'vital



principle’, the basic tenets of Homoeopathy were explained by the author, an experienced Homoeopathic practitioner. Through illustrative case studies, he highlighted that treatment does not focus solely on evident symptoms but also on a patient’s past experiences and present state of mind.

Gossips of Our Surrogate Story: Prose Poems by Rajorshi Patranabis (New Delhi: Hawakal Publishers, 2025) was discussed by Kiriti Sengupta, Sudeep Sen, Shubha Dwivedi and the author. The narrative of this collection is drawn from ancient Egyptian mythology—the love story of Osiris, the God of the afterlife, and Isis, the moon Goddess. Rajorshi Patranabis not only references this myth; he immerses himself within it, blending mythology, mysticism, nature and the depth of human emotions.

A Mother’s Reflections: A Heartwarming Journey of Love, Unyielding Strength, and Championing Inclusivity by Shanti Auluck (New Delhi: Hay House Publishers, 2024) was discussed by Shalini Sinha, Mayank Sapra, Neera Chawla, Megha Dhillon and the author, with Aradhana Lal as moderator. The book traces the author’s journey as a mother to a son born with Down Syndrome, through three sections: her experiences challenging societal norms; insights into intellectual disability and its impact on personal development as a psychologist; and the founding of Muskaan—an adult training and employment centre for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

The Thousand Years War: Russia and the West by Achala Moulik (New Delhi: Har Anand Publications, 2025) was discussed with K. N. Shrivastava as Chair. The discussants were Denis Alipov (also the guest of honour), Archana Upadhyay, Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury and the author. Moulik traces the wars and conflicts between Russia and the West from the ninth century, when the first recorded Western invasion occurred under Rurik the Viking, through the Teutonic Knights in 1241, Charles XII of Sweden’s invasion, the French invasion under Bonaparte, the siege of Leningrad and the battle of Stalingrad, where Soviet Russia defeated Nazi Germany.

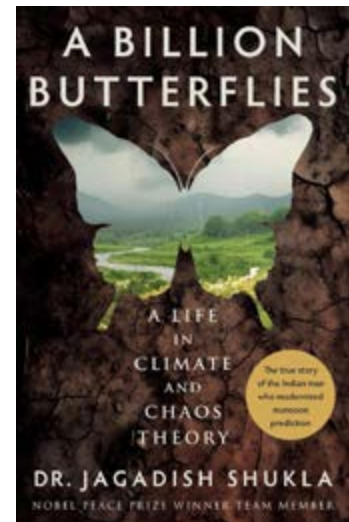


Combating War by Art and Poetry by Mandira Ghosh (New Delhi: Authorspress, 2025) was discussed with Amarendra Khatua as Chair. The discussants were Sunit Tandon, Radha Chakravarty, Swati Pal,

Rumki Basu and the author. This volume of verses pays tribute to artists such as Picasso and Salvador Dali, among others, who spoke out against war through their incomparable works. Ghosh's poems also reference Van Gogh's works, Claude Monet's Garden, women in Pierre-Auguste Renoir's paintings, and other artists, offering solace in a tense, conflicted world.

Joginder Paul's volume of afsanche (flash fiction) in Urdu, *Birds in Flight*, translated by Rashmi Govind (Gurugram: India Penguin Modern Classics, 2025), was discussed by Moutushi Mukherjee, Sukrita Paul Kumar, Chandana Dutta, Anisur Rahman and the translator of the book. While short, the stand-alone slice-of-life tales in the collection explore themes of memory, time and beauty in the everyday and quiet resilience.

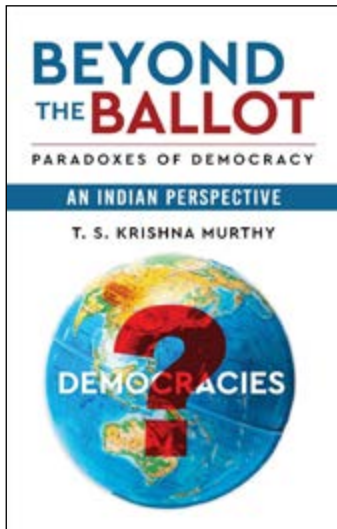
A Billion Butterflies: A Life in Climate and Chaos Theory by Jagadish Shukla (New York City: St. Martin's Press, 2025) was discussed by Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Ajit Seth, M. Ravichandran and the author, with Shyam Saran as Chair. Born in rural India with no electricity, plumbing or formal schools, climate scientist Jagadish Shukla, a member of a Nobel Prize-winning team, grew up amid monsoons, droughts and unpredictable crop yields. This book is a memoir as well as a log of the journey of weather and climate science in India.



Charismatic Chiaroscuro: Poetry and Art by Meena Chopra (Self-Published, 2025) was discussed with Malashri Lal as Chair. The discussants were Sukrita Paul Kumar, Sudeep Sen and the author. Chopra's *Shifting Silhouettes* and *Charismatic Chiaroscuro: Poetry and Art* offer distinct yet interconnected experiences. The former presents a concise, traditional collection of poetry designed to stir the soul and inspire introspection, while the latter builds on these themes with a multimedia approach, blending poetry, digital art and video art through QR codes that link print to immersive visual experiences.

Heritage Threads: A Tapestry of Indian and Indonesian Textiles by Bhimanto Suwastoyo and Ritu Sethi (Jakarta: Toraja Melo Foundation, 2025) was discussed by Shashi Tharoor (also a guest of honour), Erny Wahyuni (also a guest of honour), Ritu Sethi, Namrata Dalela, and Aparna Bhatnagar Saxena, with D. P. K. Pillay as moderator. This book explores the historical and cultural links between Indian and Indonesian textiles, focussing on the double ikat Patola from Gujarat and its influence across Sumatra and Bali. Through richly illustrated examples and ethnographic insights, it highlights the symbolic power of textiles in both cultures, from healing cloths to ceremonial garments.

Manjima Misra's *Ink Over Algorithms: Why the Soul of Storytelling Transcends AI* (New Delhi: Highbrow Scribes Publications, 2025) was discussed by Subhashis Banerjee, Prasanto Kumar Roy, Neha Dixit, Namrita Mahindro, Ayush Garg and the author. The book explores the intersection of AI with narratology and creative writing, journalism, feminism and law, keeping the significance of storytelling at its centre. The analysis is accompanied by various experiments using AI tools to generate character names in stories based on prompts for genre and personality types, as well as reworkings of conventional fairy-tale tropes.



Beyond the Ballot: Paradoxes of Democracy by T. S. Krishna Murthy (Punjab: White Falcon Publishing, 2025) was discussed by M. N. Venkatachaliah, Madan Lokur, Asha Sarangi and the author, with Suhas Borker as moderator. The book examines current trends in global democracies, their functioning and processes, including electoral management and democratic institutions, and raises concerns such as the decentralisation of governance, the regulation of political parties, foreign interference in democracies, and subtle influences through individual and voluntary agencies, among others.

Salma's *The Dark Hours of the Night*, translated from Tamil to English by G. J. V. Prasad (Noida: Simon and Schuster India, 2025), was discussed by Malashri Lal, Swati Pal, B. Mangalam, Nishat Haider, and the author and translator.

In this translation of Salma's first novel, *Irandaam Jaamangalin Kathai* (2006), the book traces the lives of Rabia from Tamil Nadu, her friends, and her cousin, Wahida, as they navigate patriarchy, rebel, compromise, form friendships, find love, and live with the dull ache of desire.

Bharata Before the British and Other Essays: Towards a New Indology by Shonaleeka Kaul (New Delhi: Vitasta Publishing, 2024) was discussed with K. N. Shrivastava as Chair. The discussants were Meenakshi Jain, M. Jagadesh Kumar and the author. This volume, in 17 essays, reopens fundamental questions about India—its civilisational depth, regional interconnectedness, the relationship of myth and history, the politics of time and place, Sanskrit's reach and relevance, Indic ideas of freedom and desire, cultural urbanism and architecture, animal studies, the state of Indian history today, and where we go from here.

Ainakhana, translated by Gauri Shankar Raina (New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 2025) was discussed by Payal Nagpal, Roop Krishen Bhat, Pankaj Bhan, Deepak Budki and the translator of the book. This collection of essays on various genres of Kashmiri literature

includes an article on ‘Brief Review of Kashmiri Criticism’ and a comparative analysis of Lal Ded (Lalleshwari) and Sheikh-ul-Alam (Sheikh Noor-Uddin). Other topics include insights into contemporary Kashmiri poetry, Naatiya poetry, new-generation writers, Sufi poets, the golden age of Kashmiri literature and popular writers of the 20th century.

Aṣṭanāyikā: The Romantic Heroines from Nāṭyaśāstra to Modernity by Manorama Choudhury and Jayakrushna Choudhury (New Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishing House, 2025) was discussed by Gauranga Das, Sharon Lowen, Seema Bhalla and the authors. Blending classical research, poetic reflection and contemporary insights, this volume explores the timeless archetypes of the *Aṣṭanāyikā*, the eight classical heroines of love and longing immortalised in Bharata Muni’s *Nāṭyaśāstra*.

Rohit De and Ornit Shani’s *Assembling India’s Constitution: A New Democratic History* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2025) was discussed by Anupama Roy, Usha Ramanathan, Shahrukh Alam, Suhas Borker and the authors. The book re-examines the making of the Indian Constitution from the perspective of the country’s people, highlighting how individuals and groups transformed constitutionalism into a medium of struggle and a tool for transformation.

A four-volume work by Anvita Abbi, Rahul Pachori and Vysakh R., namely *A Grammatical Sketch of Luro, Luro Dictionary, A Grammatical Sketch of Sanenyo and Sanenyo Dictionary* (Mysore: Central Institute of Indian Languages, 2023), was discussed with Uday Narayan Singh as Chair. The discussants were Ajay Saini, Shimray Rose, Anvita Abbi and Rahul Pachori. This work presents the first-ever grammar of Luro, a ‘critically endangered’ language spoken on the Teressa and Chowra Islands of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago, based on fieldwork conducted between 2018 and 2020. It highlights fascinating features, such as spatial deixis and morpheme variants that shift their positions to maintain the language’s syllabic structure.

Rising India and China: Strategic Rivalry in Himalaya and the Indo-Pacific by B. R. Deepak (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2025) was discussed with Rajiv Ranjan as moderator. The discussants were Ashok K. Kantha, Manoj Joshi, Shikha Aggarwal and the author. This book, part of a two-volume exploration, examines the trajectory of India–China relations, spanning the making of a common border to the events leading to the 1962 war.

The Age of Influence: Thoughts on Communication in Geopolitics, Soft Power and Branding by Chaitanya K. Prasad, Zoya Ahmad and Vaishnavie Srinivasan (Chennai: Notion Press, 2025) was discussed with K. N. Shrivastava as Chair. The discussants were Amitabh Mattoo, Nitin Gokhale, Alok Bansal, Sidhant Sibal, Manjari Chaturvedi and Chaitanya K. Prasad. The book comprises 50 articles, written and published by authors across

various platforms, each highlighting how communication is shaping and being shaped by the world around us. From film festivals to soft power, branding to diplomacy, AI to storytelling, these pieces reflect the evolving rhythm of public discourse.

What Women Want: Understanding the Female Voter in Modern India by Ruhi Tewari (New Delhi: Juggernaut, 2025) was discussed with Nidhi Razdan as moderator. The discussants were Shamika Ravi, Gaurav Gogoi, Priyanka Chaturvedi, Ram Madhav and the author. Blending fieldwork, data and political insight, this book—a product of nearly two decades of reportage—traces the rise of the woman voter from silent participant to decisive force. It asks questions such as whether women vote as women, whether caste or religion overrides gender at the ballot box and whether gender even matters in elections.

Upendra Kachru's *History of a Tomorrow: The Knowledge Revolution* (Punjab: White Falcon Publishing, 2025) was discussed with Veena Baswani as moderator. Other discussants were A. K. Merchant, Yash Gupta and Prashast Kachru. This volume explores the evolution of knowledge—from ancient tools to intelligent machines—and questions the future we are shaping. Blending fact with imagination, Kachru traces how civilisations rose through insight and invention, and how today's leaders must confront the ethical, strategic and human dilemmas posed by AI, automation and rapid change.

Anna Mani: The Uncut Diamond by Asha Gopinathan (New Delhi: National Book Trust, 2026) was discussed with the author as moderator. The discussants were Surbhi Baghotia, Gautam Venugopalan, Mrutyunjay Mohapatra and Manju Mohan. Published as part of the National Book Trust's India@75 series, the book celebrates the life and work of Anna Mani (1918–2001), a pioneering Indian physicist who made indelible contributions to atmospheric physics, meteorology and instrumentation, including laying the foundations for research in wind and solar energy.

Shailaja Paik's *The Vulgarities of Caste: Dalits, Sexuality, and Humanity in Modern India* (New Delhi: Navayana, 2022) was discussed with the author in a session moderated by Prathama Banerjee. This book offers a social and intellectual history of Dalit Tamasha—a popular form of public, secular, travelling theatre in Maharashtra. Central to these performances were the Dalit Tamasha women, who embodied both the desire and the disgust of a patriarchal society. Drawing on untapped archival materials, ethnographies, popular writings and films, Paik uncovers how Dalit performers, activists and leaders negotiated the violence, brutality, exploitation and stigma associated with Tamasha.

Nehru's Bandung: Non-Alignment and Regional Order in the Indian Cold War Strategy by Andrea Benvenuti (London: Hurst Publishers, 2024) was discussed with Shyam Saran as Chair. The discussants were Amitabh Mattoo, Ajay K. Mehra, Pallavi Raghavan and

the author. The book examines India's Cold War diplomacy, beginning with the role of Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in organising the first Asian–African Conference in Bandung in April 1955. Drawing on Indian, Western and Chinese archival sources, it focusses on policy concerns, international factors, and how the conference promoted a 'third way' in the polarised world to support a stable regional order.

Dena Merriam's *Sita's Yoga: The Yoga of Awakening* (New Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishing House, 2025) was discussed by Soniya Sharma, A. K. Merchant and G. D. Bakshi. The book highlights lesser-known aspects of Sita's life—one that offers teachings on how to grow spiritually through life's challenges; how to overcome grief, live a life of gratitude, foster forgiveness and compassion, practise generosity, find beauty and meaning in everyday life, and understand events in the light of complex karmic conditions.

Seeds of Hate: Bangladesh's Extremist Surge—Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh and other Radical Organizations, edited by Shahriar Kabir and Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury (New Delhi: Grin Media, 2025), was discussed with Chaudhury as moderator. The discussants were M. J. Akbar, Pankaj Saran, Anirban Ganguly and Smruti Pattanaik. The book examines how Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh and affiliated radical groups are embedded in the country's political, social and educational fabric, tracing their ideological roots, their role during Bangladesh's Liberation War, and their continuing influence in mainstream politics and society.

Edited by Purushottama Bilimoria, Jaysankar Lal Shaw, Anand Vaidya and Michael Hemmingsen, *Mind, Body and Self* (Switzerland: Springer Nature, 2024) was discussed in a session moderated by Purushottama Bilimoria. The discussants were Shashi Prabha Kumar, R. Krishnaswamy, Ananya Barua, Savita Singh, Rajan and Abhilasha Semwal. Drawing on the international conference on 'Mind, Body and Self' held at Victoria University of Wellington in 2015, with contributors from diverse cultural backgrounds, the book presents contemporary concepts of consciousness, the Māori conception of self, and Indian and Buddhist concepts of self and mental states.

River Traveller: Journeys on the Tsangpo-Brahmaputra from Tibet to the Bay of Bengal by Sanjoy Hazarika (New Delhi: Speaking Tiger, 2025) was discussed by Mahesh Rangarajan and the author, with Anupreeta Das as moderator. The Brahmaputra rises in Tibet, where it is known as the Tsangpo, flows through three countries and—after traversing over 2,900 kilometres—enters the Bay of Bengal. The book documents Hazarika's travels over two decades and brings both his journalist's eye for reportage and his writer's sensibility to his descriptions of places, people and events, and to his accounts of the river's historical burden.

Goddesses in South Asia: Traditions and Transformations, edited by R. Mahalakshmi, Malavika Binny and Megha Yadav (New Delhi: Bloomsbury India, 2025), was discussed with Mridula Mukherjee as Chair. The discussants were Mahishini Colonne, Anamika Roy, Jaya Tyagi, Shalini Shah and the editors. With a focus on major early Indian religious traditions—Vedic, Buddhist, Jaina, Puranic and Tantric—while also giving prominence to lesser-studied traditions, such as village goddesses and ‘minor deities’, this volume, in 13 chapters, draws attention to the different temporal contexts that have a bearing on the prescriptions and practices of goddess worship.

IIC Publications

IIC Quarterly

The thematic issue of the *IIC Quarterly* (Winter 2024–Spring 2025, Volume 51, Numbers 3 & 4), *Energy Transition and Climate Change: A Path Less Travelled*, co-edited by Mritunjoy Mohanty, Runa Sarkar and Omita Goyal, was released by Dr. Karan Singh in April 2025. The panel discussion underscored the urgency of the issue. The volume examines India’s progress in adapting to climate change and mitigating its effects across four distinct but



Release of the IIC Quarterly (Winter 2024–Spring 2025)

interrelated sections. Part I assesses the path India has chosen for the energy transition, covering electricity generation and distribution, the economies of the coastline and highlands, energy security, the decarbonisation of industry and related technologies. Part II features an interview with historian Dipesh Chakrabarty on his views on climate action in India and across the world. Part III reflects on how climate change has entered the world of literature and art through a section on climate fiction, including poetry, and a photo essay about a shuttered power plant. Part IV discusses energy transition and climate justice within a political framework, highlighting feasible alternatives and potential coalitions for a more sustainable future.

The next issue, *Summer 2025* (Volume 52, Number 1), features a variety of articles, ranging from the text of the annual C. D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture, ‘Time of Monsters, Time of Possibilities’, by Amitav Ghosh, to an analysis of Brazil’s G20 presidency. A couple of pieces offer insights into encounters with M. K. Gandhi, drawing on photographic records and personal reminiscences. A selection from the IIC Library’s Bilgrami collection offers a lens on the principles of governance. A piece on the changing paradigm of policing calls for the adoption of democratic forms of administration, while one on Dadabhai Naoroji reflects on his legacy as a critic of the colonial economy. Another piece is a first-person account of a period of food shortage in Kolkata. The photo essay depicts aspects of London in monochrome.

Released during the ‘IIC Experience: A Festival of the Arts 2025’ at the Gandhi–King Plaza, *Autumn 2025* (Volume 52, Number 2) features articles addressing contemporary issues, including two pieces from different perspectives on the United Nations at 80 and an article on the much-debated caste census. Other essays engage with reimagining India’s art ecosystem; India–Pakistan cinema, seen not just as entertainment but as a platform where inter-country tensions are played out; the complexities of Hindi and Urdu and the relationship between the two; four towering personalities who shaped India; and the importance of rituals in ancient India. This volume’s photo-essay features Saba Hasan’s sketches of Kochi’s fishing community and scenes from this vibrant city.

IIC Diary

Now primarily circulated electronically, the *IIC Diary* provides Members worldwide with information on the Centre’s programmes and activities. Each bimonthly edition features brief reviews and images highlighting the major programmes, including seminars, conferences, talks, exhibitions, discussions, performances and film screenings, in 16 pages. Other sections include an obituary column, a message from the Director with updates on the Centre’s ongoing activities, and notices for Members. A special 20-page edition was published covering all the programmes in ‘The IIC Experience: A Festival of the Arts 2025’.

Occasional Publications

(OP 118) Kishore Singh’s monograph *Decolonising the Knowledge System in India* challenges inherited colonial educational structures and calls for a shift to a knowledge system inspired by India’s educational traditions and its philosophical and spiritual heritage.

(OP 119) *Mid-Year Review of the Indian Economy 2024–25* by Chetan Ghate, Prakash Athare, Gautam Kumar Das, Sandhya Garg, M. Rahul and Sukhdeep Singh is based on a discussion held on 26 November 2024, featuring a lead presentation by Chetan Ghate on India’s economic performance, covering trends in GDP, employment, inflation and sectoral growth.

IIC Policy Papers

Fourteen Sectoral Policy Groups (SPGs) were set up in 2022 to work on policy issues impacting different sectors: Agriculture, Culture, Economics, Environment, Foreign Affairs, Governance, Health, History, Justice, Media, Science and Technology, Security,

and Social Affairs. Each SPG has a convenor and subject experts who contribute papers and monographs. These are published as IIC Policy Papers.

This year, eight IIC Policy Papers were published: *Doubling Farmers' Income: A Promising Target Fraught with Challenges* by Seema Bathla, Anjani Kumar, Navneet Kumar and Siraj Hussain, a monograph under SPG Agriculture with Siraj Hussain as convenor; *Writing the Self: Women's Question in South India in the Early 20th Century* by Shantha Sinha, a monograph under SPG History with Sucheta Mahajan as convenor; four monographs under SPG Economics with Partha Sen as convenor: *Examining the Causes of the Slow Progress in Reduction of India's Child Malnutrition* by Md. Zakaria Siddiqui, *The European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and the Global South* by Partha Sen, *The 'Paradox' of Indian Industrialisation* by Surajit Mazumdar and *Artificial Intelligence, Employment and Economic Development* by Siddhartha Mitra; *Understanding Ukraine* by Gitesh Sarma under SPG Foreign Relations with K. P. Fabian as convenor; and *India's Media in Flux: Understanding the Shift, Confronting the Challenge*, a combined volume of seven papers with contributions from Bharat Bhushan, R. Srinivasan, Sanjay Kapoor, Sukumar Muralidharan, Poornima Joshi, Suhas Borker and Anuradha Bhasin under SPG Media with Bharat Bhushan as convenor.

IIC Membership

The composition of the Centre's Membership is as follows:

S. No.	Class of Membership	Jan-25	Jan-26
1	Honorary Members	7	6
2	Patrons	1	1
3	Life Members	71	65
4	Members	1870	1850
5	Associate Members	3583	3660
6	Overseas Associate Members	417	395
7	Corporate Foundation Members	10	10
8	Corporate Members (Universities)	33	36
9	Corporate Members (Others)	178	176
10	Corporate Associate Members (Universities)	25	25
11	Corporate Associate Members (Others)	161	170
12	Corporate Associate Members—Foreign Institutions	2	2
13	Corporate Members—Foreign Institutions	5	3
14	Short Term Associate Members	1419	1332
	TOTAL	7782	7731

Induction under Short-Term Associate Membership (STAM)

The sale of applications for Short Term Associate Membership (STAM) was opened from 15 July to 31 August 2025, and the last date for receipt of the completed application forms was 30 September 2025. This year, the sale of application forms was conducted entirely online through the STAM website (<http://stam.iicdelhi.in>).

After scrutiny of the applications by the STAM Selection Committee, 169 new Short-Term Associate Members were inducted in December 2025.

Review of Rules Regarding Payment of the Annual Subscription Fee (ASF)

The rules for defaulting on payment of the Annual Subscription Fee (ASF) by the due date have been revised as follows:

1. If a Member fails to pay the ASF by 31 May, their Membership will be deactivated. However, if the fee, including the relevant penalty is paid by 30 September, the Membership will be reactivated.
2. If a Member fails to pay the ASF by 30 September, the Member will be removed from the Centre's Roll of Members.
3. On removal from the Roll of Members for non-payment of ASF, the Member may approach the Centre for the restoration of membership. Their case would be presented to the Executive Committee (EC) for a decision in accordance with the Centre's Membership policy.

From next year, the Centre will also notify Members about the payment of ASF via WhatsApp on their registered mobile numbers.

Financial Position

The income of the Centre during the financial year 2024–2025 (April 2024–March 2025) was ₹7,412.21 lakh as against an income of ₹6,886.69 lakh in the previous financial year. The expenditure during the financial year also increased to ₹7,488.39 lakh from ₹7,228.02 lakh in the previous financial year. The net deficit, after making a provision for depreciation at ₹338.72 lakh, was ₹76.19 lakh as against a deficit of ₹341.33 lakh in the financial year 2023–24. The corresponding provision for depreciation in the previous year was ₹315.80 lakh.

The investment at the end of the financial year 2024–2025 stood at ₹109.20 crore as against ₹106.51 crore at the end of the previous financial year, i.e., on 31 March 2024. A General Body Meeting for the first time was held in September 2025 to examine only the financial performance of the Centre. The specific purpose of the meeting was to consider and pass the audited accounts of the financial year 2024–25. The Investment Policy of the Centre, as in previous years, continues to ensure the placement of funds in risk-free instruments. But to achieve better returns, some of the Centre's funds are now being invested in debt portfolios of mutual funds.

Information Technology (IT)

IT Infrastructure Improvement

Server Room Renovation

The IT department's server room has been renovated to create more space and accommodate advanced infrastructure. New data centre features include a fire suppression system, enhanced access control measures, power management with uninterruptible power supplies (UPS), a climate control system, structured networking, a compact layout with raised flooring, rodent control, and an alarm system for electricity or fire failures.

Local Area Network

The Local Area Network (LAN) is operating effectively to support the IT services associated with the integrated software system. This infrastructure includes internet and Wi-Fi connectivity, closed-circuit television (CCTV), digital signage systems, attendance management, webcasting and webinars, as well as access to the Member's Portal, WebOPAC, DigiLib and SAMHiTA portals. The LAN infrastructure is continuously upgraded to meet increasing user demand, evolving technology needs and the addition of new facilities.

Facilities for Members

Internet and Wi-Fi Services

An agreement has been signed with M/s Tata to supply Internet bandwidth, thereby facilitating a high-speed internet connection for the Centre. This provision supports the Centre's requirements for WiFi for IIC's webcasts, hybrid meetings and the hosting of online portals (DigiLib, SAMHiTA, STAM and Member's Portal). This has significantly enhanced the connectivity and speed of the Centre's Wi-Fi facility. Members can access the internet after OTP authentication on their registered mobile numbers.

While this service is free for Members, organisers of private programmes can avail of it on a payment basis. The rates of the internet service for private programmes are available with the Central Booking Office (CBO).

Smart Card Services

The Instant Payment System using Smart Cards has been operating successfully. As many as 98 per cent of Members have got Smart Cards and are settling bills through this method at the catering outlets. They also have the option to make payments through UPI mode, as well as debit or credit cards.

Communication via Email/SMS/WhatsApp

The Centre keeps Members informed about its various activities, events, notices and bills through bulk emails. Catering, Smart Card usage and Library dues are being communicated to Members through SMS. WhatsApp messaging service has also been introduced to reach out to Members quickly with important information.

The Centre has discontinued the use of a few earlier email addresses and has now transitioned to ZOHO Mail, an India-based service provider, for more efficient communication. More details can be found on the IIC website at <https://iicdelhi.in/>.

Webcast and Webinar Services

The Centre holds online webinars and webcasts for some of its programmes. This year, over 30 programmes were webcast. All webinars and webcast programmes were live-streamed on YouTube. There are now over 895 programmes accessible on the IIC YouTube channel. Members are notified about upcoming webinars via email. Webcast videos of older programmes can be viewed in the Archives section of the Centre's website. Webcasting and hybrid meeting services for private programmes are also available to Members at IIC's venues on a payment basis.

Online Facilities for Members

Member's Portal

A Member's Portal has been launched to enable Members to view their profiles, book venues, reserve Hostel rooms, recharge Smart Cards, pay bills and dues, order food for takeaway, and provide feedback. The portal has been certified by CERT-In (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team) for cybersecurity. It can be accessed at <https://member.iicdelhi.in/> or through a kiosk with a touchscreen interface placed at the Main Reception.

IIC Website

The website, accessible at <https://iicdelhi.in>, has been operating efficiently, with information on IIC programmes, publications, library and notices updated regularly. It is currently undergoing an extensive redesign for enhanced user interface, easy navigation and a contemporary visual aesthetic. New features will include programme highlights, real-time updates, digital archives and a member login portal.

Social Media Accounts

Members can view regular updates on programmes (seminars, discussions, performances, talks, etc.) on IIC's official social media accounts, including Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly known as Twitter) and YouTube. The Communication Officer regularly updates content across all these accounts. Notably, the IIC's Instagram account has reached 10,000 followers through organic growth.

Content Access on DigiLib

Digitised Library books and other collections have been placed on the DigiLib portal. Members can access this material either from the 'Library Page' of the IIC website (<https://iicdelhi.in>) or the URL <http://digilib.iicdelhi.in>. To gain access, Members will receive a one-time password (OTP) on their mobile phones. It is also accessible through the IIC intranet. The portal has been further updated to view audio-visual sequences of IIC programmes. Internal communications and resources of each department have been integrated into the portal with advanced search tools. For security, this will be accessible to select IIC officials only.

SAMHiTA Portal

An in-house portal for IIC-IRD's project SAMHiTA has been created with a repository of around 1,100 manuscripts currently. This can be accessed using the URL <https://samhita.iicdelhi.in>.

Online STAM Applications

An online portal, <https://stam.iicdelhi.in>, has been created to streamline the Short Term Associate Membership (STAM) application process. It can be accessed when STAM applications are invited. This year, using this dedicated portal, interested individuals

could register, purchase and submit their applications in a streamlined and user-friendly format. The platform allowed applicants to enter the required information, upload supporting documents and receive confirmation upon successful submission. This digital approach aims to ensure greater efficiency, transparency and ease.

In-House Software

In 2023, it was decided to upgrade the existing Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software with new technology and features using in-house facilities. The first phase in the two-phase project, focussing on revenue generation processes, was launched on 1 April 2024 and is operational in all offices.

The second phase of the project, focussed on enhancing backend operations, was launched on 1 April 2025. This includes the Store Management System, Human Resources and Payroll System, Web Services, a Kiosk for Members, and a Feedback mechanism. The following modules have also been implemented:

—A New Time Attendance System has been introduced to streamline attendance and leave management of employees. Biometric machines (facial recognition devices) have been installed to store data digitally. Staff can log into their accounts to monitor their daily attendance and apply for leave. The system also includes the application of duty rosters for the departments with shift-based or rotational work schedules.

—A Feedback Management System has been introduced for various services, including Hostel, Catering and Banquet. Members who avail of these services receive an SMS with four options—Excellent, Very Good, Good and Bad—which are reviewed by the respective department heads.

Work on enhancements to several software modules related to Accounts, Budget, F&B Costing, Purchase & Stores, and the Vendor Portal is in progress.

Maintenance

Infrastructure Upgradation

Renovation of Hostel Rooms

Following Members’ suggestions, the Centre initiated the Hostel rooms renovation project in 2024. It began with the renovation of three sample rooms—one each in the single, double and suite categories—at the Main Hostel in May 2024, based on designs prepared by the Internal Design Consultant (IDC) and recommended by the Architectural Design and Advisory Committee (ADAC). These sample rooms were completed in October 2024. It was decided that the remaining rooms at the Main Centre and Annexe would be renovated along the same lines in six phases over two years. In the first phase, which began in April 2025, 18 rooms at the Main Hostel were renovated. Apart from the civil works, the renovation also included upgrading furniture and fittings, replacing windows with energy-efficient double-glazed panes, renovating toilets and installing energy-efficient lighting systems.

Following this, the renovation of 16 Annexe Hostel rooms began in October 2025 and is being carried out in three phases to minimise inconvenience to Members and their guests. Work on six rooms has been completed, and renovation of six more rooms is in progress and expected to be completed in April 2026. The remaining four rooms will be renovated by July 2026.



Renovated Hostel Rooms

Renovation of Kitchens

In 2024, it was decided to renovate and upgrade all the kitchens of the Centre. A Kitchen Facility Consultant (KFC) was appointed, who prepared drawings and plans with guidance from the Kitchen Renovation Committee (KRC), comprising culinary experts, constituted to oversee the design and implementation. The project is being carried out in five phases to minimise disruptions. In the first phase, which began in April 2025, the ground-floor kitchen in Kamaladevi Block and its associated facilities in Basement 1 and 2 were completed and inaugurated by IIC Trustee Dr. Mahesh Verma on 26 November 2025.



*Inauguration of Kitchen by
Dr. Mahesh Verma, Trustee, IIC*

The work on the second phase began in December 2025. It involves the complete renovation of the Kamaladevi Block Basement 1 facility, the Butchery and the Annexe Lounge Kitchen, including the Lounge Bar, and is expected to be completed by February 2026.

Storage for Books and Records

To address the growing need for additional storage space for Library books, IIC publications and Membership and Catering records, space-efficient compactors have been installed in Basement 2 of the Kamaladevi Block. This has created space for about 15,000 books. Adequate storage space has been provided for the Publications department. The old records of the Catering and Membership departments, which were previously unsystematically stored, are now properly secured in the compactors. It was inaugurated by Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath, Life Trustee, IIC, on 1 November 2025.



*Inauguration of Compactors by
Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath, Life Trustee, IIC*

Boundary Wall at IIC

Shantanu Mukherjee, IPS (Retd.), was invited by the Centre to conduct a security audit of the premises. He recommended a review of the design and height of the boundary walls. Following this, a new design, prepared by landscape architect Yogesh Kapoor, was cleared by the ADAC.

The boundary wall along Joseph Stein Lane has been redeveloped. A new gate for differently-abled persons (Divyang) has been installed on the same lane, opposite the Library. Work on Max Mueller Marg, covering the area between Gate No. 2 and the end of the lane, is in progress and is expected to be completed in six to eight months.



Redeveloped boundary wall along Joseph Stein Lane

Lecture Room 1



Redesigned Lecture Room 1

The Annexe Lecture Room 1 has been redesigned, with assistance from the ADAC, into a multipurpose space that can be used for a range of programmes. The venue, now available for bookings, has been refurbished to facilitate the conduct of corporate

meetings, events, book launches and other private and public programmes. Its audio-visual system has been upgraded for film screenings. The adjoining garden is now accessible for hosting formal and informal events, with catering services.

Redevelopments

Information Plaque

Gopalkrishna Gandhi, Life Trustee, IIC, noted that the plaque providing information about the Centre's foundation escaped visitors' attention because of its location. To address this, a redesigned plaque, recommended by the ADAC, has been installed at the entrance to the Hostel Reception.

IIC Building Drawing

Over the years, the NDMC building bye-laws have undergone several changes. The Centre is consulting a specialist to review the Ground Coverage (GC) and Floor Area Ratio (FAR), in terms of the new regulations. This exercise is expected to result in additional GC and FAR to the Centre.

As part of this, the Centre has requested NDMC's permission to install a new passenger lift at the Programme Block.

Flooring at the Annexe Lounge

The carpet flooring in the Annexe Lounge has been replaced with new aesthetic tiles. The space has also been refurbished with new wall finishes.

Locker Facility in the Library

Following requests from several Members who had expressed a need for larger lockers in the Library, new lockers with more storage space have been installed.



Redesigned Plaque

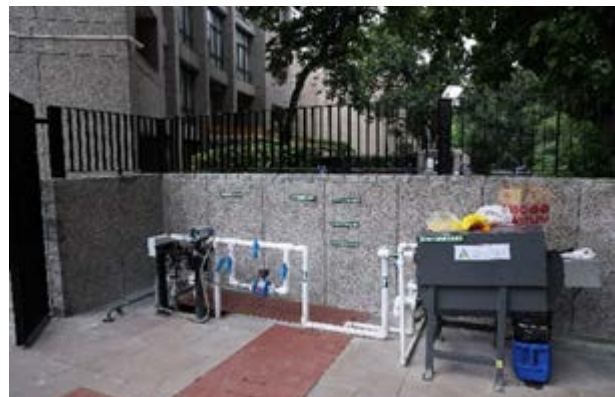
Renovation of International Research Division (IRD) at the Annexe

The IIC-IRD office at the Annexe has been renovated to provide additional workstations for its expanding team.

Environment and Safety

The Centre has always been committed to efficient energy utilisation, the use of renewable energy, the conversion of waste to energy through compost, and zero waste discharge. Several initiatives have been taken to incorporate environmentally friendly projects, including Solar Power Plants, Biogas Plant, Sewage Treatment Plant, Organic Waste Composter, among others. The Centre has also carried out Electrical and HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) audits to identify and minimise all wastage. These efforts have resulted in diverse forms of energy and water savings.

Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at the Annexe



Sewage Treatment Plant

The installation of the sewage treatment plant (STP), funded by the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) and begun in March 2025, has been completed. It was inaugurated by Shyam Saran, President, IIC, in September. Using the latest Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) technology, this facility at the Annexe is designed to process 25 kilolitres of sewage per day. The treated water produced by the plant meets the norms of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and during summer, it can be fully utilised for various purposes, including cooling towers, washing and gardening. To supply surplus treated water during winter to Lodhi Gardens, it is proposed to sign an agreement with NDMC.

Audit of HVAC System

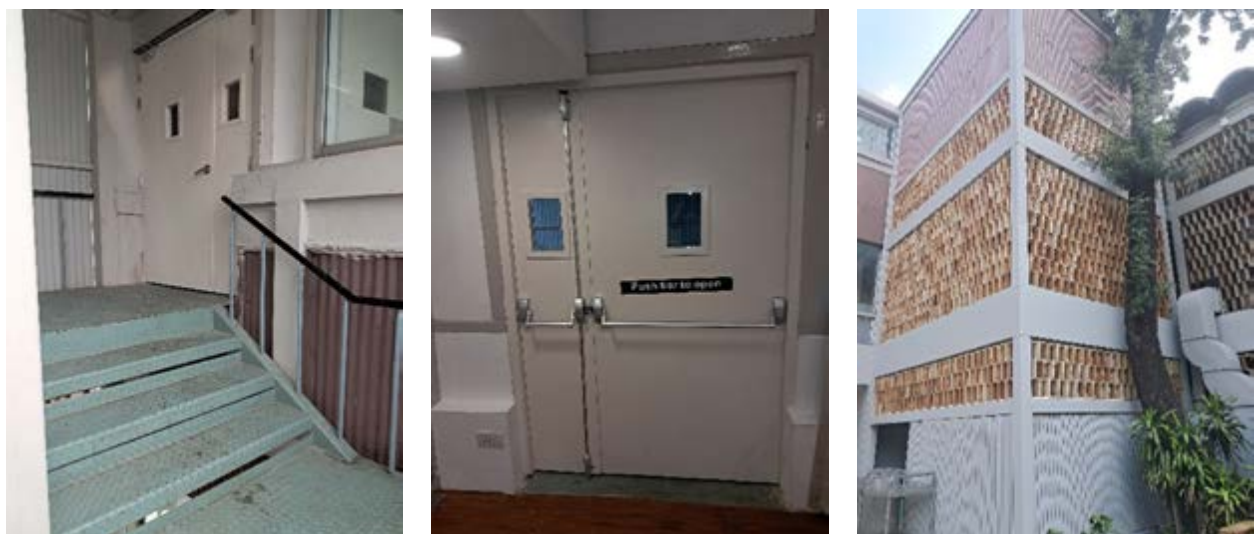
A detailed audit of the air-conditioning systems (HVAC) at the Main Centre and Annexe was conducted. The observations indicated that implementing the necessary action would save over 2 lakh units of electricity annually. By incorporating these recommendations, the Centre has already saved about 1 lakh units of electricity.

Emission Control Device in DG Set

In line with the parameters laid down by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to mitigate air pollution, an emission control device—a Dual-Fuel Kit—in the 750 KVA DG Set was installed at the Main Centre in 2024. As an additional measure, it has been decided to replace the remaining two DG Sets (500 KVA at the Main Centre and 380 KVA at the Annexe) with new DG Sets equipped with such emission control devices. This work will be completed in February 2026.

Terrace Pergola Staircase for Fire Safety

The Centre was granted permission by NDMC to construct an additional staircase for the Terrace Pergola as an additional fire-safety measure. Construction, based on the design recommended by the ADAC, commenced in December 2024 and was completed in May 2025. The staircase has been fully integrated into the existing building design, and a fire check door has been installed at the exit.



Terrace Pergola staircase and fire check door

Measures for Earthquake Safety

With Delhi falling in Zone IV—a high-risk earthquake-prone area—of the revised seismic zone map of India, Gopalkrishna Gandhi, Life Trustee, IIC, suggested that the Centre should have a seismic survey conducted of the premises as a precautionary measure. The Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee, was approached to conduct the survey, and the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad, contacted to install equipment to monitor seismic movements and gather data.

Upcoming Projects

Centralised Water Treatment Plant

The Centre's water storage and supply system is largely decentralised, with independent sources supplying water for firefighting, domestic and drinking purposes. It has been proposed to install a centralised freshwater storage and supply system to maintain consistent water quality.

Central Booking Office

It is proposed to renovate the Central Booking Office in the Kamaladevi Block.

Administration

Firefighting

Refresher firefighting training sessions were conducted at the Centre in April and July 2025, as well as in January 2026. As part of the drills, the IIC staff were trained to operate equipment, including fire hydrants, and were informed about the actions to be taken in the event of a fire. Members were also invited to attend the training sessions, which were conducted by training managers Captain Sher Singh (Retd.) and Captain Balwan Singh (Retd.) from M/s Eagle Hunter Solutions Limited.



Health and Wellness Camps

In collaboration with the Members, six refresher training sessions and wellness camps on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) techniques, hearing loss, osteoporosis, arthritis and back pain, and kidney wellness were organised at the Centre. Additionally, three wellness camps were held to raise awareness and offer consultation on diabetes, arthritis and the importance of vaccination. These camps were organised under the guidance of doctors from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).



Disposal of Old Records

In accordance with the Centre's Records Retention and Disposal Policy (RRDP), all records are categorised based on their respective requirements. In July 2025, 3,455 kilograms of old records were identified, shredded and recycled through a certified agency. As a general rule, a 1,000 kilograms of recycled paper saves 17 trees. Hence, the Centre has saved 59 trees by recycling these old records.

Training on Disaster Management

A training session was held in October 2025 at the C. D. Deshmukh Auditorium to prepare the Staff for potential situations requiring disaster management. It was conducted by district coordinators of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA).

The IIC staff were also trained by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team on survival techniques, firefighting, first aid, evacuation procedures and other relevant actions to be taken in the event of a disaster.



Independence Day

The 79th Independence Day of India was celebrated at the Centre. Shyam Saran, President, IIC, unfurled the National Flag and delivered the customary speech. IIC Trustees and staff were present at the occasion.



Gender Sensitisation Training Session

To generate awareness about the laws relating to the safety of women employees in the workplace, specifically the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, a gender sensitisation training session for the IIC staff was conducted in June by advocate Apoorva Thakur.



Staff Annual Day

Staff Annual Day was celebrated on 21 January. IIC President Shyam Saran felicitated those employees who had completed 25 years at the Centre. Certificates of appreciation were presented to staff members who rendered commendable service during the year.

The Centre bade farewell to L. S. Tochwang, Head of the Programmes Department, and Omita Goyal, Chief Editor. Among the staff, Rakesh Parcha, Anil Upadhyay, Bag Singh, Gulab Singh, Ramesh Kumar Chauhan, Arun Kumar Jaggi, Anita Sharma, Anil Kumar, Beni Chand, T. Prasanna, Prem Singh and Ram Gopal were also bid farewell.

Lunch for Super Senior Members

A special lunch was organised for Super Senior Members in the Rose Garden, in December. President IIC, Shyam Saran, welcomed the Members and thanked them for their long association with the Centre. They were presented a gift bag with chocolates and the *IIC Quarterly Diamond Jubilee* two-volume book set. In addition, the male Members were given a woollen muffler and Kullu cap and female Members a woollen stole. In all, 98 Super Senior Members attended the lunch held in their honour.



Catering

A variety of special cuisines was relished by Members during the year, including a Navratri spread in April and September; an Old Delhi Mughlai dinner—‘Dilli ki Galiyon Se’; a Bengali dinner, curated by Manoshi Mitra (M-3781); a Maharashtrian vegetarian dinner featuring a spread from the royal kitchens of the Rajwadas of Konkan; a Chettinad dinner; an Italian lunch; a Christmas lunch; a New Year’s lunch; and a Thai dinner. Two more culinary experiences were presented: ‘Awadhi Dastarkhwan’, curated by Farhan Zaidi, founder, Truly Awadh, and ‘Punjabi Tadka’, prepared by the Centre’s chefs. Members and their guests also savoured a delightful selection of cuisines, curated by Sourish Bhattacharyya and Pushpesh Pant, and presented by women of ‘We The Chefs’ during the five days of the IIC Experience.

To offer respite from the extreme heat, summer favourites were added to all dining venues. These included fresh mango, *aam panna*, buttermilk, fresh watermelon juice, and cold soups of gazpacho, cucumber, and leek and potato. From July 2025 onwards, weekly special cuisines are being served in the Annexe Dining Hall. New menu cards have been introduced at all Catering venues with a few changes. In December, winter favourites such as *Sarson ka Saag* and *Makki ki Roti* with jaggery and white butter were also added to the Catering menu. More varieties of liquor have been added to the Bar. Special gift hampers were curated for sale during Deepawali and Christmas.

