

#### LUNCH & DINNERS ON PAYMENT

Admission to all the cultural programmes is free of charge. For Film Screening, entry will be allowed 30 minutes before each screening.

Tea/coffee and light snacks will be available on payment in the Main Verandah from 11 am - 7 pm



A Festival of the Arts  
29 OCT-03 NOV 2026



#### VENUES

**CULTURAL**  
Fountain Lawn

**DISCUSSIONS**  
Conference Room II  
Seminar Rooms I-III

**FILM SCREENINGS**  
C. D. Deshmukh Auditorium

**CUISINE**  
Rose Garden



INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE  
40, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi 110003  
Tel: (+91) 011-24609499, (+91) 011-69092500

EXHIBITIONS | POETRY | CULTURAL | DISCUSSIONS | FILMS | CUISINE

# Programme

CALENDAR 2026

29 OCT–03 NOV

THURSDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2026

## FESTIVAL CURTAIN RAISER

**EXHIBITION | 04:00 PM | Art Gallery, IIC Annexe**

**Prakriti: Harmonizing Inner and Outer Worlds in South Asian Texts and Traditions**

Chief Guest: **Vivek Aggarwal**, Secretary, Ministry of Culture

The exhibition will remain on view from **29 October – 6 November**

**2026, 11 am – 7 pm**

(Organized by the IIC–International Research Division)

**TALK | 06:30 PM | C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium**

**Keynote Address: Rukkha, Rakkha, Yakkha: Foundational Evidence for Tree Worship in Indian Art**

By **Naman P. Ahuja**, Professor, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Chair: **Shyam Saran**, President, IIC

FRIDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2026

**EXHIBITION | 04:00 PM | Conference Room I**

**Palms and Parchment: Keralam's Heritage of Reading and Relics**

An Exhibition of Literacy, Legacy and the Cultural Treasures of Keralam

Chief Guest: **Aswathi Thirunal Gowri Lakshmi Bayi**, Travancore Royal Family

Special Invitee: **Meenakshi Gopinath**, Life Trustee, IIC

The exhibition will remain on view from **30 October – 3 November**

**2026, 11 am – 7 pm**

(Collaboration: State Central Library, Kerala; Oriental Reserach Institute and Manuscripts Library; Sree Chitra Art Gallery; Raja Ravi Varma Art Gallery; Kerala State Archives; Palm-Leaf Manuscript Museum and Pusthaka Gramam/Village of Books, Perumkulam)

**EXHIBITION | 05:30 PM | Gandhi – King Memorial Plaza**

**Living Lightly: Journey with the Pastoralists**

Chief Guest: **Meenakshi Gopinath**, Life Trustee, IIC

The exhibition will remain on view from **30 October – 3 November**

**2026, 11 am – 7 pm**

(Collaboration: Centre For Pastoralism (CfP))

**CULTURAL | 06:30 PM | Fountain Lawns**

**Inauguration of the Festival**

By **Shyam Saran**, President, IIC

**Bharatanatyam Recital**

**Scent of the Earth** by Alarmel Valli

Accompanists: C.K. Vasudevan (*Cymbals*); Vasudha Ravi (*Vocal*); Sakthivel

Muruganantham (*Percussion*); K.P. Nandini (*Violin*); J.B. Sruthisagar (*Flute*)

Support Staff: Murugan (*Light Engineer*)

**CUISINE | 08:00 PM | Rose Garden**

**Food Festival: Journeys Across India**

**Taste of Kalinga**

Curated by: **Chef Kirti Jha**

**FILM | 08:30 PM | C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium**

**Film Festival: Stories on Screen**

**Umrao Jaan** (India)

(1981 | 145 mins | Urdu with English subtitles)

Director: **Muzaffar Ali** will be introducing the film

(Tribute to **Asha Bhosle** (1933–2026) and **Kumudini Lakhia** (1930–2025))

SATURDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2026

**DISCUSSION | 10:30 AM | C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium**

**Wildlife Conservation in Contemporary India**

Panellists: **Mike Pandey**, Indian Film maker and Conservationist; **Dipankar Ghose**, Senior Director, Biodiversity Conservation at WWF–India; **Purnima Devi Barman**, Wildlife Biologist

Moderator: **Bahar Dutt**, Environmental Editor and Columnist

*This will be preceded by screening of short films by Mike Pandey*

**EXHIBITION | 11:30 AM | Art Gallery, Kamaladevi Complex**

**Birds of India: Company Paintings c. 1800 to 1835**

A pioneering exhibition of late 18th and early 19th century Company Paintings devoted entirely to Indian birds

Curated by **Giles Tillotson**, SVP, DAG

Chief