Following the GST 2.0 announcement by the Central Government, GST has been removed on most food items served at our catering venues and significantly reduced on the remaining items. The guest fee at all Catering venues has been revised and implemented from 1 November 2025.

A training session on mixology by Joel Poon, co-owner of Reka Bar, Malaysia, was organised at the Taj Hotel for the IIC Catering staff. As part of periodic training, a session on ‘Service Cycle’ was conducted for the catering staff in September, focussing on the complete event process, from client consultation and menu planning to food preparation, service and post-event follow-up.

The layouts of the buffet counters at banquets have been redesigned for greater efficiency. Internal rotation of catering staff has been introduced to train them in multi-skilling.

IIC Gardens and Housekeeping

The Centre has started preparing organic compost using the composter on kitchen, garden and other solid wastes. This compost is lab-tested and meets the essential nutrient requirements for the healthy growth of plants. It has been made available for sale to Members. Additionally, the Centre has started enriching this compost manure through vermiculture processing. The enriched manure will also be made available for sale to Members.

This year too, about 10 to 12 varieties of seasonal flower seedlings, nurtured in pots by the IIC Garden Staff, were made available for sale in November on a first-come, first-served basis.

Two trees—the coral and the Kalpavriksha—have been planted near Gate No.1 and Gate No. 2. Relaying of the main lawn has been completed. With the completion of all winter plantations, we can look forward to colourful blooms across the IIC lawns in the coming months.



Organic compost prepared by IIC

Management of the Centre

The Board of Trustees provides overall direction for the management of the Centre's affairs. It held four meetings this year, in the months of March, June, September and December. The first General Body Meeting to only examine the financial performance of the Centre was held on 29 September 2025. The Executive Committee (EC) met twice and the Finance Committee (FC) had three meetings. The EC meetings were held in August and December, and the FC met in March, August and November. Our heartfelt thanks to the Members of all these bodies.

President has been actively participating in the Centre's activities and has held meetings in virtual and physical modes. All our officers and staff have worked consistently and with dedication throughout the year. I thank them for their commitment.

Finally, my team and I wish to express our gratitude to our Members for their continued support. They have constantly encouraged us by actively participating in the programmes organised by the Centre.

K. N. Shrivastava
Director, IIC

Appendices

Appendix

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APPENDIX I *Seminars*

FEBRUARY 2025

1 **Managing Diabetes for Healthy Ageing: An Integrated Approach**

Panellists: Prof. Naval Vikram, Professor of Medicine and Associate Dean, AIIMS, New Delhi; Dr. A. B. Dey, Director, Venu Geriatric Institute and former Head of Department, Geriatrics, AIIMS; Brig. (Dr.) Poninder Dogra, Medical Director, Venu Eye Institute and Research Centre; Dr. Hemanshu Sharma, Academic Director, National Institute of Naturopathy; Ms. Sujaya Krishnan, former Joint Secretary for Health

Welcome: Dr. Maria Liberos, Executive Director, Venu Naturopathy Centre

Moderator: Ms. Tanuja Joshi, Managing Director, Venu Naturopathy Centre

The conference brought together leading naturopaths, endocrinologists, ophthalmologists and physicians to explore the transformative power of integrated diabetes management with a focus on geriatrics and healthy ageing. The conference delved into the synergy between modern medicine and naturopathy, showcasing how combining evidence-based therapies with holistic practices can revolutionise diabetes care, particularly for the elderly.

(Collaboration: Venu Eye Institute)

4-5 **IIC-BRUEGEL ANNUAL SEMINAR**

Inaugural Session

Welcome address by Amb. Shyam Saran, President, IIC

Address by Shri N. N. Vohra, Life Trustee, IIC and former Co-Chair, India-EU Round Table (2001-2008) on **India-EU Relations**

Reply by Director, Bruegel, Dr. Jeromin Zettelmeyer

Address by Chair, Bruegel, Mr. Erkki Liikanen, former Governor of the Bank of Finland

Keynote Address by Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister, Govt. of India

Session I: Trade and Investment

International Trade in an Era of Contested Geopolitics

Opening remarks by Dr. Shankar Acharya, Honorary Professor, ICRIER and former Chief Economic Advisor to the Govt. of India

Lead Presentations by Amb. Dr. V. S. Seshadri, Sr. Fellow for Economic Security, Delhi Policy Group; Prof. Andre Sapir, Senior Fellow, Bruegel and Dr. Ignacio Garcia Berceo, Non-Resident Fellow, Bruegel

Session II: Climate Change and Energy

International Climate Governance after COP29

Opening Remarks by Mr. Erkki Liikanen, Chairman of Bruegel, former Governor of the Bank of Finland

Lead Presentations by Dr. Arunabha Ghosh, CEO, Council on Energy Environment and Water; Dr. Jeromin Zettelmeyer, Director, Bruegel and Dr. Heather Grabbe, Sr. Fellow, Bruegel

Session III: High Technology and AI

Digital Economy and AI

Opening Remarks by Shri S. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Govt. of India

Lead Presentations by Shri Nitin Pai, Founder and Director, Takshashila Institution, Bangalore; and Prof. Mario Mariniello, Non-Resident Fellow, Bruegel

Valedictory Session

Opening Remarks by Amb. Gaitri Kumar

Comments by EU Ambassador to India Ms. Ewa Suwara, Chargé d’Affaires, EEAS Delegation; and Amb. Saurabh Kumar, Indian Ambassador to the EU

Valedictory Address by Shri Suman K. Bery, Vice Chairman, Niti Aayog

(Collaboration: Bruegel)

11-13 DELHI HISTORY CONGRESS

A three-day seminar organised in collaboration with The History Collective and with the support of Heather House LLP; and Primus Books

Welcome and Introduction: Dr. Rakesh Batabyal, Centre for Media Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and Founder and Trustee, The History Collective (THC)

Introduction to *The History Collective Visual Archives* by Dr. Swapna Liddle, Founder and Trustee, THC

Welcome Address: Shri Suhas Borker, Trustee, IIC

The Social And/In/Through as the Quotidian Notes on a Complex Relationship

Keynote Address by Prof. Judith Becker, Faculty of Theology, Humboldt University

Presidential Remarks: Prof. Aditya Mukherjee, former Professor of Contemporary Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Release of the Delhi History Congress volume

Valedictory Address: Sources and Historical Interpretation: Issues and Challenges

By Prof. R. Mahalakshmi, Professor, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

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

MARCH 2025**3–5 International Conference on Reflections on the Past, Looking to the Future: Fifty Years of Towards Equality**

A three-day international conference organised in collaboration with Centre for Women's Development Studies

Welcome: N. Manimekalai, Director, Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS); and K. N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC

Towards Equality: The Journey and the Engagement

Speaker: Kumud Sharma, former Director and Chairperson, CWDS

Keynote Address: Jayati Ghosh, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Massachusetts, USA

28–29 THE 10TH SYMPOSIUM IN THE LITERARY ACTIVISM SERIES**The Non-Peer Reviewed Essay**

A two-day symposium presented in collaboration with the Centre for the Creative and the Critical, Ashoka University; in partnership with the Institute of Advanced Studies, University College, London

Speakers: Amit Chaudhuri, editor, *Literary Activism*, and Professor of Creative Writing, Ashoka University; Lara Choksey, journalist and Lecturer, Department of English Language and Literature, UCL; Jon Cook, critic and Emeritus Professor, School of Literature, Drama and Creative Writing, UEA; Brian Dillon, Professor and Director of Creative Writing, Queen Mary University of London; Mandakini Dubey, Assistant Professor of English and Critical Thinking, Ashoka University; Edwin Frank, poet and editorial director, New York Review Books; Vineet Gill, writer and senior copy editor, Penguin Random House India; Saikat Majumdar, novelist and Professor of English and Creative Writing, Ashoka University; Arvind Krishna Mehrotra, poet, writer and translator; Sumana Roy, poet, writer and Associate Professor of English and Creative Writing, Ashoka University; Colin Vanderburg, senior editor, n+1 magazine, and PhD candidate in English, New York University; and Cynthia Zarin, poet, journalist and Senior Lecturer in English, Yale University

28 Conference on Legislatures and Representation

Introductory Remarks: Amitabha Pande

Opening Remarks: Shri N. N. Vohra, Life Trustee, IIC

The sessions included: 'Representation in Parliament Through Delimitation'; 'Representation through Reservation in the Legislature'; and 'Representation of the Electorate'

In the past ten years, we have seen a sharp decline of deliberative politics and/or policy formulation, most strikingly in parliament, where legislation that will affect more than a billion lives is barely discussed, and opposition MPs are prevented from speaking, have their remarks expunged or face spurious charges. As a result, institutions that are meant to represent—and act on—the aspirations of *all* the electorate no longer do so. How is this situation to be remedied?

This conference addressed selected aspects of the problem: the failure of the First Past the Post (FPTP) system to adequately represent the electorate and possible reforms, the absence of minority representation that has allowed several state legislatures to bypass the minorities' fundamental rights, the need to safeguard delimitation from gerrymandering, the recarving of districts according to their religious or ethnic composition (as happened in Jammu), or other methods of distorting the plural equality of the Constitution, and whether and in which way parliamentary committees can fill some of the gaps.

Organised by the IIC Sectoral Policy Group on Governance under the Convenorship of Shri Amitabh Pande

APRIL 2025

7 DIALOGUES IN HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Conceptualised by Dr. Ashwani Kumar

TO MARK WORLD HEALTH DAY 2025

Workshop

Special session on Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Techniques

A training session on CPR techniques as well as Automated External Defibrillator (AED), a medical device designed to analyse the heart rhythm and deliver an electric shock to the victims of ventricular fibrillation to restore the heart rhythm to normal. The session included First Aid in Common Emergencies (F.A.C.E.)—an evidence based first response to acute health emergencies and how to avoid common myths and mismanagement in these situations.

Conducted by Dr. Nitish Naik, Dr. Ambuj Roy and associates

The Ten Commandments for Nurturing Heart

Speaker: Prof. Ambuj Roy, MD, DM, FACC, FAMS, FRCP, FNASI, Professor, Dept. of Cardiology, Head, Skill, e-learning & Telemedicine Facility, AIIMS, New Delhi

Panel Discussion on Heart Attack: How Do We Prevent and Abort?

Panellists: Dr. Nitish Naik, Prof. of Cardiology, AIIMS, New Delhi; Dr. Ambuj Roy; Dr. Yashdeep Gupta, Addl. Prof. of Endocrinology, AIIMS, New Delhi; and Dr. Suparna Ghosh-Jerath, Program Head, Nutrition, The George Institute for Global Health, India

Chair: Dr. Ashwani Kumar

9 SEMINAR ON CLIMATE CHANGE: LAND COVER & LAND USE AND BIODIVERSITY***Interplay, Impact, Policy Framework and Way Forward***

Full-day seminar based on the *Report on Climate Change, Land Use and Biodiversity* prepared by Dr. P. S. Roy, Dr. Swati Basu and Dr. Sanjay Kumar as part of the IIC Sectoral Policy Group on Science and Technology under the Convenorship of Dr. Renu Swarup

Inauguration

Welcome Address: Dr. P. S. Roy

Context setting and about the monograph: Dr. Renu Swarup, former Secretary, Department of Biotechnology

Address about SPGs: Shri K. N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC

Special Remarks: Dr. P. K. Aggarwal, Regional Program Leader, Borlaug Institute for South Asia (BISA), CIMMYT India Office

Presentations by Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute; Prof. Sagnik Dey, Associate Professor, Centre for Atmospheric Science, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi; Dr. Joy Rajbansi, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW); Dr. J. V. Sharma, Programme Director of Land Resources, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI); Prof. Pawan K. Joshi, Professor, School of Environmental Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Dr. Gyanendra Pratap Singh, Director, ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources; Dr. Manish Kumar, Lead, CSTEP, New Delhi; Dr. Monalisa Sen, Associate Director, Biodiversity, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, South Asia, New Delhi; Dr. Abi Tamim Vanak, Senior Fellow and Director, Centre for Policy Design, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE); Dr. K. M. Jayahari, India Country Coordinator, Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU), World Resources Institute (WRI), India Office; and Prof. Milap Punia, Professor, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Under the S&T Policy group, there have been detailed discussions regarding interventions on important issues of relevance to civil society. A very detailed monograph has been prepared by the group of experts on the important issue of Climate Change: Land Use & Land cover and Biodiversity, including Agrobiodiversity. The discussions had focussed on the current landscape, the challenges, the science and technology component and the policy framework for actions which need to be taken.

15 Rediscovering Delhi, Rediscovering the City

Half-day Symposium

Presentations by Dr. Alexander Philips, Assistant Professor of English, Ashoka University; Shri Sohail Hashmi, oral historian of Delhi, social activist, filmmaker and conservationist; Prof. Swati Pal, Principal, Janki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi; and Dr. Jitender Gill, Convenor, Khoj, former Director JDMC Research Centre

24 CELEBRATING BANDUNG @70

Bandung Spirit and the Role of the Global South

A curated event comprising a seminar, cultural programme and an exhibition

Inauguration of the exhibition by H. E. Ina Hagniningtyas Krisnamurthi, Ambassador of Indonesia to India which remained on view in the Quadrangle Garden until 30 April 2025

Bandung Day Symposium 2025

Welcome Remarks: Shri K. N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC

Introductory Remarks: Prof. Nitya Nanda, Director, Council for Social Development

Keynote Address: Amb. Shyam Saran, President, IIC and former Foreign Secretary of India

Samanvay: Celebrating the Bandung Spirit

Presented by Bluebells School International Choir, Pratidhwani, led by Prof. Subhendu Ghosh; Students of Bahasa Indonesia, Centre for Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, led and directed by Dr. Gautam Kumar Jha; Tiryak, the Choir, led and directed by Kajal Ghosh, coordinated by Sabaree Mitra and Jaiping and Tor Tor – Indonesian dances presented by artists of the Embassy of Indonesia

(Collaboration: Council for Social Development; Bandung India Network; and People's Forum for a Multi-Polar World)

25 Reclaiming the Founding Mothers of the Indian Constitution

Celebrating 75 years of India's Constitution, this special dialogue explored the pivotal contributions of the women members of the Constituent Assembly in shaping the modern Indian democratic republic. Prof. Achyut Chetan, author of *Founding Mothers of the Indian Republic*, led the conversation, drawing from extensive archives and rare artefacts to bring forth the compelling yet often invisibilised voices of the founding mothers.

Opening Remarks and Chair: Shri N. N. Vohra, Life Trustee, IIC

Speaker: Prof. Achyut Chetan

Special Remarks: Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath

Closing Remarks: Justice Gita Mittal

(Collaboration: WISCOMP)

26 Athena's Ragas: In Search of the Founding Mothers of the Indian Constitution

Celebrating 75 years of the Indian Constitution, a one-of-its-kind workshop series which employed unconventional methodologies, including role-plays, dramatised readings, and explorations of original documents, to offer an immersive experience in understanding the values and enduring spirit of the Indian Constitution. This workshop was led by Prof. Achyut Chetan, author, *Founding Mothers of Indian Republic*. Can their radical questions, unconventional methods, and fierce debates offer new ways to navigate challenges of democracy, fraternity, nation-building, peace, and coexistence? Through these interactive sessions, participants familiarised themselves with the warp and weft of the Constitution while amplifying women's voices and agency in shaping the modern Indian democratic republic.

Inaugural Remarks: Shri Shyam Saran, President, IIC

Special Remarks: Prof. Neera Chandhoke

Workshop Facilitator: Prof. Achyut Chetan

Welcome Remarks: Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath

(Collaboration: WISCOMP)

29 Odyssey of AI: Challenges and Opportunities Beyond DeepSeek

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) are driving a paradigm shift across industries, reshaping the very fabric of modern life. With the advent of cutting-edge AI models like DeepSeek, the capabilities of intelligent systems are expanding exponentially, impacting sectors ranging from education and finance to healthcare and beyond. AI-driven

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innovations—such as personalised recommendations on platforms like Netflix, real-time customer engagement through chatbots, and intelligent voice assistants like Alexa, Google Assistant and Siri—have seamlessly integrated into our daily routines. These deeply profound advances, which still need a lot of work in terms of reliability, will change our lives quite a bit.

However, as AI continues to evolve, it presents both unprecedented opportunities and significant challenges. While AI-driven automation, predictive analytics, and personalised experiences are revolutionising industries, concerns about ethical considerations, bias in AI models, data privacy, and the future of employment persist. As we move beyond DeepSeek and similar models, it becomes imperative to examine the broader implications, limitations and future trajectories of AI in shaping human society.

Welcome Remarks: Shri K. N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC

Introduction to the AI-ML National Conclave: Prof. Seyed E. Hasnain, National Science Chair, IIT Delhi

Navigating the New World of AI/ML: A User's Perspective: Presentation by Prof. Debasisa Mohanty, Director, National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi

Societal Impact of AI: Presentation by Prof. Shandar Ahmad, former Dean, School of Computational and Integrative Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Computational Gastronomy: Blending Food with AI-ML: Presentation by Dr. Ganesh Bagler, Infosys Centre for Artificial Intelligence, IIIT, Delhi

Trust in AI Systems: Presentation by Prof. Naveen Kumar, Head of Dept. Computer Science, University of Delhi

MAY 2025

5 EMPOWERING HEALTH & NUTRITION

Impact of Millets and Herbs in Daily Life for Better Health and Energy for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities

Coordinator: Satish Kapoor, Founding President, Brotherhood.

Speakers: Dr. Khader Vali, the Millet Man of India and pioneering Indian organic farmer and environmentalist; Shri Kamal Kant Pant, Principal, Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, PUSA; Dr. A. K. Agarwal, Chairman, River Engineering Pvt. Ltd.; Dr. Dharm Singh, Chairman, South Asian Council for Ayurvedic Research; Dr. Meenakshi Gupta, Principal, SD Public School, Delhi; Shri Pradeep Dwivedi, CEO, Prajana Agro New Delhi; Dr. Vijaya Tripathi, Director, Research and Development in Nutrelis Agro Food, Noida

(Collaboration: Brotherhood)

JUNE 2025**11–13 Awareness and Capacity Building Workshop on **Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) Technology, Policy and Regulations: Towards a Net Zero Strategy****

Introduction by Dr. Malti Goel, President, Climate Change Research Institute (CCRI)

Welcome Address: Prof. D. P. Agarwal, Chairman, Governing Council, CCRI and former Chairman, UPSC

Inaugural Address by the Chief Guest: Dr. V. K. Saraswat, Member, Niti Aayog and Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Keynote Address: Shri Alok Kumar, National Advisory Board, ACBCCUS and former Secretary, Ministry of Power

(Collaboration: Climate Change Research Institute)

20 Workshop on ‘Preventing Memory Loss – The Yogic Way’

The workshop was conducted by Yoga Guru Bijoylaxmi Hota who taught simple yogic techniques to improve memory. Furthermore, participants were taught about food medicines for better brain health.

26 TO MARK UNESCO INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIGHT 2025 (IDL2025)**Workshop on ‘Familiarisation with Quantum Sciences and Technology’**

Welcome Address: Shri K. N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC

Opening Remarks: Dr. D. Shailaja Donempudi, Vice Chairman, Zaheer Science Foundation (ZSF), New Delhi, Distinguished Scientist BD Group, CSIR HQ and former Chief Scientist and Head, BDRM, CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad

Workshop In-charge: Dr. Zahid H. Khan, Advisor, ZSF, UNESCO- National Node for India for IDL2025 and former Professor of Physics, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

Keynote Address: ‘Quantum Light: Celebrating the International Day of Light and the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology’ by Prof. John M. Dudley, International Day of Light 2025 Steering Committee Chair; Professor, University of Franche-Comté, France

(Collaboration: Zaheer Science Foundation, New Delhi)

27 Stories from Asia: A Session for Adults to Listen Again

Storytelling by Neha Bansal, Founder-Director 'Asianism-Retold'—an initiative in preventive diplomacy and new models of development.

Introduction: Akshay Mathur, Senior Director (Head), Asia Society Policy Institute, Delhi

JULY 2025

4 Symposium on Krishna Baldev Vaid and the Hindi Literary Culture

Led by Madan Soni, Hindi Critic

Followed by **Film Screening:**

Jayein to Jayein Kahaan (90 min; 2025; Hindi)

Directed by Amit Dutta, eminent filmmaker

(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation)

8 DIALOGUES IN HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Conceptualised by Dr. Ashwani Kumar

Understanding Menopause

Consultant Speaker: Dr. Garima, Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, AIIMS, New Delhi

Women's Health Beyond Menopause

Speaker: Dr. Neena Malhotra, MD, DNB, FRCOG (UK), FAMS, FICOG

Professor and Head, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, AIIMS, New Delhi

Followed by **Panel Discussion** on:

Wellness in the Second Spring: A Guide to Women's Health After Midlife

Panellists: Dr. Sonia Malik, Former President, Indian Menopause Society; Dr. S. V. Madhu, Director-Prof., Dept. of Endocrinology, UCMS and GTB Hospital, Delhi; Dr. Ambuj Roy, Prof. of Cardiology, AIIMS, New Delhi; and Dr. Arvinder J. Singh, psychologist and psychotherapist

Moderator: Dr. Neena Malhotra, consultant

Followed by an interactive Q&A with the audience

12–13 Healing Through Nada Yoga: Breath, Sounds and Stillness

A unique two-day immersion with Yogacharya Dr. Anand Balayogi Bhavanani, Director, Institute of Salutogenesis and complementary medicine, Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth, Pondicherry; and Yogacharini Dr. Sangeeta Biagi, Director, International Studies and Research, Gitananda Nada Yoga, Ananda Ashram, Pondicherry.

Welcome Remarks: Shri K. N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC

(Collaboration: Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama)

12 Yoga Beyond the ‘Branding’: Reclaiming the Sacred

Yogacharya Dr. Ananda Bhavanani and Yogacharini Dr. Sangeeta Biagi in Conversation with Rajiv Mehrotra, Trustee/Secretary, Foundation for Universal Responsibility

Welcome Remarks: Shri K. N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC

(Collaboration: Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama)

17 FIRST PROF. M. S. SWAMINATHAN LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE**From Green Revolution to the Evergreen Revolution: New Technologies Reaching the Unreached**

Welcome Remarks: Shri K. N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC

Speakers: Dr. Tirlochan Mohapatra, former DG, ICAR and Secretary, Govt of India; Dr. Renu Swarup, Former Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Govt of India; Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Chairperson, MSSRF; Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Chairman, ASRB; Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, IARI-ICAR; Dr. K. C. Bansal, Former DG, NBPGR; Dr. Ashwani Pareek, Executive Director, NABI, Mohali; and Dr. Madhura Swaminathan, Professor, ISI, Bengaluru

Chair: Shri Shyam Saran, President, IIC

Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks: Dr. George John, Former Senior Adviser, Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India.

18 TO MARK MANDELA INTERNATIONAL DAY 2025**Commemoration of Nelson Mandela’s 107th Birthday****Commemoration Service**

Songs by School Choirs from Delhi–NCR

Mandela Katha Mala

Message from the UN Secretary-General António Guterres to be read by Mr. Darrin Farrant, Director, United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan

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Speakers: H. E. Prof. Anil Sooklal, High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa; and Shri Suhas Borker, Convenor, Working Group on Alternative Strategies

Interactive session with school students from Delhi–NCR

Madiba and His Struggle

An exhibition of paintings by students of Bluebells School International

Organised as part of *Taking Gandhi to Children* series that brings children closer to the enduring legacy of Gandhi's non-violent struggle for equity, justice, pluralism and sustainable development.

(Collaboration: Gandhi Yuva Baradari; United Nations Information Centre; and Working Group on Alternative Strategies)

25–26 Image Worlds: Approaching the Bicentennial of Photography

The symposium engaged with the aesthetics, politics and global circulation of images in our hyper-visual era.

It gathered international scholars, artists, curators and archivists to explore the shifting terrains of lens-based media.

(Collaboration: Photo South Asia; The Alkazi Foundation for the Arts; Maze Collective Studio; and Offset Projects)

SEPTEMBER 2025

2 DIALOGUES IN HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Conceptualised by Dr. Ashwani Kumar

Workshop on Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Techniques

Organised by Dr. Ambuj Roy, Professor of Cardiology, Head, Skill, e-Learning & Telemedicine Facility, AIIMS, New Delhi

Conducted by Prof. Rakesh Garg, AIIMS, New Delhi, and associates

Workshop on Assessment of Neurological Status

Conducted by Dr. Achal Kumar Srivastava and associates

A short talk on Brain Matters: Protecting Memory and Brain Health

Followed by **Panel Discussion** on:

Alzheimer's Disease and other Dementia

Speaker and Moderator: Dr. Achal Kumar Srivastava, Professor, Department of Neurology, AIIMS, New Delhi

Speaker: Dr. Rajesh Sagar, Prof., Department of Psychiatry, AIIMS, New Delhi and Dr Sushma Chawla, Founder President of Hope Ek ASHA (NGO)

Chair: Dr. Ashwani Kumar

It was followed by an interactive Q&A with the audience

4-5 Conference on South Asia's Manuscript Traditions and Mathematical Contributions

The conference examined South Asia's manuscript traditions, focussing on mathematical thought and the challenges of deciphering diverse texts. It highlighted their pedagogical, computational and global contributions, underscoring the continuing relevance of this heritage.

Inauguration by Shri Shyam Saran, President, IIC

Keynote Address by Prof. Manjul Bhargava, Fields Medal Awardee (2014)

Lecture-demonstration: Sarangi and Vocals by Dr. Deepak Paramshivan, IIT Madras

(Collaboration: IIC-International Research Division and Centre for Traditional Indian Knowledge Systems and Skills, IIT Bombay)

Valedictory Session

Introductory Address: Prof. K. Ramasubramanian, Professor-in-charge, Centre for Traditional Indian Knowledge Systems and Skills, IIT Bombay

Address by Prof. M. D. Srinivas, Padma Shri

Guest of Honour: Shri Govind Mohan, Secretary, Home Affairs

(Collaboration: IIC-International Research Division and Centre for Traditional Indian Knowledge Systems and Skills, IIT Bombay)

OCTOBER 2025

6 DIALOGUES IN HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Conceptualised by Dr. Ashwani Kumar

Talk and Workshop

Breast Cancer Awareness with the slogan ‘Pink Together, Stronger Forever’

Speaker: Dr. Sneha Bhargava, Assistant Professor, Department of Medical Oncology, Central Armed Police Forces Institute of Medical Sciences (CAPFIMS), AIIMS, New Delhi.

The talk focussed on breast cancer awareness by outlining the key risk factors prevalent in India, including genetic and lifestyle influences.

It was followed by a **workshop** on self-breast examination techniques for timely identification of abnormalities.

Conducted by Dr. Krithika Rangarajan, Associate Professor, Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Onco-radiology, AIIMS, New Delhi

There was a live breast screening **demonstration** for myth-busting, with the definite purpose of creating awareness and early detection in the fight against breast cancer, besides an **expert note** on **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** in the diagnosis of suspected cases of breast cancer.

A short talk on ‘Vaccination in Adults– My Prescription’

Speaker: Dr. Manish Soneja, Professor, Department of Medicine, AIIMS, New Delhi

In this session on Adult Vaccination, it was discussed why vaccines are essential at different stages of adult life, clear common myths, and simple, practical guidance for building personal vaccine prescription.

It was followed by a **Panel Discussion:**

Vaccination in Adults: Questions, Concerns and Answers

Panellists: Dr. Ambuj Roy, Professor, Department of Cardiology, AIIMS, New Delhi, Dr. Manish Soneja, Professor, Department of Medicine, AIIMS, New Delhi; Dr. Karan Madan, Professor of Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleeping Medicine, AIIMS, New Delhi

It was followed by an interactive Q&A session with the audience

NOVEMBER 2025

1 **The Qawwali Project: Understanding Qawwali**

The seventh edition in the series on 'Understanding Qawwali' conceptualised by Manjari Chaturvedi. It was a **symposium** on the traditional artform of Qawwali.

Qawwali Mehfil Traditions and Experiments – A Curated Evening Performance

Saiyan Sajilay – Celebrating Basant and Krishna in Qawwali (60 minutes)

By Qawwal Danish Hussain Badayuni from Badaun and Sufi Kathak by Manjari Chaturvedi

Sawaal Jawaab – Mian Samat Bin Ibrahim And Gopal Naik (15 minutes)

By Qawwal Sibtain Nizami and Qawwal Saqlain Nizami from Delhi

In memory of Qawwal Late Ustad Meraj Nizami of Qawwal Bacchon ka Gharana

Qaul – Khanqahi Qawwali (60 minutes)

By Qawwals Hussaini Brothers from Hyderabad

Adil Hussain Khan Warsi

Fazil Hussain Khan Quadri

Kaamil Hussain Khan

In memory of Qawwal Late Ustad Ahsan Hussain Khan Bandanawazi

(Collaboration: Ganga Jamuna Culture Foundation)

8 **Conversations Around Textiles: In Honour of Jasleen Dhamija**

A tribute to a renowned expert on textiles and crafts, the seminar was a reflection of Jasleen's interest in the revival of textiles and crafts as a living tradition, through the amalgamation of appropriate policies and practices.

Panel 1

Living Masters

Padmashri Lajwanti, Phulkari Artist; Niranjan Jonnalagadda, Kalamkari Master Artist; Naseem Ahmed, Master Jalamaker, Benares Weaving

In conversation with Manjari Nirula, Delhi Crafts Council

Panel 2

Fashionable Traditions: Textile Studies and Collections

Archana Shah, Textile revivalist and writer, Founder/Designer – BANDHEJ, Ahmedabad

APPENDICES

David Abraham, Co-founder, Abraham & Thakore; Asaf Ali, Co-Founder and Director, Kashmir Loom

In conversation with Monisha Ahmed, Textile Anthropologist and founder, Ladakh Arts and Media Organisation

Panel 3

Empowering: Continuations x Regenerations

Lekha Poddar, Collector and Co-founder, Devi Art Foundation Meera Goradia, Chair, Creative Dignity, and former Director, Khamir Laila Taybji, Padma Shri, Chairperson, Dastkar

In conversation with Dr. Ritu Sethi, Editor, Global InCH Journal of Living Heritage, and the Asia InCH Encyclopedia

Panel 4

Textile Art, Living Heritage

Neha Puri Dhir, Textile Artist

Bappaditya Biswas, Textile Artist and Co-Founder, Byloom

Brigitte Singh, Textile Designer and Printer and Raghav Pasricha, Photographer in conversation with Paola Manfredi

11 DIALOGUES IN HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Conceptualised by Dr. Ashwani Kumar

Talk and Workshop

Managing Our Weight – What Can We Do?

The talk was about weight control. Benefits of controlling weight include prevention of diabetes as well as management of pre-existing condition.

Speaker: Dr. Pooja Tiwari, Assistant Professor, Department of Endocrinology & Metabolism, Central Armed Police Forces Institute of Medical Sciences (CAPFIMS)

It was followed by **screening** for diabetes risk including weight, height and waist check, random blood sugar testing and counselling by a dietician.

A short talk on ‘Lighten up for Sugar Control: How Weight Management Transforms Diabetes’

Speaker: Prof. S. V. Madhu, Director Professor, Department of Endocrinology & Metabolism, UCMS and GTB Hospital, Delhi.

Followed by **Panel Discussion** on:

Awareness to Action: Controlling Weight to Control Diabetes!

Panellists: Dr. S. V. Madhu, Director and Professor, Department of Endocrinology & Metabolism, UCMS and GTB Hospital, Delhi; Dr. Nitish Naik, Prof. of Cardiology, AIIMS, New Delhi; Dr. Yashdeep Gupta, Addl. Prof. of Endocrinology & Metabolism, AIIMS; New Delhi, Mrs. Nilanjana Singh, Dietician & Nutrition Therapist

Chair: Dr. Ashwani Kumar

It was followed by an interactive Q&A session with the audience

17–18 Conference on Indo-Portuguese Historical Relations

An international conference brought together eminent historians from Portugal and India to examine the multifaceted Indo-Portuguese encounters through history—from early modern exchanges to intellectual and cultural networks.

Speakers: João Paulo Oliveira e Costa (NOVA University, Lisbon); Ernestine Carreira (Aix-Marseille University, France); Lakshmi Subramanian (BITS Pilani); Syed Ali Nadeem Rezavi (Aligarh Muslim University); Anirudh Deshpande; Amar Farooqui and Farhat Hassan (University of Delhi); and Najaf Haider (Jawaharlal Nehru University)

(Collaboration: Embassy of Portugal, Cultural Centre)

21–22 Guru Conference: Atiśa Dipamkara Śrījñāna

This conference on the Buddhist philosopher Atiśa Dipamkara explored his roles as scholar, reformer and spiritual leader. Practitioners and academics spoke of Atiśa's life and of how he contributed to our understanding of mindfulness and the guru-shishya relationship.

(Organised by IIC–International Research Division in collaboration with the Centre for Escalation of Peace, Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, Ritinjali and Pallavan Learning Centre)

DECEMBER 2025

9 DIALOGUES IN HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Conceptualised by Dr. Ashwani Kumar

Talk and Workshop

A short talk on

Hands to Restart Heart to Save Lives by Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Techniques

The talk was about CPR, the lifesaving technique that may be required in many medical emergencies such as heart attacks. This technique helps to revive persons whose heartbeat or breathing may have stopped. This session helped participants to recognise and respond to cardiac arrest and give high-quality CPR. In addition, participants also learned how to use Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), which are medical devices used to restore normal heart rhythm.

By Prof. Rakesh Garg, AIIMS, New Delhi

Followed by **Demonstration of Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Techniques**

Organised by Dr. Ambuj Roy, Professor of Cardiology and Head, Skill, e-Learning & Telemedicine Facility, AIIMS, New Delhi. Conducted by Prof. Rakesh Garg, AIIMS, New Delhi, with associates

Meaningful Life Despite Arthritis, with Rehabilitation Medicine!

Organised and conducted with a short talk by Dr. Sanjay Wadhwa, Prof. and Head, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, AIIMS, New Delhi

A short talk on

Freedom from Arthritis, Move Freely Again: The Gift of Joint Replacement

By Dr. Vijay Kumar, Professor of Orthopaedics AIIMS, New Delhi

Joint replacement surgery is a transformative procedure that significantly reduces chronic joint pain and restores mobility for individuals with severe arthritis or joint damage. It offers a renewed chance to move freely and embrace an active, fulfilling lifestyle.

Followed by Panel Discussion on

Restoring Mobility with Conservative Treatments/Joint Replacement

Panellists: Dr. Vijay Kumar, Professor of Orthopaedics, AIIMS, New Delhi; Dr. Sanjay Wadhwa, Prof. and Head, Dept. of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, AIIMS, New Delhi; Dr. Danveer Bhadu. Addl. Prof., Dept. of Rheumatology, AIIMS, New Delhi

Chair: Dr. Ashwani Kumar

JANUARY 2026

6 Looking Back: Writing Women's History

As the All India Women's Conference (AIWC) approaches its centenary in 2027, the symposium highlighted pioneering women writers and reformers from the 1920s to the 1970s. Focussing on multilingual narratives, the discussions foregrounded contributions to health, education, social reform and women's rights across India, celebrating voices that shaped and chronicled women's lives and histories.

Moderator: Manju Kak, Secretary General, AIWC

Panellists: Prof. B. Mangalam. Aryabhatta College, published widely on Dalit literature, theatre studies; Prof. (Dr.) Meenakshi Malhotra, Department of English, Hansraj College, DU; Prof. Rekha Sethi, Department of Hindi, Indraprastha College; Dr. Sanju Thomas. Associate Professor, School of Letters, Ambedkar University; Dr. Usha Mudiganti., Associate Professor, School of Letters, Ambedkar University; Dr. Saba Mahmood Bashir Assistant Professor, Department of English Assistant Professor In-charge, RCA, Jamia Millia Islamia

30–31 Global Diplomacy and Regional Cooperation: India–Nepal Partnership in Buddhist Heritage

Set against rising global conflicts, polarisation and ecological stress, this two-day conference examined how Buddhist principles can inform diplomacy and sustainable coexistence. The conference brought together an eminent group of scholars and policy experts from India and Nepal who drew on the two countries' shared Buddhist heritage. The conference explored cultural diplomacy, academic collaboration, heritage preservation, and policy-oriented dialogue to strengthen ties and advance regional and global harmony.

(Collaboration: South Asia Foundation)

APPENDIX II *Talks*

FEBRUARY 2025

3 Indo–Algerian Relations

Speaker: H. E. Dr. Ali Achoui, Ambassador of Algeria to India

Chair: Amb. K. P. Fabian, Professor, Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi and Symbiosis University, Pune

6 Geopolitics at the End of Time

Speaker: Mr. Bruno Maçães, Senior Adviser, Flint Global, columnist for the *New Statesman*, Member of the European Council on Foreign Relations and former Secretary of State for European Affairs, Portugal

Chair: Amb. Shivshankar Menon, former Foreign Secretary and former National Security Adviser

8 Transformed by India: A Life's Work, guided by Smt. Kamaladevi Chattopadhaya

Illustrated lecture by Dr. Stephen Huyler, well-known cultural anthropologist and art historian who has spent the past fifty-one years travelling the length and breadth of India, conducting field research in almost every district.

Dr. Huyler's areas of expertise are rural Indian arts and crafts, Hindu devotional rituals, and Indian women's identity and art. He has served as a guest curator for thirty separate exhibitions of Indian art in museums in the United States, Britain and India, among other countries.

Introduction: Minhazz Majumdar, author, curator and art activist

14 Technology, Disruption & Future

Keynote Address: Shri Anurag Goel, former Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India and Futurist and Governance Architect

Welcome Address: Shri Prabhat Kumar, President, IC Centre for Governance

(Collaboration: IC Centre for Governance)

17 Brain Health and its Importance in India's Economic and Social Development

Lead presentation by Prof. Rajinder K. Dhamija, Professor of Neurology and Director, Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences, New Delhi and Chair, National Task Force on Brain Health, Govt. of India

Discussants: Prof. K. Srinath Reddy, former President, Public Health Foundation of India; Dr. Yuta Nemoto, WHO SEARO, New Delhi; and Dr. Rajendra Pratap Gupta, Chairman, Dynamic Coalition on Digital Health, Internet Governance Forum

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

WHO has passed a resolution in its 65th General Assembly on Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Neurological Disorders. India is also a signatory along with 190 other member states. Further, India has taken the lead in constituting a National Task Force of Brain Health with neurologists from AIIMS, NIMHANS and other institutions as well as policymakers from the Ministry of Health, Govt. of India, ICMR, Social Justice and Disability and by Niti Aayog. The talk and the following discussion deliberated upon brain health and its impact on the Indian economy.

21 The Art of the Gurkanis: Myths, Masnavis and Miniatures

Illustrated lecture by Ritika Kochhar, author, art writer and founder of *ArtRadio*, a platform dedicated to engaging audiences with art history and culture through podcasts, masterclasses, and curated walkthroughs

Chair: Shri Sohail Hashmi

This lecture focussed on the rich tradition of miniatures from Timur to Bahadur Shah Zafar II (focussing mostly on Humayun, Akbar, Jahangir, Mohammad Shah Rangila, Shah Alam II and Zafar II), especially the mythological narratives, and *masnavis*, or poetic epics, under Akbar. Also, the Gulshan Album that Nadir Shah carried away and the famous artists that worked in the royal *tasvir khana*. It highlighted how these artworks not only served as historical documents but also as expressions of cultural and spiritual imagination in the Mughal era.

21 SOUTH ASIA BEYOND BORDERS**Beyond Boundaries: New Insights into Bodhgaya's Ancient Landscape**

Speaker: Dr. M. B. Rajani, from the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore, who specialises in using geospatial data to uncover archaeological features and address heritage preservation amid urbanisation. Her methodology integrates satellite imagery with historical data to reveal insights into cultural landscapes. Her book, *Patterns in Past Settlements* (2021), shares these findings with a broader audience.

Chair: Prof. Upinder Singh, Professor of History, Ashoka University

As cities expand and landscapes evolve, there are new challenges in preserving India's cultural heritage. This talk explained how combining modern technology with historical analysis helps uncover hidden archaeological features around many iconic sites. Focussing on the sacred landscape of Bodhgaya, the lecture discussed the many hidden and unknown archaeological features at Bodhgaya—such as monasteries, stupas and tanks—and the clues to the ancient course of the Niranjana river. The discussion showed how these new discoveries challenged past assumptions and offered exciting insights into ancient landscapes.

22 Feverish Financial Systems, Physicians Bankers, Ailing Markets

The 4th CIS-IEG-Sage Lecture

Speaker: Prof. Kath Weston, Professor of Anthropology, University of Virginia and Honorary Fellow, College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Edinburgh

Discussant: Dr. Mekhela Krishnamurthy, Associate Professor of Sociology and Anthropology, Ashoka University

Chair: Prof. Rita Brara, Editor, Contributions to Indian Sociology, Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Institute of Economic Growth and Visiting Professor, Ashoka University, Sonipat

This talk on the medicalisation of finance was based on Prof. Weston's forthcoming book, *Capitalism on Life Support: How Scientific and Medical Imagery Shapes Finance*, which explores the centuries-long interplay between accounts of the financial operations that underwrite capitalism and knowledge production about how bodies work derived from the fields of science and medicine.

(Collaboration: Contributions to Indian Sociology; Institute of Economic Growth; and Sage)

24 Mindfulness is a Source of Happiness

An evening of mindfulness, with sitting, walking and Tea Meditation

Led by Brother Phap Dung and other teachers and monastics in the Plum Village tradition

The programme included the release of a book, *The Mindfulness Survival Kit: Five Essential Practices* by Thich Nhat Hanh, published by Aleph Book Company.

Chair: Dharmacharya Shantum Seth

(Collaboration: Ahimsa Trust)

24 Between the Crown & Congress: Rethinking the Politics of Late Colonial India

Speaker: Dr. Anil Seal, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, Co-Founder, Cambridge School of Indian History

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

Dr. Seal's talk traced the genealogy of the structure of Indian politics in the late Colonial period. He argued that the major contradiction in the British Raj lay between the administrative expedience in a fragmented empire and the lucrative nature of a centralised state with a greater extractive capacity. He maintained that while the nationalist movements across India were initially mired in more local networks, they latched on these centripetal forces, aiming at inheriting this structure, and analysed the transfer of power in the light of this broader picture.

(Collaboration: Caucus – The Discussion Forum of Hindu College)

25 MUSIC APPRECIATION PROMOTION**Leonard Bernstein: Composer, Conductor, Teacher, Humanist**

Illustrated lecture by Dr. Punita G. Singh

A charismatic conductor, creative composer, prodigious pianist and erudite educator, Leonard Bernstein was a towering figure in music through the 20th century. This presentation celebrated the life and legacy of 'Lenny', as he was lovingly called. His artistry, intellect and humanism continue to inspire and educate, demonstrating the transformative power of music in shaping a more compassionate world.

Dr. Singh is a musicologist, linguist, acoustician, editor and educator based in New Delhi.

28 Global Photographies: Transnationality/Regionality

Speakers: Lucy Soutter, Reader Photography, University of Westminster; Duncan Wooldridge, Reader Photography, Manchester Metropolitan University; and Tanvi Mishra, curator/writer

Moderator: Suryanandini Narain, Assistant Professor, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Introduction: Rahaab Allana, Alkazi Foundation for the Arts

Does contemporary photography offer strategies to rethink and reorganise our sense of the global and local? What are the shared tools, dynamic strategies and new fields of possibility for images? The talk addressed how ecological and decolonial discourses around photography reveal the medium's global entanglements: images produced on one side of the

world are intricately connected to the other, including by way of imperial histories, labour and migration. A multiplicity of approaches, intentions if not inferences may reveal that despite its alleged understanding as a universal language, the photograph can be deployed to serve radically different ends.

(Collaboration: The Alkazi Foundation for the Arts; University of Westminster; CREAM; Manchester Metropolitan University; SODA–School of Digital Arts; and AHEAD – Arts and Humanities Engagement and Dialogue)

MARCH 2025

4 Aniconic to the Iconic: Cult of Dharmaraj – The Folk Form of Hinduism

Speaker: Shri Jawhar Sircar, public intellectual and former Secretary, Ministry of Culture and CEO, Prasar Bharti

Chair: Prof. Ashis Nandy, political psychologist, social theorist, futurist and critic

5 Social Change as an Object of Educational Inquiry

The 7th Social Change Annual Lecture

Speaker: Prof. Krishna Kumar, well-known educationist, Honorary Fellow, Panjab University, Chandigarh

Chair: Prof. Biswajit Dhar, Vice President, Council for Social Development

The concept of 'social change' has roots in India's freedom struggle and modernisation theories, with education playing a central role. Traditional inquiry into social change focusses on caste, community, gender and rural–urban relations, while an educational perspective offers deeper insights based on personal experiences of learning. Prof. Kumar examined how education shapes individual perceptions of social change, challenging generalised modernisation theories. The lecture highlighted how the state of the education system and personal circumstances influence one's understanding of societal transformation. By exploring education as both a structural institution and a personal experience, this lecture provided fresh perspectives on how knowledge and learning shape societal evolution in India.

(Collaboration: Council for Social Development; and Sage India)

10 A FABRIC OF NARRATIVES: THE MANY FACETS OF NORTHEAST INDIA**A Place Called 'Home': Identity and Belonging**

Speaker: Shri Sanjoy Hazarika, well-known columnist, author and policy analyst

Chair: Ms. Preeti Gill, independent editor and literary agent

The second programme in a new series, 'The Fabric of Narratives: The Many Facets of Northeast India', which focusses on different aspects of the region and, apart from talks and discussions, includes seminars, exhibitions, performances and cuisine.

Organised in collaboration with Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER)

11 'Oh, Forget it, It's Just a Silly Dream!'

A conversation between Madhu Tandan and Richa Vadini Singh on whether dreams are a wasteland or a secret garden.

Madhu Tandan, the acclaimed author of *Dreams & Beyond: Finding Your Way in the Dark* and *The Logic of Dreams*, brings four decades of experience in researching and interpreting dreams.

Richa Vadini Singh is a writer who explores the fascinating realm of dreams and has studied psychodynamic dreamwork.

Together, they explored what our dreams might be trying to tell us, unravel why they often seem so bizarre, and ponder their true significance.

12 Ukraine: Where is it Headed?

Speaker: Dr. John Cherian, senior journalist

Chair: Amb. K. P. Fabian

12-13 Programmes with Prof. Priyamvada Natarajan

Prof. Priyamvada Natarajan is the Joseph S. and Sophia S. Fruton Professor of Astronomy and Professor of Physics; Chair Astronomy; Chairwomen Faculty Forum, Department of Physics, Yale University

Roundtable Discussion

What will it take to make India a science and technology superpower, our strengths and what we are lacking that needs to be built up.

Chair: Prof. Ajay Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser, Govt. of India

The Sky's the Limit: A Life in Science

An informal interaction with Prof. Priyamvada Natarajan

Chair: Dr. Pratibha Jolly, physicist and Principal Investigator, Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI)

Amidst an intellectual revolution in cosmology and astrophysics, the interplay of powerful ideas and innovative instruments is radically reshaping our understanding of the universe. As part of *Her Voice: Engendering the Discourse*, internationally acclaimed astrophysicist Priyamvada Natarajan was in conversation with Pratibha Jolly, Indian physicist and Principal Investigator, GATI. This special conversation explored their personal trajectories, glass ceilings breached, the opportunities and challenges for women navigating the discursive terrain of science.

(Collaboration: WISCOMP)

Unveiling the First Galaxies and the First Black Holes

An illustrated lecture by Prof. Priyamvada Natarajan

Chair: Dr. Shailesh Nayak, Life Trustee, IIC, and Director, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru

Prof. Natarajan discussed the latest results from the James Webb Space Telescope that have started to radically transform our understanding of the formation of the first stars, galaxies and black holes. Starting with the overall context and the current framework used to comprehend the cosmos, she presented the new ideas and theories that have been put to test by James Webb, including her own work on the new pathway to form the first black holes by direct collapse of gas in the very early Universe.

17 The Transformative Power of Mediation: Compassion in Action

Speaker: Prabha Sankaranarayan, President and CEO of Mediators Beyond Borders International (MBBI). Drawing on her extensive mediation experience across the US, Africa, Asia, Ukraine, Gaza, Colombia and Syria, her lecture delved into mediation as a transformative experience, emphasising compassionate interaction over transactional settlement.

The fourth edition of *IIC-WISCOMP Dialogues: Conversations on Mediation*, presented a compelling case for placing compassion at the heart of peace mediation and explored it as a transformative process beyond transactional settlement.

18 Tents: Cities on the Move

Talk by Rahul Mehrotra, founder principal of RMA Architects; Professor of Urban Design and Planning, and the John T. Dunlop Professor in Housing and Urbanisation, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University; and Naman P. Ahuja, curator and Professor, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University

A recent volume of *Marg* provides fascinating documentation of the Kumbh Mela, the largest human habitational space erected every twelve years, alongside grand *qanats* and *shamianas* of the Mughals, Deccani sultans and Rajputs. The speakers focussed on how India's rich history of tents can be positioned within a global context. The characteristics of tents—their lightness, agility, adjustability, reversibility and ephemerality—can inspire designers, academics, planners and policymakers in crafting an urban future which is more adaptable to negotiate the immense flux we face on the planet.

(Collaboration: Marg)

20 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**Trump's America First Trade Policy: Implications and Options**

Speaker: Prof. Abhijit Das, expert on international trade and former Head, Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade

Discussant: Shri Anup Wadhawan, former Union Commerce Secretary

Chair: Shri Siraj Hussain, former Union Secretary Agriculture, Govt. of India and Adviser, Food Processing, FICCI

21 CHAMELI DEVI JAIN AWARD 2025

For Outstanding Woman Media Person of the Year

The Vishwa Nath-Delhi Press Award for Fearless Journalism, and the Kamla Mankekar Award for Journalism on Gender were also presented.

Followed by

B. G. VERGHESE MEMORIAL LECTURE 2025**Media, Courts and Freedom of Expression**

Delivered by Justice S. Muralidhar, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India and former Chief Justice, Orissa High Court and Judge, Punjab and Haryana High Court

(Collaboration: The Media Foundation)

21 The Battle of Haifa: A Catalyst for the Indian officers in the British Indian Army

Introduction: Col. (Dr.) D. P. K. Pillay, Research Fellow, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

Panellists: Shri Yaduveer Wadiyar, MP; Lt. Gen. Raja Subramani, Vice Chief of Army Staff; Dr. Kazem Samandari, Founder-Chairman, L'Opera and Senior Member, Baha'i community; and Brig. M.S. Jodha, third-generation army officer, author and grandson on Col. Aman Singh Jodha

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

The Battle of Haifa (1918) is a pivotal event in military annals as it marked the last major cavalry charge in history. The Battle saw the Jodhpur, Mysore, and Hyderabad Lancers (part of the 15th Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade) overcome Ottoman, Austrian, and German forces, liberating Haifa as well as Abdul Baha. This daring victory defied expectations, echoing the famous 'Charge of the Light Brigade' but with a triumphant outcome.

22 Hannah Arendt's Lessons for Our Times

Speaker: Prof. Ramin Jahanbegloo, Iranian-Canadian political philosopher and Vice Dean, Jindal Law School, O. P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat

Chair: Prof. Neera Chandhoke, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Equity Studies, New Delhi

2025 marked the 50th anniversary of Hannah Arendt's death. The talk covered Arendt's definitions of politics, violence and power, while showing the relevance of her political thought for the understanding of our present world. Hannah Arendt's multifaceted work that dealt with a range of issues has established her as one of the greatest thinkers of the 20th century.

24 HISTORY AND HERITAGE: THE AFTERLIFE OF MONUMENTS

Curator: Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray

Follow the River: Maps, Cartographic Truths and Imperial Frontier-Making in the Himalayas in the Long Nineteenth Century

Illustrated lecture by Prof. Sayantani Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, Department of History and Ashoka Centre for China Studies, Ashoka University

Chair: Prof. Madhu Bhalla, former Professor at Delhi University

The talk foregrounded the deconstruction of the epistemic regime governing the production of geo-knowledge about the Eastern Himalayas by investigating the appropriation and rejection of the interlocutors of local and indigenous knowledge, networks and actors—exploring whose knowledge(s) could be considered authoritative, and when we might begin to think of the geography of this region as political.

28 Draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules: Of Consent and Concerns

Keynote Address: Shri Vijay Ramachandran, storyteller and knowledge navigator

Welcome and Introductory Remarks: Smt. Reena Ramachandra, former CMD, Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.

(Collaboration: IC Centre for Governance)

28 TALKING ARCHITECTURE

Conceptualised and curated by Anisha Shekhar Mukherji

Learning from Jaisalmer

A talk by Prof. Vinod Gupta, architect, designer and teacher, founder member of Gubbi Alliance for Sustainable Habitat, and founder member of GRIHA Council, Fellow of the Indian Institute of Architects, member of the Institute of Indian Interior Designers, Indian Society of Ergonomics. Professor Gupta has taught at SPA Delhi and Sushant School of Art and Architecture.

Through the talk he presented his work on aspects of cities in the desert, and alternatives to the wholly unsuitable Western models that have replaced traditional Indian tools and methods of working and learning.

The talk was followed by a dialogue with Snehanshu Mukherjee, architect, educator, writer and Adjunct Professor, Indian Institute of Art and Design, New Delhi.

Moderator: Anisha Shekhar Mukherji, conservation architect, author and Visiting Faculty at SPA Delhi

APRIL 2025**1 WEBINAR****COSMIC CONUNDRUMS**

Inaugural session of the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Centre for Philosophy and Foundations of Science and President of the World Institute for Advanced Study

Conformal Cyclic Cosmology

Lecture by Prof. Roger Penrose, Nobel Laureate (Physics 2020), Emeritus Rouse Ball Professor of Mathematics and Emeritus Fellow at Wadham College, Oxford University

Panellist: Alexia M. Lopez, Jeremiah Horrocks Institute, University of Central Lancashire, UK, discoverer of the Big Ring

Chair: Prof. Ranjit Nair, Director, CPFS and President, WIAS

Conformal Cyclic Cosmology (CCC), was put forward earlier this century to explain the extraordinary uniformity of the Big Bang, as contrasted with the hugely complicated singularities expected in black holes. According to CCC, the Big Bang is the conformal continuation of the remote expanding future of a previous cosmic aeon. Earlier supportive observations, though confirmed to a high confidence level, are not widely accepted in cosmology. The recent discovery by Alexia Lopez of giant rings of galaxies, can be seen as providing strong support for CCC.

(Collaboration: Centre for Philosophy and Foundations of Science)

4 HISTORY AND HERITAGE: THE AFTERLIFE OF MONUMENTS

Curator: Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray

The Harappan Civilization and Gujarat

Illustrated lecture by Prof. P. Ajithprasad, formerly with the Dept. of Archaeology and Ancient History, Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda; presently Guest Professor, Archaeological Science Centre, IIT, Gandhinagar, Gujarat

Chair: Dr. Y. S. Rawat, Director-General, Archaeological Survey of India

Being the southern frontier of the Indus Civilisation, Gujarat had an important role in the overall cultural and economic development of that civilisation. Recent studies have shown well-documented Early Harappan cultural developments going back to 3500 BCE, as well as unique cultural traits peculiar to Gujarat forming a part of the Urban phase of the Indus civilisation. The studies have helped to understand the resource management strategies and economic production network of the Harappans. The new excavations also show their resilience in the face of adverse climatic events and their gradual cultural transformation into the Post-Urban/Late Harappan stage. The presentation covered details of the new discoveries.

9 MUSIC APPRECIATION PROMOTION

The Many Routes to Bhav in Thumri

An illustrated lecture by Vidya Rao

This presentation was devoted to *thumri* and *dadra*, in the voices of some singers to understand the many ways that they use sound and silence, voice modulations and rhythmic play to create *bhav*—the many meanings in what becomes the multiple narratives within a single text.

Vidya Rao is a performer of *thumri-dadra* and ghazal. For many years the disciple of the legendary singer, the late Vidushi Naina Devi, she continued her study of this form under the late Vidushi Shanti Hiranand and the late Vidushi Girija Devi. In addition to her work as a performer, she has also researched and written extensively on music and the performing arts.

11 **Cyber Security in the Digital Age**

Speaker: Shri Mohit Soni, Group CEO, WhiteLint Global Pvt. Ltd

Chair: Prof. Sunita Narang, Acharya Narendra Dev College, University of Delhi

The talk focussed on the evolving threat landscape, best practices for online safety, emerging technologies in cybersecurity

11 SOUTH ASIA BEYOND BORDERS: NEW RESEARCH IN HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Recent Archaeological Investigations in Tamil Nadu

Illustrated lecture by Dr. K. Rajan, Academic and Research Adviser, Govt. of Tamil Nadu and former Professor, Dept. of History, Pondicherry University

Chair: Prof. Upinder Singh, Ashoka University

Recent archaeological investigations carried out in Tamil Nadu provide new insights for understanding various cultural phases and transformations in this region. Excavations conducted at Attirampakkam, Pattaraiperumpudur, Mayiladumparai, Kilnamandi, Porpanaikottai, Keeladi, Korkai, Sivakalai, Adichanallur and many other sites have raised several important historical questions. The AMS dates received for the Iron Age and the Early Historic period at these sites have changed our hitherto-held perceptions. The dates demonstrate that the existence of Iron Age in South India was contemporary to the chalcolithic age of North India. Other important discoveries include the early dates for the Brahmi script, the development of technology-driven industries such as gemstone, copper, iron, steel, shell and textile industries, and the emergence of trade and trade routes in resource zones. The lecture highlighted these and other results of recent archaeological explorations and excavations.

(Collaboration: Ashoka University, Sonipat)

12 **In Conversation – From Soldier to Storyteller**

General Manoj Naravane, former Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army, in conversation with Neelanjana Banerjee and Suhas Borker

APPENDICES

21 MEET THE AUTHOR

Amb. Navtej Sarna, distinguished writer and former diplomat

Moderator: Prof. Malashri Lal, Convenor, English Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi

(Collaboration: Sahitya Akademi)

21 **India–Egypt: Old Ties & New Frontiers**

Speaker: H. E. Mr. Kamel Zayed Kamel Galal, Ambassador of Egypt to India

Chair: Shri Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury, Foreign Affairs Editor, *The Economic Times*

India–Egypt share a millennia-old partnership which continues in the current period through friendship between founders of modern India and Egypt. Today the relationship has acquired a new dimension with New Delhi and Cairo bonding over a variety of sectors, from defence to investments to connectivity. The two states are playing significant roles to create a peaceful and prosperous West Asia.

23 AAJ KAVITA

Poetry Readings

By Ibbar Rabbi and Anurag Vats (Delhi); Ketan Yadav (Gorakhpur); and Devesh Path Sariya (Alwar) who read from their original works.

(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation)

MAY 2025

2 36TH PADMAPANI LECTURE 2025

Excavations at Sarnath (2013–14): New Evidences

Illustrated lecture by Prof. (Dr.) B. R. Mani, esteemed field archaeologist, numismatist and art critic; presently Director General of the National Museum and Vice Chancellor of the Indian Institute of Heritage (IIH)

The lecture highlighted the latest archaeological findings from one of India's most significant historical sites.

(Collaboration: Tibet House)

6 DIALOGUES IN HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Conceptualised by Dr. Ashwani Kumar

Understanding the Basic and Common Causes of Back Pain

The Interactive Workshop focussed on ways to improve your core; routine posture training; safe ergonomics; and rehabilitation through physiotherapy and relevant exercises.

Strong Bones, Pain-Free Life: Tackling Osteoporosis, Arthritis and Back Pain in Ageing

Speaker: Dr. Bhuvak Garg, MS, MAMS, MRCS, FACS, FIMS, FHTS, Professor, Department of Orthopedics, AIIMS, New Delhi

Panel Discussion on Common Musculoskeletal Disorders in the Elderly

Panellists: Dr. Rajesh Malhotra, former Professor and Head, Department of Orthopaedics, AIIMS, New Delhi; Dr. S. V. Madhu, Director-Professor, Department of Endocrinology, UCMS and GTB Hospital, Delhi; Dr. Bhuvak Garg; Dr. Rohit Bhatia, Prof. of Neurology, AIIMS, New Delhi; and Dr. Puneet Khanna, Prof. of Anaesthesiology, Pain Medicine and Critical Care, AIIMS, New Delhi

Chair: Dr. Ashwani Kumar

9 **When Saigon Fell: An Eyewitness Remembers**

An illustrated lecture by Nayan Chanda who was the Saigon-based Indo-China correspondent of the *Far Eastern Economic Review* in 1975; he is presently Associate Professor of International Relations, Ashoka University.

Chair: Amb. Ronen Sen, Former Ambassador to USA

19 MAPPING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The Great Indian Poverty Debate: Has Poverty Been Almost Banished?

Speaker: Prof. Himanshu, Associate Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Discussants: Dr. Shyma Jose, Assistant Professor, Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi; and Smt. Anuradha Prasad, Member, Union Public Service Commission

Chair: Shri Siraj Hussain, former Union Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

APPENDICES

22 Combating Sexual Harassment in Public Spaces and Fostering Greater Female Participation in the Workforce

Speaker: Dr. Girija Borker, Economist and Gender Lead, Development Impact (DI), The World Bank, Washington DC

Chair: Dr. Meeran Chadha Borwankar, former Director General of Police

24 Conversation: *Ishrat-e-Qatra* (The Ecstasy of a Drop)

Syeda Hameed, former Member, Planning Commission, author, feminist scholar and educationist, in conversation with Sujata Prasad and Oroon Das

(Collaboration: Ahad Anhad)

30 MUSIC APPRECIATION PROMOTION

I'm Kabir and I'm Not, says Kabir

Poet, translator, publisher and musician Anand unwrapped many Kabirs that were wrapped in the diaphanous fabric called Kabir. Anand is the publisher at Navayana, a student of Dhruvad with Ustad F. Wasifuddin Dagar, and is the author of the recent book, *The Notebook of Kabir: Thinner than Water, Fiercer than Fire*.

JUNE 2025

2 Public Health, Social and Gender Justice with Empathy

A talk by K. K. Shailaja, popularly known as Shailaja Teacher, whose exemplary leadership during the COVID-19 crises in Kerala earned her global recognition. Former Minister of Health, Women & Child, and Social Justice with the Govt. of Kerala, she was named as one of the most influential women in 2020 by the *Financial Times* and Kerala's Acclaimed Health Minister by *The Guardian*. Shailaja currently serves as an MLA in the Kerala Legislative Assembly.

(Collaboration: Business and Community Foundation)

10 DIALOGUES IN HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Conceptualised by Dr. Ashwani Kumar

ENT Workshop on Optimizing Personal Communication – Listening and Speaking

Speaker: Dr. Rakesh Kumar, MS, Commonwealth Fellow FPS (UK), Professor of ENT and Head & Neck Surgery, AIIMS, New Delhi

Obstructive Sleep Apnea: A Disorder You Should Not Sleep On

Speaker: Dr. Anant Mohan, MD, PhD, FRCP (London), FAMS, Professor and Head, Department of Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleeping Medicine, AIIMS, New Delhi

Followed by a panel discussion on **Beyond the Noise: SNORING – A Wake-Up Call for Your Health**

Panellists: Dr. Alok Thakar, Professor and Head, Dept. of ENT and Head & Neck Surgery, AIIMS, New Delhi and Moderator for the panel discussion; Dr. Anant Mohan; Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Professor of ENT, AIIMS, New Delhi; Dr. Achal Kumar Srivastava, Professor of Neurology, AIIMS, New Delhi; and Dr. Nitish Naik, Professor of Cardiology, AIIMS, New Delhi

Chair: Dr. Ashwani Kumar

16 MAPPING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**GDP Base Revision: Time to Regain Confidence**

Speakers: Shri N. K. Sharma, former Director General (Statistics), National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI); and Shri Sanjay Kumar, former Additional Director General, NSO, MoSPI

Discussant: Dr. Amey Sapre, Associate Professor, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP)

Chair: Shri Siraj Hussain, former Union Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

18 LIVING LANDSCAPES**Delhi's Rutputty Forest – The Central Ridge**

Lead presentation by Pradip Krishen, ecological restoration practitioner

Followed by a **panel discussion** with:

Prof. K. T. Ravindran, architect and urban designer; and Chetan Agarwal, environment and forest analyst and Senior Fellow, Centre for Ecology Development and Research

Coordinator and Moderator: Anuj Srivastava, architect, writer and photographer

21 **Yoga Day after Day: Yogic Tools to Take Home**

The workshop was conducted by Sanya Tyagi, yoga expert and Odissi artist; and Alka Tyagi, yoga expert, poet and academic

The workshop offered five components of yoga in short, 15-minute capsules. The five components covered were *Posture*, *Breathing Practice*, *Yogic Relaxation (Yoga Nidra)*, *Mantras* and *Meditation*.

25 What is the Buddha Worth?

Talk by Naman P. Ahuja, Professor of Art History, Jawaharlal Nehru University and General Editor of *Marg*

Chair: Amb. Shyam Saran, President, IIC

In this illustrated lecture, Prof. Ahuja explained how relics are defined, the ethical issues they raise, changes in the law, and how these shifts impact museology.

JULY 2025

9 B. G. DESHMUKH LECTURE 2025

The Crisis of Higher Education in India: Disturbing Present and Worrisome Future

Speaker: Deepak Nayyar, Emeritus Professor of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Honorary Fellow, Balliol College, University of Oxford, former Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India, former Distinguished University Professor of Economics, New School for Social Research, New York and former Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi

Moderator: Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath, Life Trustee, IIC

Vote of Thanks: Shri K. N. Srivastava, Director, IIC

9 Ayurveda to Integrative Health: A Holistic Path to Well-Being

A Talk by Dr. Isaac Mathai

Dr. Mathai, a world-renowned holistic physician explored the possibilities of this integrative healthcare in today's world.

(Collaboration: Ritinjali; and SOUKYA International Holistic Health Centre, Bengaluru)

10 Live Lightly, Live Fully: A Journey into Sustainable Living and Community in the Himalayas

The talk explored how intentional living, rooted in sustainability and community, can offer a richer, more meaningful way of being, despite the challenges. The speakers shared their journeys in the remote Himalayan village of Satoli.

Speakers: Vasanthi Veluri and Anurag Chatrath

Chair: Sunisha Ahuja, Education Specialist with UNICEF India

11 Writing in English for the Indian Stage

A Fireside Chat with Prof. Vijay Padaki, Trustee Emeritus, Bangalore Little Theatre Foundation

Chair: Dr. Anuradha Kapur, former Director, National School of Drama

15 DURGABAI DESHMUKH MEMORIAL LECTURE 2025**Re-cast(e)ing the State Policy: Ascription, Identities and Democratic Politics**

Speaker: Prof. Surinder Singh Jodhka, Professor of Sociology, Jawaharlal Nehru University and recipient of the ICSSR-Amartya Sen Award for Distinguished Social Scientist.

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

Vote of Thanks: Ankita Goyal, Council for Social Development

(Collaboration: Council for Social Development)

18 8TH NELSON MANDELA LECTURE**The Legacy of Nelson Mandela**

Speaker: Shri Anand Grover, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India and Human Rights Jurist

Introduction by Brandley Ngcobo

Opening remarks: Suhas Borker, Convenor, Working Group on Alternative Strategies

Closing remarks: H. E. Prof. Anil Sooklal, High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa

The Nelson Mandela Annual Lecture was instituted at IIC in 2018 to mark the centenary of Madiba

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

18 MUSIC APPRECIATION PROMOTION**From Revolution to Evolution: A Journey Through 20th Century American Modern Dance**

An illustrated lecture presented by Sharon Lowen

APPENDICES

24 IIC/THE MEDIA FOUNDATION DIALOGUES

The Media, Operation Sindoor and India's Diplomatic Outreach

Panellists: Vivek Katju, former Secretary, MEA, and diplomat; Kanimozhi Karunanidhi, Member of Parliament; Manish Tewari, Member of Parliament; C. Rajamohan, journalist and foreign policy expert; and Praveen Swami, Diplomatic Editor, *The Print*

The panel was moderated by journalist and editor, Bharat Bhushan.

(Collaboration: The Media Foundation)

30 AAJ KAVITA

Poetry Reading

By Ranjana Argade from Ahmedabad; Shobha Akshar, Vimal Kumar and Vinod Bharadwaj from Delhi

(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation)

AUGUST 2025

6 REMEMBERING HIROSHIMA-NAGASAKI

Rising Peril of Nuclear Weapons in the 21st Century—A World in Denial

A talk by Gopalkrishna Gandhi, Former Governor, West Bengal and Life Trustee, IIC

Opening Remarks: Shri Shyam Saran, President, IIC

Chair: Rakesh Sood, former Ambassador and India's first Permanent Representative to the UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva

6 DIALOGUES IN HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Conceptualised by Dr. Ashwani Kumar

Introductory Talk and Workshop

Protect Your Filters: A Practical Talk on Kidney Wellness

Consultant Speaker: Dr. Sandeep Mahajan, MD, DM, FASN, FRCP (London), Professor, Department of Nephrology, AIIMS, New Delhi

Followed by Panel Discussion on:

Understanding the Triad: Diabetes, Heart Disease and Kidney Health

Panellists: Dr. Ambuj Roy, Department of Cardiology, AIIMS, New Delhi; Dr. Yashdeep Gupta, Department of Endocrinology, AIIMS, New Delhi; and Ms. Gurdeep Kaur Shetty, Dietician, AIIMS, New Delhi.

Moderator: Dr. Sandeep Mahajan, Consultant

Chair: Dr. Ashwani Kumar

This was followed by an interactive Q&A with the audience.

13 Stolen Gods: The Afterlife of Empire in British Museum

Discussion focussed on the colonial plunder of India's sacred artefacts and their continued captivity in British museums.

Speaker: Shyam Bhatia, foreign correspondent and author whose work spans conflict zones, diplomacy and colonial legacies. His latest research focusses on colonial-era looting and the afterlife of empire in British museums.

Chair: Dr. B. R. Mani, Former Director General, National Museum

14 Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, and Pollution in the HKH: We Know Enough to Act Now

The Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) faces urgent threats from climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. Regional cooperation, led by India's soft diplomacy and ICIMOD's apolitical role, is crucial to secure a resilient, greener, and safer future.

Speaker: Dr. Pema Gyamtsho, Director General of ICIMOD, former Minister of Agriculture and Forests (2008–2013), and former Member of Parliament, Royal Government of Bhutan

Chair: Dr. Shailesh Nayak, Director, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Indian scientist and Life Trustee, IIC

18 Israel–Iran War

The talk focussed on the 12-day Israel-Iran war that began on June 13 with an Israeli strike and escalated when the US joined on Day 9.

Speakers: Amb. K. P. Fabian, Distinguished Fellow, Symbiosis University; and Wing Commander Praful Bakshi, well-known expert in geopolitics.

20 **Designing Edifices for the Empire and the Princely States: Foreign Architects in India at the Turn of the 20th Century**

The talk was about the role of foreign architects, largely British, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in India.

Speaker: Rajesh Luthra is an architect and urban designer, Principal at Development Consortium, and Visiting Professor at the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi. He is also a published writer and consultant to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation.

Moderator: Dr. Punita G. Singh, acoustician, musicologist, linguist, editor and educator based in Delhi. She has taught at Washington University in the US, McGill University, Canada and is currently Visiting Faculty at Ashoka University, Sonipat.

28 **Nagaland and the Art of Indigenous Presence in Postcolonial South Asia**

Speaker: Dr. Akshaya Tankha, Assistant Professor of Art History at the University of Washington, Seattle

Discussant: Dr. Annapurna Garimella, Art Historian and Designer

(Collaboration: The Alkazi Foundation for the Arts)

29 MUSIC APPRECIATION PROMOTION

Gandhi and Music

An illustrated lecture by Dipankar De Sarkar, a journalist and amateur musician who writes on politics, music and the politics of music.

The talk explored Gandhi's world of music—the songs and hymns that inspired him through the darkest hours of India's freedom struggle.

SEPTEMBER 2025

3 **The Journey and Impact of Khabar Lahariya and Chambal Media**

24th BCF Annual Lecture

Speaker: Lakshmi Sharma, Executive Producer and Operations Head at Khabar Lahariya and Chambal Media

Chair: Ravneet Pawha, VP, Deakin University

Moderator: Prof. Archana Kumar, Lady Irwin College

(Collaboration: Business and Community Foundation)

10 Stories Across Borders: India and France in Comics and Cinema

The talk explored the cultural exchange between India and France, examining how comics and cinema reflect and influence societies across borders.

Speakers: Krithika S. and Anuj Sharma, teachers at Alliance Française de Delhi.

Moderator: Rohini Rangachari Karnik, teacher at Alliance Française de Delhi

(Collaboration: Alliance Française de Delhi)

11 Are We Prepared for the Bangladesh Elections?

Discussants: Amb. Harsh V. Shringla, Member of Parliament, Former Foreign Secretary and High Commissioner of Dhaka; Sreeradha Datta, Professor, O. P. Jindal Global University; and Dr. Rishi Gupta, Assistant Director, Asia Society Policy Institute

Chair: Shri Jawhar Sircar, Public intellectual and Former Secretary, Ministry of Culture and CEO, Prasar Bharti

13 KRITI-SAMHITA: THE PLURALITY OF INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS**Buddhist Sanskrit Manuscripts of Nepal: Continuity of Ancient Indian Textual Traditions in the Himalayas**

The lecture highlighted Nepal's contributions to manuscript preservation, indigenous literature, repositories and digital databases.

Keynote Speaker: Prof. Shanker Thapa, Professor of History (retired), Tribhuvan University.

Chair: Shri Shyam Saran, President, IIC

This was the fifteenth in a series of lectures organised by IIC-International Research Division with the support of Ministry of External Affairs.

16 THIRD KAPILA VATSYAYAN MEMORIAL LECTURE 2025**The Present Colonises our Past: The Future Forsaken**

Speaker: Romila Thapar, a pre-eminent historian and Professor Emerita, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Opening Remarks: Suhas Borker, Convenor, Kapila Vatsyayan Memorial Committee

Closing Remarks: Dr. Aditya Malik, Member, Kapila Vatsyayan Memorial Committee

Chair: Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath, Life Trustee, IIC

(Collaboration: Kapila Vatsyayan Memorial Committee)

25 YOGAi: Interplays of Yoga and Artificial Intelligence

Welcome Address and Introductory Remarks: Shri Prabhat Kumar, President, IC Centre for Governance.

Keynote Speaker: Shri Sunil Malhotra, Founder and CEO of Ideafarms, a breakthrough practitioner of Design Thinking, a serial entrepreneur, and a thought leader in Design Strategy.

It was followed by an interactive Q&A with the audience

Vote of Thanks: Brig Rajendra Kumar, Director, IC Centre for Governance

(Collaboration: IC Centre for Governance)

26 MUSIC APPRECIATION PROMOTION

Sounds of Mesopotamia: An Introduction to Kurdish Music

Illustrated talk by Hakan Çifçi

Kurdish music presented a rich and diverse tradition deeply rooted in the culture and history of the Kurdish people of ancient Mesopotamia.

Hakan Çifçi represented Commission of Foreign Relations of Kurdistan National Congress – KNK.

OCTOBER 2025

30 Bundi: The Earliest Surviving Royal Murals of Rajasthan

Talk by Prof. Joachim Bautze

Prof. Bautze spoke about the remarkable murals of the Badal Mahal, first brought to light in 1986 and now recognised as the earliest and most innovative of all Rajasthani schools of painting. Dated around 1610–1620, these jewel-like wall paintings stand out for their vivid naturalistic depictions and historical significance, often compared to the Sistine Chapel in their importance for Rajasthan's art history.

Prof. Joachim Bautze, Scholar of Rajasthani wall and miniature paintings, taught Indian art history at the Ruperto Carola in Heidelberg, the Wakō and Chūō Daigaku in Tokyo and the Freie Universität in Berlin.

Moderator: Prof. Jyotindra Jain, Indian Art Historian

31 Annual Sardar Patel Lecture on Governance

Keynote Speaker: Shri Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor, India

Presidential Address by Dr. Harivansh, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha

Vote of thanks by Shri Shanti Narain, former member Traffic Railway and Secretary General, IC Centre for Governance

(Collaboration: IC Centre for Governance)

NOVEMBER 2025**1 FIFTH CONTRIBUTIONS TO INDIAN SOCIOLOGY****Caste Lasts: The Anatomy of a Resilient Hegemony**

This lecture offered conceptual revisitation of the topic of caste, under the rubric of 'resilient hegemonies' i.e., systems of coercion and humiliation which resist efforts to subvert, reform or exit them for significant periods of time.

Speaker: Prof. Arjun Appadurai, Emeritus Professor of Media, Culture and Communication at New York University and Visiting Professor of Ethnology at Humboldt University in Berlin

Chair: Prof. Rita Brara, Editor, Contributions to Indian Sociology and Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi

(Collaboration: Contributions to Indian Sociology; and Institute of Economic Growth)

20 Modernism and the Sri Lankan Mind: The Life and Work of Martin Wickramasinghe (1890–1976)

By Uditha Devapriya

The talk explores the multifaceted legacy of Sri Lanka's most celebrated writer, critic and thinker. Examining how Wickramasinghe—through his novels, essays, and cultural writings—became a bridge between indigenous traditions and modern thought.

Uditha Devapriya is a Sri Lankan researcher, author and analyst whose work spans culture, politics, and international relations. A former Chief Analyst at Factum think tank and IVLP fellow, he writes extensively on South Asian art, history and geopolitics.

28 TREADS Annual Lecture (Edition II)**The Shifting Logic of the Indus Waters Treaty**

Speaker: Dr. Uttam K. Sinha, Senior Fellow, Manohar Parrikar–Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA)

APPENDICES

Discussant: Amb. Ashok K. Kantha, Former Ambassador of India to the People's Republic of China

Moderator: Dr. Srinivas Chokkakula, President and Chief Executive, Centre for Policy Research

The lecture explored how the Indus Waters Treaty, once hailed as a triumph of technical cooperation over politics, is being reshaped by shifting geopolitical realities, environmental stress, and the erosion of bilateral trust between India and Pakistan.

(Collaboration: Centre for Policy Research)

28 MUSIC APPRECIATION PROMOTION

The Classical Compositions of Hazrat Amir Khusrau

An illustrated presentation by Madhumita Ray

A presentation of noted classical compositions created by the Sufi saint known primarily as the father of Khayal and Qawwali, Hazrat Amir Khusrau. This lecture was based on rare ragas and demonstrated his works based on some recordings by eminent artists.

Madhumita Ray is an eminent Hindustani Classical (Khayal) and semi classical (Thumri-Dadra) vocalist performing and teaching nationally and internationally for over 30 years.

DECEMBER 2025

3 KRITI-SAMHITA: THE PLURALITY OF INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

Recovering the Plays of Māyurāja

Conversation between Prof. Andrew Ollett, University of Chicago; and Prof. Naresh Keerthi, Ashoka University

Chair: Dr. Sudha Gopalakrishnan, Executive Director, IIC-International Research Division

The speakers shared their experiences of editing and translating two plays composed by the eighth-century poet Māyurāja, *Tāpasavatsarāja* (Udayana the Ascetic) and *Udāttarāghava* (Raghu's Exalted Descendants). They referred to the challenges posed by the manuscripts, of which there is only one extant for *Tāpasavatsarāja*, and only one accessible to scholars of *Udāttarāghava*.

Prof. Andrew Ollett works on the literary and intellectual traditions of South Asia, including works composed in Sanskrit, Prakrit, Apabhramsha, Kannada and Chinese from the first millennium of the common era. He is the recipient of the Infosys Prize for 2025.

Prof. Naresh Keerthi is Head, Department of Sanskrit, Ashoka University and has researched on the semantics of colour in Sanskrit, at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore. He is interested in kāvya and nāṭya literature in Sanskrit and Prakrit, and their interactions with South India's literary cultures. He studies topics at the intersection of the lexicon, grammar and poetics, and is investigating the development of poetic topoi in kāvya literature.

Sixteenth in a series of lectures organised by IIC-International Research Division with the support of Ministry of External Affairs

10 Connections, Collaboration and Cross-fertilisation: The Enduring Importance of Cross-Cultural Exchanges Between Institutions of Higher Education for the Future of Asian Studies

The talk explored how institutions of higher education in Asia, the US and Europe have shaped the development of Asian Studies and enabled cross-cultural understanding during periods of geopolitical tension. Highlighting influential centres such as the Royal Asiatic Society, EFEO, and the Harvard-Yenching Institute, the session considered current challenges, including shrinking international funding and how the future of Asian Studies can be re-imagined.

Speaker: Prof. James Robson is the James C. Kralik and Yunli Lou Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilisations at Harvard University and Director of the Harvard-Yenching Institute, and has conducted extensive research across China, Taiwan, and Japan, and is the award-winning author of *The Power of Place*.

Chair: Sabaree Mitra, Professor Centre for Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi.

(Collaboration: Institute of Chinese Studies)

16 Hegel's Philosophy and the Welfare State; Hegel, Buddhism and Asia

Speaker: Prof. Klaus Vieweg, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Friedrich Schiller University in Jena Germany and a foremost interpreter of Hegel in the world, covering his philosophy. He approaches Hegel's idea of freedom in relation to our contemporary crisis of modernity

Discussant: Viren Murthy, Professor of transnational Asian History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and researcher of Chinese, Japanese and Indian intellectual history.

(Collaboration: BML Munjal University)

19 The First Lady of Siachen: Fanny Bullock Workman

Talk by Brig. Ashok Abbey (Retd.), a veteran climber with over four decades of experience across the Karakoram, Himalaya and adjoining ranges. He brings deep field knowledge to the history of the Workman explorations.

Chair: Shri Shyam Saran, President, IIC

Guest of Honour: Lt. Gen Ata Hasnain (Retd.)

Special Invitee: Ms. Kokila Sudha, renowned mountaineer

The talk revisited the extraordinary 1911–1912 expedition of Fanny Bullock Workman. Her pioneering exploration of the 76-km-long Siachen Glacier—now the world’s highest battlefield—mapped its chief tributaries and placed the glacier accurately within the geography of the Eastern Karakoram.

(Collaboration: Himalayan Club; and The Himalayan Environment Trust)

24 Photojournalism in the Times of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Speaker: Dheeraj Paul, distinguished photographer and mentor

This was part of the exhibition, *The Big Picture 2025*, an exhibition of works of photojournalists, on display in the Main Art Gallery from 20 to 30 December 2025.

(Collaboration: All India Working News Cameramen’s Association (WNCA))

JANUARY 2026

9 The Bibek Debroy Memorial Lecture

Speaker: Shaktikanta Das, Principal Secretary-2 to the Prime Minister of India. Previously, he was a noted policy maker and has served as Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. He was also a member of the Fifteenth Finance Commission and India’s Sherpa to the G20.

The inaugural Bibek Debroy Memorial Lecture honoured the life, work, and legacy of one of India’s foremost intellectuals, the Sanskrit scholar, economist, and policy expert, the late Dr. Bibek Debroy (1955–2024). Awarded the Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri for his work, Debroy’s last held position was Chair of the Prime Minister’s Economic Advisory Council. He wrote and translated more than 100 books including the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

9 The Forgotten History of French Imperialism in India

Speaker: Prof. Robert Ivermee, historian of British and wider European colonialism in South Asia, an Associate Professor at Sciences Po Grenoble – UGA, France. He is the author of *Glorious Failure: The Forgotten History of French Imperialism in India* (Context, 2026) and a wide range of other publications.

Moderator: Zohra Chatterji, IAS (Retd.) Former Secretary, Govt. of India, scholar, writer and Vice-President, Alliance Française de Delhi

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

For 150 years, from the reign of Louis XIV to the downfall of Napoleon, France was an aggressive imperial power in South Asia. Through their East India company and state, the French established a far-reaching empire in India. The talk recovered and reflected on the largely forgotten history of French imperialism in India. In doing so, it tackles topics like great power rivalry and entrenched inequalities that remain vital and urgent today.

(Collaboration: Alliance Française de Delhi)

13 SAMHITA – BHARAT KI SOCH PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

On Tracing the Footprints of Indian Scientific Heritage

Speaker: Dr. Vijaya Jayant Deshpande, Independent Researcher, scholar of history of science, technology and medicine, with a focus on Sino-Indian scientific contacts through Buddhism; Life Member of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute (BORI), Pune.

The lecture gave an overview of scholarship on early scientific development (through archaeology, the study of Adivasi practices, and literary sources). It focussed on the chemical-metallurgical insights to be found in the *Rasopanishad*, a medieval work of alchemy in Sanskrit. The speaker demonstrated how texts help to trace the transmission of scientific ideas and techniques, by tracing the relationship between Chinese ophthalmic works attributed to Nagarjuna and Ayurvedic texts like *Susrutasamhita* and *Ashtanghridaya*.

Inaugural lecture of the series on 'Health, Wellness and Nutrition', organised by IIC–International Research Division and Bharat ki Soch Foundation

14 DR. C. D. DESHMUKH MEMORIAL LECTURE 2026

India in a New Asia

Speaker: Mr. George Yong-Boon Yeo, former Cabinet Minister in Singapore Government and currently Visiting Scholar at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS, Singapore

Chair: Shri Shyam Saran, President, IIC

Vote of thanks: Shri K. N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC

In the coming decades, there is a fair chance that Southeast, East, Central and West Asia will all see major transformation for the better. South Asia with India at its core should do well too. By 2050, India's economy in PPP terms will likely be the second largest in the world. The lecture discussed the hopes and challenges of this future.

23 Voices from the Hills: Re-centring People in the Story of the Himalayas

Speakers: Lalit and Anuradha Pande, Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan, Almora.

Chair: Shri Shyam Saran, President, IIC

For nearly four decades, Lalit and Anuradha Pande have worked across the Kumaon and Garhwal regions, engaging with education, gender, livelihoods, environment learning in government schools and *balwadis*, and research rooted in local concerns. They reflected on their experiences drawn from the lived realities of people in rural Himalayan communities. The speakers invited participants to an open, interactive dialogue that goes beyond a pleasant evening, with the hope that it inspires meaningful engagement with the issues raised.

24 Memory, Migration and the Archive: The Transnational Afterlives of Family Photographs

Speaker: Özge Baykan Calafato, an academic, curator, writer and lecturer at the University of Amsterdam and Sorbonne University, Abu Dhabi. She is the author of *Making the Modern Turkish Citizen: Vernacular Photography in the Early Republican Era* (I.B. Tauris/Bloomsbury, 2022)

Moderator: Prof. Sabeena Gadihoke, a scholar, documentary filmmaker, and photo historian, and a long-time faculty member at AJK MCRC, Jamia Millia Islamia

How do photographs travel across borders, lives and generations, and what forms of personal and collective memory do they invoke? This talk traced the intricate entanglements of transnational memory, migration histories and photographic archives.

27 TO COMMEMORATE MARTYRS' DAY 2026

Speakers: Usha Ramanathan, law researcher; and Anil Nauriya, Counsel, Supreme Court of India and writer

Chair: Justice Madan Lokur (Retd.), Supreme Court of India

The talks addressed the *Relevance of Gandhi Today* and *Gandhi, Hind ka Dada and the Shaping of the Nation*.

(Collaboration: Sarvodaya International Trust – Delhi Chapter)

30 A Persian Palace in Patna?**Looking Afresh at the Mauryas and Achaemenids**

Speaker: Upinder Singh, scholar of ancient Indian history, archaeology and political thought. She has authored several books, including *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India* and *Ancient India: Culture of Contradictions*, and is currently a Professor of History, Ashoka University, Sonipat

Moderator: Prof. Nayanjot Lahiri, Professor of History at Ashoka University. She won the Infosys Prize 2013 in the Humanities-Archaeology.

The establishment of the Maurya empire (c. 324/321–187 BCE) roughly synchronised with the demise of the Achaemenid empire (c. 559–330 BCE). The reign of the third Maurya emperor Ashoka overlapped with the establishment of Arsacid rule in Iran. The lecture revisited the interface of the Achaemenids with India and their possible impact on Ashokan inscriptions. It also discussed the hunt for the Maurya palace in Patna, with a special focus on D. B. Spooner's conviction that he had found a Persepolitan palace in Pataliputra and a Zoroastrian period in Indian history.

(Collaboration: @Crossroads)

APPENDIX III *Discussions*

FEBRUARY 2025

1 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

A World Within: Tales & Triumphs of Growing up with Autism

By Kanha Trehan (2025)

Discussants: Shri K. N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC; Ms. Merry Barua, Founder-Director, Action for Autism, National Centre for Autism, activist, trainer, consultant; Dr. Rohit Verma, Senior Consultant, AIIMS, Delhi; Ms. Neha Bhimwal, clinical psychologist; and Shri Kanha Trehan, author of the book

Chair: Dr. Shayama Chona, President, Tamana and former Principal, Delhi Public School, R. K. Puram

6 HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Curated by Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray

The Thief Who Stole My Heart: Sacred Bronzes from Chola India

Illustrated lecture by Prof. Vidya Dehejia, Barbara Stoler Miller Professor Emerita of Indian Art, Columbia University, New York, and author of a range of books on the history of Indian art that connect the literary and visual arts in meaningful ways. Her recent publications include *The Thief Who Stole My Heart: The Material Life of Sacred Bronzes from Chola India, 855–1280* (2021); *India: A Story through 100 Objects* (2021); *The Unfinished. Indian Stone Carvers at Work* (2016) among others. Prof. Dehejia served as Chief Curator and Deputy Director, Freer & Sackler Galleries of the Smithsonian in Washington DC, and as Acting Director in 2001–2002.

Chair: Prof. Parul Dave Mukherji, Professor, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University

The talk commenced with an introduction to the sacred bronzes created by a master sculptor around the year 1000 CE and suggested that his inspiration may have been child-saint Sambandar's opening hymn that hails Lord Shiva as 'the thief who stole my heart.' Prof. Dehejia explored this sensuous imagery before moving to ask questions of this material that have not been asked before. Where did the Cholas acquire the copper required to cast the many temple bronzes that are solid heavy pieces of metal? What were the circumstances that permitted the creation of hundreds of temples and vast numbers of sacred bronzes despite the constant warfare that the Chola monarchs were engaged in?

7 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

What the West Should Learn from India: Insights from a German Diplomat

By Walter J. Lindner (Juggernaut, 2024)

Discussants: Mr. Jawed Ashraf, former Indian Ambassador of India to France and Monaco; Amb. Ronen Sen, former Indian Ambassador to the USA; Amb. Meera Shankar, former Indian Ambassador to Germany and USA; and Mr. Walter Lindner, former Ambassador of Germany to India

Moderator: Dr. Constantino Xavier, Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy and Security Studies, Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP)

8 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Musaliar King: Decolonial Historiography of Malabar's Resistance

By Abbas Panakkal (Bloomsbury India, 2024)

Discussants: Dr. Saleena Kuzhuppil Basheer, Professor and Dean, School of Law, Hamdard Institute of Legal Studies and Research, Jamia Hamdard; Dr. Syed Iqbal Hasnain, former Vice Chancellor of Calicut University; Prof. Pallavi Raghavan, Assistant Professor, Ashoka University; and Dr. Abbas Panakkal, historian and author of the book

Chair: Amb. K. P. Fabian, Professor, Symbiosis University, Pune

10 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Ramayana in World Art and Thought

Edited by Shovana Narayan (Shubhi Publications, 2024)

Chief Guest: Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, former Union Minister

Chair: Dr. Karan Singh, statesman, philosopher and thinker

Discussants: Dr. Yatindra Mishra, poet, cinema and music scholar; and Dr. Shovana Narayan, well-known Kathak artist/guru and author of the book

14 ART MATTERS

Panel discussion on 'Looking at Art'

Panellists: Nitin Bhayana; Vandana Kalra; Jyoti Kathpalia; and Anubhav Nath

(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation)

18 Social Scientists in the Civic Space: Ethical perspectives on Democratic Involvement

Edited by Arundhati Virmani, Jean Boutier and Manohar Kumar (Routledge, 2025)

Short presentation on the book by the Editors—Prof. Arundhati Virmani, EHESS, Norbert Elias Centre in Social Sciences, Marseille; and Prof. Jean Boutier, Directeur d'Études, École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Marseille and former Director of the Norbert Elias Centre in Social Sciences (2002–2011)

Panellists: Shri Manish Tewari, Member of Parliament; Prof. Rajiv Bhargava, noted political theorist, Honorary Fellow and Founder Director, Parekh Institute of Indian Thought, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies; Prof. Zoya Hasan, National Fellow, Indian Council of Social Science Research and Professor of Political Science and the Dean of School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and Namit Arora, public historian and author, former IIT and Silicon Valley engineer

Moderator: Ms. Shweta Kothari, journalist

Discussion was based on the proceedings of an IIC Seminar organised in collaboration with EHESS, Centre Norbert Elias, Marseille and Centre de Sciences Humaines, New Delhi in January 2020.

20 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Idea of Order: Perspectives from Central and Eastern Europe (1989–2022)

By Rakesh Batabyal (K.W. Publishers Pvt. Ltd., 2024)

Panellists: Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Additional Secretary, ICWA; Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva, Centre for European Studies, SIS, JNU; Ms. Margit Koves, Assistant Professor, Department of Slavonic and Finno-Ugrian Studies, Delhi University; and Mr. Rakesh Batabyal, author of the book.

Chair: Amb. T. C. A Raghavan, Former High Commissioner to Pakistan and Former Director General, ICWA

22 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

At the Heart of Power: The Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh

By Shyamlal Yadav (Rupa Publications, 2024)

Guest of Honour: Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education, Govt. of India

Discussants: Prof. Sushma Yadav, Member, Justice K. G. Balakrishnan Commission, former Vice Chancellor, BPS Mahila Vishwavidyalaya and former Pro Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Haryana; Shri Qamar Wahid Naqvi, former News Director, TV Today Network; and Shri Shyamlal Yadav, journalist and author of the book

Chair: Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, President, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

22 When Women Translate Women

Panellists: Astri Ghosh, who translates from Norwegian, Hindi and other languages into English; Krupa Ge, who translates from Tamil to English; and Ira Pande who translates from Hindi to English

Moderators: Rita Kothari and Urvashi Butalia

The discussion focused on translation, and what happens when women translate women, bringing together translators to speak about how and whether their gender impacts the process of translation, whether they feel more drawn to the work of women, and what is the 'relationship' between writer and translator when both occupy the same gender.

(Collaboration: Zubaan; and Ashoka Centre for Translation)

26 WEBINAR**Nature-based Solutions for Hot Cities**

Presentations:

Research: Effectiveness and Cost-Efficiency of NbS for Tackling Urban Heat

By Stefan Greiving, Professor and Regional Development and Risk Management Chair, Department of Spatial Planning, TU Dortmund University

Practical Applications and Policy Frameworks

By Sudeshna Chatterjee, Program Director, Sustainable Cities and Transport, World Resource Institute

With Intervention from: Raja Asvanon, Research Associate, Stockholm Environment Institute Asia

Moderator: Liam O'Connor, Associate Urban Climate Change Specialist, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP

The year 2024 went down as the hottest year in recorded history and left cities across the globe grappling with the effects of extreme urban heat. With soaring temperatures exacerbated by urban heat island effects affecting over half of the world's population, cities remain at the front lines of adverse climate impacts. This is particularly true in regions like Asia and the Pacific and consistently affects vulnerable populations the most. Fortunately, amidst these challenges lies a powerful and often underutilised solution—biodiversity. Nature-based solutions (NbS) offer a promising pathway to combat urban heat while delivering a myriad of co-benefits for climate resilience and sustainable living. The discussion explored the latest research, practical applications, and policy frameworks that leverage biodiversity as a transformative tool for cooling cities, enhancing urban resilience, and supporting sustainable socioeconomic development.

(Collaboration: The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)

27 **Harnessing India’s Manufacturing Potential**

A discussion on ISID’s *India Industrial Development Report 2024-25*

Presentation of the Report by Prof. Nagesh Kumar, Director, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID)

Panellists: Shri Ajay Shankar, former Industry Secretary, Govt. of India; Amb. Dammu Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India; and Prof. Ram Singh, Director, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University

Chair: Dr. V. K. Saraswat, Member, Niti Aayog, Govt. of India

The *Report* is the first in a new series of flagship reports ISID has launched, and provides an evidence-based analysis of different challenges and opportunities that the country faces, as it pursues manufacturing-led transformation and outlines a policy agenda and institutional framework for accelerating it.

(Collaboration: Institute for Studies in Industrial Development)

MARCH 2025

1 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

India’s National Security Challenges

Edited by N. N. Vohra (Primus Books, 2023)

Discussants: Prof. (Dr.) C. Raja Mohan, Visiting Research Professor, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore; Ms. Indrani Bagchi, Chief Executive Officer, Ananta Centre; Shri R. Banerji, former Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Govt. of India; and Shri N. N. Vohra, former Governor of Jammu & Kashmir and Life Trustee, IIC

Chair: Shri Shyam Saran, President, IIC

3 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Cooling our Environment: An Architect’s Vision to Combat Global Warming

By Kalpana Sutaria (Atmosphere Press, 2024)

Discussants: Ms. Anumitra Roychowdhury, Executive Director, Research and Advocacy, Centre for Science and Environment; Shri Ashok B. Lall, architect and former Member, Global Holcim Foundation; and Ms. Kalpana Sutaria, activist, architect and author of the book

Chair: Shri Suhas Borker, Editor, Citizens First TV (CFTC)

5 HIMALAYAN DIALOGUES**Himalayan Huffing: Culture, Politics and Climate Change**

Speakers: Prof. Jagannath Panda, Head, Stockholm Center for South Asian and Indo-Pacific Affairs (SCSA-IPA), speaking on *The Climate Challenge in Tibet: Why and How the Himalayan Community Must Act Together*; and Prof. Dhananjay Tripathi, Associate Professor, South Asian University, New Delhi, who spoke on *Border and Culture: The Connection and Contradiction*

Discussant: Dr. Rajiv Ranjan, Associate Professor, Dept. of East Asian Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Delhi

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

6 Women in Higher Education and Implications of the National Education Policy (2020)

Panellists: Prof. Mary E. John who has been working in the fields of women's studies and feminist politics for many years and was Director, Centre for Women's Development Studies (2006–2012); Prof. Anurekha Chari Wagh, Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad; Dr. Protiva Kundu, Research Lead – Social Sectors, Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA); Dr. Swati Dyahadroy, Assistant Professor, Department of Women and Gender Studies, Savitribai Phule University, Pune; Prof. Jyoti Dalal, Institute of Home Economics, University of Delhi; Dr. Manasi Thapliyal Navani, Assistant Professor, School of Education Studies, Ambedkar University; and Prof. Nandita Narain, former Head of the Dept. of Mathematics, St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi

Concluding Observations: Prof. Apoorvanand, Professor, Hindi Dept., Faculty of Arts, University of Delhi

Moderator: Prof. Anita Rampal, Convenor, SPG on Education

(This lecture was part of the IIC Sectoral Policy Group on Education under the Convenorship of Prof. Anita Rampal)

7 Pluralism in India and Indonesia: Diversity in the Quest for Unity

Launch of the IIC-IRD book edited by Shakari Syndraraman and the late Kapila Vatsyayan (Konark Publishers, 2025)

Shri N. N. Vohra, Life Trustee, IIC released the book and presided over the discussion.

Panellists: H. E. Amb. Ina Krisnamurthi, Ambassador of Indonesia to India; Prof. Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit, Vice Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and Prof. Shankari Sundararaman, volume editor and Professor of Southeast Asian Studies, and Chairperson, Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

(Organised by the IIC-International Research Division)

8 In Conversation: Alarmel Valli, Leela Samson and Madhavi Mudgal

Moderator: Archana Sivasubramanian

Organised in collaboration with Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, New Delhi

10 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Memory Keepers: Poems

By Payal Nagpal (Signer, 2024)

Discussants: Dr. Anand Prakash, poet and academic; Prof. Radha Chakravarty, poet, critic and translator, formerly Professor of Comparative Literature and Translation Studies, Ambedkar University; Prof. Payal Nagpal, Professor of English, Janki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi, and author of the book; and others

Chair: Dr. Taisha Abraham, author, theorist and critic

11 WEBINAR

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Historical Perspectives: Illuminating Minds on Blue Waters

By Pascal Alan Nazareth (Konark Publishers, 2025)

Keynote Address: Amb. Shyam Saran, President, IIC

Discussants: Shri K. N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC; Amb. Ashok Sajjanhar, Executive Council Member, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses; Amb. P.A. Nazareth, former diplomat and author of the book; and Shri K. P. R. Nair, Managing Director, Konark Publishers

Moderator: Amb. Ranjan Mathai, former Foreign Secretary and High Commissioner to UK

11 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Genome to Om: Evolving Journey of Modern Science to Meta-science

By Bhushan Patwardhan and Indu Ramchandani (BluOne Ink, 2024)

Discussants: Dr. Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Ayurveda physician, former Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH and former Vice Chancellor, Gujarat Ayurveda University, Jamnagar; Prof. Santishree Pandit, Vice Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS); Dr. Kavita A. Sharma, former President, South Asian University; Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan, National Research Professor—Ayush and co-author of the book; and Smt. Indu Ramchandani, editor, transcriber, compiler and book publisher, as well as co-author of the book

12 Confluence of India and Central Asia through the Ages

Launch of the IIC-IRD book edited by Syed Akhtar Husain (Primus Books, 2025)

Shri N. N. Vohra, Life Trustee, IIC released the book and presided over the discussion.

Panellists: Amb. T. C. A. Raghavan, historian, former High Commissioner to Pakistan, and former Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs; Prof. Siddiq Wahid, Distinguished Professor, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Senior Fellow, Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence; Dr. Meena Singh Roy, Head, West Asia Centre, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi; and Prof. Syed Akhtar Husain, volume editor, Professor, Centre of Persian and Central Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and President, Institute of Indo-Persian Studies

15 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**Midnight Haze**

By Kaia Roy (Authorspress, 2025)

Discussants: Shri Sunit Tandon, Director, India Habitat Centre and President, Delhi Music Society; Prof. Sukrita Paul Kumar, Guest Editor, *Indian Literature*, poet, academic and critic; Prof. Malashri Lal, Convenor, English Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi; and Ms. Kaia Roy, author of the book

Chair: Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath, Life Trustee, IIC and Director, WISCOMP

18 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**Vasna Ek Nadi ka Naam Hai**

By Savita Singh (Vani Prakashan, 2024)

Discussants: Prof. Rohini Agrawal, poet and author; Prof. Sudha Singh, Professor of Hindi, University of Delhi and poet; Ms. Aditi Maheshwari, Executive Director, Vani Prakashan; and Prof. Savita Singh, Professor and founding Director, School of Gender and Development Studies, Indira Gandhi National Open University (Delhi), and author of the book

Chair: Prof. Sukrita Paul Kumar, Guest Editor, *Indian Literature*, poet and academic

(Collaboration: The Poetry Society, India)

18 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Great Conciliator: Lal Bahadur Shastri and the Transformation of India

By Sanjeev Chopra (Bloomsbury India, 2025)

Chief Guest: Dr. Arif Mohammed Khan, Hon'ble Governor of Bihar

Discussants: Shri Anil Shastri, former Minister and Member of Parliament; Shri Shekhar Gupta, journalist, author, founder and Editor-in-Chief, *The Print*; Dr. Aishwarya Pandit, Associate Professor, Jindal Global Law School; and Dr. Sanjeev Chopra, former Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, and author of the book

19 **India in the Global Climate Agenda: Baku and Beyond**

Speakers: Amitabh Sinha, Deputy Editor, *The Indian Express*; Srinivas Krishnaswamy, Founder Trustee and Chief Functionary (CEO), Vasudha Foundation; and Dr. Manish Kr. Shrivastava, Associate Director, Earth Science and Climate Change, TERI

Moderator: Shri Satish Sinha, Associate Director, Toxics Link

At COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, India expressed its displeasure that the focus of the climate talks was on mitigation and not enabling less developed countries to take measures for mitigation. However, if recent reports are to be believed, India has improved its Climate Risk Index (CRI) from 7th in 2019 to 22nd in 2022, implying the country is in a better place now about mitigation. While there is a buzz around climate change, the issue and its impacts are perceived and understood differently by communities. The discussion was an attempt to inform citizens about the science of climate change, its impacts and our preparedness.

(Collaboration: Toxics Link)

20 ART MATTERS

Discussion on Cinema and Time

Panellists: Anupama Srinivasan; Gurvinder Singh; and Sashikanth Ananthachari

Moderator: Udayan Vajpeyi

(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation)

24 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Unpolitically Correct: The Politics and Economics of Governance

By Satya Mohanty (Rupa Publications India, 2024)

Discussants: Dr. Nitin Desai, distinguished economist and former Under Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs, UN; Prof. Ashutosh Varshney, political scientist, Sol Goldman Professor of International Studies and the Social Sciences, and Professor of Political Science at Brown University, USA; and Dr. Satya Mohanty, poet, playwright, novelist and writer, former Union Secretary of Education and Secretary General, National Human Rights Commission; and author of the book

Chair: Dr. Shashi Tharoor, MP

25 **Language Policy: A Formula for Learning?**

Panellists: Prof. Apoorvanand, Dept. of Hindi, University of Delhi; Prof. Ayesha Kidwai, Centre for Linguistics, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and Dr. Karthick Narayanan, Linguist and researcher

Moderator: Prof. Anita Rampal, Convenor, IIC Sectoral Policy Group on Education

27 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Stout and Tender: A Collection of Poems Pure and Impure

By Badri Raina (AuthorsUpFront, 2024)

Discussants: Dr. Shashi Tharoor, MP, writer and diplomat; Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, former Minister, Member of Parliament, writer and former diplomat; Prof. Ratna Raman, Professor, Dept. of English, Sri Venkateswara College, University of Delhi; Dr. B. Mangalam, Professor of English, Aryabhata College, University of Delhi; and Prof. Badri Raina, well-known commentator on politics, culture and society, former Professor of English, Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi, and author of the anthology

APRIL 2025

5 **Roundtable: Issues and Themes in China's National People's Congress (Liang hui Two Sessions)**

Speakers: Sreemati Chakrabarti, former Professor, Dept. of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi; Chairperson and Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies; Ashok K. Kantha, former Ambassador to China; Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies; Distinguished Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi; Ritu Agarwal, Associate Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Rityusha Mani Tiwary, Dept. of Political Science, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi; Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi; Associate Editor, *China Report: A Journal of East Asian Studies*; Usha Chandran, Assistant Professor, Centre for

APPENDICES

Chinese and South East Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi; and Anand P. Krishnan, Fellow, Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Shiv Nadar University; Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi

Chair: Manoranjan Mohanty, former Professor of Political Science and Director, Developing Countries Research Centre, University of Delhi; Distinguished Professor, Council for Social Development; Emeritus Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi

(Collaboration: Institute of Chinese Studies)

5 The Sherpa Trail

Illustrated lecture by Nandini Purandare, writer and editor, President, The Himalayan Club, editor of *The Himalayan Journal*; and Deepa Balsavar, writer, award-winning illustrator, Adjunct Professor, IDC School of Design, IIT-Bombay; co-authors of the internationally acclaimed book *The Sherpa Trail: Stories from Darjeeling and Beyond* (Roli Books, 2024) which received the Climbing Writing Award at the Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival, Canada and the Boardman Tasker Award at the Kendal Mountain Festival, UK.

Chair: Brig. Ashok Abbey

The story of a fast-disappearing community of Sherpa climbers without whom any exploration in the Himalaya would have been impossible. Nandini and Deepa set out on an adventure that began in 2012 and culminated on a book ten years later. The book focuses on the Darjeeling Sherpas, who, centuries ago, first migrated from Tibet to Nepal and then to the foothills of the Himalaya in northern India, becoming renowned for their skills as expedition porters from the turn of the 20th century.

(Collaboration: The Himalayan Club)

8 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Nalanda: How it Changed the World

By Abhay K. (Vintage Books, 2025)

Amb. Abhay K. in conversation with Mr. William Dalrymple, historian

Moderator: Dr. Arpan Tulsyan, Senior Fellow, Observer Research Foundation

9 **Citizens Dialogue for the Rejuvenation of the River Yamuna**

Speakers: Prof. Deepak Pental, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Delhi; Prof. A. K. Gosain, Professor of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi; Justice Swatanter Kumar, former chairperson of the National Green Tribunal and former judge of the Supreme Court of India; Ms. Reena Mahajan, founder Studio DiverCity, Paris; architect, urban planner and advocate of sustainable cities; Rajendra Ravi; Ashoka Mandal; Prof. C. R. Babu; and Yogita Shukla

Chair: Suhas Borker, Founder Member, Green Circle of Delhi

The city of Delhi alone continues to contribute more than 70 per cent of the pollutant load (untreated sewage and industrial effluents) in river Yamuna. The Yamuna floodplain ecosystems along its 22-kilometer stretch through Delhi is highly degraded and lost in some stretches. Expanding and upgrading sewage treatment plants (STPs) is essential; stringent measures are required to stop industrial pollutants from entering the river system. Maintaining minimum river flow is critical as the river's reduced flow during the dry season spirals the concentration of pollutants. The idea of riverfront development which concretises the floodplains and permits construction at the edge of the main channel has to be avoided at all costs. Maintaining a high level of ecological integrity of the river ecosystem has to be a critical part of the rejuvenation strategy. A concerted action needs to be taken at the national level to save river Yamuna.

NDMC Horticulture Department presented a sapling to each participant.

(Collaboration: Green Circle of Delhi)

11 **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

Unseen Paths: Spirituality and Consciousness

By Romola Butalia (Motilal Banarsidass Publishing House, 2024)

Discussants: Shri Umesh Kabir, spiritual master, educationist, researcher of theology; Shri Himanshu Joshi, classical singer and Member of the Indian Ocean band; Ms. Sunita Pant Bansal, mythologist, publisher and author; Prof. Trilochan Shastri, Professor, IIM, Bangalore; and Ms. Romola Butalia, spiritual practitioner, teacher and editor of the book

16 **Roundtable: One Health – Complexities and Challenges: How it Impacts Life on Earth**

'One Health' is a collaborative, multi-sectoral, and transdisciplinary approach to achieving optimal health outcomes for people, animals, and the environment. It recognises that the health of humans, animals, and ecosystems are interconnected and interdependent.

Organised by the IIC's Sectoral Policy Planning Group on Science and Technology under the convenorship of Dr. Renu Swarup, the roundtable discussed key issues of One Health—addressing a wide range of health challenges, including zoonotic diseases (diseases that can be transmitted between animals and humans), antimicrobial resistance, food safety, environmental pollution, climate change impacts on health, and more.

16 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Postcolonial Bollywood and Muslim Identity: Production, Representation and Reception

By Nadira Khatun (Oxford University Press, 2024)

Discussants: Prof. Ira Bhaskar, film scholar and former Professor of Cinema Studies, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Dr. Mujibur Rehman, Assistant Professor, Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, Jamia Millia Islamia; Prof. Manoj Jha, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and national spokesperson of the Rashtriya Janata Dal; and Prof. Nadira Khatun, Assistant Professor at the School of Communications, XIM University, Odisha and author of the book

Moderator: Ms. Manjula Narayan, National Books Editor, *Hindustan Times*

16 ART MATTERS

The Philosophy of Tagore: Thinking Across Cultures

Discussion with Prof. Ramin Jahanbegloo, political philosopher, Professor and Vice Dean and Executive Director, Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Peace Studies, O. P. Jindal Global University and author of the book; and Prof. S. Irfan Habib, historian of science

Moderator: Shri Ashok Vajpeyi

(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation)

17 **Whither India-US-China Relations Today?**

Speakers: Amb. Kanwal Sibal, former Foreign Secretary and former Ambassador to Egypt, France and Russia; Prof. Amitabh Mattoo, Dean, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Prof. Srikant Kondapalli, Professor of Chinese Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Prof. C. Raja Mohan, Consulting Editor, *Strategic Thinker*, Visiting Professor, National University, Singapore; Shri T. K. Arun, former Resident Editor, *The Economic Times*, independent columnist

Moderator: Amb. Surendra Kumar, President, IAFA

(Collaboration: Indo-American Friendship Association)

23 Energy Transition and Climate Justice: A Path Less Travelled

Release of the *IIC Quarterly* Winter 2024–Spring 2025 Special Issue

Edited by Mritiunjoy Mohanty, Runa Sarkar and Omita Goyal

Released by Dr. Karan Singh, Chairman, IIC Editorial Board

Followed by a **panel discussion** with

Ashwini K. Swain, Sustainable Futures Collaborative; Nagraj Adve, Teachers Against Climate Crisis; Mritiunjoy Mohanty and Runa Sarkar, IIM Calcutta and Guest Editors

Chair: Dr. Karan Singh

This collection of essays makes an assessment of the energy transition path that India has chosen and is taking, both in terms of macro-strategy as well as sectorally, seen from the standpoint of a renewable energy pathway that can deliver sustainable growth alongside climate justice. The contributors located the discussion on energy transition and climate justice within a political economy framework to try and understand the choices that have been made and discussed feasible alternatives and coalitions that might be forged to deliver a more sustainable future.

24 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**A Place called Home: Stories by Susham Bedi**

Edited by Rekha Sethi and Hina Nandrajog (Sahitya Akademi, 2024)

Discussants: Prof. Malashri Lal, Convenor, English Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi; Ms. Neeta Gupta; Prof. Rekha Sethi, Indraprastha College for Women and co-editor of the book; and Dr. Hina Nandrajog, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi and co-editor of the book

25 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**Noon Films and Magical Renaissance of Malayalam Cinema**

By V. K. Cherian (Atlantic Publishers & Distributors, 2024)

Discussants: Shri Shantanu Ray Chaudhuri, writer, Editor, Om Books; Shri U. Radhakrishnan, Delhi Malayalee Film Society; Shri Eshan Sharma, historian, Kaarwan; and Shri V. K. Cherian, Digital Consultant and author of the book

Chair: Amb. K. P. Fabian, Symbiosis University

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26 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

He Almost Prevented Partition

The Life and Times of Dr. M. C. Davar

By Praveen Davar

Discussants: Shri Farooq Abdullah, former Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir; Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, former Minister, writer and former diplomat; Prof. Apoorvanand, Professor, Department of Hindi, University of Delhi; and Capt. Praveen Davar, author of the book

Chair: Dr. Karan Singh, statesman, philosopher and thinker

28 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Girls' Education and Empowerment: Strategies and Experiences from South Asia

By Geeta Menon, Namita Ranganathan and Sanjeev Rai (Routledge India, 2024)

Discussants: Amb. Ranjit Rae, former Indian Ambassador to Hungary, Vietnam and Nepal; Shri Abhimanyu Singh, Chair, Foundation for Education & Development (FED); Prof. Krishna Menon, Professor of Gender Studies, School of Human Studies, Ambedkar University; Dr. Geeta Menon, development professional and co-author of the book; Prof. Namita Ranganathan, Department of Education, University of Delhi, and co-author of the book; and Dr. Sanjeev Rai, co-author of the book

Chair: Prof. Pravin Sinclair, former Professor of Mathematics, Indira Gandhi Open University

28 **Neighbourhood Conundrum**

Speakers: Amb. Mohan Kumar, Dean, Strategic and International Initiatives, O. P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat and former Ambassador to France; Amb. Manjeev S. Puri, former Ambassador to Nepal and the EU, Distinguished Fellow, TERI; and Ms. Indrani Bagchi, CEO Ananta Aspen Centre

Chair: Amb. Y. K. Sinha, former CIC and High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and Sri Lanka

MAY 2025

1 Discussion on Constitution of India – A Bulwark against Casteist Hegemony

Speakers: Prof. G. Mohan Gopal, former Director, National Judicial Academy of the Supreme Court of India, and former Vice-Chancellor, National Law School of India, Bengaluru; Prof. Sumeet Mhaskar, Professor of Labour Sociology at the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, O. P. Jindal Global University; Prof. Vidhu Verma, Professor, Centre for Political

Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Subhash Ghatade, Independent Researcher, writer, translator and activist; and Prof Y. S. Alone, Professor in Visual Studies, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Moderator: Suhas Borker, Convenor, Working Group on Alternative Strategies and Editor, Citizens First TV (CFTV)

(Collaboration: Maharashtra Sanskritik ani Rannaniti Adhyayan Samiti; and Working Group on Alternative Strategies)

2 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Little Lhasa: Reflections in Exiled Tibet

By Tsering Namgyal Khortsa (Speaking Tiger, 2024)

Discussants: Prof. Kaveri Gill, Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar University Institute of Eminence; Ms. Manjula Narayan, National Books Editor, *Hindustan Times*; and Shri Tsering Namgyal Khortsa, novelist and journalist, and author of the book

Moderator: Prof. Swati Chawla

3 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

F. N. Souza: The Archetypal Artist

By Janeita Singh (Niyogi Books, 2024)

Discussants: Prof. Ashis Nandy, political psychologist, social theorist, futurist and critic; Dr. Alka Pande, art historian, author and curator; and Ms. Janeita Singh, author of the book

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

Moderator: Shri Nidheesh Tyagi, journalist, Digital Sherpa of Indic languages and Founder, talkingfish.in

3 **The Third Eye of Indian Art: Aesthetics as Vedanta**

Discussion around the book by Harsha V. Dehejia

Speakers: Benoy K. Behl, documentary filmmaker, art historian and photographer; Rama Vaidyanathan, Bharatanatyam exponent and Guru; and Harsha V. Dehejia, practising Physician and Professor of Indic Studies, and author of the book

Chair: Dr. Karan Singh

Moderator: Alok Bhalla

5 Leprosy in India: Down but Not Out – What are We Doing About It?

Panellists: Dr. Lily Gangmei, Chief Medical Officer, Central Leprosy Division, Govt. of India; Dr. Rashmi Shukla, National Professional Officer, WHO; Dr. Ritu Ghosh, Executive Director, GPZL; Dr. Srilekha Penna, National Coordinator, ILEP; and Dr. Ashok Agarwal, CEO, NLR India Foundation.

Moderators: Dr. Lalit Kant, Vice Chairperson, Board, NLR India Foundation

(Collaboration: NLR India Foundation)

8 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Medusa and Other Poems

By Sangeeta Gupta

Discussants: Prof. Sukrita Paul Kumar, Guest Editor, *Indian Literature*, poet, academic and critic; Ms. Mandira Ghosh, writer and author of several books of prose and poetry; Prof. Radha Chakravarty, poet, critic and translator, formerly Professor of Comparative Literature and Translation Studies, Ambedkar University; Ms. Sangeeta Gupta, author of the book

Chair: Dr. Amarendra Khatua, former Secretary, MEA, and poet

8 IIC/THE MEDIA FOUNDATION DIALOGUES

Challenges Confronting the Indian Language Media

Panellists: Paresh Nath, Editor and Publisher, Delhi Press; Mahtab Alam, former Executive Editor, *The Wire*, Urdu; Samata Biswas, Academic and Columnist, Senior Research Adviser, Calcutta Research Group; and R. Prasannan, Resident Editor, *The Week* and *Malayala Manorama*

Moderator: Vibodh Parthasarathi, Associate Professor, Centre for Culture, Media and Governance, Jamia Millia Islamia

(Collaboration: The Media Foundation)

9 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Hindi Cinema and Pakistan: Screening the Idea and the Reality

By Meenakshi Bharat (Routledge India, 2024)

Discussants: Prof. Ira Bhaskar, film scholar and former Professor of Cinema Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Shri Amit Khanna, film producer, director, writer and journalist; Prof. Nishat Haider, Professor, Dept. of English, Jamia Millia Islamia; Dr. Kamayani Kumar,

Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, Aryabhata College, University of Delhi; and Prof. Meenakshi Bharat, writer, translator, reviewer and cultural theorist, and author of the book

Moderator: Ms. Jasleen Vohra, Senior Anchor, Doordarshan, producer, director and writer

9 HISTORY AND HERITAGE: THE AFTERLIFE OF MONUMENTS

Curator: Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray

Recentering Southeast Asia

Speakers: Dr. T. C. A. Raghavan, historian and award-winning author, former diplomat and Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs; and Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray, Tagore National Fellow, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Chair: Prof. Madhavan K. Palat, distinguished historian, scholar of the modern world and political commentator

10 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Four books were discussed: *A Grammatical Sketch of Sanenyo: The Language Spoken in Chowra, the Nicobar Islands, India*; *A Grammatical Sketch of LURO: The Language Spoken in Teresa Island, Andaman and Nicobar*; *Sanenyo Dictionary*; and *Luro Dictionary*

Co-authors: Anvita Abbi, Rahul Pachori and Vyasakh R.

Discussants: Prof. Udaya Narayan Singh, poet, linguist, essayist and translation theoretician, and Chair-Professor of Linguistics at Amity University, Gurgaon; Dr. Ajay Saini; Prof. Anvita Abbi, linguist and scholar of minority languages, and co-author of the books; and Shri Rahul Pachori, co-author of the books

10 Women's Health: Navigating your Senior Years – A Comprehensive Approach

Panellists: Talish Ray, Partner, TRS Law Offices; Dr. G. S. Grewal, Senior Consultant, General Medicine; Sanchita Mukherji, Co-Founder and Partner, Blue Edge Associates LLP; and Anjana Bhargav, The Anjana Bhargav Label, Co-Founder, Anky and Dhi

Conceptualised and coordinated by Bhavana and Dr. Rahul Manchanda

Moderator: Kishore Singh, author

13 Lesser-Known Heritage: The Role of Media

Speakers: Shri K. Satish Nambudripad, former Director General of Doordarshan; Shri Ajit Pai, Chairman, Delhi Urban Art Commission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; and Ms. Swapna Liddle, historian, author, curator and heritage conservator

APPENDICES

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

Moderator: Ms. Vertika Sharma, Visiting Faculty, Heritage law, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi

14 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Forever Yours and Other Poems

By Swati Pal (Hawakal Publishers, 2024)

Discussants: Prof. B. Mangalam, Professor of English, Aryabhata College, University of Delhi; Prof. Manju Kapur, Former faculty member, Miranda House, University of Delhi and novelist; and Prof. Swati Pal, Professor and Principal, Janki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi and author of the book.

Chair: Prof. G. J. V. Prasad, poet, novelist and translator, formerly Professor of English, Jawaharlal Nehru University

16 **From Here to Denmark: The Importance of Institutions for Good Governance**

Welcome Address and Introductory Remarks: Shri Prabhat Kumar, President, IC Centre for Governance

Keynote Address: Dr. Rajat M. Nag, Distinguished Fellow and Member of the Board, Advanced Study Institute of Asia, New Delhi; Distinguished Professor, Beijing Normal University, Beijing; and Distinguished Fellow, Emerging Markets Forum, Washington DC

(Collaboration: IC Centre for Governance)

16 THE WORKING OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION: STORIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The Great Cases series discussion no. 8

Justice, Demolitions and the Rule of Law in Peace and Conflict

Speakers: Chander Uday Singh, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court; and Vrinda Grover, Advocate, Supreme Court

Moderators: Lakshita Handa, Senior Resident Fellow, Vidhi; and Pragya Singh, Senior Resident Fellow, Vidhi

The discussion examined the November 2024 Supreme Court directives, the role of due process, and the broader implications for democracy in India.

(Collaboration: Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy)

16 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Speaking Stones: Rock Art of Ladakh

By Ahtushi Deshpande (2024)

Discussants: Dr. Alka Pande, art historian; and Dr. Ahtushi Deshpande, photographer, writer, curator and independent researcher, and author of the book

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

16 HIMALAYAN DIALOGUES

The Indian Way: Constructing Norms in Indo-Pacific

Speakers: Dr. Rahul Mishra, Associate Professor, Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and Dr. Pooja Bhatt, Associate Professor, Jindal School of International Affairs, Jindal Global University and South Asia Visiting Fellow 2025, Stimson Centre, Washington DC

Moderator: Prof. Rajiv Ranjan, Associate Professor, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi

Chair: Prof. Harsh Pant, Vice President, Observer Research Foundation, Delhi

20 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

In Her Footsteps: Women Who Made India

By Mandira Ghosh (Parchment Publications, 2025)

Discussants: Dr. Rita Malhotra, mathematician, essayist, poet and translator; Dr. Amarendra Khatua, former Director General, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India; Amb. Reena Pandey, former Ambassador to Armenia and Georgia; Shri Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, Editorial Director, Niyogi Books; and Smt. Mandira Ghosh, poet and author of the book

Chair: Shri B. P. Singh, eminent author and former Governor of Sikkim

22 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

India Inked: Elections in the World's Largest Democracy

By Poonam Agarwal (Bloomsbury India, 2025)

Discussants: Shri Ashok Lavasa, former Election Commissioner of India; Prof. Jagdeep Chhokar, Founder-Member, Association of Democratic Reforms and former Professor, Dean and Director-in-Charge, IIM, Ahmedabad; Shri Pawan Khera, political analyst; Ms. Anjali Bhardwaj, activist; and Ms. Poonam Agarwal, an award-winning journalist who has been covering Indian society and politics for two decades, and author of the book

23 Can We Rejuvenate Yamuna?

Lead presentation by Shri Asok Kumar G., IAS (Retd.), Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research and formerly Director General, the National Mission for Clean Ganga

Panel discussion

Panellists: Shri D. P. Mathuria, Chief Engineer, Central Water Commission; Shri Manu Bhatnagar, Principal Director, INTACH Natural Heritage Division; and Dr. Srinivas Chokkakula, President and Chief Executive, Centre for Policy Research

(Collaboration: Centre for Policy Research)

27 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Disaster Planning and Governance in India: Experts' Experiences and Insights

Edited by Sunita Reddy and Anil Kumar Sinha (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2023)

Discussants: Prof. Dhananjay Singh, Member Secretary, Indian Council for Social Science Research; Shri A. K. Mangotra, IAS (Retd.), former Secretary (Border Mgmt.), DG (DGS & D); Dr. Chandrani Bandyopadhyay Neogi, Associate Professor, Dept. of Urban Planning, School of Planning and Architecture; Prof. Ian Davis, Visiting Professor at Kyoto, Lund and Oxford Brookes Universities; Dr. Sunita Reddy, Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Founder Chair, Anthropol India and co-editor of the book; and Shri Anil Kumar Sinha, IAS (Retd.), former Vice Chairman, BSDMA and co-editor of the book

Moderator: Dr. Anshu Sharma, Co-Founder, SEEDS India

Chair: Gen. N. C. Vij, PVSM, UYSM, AVSAM (Retd.), Director, VIF, and author

29 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Mandal Dhwani

By Malashri Lal (Hawakal Publishers, 2025)

Discussants: Prof. Anamika, contemporary poet, novelist and academic; Prof. Rekha Sethi, academic, writer, scholar and translator; Dr. Alka Tyagi, Professor, Dept. of English, Dayal Singh College (Evening), University of Delhi, poet and editor of the book; and Prof. Malashri Lal, Convenor, English Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, and author of the book

Moderator: Shri Kirti Sengupta, bilingual poet and translator

JUNE 2025

4 **India's Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies for Climate Change**

Speakers: Ms. Urmi Goswami, Assistant Editor, *The Economic Times*; Dr. S. Sreekesh, Professor, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and Dr. Srikanta K. Panigrahi, Director General, Distinguished Fellow, Indian Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD)

The speakers addressed the issue of India's climate action plan, the changing global dynamics and India's stance, and the way forward.

(Collaboration: Toxics Link)

5 **12th Edition of the 'Dialogue to Develop a Vision for the Environment of Delhi'**

Speakers: Shri Bikram Singh Sajwan, former Expert Member, National Green Tribunal; Prof. A. K. Gosain, former Professor of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi; Dr. Vivek Saxena, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary, State Biodiversity Board, Haryana; and Prof. Akshay Kaul, ecological planner, landscape designer and sustainable development architect

Discussant: Dr. Yogita Shukla, Founder and CEO AddGEO Foundation

Moderator: Suhas Borker, Founder Member, Green Circle of Delhi and Editor, Citizens First TV (CFTV)

Chair: Justice Abhay S. Oka, former Judge, Supreme Court of India

This series is dedicated to the memory of Shri Mahesh. N. Buch, civil servant and environmentalist, who passed away on 6 June in 2015 and who had given the keynote address at the inaugural edition of the Dialogue in 2013.

(Collaboration: Green Circle of Delhi)

6 **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

Raghu Rai: Waiting for the Divine

By Rachna Singh (Hawakal Publishers: 2024)

Discussants: Shri Raghu Rai, well-known photographer and photojournalist; Ms. Roobina Karode, Director and Chief Curator, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA), New Delhi; Dr. Rachna Singh, author and Editor of *The Wise Owl*, an online literary and art magazine, and author of the book

Moderator: Dr. Mandira Nayar, journalist and Deputy Bureau Chief, *The Week*

10 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Apostles of Development: Six Economists and the World They Made

By David C. Engerman (Viking Penguin, 2025)

Discussants: Amb. Shivshankar Menon, former NSA and Foreign Secretary; Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, former Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of India; and Prof. David C. Engerman, Leitner International Professor, Department of History and Jackson School of Global Affairs, Yale University, and author of the book

Moderator: Suhas Borker, Editor, Citizens First TV (CFTV)

12 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Vihangam: Gangapath ke Bhagirath Aakhyam

By Abhay Mishra (Penguin Swadesh, 2025)

Discussants: Shri Rambahadur Rai, President, IGNCIA; Prof. Pushpesh Pant, historian and former Professor of International Relations, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Ms. Vaishali Mathur, Editor, Penguin Random House India; and Shri Abhay Mishra, author of the book

Moderator: Shri Vyomesh Shukla, poet, critic and translator

16 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Through the India–China Border: Kalimpong in the Himalayas

By Prem Poddar and Lisa Lindkvist Zhang (Cambridge University Press, 2025)

Discussants: Shri Ravi Bhootalingam, Emeritus Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, Founder Chairman, Manas Advisory and Former President, Oberoi Group of Hotels; Dr. Rityusha Mani Tiwary, Professor Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi and Honorary Fellow at the Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi; and Prof. Prem Poddar, Professor, Cultural Encounters at Roskilde University, Denmark, and author of the book

17 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Resisting Military Rule in Burma (1988–2024)— Story of Mizzima Media: Born in Exile, Banned in Myanmar

By Nandita Haksar and Soe Myint (Aakar Books, 2025)

Discussants: Ms. Ghazala Wahab, Executive Editor, FORCE, and journalist specialising in homeland security, terrorism and extremism; and Ms. Nandita Haksar, human rights lawyer and co-author of the book

Chair: Amb. K. P. Fabian, Professor, Symbiosis University

23 India's Pakistan Problem post-Pahalgam

Speakers: Lt. Gen. Syed Ata Hasnain PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM & Bar, Defence Analyst and former GOC, XV Corps and Chancellor Central University of Kashmir; Amb. Pankaj Saran, Former Dy NSA, Amb. to Russia and HC to Bangladesh and Convenor, NatStrat; and Prof. Amitabh Mattoo, Dean, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University and former Vice Chancellor, Jammu University

Chair: Amb. Y. K. Sinha, Former CIC, High Commissioner to the UK and Sri Lanka and Head of the Pakistan–Afghanistan–Iran Division in MEA

24 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**Indian National Congress: From Dominance to Decline or Hibernation?**

By M. P. Singh and Rekha Saxena (Routledge India, 2023)

Discussants: Prof. Zoya Hasan, political scientist, former Professor of Political Science and Dean, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Prof. E. Sridharan, political scientist and Director and Chief Executive Officer, University of Pennsylvania Institute for the Advanced Study of India (UPIASI); Prof Kiran Walia; Dr Swapan Dasgupta, Distinguished Fellow, India Foundation and former MP, Rajya Sabha; Dr. M. P. Singh, former Professor and Head of the Department of Political Science at the University of Delhi and co-author of the book; and Prof. Rekha Saxena, Head of Department and Senior Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, and co-author of the book

25 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**Viksit Bharat @2047: Governance Transformed**

Edited by C. K. Mathew, Surendra Nath Tripathi, C. Sheela Reddy and A. P. Singh (IIAS Brussels, 2025)

Discussants: Shri V. Srinivas, Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare, Government of India; Shri Surendra Nath Tripathi, Director General, Indian Institute of Public Administration, co-editor of the book; Dr. A. P. Singh, co-editor of the book; and Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma

25 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**The Conscience Network: A Chronicle of Resistance to a Dictatorship**

By Sugata Srinivasaraju (Vintage Books, 2025)

Discussants: Ashis Nandy, political psychologist and social theorist; Coomi Kapoor, columnist; Neerja Chowdhury, veteran journalist; Dunu Roy, social activist and environmentalist; and Sugata Srinivasaraju, author of the book

APPENDICES

Moderator: Suhas Borker, Editor, Citizens First TV (CFTV)

This was followed by a conversation between the book's principal protagonists, Ravi Chopra, SR Hiremath, Anand Kumar and the author

JULY 2025

5 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Odissi Dance: Aesthetics, Therapeutics, Metaphysics

By Reela Hota (Prabhat Prakashan, 2025)

Discussants: Arvind Sharma, Birks Professor in Comparative Religion, McGill University; Sharon Lowen, performing artist, dance guru, writer and Odissi dancer; Swati Pal, Principal, Janki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi and poet; Manindranath Thakur, Professor of Political Studies, JNU; Mahavir Singhvi, Joint Secretary at Ministry of External Affairs of India (Central Europe); Reela Hota, Odissi danseuse, Former Senior Fellow, Ministry of Culture, Founder Secretary, Rays of Wisdom Society, and author of the book

Chair: Madhu Khanna, Former Professor, Director for the Centre for the Study of Comparative Religion and Civilizations, JMI

9 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Modernity, Print and Sahitya: The Making of a New Literary Culture, 1866–1919

By Sumanyu Satpathy (Routledge India, 2023)

Discussants: Pragati Mahapatra, Associate Professor, IP College, University of Delhi; Asha Sarangi, Professor, Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Sumanyu Satpathy, Former Professor, University of Delhi, and author of the book

Chair: Harish Trivedi, Former Professor, University of Delhi

15 **The Silent Whispers: Voice of the Muffled Melodies**

Poems by Misna Chanu (Authorspress, 2023)

Discussants: Malashri Lal, Convenor, English Advisory Board, Sahitya Academy and poet; Payal Nagpal, Professor, Dept. of English, Janki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi; and Misna Chanu, bilingual award-winning poet and author of the book

Chair: Amarendra Khatua, Former Secretary, MEA, and DG, ICCR; poet and diplomat

16 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Buddhist Dances: Movement and Mind

By Joseph Houseal (Motilal Banarsidass Publishing House, 2025)

Discussants: Navtej Johar, performer, activist, scholar and somatic practitioner; and Joseph Houseal, Director, Core of Culture Dance Preservation NFP, and author of the book

Moderator: Sharon Lowen, performing artist, dance guru and writer

16 ART MATTERS

Artist Lal Bahadur Singh in conversation with writer and historian, Dr. Shamsul Islam

(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation)

17 **A Thousand Fireflies**

Winners of the International Booker Prize 2025, Banu Mushtaq and Deepa Bhashthi, in conversation with Sujata Prasad

(Collaboration: Ahad Anhad)

21 THE WORKING OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION: STORIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The Great Cases series discussion no. 9

Pragya Prasun v. Union of India Case

Speakers: Justice A. K. Sikri (Retd.), Former Judge, Supreme Court of India; Sidharth Luthra, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India; Ila Sheel, Advocate-on-Record, Supreme Court of India; Yamina Rizvi, Legal officer with iProbono; Pragya Prasun, Lead petitioner in the case; Amar Jain, Accessibility rights advocate and co-petitioner in the matter

Moderator: Anchal Bhatheja, Research Fellow (Disability Inclusion and Access), Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy

(Collaboration: Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy)

26 **A World in Flux: India's Economic Priorities**

Essays in Honour of Shankar Acharya

Edited by Amita Batra and A. K. Bhattacharya (Rupa Publications, 2025)

Chief Guest: Hon'ble Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

Discussants: Shyam Saran, President, IIC; Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Former Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission; Shankar Acharya, Former Chief Economic Adviser, GoI; Sajjid Z. Chinoy, Managing Director and Chief India Economist, J. P. Morgan; Amita Batra, Professor, School of International Studies, JNU, and editor of the book; and A. K. Bhattacharya, Editorial Director, Business Standard, and editor of the book

29 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Prime Minister: Discourses in Indian Polity

By Dr. Anil Singh (Kaveri Books, 2014)

Discussants: Shri. B. P. Singh, Former Governor of Sikkim and Former Home Secretary, Govt. of India; Prof. M. P. Singh, Honorary Senior Fellow, Centre for Multilevel Federalism, Formerly Professor, Department of Political Science University of Delhi; Prof. Prateek Sharma, Vice Chancellor, Delhi Technical University; Prof. Sushma Yadav, Member of Justice (Retd.) K. G. Balakrishnan Commission, Former Vice Chancellor, BPS Mahila Vishwavidyalaya; Former Pro Vice Chancellor, Central University Haryana; Sh. K. C. Tyagi, Senior Politician, Former Member of Parliament and Dr. Anil Singh, Editor, STAR Views, and author of the book

29 **Europe's Security Push – Opportunities for India-EU Defence Industrial Collaboration**

Speakers: H. E. Ambassador Philipp Ackermann, German Ambassador to India; Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, Former Indian Ambassador to Italy, Poland, Oman and Thailand; and Mr. Ashish Rajvanshi, CEO, Adani Defence and Aerospace

Moderator: Vishnu Som, Group Executive Editor and Senior Anchor, NDTV

Chair: Mr. Shishir Priyadarshi, President, Chintan Research Foundation

(Collaboration: Chintan Research Foundation)

30 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Interrogating Marginalities across Disciplinary Boundaries: Colonial and Post-colonial India

Edited By Anna Bochkovskaya, Sanjukta Das Gupta and Amit Prakash (Routledge, 2024)

Discussants: Prof. Vinita Damodaran, South Asian History, University of Sussex, Brighton, UK; Prof. Nasreen Chowdhory, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi; Prof. Surinder Singh Jodhka, Centre for the Study of Social Systems, JNU; Prof. Anna Bochkovskaya, editor of the book; Prof. Sanjukta Das Gupta, editor of the book; Prof. Amit Prakash, editor of the book

Chair: Neera Chandhoke, Former Professor of Political Science, University of Delhi

AUGUST 2025

1 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Once and Future World Order: Why Global Civilisation Will Survive the Decline of the West

By Amitav Acharya (Basic Books, 2025)

Discussants: Shri. Sachin Chaturvedi, Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University and Director General, RIS; Dr Rashmi Doraiswamy, Professor, MMAJ Academy of International Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia; Prof. Amitav Acharya, Professor of International Relations, School of International Service, American University, and author of the book

Chair: Amb. Sujan Chinoy, Director General, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

5 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Revolutionaries: A Novel

By Neena Nehru (Speaking Tiger, 2025)

Discussants: Ms. Mandira Nayar, senior journalist, in conversation with Neena Nehru, author of the book

7 HIMALAYAN DIALOGUES

Tianxia System in the New Era and Limits to China–Pakistan All-Weather Relations

Speakers: Dr. Jabin Jacob, Associate Professor, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi–NCR; Dr. Atul Bhardwaj, Visiting Research Fellow, School of Policy and Global Affairs, City St George's, University of London; Fellow (2022–2024), Prime Minister Museum and Library, New Delhi and an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Pune; and Prof. Sriparna Pathak, Professor of China Studies and Founding Director of the Centre for Northeast Asian Studies at O. P. Jindal Global University (JGU) Haryana, India

Moderator: Dr. Rajiv Ranjan, Associate Professor, Department of East Asian Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Delhi

The panel discussion focused on the evolving contours of China's strategic worldview through the ancient yet resurgent concept of *Tianxia*—All under Heaven.

8 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Dissent with Love: Ambiguity, Affect and Transformation in South Asia

Edited by Parul Bhandari (Routledge, 2024)

Discussants: Prof. Janaki Abraham, Associate Professor, Delhi School of Economics; Prof. Himadri Roy, Professor, Indira Gandhi National Open University; Dr. Paro Mishra, Assistant Professor, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi; and Dr. Parul Bhandari, Director of Studies, Human, Social and Political Sciences, St. Edmund's College, University of Cambridge and author of the book

Chair: Prof. Patricia Uberoi, Emeritus Fellow at the Institute of Chinese Studies

19 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Dalit Journeys for Dignity: Religion, Freedom and Caste

Edited by Ramnarayan S. Rawat, K. Satyanarayana, P. Sanal Mohan (State University of New York Press, 2025)

Discussants: Dr. Charu Gupta, Professor, University of Delhi; Prof. Madhulika Sonkar, Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi; Dr. Harish Wankhede, Assistant Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Dr. K. Satyanarayana, Professor, English and Foreign Language University, Hyderabad and editor of the book; and Prof. Ramnarayan S. Rawat, Associate Professor, University of Delaware, US, and editor of the book

Moderator: Dr. Surinder Jodhka, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University

22 ART MATTERS

Artist Phaneendranath Chaturvedi in conversation with eminent art critic and curator Uma Nair

(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation)

23 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

From Fire to Light: Rereading the Manusmṛti

By Arvind Sharma (HarperCollins India, 2024)

Discussants: Prof. Purushottam Agrawal, Former Chairperson, Centre of Indian Languages, JNU; Prof. Bharat Gupt, Vice-Chairman, National School of Drama and Former Professor, Delhi University; Prof. Arvind Sharma, Birks Professor of Comparative Religion, McGill University and author of the book

Moderator: Prof. C. Upender Rao, School of Sanskrit and Indic Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

23 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Khari Nadi

By Richa Nagar, Mumtaz Begum and Shashikala Rai (Rajkamal Prakashan, 2025)

Discussants: Richa Nagar, Shashikala Rai, authors of the book, with critic Prof. Apoorvanand

28 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Life and Works of Dr. Jayant Narlikar: A Talk

Discussants: Prof. Somak Raychaudhury, Vice Chancellor, Ashoka University, in conversation with Amb. K. P. Fabian, Professor, Symbiosis University

29 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Narrative Universes of Disability: Global Perspectives

Edited by Someshwar Sati, Shilpa Das, Banibrata Mahanta (Springer, 2025)

Discussants: Prof. Renu Adlakha, Professor, Centre for Women & Development Studies; Dr. Karuna Rajeev, Associate Professor, Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi; Prof. Someshwar Sati, Professor and Coordinator, Centre for Disability Studies and Research, Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi and editor of the book; Prof. Shilpa Das, Professor, Interdisciplinary Design Studies and Leads Master's programme in Film and Video Communication, National Institute of Design, and editor of the book

Chair: Prof. B. Mangalam, Aryabhata College, University of Delhi

SEPTEMBER 2025

1 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Raghu Rai: Waiting for the Divine

By Rachna Singh (Hawakal Publishers, 2024)

Discussants: Shri Raghu Rai, renowned photographer and photojournalist; Ms. Roobina Karode, Director and Chief Curator, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA); Dr. Rachna Singh, author of the book

Moderator: Mandira Nayar, senior journalist

3 Digital Security Training Workshop

Speaker: Shri Sanjay Gathia, Programme Manager at Asia Centre

It was followed by Q&A with the audience

(Collaboration: Asia Centre, Google; and WISCOMP)

3 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Trial by Water: Indus Basin and India–Pakistan Relations

By Uttam Kumar Sinha (Penguin, 2025)

Discussants: Shri Arvind Gupta, author and Director, Vivekanand International Foundation; Shri T. C. A. Raghavan, author, historian and Former High Commissioner to Pakistan; Ms. Shalini Chawla, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Aerospace Power and Strategic Studies (CAPSS); Shri Amitabh Sinha, Senior Editor, Indian Express; Shri Uttam Sinha, Senior Fellow, MP-IDSA

Chair: Shri Gurcharan Das, author, Commentator and Public Intellectual

3 Addressing Climate Change with a Just Transition to Clean Energy

This public lecture discussed how India is faring in achieving a just and equitable energy transition that benefits both the environment and its people.

Speakers: Dr. Atul Kumar, Professor, Energy Studies Programme, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Karthik Ganesan, Fellow and Director, Strategic Partnerships, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW); Dr. Debajit Palit, Centre Head, Centre for Climate Change and Energy Transition, Chintan Research Foundation

(Collaboration: Toxics Link)

4 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

At War with the Single Strand: How Indian Science Fought the Covid-19 Pandemic

Edited By Renu Swarup, Govindarajan Padmanaban and Narendra Kumar Arora (Springer, 2025)

Discussants: Dr. Vinod Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog; Prof. A. K. Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to Govt. of India; Dr. Renu Swarup, Former Secretary, Govt. of India; Prof. G. Padmanabhan, Former Director Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru; Dr. N. K. Arora, Executive Director, The INCLIN Trust International

5-7 12TH CREATIVE THEORY COLLOQUIUM

Indian Political Theory: Possibilities and Challenges

The Inaugural Session and Panel Discussion:

Debating Indian Political Theory: Political Theory in India

Coordinators: Prof. Savita Singh and Manindra Nath Thakur

Discussants: Prof. Rajeev Bhargava; Prof. Pratap Bhanu Mehta; Yogendra Yadav; Prof. Gopal Guru; Prof. Gurpreet Mahajan

Chair: Prof. Manoranjan Mohanty

It was followed by an open discussion with the audience

(Collaboration: Association of Creative Theory and Foundation for Creative Social Research; International Herbert Marcuse Society, USA; The Raza Foundation; and Shanti Sahyog)

6 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Business Strategies and Public Policies in India and Europe: Ideas for a Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Society

Edited by Bidisha Banerji and Sheetal Sharma (Springer, 2025)

Discussants: Prof. Rumki Basu, Former Professor, Jamia Millia Islamia; Shri Narayanan Madhavan, senior journalist, columnist and editor; Dr. Bidisha Banerji, Deputy Director, Amity University, and editor of the book; Dr. Sheetal Sharma, Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and editor of the book

Chair: V. Srinivas, Secretary, DARPG

6 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

From Isolation to Integration: Navigating the Geopolitics of India's Northeast (1990-2023)

By Patricia Mukhim (Martin Luther Christian University Press, 2025)

Discussants: Vrinda Grover, Senior Advocate; Prof. Tiplut Nongbri, Former Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Shekhar Gupta, Editor, *The Print*; Patricia Mukhim, social activist, journalist and author of the book

Chair: Shri Shyam Saran, President, IIC

Moderator: G. K. Pillai, Former Union Home Secretary

12 AAJ KAVITA

Poetry Readings

By Rajendra Dhodapkar, Devyani Bharadwaj (Delhi); Parwati Tirkey (Gumla-Jharkhand) and Parag Pawan (Varanasi) read their original works in Hindi

(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation)

12 **STATE OF THE INDIAN MEDIA**

Is Journalism Facing an Existential Crisis in the Emerging Indian Media Ecosystem?

Discussants: Anant Nath, President of the Editors Guild of India; Arati R. Jerath, political commentator and analyst; Shikha Mukherjee, senior journalist; and Dr. Nalini R. Mohanty, former Editor, *Hindustan Times*, Patna

Moderator: Suhas Borker, Editor, Citizens First TV (CFTV)

This conversation marked the 35th Anniversary of the Presidential Assent to the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 and is the 32nd discussion in the annual series started in 1994.

(Collaboration: Jan Prasar)

13 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Hyderabadis: From 1947 to the Present Day

By Daneesh Majid (HarperCollins India, 2025)

Discussants: Dr. Mujibur Rehman, Professor, Jamia Millia Islamia (Central University); Dinesh C. Sharma, journalist; Daneesh Majid, author of the book

Chair: A. S. Dulat, Former Head, R&AW

Moderator: Ruben Banerjee, journalist

15 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Democracy's Heartland: Inside the Battle for Power in South Asia

By S. Y. Quraishi (Juggernaut, 2025)

Discussants: Amb. Shiv Shankar Menon, Former National Security Adviser and Foreign Secretary (Guest of Honour); Prof. Kavita Sharma, Educationist, Former Director, IIC, Former President, South Asia University; and Dr. S. Y. Quraishi, Former Chief Election Commissioner of India and author of the book

Chair: Shri Shyam Saran, President, IIC

Moderator: Prof. Pushpesh Pant, academic, historian and food critic

20 Material Imaginations: Understanding Kashmir through Architecture and Text

Speakers: Rana Safvi, author and historian; Anubhutiya Maurya, Associate Professor at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Shiv Nadar University; Sarovar Zaidi, Assistant Professor of Practice at the Jindal School of Art and Architecture

Moderator: Sameer Hamdani

This was part of Naqsh...The Imprint: An Exhibition on Architectural Epigraphy of Kashmir (14th–19th CE)

19 ASIA ECONOMIC DIALOGUE**Navigating Complexity: The Future of Economic Multilateralism**

Opening Remarks: Amb. (Retd.) Gautam Bambawale, Convenor, Asia Economic Dialogue

Welcome Remarks: Amb. Shyam Saran, President, IIC

Keynote Address: Amb. Vikram Misri, Foreign Secretary, Government of India

Panel Discussion

Trump's Tariffs – Wither Global Trade?

Panellists: Dr. Ajit Ranade, Senior Fellow, PIC (Chair); H. E. May-Elin Stener, Ambassador of Norway to India; H. E. Prof. Anil Sooklal, High Commissioner of South Africa; Amb. (Retd.) J. S. Deepak, Group Director, International Strategy and Public Policy; and Dr. Amita Batra, Professor, Centre for South Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Panel Discussion

Reconfiguring Global Supply Chains in a Fragmenting World: Opportunities and Risks

Panellists: Prashant Girbane, Director General, MCCA, and General Secretary, PIC (Chair); H. E. Lindy Cameron, UK High Commissioner; H. E. ONO Keiichi, Ambassador of Japan; L. Srinivas, Special Secretary, Ministry of Commerce; and Dr. Saon Ray, Professor, ICRIER

Valedictory Session: Shri B. V. R. Subrahmanyam, CEO, Niti Ayog

Closing Remarks: Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Nitin Gadkari, Director, PIC

(Collaboration: Pune International Centre)

19 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**The Red Woman**

By Laksmisree Banerjee (Black Eagle Books, 2025)

APPENDICES

Discussants: Prof. Radha Chakravarty, writer, critic and translator; Prof. Seema Jain, bilingual poet, translator and editor; Mandira Ghosh, poet, researcher, educator, writer; Dr. Roopali Sircar Gaur, Former Professor, Delhi University, poet; and Prof. Laksmisree Banerjee, author of the book

Chair: Dr. Amarendra Khatua, Former Secretary, MEA & DG, ICCR, and poet

19 Policy Roundtable on India's Trade and Manufacturing Prospects amid Trump Tariffs

The discussion focused on the challenges posed by tariffs, for India's economic prospects and policy options to deal with them.

Panellists: Shri Nitin Yadav, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India; Ajay Shankar, Former Industry Secretary; Dr. Anup Wadhawan, Former Commerce Secretary; Dr. Pravakar Sahoo, Programme Director, NITI Aayog; Sumanta Chaudhuri, Principal Adviser, CII

Moderator: Prof. Nagesh Kumar Director, ISID

Closing Remarks: Dr. Pritam Banerjee Head, Centre for WTO Studies

(Collaboration: Institute for Studies in Industrial Development and Centre for WTO Studies)

22 Digital Sovereignty, FTAs and National Security

An expert panel debated the policy choices that will shape how India safeguards digital sovereignty in Free Trade Agreements and National Security Strategy.

Speakers: Shri Parminder Jeet Singh, Digital Society Researcher and activist; Dr. Ashwani Mahajan, National Convenor, Swadeshi Jagran Manch; Dr. Sasmit Patra, Member of Parliament; Shri Abhishek Bhatt, Secretary General, Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association; and Shri Ashish Sonal, co-chair, SITARA and CEO, Orkash

Chair: Ambassador Ashok Kantha

Vote of Thanks: Ambassador Smita Purushottam, Chair, SITARA

(Collaboration: SITARA; and Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association (BDIA))

23 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Ananda: An Exploration of Cannabis in India

By Karan Madhok (Aleph Book Company, 2024)

Discussants: Omair Ahmad, acclaimed novelist and journalist; Dr. Khagesh Gautam, Professor, Jindal Global Law School, Tripti Tandon, lawyer and Drug Policy Analyst; Karan Madhok, author of the book

Moderator: Amritesh Mukherjee, independent journalist and editor

23 ART MATTERS

Ashutosh Bharadwaj in conversation with Ashok Vajpeyi about his ongoing biography of Ramchandra Gandhi

(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation)

24 HUMANITIES MATTER

A symposium on *Humanities Matter* focussed on 'Conceptualising Humanities', 'Humanities and Sciences: An Interface' and 'Humanities as Bedrock of Knowledge' in 3 sessions.

The discussions aimed to highlight the importance of humanities in developing well-rounded, thoughtful individuals and propose practical measures to integrate these values meaningfully into education.

Programme Committee: Sukrita Paul Kumar (Convenor), Prof. Swati Pal, Principal, Janki Devi College, Prof. Asani Bhaduri, Cluster Innovation Centre, Delhi University

25 Writing Places: The Importance of Setting in Writing

Discussants: Ms. Rana Safvi, historian, author, translator and cultural scholar; Karan Mujoo, writer and creative director; Ms. Aishwarya Jha, author, designer and entrepreneur

Moderator: Ms. Shagufta Siddhi, art historian and archaeologist

25 IIC/THE MEDIA FOUNDATION DIALOGUES

The Electoral Rolls Controversy and the Media

Panellists: S. Y. Quraishi, Former Chief Election Commissioner; Manisha Pande, Managing Editor, *Newslandry*; Yogendra Yadav, political activist; Ashutosh, Co-Founder, Satya Hindi; Gurdeep Singh Sappal, leader, INC

Moderator: Pamela Philipose, Ombudsperson, *The Wire*

(Collaboration: The Media Foundation)

29 National Consultative Meet on Dementia Strategy

Despite its immense impact, dementia remains under-recognised as a public health priority. WHO has identified dementia as an urgent global challenge. This consultative meeting aimed to bring together key government, academic and non-profit stakeholders to deliberate upon this issue.

(Collaboration: Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences and Dementia India Alliance)

30 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Changing Profile of India's Trade Relations: A Partial and General Equilibrium Analysis

Edited by Somesh K. Mathur, Prabir De, Archana Srivastava (Routledge, 2025)

Discussants: Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Dy. Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, South and South-West Asia Office, UNESCAP; Ms. Pallavi Jain Govil, Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs, New Delhi; Prof. Manmohan Agarwal, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Prof. Amita Batra, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Dr. Rajesh Chadha, Centre for Social and Economic Progress; Prof. Dibyendu Maiti, Delhi School of Economics; Prof. Kavya Dashora, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi; Prof. Somesh K. Mathur, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, and editor of the book; Prof. Prabir De, Research and Information System for Developing Countries, and editor of the book; Dr. Archana Srivastava, BITS Pilani, Hyderabad, and editor of the book

OCTOBER 2025

6 ART MATTERS CIV

Book discussion on artist Anjum Singh with an essay by Ella Datta

It was followed by a panel discussion on life and work of the artist by Meera Menezes, Manisha Parekh, Manisha Gera Baswani and Ella Datta.

(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation)

8 Mental Health and Mobile Usage

Discussants: Dr. Puneet Dwevedi, Chief Consultant in Mental Health and Behavioral Science, Artemis Hospital, Gurugram; Ms. Rita Marathey, Member of the International Society for Substance Use Professionals and Global Women's Network; Mr. Feisal Alkazi, educationist, trainer, theatre director; Ms. Vickie Rai, Founder-Member of Sambandh Health Foundation

Moderator: Ms. Parul Khanna Parashar

It celebrated 50 years of Sanjivini Society for Mental Health on World Mental Health Day

(Collaboration: Sanjivini Society for Mental Health)

9 INTACH–IIC National Heritage Quiz 2025

Delhi–NCR Zonal Final Round with school students

(Collaboration: Heritage Education and Communication Service, INTACH)

9 From Protection to Prosperity: The Promise of Trade Reform

South Asian countries rank among the least open to international trade and finance, with very high tariffs and non-tariff trade costs. Amidst a changing global environment and the reshaping of supply chains, can lowering trade barriers serve as an engine of growth and job creation in the region?

The event discussed the latest edition of the World Bank's bi-annual flagship report *South Asia Development Update*, which examined the region's current economic landscape and explored the labour market implications of trade reforms.

(Collaboration: The World Bank)

18 How Free is Free Speech in India

Freedom of Speech is constitutionally guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India. It protects the right of individuals to express their opinions without fear of state reprisal, however it is not unfettered. The discussion focussed on the critical inquiry of the nature, scope and limits of free speech in India's constitutional framework.

Speaker: Justice Rekha Sharma, Former Judge, Delhi High Court

Discussants: Jatinder Jay Cheema, Legal Practitioner in various High Courts in India, the Supreme Court of India, Regulators, and Arbitral Tribunals; Santosh Snehi Mann, District and Sessions Judge, Delhi (Retd.)

(Organised by the IIC's Sectoral Policy Planning Group on Law and Justice)

24 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Light and Shadows: Poems of Rights, Resistance and Renewal

By Meera Khanna (Hawakal Publishers, 2025)

APPENDICES

In the presence of Dr. Rashmi Singh, Secretary, Women and Child Development, Delhi

The author was in conversation with Dr. Malashri Lal.

Rendition of poems through dance by Rama Vaidyanathan

24 The UN at 80

The United Nations, founded in 1945, after the end of World War II, the deadliest in history, to 'save succeeding generations from the scourge of war' has completed 80 years. The discussion examined what the UN has achieved and why it has signally failed in stopping or ending wars.

Chair: Mr. Come Carpentier de Gourdon, Distinguished Fellow, India Foundation, and Convenor, Editorial Board of the magazine *WORLD AFFAIRS*

Speaker: Amb. K. P. Fabian, Professor, Symbiosis University, and World Peace University, Pune

25 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Echoes of the Past: Deep Threads of Indian Diplomacy

By Lakhan Mehrotra (Heritage Publishers, 2025)

Discussants: Dr. Amit Kapoor, Chairman, Institute of Competitiveness; Amb. Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Member, Rajya Sabha; Amb. Lakhan Mehrotra, author of the book

Chair: Dr. Karan Singh, eminent author and scholar

27 In Conversation

Sonia Singh, author, Visiting Fellow, Cambridge Judge Business School and former Editor, Anchor, NDTV with Amish Tripathi, renowned author and former Director, Nehru Centre, London and Minister (Culture and Education) at the High Commission of India in the UK

The conversation explored Amish Tripathi's broader literary journey—from mythology to philosophy, from ancient India to modern storytelling.

27 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Reimagining India's Economy: The Road to a More Equitable Society

By Arun Maira (Speaking Tiger, 2025)

The author was in conversation with Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Adviser, Gol and Mr. Sunil Kant Munjal, Chairman, The Hero Enterprise

Moderator: Ms. Shereen Bhan, Managing Editor, CNBC-TV18

28 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Souls in the Kalyug: The Politics and Cosmologies of Migrant Workers in Contemporary India

By Shankar Ramaswami (Permanent Black, 2025)

Discussants: Prof. Purushottam Agrawal, former Chair, Centre of Indian Languages, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Prof. Uma Chakravarti, Former Professor, Department of History, Miranda House, Delhi University; Prof. Nandini Sundar, Professor, Department of Sociology, Delhi University; Dr. Aseem Shrivastava, scholar, writer and ecological thinker; Prof. Shankar Ramaswami, Professor of Sociology, O. P. Jindal Global University, and author of the book

Chair: Shri Ajay Singh Mehta, Former Executive Director, National Foundation for India

30 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Nepal 2043: The Road to Prosperity

By Sujeev Shakya (Penguin, 2025)

Speakers: Amb. Juan Antonio March Pujol, Ambassador of Spain to India; Amb. Shankar Sharma, Ambassador of Nepal to India; Shamika Ravi, Member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and Secretary to the Gol; Suhasini Haidar, Diplomatic Affairs Editor, *The Hindu*; Sujeev Shakya, author of the Book

30 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Navarasa: Kavya Sankalan

By Anita Chand and Manoj Krishnan (Novoquill Publications, 2024)

Discussants: Mandira Ghosh, poet, author and researcher; Renu Hussain, author, poet and educator; Manoj Krishnan, poet, Founder, The Asian Literary Society, author of the book; Ms. Anita Chand, poet, Administrator, Asia Literary Society, and author of the book

Chair: Dr. Amarendra Khatua, former Secretary, MEA and DG, ICCR, and poet

30 UN@80: Reflections and Visions of the Future

Speakers: Mr. Nitin Desai, former UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs; Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, former Indian Permanent Representative to the UN in New York; Gen. Satish Nambiar, former Force Commander and Head of Mission of UNPROFOR, the UN Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia

(Collaboration: The United Nations, India)

NOVEMBER 2025

1 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Homeopathy: Through a Practitioner's Eye

By Mohammad Qasim (Niyogi Books, 2025)

Discussants: Prof. Krishna Kumar, Former Director, NCERT; Dr. Anita Sehgal, Consultant Eye Specialist; Shri Anil Nauriya, Advocate, Supreme Court of India; Dr. Mohammad Qasim, author of the book

Chair: Shri N. N. Vohra, Life Trustee, IIC

Moderator: Shri Suhas Borker, Editor, Citizens First TV (CFTV)

3 Delhi and Its Textured Pasts

The discussion explored Delhi's layered histories—its water bodies, landscapes, and colonial transitions. It examined how water, land, and power have shaped Delhi's textured pasts.

Inaugural Remarks: Shri K. N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC

Panellists: Prof. Amar Farooqui, author, historian and former professor, DU; Mr. Sohail Hashmi, historian and documentary filmmaker; Mr. Shubham Mishra, an urban planner trained at the International Institute of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (University of Twente) and the School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi

Moderator: Dr. Shashank Shekhar Sinha, historian, author and Publishing Director, Routledge (South Asia) Taylor & Francis Group

(Collaboration: @Crossroads)

6 The Ukraine War

The war that started in February 2022 shows no clear sign of ending despite the enormously huge number of civilian and military casualties. NATO has pumped in a considerable number of weapons, not to mention the financial support. President Trump has reversed Biden's policy of total support to Ukraine and has held talks with Putin, to the chagrin of the Europeans.

Are there any prospects for an early end to this unfolding tragedy? These and related issues were discussed.

Speaker: Amb. Gitesh Sarma, former Ambassador to Ukraine and former Secretary (West), MEA

Chair: Amb. K. P. Fabian, Professor, Symbiosis, and World Peace University, Pune

7 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Gossips of Our Surrogate Story: Prose Poems

By Rajorshi Narayan Patranabis (Hawakal Publisher, 2025)

Discussants: Sudeep Sen, poet and literary editor; Shubha Dwivedi, Associate Professor, ARSD College, University of Delhi; Rajorshi Patranabis, poet, reviewer, essayist and author of the book

Moderator: Kiriti Sengupta, Poet and Publisher

7 AAJ KAVITA

Poetry Readings

It was an evening of poetry and reflection by Neelesh Raghuvanshi (Bhopal); Sandhya Nivodita (Delhi); Utpal Banerjee (Indore); and Javed Alam Khan (Delhi)

(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation)

8 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

A Mother's Reflections: A Heartwarming Journey of Love, Unyielding Strength and Championing Inclusivity

By Shanti Auluck (Hay House, 2024)

Discussants: Ms. Shalini Sinha, Asia Strategic Lead, WIEGO and Asia Board Member, International Centre for Research on Women; Mayank Sapra, Advocate on record, Supreme Court of India; Ms. Neera Chawla, Director Muskaan; Prof. Megha Dhillon, Dept. of Psychology, LSR College; Dr. Shanti Auluck, Chairperson and Founder, Muskaan, and author of the book

Chair: Ms. Aradhana Lal, Sr. Vice President, Sustainability & ESG, Lemon Tree Hotels

10 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Thousand Years War: Russia and the West

By Achala Moulik (Har Anand Publications, 2025)

Discussants: H. E. Mr. Denis Alipov, Russian Ambassador (Guest of Honour); Archana Upadhyay, Professor, Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies, JNU; Shri Dipanjan Roy-Chaudhuri, Diplomatic Editor of *Economic Times*; Dr. Achala Moulik, author of the book

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

12 PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING DAY 2025

(JAN PRASARAN DIVAS)

Public Service Broadcasting Day on 12 November commemorated the day Gandhiji made his first and only live broadcast on All India Radio. On this day in 1947, Gandhiji addressed more than 2 lakh refugees at the Kurukshetra Camp from Broadcasting House, New Delhi. He held no public office or position in the government, and it was truly a public service broadcast. Since 2000, this day became an occasion to spread awareness about the concepts and values of Public Service Broadcasting in the country.

Commemoration was followed by a discussion

Usha Mehta's tryst with freedom on radio: During the Quit India Movement, Usha Mehta was arrested on 12 November 1942 and the Underground Radio Transmitter confiscated in Bombay. Ms. Basudha Banerji, former Documentary Producer, All India Radio and Shri S. N. Sahu, former Press Secretary to President K. R. Narayanan, relived the moment.

Discussion on Public Service Broadcasting: Broadcasting as a Public Resource

Lead Presentation: Shri Suhas Borker, Media person and Convenor, Jan Prasar

(Collaboration: Jan Prasar)

13 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Combating War by Art and Poetry

By Mandira Ghosh (Authorspress, 2025)

Discussants: Sunit Tandon, Former Director, IHC; Prof. Radha Chakravarty, writer, critic and translator; Prof. Swati Pal, Principal and Professor, Janki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi; Dr. Rumki Basu, Former Professor, Jamia Millia Islamia, and poet; Mandira Ghosh, poet, author and researcher, and author of the book

Chair: Dr. Amarendra Khatua, Former Secretary, MEA & DG, ICCR, and poet

17 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**Birds in Flight**

By Joginder Paul; translated by Rashmi Govind (Penguin, 2025)

Discussants: Prof. Sukrita Paul Kumar, Guest Editor, *Indian Literature*, poet, academic and critic; Chandana Dutta, author, editor and translator; Anisur Rahman, Former Professor, Department of English, JMI; Rashmi Govind, translator of the book

Moderator: Moutushi Mukherjee, Commissioning Editor, Penguin Random House

19 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**A Billion Butterflies: A Life in Climate and Chaos Theory**

By Dr. Jagadish Shukla (St. Martin's Press, 2025)

Discussants: Shri Shyam Saran, President, IIC; Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Former Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of India; Shri Ajit Seth, Former Cabinet Secretary; Dr. M. Ravichandran, Secretary to Government of India Ministry of Earth Sciences; Dr. Jagadish Shukla, author of the book

26 COMMEMORATION OF CONSTITUTION DAY**The Values of our Constitution**

Speaker: Shri Justice Madan Lokur, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India

It was followed by an interactive session with students from schools of Delhi-NCR.

Discussants: Dr. Smita Patil, Associate Professor, Department of Gender and Development Studies, IGNOU; Dr. Surajkumar Thube, Visiting Professor, Department of Political Science, Ashoka University; Prof. Aakash Singh Rathore, International Fellow, ETHOS, Rome and author of *Becoming Babasaheb: The Life and Times of Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar*

Moderator: Suhas Borker, Convenor, Working Group on Alternative Strategies

Organised as part of *Taking Gandhi to Children* series that brings children closer to the enduring legacy of Gandhi's non-violent struggle for equity, pluralism and sustainable development by hosting year-round interactive sessions with students from schools of Delhi-NCR

(Collaboration: Working Group on Alternative Strategies)

26 The Working of the Indian Constitution: Stories and Scholarship

The Great Case Series: The series explores landmark constitutional rulings. The discussion on ***State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu*** examined the Supreme Court's interpretation of the Governor's duties in assenting to bills and the constitutional implications of prescribed timelines.

Panellists: Mr. Tathagata Roy, Former Governor of Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, and Meghalaya; Prof. Ashok Pankaj, Professor at the Council for Social Development, New Delhi; Shri Lalit Panda, author of *Heads Held High: Salvaging State Governors for 21st-century India*

Moderator: Anshul Dalmia, Research Fellow, Charkha

(Collaboration: Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy)

27 Indo-Israeli Geopolitical Relationship: Ramifications for Global Politics and Moving

India and Israel have built a unique strategic partnership focused on defence, economic cooperation, and cultural ties. This panel discussion examined how their evolving relationship impacts global politics and future collaboration.

Panellists: Prabhat Jawla, Assistant Professor at the Centre for Political Studies; Shiven Nath, Irwin Cotler Fellow, with a Master's in Political Science, Security and Diplomacy from Tel Aviv University

Chair: Sripathi Narayanan, PhD, Security and Foreign Policy Analyst, presently a Research Fellow with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)

27 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Charismatic Chiaroscuro: Poetry and Art

By Meena Chopra (Self Published, 2025)

Discussants: Prof. Sukrita Paul Kumar, scholar, poet, academician; Prof. Sudeep Sen, poet, literary editor, photographer; Ms. Meena Chopra, author, poet and artist

Chair: Prof. Malashri Lal, scholar, poet, academician

DECEMBER 2025

1 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Heritage Threads: A Tapestry of Indian and Indonesian Textiles

By Bhimanto Suwastoyo and Ritu Sethi

Guest of Honour: Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Parliamentarian, member of INC

Guest of Honour: Ms. Erny Wahyuni, First Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia and Head of Cultural and Social Affairs

Discussants: Ritu Sethi, co-author of the book and Trustee of Crafts Revival Trust; Namrata Dalela, Renowned Textile Researcher and Conservator; Aparna Bhatnagar Saxena, co-editor and CEO, TORAJAMELO foundation, co-editor and co-publisher of the book

Moderator: Col. D. P. K. Pillay, nominated as Brand Ambassador for War disabled by COAS, Formerly Korea Foundation Visiting Fellow

2 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

India and Africa: Legacy of Exchanges and Cultural Affinities

Edited by H. H. S. Viswanathan and K. N. Shrivastava (Konark Publishers, 2025)

Welcome Remarks: Shri K. N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC

Discussants: Prof. Ajay Dubey, Chair, Centre for African Studies, JNU and Secretary-General, African Studies Association of India; Prof. Nandini C. Sen, Bharti College, Delhi University; Ruchita Beri, Senior Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation; Amb. H. H. S Viswanathan, editor of the book

Chair: Shri Shyam Saran, President, IIC

4 **The World is not Binary: Reflections from a COP of Truth and a COP of Implementation**

Opening Remarks: Shri Shyam Saran, President, IIC and former Special Envoy and Chief Negotiator on Climate Change

Lead Presentation by: Dr. Arunabha Ghosh, CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), and COP30 Special Envoy for South Asia

Panellists: Ravi Shankar Prasad, Former Special Secretary, MoEF&CC, and currently, Distinguished Fellow, CEEW; Laveesh Bhandari, President, Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP); Dr. Ajay Mathur, Former Member of PM's Council on Climate Change and Professor of Practice in the School of Public Policy, IIT, Delhi

Chair: Shri Shyam Saran, President, IIC

APPENDICES

The talk reflected on COP30 as a pivotal moment where climate diplomacy confronted its limits and possibilities. Moving beyond binary narratives, it assessed concrete outcomes, hard truths and the implementation-driven pathways shaping the world's climate future.

5 IIC/THE MEDIA FOUNDATION DIALOGUES

From Kingmaker to Bystander: Is the Media Still a Force in Indian Elections?

Panellists: Rajdeep Sardesai, television anchor; Pawan Khera, Congress leader; Poornima Joshi, Resident Editor, Hindu Business Line, Delhi; Satish K. Jha, Professor of Political Science, Delhi University; Jitendra Kumar, independent journalist

Moderator: Bharat Bhushan, journalist and editor

(Collaboration: The Media Foundation)

6 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Beyond the Ballot: Paradoxes of Democracy

By T. S. Krishna Murthy (White Falcon Publishing, 2025)

Discussants: Justice M. N. Venkatachaliah, former Chief Justice of India; Prabhat Kumar, former Cabinet Secretary and Governor of Jharkhand; Prof. Asha Sarangi, Professor, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Justice Madan Lokur, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India; T. S. Krishna Murthy, former Chief Election Commissioner of India and author of the book

Moderator: Suhas Borker, Editor, Citizens First TV (CFTV)

8 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Dark Hours of the Night

By Salma; translated by G. J. V. Prasad (Simon and Schuster, 2025)

Discussants: Prof. B. Mangalam, English professor at Aryabhata College, University of Delhi; Prof. Swati Pal, Principal, Janki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi; Prof. Nishat Haider, Professor of English, Jamia Millia Islamia University; Prof. Salma, author of the book; Prof. G. J. V. Prasad, translator of the book

Moderator: Prof. Malashri Lal, Convenor, English Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, and poet

9 **Financing Climate Adaptation in States: Challenges and Opportunities**

With climate change aggravating and leading to adverse impacts on social and economic sectors, India urgently requires investment in climate adaptation. The discussion identified the challenges faced in implementing adaptation actions by states, the current sources of climate finance, particularly adaptation finance, the instruments and methods of current financing, and suggested possible ways of scaling adaptation finance for states.

Paper presented by: R. R. Rashmi, Distinguished Fellow, TERI; and Dhriti Pathak, Climate Change Researcher and Analyst

Discussant: Ravi Shankar Prasad, Distinguished Fellow, CEEW and Former Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC

Moderator: C. K. Mishra, Former Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India

(Organised by IIC's Sectoral Policy Planning Group on Environment under the Convenorship of C. K. Mishra)

10 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Bharata before the British and Other Essays: Towards a New Indology

By Shonaleeka Kaul (Vitasta, 2024)

Introductory Remarks: Shri K. N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC

Discussants: Prof. Meenakshi Jain, Hon'ble. Member of Rajya Sabha, author, historian; Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, Former Chairman, University Grants Commission, Professor (formerly), Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, educationist and columnist; Prof. Shonaleeka Kaul, Professor of History, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Former Malathy Singh Distinguished Lecturer, Yale University, Jan Gonda Fellow, Leiden University, Visiting Professor, Heidelberg University, Sanskritist and author of the book.

11 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Aainakhana

By Aziz Hajini; translated by Gauri Shankar Raina (Sahitya Akademi, 2025)

Discussants: Dr. Roop Krishen Bhat, eminent short story writer, linguist, former Professor, CIL and former Director, ADULT Education, Ministry of HRD; Prof. Pankaj Bhan, editor and translator, Former Professor of English, DU; Shri Deepak Budki, Former Director General, Postal Services of India, critic and short story writer; Dr. Gauri Shankar Raina, eminent writer and translator, former Advisory Board Member, Sahitya Akademi and translator of the book

Moderator: Prof. Payal Nagpal, Department of English, Janki Devi Memorial College, DU

13 Decoding Hate Speech in India: Strategies and Challenges to Curb It

Papers presented by the Sectoral Policy Group (SPG) on Social Affairs

The papers examined the entire gamut of issues concerning hate speech in India: the legal and constitutional framework and context; misrepresentation of the past; use of divisive narratives for 'othering' of religious minorities (primarily Muslims and Christians), Dalits, Adivasis and communities from Northeast India; role of police, civil administration and media; the way forward to curb hate speech.

Opening remarks: Suhas Borker, Convenor, SPG–Social Affairs

Papers presented by Justice (Retd.) Madan B. Lokur; Prof. S. Irfan Habib; Dr. Meeran C. Borwankar; Prof. Apoorvanand; Shri S. N. Sahu; Shri Jafar Alam; Prof. Y. S. Alone and Dr. Mercy Vungthianmuang

The paper of Prof. Jagdeep S. Chhokar was presented posthumously.

Chair: Justice Iqbal Ahmed Ansari, former Chief Justice, Patna High Court

(Organised by IIC's Sectoral Policy Group on Social Affairs)

16 MUSIC APPRECIATION PROMOTION

Rocking and Rolling with the Stones

Illustrated talk on the music of The Rolling Stones

By Dr. Punita G. Singh

In this musical journey with *The Rolling Stones*, the talk explored how a shifting cast of brilliantly idiosyncratic musicians created one of the most enduring bands in rock history. Fusing early rock with the blues, their innovative sound experiments included influences from gospel, R&B, soul, country, folk and even reggae and disco. Emerging alongside the Beatles in the early 1960s, the Rolling Stones carved out their own image and constantly reinvented themselves. Through iconic audio tracks, video clips and stories, the talk gave a glimpse into the colourful personalities, lives and oeuvre of these musicians who continue to attract listeners across generations.

Punita G. Singh is a musicologist, linguist, acoustician, editor and educator based in New Delhi.

16 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Astanayika: The Romantic Heroines from Natyasastra to Modernity

By Manorama Choudhury and Jayakrushna (Motilal Banarsidass Publishing House, 2025)

Discussants: H. G. Gauranga Das, author and spiritual leader; Guru Sharon Lowen, renowned Odissi dancer, writer and Founder, Manasa–Art Without Frontiers; Dr. Seema Bhalla, art historian, curator, critic; Ms. Manorama Choudhury and Dr. Jayakrushna Choudhury, authors of the book

18 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Assembling India's Constitution: A New Democratic History

By Rohit De and Ornit Shani (Cambridge University Press, 2025)

Discussants: Prof. Anupama Roy, Professor, Centre for Political Studies, JNU; Dr. Usha Ramanathan, independent law researcher and human rights activist; Shahrukh Alam, Advocate, Supreme Court of India

Moderator: Suhas Borker, Editor, Citizens First TV (CFTV)

19 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Endangered Languages of the Nicobar Islands

By Anvita Abbi, Rahul Pachori, Vysakh R.

Discussants: Dr. Ajay Saini, Assistant Professor, Centre for Rural Development and Technology, IIT Delhi; Shimray Rose, Additional District Magistrate, NW District, Delhi; Prof. Anvita Abbi, Adjunct Professor, Department of Linguistics, Simon Fraser University; Former Professor, JNU, and author of the book; Rahul Pachori, Research Fellow (Linguistics), Kala Nidhi Division, IGNC and co-author of the book

Chair: Prof. Udaya Narayan Singh, Professor of Linguistics, Dean Faculty of Arts, Amity University

19 ART MATTERS

Arundhati Subramaniam in conversation with Anamika

(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation)

19 HIMALAYAN DIALOGUES

Book Discussion on

Rising India and China: Strategic Rivalry in the Himalayas and the Indo-Pacific

By B. R. Deepak (Palgrave Macmillan, 2025)

APPENDICES

Discussants: Amb. Ashok K. Kantha, Former Ambassador of India to China; Dr. Manoj Joshi, Distinguished Fellow, ORF, New Delhi; Shikha Aggarwal, Visiting Fellow, India Foundation

Moderator: Dr. Rajiv Ranjan, Associate Professor, Department of East Asian Studies, DU, Delhi

23 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Age of Influence: Thoughts on Communication in Geopolitics, Soft Power and Branding

By Chaitanya K. Prasad, Zoya Ahmad and Vaishnavie Srinivasan (Notion Press, 2025)

Discussants: Prof. Amitabh Mattoo, Dean, School of International Studies, Professor and Chair, Centre for International Politics, Organisation and Disarmament (CIPOD), School of International Studies, JNU; Nitin Gokhale, author and senior journalist; Sidhant Sibal, Assistant Editor, Foreign Affairs, WIONews; Capt. Alok Bansal, Executive Vice President, India Foundation and the Secretary General, Asian Eurasian Human Rights Forum; Chaitanya K. Prasad, Head of Communication and Outreach, MoE, Govt. of India, and author of the book

Moderator: Ms. Manjari Chaturvedi, author and classical dancer

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

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6 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

What Women Want: Understanding The Female Voter in Modern India

By Ruhi Tewari (Juggernaut, 2025)

Discussants: Dr. Shamika Ravi, Member, Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister, India; Gaurav Gogoi, Deputy Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Assam PCC President; Priyanka Chaturvedi, Rajya Sabha MP, Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray); Ram Madhav, President, India Foundation and Senior RSS Leader; Ruhi Tewari, author of the book

Moderator: Nidhi Razdan, senior journalist

8 **India–Brazil–South Africa: Strengthening Global South Agenda**

It is not always cliched to say that 'you cannot stop an idea whose time has come'. The time for IBSA (India–Brazil–South Africa) has arrived to strengthen the multipolar world order. The emerging economies including India, Brazil and South Africa are making their presence

felt globally but without dictating the agenda and rather being consultative. The recently concluded IBSA Summit in South Africa could not have been better timed. The discussion laid out an agenda for IBSA in the coming years.

Chair: Prof. Sanjay Bhattacharyya, former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, and currently Professor of Diplomatic Practice at JSIA and Director, Jindal Global Centre for G20 Studies

Introductory Remarks: Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury, Senior Assistant Editor (Foreign Affairs), *The Economic Times*

Discussants: Amb. Kenneth H. da Nobrega, Ambassador of Brazil to India; and Amb. Dr. Anil Sooklal, South African High Commissioner

9 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

History of A Tomorrow: The Knowledge Revolution

By Upendra Kachru (White Falcon Publishing, 2025)

Discussants: Prof. Yash Gupta, plastic surgeon from London and author of Science in Sanskrit literature; Prashast Kachru, Transdisciplinary Conceptual Interventionist; Dr. A. K. Merchant, General Secretary of Temple of Understanding India Foundation; Upendra Kachru, author of the book

Moderator: Veena Baswani, publishing consultant, author, editor

10 **Expert Talk and Assessment: Impact of Air Pollution on Health and How Ayurveda Can Help**

This talk explored air pollution and its impact on human physiology through an Ayurvedic lens, explaining how pollutants affected the body, lifestyle-based preventive measures, and Ayurvedic approaches to managing severe conditions such as acute asthma.

By Dr. Adarsh T., Consulting Physician, Apollo Ayurved Hospitals, with expertise in metabolic disorders, dermatology, male infertility, and integrative Rasayana- and Panchakarma-based care.

Followed by expert Ayurveda consultation camp where Dr. Adarsh T., Consultant Physician and Dr. Tinkle Rani, Senior Physician-Apollo Ayurved Hospitals examined patients

12 **Five Years On: Mapping the New Terrain of Indian Publishing**

Keynote Speaker: Gaëlle Bohé, Director of Fontaine O Livres and President of the Académie Hors Concours, which awards the annual *Prix Hors Concours* to francophone authors from independent publishers

APPENDICES

Five years on, Indian publishing is still reshaping itself in response to the disruptions of the pandemic. This session took a broad, stock-taking view of the industry, exploring how shifts of the past decade—political centralisation, market consolidation, and rapid technological change—have intensified in the post-pandemic period. From the growing power of conglomerates and global platforms to the pressures on independent publishers and the expanding role of AI, the discussion examined the forces that are defining Indian publishing's next phase and what they meant for the future of books in the country.

The keynote address was followed by a Panel Discussion and Awards.

(Collaboration: Publishing Next)

12 ART MATTERS CVI

Book Discussion on **The Joint Indian Family Album: Portraits of a Visual Arts Community** by Ajay Shanker

Followed by a panel discussion featuring Ram Rahman, Meera Menezes and Gary Reid

(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation)

12 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Anna Mani: The Uncut Diamond

By Asha Gopinathan (National Book Trust, 2025)

Discussants: Surbhi Baghotia, engineer, VSSC, Trivandrum; Gautam Venugopalan, physicist, Stanford University; Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General of Meteorology, India Meteorological Department; Manju Mohan, Former Professor, Centre for Atmospheric Sciences, IIT Delhi

Moderator: Asha Gopinathan, neuroscientist, writer and author of the book

13 **World Peace is Most Desirable but Why is it so Difficult to Achieve?**

As part of the International House Association's Global Forum series on 'Pathways to Peace: Lessons in Reconciliation', this panel session explored how communities and nations rebuild trust and understanding after conflict. The programme also highlighted emerging opportunities for collaboration within the expanding International House network.

Panellists: Dr. Shashi Tharoor, MP and Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs; author, columnist and former UN Under-Secretary-General; Amb. Shyam Saran, President of the India International Centre; former Foreign Secretary; ex-Chairman of RIS and NSAB; and Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Climate Change and Nuclear Affairs;

Dr. Anil Sooklal, High Commissioner of South Africa to India (2024), and a former academic and diplomat with extensive multilateral postings; Amb. Vijay Nambiar, former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and Chief of Cabinet to the UN Secretary-General; Kenneth Felix Haczynski da Nobrega, Brazilian career diplomat and economist, currently serving as Ambassador of Brazil to India and Bhutan; Amb. Surendra Kumar, Founder and President IAFA, former High Commissioner to Kenya and former Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN-Habitat

(Collaboration: International House Association (IHA); Indo-American Friendship Association (IAFA); University of Chicago Centre in Delhi)

14 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Vulgarly of Caste: Dalits, Sexuality, and Humanity in Modern India

By Shailaja Paik (Navayana, 2022)

Discussants: Shailaja Paik, Professor at University of Cincinnati and MacArthur Genius of 2024, as well as author of the book; Projit Mukharji, Prof. of History, Ashoka University; and Prof. Prathama Banerjee Historian, CSDS

15 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Nehru's Bandung: Non-Alignment and Regional Order in Indian Cold War Strategy

Andrea Benvenuti (Speaking Tiger, 2024)

Chair: Shri Shyam Saran, President, IIC

Discussants: Prof. Amitabh Mattoo, Dean, School of International Studies, Professor and Chair, Centre for International Politics, Organisation and Disarmament (CIPOD), School of International Studies, JNU; Prof. Ajay K. Mehra, political scientist, and Former Atal Bihari Vajpayee Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; Prof Pallavi Raghavan, Assistant Professor, Ashoka University; and Dr. Andrea Benvenuti, Associate Professor of Politics and International Relations, University of New South Wales, Kensington, and author of the book

17 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Sita's Yoga: The Yoga of Awakening

By Dena Merriam (Motilal Banarsidass Publishing House, 2025)

Chair: Dena Merriam, International Advisory Council of the Auroville Foundation in India, and author of the book

APPENDICES

Discussants: Dr. A. K. Merchant, General Secretary, Temple of Understanding India Foundation; Major General (Retd.) G. D. Bakshi, strategic expert and writer

Moderator: Soniya Sharma, Founder, Phoenix Health Academy

19 In Conversation

Ambassador Gautam Mukhopadhyay, India's Ambassador to Syria (2006–08), Afghanistan (2010–13) and Myanmar (2013–16) with **Thant Myint-U**, award-winning historian, writer, conservationist, international public servant, Honorary Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and a recipient of Padma Shri from the Government of India

A thought-provoking chat with acclaimed historian Thant Myint-U and his book which traces his grandfather's (U. Thant, Former Secretary-General of the United Nations) integral yet forgotten roles in some of the 20th century's most critical crises. Drawing on newly declassified documents, he traces U. Thant's tireless efforts to bring peace to Vietnam, create a fairer international economy, safeguard the environment and avoid a third world war.

20 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Seeds of Hate: Bangladesh's Extremist Surge

Edited by Shahriar Kabir and Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury (Grin Media, 2025)

Discussants: Shri M. J. Akbar, Former MoS, External Affairs, author and senior journalist; Amb. Pankaj Saran, Member, NSAB, Former High Commissioner to Bangladesh and Ambassador to Russia and Deputy NSA; Dr. Anirban Ganguly, Chairman, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Research Foundation; Ms. Smruti Patnaik, Research Fellow, IDSA and noted Bangladesh expert; Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury, editor of the book

21 COMMEMORATION OF THE 97TH BIRTHDAY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AND THE 56TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GANDHI-KING MEMORIAL PLAZA

Celebration of the Power of Non-Violent Action and the Life of Martin Luther King Jr.

Assembly, briefing and commemoration service at the Gandhi-King Memorial Plaza

Songs by Choirs of Schools from Delhi-NCR

Interactive Session at the C. D. Deshmukh Auditorium with theme:

'Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.'

Martin Luther King Jr., *Strength to Love*, 1963.

During the session, a short film on Martin Luther King's life was screened.

Moderators: Suhas Borker (Working Group on Alternative Strategies); Ramesh Sharma (Gandhi Yuva Biradari)

Students from schools of Delhi–NCR participated

This programme was part of the *Taking Gandhi to Children* series, launched in 2008, that brings children closer to the enduring legacy of Gandhi's non-violent struggle for equity, justice, pluralism and sustainable development.

Gandhi–King Memorial Plaza was inaugurated on 21 January 1970 by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and commemorates two iconic figures of our times: Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.

(Collaboration: Gandhi Yuva Biradari and Working Group on Alternative Strategies)

22 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Mind, Body and Self

Edited by Purushottama Bilimoria, Jaysankar Lal Shaw, Anand Vaidya, Michael Hemmingsen (Springer, 2024)

Discussants: Prof. Shashi Prabha Kumar, President of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS) Society and Chairperson of the Governing Body, Shimla; Prof. R. Krishnaswamy, Associate Professor of Philosophy, O. P. Jindal University, Sonapat; Prof. Ananya Barua, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Hindu College, DU; Prof. Savita Singh, poet and Professor, IGNOU; Prof. Rajan, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Allahabad University; Abhilasha Semwal, researcher, JNU Centre for Philosophy

Moderator: Prof. Purushottama Bilimoria, University of Melbourne and University of San Francisco, and editor of the book

28 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

River Traveller: Journeys on the Tsangpo–Brahmaputra from Tibet to the Bay of Bengal

By Sanjoy Hazarika (Speaking Tiger, 2025)

Discussants: Prof Mahesh Rangarajan, Environmental Studies and History, Ashoka University; Prof. Sanjoy Hazarika, journalist and author of the book

Moderator: Ms. Anupreeta Das, South Asia correspondent for *The New York Times*

29 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Goddesses in South Asia: Traditions and Transformations

Edited by R. Mahalakshmi, Malavika Binny, Megha Yadav (Bloomsbury, 2025)

Discussants: Mahishini Colonne, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India, New Delhi; Prof. Anamika Roy, Department of Ancient History, Culture and Archaeology, University of Allahabad, Prayagraj; Prof. Jaya Tyagi, formerly with the University of Delhi; Prof. Shalini Shah Department of History, University of Delhi; Prof. R. Mahalakshmi Centre for Historical Studies, JNU, New Delhi, and co-editor of the book; Dr. Megha Yadav, Department of History, SRM University, Amaravati, and co-editor of the book; Dr. Malavika Binny, Dept. of History, Kannur University, Kerala, and co-editor of the book

29 MUSIC APPRECIATION PROMOTION

Aesthetics of Film Music

An illustrated presentation by Dr. Mrudula Dadhe Joshi

The presentation demonstrated various aesthetic elements observed in the making of Hindi film music. It further examined the application of various gharanas used in Hindi film music.

Dr. Mrudula Dadhe Joshi is an expert in film music, singer, writer and faculty member for Light Vocal Music at Mumbai University

29 **A Global Political and Economic Realignment? Global Supply Chains in the Next Decade**

Speaker: Rajneesh Narula OBE, John H. Dunning Chair of International Business Regulation, Henley Business School, University of Reading, and Perspectives Editor of Journal of International Business Policy.

Moderator: Prof. Suma Athreya, FRSA, FAcSS

School of Public Policy, IIT Delhi

This talk examined the unravelling of 'Pax Americana' and the shift towards a fragmented global economy shaped by inequality and geopolitical realignment. As globalisation's hidden costs drive unrest and interventionism, the world is moving towards two hegemonic blocs centred on the US and China, alongside loosely aligned, economically peripheral countries. This realignment will reshape multinational enterprises' global value chains and compel unaligned states to pursue deep structural reforms, long-term capacity building, and regional integration.

31 Adding Life to Years: Building Care Systems for Life of Dignity and Quality

Paper presentation by Pallavi Gupta and Sonali Randhawa

Discussants: Rama V. Baru, Professor, Jindal School of Public Health and Human Development, Jindal Global University and Former Professor, Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, JNU; Dr. Ravinder Mohan, Adviser, Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS), CanSupport

India's rapidly ageing population urgently needs accessible, affordable and regulated home-based care. The paper mapped current gaps in services, workforce training and policy frameworks, and argued for integrated medical, functional, and social support. A public discussion was invited to shape a national approach that ensures dignity, safety and quality care for older persons.

The session was held in association with Jindal School of Public Health and Human Development, O. P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat, Haryana.

(Organised by the IIC's Sectoral Policy Group on Health under the Convenorship of Rama V. Baru)

APPENDIX IV *Cultural*

FEBRUARY 2025

4 **Moving Images—Maya Kulkarni’s Shilpanatanam**

Shilpanatanam is a style of movement and choreographic vision conceived by Dr. Maya Kulkarni that departs from the structures of classical dance technique and conventional dramaturgy, tapping into the wider world of literature and poetry.

Dance presentations by Mesma Belsaré and Dr. Kaustavi Sarkar

7 IN MEMORY OF USTAD NASIR FAIYAZUDDIN DAGAR

Vichitra Veena Recital

By Gianni Ricchizzi

Followed by

Dhrupad Recital

By Ustad F. Wasifuddin Dagar

With Pt. Mohan Shyam Sharma on pakhawaj

(Collaboration: Dagar Brothers Memorial Trust)

11 THE IIC DOUBLE BILL: MUSIC AND DANCE RECITALS

Hindustani Violin Recital

By Johar Ali from Delhi, disciple of Ustad Gohar Ali Khan

Kathak Recital

By Deepti Gupta from Delhi, disciple of Pt. Rajendra Gangani

17 **At the Edge of the Ocean**

An evening of Lama Doboomb Tulku’s poetry

Reading and reflection by Dr. Maya Joshi, Associate Professor of Literature, Lady Shri Ram College for Women

Dancing Eloquence by Zuleikha, StoryDancer

Introduction: Dr. Sudhamahi Regunnathan, academic
(Collaboration: World Buddhist Culture Trust)

17 AAJ KAVITA

Poetry Readings

By Amarjeet Kaunke (Patiala); Vinay Vishwas, Raki Garg and Anil Analhatu (Delhi–NCR)
(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation)

19 THE IIC DOUBLE BILL: MUSIC AND DANCE RECITALS

Carnatic Vocal Recital

By R. Anirudh Subramanian from Chennai, disciple of Shri Abhishek Raghuram and Shri Kunnakudi Balamuralikrishna

Bharatanatyam Recital

By Swarnali Kundu from Delhi, disciple of Smt. Rama Vaidyanathan

20 **PTA** (80 min)

Play in English, written and directed by Chandini Agarwal and Jonas David

Presented by Wings Cultural Society

A poignant and heart-wrenching exploration of grief, misunderstanding and the desperate search for answers in the wake of unimaginable tragedy. The play unfolds during a parent-teacher conference between Meera, a mother who has just lost her son to suicide, and Karan, his teacher.

(Collaboration: Wings Cultural Society)

25 **Kirtaniye...The Invisible Divine: 'Jin Prem Kiyo tin Prabh Payo'**

Women's Voices in Gurbani Sangeet (Dakshin)

Presented by Bindhu Malini from Bangalore; Vidya Rao from Hyderabad; and Radhika Naayak Sood from Mumbai

Coordinator: Aaradhana Kohli Kapur

28 T. M. Krishna Sings Guru: The Prosody of an Emerging New

Presented by T. M. Krishna

Accompanists: Akkarai S. Subhalakshmi (violin); K. Arunprakash (mridangam); and Sunil Lumar (kanjira)

Sangita Kalanidhi T. M. Krishna regaled audiences with a soul-stirring performance, exploring the works of Narayana Guru. An immersive experience, the performance weaved together poetry, music and philosophy.

(Collaboration: Backwaters Collective; Nool Archives; Sree Narayana Mandira Samiti, Mumbai; and Uru Art Harbour)

MARCH 2025

1 Carnatic Music Recital – Mandolin and Veena

By Vishwas Hari (mandolin); and Charulatha Chandrasekar (veena)

With Abhishek Avadani on mridangam and Ujith Udaya Kumar on tabla

(Collaboration: Shanmukhananda Sangeetha Sabha)

4 THE IIC DOUBLE BILL: MUSIC RECITALS

Hindustani Vocal Recital

By Dhanashri Ghaisas from Mumbai, disciple of Vidushi Dr. Ashwini Bhide Deshpande

Hindustani Music Instrumental

Fusion music presented by Aditya Shanker (tabla); Kartikeya Vashisht (flute); Neeraj Kumar (percussion); Shailendra Wakhlu (guitar); and Shambhavi Gautam (vocals)

5 HINDUSTANI CLASSICAL CONCERTS

Vocal Recital

By Smt. Kalapini Komkali

Flute Recital

By Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia

In memory of Shri Vasant Sathe

(Collaboration: Sarvajanic Utsav Samiti, New Delhi; and Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Memorial National Committee)

8 In Memoriam: For Humra Quraishi – A Poetry Session

Readings and recitations by Ms. Jayshree M. Tripathi, poet and former International Educational Consultant; Amb. Amarendra Khatua, former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and poet; Prof. Swati Pal, Principal, Janki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi and author; Ms. Sahana Ahmed, poet and novelist; Ms. Deepa Agarwal, author and poet; and Shri Mustafa Quraishi, photojournalist

11 Six Strings, Many Lands: A Guitar Odyssey

Solo guitar concert by Sidharth Sarangi, classical guitarist, pianist and composer from Odisha
The artist presented compositions by F. Tárrega; I. Albéniz; A. Bártos; Gary Ryan; P. Steidl; and C. Domeniconi

(Collaboration: Delhi Music Society)

24 Tsugaru-shamisen Concert

Presented by Nobuto Yamanaka, leading soloist and national champion of Tsugaru-shamisen
The shamisen is a three-stringed Japanese instrument played by striking the strings with a plectrum, known as *bachi*. It is sometimes compared to the guitar or banjo. Originally derived from the Chinese *sanxian* lute, the shamisen was brought to Japan by way of the Ryukyu Kingdom (modern-day Okinawa) many centuries ago.

(Collaboration: The Japan Foundation)

25 Rubies and Coral: A Necklace of Poems from Medieval Kerala

Recitation by Prof. Kesavan Veluthat, formerly Professor of History, Delhi University; and Dr. Sudha Gopalakrishnan, Executive Director, IIC-International Research Division

Moderator: Dr. Naresh Keerthi, Dept. of Sanskrit, Ashoka University

(Organised by the IIC-International Research Division)

26 THE IIC DOUBLE BILL: DANCE RECITALS**Kathak Recital**

By Ravi Prakash from Chhattisgarh, disciple of Pt. Rajendra Gangani

Bharatanatyam Recital

By Sudipta Chakraborty from Delhi–NCR disciple of Guru Jayalakshmi Eshwar

APPENDICES

Accompanists: Guru Jayalakshmi Eshwar (nattuvanagam); K. Venkateshwaran (vocals); Manohar Balachandran (mridangam); and Raghavendra Prasath (violin)

27 Healing Mystic Sufi Sounds on the Silk Road: From Türkiye to India

A concert presenting Latif Bolat, Turkish singer, composer and scholar of Turkish music and folklore

With Deepak Castelino, accomplished guitarist and banjo artist; and Amjad Khan on tabla

28 Folk Music – Vocal Recital

Lecture–demonstration by Dr. Mannu Yadav, celebrated folk singer from Uttar Pradesh who is a recipient of the prestigious Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar as well as the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award. Dr. Yadav presented a flavour of the various folk music traditions of his region with a special focus on songs of Basant, such as *Hori*, *Jogira* and *Phaag*.

The foremost proponent of *Birha*, a much-loved genre of folk singing from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, Dr. Yadav sings primarily in Bhojpuri and Awadhi. Apart from the traditional repertoire, he has also composed several original songs that use *Birha* as a medium to create awareness about contemporary social issues.

(Collaboration: Nayi Dhara Bhakha)

APRIL 2025

2 Odissi Duet

Presented by GokulSree Dass and Rahul Varshney, disciples of Guru Durga Charan Ranbir

Curated by Prof. Ashish Khokar

Accompanists: Sukant Kundu (vocals); Dhaneswar Swain (percussion); Pradeep Ray (violin); Abhiram Nanda (flute); Prakash Chandra Mohapatra (sitar); and Prasant Kumar Mangaraj (cymbals)

The artists showcased the Guru Deba Prasad style of Odissi under the mentorship of Guru Durga Charan Ranbir, who was also present.

4 Vocal Recital

By Dr. Gaurav Sood, disciple of Pt. L. K. Pandit, who also specialises in songs of the Golden Era of Hindi films

The concert was preceded with a tribute to K. L. Saigal and Pran Neville by Shalini Bhargava.
Organised to mark K. L. Saigal's 121st birth anniversary and Pran Neville Centenary Celebrations
(Collaboration: K. L. Saigal Memorial Circle)

12 PANORAMA OF BENGAL ARTS

Two short plays

Sandhikhon

Written by Soumitra Basu

Director: Ayan Banerjee

Presented by Theatrewala, Delhi

Followed by

Uttara

Written by Sisir Kumar Das

Director: Rabishankar Kar

Presented by Prarambh, Delhi

(Collaboration: Impresario India)

13 PANORAMA OF BENGAL ARTS

Play: **Shunchhe Shey Shongeeter Moto**

Presented by Rabi Parampara, Kolkata

A gripping account of facets of the unsung heroes of our freedom struggle, with narration and songs.

(Collaboration: Impresario India)

16 IIC SPRING FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND DANCE

Sitar Recital

By Pt. Partha Pratim Roy from Kolkata, disciple of Prof. Debi Prasad Chatterjee and Pt. Ajoy Singha Roy

Accompanist: Pt. Subhas Kanti Das (tabla)

Hindustani Vocal Recital

By Arati Thakur Kundalkar from Pune, disciple of Smt. Dr. Prabha Atre & Dr. Sanjeev Shende

APPENDICES

17 IIC SPRING FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND DANCE

Odissi Recital

By Sarita Mishra from Bangalore, disciple of Guru Bichitrananda Swain and Guru Aruna Mohanty

Kathak Recital

By Varsha Dasgupta from Delhi, disciple of Guru Abhimanyu Lal

22 **Concert – Classical Vocal**

Presented by Karina Khovalyg (soprano); and Mikhail Loginov (baritone)

Accompanied by Stanislav Chermukhin on piano

All three artists are distinguished soloists from the Moscow State Conservatory and laureates of international competitions.

(Collaboration: Embassy of Russia)

25 **Meet Mark Twain**

A solo theatrical performance by Keshav Roy

Concept, Script and Direction: Renu Roy

An entertaining and thought-provoking production based on Twain's most memorable commentaries on life, love, relationships and satirical takes on human frailties: subjects that occupied his thoughts over fifty years of writing and remain socially relevant today as they were when he first penned them.

(Organised with the support of KCT Group; and The Lalit, Delhi)

MAY 2025

7 IN MEMORY OF USTAD NASIR ZAHIRUDDIN DAGAR

Dagar Brothers Concert Film

Screening of a rare 1982 film of a concert by the Dagar Brothers: Ustad N. Faiyazuddin Dagar and Ustad N. Zahiruddin Dagar

Followed by

Dhrupad Recital

By Ustad F. Wasifuddin Dagar

Accompanied by Pt. Mohan Shyam Sharma on pakhawaj

(Collaboration: Dagar Brothers Memorial Trust)

14 THE IIC DOUBLE BILL: MUSIC RECITALS

Classical Guitar Recital

By Rhitom Sarkar from Kolkata, disciple of Pt. Debashish Bhattacharya and Pt. Shyamal Chatterjee

Accompanied by Nageshwar Karn on tabla

Hindustani Vocal Recital

By Nalini Joshi from Pune, disciple of Dr. Prabha Atre, Vidushi Savita Devi

Accompanists: Ustad Akhtar Hasan (tabla) and Damodar Lal Ghosh (harmonium)

16 FOLK MUSIC AND DANCE

Baul Music

By Lakshman Das Baul, well-known Baul singer, from Birbhum, West Bengal.

Accompanied by Sandip Das on tabla; Radha Shyam Lohar on flute; and Dipankar Bose on kartal and ghungroo

(Collaboration: NCZCC, Ministry of Culture, Government of India)

21 **A Bit of Joy and Pleasure: Songs – Classical and Broadway**

Presented by R. Excelicia Cunville (soprano–alto)

Accompanied by Varun Kumar on piano

The artist presented a concert of works by Handel, Mozart, Saint-Saëns and others.

22 THE IIC DOUBLE BILL: DANCE RECITALS

Kathak Recital

By Niharika Kushwah from Delhi, disciple of Guru Prerana Shrimali

Bharatanatyam Recital

By Shruthipriya Vignesh, from Chennai, disciple of Smt. Nithyakalyani Vaidyanathan and Smt. Bragha Bessell

JUNE 2025

12 IIC SUMMER FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

Carnatic and Hindustani Classical Instruments Recital – An ensemble of Indian Percussion

By Shankar Narayanaswamy from Kolkata (mridangam); Mandola Joy (shreetar); Sohoni Ghosh (tabla); Anand R. Jayaram (violin and vocals); K. G. Prasad (ghatam); Akash Mukherji (vocals)

Dhrupad Recital

By Pt. Radha Govind Das from Delhi, disciple of Pt. Vidur Malik

13 IIC SUMMER FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

Hindustani Flute Recital

By Rajat Prasanna from Mumbai, disciple of Pt. Ravi Shankar Prasanna

Hindustani Vocal Recital

By Arindam Chakraborty from Kolkata, disciple of Pt. Aloke Kumar Chatterjee

19 **Dastaan-e-Laila** (70 min)

A comedy play directed by Vishaal Vashishtha

Presented by Nabhya Theatre Group

An ironic take on the Laila-Majnu love story set in today's scenario with a twist reflecting the aspirations of the modern-day Laila.

(Collaboration: Nabhya Theatre)

28 **Udaan: The Melodic Flight of Indian Poetry**

Concert presented by Chitra Srikrishna, Carnatic vocalist, writer and teacher of music appreciation

Chitra Srikrishna (vocals and narration)

Accompanists: Arvind Narayanan (violin) and Vignesh Jayaraman (mridangam)

JULY 2025**3 THE IIC DOUBLE BILL: MUSIC AND DANCE RECITALS****Hindustani Vocal Recital**

By Sanika Kulkarni from Pune, disciple of Dr. Veena Sahasrabuddhe

Accompanists: Baldev Sisodiya (tabla); and Shri Lalit Sisodiya (harmonium)

Bharatnatyam Recital

By Divya Hoskere from Bengaluru, disciple of Shri P. Praveen Kumar

8 A Tribute Concert in Memory of Prof. Samaresh Chatterji

By String Quartet of the Symphony Orchestra of India

Performers: Shynar Barlykova (violin); Prayash Biswakarma (violin); Mikhail Bulgakov (viola); and Sherali Mukhanbetkali (cello)

(Collaboration: Delhi Music Society)

11 FOLK DANCE AND MUSIC***Badariya Baras Rahi: Songs from Eastern UP***

A celebrated exponent of Kajri from Mirzapur, Padma Shri Urmila Srivastava presented an evocative evening of monsoon songs.

Guest of Honour: Shri Vivek Aggarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India

(Collaboration: NCZCC, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)

12 Hindustani Vocal Recital

By Brajeswar Mukherjee, disciple of Pt. Ajoy Chakrabarty

Accompanists: Durjay Bhaumik (tabla); Sumit Mishra (harmonium); and Debjani Das (tanpura)

(Collaboration: ITC Sangeet Research Academy, Kolkata)

13 Carnatic Vocal Recital

Recital of Vid. Swarnalatha Subramanian and her disciples, Rahul; Sangeetha; Nandita Krishna Kumar and Arti Mehta; Shreyas Hariharan; Poornima Gopal

Accompanists: E. S. Ashwini, Sowmya Kannan and Kiran Pandey (violin); Ratul S. Kumar, G. Swaminathan (mridangam); M. Sriram (kanjira); and Shounok Bannerji (ghatam)

(Collaboration: Gayathri Fine Arts)

APPENDICES

17 THE IIC DOUBLE BILL: MUSIC AND DANCE RECITALS

Surbahar Recital

By Bhushan Koshti from Mumbai, disciple of Pt. Pushpraj Koshti

Accompanist: Vivekanand Kurangale (pakhawaj)

Bharatnatyam Recital

By Dr. Debaldev Jana from Kolkata, disciple of Guru Thanjavur B. Herambanathan and Kalamandalam V. R. Venkitt

25 Rumi Meets Kabir

A mehfil of Mystic Poetry, Dastangoi and Music

Performers: Ashwin 'Afraad', a national award-winning actor for the acclaimed Marathi film *Shwaas*; and Sawani Shikhare, a classically trained vocalist under Pt. Ulhas Kashalkar

31 Concert of Opera Arias and Art songs

Celebrated the Life of Situ Singh Buehler (1948–2025), a pioneer in Western classical music education, who spent over 25 years nurturing the performing arts in India and helped build Delhi into a hub for international music training and appreciation.

(Collaboration: Lyric Ensemble of Delhi)

AUGUST 2025

8 The Flute and the Form

Theatrical Dance performance by Jyotsna Shourie Dance Centre. It used selected couplets from the Krishna Chalisa wherein Bharatanatyam merged with evocative Carnatic music and expressive storytelling

Accompanists: Vocalists Kalaimamani Sri O. S. Arun and Sudha Raghuraman (recorded music)

12 Saving the Himalayas

A talk by Guest of Honour Brigadier Ashok Abbey (Retd.), India's best known Himalayan mountaineer

Followed by a short film directed by Dr. Shankar Barua, a distinguished scholar-practitioner, filmmaker, entrepreneur and start-up mentor

A Musical Evening

Celebrating the Rains

By Minu Bakshi, a renowned Indian poet, classical singer, academic and cultural ambassador.

(Collaboration: The Mountain Climate Trust)

16 Ram-Shyam – Janmashtami Celebrations by Dr. Uma Sharma and Disciples

Dance Choreography by Dr. Uma Sharma, a renowned Kathak exponent and Padma Bhushan awardee

Accompanists: Madho Prasad (gayan); Vinay Prasanna (flute); Khalid Mustafa (sitar); Yograj Panwar (padhant); and Sadhna Shrivastav (compere)

(Collaboration: Uma Sharma School of Dance and Music – Bharatiya Sangeet Sadan)

30 Carnatic Vocal Recital

By Girijashankar Sundaresan from Chennai, disciple of Chitravina Shri N. Narasimhan, Chitravina, Shri Ravikiran and Shri R. K. Shriramkumar

Accompanists: Delhi Sridhar (violin) and Manohar Balatchandirane (mridangam)

SEPTEMBER 2025

6 Bharatnatyam Recital

By Mahati Kannan, a Bharatnatyam dancer from the family of film director K. Subrahmanyam, and a disciple and grand-niece of Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam, who performed under the Sanskriti-Madhobi Chatterji Memorial Fellowship.

(Collaboration: Sanskriti Pratishthan)

9 THE IIC DOUBLE BILL: MUSIC RECITALS

Carnatic Percussion Solo Recital

By Satish Krishnamurthy from Mumbai, disciple of Kalaimamani Shri K. V. Prasad

Accompanist: Delhi R. Sridhar (violin)

Hindustani Vocal Recital

By Radhika Joshi from Pune, disciple of Guru Pt. Raghunandan Panshikar

Accompanist: Dr. Mausam (harmonium), Chaitanya Sahni (tabla)

19 THE IIC DOUBLE BILL: DANCE RECITALS

Kathak Recital

By Anchal Rawat from Delhi, disciple of Guru Smt. Malti Shyam

Accompanist: Yogesh Gangani (tabla), Sami Ullah Khan (vocals and harmonium), Puneet Sisodiya (sarangi) and Gauri (padhant)

Odissi Recital

By Arnaaz Zaman from Delhi, disciple of Guru Smt. Madhavi Mudgal

25 Artistry and Legacy of Gyanacharya Pandit Narayanrao Vyas

Pt. Narayanrao Vyas (1902–1984), was a legendary Hindustani classical vocalist, who left an enduring legacy through his music.

Chief Guest: Dr. Sandhya Purecha, Chairperson, Sangeet Natak Akademi, Delhi

Guest of Honour: Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNC, Delhi

Welcome Speech: Pt. Vidyadhar Vyas, son and disciple of Pt. Narayanrao Vyas

Performances by Pt. Vidyadhar Vyas accompanied Pt. Shailendra Mishra on tabla and Dr. Vinay Mishra on harmonium

Performances by Dr. Vineet Goswami, Sh. Anand Oak, Dr. Richa Verma, Dr. Sanika Goregaonkar and Dr. Gatikrishna Nayak, disciples of Pt. Vidyadhar Vyas

Prarthana: Composition by Maharshi Pt. Vishnu Digambar Paluskar

(Collaboration: The Vyas Academy of Indian Music)

27 CELEBRATING THE BIRTH CENTENARY OF PT. K. G. GINDE AND MAA ANNAPURNA DEVI AND THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ACHARYA S. N. RATANJANKAR

HINDUSTANI CLASSICAL VOCAL

By Anuran Dasgupta (vocals)

Tabla: Ujith Uday Kumar

Harmonium: Mausam

By Soumitra Thakur (sitar)

Tabla: Ujith Uday Kumar

By Priya Purushothaman

Tabla: Pt. Shailendra Mishra

Harmonium: Mausam

(Collaboration: Shanti Agrawal Association of Music, Arts and Literature (SAAMAL))

30 CELEBRATING THE MAHATMA ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 156TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Vaishnava jan to: A dramatic performance and tableau by the students of Springdales School, Dhaula Kuan, New Delhi

Readings on Secularism: Dr. Jyoti Bose, Dr. Syeda S. Hameed and Dr. Danish Iqbal

Swatantra ka Naara: A rousing repertoire of songs by Livingroom Theatre

(Collaboration: The Sarvodaya International Trust – Delhi Chapter)

OCTOBER 2025

18 Bijoya Sammelan

Vocal Recital by Sounak Chattopadhyay

A Hindustani vocalist with training from Ustad Mashkoor Ali Khan sahab and Mubarak Ali Khan sahab of the Kirana Gharana, semi-classical forms from Smt. Sanjukta Ghosh, advanced training in Rabindra Sangeet and other traditional Bengali songs.

(Collaboration: Impresario India)

NOVEMBER 2025

3 A Concert by Young Musicians of the Vladimir Spivakov International Charity Foundation

Featuring Snezhana Zagorodnyaya (bassoon) and Zakhar Atamanenko (piano), two gifted scholarship recipients and laureates of major international competitions. Both have performed with leading orchestras across Russia and the CIS, and participated in renowned programmes such as Sirius, Artek, and Moscow Meets Friends.

(Collaboration: Russian Cultural Centre, Embassy of the Russian Federation in India)

7 A Theatrical Evening—A Colourful Mix of Short Plays and Stories

(60 min; English/Hindi)

Director: Sujata Soni Bali

Artists: Sunit Tandon, Charu Shankar and Sahiba Bali

'It's Only Words' brought an entertaining mix of dramatic readings by renowned stage and screen artists, where stories sparkled with life and emotion. From rib-tickling humour and witty banter to gripping suspense and heartfelt moments, each short play and story offered a fresh mood and flavour.

7 Power Within (45 min)

Intimate Theatre

Director: Dilip Shankar; Producer: Mrinalini Chawla; Lights: Mukesh Chaudhary; Actors: Gauri Saxena, Dilip Shankar

A tentative woman shares her journey of realising the power 'within her' through situations and relationships. She explores visualisation to navigate life and practices her power of choice in her journey. Life triggers the 'power within' and the 'power within' translates into life.

(Collaboration: Centre for Creative Expressions)

8 Raga Soirée by Nirali Kartik

An Evening of Indian Classical Music

Nirali Kartik is known for her emotive and impeccable raga expositions. Her journey in Hindustani classical music started at the Saptak School of Music with Shri P. G. Shinde, followed by training under Shri Vikas Parikh. She is currently a student of Pt. Sanjeev Abhyankar. She has received the Shreshtha Sadhak Award from the Gujarat Sangeet Natak Academy. She is the co-founder and lead singer of the world music group Maati Baani, which translates to 'Language of the Earth'.

Accompanists: Zaheen Khan on tabla, Lalit Sisodiya on harmonium

9 Carnatic Vocal Recital

By Chi. Apoorv Shivakumar, Prarthana Johnson; Nayanika Narayanam; Niharika Narayanam; Ambika Iyer; Kenisha Kapur; Thanusha Parthasarathy; Shreyambika Narayanam; Rakshita, T. Manasa; Amirtha K.; Ms. Leena Sudheer; Chi. Bhakt Varun; Chi. Siddharth Nair; Ms. Jayalakshmi; Chi. Aakash M. Nair; Chi. M. C. Sharen Ganesh; Chi. Akshay S. Nair; U. Sai Samhita; Kum. U. Sai Sruti

It was followed by grand recital by Vid. Vivek Mozhikulam from Chennai.

Accompanying artists: Ms. Uma Arun, Kum. Soumya Kannan, Kum. T. Manasa (violin); Chi. Nandu Krishnan, Chi. Ratul S. Kumar (mridangam); Chi. M. Sriram (kanjira)

(Collaboration: Gayathri Fine Arts)

11 THE IIC DOUBLE BILL: DANCE RECITALS**Odissi Recital**

By Khyati Rawat from Noida, disciple of Guru (Dr.) Jyoti Shrivastava

Mohiniattam Recital

By Vishnupriya Marar from Delhi, disciple of Guru (Dr.) Neena Prasad

14 Kutiyattam Performance: 'Kamadahanam'

The scene of the burning of Kamadeva by Siva, with verses from Kalidasa's *Kumarasambhavam*

Presented by Margi Madhu, son and disciple of Guru Moozhikkulam Kochukuttan Chakyar, who was the torchbearer of the Ammannoor style of acting with artists of Nepathya – Centre for Excellence in Kutiyattam

Kutiyattam is one of India's oldest living theatrical traditions. In 2003, it was proclaimed 'Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity' by UNESCO.

20 THE IIC DOUBLE BILL: MUSIC AND DANCE RECITALS**Flute Recital**

By Saurabh Banaudha from Lucknow, son and disciple of Guru Late Pt. Niranjan Prasad

Accompanist: Daksh Makwana (tabla)

Hindustani Vocal Recital

By Debraj Gupta from Kolkata, disciple of Pt. Aniruddha Bhattacharya

Accompanist: Subrata Dandapat (tabla)

28 Beyond Grace: A Journey of Dance, Peace, Voice and Womanhood

A unique performance and reflective talk that explored the profound connections between art, peace and womanhood. Through her innovative choreographies, music, and narratives, she traced her journey as a dancer while honouring the artistic legacy of her mother and Guru Bharati Shivaji.

Vijayalakshmi is an internationally acclaimed exponent of Mohiniyattam and a recipient of several prestigious awards, including from the Kerala Sangeet Natak Academy.

(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation; and WISCOMP)

29 Hindustani Vocal Recital

By Shatavisha Mukherjee from Kolkata, disciple of Pt. Ulhas Kashalkar

Accompanists: Durjay Bhaumik (tabla); Vinay Mishra (harmonium)

(Collaboration: ITC Sangeet Research Academy, Kolkata)

DECEMBER 2025

4 Kirtaniye – The Invisible Divine

A Festival of Women's Voices in Gurbani Sangeet

Kudrat de Sab Bande

The fifth edition of *Kirtaniye* celebrated the oneness of all creation as envisioned by Guru Nanak Dev Ji—a reflection on nature, equality and divine harmony in times of ecological imbalance.

Featuring performances by girls from Baru Sahib School, Himachal Pradesh; Gurleen Kaur (Uttarakhand); Avanti Patel (Mumbai); and Nivedita Singh (Patiala)

(Collaboration: Enable India Foundation)

6 KAMALADEVI PURUSKAR 2025

Presentation of Awards to Young Crafts Persons

Chief Guest: Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath, educationist, political scientist and Life Trustee, IIC

Awards were presented to Amit Kumbhakar from West Bengal for practising the craft of terracotta; Padma Sisa from Odisha for weaving of Kisalo Adivasi cloth; Bhavya Soni from Rajasthan for practising the craft of *Meenakari*; Soumya Ranjan Bariki from Odisha for practising the craft of *Pattachitra* painting; Rajni Kaur from Punjab for weaving of Desi Cotton; Dildar Qureshi from Rajasthan for practising the craft of miniature painting.

(Collaboration: Delhi Crafts Council)

6 Dhrupad Vocal Recital

By Pelva Naik

Dhrupad, the oldest Indian Classical music genre, was a preserve of male musicians, until Asghari Bai stormed the bastion. Pelva Naik gave a brilliant performance at the prestigious Darbar festival in London. She has been privileged to learn Dagarvani from Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar at his Gurukul in Bombay, in the traditional guru-shishya parampara. She has performed at major festivals in India and in France, Italy and Spain.

8 Ahaetuki—The Grace of a Master

An evening which was dedicated to the revered Kathak maestro, Guru Munna Shukla. *Ahaetuki*, a Sanskrit term meaning 'that which is without cause', is a tribute to the guru-shishya parampara. Through the film *The Kettle and the Cup* and the Kathak Baithak that followed, the evening celebrated not merely an art form, but the devotion, discipline and humility at its heart.

Screening of:

The Kettle and the Cup

Director and Producer: Ruchi Saini

The documentary is created in the loving memory of the revered Kathak maestro, Guru Late Munna Shukla ji of the Kalka-Bindadin Gharana. The film honours the sacred bond between Guru and Shishya, offering a rare glimpse into the *Maukhik Vidya*.

Kathak Baithak

The Baithak featured *Aranya—The Forest Within*, a Kathak offering by Ruchi Saini and her students. *Aranya* journeys into the quiet, breathing spaces where nature and Kathak meet.

13 Anand Hi Anand

Researched, written, designed and narrated by Sohaila Kapur, under the biographical series 'Lives Lived'

Produced by Anuradha Dar of Katyayani and Three Arts Club Production

Lights and projection by Burhan Qureshi

Hind Transcreation of Script and Co-Narration by Nidhikant Pandey

Live Singing by Devanand Jha and Anjila Gugnani

It is the story of the relationship between the legendary Anand brothers of Bollywood, Chetan, Dev and Vijay (Goldie). The narration, read with warmth and personal anecdotes, was delivered by Sohaila Kapur, their niece. Interwoven with clips from their films, the storytelling flowed like a cinematic journey.

(Collaboration: Three Arts Club and Katyayani)

24 FOLK MUSIC AND DANCE**Maati Ki Boli: Essence of Land**

Dr. Shailesh Srivastava presented the lyrical beauty of Maharashtra's traditional folk music, featuring Gan-Gondhal, Vagya-Murli, Jagran (Khandoba), Gaulang (Gopi-Krishna dialogue), and Baithakicha Lavani.

APPENDICES

Dr. Srivastava is a distinguished vocalist and recipient of the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi Award 2022 for Folk Music (Uttar Pradesh). Trained by Padma Bhushan Pt. Rajan and Sajan Mishra of the Banaras Gharana, she is celebrated for her versatility across languages and folk traditions.

Accompanists: Madhav Prasad (harmonium); Pravin Kumar (synthesiser); Anil Gawde (dholki); Aashish Pawar (naal); Omkar Gawde (sambal, chipani); Vishal Kumar (percussion)

(Collaboration: NCZCC, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)

JANUARY 2026

7 ***Faulad ka Aakash: Performative Readings of Mohan Rakesh's Short Stories***

Script: Purwa Bharadwaj

Presented by Alka Rajan, Apoorvanand, Purwa Bharadwaj and Raza Haider

Mohan Rakesh is one of the leading names of Hindi fiction and Indian theatre. Generations of Hindi readers have grown up on his writings. His keen observation of the dilemmas of the emerging individual in the post-independence India shaped his fiction. This presentation sought to bring out the subtlety of Rakesh's writing.

8 THE IIC DOUBLE BILL: MUSIC AND DANCE RECITALS

Kathak Recital

By Neelakshi Khandker-Saxena from Delhi, disciple of Pt. Rajendra Gangani

Odissi Recital

By Krishnendu Saha from Udaipur, disciple of Sharmila Biswas

22 IIC ANNUAL DAY 2026

Concert

Nirgun – The Confluence of Sufi and Bhakti

Presented by Sonam Kalra, singer and composer, member of the Grammy Recording Academy. She is the creator of *The Sufi Gospel*, a critically celebrated musical project foregrounding inclusion and equality.

Accompanists: Ahsan Ali on sarangi; Amaan Ali on tabla; Faizan Ali Khan on keyboard; Amman on dholak; and Kiran Kumar on flute

28 THE IIC DOUBLE BILL: MUSIC AND DANCE RECITALS

Sarod Recital

By Reeta Das from Patna, disciple of Pt. Sunil Mukherjee and Ustad Aashish Khan and disciple and daughter of Prof. Chandrakant Lal Das

Carnatic Vocal Recital

By Anagha Manikandan from Delhi, disciple of Guru Guruvayoor Dr. T. V. Manikandan

Accompanists: Delhi R. Sridhar (violin) and Manohar Balatchandirane (mridangam)

31 A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO BHARAT RATNA DR. BHUPEN HAZARIKA

The Bard and The Balladeer

Presented by Mayukh Hazarika, singer, songwriter and music director from Assam; and Laili Dutta

The occasion marked the centenary year of Dr. Hazarika, with celebrations across Assam and the country. The artists have carried forward the bard's legacy through performances in India and abroad. Their repertoire was interwoven with personal anecdotes and lesser-known stories behind his iconic songs.

(Collaboration: Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER))

APPENDIX V *Festivals*

FEBRUARY 2025

4 FILMIT India: IIC/ INTACH Children’s Film Festival

A children’s cultural film festival, featuring screenings of the best films on heritage made by children across different schools in Delhi–NCR

(Collaboration: Heritage Education and Communication Service, INTACH)

27 Words in the Garden: A Celebration of Literature, Arts and Ideas

Hamari Dili—Ancient Soul, Global Heart: Delhi’s Living Heritage

The three-day annual festival brought together leading figures in the fields of literature, ideas, art, social sciences and other public spheres to celebrate the creativity, imagination and ideas that Delhi generates, sustains and embodies. Organised in collaboration with IILM University, the festival presented a series of discussions, dialogues, readings and recitals.

Inauguration and Opening Address

Panel discussion on

Crossroads of Empire: How Delhi Shaped and Reflects Indian Identity

Panellists: Prof. S. Irfan Habib, historian and former Abdul Kalam Azad Chair, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration; Dr. Swapna Liddle, historian, author and former Convenor, INTACH; RJ Sayema, Radio jockey, Radio Mirchi; Ms. Jyotsna Mohan Bhargava, author, journalist and former Senior Editor, NDTV; and Ms. Aditi Gupta, Assistant Professor, IILM University, Greater Noida

Digital Delhi: Heritage Meets Innovation

The Intersection of Technology, AI and Cultural Preservation

Panellists: Shri Riyas Komu, artist and Co-Founder, Kochi-Muziris Biennale; Ms. Rana Safvi, Curator of Early Days of Delhi Heritage Walk, historian, writer, scholar and translator specialising on Delhi; Ms. Manisha Mohan, award winning virtual reality/ interactive design artist, Dean, School of Design, Bennett University; Ms. Shalini Bansal, Founder, Museum 22, Virtual (AI) driven heritage walks of Delhi; and Dr. Aswani RS, Associate Dean, School of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences, IILM University, Greater Noida

28 Words in the Garden: A Celebration of Literature, Arts and Ideas**Performing Delhi: Stage, Street and Society****How Performance Arts Reflect and Shape Delhi's Social Fabric**

Panellists: Ms. Geeta Chandra, renowned Bharatanatyam artist, choreographer and guru; Shri M. K. Raina, veteran theatre actor and director; Dr. Anamika, Hindi poet and author; and Ms. Smita Sharma, photojournalist

Book Discussion: 2024: The Election that Surprised India

Vir Sanghvi, journalist, author and television host, in conversation with Rajdeep Sardesai, author of the book, journalist, news anchor, and Consulting Editor, India Today Television

Retro Bollywood Music Recital

By Aarushi Bhargava

MARCH 2025**1 Words in the Garden: A Celebration of Literature, Arts and Ideas****Hamari Dili–Ancient Soul, Global Heart: Delhi's Living Heritage****Book Discussion: *The Girl With Seven Lives***

Vikas Swarup, author of the book and former diplomat in conversation with Manika Raikwar, COO, ILM University, Gurugram

Book Discussion: *The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World*

William Dalrymple, author of the book and historian in conversation with Nidhi Razdan, Director, Dept. of Communication, journalist and former Executive Editor, NDTV

Sanatan Sangeet Puraskar 2025

With Jyotsna Mohan, Allen Shaw, Shweta Rajpal Kohli, Ragini Maharaj and Aarushi Bhargava

Sanatan Sangeet Puraskar Ceremony 2025

Honourees: Ms. Jyotsna Mohan Bhargava, author and journalist, former Senior Editor, NDTV; Shri Allen Shaw, illustrator, animator and storyteller; Ms. Shweta Rajpal Kohli, President and CEO, Startup Policy Forum; Ms. Ragini Maharaj, Kathak dancer and Padma Shri awardee; and Ms. Aarushi Bhargava, performer and artist

Kathak Recital

By Ragini Maharaj

6-8 TO MARK INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2025

The 20th IAWRT Asian Women's Film Festival

The 20th edition of the festival brought together a rich collection of fiction, non-fiction, animation and short films from different parts of Asia. Curated by noted festival director and programmer, Bina Paul, the festival included masterclasses, seminars, panel discussions and exhibitions. These included panel discussions on 'Women and the Arts'; 'Climate Change and Gender Justice'; and 'Archiving', as well as conversations with Payal Kapadia, Hwang Hei Rim and Akiko Ashizawa; and a tribute to Manjira Datta and Aruna Vasudev, two stalwarts from the world of films.

Organised in collaboration with International Association of Women in Radio and Television, Chapter India; NFDC Cinemas of India; Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Govt. of India; Embassy of France; Institut Français, New Delhi; Friedrich Ebert Stiftung; Delhi Tourism; Max Mueller Bhavan-Goethe Institut; Delhi Tourism; Kerala Travels; The Japan Foundation; InKo Centre; Yellow Streets; and Kumbaya

Screenings were held in the auditorium. Some of the filmmakers were present for post-screening discussions.

Memory as Movement: Archiving Feminist Histories

An exhibition of photographs, songs, letters, artworks, books, notebooks, reports and newsletters from women's organisations in Delhi spanning the last 40 years. The exhibition created a vivid and visceral history of the women's movement. A testament to the resilience, creativity, and determination that fuelled feminist organisations.

Followed by a Panel Discussion with the same name

The Sharp Edge of Peace (Afghanistan) (95 min; 2024; Persian with English subtitles)

Director: Roya Sadat

A feature-length documentary that follows the only women on the Afghan government negotiating team as they navigate the hard road to peace and broker a shared political structure with the Taliban.

Followed by

A Conversation

Nupur Basu in conversation with Alka Sadat

Workshop on The Once and The Future of the Documentary

The oversaturated media landscape we inhabit is both a provocation and an invitation to deconstruct ways in which images are produced, circulated and consumed. How are images produced? How are they circulated? Should they be archived? What and who is the collective if we think about personal and public images produced and archived?

Filmmakers, archivists and independent groups working with the moving image came together in this workshop. Participants, including independent filmmakers, video and media collectives, presented their material and discussed the challenges of putting their work in the public domain.

21–22 VASANT UTSAV: A FESTIVAL OF FOLK ARTS

A two-day festival of folk music and art, celebrating contemporary narratives in traditional folk art organised in collaboration with NCZCC, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India. The festival included performances, exhibitions and screening of short and long documentary films.

PERFORMANCES:

A Desert Trail: Musical Journey

By Moorlala Marwada, a celebrated folk singer from Gujarat, who belongs to a lineage of Meghwal singers who migrated from Rajasthan to Khadir Island in Kutch four centuries ago. With a rich repertoire of Nirguni bhajans, sufi kalaam and other traditional folk songs, Moorlala also plays the 'santaar', a traditional stringed instrument. He has performed in Coke Studios and with Indian classical vocalist, Nirali Kartik, gaining a YouTube viewership of around 50 lakh.

Aawazon ke Jaadugar

Bhairav Dutt Bhatt, 86-year-old voice mimicry artist from Uttarakhand who brings to life different sounds of birds, animals and humans, creating a rare experience through this folk tradition.

Love Ballad of Jharkhand

By Megha Sriram Dalton, from Daltonganj, Jharkhand. Megha is one of the most promising folk singers of the state today. Apart from folk, she has also made her debut in Bollywood with wonderful songs. She was awarded a scholarship from HRD Ministry, Govt. of India for working and promoting folk music of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. She gained popularity following her Coke Studio performance with Shankar Mahadevan.

EXHIBITIONS:

Pattachitra tradition with Storytelling Session

An exhibition by Sahajan Chitrakar, Pattachitra artist from West Bengal who showcased traditional folk paintings and sang stories from the Ramayana and of other deities depicted in the paintings.

The artist continued to demonstrate and sing on the second day of the festival.

Visualising Oral Traditions

The exhibition explored how stories once solely spoken and sung, find expression through visual narratives. A collaboration between Kailash Pradhan and Ajay Marko, Gond Pradhaan artists with Gangaram Uikey and Narayandeen Tekam, oral storytellers from the same community, this exhibition presented the active passing of *smriti* (memory) within the Pradhaan Gonds and a dialogue between orality and visuality, tradition and reinvention.

The facilitation of this process of memory transfer has been made possible by Smt. Apoorva Mishra and Shri Achyut Siddu of *Loksutr*, who have been working closely with the tribal communities in Anuppur and Dindori in Madhya Pradesh.

Inauguration by Shri Udayan Vajpeyi, The Raza Foundation

The exhibition was on view from 21 to 27 March 2025.

SCREENING OF DOCUMENTARY FILMS ON FOLK ART AND MUSIC

Colours of Earth (64 min; English)

Director: Shefali Bhushan

Pabuji ka Phad (22 min; English)

Director: Shammi Nanda

Produced by Films Division

Pabuji is believed to be an *avtar* of Laxman and is worshipped as a warrior saint in Rajasthan. The Bhopa's of the Bhil Community sing his story against the backdrop of a 15-foot long-painting called a *phad*.

Unfolding the Pata Story (50 min; 2014; Bengali with English subtitles)

Director: Supriyo Sen

Produced by PSBT

Film on Rupban and other traditional scroll painters (*Patuas*) of Odisha and their struggles for a sustainable livelihood

APRIL 2025

3 PUPPETOSCOPE (OUT OF THE SHADOWS): INTERNATIONAL PUPPET FILM FESTIVAL

Dedicated to Smt. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya

Organised in collaboration with Kathkatha Puppet Arts Trust and with the support of the Goethe Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan, the festival included a seminar, shadow puppet festival; and screening of films.

Out of Shadows: Discussions on the Plurality of Shadow Puppets

Keynote Address by Anurupa Roy, Indian puppeteer, puppet designer and director of puppet theatre

Presentations by Prof. Peter W. Marx, German theatre and performance studies scholar, Chairperson of Theatre and Media Studies, University of Cologne; Prof. Kaushik Bhaumik, Associate Professor in Cinema Studies, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Airan Berg, international working theatre maker and artistic director, who specialises in large scale participatory and inclusive objects and is the Artistic Director of *Festival der Regionen*; Gunduraju, who belongs to a family of Togalu Gombeyaata, shadow puppeteers from Karnataka; Prof. Gouranga Charan Dash, Srirama Institute of Shadow Theatre; Ranjana Pandey, Editor and Publisher of *Sutradhar* and President, UNIMA India; and Dr. Atul Sinha, Assistant Professor

Film Before Film (Was geschah wirklich zwischen den Bildern/Germany)

(83 min; 1986; German with English subtitles)

Director: Werner Nekes

An exhilarating and amusing encyclopaedic look at the 'prehistory' of cinema. Nekes charts the fascination with moving pictures which led to the birth of film, covering shadow plays, peep shows, flip books, flicks, magic lanterns, lithopanes, scrolls and numerous historical artifices.

4 PUPPETOSCOPE (OUT OF THE SHADOWS): INTERNATIONAL PUPPET FILM FESTIVAL

Films

Desa Timun: Collection Vol. I (The Cucumber Village/Indonesia)

(32 min; 2021; English subtitles)

Director: Daud Nugraha

Shadow puppet animation which tells the story of three little mousedeaders: Cila, Cili and Cilo, who always want to play.

Nee Engey (Where are You/India)

(150 min; 2003; with English subtitles)

Director: R. V. Ramani

An impressionist ethnography of the puppet theatre tradition in some of the southern states of India.

Performance

Episode from Ramayana (Tamil)

From the Tamil Nadu shadow puppetry tradition

Presented by Kalaimamani Muthulakshmana Rao and team from Theni, Tamil Nadu

5 PUPPETOSCOPE (OUT OF THE SHADOWS): INTERNATIONAL PUPPET FILM FESTIVAL

FILMS:

The Lost Glove (UK)

(6 min; 2016; non-verbal)

Director: Lizzie Oxby

It's that time of the year when gloves get lost, and found...

Planet Utopia – A Possibility (Brazil)

(25 min; 2013; non-verbal)

Directors: Silvana Marcondes, Amanda Viera, Evelyn Cristina, Kika Antunes, Natalia Peixoto, William Simplicio

A show without words, with visual and sound dramaturgy, entirely designed for the virtual universe.

The Migrants (Retirantes/Brazil)

(13 min; non-verbal)

Director: Maira Coelho

The short film tells the story of a woman travelling through an arid, depopulated region, unable to feed her baby. The film combines 'live-motion' and 'stop-motion' techniques, visual arts, puppetry and cinema.

The Package (Canada)

(14 min; French with English subtitles)

Director: Lucie Ernard

Intrigued by the delivery of numerous packages at her new neighbour's house, Jeannette at 80 is getting out of her loneliness to live a last love story.

Scribouillis (Canada)

(11 min; French with English subtitles)

Directors: Noemi Belanger, Maia Menard-Belanger

Scribouillis is a tribute to the imagination of children and a metaphor for our fear of the unknown.

Life Cycles (Brazil)

(6 min; Portuguese with English subtitles)

Directors: Thiago Bresani, Maria Soledad Garcia

The film tells the story of the relationship between a granddaughter and a grandmother and the moments of uncertainty in view of the impossibility of meeting.

A Treasure (US)

(6 min; English)

Director: Freddie Levin

With the help of a very large dragon, a poor tailor searches for a treasure and finds it where he least expects it.

Valentin, the Puppeteer Puppet (Brazil)

(4 min; non-verbal)

Director: Naiara Parolin

To escape monotony and loneliness, Valentin uses creativity to create a new company.

After the Ending (UK)

(15 min; English)

Director: Daniel A. Kelin

This is a story of a *pupu kani oe* (Hawaiian tree snail) named George and a tiny, yet vital, battle against extinction.

The Adventures of Prince Achmed (Die Abenteuer des Prinzen Achmed/Germany)

(80 min; 1926; German with English subtitles)

Directors: Lotte Reiniger, Carl Koch

A handsome prince rides a flying horse to faraway lands and embarks on magical adventures, which include befriending a witch, meeting Aladdin, battling demons and falling love with a princess.

AT SIDDHARTHA HALL, GOETHE INSTITUT/MAX MUELLER BHAWAN

PERFORMANCE:

Sita Apaharan: Ram–Raavan Yuddha (Kannada, Hindi)

From Karnataka Shadow puppetry tradition

Presented by Shri Raja Rama Togalu Gombé Mela from Hassan, Karnataka

6 PUPPETOSCOPE (OUT OF THE SHADOWS): INTERNATIONAL PUPPET FILM FESTIVAL

FILMS:

Body Transference (Chile)

(45 min; Spanish with English subtitles)

Director: Catalina Bize del Campo

A film that talks about old age as a liminal experience between life and death.

Our Tales (Mexico)

(4 min; Spanish with English subtitles)

Director: L. Flavia Hevia

A short film designed to capture the vital memories held by immigrant women from their homelands and recreate them in stop-motion animation.

Chiaroscuro (Canada)

(9 min; non-verbal)

Director: Elias Djemil-Matassov

Chiaroscuro...between the light and the dark that life operates in contrasts. Between the puppeteer and the puppet. Between shadow and light.

The Room of Forgotten Voices (Ireland)

(19 min; English)

Directors: Emma Fisher-Owen, Ivan Fisher-Owen

A day in the life of Hugh's brain on a very normal day, but inside his head he encounters hundreds of versions of himself...

Persephone (Canada)

(15 min; non-verbal)

Director: Emilie Racine

Created as a palimpsest blending mythical references and personal mythology, the film traces the trajectory of an identity quest through a feminine lens, addressing mother-daughter transmission.

Iniskim—Return of the Buffalo (Canada)

(39 min; 2024; English)

Directors: Leanne Allison, Pete Balkwill, Amethyst First Rider

An intercultural artistic response to the return of the buffalo, as wild animals, to North America. The film is an opportunity to learn about Indigenous ways of knowing as a group of puppeteers are transformed by their experience of 'being buffalo' at night under the stars, guided by the stories of the Blackfoot Elders.

PERFORMANCE:

Shadow Puppet Theatre

Presented by UNIMA Puppeteers Trust, India

26 WORLD DANCE DAY 2025

Organised in collaboration with Natya Vriksha; Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India; and with the support of Friends of Natya Vriksha

Movement Workshop

Conducted by Tanushree Shankar

Lifetime Achievement Award

The 6th Natya Vriksha Lifetime Achievement Award was conferred upon Dr. Kiran Seth, Founder, SPIC-MACAY Movement.

Talk: Embodying Histories: Dance, Choreography and Narrative

Speaker: Dr. Jeff Friedman, Dance Studies Scholar, Rutgers University, Fulbright Specialist at the Department of Art, Media and Performance, SHSS, Shiva Nadar Institution of Eminence

YOUNG DANCERS FESTIVAL

Bharatanatyam Recital

By Madhura Bhrushundi

Followed by

Kathak Recital

By Dheerendra Tiwari

27 WORLD DANCE DAY 2025

Movement Workshop

Conducted by Tanushree Shankar

Avatarana – The Story of Natya

A theatrically-witty retelling of a 2,500-year-old saga, scripted and performed by Smt. Ramaa Bharadvaj

APPENDICES

YOUNG DANCERS FESTIVAL

Kuchipudi Recital

By Abhinaya Nagajothy

Followed by

Odissi Recital

By Shashwati Garai Ghosh

MAY 2025

MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL

3 In Search of Kasturi-Musk Deer (23 min; 2024)

Director: Neha Dixit

Recipient of the Award for Best Environment Film

Two films directed by Akshat Jatin:

Life Uphill—The Tenzin Dolma Story (8 min; 2024)

Recipient of the Special Jury Award

Gaddi—Life of a Himalayan Shepherd (6 min)

Recipient of the Award for Best Film on Mountain Culture

Fastest Known Time-Deo Tibba (24 min; 2022)

Producer: Red Bull

Recipient of the Grand Prize

Feral in the Mountains (3 min; 2023)

Director: Eshika Fyzee

Recipient of the Award for Popular Film

Ganga Girls (18 min; 2024)

Producer: Simplify

Recipient of the Change Maker Film Award

(Collaboration: Indian Mountaineering Foundation)

LUSOPHONE FILM FESTIVAL 2025: AFRICA

- 5** TO MARK WORLD LUSOPHONE DAY 2025 IN COLLABORATION WITH ALL THE EMBASSIES AND HONORARY CONSULATES OF THE PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING WORLD

The Daughters of Fire (As Filhas do Fogo/Portugal)

(9 min; 2023; Portuguese with English subtitles)

Director: Pedro Costa

National Premier

Manga d'Terra (Switzerland/Portugal)

(96 min; 2023; Portuguese with English subtitles)

Director: Basil da Cunha

National Premier

Big Bang Henda (Portugal)

(21 min; 2023; Portuguese with English subtitles)

Director: Fernanda Polacow

National Premier

- 6** **Sulu S'Aua** (Sao Tome and Principe/Portugal)

(30 min; 2023; Portuguese with English subtitles)

Director: Sofia Borges

National Premier

Banzo (Netherlands/Portugal/France)

(127 min; 2024; Portuguese with English subtitles)

Director: Margarida Cardoso

JUNE 2025

- 9** **SUMMER SONATA—A FESTIVAL OF OPERA, BALLET AND CONCERT FILMS**

Dedicated to the Memory of Dr. R. P. Jain and Prof. Samaresh Chatterji

Curated and introduced by Sunit Tandon

BALLET

Adolphe Adam: Giselle (115 min; 2016; dvd)

APPENDICES

From The Royal Ballet, with Marianela Nuñez (Giselle); Vadim Muntagirov (Count Albrecht); Bennet Gartside (Hilarion); Johannes Stepanek (Wilfred); Elizabeth McGorian (Berthe); Gary Avis (the Duke of Courland); Christina Arestis (Bathilde); Itziar Mendizabal (Myrtha); Olivia Cowley (Moyna); Beatriz Stix-Brunell (Zulme)

Choreography: Marius Petipa, after Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot

Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

Concert Master: Peter Manning

Conductor: Barry Wordsworth

10 SUMMER SONATA—A FESTIVAL OF OPERA, BALLET AND CONCERT FILMS

Curated and introduced by Sunit Tandon

OPERA

Christoph Gluck: Orfeo ed Euridice (124 min; 1982; dvd; English subtitles)

From The Glyndebourne Festival Opera, with Janet Baker (Orfeo); Elisabeth Speiser (Euridice); Elizabeth Gale (Amore);

The Glyndebourne Festival Chorus

The London Philharmonic

Conductor: Raymond Leppard

Producer: Peter Hall

17 SUMMER SONATA—A FESTIVAL OF OPERA, BALLET AND CONCERT FILMS

CONCERT

Curated and introduced by Sunit Tandon

Gulda: Mozart Concertos (67 min; 1986; dvd)

Friedrich Gulda, piano

Munich Philharmonic Orchestra

Conducted from the piano by Friedrich Gulda

20 SUMMER SONATA—A FESTIVAL OF OPERA, BALLET AND CONCERT FILMS

Curated and introduced by Sunit Tandon

BALLET

Léo Delibes: Coppélia (105 min; 2019; dvd)

From The Royal Ballet with Marianela Nuñez (Swanilda); Vadim Muntagirov (Franz); Gary Avis (Dr Coppélius); Ashley Dean (Coppélia); Christopher Saunders (The Burgomaster); Erico Montes (The Innkeeper); Mayara Magri (Peasant Girl); Lukas Bjørneboe Brændesrød (The Duke); Claire Calvert (Aurora); Annette Buvoli (Prayer)

Choreography and Production: Ninette de Valois after Lev Ivanov and Enrico Cecchetti

Orchestra of The Royal Opera House

Concert Master: Sergey Levitin

Conductor: Barry Wordsworth

23 SUMMER SONATA—A FESTIVAL OF OPERA, BALLET AND CONCERT FILMS

Curated and introduced by Sunit Tandon

OPERA**Gaetano Donizetti: Don Pasquale** (130 min; 2006; dvd; English subtitles)

From the Opernhaus Zürich with Ruggero Raimondi (Don Pasquale); Juan Diego Flórez (Ernesto); Oliver Widmer (Dottor Malatesta); Isabel Rey (Norina)

Orchestra and Chorus of the Opernhaus Zürich

Conductor: Nello Santi

Chorus Master: Jürg Hämmerli

25 SUMMER SONATA—A FESTIVAL OF OPERA, BALLET AND CONCERT FILMS

Curated and introduced by Sunit Tandon

CONCERT**Gustav Mahler: Symphony No. 3 in D minor** (106 min; 1991; dvd)

Florence Quivar, contralto

Tölzer Knabenchor

Chorus Master: Gerhardt Schmidt-Gaden

Women of the Ernst-Senff-Chor

Chorus Master: Hellwarth Matthiesen

Berliner Philharmoniker

Conductor: Bernard Haitink

AUGUST 2025

IIC MONSOON FESTIVAL OF DANCE

19 Bharatanatyam Recital

By Sujatha Ramanathan from Mumbai, disciple of Padmashri Guru Adayar K Lakshman, Guru Lata Raman and Sujatha Mohan

Kathak Recital

By Shipra Joshi from Delhi, disciple of Guru Prerana Shrimali

Accompanists: Karan Gangani (padhant), Vijay Parihar (vocals and harmonium) Parminder Singh (tabla) and Fateh Ali Khan (sitar)

20 Manipuri Recital

By Shrobana Mitra Das from Kolkata, disciple of Guru Priti Patel

Kuchipudi Recital

By Washim Raja from Delhi, disciple of Guru Vanashree Rao

GOA FILM FESTIVAL

21 A festival of feature and documentary films

Pedru Poder

(115 minutes; 2020; Konkani with English Subtitles)

Director: Jojo D'Souza

22 Mogacho Korar

(120 minutes; 2025; Konkani with English Subtitles)

Director: Silverio Cardoza

23 # MOG!

(120 minutes; 2023; Konkani with English subtitles)

Director: Jojo D'Souza

(Collaboration: Goenkarancho Ekvot)

OCTOBER 2025

BHOOMI FESTIVAL 2025

1 **The Nature of Nature: Earth's Metabolic Disorder**

Exhibition

Indian Women Farmers' Knowledge—Living Diversity of Our Organic Farms

Welcome Address: Smt. Maya Goburdhun

Chief Guests: Dr. Ajeet Caur, Co-Founder, Academy of Fine Arts & Literature and Ms. Arpana Caur, eminent artist

Panel Discussion

Agroecology: Solutions for a Reset of Earth's Metabolic Disorder

Speakers: Dr. Vandana Shiva, author, Founder of Navdanya; Dr. Andre Leu, Former President of International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements – Organics International; Dr. Nadia El Hage, Former Head, Ecological Farming, FAO; and Dr. A. V. Singh, Vice President of Régénération Canada

Panel Discussion

Food and Health: The Gut–Earth Connection

Speakers: Dr. Arun Gupta, Pediatrician, BPNI, IBFAN; Dr. Suresh Kumar, Pediatrician, CISSA; Dr. Gangadharan, Ayurveda and Wellbeing; and Dr. Srinath Reddy, PHFI

(Collaboration: Navdanya)

NOVEMBER 2025

PEOPLE'S FESTIVAL OF INNOVATIONS (PFOI 2025)

17–20 It was the fourth edition in the series that brings together grassroots and deep-tech innovators from across India, showcasing affordable, inclusive and scalable solutions addressing key challenges in healthcare, agriculture, environment, and clean energy.

The festival theme this year was **From Spark to Scale: Transforming Innovative Ideas to Socially Relevant Solutions**

Festival Highlights were:

Opportunity to interact and network with policymakers, mentors, investors and technical experts at one of the largest stakeholder congregations of its kind

APPENDICES

Entry to curated theme-based sessions on technical mentoring, policy issues, regulation, investment and market channel opportunities

Storytelling sessions from successful innovators to learn from lived experiences

Opportunity for innovators across India, including the Northeast and J&K, and other emerging ecosystems to showcase their grassroots and deep tech innovations and products.

Mentored and curated by Dr. Renu Swarup, Former Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India; Prof. Anil Gupta, Founder, Honey Bee Network, SRISTI, GIAN & NIF; Dr. Swati Basu, Former Scientific Secretary, Office of the PSA; and Dr. Taslimarif Saiyed, Director and CEO, C-CAMP, Bengaluru

Exhibition

Deep Tech and Grassroots Innovation

An exhibition of innovators from across India showcased nearly 100 innovations in healthcare, agriculture, environment and clean energy

(Collaboration: C-CAMP, Bengaluru and GIAN, Ahmedabad)

DECEMBER 2025

NALANDA LITERATURE FESTIVAL 2025

11 Curtain Raiser Show

The Nalanda Literature Festival was a unique celebration of India's cultural and literary heritage, with a special focus on the rich linguistic traditions of Bihar and the Northeastern states—Angika, Bhojpuri, Bajjika, Magahi, Maithili, Surjapuri, Bodo, Mizo, Assamese and many more. Through thought-provoking sessions, heritage and creative exchanges, the Festival sought to revive and promote our regional languages, inspire younger generations, and position Bihar and Northeastern states' literary culture on the national and global stage.

(Collaboration: Dhanu Bihar Trust)

IIC WINTER FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND DANCE

11 Sitar Recital

By Saptarshi Hazra from Kolkata, disciple of Pt. Netai Basu, Pt. Buddhadev Dasgupta and Pratyush Banerjee

Accompanist: Pt. Ashis Sengupta

Hindustani Vocal Recital

By Priyanka Mitra from Kolkata, disciple of Pt. Ajoy Chakraborty, Pt. Ulhas Kashalkar and Guru Anjan Majumdar

12

Odissi Recital

By Prapti Gupta from Ghaziabad, disciple of Guru Aruna Mohanty and Guru Alpana Nayak

Bharatanatyam Recital

By Sowmya Laxmi Narayanan from Delhi, disciple of Guru Geeta Chandran

APPENDIX VI *Films and Exhibitions*

FEBRUARY 2025

2-10 Perceiving Pneuma Energy

An exhibition of sculptures by Vijay Kowshik

Vijay Kowshik transcends the familiar confines of his glasswork in this exhibition, venturing into the sculptural bronze vision to bring his creative spectre to life.

Inauguration by Shri Kuljeet Chahal, Vice Chairman, NDMC

3 Bhavai of Gujarat: Traditional Theatre of India

(138 min; 2025; English)

Directed by Dr. Svetlana Ryzhakova, who introduced the film.

Screening was followed by a discussion with Dr. Ryzhakova, leading research fellow in the Institute of Ethnography and Anthropology, Russian Academy of Science, Moscow. She is a life member of the Indian Anthropological Society and a member of European Association of Social Anthropologists.

Bhavai is one of the traditional folk theatres of India, performed in rural areas of northern and central Gujarat by troupes of artistes who belong to the Targala community. This ethnographic documentary is based on Dr. Ryzhakova's long-term research and field material collected from 2014 to 2023 in the villages and cities of Gujarat. The film is richly illustrated with interviews, conversations, songs and dance that make this documentary a unique tapestry of Bhavai theatre.

(Collaboration: Russian House of Culture)

12-18 Canopy Reverie

Creations in harmony with nature

An exhibition of work using natural dyes, leaf imprints and fibre art

By Pooja Jayan

12 FILMS OF THE SPIRIT

Curated by Rajiv Mehrotra

Still Tibet (US)

(52 min; 2025; English)

Director: Miguel Angel Cano Santizo

Filmmaker Miguel Cano embarks on a journey through one of the most remote ethnically Tibetan areas of China's Sichuan Province. Using a mix of hitchhiking, motor biking and hiking, he reaches parts of the region typically untouched by tourists. Through stunning cinematography, Cano explores this sacred land, meeting those fighting to preserve their spiritual and national identity, while revealing a vulnerable civilisation that still retains an extraordinary mystical essence

(Collaboration: Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama)

14 **Advent of the Truth** (India)

(40 min; 2006; English with English subtitles)

Director: Monty Gupta

Auroville was envisioned as an international community free of government, money, religion and strife. A place where this new way of living is being worked out as a new centre of accelerated evolution where man must begin to change his world through the power of the inner spirit.

Screening was followed by a discussion on 'The Idea of Community Living Sustained by Shared Convictions'

18 **S. H. Raza: The Very Essence** (India)

(51 min; English with English subtitles)

Director: Laurent Bregat

The film was introduced by Shri Ashok Vajpeyi

It captures the essence of one of India's most compelling modernists, S. H. Raza. A founder member of the Progressive Artists' Group, Raza's style evolved over the years from the early expressionistic landscapes of his childhood in the forests of Madhya Pradesh, to more geometric representations of French landscapes after he moved to Paris. The film traced this journey to his final non-representational style that expressed itself in the iconic 'Bindu'.

(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation)

APPENDICES

21 Feb A Path to Andretta

**to
6 Mar**

Andretta, a village in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh, has long been home to a vibrant artist community, including renowned figures like Sardar Gurcharan Singh, Shoba Singh and B. C. Sanyal. Over the past four decades, it has attracted students, artists and enthusiasts, many of whom chose to settle down in the village and become a part of Andretta's creative community.

The exhibition showcased the work of the Andretta artists, potters, printmakers and musicians. On display were works by Mansimran Singh, Mary Singh, Gauri Sharma, Sheila Sedgewick, Lipoklemla Ao, Shubham Sankhyan, Manish Arora, Yamini J. Paul, Bianca Bellantyne, Suchika Rathode and Arjun Sen.

MARCH 2025

3 Swing Time in Limousin (France)

(75 min; 2019; French with English subtitles)

Directors: Dilip and Dominique Varma, who introduced the film

Screening was followed by a discussion

Swing Time in Limousin recounts a little-known story in the big history of Jazz through the reminiscences of Jean-Marie Masse, a French drummer and unconditional promoter of black American music, just after the war when segregation and racism were still terribly active.

5–11 Wabi Sabi Watercolour Artworks

An exhibition of paintings by Shefali Upadhyay

Drawing inspiration from diverse plant life—ranging from lush grape leaves to delicate lotus flowers, Shefali's work resonates with the timeless philosophy of finding perfection in imperfection.

12–25 Symphony of Colours

An international exhibition of paintings and artworks by artists from India and Southeast Asia—the Philippines, Indonesia and Singapore. Nemi Miranda, August Santiago, Bernardo Balagtas, Dolphee Alcantara and Aaron Bautista from the Philippines; Maria Tiwi from Indonesia; Dion Khoo from Singapore; Shobhita Hariharan, Sita Sudhakar, Stanley Suresh, Ratnaa Sharma, Dr. Lal Ratnakar, P. J. Stalin, Sandeep Udayagiri, Ashima Sehgal, Monalisa Mehta, Maitreyi Kumar, Gurcharan Singh, Saswati Chaudhary, Jayant K. M. Shankar,

Manisha P. Rajyagar, Madhu Shankar, Dr. Machi Raju, Seema Bhargav, Sandeep Sharma, Ashok Macha, Kundan Prasad, Nitasha Jaini, Shubha Chand, Ramviranjan, Shweta Mehta, Suresh Bisht and Srinivas Mach from India.

Inauguration by Shri K.N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC

(Collaboration: Arth Art International)

19 FILMS OF THE SPIRIT

Curated by Rajiv Mehrotra

America's First Guru (US)

(89 min; 2024; English)

Director: Raja Choudhury

Screening was followed by a conversation with the filmmaker, Raja Choudhury

This film, which premiered on Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) in the US, is the compelling story of how Yoga and Indian wisdom first entered the American mainstream in 1893, with the arrival of the Indian saint Swami Vivekananda at the first Parliament of Religions in Chicago.

(Collaboration: Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama)

20 Antarnaad—The Voice Within

(39 min; 2024; Hindi)

Directed by Parthaa Akerkar, who introduced the film

Recipient of the Best Film Award, The Blue Bird Film Festival; Jury Award for Best Film, Mumbai Independent Film Festival; and Dadasaheb Phalke Film Puraskar Award

Screening was followed by a talk on:

Women's Health

Speaker: Dr. Manjari Tripathi, Head of the Neurology Dept., AIIMS, In-charge, Centre of Excellence of Epilepsy, Ministry of Health & Department of Biotechnology and President, Alzheimer's Related Disorder Society of India

(Collaboration: Alzheimer's Related Disorder Society of India)

APRIL 2025

5–16 **Chitrakar Legacy: A Journey through Nepal and India**

Curated by Kiran Man Chitrakar and Cristeena Chitrakar

The exhibition showcased a remarkable collection of photographs from four generations of photographers. An exhibition of archival photographs that captured the rich and intricate history, cultural exchanges and enduring partnership between the two countries through a curated collection of photographs from four generations of the Chitrakar family spanning over a hundred years.

Inauguration by H. E. Dr. Shankar Prasad Sharma, Ambassador of Nepal to India

As part of this exhibition, a Curated Walkthrough was conducted by Cristeena Chitrakar.

Nepal Remembered: Historical Images from Dirgha Man and Ganesh Man Chitrakar

Illustrated lecture by Cristeena Chitrakar

(Collaboration: Embassy of Nepal, New Delhi; B. P. Koirala India-Nepal Foundation; and B. P. Koirala India-Nepal Foundation, Embassy of India)

15 **FILMS OF THE SPIRIT**

Curator: Rajiv Mehrotra

Nanak Shah Fakir (India)

(146 min; 2015; Hindi/Punjabi with English subtitles)

Director: Sartaj Singh Pannu

With Puneet Sikka, Arif Zakaria, Adil Hussain

A biographical film on the life and teachings of the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak Dev.

(Collaboration: Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama)

23 Apr to 6 May **Becoming**

An exhibition of illustrations in children's books in India since 1895. Themed around the many interpretations of 'becoming' of the self and of the spaces around us, the exhibition celebrated the past and the present of the 130 years of art in printed children's literature in India.

The curation carried immersive book illustrations by 60 artists, including those by the pioneers of children's illustrated literature in the country—Abanindranath Tagore, Sukumar Ray and Satyajit Ray. Visitors delighted in the works of celebrated artists like K. G. Subramanyan, Mickey Patel, Pulak Biswas, Jagdish Joshi, Sigrun Srivastava and Atanu Roy, while discovering and rediscovering the creative genius of many feted contemporary

illustrators, each enriching this landscape with their own distinctive style and sensibilities.

There was a reading corner in the gallery for visitors to browse through the books featured, and more.

Curated by Richa Jha, children's book author, and publisher of Pickle Yolk Books

Conversations and Workshops as part of the exhibition:

Workshop 1: The Art of Picture book Making

Facilitator: Award-winning illustrator and muralist Ruchi Shah

For: Art and design students

Workshop 2: Illustrating for Children's Magazines

Facilitator: Award-winning illustrator Taposhi Ghoshal

For: Art and design students

Workshop 3: Creating a Wordless Picture book

Facilitator: Award-winning illustrator Suvidha Mistry

For: Senior school students

Guided Tour of the exhibition by the curator

Readings from featured books

(Collaboration: Pickle Yolk Books)

25 Apr to 1 May Coexistence of Past and Present

An exhibition of paintings in mixed medium by Md. Anirul Islam from Delhi

Curated by Gaidunliu P. R.

The exhibition explored the relationship between history, modernity and nature, examining how the old and new, the natural and man-made, come together.

Inauguration by Dr. Arvind Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India and Shri Athar Shahab, Managing Director, Zuari Industries

29 Ek Aur Vivek Ki Khoj (India)

(57 min; Hindi)

Director: Devi Prasad Mishra

A film on the eminent Hindi writer and critic, the late Devishankar Awasthi

(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation)

MAY 2025

1 Blood on the Crown (Malta)

(102 min; 2021; English/Maltese)

Director: David Ferrario

Screening was preceded by a brief discussion with H. E. Mr. Reuben Gauci, High Commissioner of Malta; Shri V. S. Sahney, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha); and Lady Kishwar Desai, Founder and Chairperson, The Partition Museum Delhi and Amritsar, on the two parallel events in the histories of Malta and India, the June 7 Uprising in Malta; and the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

8–14 Power of Energy

An exhibition of paintings by Nilansu Bala Sasamal

Inauguration by Prof. Harsh Vardhan Sharma, Advisor (Art & Culture), New Delhi Municipal Council

15–28 Speaking Stones: Rock Art of Ladakh

An exhibition of photographs based on the critically-acclaimed book by photographer and writer, Ahtushi Deshpande

Inauguration by Shri Raghu Rai

A discussion on the book *Speaking Stones: Rock Art of Ladakh*

With Dr. Alka Pande, art historian and Dr. Ahtushi Deshpande, author of the book

Curated Walkthrough of the Exhibition

With Ahtushi Deshpande

15 Churning the Earth

(43 min; 2024; English)

Produced by Srishti Films and Kalpavriksh, for Vikalp Sangam

Screening was followed by a discussion with Ashish Kothari, Founder of Kalpavriksh and member of Vikalp Sangam

(Collaboration: Kalpavriksh)

23 FILMS OF THE SPIRIT

Curator: Rajiv Mehrotra

A Fly on the Wall

(82 min; 2024; English)

Directors: Shonali Bose and Nilesh Maniyar

(Collaboration: Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama)

24 **The House in the Hills**

(47 min; 2024; English with subtitles)

Written and Directed by Mekhela Deva

The film was introduced by Sudeep Sen, well-known poet

27 **Humans in the Loop** (India)

(74 min; 2024; Hindi with English subtitles)

Written and directed by Aranya Sahay

The film followed the journey of an Adivasi woman who begins interacting with AI while working in a data centre in Jharkhand.

30 May A FABRIC OF NARRATIVES: THE MANY FACETS OF NORTHEAST INDIA

to

5 Jun

From Eight with Art—Painting the Soul of Northeast India

Curated by Sentila T. Yanger

On view were works by Sujit Das from Assam; Phaibhakupar Karlukhi from Meghalaya; Millan Laishram from Manipur; Lalhming Mawii aka Amoii from Mizoram; Mrinmoy Debbarman from Tripura; Tase Vinei from Nagaland; Pill Reniya from Arunachal Pradesh; and Karma Tenrab from Sikkim.

(Collaboration: Ministry of Development of Northeastern Region (MDoNER))

JUNE 2025

6 Pots of Millet, Faces of Gold: Transformation

(78 min; English)

An ethnographic film by Richard K. Wolf

The film was introduced by Prof. Richard K. Wolf, Professor of Ethnomusicology, Harvard University

Screening was followed by a discussion with the filmmaker moderated by Dr. Shubha Chaudhuri, Associate Director General (Academic), Archives and Research Centre for Ethnomusicology, American Institute of Indian Studies

(Collaboration: American Institute of Indian Studies)

11 FILMS OF THE SPIRIT

Curated by Rajiv Mehrotra

Windfall of Grace (India)

(129 min; 2020; English)

Director: Japna Tulsi

(Collaboration: Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama)

25 Jun to 1 Jul Galliyon se Guzarti Nazar (A Glimpse Through the Lane)

Exhibition of watercolour, ink and charcoal by Mohd. Israr

An intimate journey through the narrow streets and quiet corners of an old city as seen through the eyes of the artist.

JULY 2025

1 Aunty Sudha Aunty Radha (49 min; 2020)

Directed by Tanuja Chandra

The film was followed by a virtual chat with the director, Tanuja Chandra and producer, Anupama Mandloi

5–15 Dear Kundun

Celebrating His Holiness the Dalai Lama through Children's Art

Inauguration of the exhibition by Namita Gokhale, author, Co-Founder, and Co-Director of the Jaipur Literary Festival.

(Collaboration: Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama; and Khadok: Tibetan Arts' Collective)

10 Women and Buddhism

Screening of two films followed by discussions

The Geshema is Born (56 min; 2019; English)

Directed by Malati Rao

Followed by a discussion with Dr. Kaveri Gill, Senior Fellow, Centre for Excellence in Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar University

White Robes, Saffron Dreams (44 min; 2013; English)

Directed by Teena Gill

Followed by a panel discussion moderated by Teena Gill with Dr. Uma Chakravarti, historian and film maker; Shantum Seth, mindfulness teacher and peace builder; and Dr. Renuka Singh, sociologist and Director, Tushita Mahayana Meditation Centre, Delhi

12–18 Tracing the Unseen

Echoes of Worker and Machines: Capturing the Resilience, Identity and Psychological Depth of Indian Workers Through the Rhythms of Daily Life and Machine Repair

Monochromatic drawings, with the use of dense cross-hatching and textured shading by Shubhendu Sarkar

Inauguration of the exhibition by Vijender Sharma, eminent artist

Guest of Honour: Sanjay Kumar

16 Amala: The Life and Struggle of Dalai Lama's Sister (50 min; 2022; English)

Directed by Geleck Palsang

The screening was followed by a conversation with TCV alumni

(Collaboration: Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama)

APPENDICES

19 Jul to 1 Aug **Playing with the Goddess: Gavri of the Mewar Bhils**

An exhibition of a selection of photographs curated by Aditi Mehta

This exhibition was the first exposure of wider audiences to the rich world of Bhil rituals, performance and oral literature, through the lens of highly-acclaimed photographer and Padma Shri awardee, Sudharak Olwaye.

26 Jul to 1 Aug **Vinyl Visions: Exploring the Dynamic Art of Film Soundtrack Album Covers**

Curated by Munjarita Mondal

Covers from the collection of Arunabha Ghosh

29 **A Tale to Begin With**

(81 min; 2024; English and Odiya)

Directed by Bishweshwar Das, a documentary filmmaker from Cuttack

A tribute to the grand old man of Indian poetry, Jayanta Mahapatra, the film is interspersed with his poems and the journeys he made in the last year of his life.

AUGUST 2025

1 **The Golden Thread**

(86 min; 2022; Hindi, Bengali with English subtitles)

A film by Nishtha Jain, a leading documentary filmmaker from India

The Golden Thread follows the weft and warp of jute work, weaving the 'fibre of the future' with the dreams and desperations of its workers.

Winner of the Best Feature Documentary, MIFF 2024, Best Sound Design, MIFF 2024, Best Documentary, 42nd Bergamo Film Meeting, Italy 2024 and many others

8 **Remembering Hiroshima–Nagasaki**

A photo exhibition on this occasion was inaugurated by H. E. ONO Keiichi, Ambassador of Japan

This was followed by a talk by Rakesh Sood, Former Ambassador to Afghanistan, Nepal and France, and India's first Permanent Representative to the UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. Students from prominent schools of Delhi attended the talk.

9–23 Hamaara Itihaas: Archives of Freedom Fighters

An international archive highlighted oral testimonies of India's freedom fighters from across the world.

Curated by writer and filmmaker Sagari Chhabra, Founder-Director of the archive

Inauguration by Dr. Varsha Das

13 The Sultan and the Saint

(55 min; 2016)

Director: Alexander Kronemer

A powerful historical docu-drama set during the Crusades. It told the remarkable true story of Saint Francis of Assisi, who bravely crossed enemy lines to meet Sultan Muhammad Al-Kamil of Egypt.

Nominated for an Emmy Award in Outstanding Lighting Director and Scenic Design by the 39th Annual News and Documentary Emmy Awards

(Collaboration: Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama)

23–29 Memories in Blue & White: Explorations in Cyanotype

The exhibition showcased 30 solar cyanotype prints that explored interior and exterior landscapes, portraits and abstract compositions.

Artworks by Nova Bronstein Kak, a mixed media artist based in the New York area

Inauguration by Veer Munshi, artist

27 Kushok Bakula: The Extraordinary Life of an Extraordinary Monk

Screening of documentary film by Dr. Hindol Sengupta, Professor at O. P. Jindal Global University on Kushok Bakula Rinpoche, the late renowned Buddhist monk

Chief Guest: H. E. Mr. Ganbold Dambajav, Ambassador of Mongolia to India

Guest of Honour: Prof. (Dr.) Ravindra Panth, Director, International Buddhist Confederation

APPENDICES

28 Chronicles of a Forgotten Genocide

Director: Shri Ramesh Sharma

The documentary was a post-mortem of the 1971 Bangladesh genocide and the anatomy of the coup which led to the assassination of Sheikh Mujibur-Rahman.

29 MAHARASHTRA SANSKRITIK DIVAS 2025

Phule (129 min; 2025; Hindi)

Directed by Anant Mahadevan

The film was based on the true story of Jyotirao Phule and Savitribai Phule—India's first social reformers who challenged caste and gender norms.

(Collaboration: Maharashtra Sanskritik ani Rannaniti Adhyayan Samiti)

SEPTEMBER 2025

TRAVELLING FILMS SOUTH ASIA 2025—A FESTIVAL OF SOUTH ASIAN DOCUMENTARIES

- 1** A festival of 16 exceptional non-fiction films from South Asia produced in the last two years, it encapsulated the flavours of the subcontinent with films about people from India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Hello Guyzz

(24 min; 2023; English/Hindi/Bengali)

Director: Samiksha Mathur

Whispers by the River Shore (Bangladesh)

(19 min; 2024; Bengali)

Director: Saimur Rahman

6-A Akash Ganga

(80 min; 2023; Hindi/English)

Director: Nirmal Chander Dhandriyal

It was followed by a discussion with the director

2 Abundance: Living with a Forest

(22 min; 2024; Lotha Naga)

Director: Dolly Kikon

Love like Ours (Myanmar)

(18 min; 2024; Burmese/English)

A Forgotten Summer

(24 min; 2023; Hindi/English)

It was followed by a discussion with the director

Trans Kashmir

(61 min; 2022; Hindi/English/Urdu)

Director: Surbhi Dewan, S. A. Hanan

It was followed by a discussion with the director

3 In Search of Ajantrik

(46 min; 2023; Hindi)

Director: Meghnath

Siege in the Air

(30 min; 2012; Kashmiri/Hindi/Urdu/English)

Director: Muntaha Amin

Cinema pe Cinema: The Theatres. The Movies. And Us

(62 min; 2023; English/Hindi/Tamil)

Director: Vani Subramanian

It was followed by a discussion with the director

4 Rooted Across Borders: Transnational Ecological Solidarities in South Asia

Panel Discussion with South Asian University

Sometimes Even the Shore Drowns (Pakistan)

(17 min; 2022; Urdu)

Director: Mahera Omar

Wagging Tale (Nepal)

(23 min; 2024; Nepali)

Director: Samagra Shah

#GoHomeGota (Sri Lanka)

(51 min; 2023; English)

Director: Sulochana Peiris

A Flaming Forest

(48 min; 2024; Kannada)

Director: Salman Javeed, Vivek Singh Sangwan, Satya Ambasta

It was followed by a discussion with the director

When Pomegranate Turns Grey

(37 min; 2024; Urdu)

Director: Thoufeeq K., Khurram Muraad Siddiquie

It was followed by a discussion with the director

Chardi Kala: An Ode to Resilience

(96 min; 2023; Hindi/Punjabi)

Director: Prateek Shekhar

It was followed by a discussion with the director

5-14 The Mathematical Sciences: South Asia's Contributions

This exhibition traced India's (and broadly South Asia's) contribution to global mathematics through its historical development, theories and practices. It displayed reproductions of manuscripts of works from the Vedic period to the early modern era, including treatises, explanatory commentaries and manuals.

Exhibition Inauguration

Chief Guest: Dr. S. Jaishankar, Hon. Minister of External Affairs, Govt. of India

Welcome Remarks: Shri Shyam Saran, President, IIC

Exhibition Walkthrough: Dr. Sudha Gopalakrishnan, Project Director, SAMHiTA and Prof. K. Ramasubramanian, Conference Convenor

Vote of Thanks: Shri K. N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC

(Collaboration: IIC-International Research Division and Centre for Traditional Indian Knowledge Systems and Skills, IIT Bombay)

5–11 Handbreak

Images in Rhimon Bose's 'Handbreak' explored the interplay of factors influencing choices between personal and societal spheres and how control shifts like shapeshifters. Different situations present various dynamics of control, highlighting that control is always with someone outside oneself.

Rhimon Bose is a visual artist who explores symbolism and iconography, drawing from his roots in fashion photography and the vibrant world of fashion. His work focuses on blending art and fashion to narrate his stories.

6 Wisdom of Happiness

(90 min; 2024; English with subtitles)

Directors: Philip Delaquis and Barbara Miller

(Collaboration: International Campaign for Tibet)

10 Qissa Be-Lagam

Director: Sangeeta Gupta

(78 min; 2024; Hindi)

A documentary film directed by Sangeeta Gupta about acclaimed Hindi writer Mridula Garg
(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation)

17 My Childhood, My Country—20 Years in Afghanistan

(90 min; 2022; English subtitles)

Directors: Phil Grabsky and Shoaib Sharifi

Spanning two decades in the life of one boy—growing up in a cave beside the Bamyan Buddhas—this film journeys through war, hope and transformation in Afghanistan.

(Collaboration: Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness The Dalai Lama)

17–28 Naqsh...The Imprint

An Exhibition on Architectural Epigraphy of Kashmir (14th–19th CE)

This exhibition showcased the surviving heritage of architectural epigraphy in Kashmir from the 14th to 19th centuries, tracing its evolution from the Sultanate period to later Afghan and Sikh rule.

APPENDICES

The detailed documentation, study and translation of architectural epigraphic material in Kashmir was undertaken by Sameer Hamdani, Mehran Qureshi, Tabish Haider Gazi, Umar Farooq, Zoya Mehraj Khan and Ta-Ha Mughal.

20–26 Between Delhi and the Clouds

The exhibition was a pen-and-ink journey spanning over two decades, capturing Delhi's grandeur, grit, and timeless chaos alongside Mussoorie's serene Himalayan charm. From Lutyens' elegance and Old Delhi's tangled tales to New Delhi's urban pulse and Mussoorie's colonial quietude, each work is drawn from lived experience.

Manoj Kumar is a pen-and-ink artist who captures urban dynamism and natural serenity with precision and depth, drawing on his experience as a former civil servant and IIT Delhi alumnus.

27 My Radio My Life

(68 min; English, Hindi, Marathi with subtitles)

This unique film revisited the golden era of radio, before television, mobiles and social media. It explored radio's deep impact on passionate individuals, featuring a vintage radio museum in Bengaluru, the 1969 Apollo 11 Moon landing commentary, Ham Radio's role in disasters like tsunamis, and beloved programmes like Binaca, *Geetmala* and cricket commentary.

Awarded and screened at over 80 festivals in 36 countries, it's recognised by UNESCO and featured on AIR

OCTOBER 2025

4 Jagaran aur Gavahi: Tees Janvari

(40 min; 1991; Hindi)

Director: Suhas Borker

Co-produced by Ramachandra Gandhi and Suhas Borker

The documentary is on the significance of Gandhi's martyrdom, linking it to both India's partition and global struggles for justice. Using powerful archival footage and voices of leaders like Martin Luther King Jr., Mandela, and the Dalai Lama, it highlights Gandhi's enduring message of truth, non-violence and peace.

It was followed by a discussion with Prof. Ashis Nandy and Suhas Borker, moderated by Ashok Vajpeyi

15 Jatugriha (The Burnt Home) (India)

(130 min; 1964; Bengali with English subtitles)

Directed by Tapan Sinha

Satadal (Uttam Kumar) is a civil engineer with a successful career and a loving wife Madhuri (Arundhati Devi). However, their relationship runs into rough weather from the emotional stress and strain of childlessness.

This was part of the exhibition 'A Star named Arundhati' held during the IIC Annual Festival 2025.

22 Darshan: Gaze of Grace

(127 min; 2024; English)

A film on Sri Ramana Maharshi

Directed by Japna Tulsi

A cinematic meditation on the silent presence of Bhagavan Ramana Maharshi where stories, poetry, and song became the medium through which his luminous stillness is revealed.

(Collaboration: Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama)

29 Oct to 4 Nov Ancient Mystery: A Unique Journey

By Anirudh Kumar

Kumar's paintings were made with natural colours and ash, which reminded us of ancient times with a modern twist. Paintings connected one with history and nature.

Inauguration by Ram Onkar Shine Shivan, artist, and Virendra Sachdeva, eminent politician

29 The Dirty Sky

(73 min; 2025; English)

Director: O. P. Srivastava

A powerful documentary exposing the growing crisis of orbital pollution. Through striking visuals and expert voices, it reveals the dangers of space debris, legal gaps and militarisation, while spotlighting global clean-up efforts. Urgent and thought-provoking, it calls for responsible stewardship of Earth's fragile orbital commons.

O. P. Srivastava, award-winning filmmaker and author, uses cinema to spotlight urgent cultural and environmental issues.

APPENDICES

31 Oct Weaving Water: Feminine Countercultures in Paint and Print

**to
9 Nov**

Curated by Jyoti A. Kathpalia

Participating author: Ajeet Cour

Participating artists: Anupam Sud, Aparna Anand Singh, Aradhna Tandon, Arpana Caur, Bula Bhattacharya, Durga Kainthola, Gogi Saroj Pal, Hemavathy Guha, Jayasri Burman, Kanchan Chander, Manmeet Devgun, Nitasha Jaini, Shivani Aggarwal, Shubhika Lal, Vasudha Thozhur

This exhibition explored the weaving of text and art, focussing on how eminent women artists engaged with their lived experiences, their struggles and societal oppression. Anchored in Ajeet Cour's *Weaving Water: An Autobiography*, the exhibition brought these narratives into dialogue with the visual expressions of leading women artists of India.

NOVEMBER 2025

1-7 I Am a Qawwal

Conceptualised in 2011 by Manjari Chaturvedi, Founder of The Qawwali Project

'I Am a Qawwal' is an innovative groundbreaking self-documentation initiative aimed at empowering Qawwals across India to represent themselves through photography to increase their visibility and create new livelihood opportunities.

'You don't document us. We will document ourselves,' the tag line for this project, reflects the pride and agency these artists feel in taking control over their own representation in history.

This was a part of The Qawwali Project, an initiative to archive and preserve the form of Qawwali and work towards the spiritual music associated with Sufism.

(Collaboration: Ganga Jamuna Culture Foundation)

4 Mani Kaul and that Thing Called the Actor

(96 min; English, Hindi with subtitles in English)

Directed by Mita Vashisht

The film took a journey with a young actress and a young Dhrupad musician, into the landscape of an iconic film director's ideas of what acting in cinema is or should be...

A profound insight into the deep engagement that filmmaker Mani Kaul had with the *Natyashastra* (the 2,500-year-old treatise of the performing arts), and his practice of it, in crafting the actors' performance, in his cinema.

9–15 In Plain Sight

'In Plain Sight' arose from a sustained engagement with moments in which the mundane unexpectedly acquires the qualities of fantasy. Through the act of photographing, the everyday is recognised and how it quietly reveals an extraordinary dimension.

Iman Sengupta is a visual artist and art director whose work blends fine art, design, and advertising. A LASALLE College of the Arts graduate, he is currently Senior Art Director at Havas Creative, with awards from GOAFEST, and the Takifuji Art Award.

12 SRI AUROBINDO: An Indian Mystic Who Worked for Human Unity

(49 min; 2022; English)

Offered by Sri Aurobindo Ashram – Delhi Branch

Sri Aurobindo (1872–1950) was a seer, thinker, poet and patriot who presented a rational vision of spirituality that harmonises science and inner growth. The film captured his remarkable life, teachings and vision of human unity in under an hour.

A discussion with the scriptwriter, Dr. Ramesh Bijlani, followed the screening

(Collaboration: Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama)

18 Ram Kumar—Nostalgic Longing

(50 min; 2010; English)

Directed by Laurent Brégeat

Through this film Brégeat enters the world of the reclusive and introspective abstractionist Ram Kumar, exploring his life, his philosophy, his views and how they play out in his work.

(Collaboration: The Raza Foundation)

22–30 Guru Conference: Atīśa Dipamkara Śrījñāna

The exhibition celebrated the legacy of 11th-century Buddhist philosopher Atīśa Dipamkara, through relics from Dzongkar Choede Monastery, Karnataka; photographs tracing his journeys curated by Prof. Shashibala, Dean, K. M. Munshi Centre for Indology, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan; and manuscripts of his works from the Dharmarajika Bauddha Kristi Prachar Sangha, Bangladesh.

(Organised by IIC–International Research Division in collaboration with the Centre for Escalation of Peace, Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, Ritinjali and Pallavan Learning Centre)

26 Unearthng Muarajambi Temples

(93 min; 2023; Bahasa Indonesia with English subtitles)

A documentary film by Nia Dinata

Unearthng Muarajambi Temples is a 2023 documentary that explored the historical and cultural significance of the Muarajambi Temple complex in Jambi, Indonesia, a Buddhist learning centre of the early medieval period.

The film used the history of the temples as a lens to tell stories across different eras, highlighting their connection to the ancient Srivijaya and Malay kingdoms and their current efforts to gain UNESCO World Heritage status.

The screening formed part of the 'Guru Conference and Exhibition: Life and Legacy of Atiśa Dīpamkara Śrījñāna'.

(Organised by IIC–International Research Division)

DECEMBER 2025

3–9 JOURNEY OF AN ARTIST

An Exhibition of Ceramic Sculptures and Drawings by Sonali Chouhan

The exhibition presented ceramic sculptures inspired by nature, folk culture and everyday life in Madhya Pradesh. Blending clay, symbolic leaf motifs and human forms, the artworks reflect the artist's emotional connection to folk traditions.

Chief Guests: Prof. Biman B. Das, Padma Shri Awardee, Former Principal, GCAC, Kolkata, eminent sculptor, President AIFACS

Guest of Honour: D. S. Hitkari, art connoisseur, Director, Shanta Art Gallery, Delhi

Dr. Sonali Pithawe (Chouhan) is a distinguished ceramic sculptor and painter with a PhD in Fine Arts, known for her acclaimed solo and international exhibitions across India, Europe and Russia. An award-winning artist, she has earned recognition for her expressive contemporary style.

5–14 HEADS AND TAILS

New Watercolours and Drawings

By Golak Khandual

This exhibition brought together intimate portraits of real and imagined people—friends, family, workers and characters shaped by the artist's encounters. Drawing from life and memory, the works explored shifting identities and the masks we wear, revealing how reality and imagination continually blur.

Golak Khandual is an architect and artist whose three-decade practice blends drawing, ecology and community-focussed architecture. His work includes landmark projects like Rao Jodha Desert Rock Park and Kishanbagh Sand Dunes.

11 **Voices Of Deoli**

(83 min; 2025; English with subtitles)

Directed by Lulu Men

The documentary delved into the complexities and often upheaval of immigration through the lens of a small community in the US and Canada. This community shares a profound bond: they are survivors of the Deoli Internment Camp in Rajasthan, where they were imprisoned for up to five years following the brief Sino-Indian War in 1962. Their experience highlights the vulnerabilities of displaced communities caught in the crossfire of geopolitical conflict.

Dilip D'Souza, co-author of the Deoliwallahs joined the audience for a post-screening conversation

12–22 **Three Moderns: Himmat Shah, Krishen Khanna, Thota Vaikuntam**

Curated by Uma Nair, independent curator, art critic and author

A rare confluence of three Indian modern masters, an ensemble of 12 sculptures explores the human form, lived experience and everyday rituals. Himmat Shah's evocative heads, Krishen Khanna's Bandwallahs, and Vaikuntam's Dravidian bronzes together reveal lived experience, human form, and time's imprint.

18–24 **Choti Si Aasha**

Children For A Better World

An exhibition of paintings by the students of Vidya Niketan Senior Secondary School, Saket, New Delhi. Through themes such as peace, equality, women's empowerment, environmental conservation, artificial intelligence, discrimination, and global conflicts, the exhibition reflected children's empathy, awareness and creative responses to the world around them.

18 **Enemy of the Reich: The Noor Inayat Khan Story**

(55 min; 2014; English)

Director: Robert H. Gardner

APPENDICES

The film follows the life of Noor Inayat Khan, who became a fearless spy during World War II. Recruited into Britain's Special Operations Executive, she served as a covert radio operator in Nazi-occupied Paris and became the only link to the French Resistance. Betrayed and captured by the Gestapo, she was later executed at Dachau, leaving behind a legacy of courage and sacrifice.

(Collaboration: Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama)

20–30 THE BIG PICTURE 2025

An Exhibition of Works by Photojournalists

The exhibition presented the seventh public showcasing of powerful images by 69 photojournalists from across India. It reflected photojournalism's role in documenting history, balancing authenticity with evolving technologies, and capturing candid moments that reveal the depth, diversity and immediacy of life.

Participating photojournalists: Abhishek Pande, Abhishek Saha, Ajay Bedi, Anindya Chattopadhyay, Atul Yadav, Bunny Smith, D. Ravinder Reddy, Dheeraj Paul, Dhruv Kumar, Dilip Banerjee, Girish Srivastav, G. N. Jha, Ganesh Shetkar, Gurinder Osan, Harish Tyagi, Hrishikesh Bhatt, Imtiaz Khan, Indraneel Sen, K. Asif, Kamal Kishore, Kamal Narang, Madhu Kaparath, Mahadev Rao, Manish Swaroop, Manvendra Vashist Lav, Mihir Singh, Mukesh Aggarwal, Mukesh Gupta, Mukesh Yadav, Narendra Bisht, Naveen Sharma, Neeraj Paul, Neeraj Priyadarshi, Nitin Rai, Pallava Bagla, Piyal Bhattacharya, Pooja Arya, Prabhas Roy, Pramod Pushkarna, Prashant Panjiar, Pritam Bandyopadhyay, Raghu Rai, Rajat Gupta, Rajesh Bedi, Ramana T. V., Ranjan Basu, Renuka Puri, S. N. Sinha, Sanjay Kumar, Sipra Das, Shome Basu, Sondeep Shankar, Sonu Mehta, Subir Haldar, Subrata Dutta, Sujan Singh, T. Narayan, V. Rajagopalan, V. S. Vijay Bhaskar Rao, Vijay Bedi, and Vipin Kumar

(Collaboration: All India Working News Cameramen's Association (WNCA))

27 **Mercy**

(100 min; 2025; English and Hindi)

Directed by Mitul Patel

Produced by Raj Vasudeva and Anuradha Sachdev (an Everclear Films production)

Actors: Adil Hussain, Raj Vasudeva, Niharica Raizada, Kunal Bhan, Aparna Ghoshal

On a silent Christmas Eve, Shekhar is forced to face the unthinkable: deciding whether to end his mother's life. In the stillness of that dark night, as machines beep and hope fades, he's torn apart by love, guilt and duty. The choice he makes shatters the fragile ties within his family—and leaves him forever changed, carrying the weight of a decision no one should ever have to make.

JANUARY 2026**7–13 Remembering the Forest: An Exhibition of Himalayan Natural Art**

Curated by Tejal Shah and coordinated by Ritu-Ngapnon Varuni

This exhibition presented artworks by women artists from Mountainwind Himalayan Ecovercity, created using forest-sourced pigments and handmade tools, highlighting natural art practices, ecological learning, and sustainable creativity.

(Collaboration: The Himalayan Rilung Foundation (THRILF))

9–21 Salsabil: Photographs and Videos by Saba Hasan

'Salsabil' presented a meditative selection of photographs and videos by acclaimed artist Saba Hasan, drawn from an international project shaped by her travels and walks through cities, rivers, lakes and natural landscapes. Through abstract photography and award-winning videos, Hasan explores the ephemeral nature of time, the quiet power of the natural world.

Saba Hasan is a leading contemporary multimedia artist whose works have been exhibited internationally, including at the 55th Venice Biennale, Bilbao Arte Foundation, National Gallery of Art Colombo, and the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi.

10 Menace

(42 min; 2025; English and Hindi)

Directed by Vishal Bhutani

This documentary examined the debate around stray dogs in Delhi–NCR in the wake of the 2025 Supreme Court order. Through perspectives spanning law, veterinary practice, governance, rescue work, and citizen experience, it explored compassion, public safety, and the complexities of humane coexistence.

The screening was followed by a discussion with the director and Ayesha Christina Benn, Founder, Neighbourhood Woof; and Jasmine Damkewala, Advocate-on-Record, moderated by Vineet Bhalla, senior legal correspondent, The Indian Express

15 One Fire: A Documentary Film about Theosophy

(103 min; Documentary; 2025; English)

Directed by Terhi Ahava

APPENDICES

This documentary celebrated 150 years of the Theosophical Society. From Blavatsky and Olcott's bold beginnings in 1875 to its global influence across philosophy, education, science, and the arts, the film traces a movement that has inspired seekers around the world. Journey from New York to Chennai and beyond as *One Fire* rekindles a timeless truth—that we are all sparks of the same eternal flame.

(Collaboration: Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama)

16 Broadway, Bars, and Fortune

(39 min; Documentary; English)

Directed and Produced by Shuvendu Sen, an award-winning physician, author and filmmaker

Co-Producer and Consultant: Karl Bardosh

Official Selection at the New York Lift-Off Film Festival and the International Hispanic Film Festival

The documentary revolves on four formerly incarcerated individuals and a Broadway personality. Through interviews and poignant personal interactions, the film highlights the immense healing effects of arts and theatres in the redemption of former inmates.

The screening was followed by an interactive discussion with the director, the Guests of Honour and moderators: Narayanan Hariharan, Senior Advocate and President, Delhi High Court Bar Association; and Sanjay Upadhyay, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, and Founder of the country's first environmental law firm, Enviro Legal Defence Firm

17–25 Stories on Scroll: Patachitra by Sahajan Chitrakar

This exhibition presented traditional Patachitra scroll paintings by Sahajan Chitrakar of Naya, Pingla, created using natural pigments and handmade materials. His works narrated epics, folk legends and contemporary social themes rooted in Bengal's living scroll tradition.

Sahajan Chitrakar is a traditional Patachitra artist and scroll narrator from Naya, Pingla, West Bengal, practising the art from the age of ten under familial lineage. His works employ natural pigments and depict mythological, folk, historical, and contemporary themes.

29 Jan to 8 Feb Ehsaas-e-Qalam aur Pashm

A Calligraphy solo exhibition by Qamar Dagar along with Pashmina shawls by Ehsaas

Curated by Manisha Gawade and Hindustani Classical Music by Ustaad Wasifuddin Dagar (Padma Shri Awardee)

This exhibition brought together calligraphy, music and Pashmina as interconnected art forms, celebrating strokes, sound and craft. Featuring pictorial calligraphy by Qamar Dagar, it reflected shared traditions of dedication, refinement and creative expression.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Chief Guest Sudhanshu Mittal, BJP spokesperson. The Guests of Honour were Raghav Chandra, Managing Director, Audi Delhi South; Jatin Kochhar, fashion designer; and Anurag Chauhan, Founder, Human for Humanity

The programme included a walkthrough and conversation on pictorial calligraphy by artist Qamar Dagar

(Collaboration: Qalamkaari Creative Calligraphy Trust)

30 Chowk University ka Vice Chancellor—Padma Bhushan Amritlal Nagar

(90 min; 2025; Hindi with English subtitles)

Directed by Savita Sharma Nagar and Rajesh Amrohi

Produced by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)

From the bustling lanes of Chowk to the vast landscape of Hindi literature, this documentary traces the extraordinary journey of Padma Bhushan Amritlal Nagar—writer, thinker, chronicler of everyday India. Through rare archival material, intimate interviews and evocative AI recreations, the film explores his evolution from cinema and journalism to becoming one of the most influential literary voices of the 20th century.

A discussion with the directors followed the screening

31 Gail and Bharat

(80 min; 2025; Marathi and English)

Directed by Somnath Waghmare, a documentary filmmaker and researcher whose work focuses on Dalit histories and social justice.

This documentary traces the life and work of sociologist and Dalit rights activist Dr. Gail Omvedt and Dr. Bharat Patankar, capturing their shared journey through India's anti-caste and social justice movements. Avoiding academic jargon, it offers an accessible and important record of their enduring contributions.

The screening was followed by a discussion with Prof. Smita Patil (IGNOU); Dr. Rahul Dev (art historian) and the director, Somnath Waghmare

APPENDIX VII *Film Club*

FEBRUARY 2025

BRITISH FILM CLASSICS

6 **Brief Encounter** (UK)

(86 min; 1945; black & white; English)

Director: David Lean

With Celia Johnson, Trevor Howard, Stanley Holloway

Recipient of the award for Grand Prize of the Festival, Cannes Film Festival 1946; NBR Award for Top Ten Films, National Board of Review, USA 1946; and NYFCC Award for Best Actress, New York Film Critics Circle Awards 1946

10 **I Know Where I'm Going!** (UK)

(92 min; 1945; black & white; English)

Directors: Michael Powell, Emeric Pressburger

With Wendy Hiller, Roger Livesey, Pamela Brown

13 **It Always Rains on Sunday** (UK)

(92 min; 1947; black & white; English)

Director: Roger Hamer

With Googie Withers, Jack Warner, John McCallum

17 **Kes** (UK)

(111 min; 1969; English)

Director: Ken Loach

With David Bradley, Brian Glover, Freddie Fletcher

Recipient of the BAFTA Film Award for Most Promising Newcomer to Leading Film Roles and BAFTA Film Award for Best Supporting Actor, BAFTA Awards 1971; Crystal Globe Award, Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 1970; NBR Award for Top Ten Films, National Board of Review, USA 1971; and Writers' Guild of Great Britain Award 1971 for Best Screenplay

24 **The Long Day Closes (UK)**

(85 min; 1985; English)

Director: Terence Davies

With Leigh McCormack, Marjorie Yates, Anthony Watson

Recipient of the award for Best Screenplay, Evening Standard British Film Awards 1993; and Golden Spike for Best Film, Valladolid International Film Festival 1992

MARCH 2025

SPOTLIGHT ON TURKISH CINEMA

10 **Three Friends (Üç Arkadas)**

(90 min; 1958; black & white; Turkish with English subtitles)

Director: Memduh Ün

Three Friends is one of Turkey's best-loved films, a perennial on 'Top Ten' lists, as well as a poetic portrait of a rapidly expanding Istanbul.

12 **Dry Summer (Susuz Yaz)**

(90 min; 1963; black & white; Turkish with English subtitles)

Director: Metin Erksan

Recipient of the Golden Berlin Bear, Berlin International Film Festival 1964; and Biennale Award, Venice Film Festival 1964

17 **The Small Town (Kasaba)**

(85 min; 1997; Turkish with English subtitles)

Director: Nuri Bilge Ceylan

Multiple award winner including Caligari Film Award, Berlin International Film Festival 1998; FIPRESCI Prize (National Film Competition) and Special Prize of the Jury, Istanbul Film Festival 1998; Silver Award for Best Film, Tokyo International Film Festival 1998; among others

APPENDICES

18 Love In Another Language (Baska Dilde Ask)

(98 min; 2009; Turkish with English subtitles)

Director: Ilksen Basarir

Multiple award winner including awards for Best Actor, Best Cinematography, Special Award of the Jury, Best Actress and Most Promising Writer, Ankara International Film Festival 2010; Golden Aphrodite Award for Best Film, Cyprus International Film Festival 2010; Special Jury Award for Best Film, Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival 2009; among others

22 Where The Fire Burns (Atesin Düstüğü Yer)

(105 min; 2012; Turkish with English subtitles)

Director: Ismail Günes

Recipient of the Grand Prix des Amériques & FIPRESCI Prize (World Competition), Montréal International Film Festival 2012; Crystal Apricot Award for Best Music, MUFF Malatya International Film Festival 2012; and Sadri Alisik Cinema Award for Best Actress, Sadri Alisik Theatre and Cinema Awards 2013

25 The Butterfly's Dream (Kelebegin Rüyası)

(138 min; 2013; Turkish with English subtitles)

Director: Yilmaz Erdogan

Multiple award winner including Public Choice Award, World Soundtracks Award 2013; Foreign Film Score Award for Best Film Score, Atlantis Award for Best Film Music, Atlantis Award for Feature Narrative, and Atlantis Award for Best Male Actor, Moondance International Film Festival 2013; SIYAD Awards for Best Actor, Best Supporting Actress, Best Cinematography and Best Music, Turkish Film Critics Association Awards 2013; among others

APRIL 2025

SPOTLIGHT ON FILMS FROM POLAND

7 Ashes And Diamonds (Popiół i diament)

(103 min; 1958; black & white; Polish with English subtitles)

Director: Andrzej Wajda

Recipient of the FIPRESCI Prize, Venice Film Festival 1959

9 Ida

(82 min; 2013; black & white; Polish with English subtitles)

Director: Pawel Pawlikowski

Multiple award winner including Oscar Award for Best Foreign Language Film of the Year, Academy of Motion Pictures 2015; BAFTA Film Award for Best Film Not in the English Language, BAFTA Awards 2015; EFA People's Choice Award, European Film Award for European Director and European Film Award for European Screenwriter, European Film Awards 2014; among others

21 Feast Of Fire

(94 min; 2023; Polish with English subtitles)

Director: Kinga Dębska

Multiple award winner including the awards for Best Debut Actor, Best Supporting Actress and Golden Kangaroo for Best Film, Polish Film Festival 2023; Audience Award for Best Film, Polish Film Festival in America 2023; Festival Awards for Best Actress, Best Director and Best Film, Ekran-Toronto Polish Film Festival, CA 2023; among others

23 Ultima Thule

(79 min; 2023; Polish with English subtitles)

Director: Klaudiusz Chrostowski

Recipient of the Stanislaw Różewicz Award for Best Director, Koszalinski Festiwal Debiutow Filmowych Mlodzi i Film 2023; and Best Film Award, Polish Film Festival 2023

28 Song Of Goats (Poland/Greece/Ireland)

(104 min; 2023; English)

Director: Andrzej Jakimowski

Multiple award winner including January Awards for Best Supporting Actress, Best Supporting Actor, Best Original Score, and Best Feature Film, Rome Prisma Independent Film Awards 2024; January Award for Best Actress, Sweden Film Festival 2024; Best Film Award, Alexandria Mediterranean Film Festival 2024; among others

APPENDICES

- 30** **Imagine** (France/Poland/Portugal/Great Britain)
(105 min; 2012; English/Polish with English subtitles)
Director: Andrezej Jakimowski

Recipient of the Audience Award for Feature Film and Best Director Award, Warsaw International Film Festival 2012; Golden Reel Award for Best Polish Film, Association of Polish Filmmakers Critics Awards 2013; Hollywood Eagle Award for Best Film, Polish Film Festival in Los Angeles 2013; among others

MAY 2025

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE POLISH INSTITUTE

- 2** **Chitraanjali: Stefan Norblin in India** (India/Poland)
(59 min; 2011; dvd; English)
Director Malgorzata Skiba introduced the film
Screening was followed by a discussion
- 8** **Enlightened Soul: The Three Names of Umadevi** (India/Poland)
(52 min; 2015; English)
Director: Tonmoy Das

FOUR BRITISH CLASSIC FILMS

- 13** **The 39 Steps** (UK)
(86 min; 1935; black & white; English)
A film by Alfred Hitchcock
With Robert Donat, Madeleine Carroll, Lucie Mannheim
- 20** **The Winslow Boy** (UK)
(117 min; 1948; black & white; English)
Director: Anthony Asquith
With Robert Donat, Cedric Hardwicke, Basil Radford

26 **The Innocents (UK)**
(100 min; 1961; black & white; English)
Director: Jack Clayton
With Deborah Kerr, Michael Redgrave, Megs Jenkins

29 **The Servant (UK)**
(116 min; 1963; black & white; English)
Director: Joseph Losey
With Dirk Bogarde, Sarah Miles, Wendy Craig

JUNE 2025

SUMMER AT THE MOVIES

16 **Mr. Thank You (Arigatô-san/Japan)**
(76 min; 1936; black & white; Japanese with English subtitles)
Director: Hiroshi Shimizu
With Ken Uehara, Michiko Kuwano

18 **Wild Strawberries (Smultronstället/Sweden)**
(92 min; 1957; black & white; Swedish and Latin with English subtitles)
Director: Ingmar Bergman
With Victor Sjöström, Bibi Andersson, Ingrid Thulin

26 **Picnic on the Grass (Le déjeuner sur l'herbe/France)**
(91 min; 1959; black & white; French with English subtitles)
Director: Jean Renoir

27 **The Garden of the Finzi-Continis (Il giardino dei Finzi Contini/Italy)**
(94 min; 1970; Italian with English subtitles)
Director: Vittorio de Sica

APPENDICES

30 Paris, Texas (West Germany/France/UK)

(145 min; 1984; English & Spanish)

Director: Wim Wenders

JULY 2025

FRENCH CINEMA CLASSICS

2 The Rules of the Game (La règle du jeu/France)

(110 min; 1939; black & white; French with English subtitles)

Director: Jean Renoir

With Marcel Dalio, Nora Gregor, Paulette Goddard

Recipient of the Bodil for Best European Film, Bodil Awards 1966

7 Beauty and the Beast (La Belle and le Bête/France)

(93 min; 1946; black & white; French with English subtitles)

Directors: Jean Cocteau, René Clément

With Jean Marais, Josette Day, Mila Parély

Recipient of the Prix Louis Delluc 1946

14 Diabolique (Les diaboliques/France)

(117 min; 1955; black & white; French with English subtitles)

Director: Henri-Georges Clouzot

With Simone Signoret, Véra Clouzot, Paul Meurisse

21 Breathless (À bout de souffle/France)

(90 min; 1960; black & white; French with English subtitles)

Director: Jean-Luc Godard

With Jean-Paul Belmondo, Jean Seberg, Richard Balducci

- 23 Cléo from 5 to 7** (Cléo de 5 à 7/France)
(90 min; 1960; black & white; French with English subtitles)
Director: Agnès Varda
With Corinne Marchand, Antoine Bourseiller, Dominique Davray
Recipient of Critics Award for Best Film, French Syndicate of Cinema Critics 1963
- 28 Last Year at Marienbad** (L'année dernière à Marienbad/France)
(94 min; 1961; black & white; French with English subtitles)
Director: Alain Resnais
With Delphine Seyrig, Giorgio Albertazzi, Sacha Pitoëff
- 30 My Night at Maud's** (Ma nuit chez Maud/France)
(105 min; 1969; black & white; French with English subtitles)
Director: Éric Rohmer
With Jean-Louis Trintignant, Françoise Fabian, Marie-Christine Barrault

AUGUST 2025

FRAMES WITHOUT BORDERS

Screening of four films from the United States, France and India

- 4 The Snows of Kilimanjaro** (US)
(114 min; 1952; English)
Director: Henry King
Starring Gregory Peck, Susan Hayward and Ava Gardner
- 7 Spellbound** (US)
(111 min; 1945; black & white; English)
Director: Alfred Hitchcock
Starring Ingrid Bergman, Gregory Peck and Michael Chekhov

APPENDICES

- 18** **Garam Hawa** (*Hot Winds*) (India)
(146 min; 1973; Hindi/Urdu with English subtitles)
Director: M. S. Sathyu
Starring Balraj Sahni, Farooq Shaikh, Shaukat Kaifi, Gita Siddharth, Jalal Agha and others.
- 25** **The Bride Wore Black** (*La Mariée était en noir*/ France)
(107 min; 1968; French with English subtitles)
Director: François Truffaut
Starring Jeanne Moreau, Julie Kohler and Michel Bouquet

SEPTEMBER 2025

RESONANCE: FILMS THAT STAY WITH YOU

- 8** **Moby Dick**
(116 min; 1956; English)
Director: John Huston
With Gregory Peck; Richard Basehart; Leo Genn and Orson Welles
- 12** **Ace In The Hole**
(111 min; 1951; black & white; English)
Director: Billy Wilder
With Kirk Douglas, Jan Sterling, Robert Arthur and Porter Hall
- 13** **The Last Emperor**
(163 min; 1987; English)
Director: Bernardo Bertolucci
- 22** **Katyn**
(115 min; 2007; Polish, Russian, German with English subtitles)
Director: Andrej Wajda

29 The Maltese Falcon

(101 min; 1941; black & white; English)

Director: John Houston

With Humphrey Bogart, Mary Astor, Gladys George

NOVEMBER 2025

TWO MASTERS, ONE CENTURY: REMEMBERING RITWIK GHATAK AND RAJ KHOSLA

10 Do Raaste

(150 min; 1969; Hindi with English subtitles)

Director: Raj Khosla

With Rajesh Khanna, Mumtaz Askari, Balraj Sahni and Prem Chopra

13 Bambai ka Babu

(154 min; 1960; black & white; Hindi with English subtitles)

Director: Raj Khosla

With Dev Anand, Suchitra Sen and Jeevan Dhar

17 Subarnarekha (The Golden Thread)

(143 min; 1965; black & white; Bengali with English subtitles)

Director: Ritwik Ghatak

With Abhi Bhattacharya, Madhabi Mukherjee, Bijon Bhattacharya and Indrani Chakrabarty

21 Titash Ekti Nadir Naam (A River Called Titas)

(159 min; 1973; black & white; Bengali with English subtitles)

Director: Ritwik Ghatak

With Prabir Mitra, Rosy Samad, Kabori Sarwar and Rawshan Zamil

DECEMBER 2025

YULETIDE STORIES IN FILMS

- 2** **My Uncle Antoine** (Mon oncle Antoine/France)
(105 min; 1971; French with English subtitles)
Director: Claude Jutra
With Jacques Gagnon, Lyne Champagne and Jean Duceppe
- 5** **Miracle on 34th Street**
(96 min; 1947; black & white; English)
Director: George Seaton
- 9** **Night Train**
(90 min; 2009; English)
With Danny Glover, Leelee Sobieski, Steve Zahn
- 15** **The Apartment**
(125 min; 1960; black & white; English)
Director: Billy Wilder
With Jack Lemmon, Shirley MacLaine, Fred MacMurray
- 22** **About a Boy**
(102 min; 2002; English)
Director: Paul Wietz and Chris Wietz
With Hugh Grant, Nicholas Hoult, Toni Collette and Rachel Weisz
- 29** **Satyakam**
(164 min; 1969; Hindi with English subtitles)
Director: Hrishikesh Mukherjee
With Dharmendra, Sharmila Tagore, Sanjeev Kumar

JANUARY 2026

THE QUEEN OF CRIME: A CINEMATIC TRIBUTE TO AGATHA CHRISTIE

5 Laura

(87 min; 1944; black & white; English)

Director: Otto Preminger

With Gene Tierney; Dana Andrews; Clifton Webb

13 Where the Sidewalk Ends

(96 min; 1950; black & white; English)

Director: Otto Preminger

With Dana Andrews; Gene Tierney; Gary Merrill

21 The Hitch-Hiker

(142 min; 1953; black & white; English)

Director: Ida Lupino

With Edmond O'Brien; Frank Lovejoy; William Talman

27 Witness for the Prosecution

(116 min; 1958; black & white; English)

Director: Billy Wilder

With Charles Laughton; Marlene Dietrich; Tyrone Power

Recipient of the Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actress–Motion Picture (Elsa Lanchester), Golden Globe Awards, 1958.

29 Murder on the Orient Express

(128 min; 1974; English)

Director: Sidney Lumet

With Albert Finney; Lauren Bacall; Ingrid Bergman; Sean Connery; Vanessa Redgrave

Recipient of the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress (Ingrid Bergman), Academy Awards, 1975.

APPENDIX VIII *Collaborating Institutions*

Aamad Dance Centre
Aambra Foundation
Action for Autism
Aga Khan Trust for Culture
Ahad Anhad
Ahimsa Trust
The Alkazi Foundation for the Arts
All India Working News Cameramen's Association (WNCA)
American Institute of Indian Studies
Art Konsult
Ashoka University
Asia Society Policy Institute, New Delhi
Association of Creative Theory & Foundation for Creative Social Research

Backwaters Collective
Bandung Network India
BML Munjal University
Brotherhood
Bruegel
Business and Community Foundation

Caucus – The Discussion Forum of Hindu College
Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP)
Centre for Creative Expressions
Centre for Philosophy and Foundations of Science
Centre for Policy Research
Centre for Escalation of Peace
Centre for Traditional Indian Knowledge Systems and Skills, IIT Bombay
Centre for Women's Development Studies
Centre for WTO Studies

Chintan Research Foundation
Climate Change Research Institute
Council for Social Development
Craft Revival Trust
@Crossroads
D. S. Borker Memorial Foundation
Dagar Brothers Memorial Trust
Dara Shikoh Centre for the Arts
Delhi Crafts Council
Delhi Music Society
Dementia India Alliance
Department of Cultural Affairs, Govt. of Kerala
Dhanu Bihar Trust

Egrow Foundation
Enable India Foundation
Engendered – Transnational Arts & Human Rights

Foundation for Creative Social Research
Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Gandharva Mahavidyalaya
Gandhi Yuva Biradari
Ganga Jamuna Culture Foundation
Gayathri Fine Arts
Gharial Ecology Project
Gujarat Grassroots Innovation Augmentation Network (GIAN)
Global Socio-Economic Foundation
Gnostic Centre
Goenkarancho Ekvot

Green Circle of Delhi
Gurukulam Foundation

IC Centre for Governance
Impresario India

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Indian Council for Cultural Relations
Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers
Indian Mountaineering Foundation
Indo-American Friendship Association
Institute for Studies in Industrial Development
Institute of Chinese Studies
Institute of Economic Growth
Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences
Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)
InterGlobe Foundation
International Association of Women in Radio & Television, Chapter India (IAWRT)
International Herbert Marcuse Society, USA
International Research Division, IIC

ITC Sangeet Research Academy, Kolkata

J. D. Centre of Art
Jan Prasar
Jonetsu Entertainment

K. L. Saigal Memorial Circle
Kalpavriksh
Kapila Vatsyayan Memorial Committee
Katkatha Puppet Arts Trust

Library of Tibetan Works and Archives
Lyric Ensemble of Delhi

Maharashtra Sanskritik ani Rannaniti Adhyayan Samiti
Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust
Mapin Publishing
Marg
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER), Govt. of India
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Govt. of India

Nabhya Theatre
National Institute of Panjab Studies, New Delhi
Natya Vriksha, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India
Navdanya
Navras School of Performing Arts
Naz Foundation
Nayi Dhara
National Centre for Performing Arts (NCPA), Mumbai
NCZCC, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India
National Film Development Corporation (NDFC)–National Film Archive of India (NFAI)

Pallavan Learning Systems
PhotoSouthAsia
Pickle Yolk Books
Press Club of India
PublishingNext
Pune International Centre
Purushottam Public Trust

Rajdhani College, University of Delhi
Ramakrishnapuram South Indian Society

Ritinjali
Rosewalk by Rainbow Hospitals

Sahitya Akademi
Sanjivini Society for Mental Health
Sanskriti Foundation
Sarada Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science
Sarvajanik Utsav Samiti, New Delhi
Sarvodaya International Trust
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The Media Foundation

The Mountain Climate Trust

The Poetry Society (India)

The Raza Foundation

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The United Nations, India

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The World Bank

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Toxics Link

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We The Chefs

Wings Cultural Society

WISCOMP (Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace)

Women's Regional Network

Working Group on Alternative Strategies

World Buddhist Culture Trust

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Alliance Française de Delhi
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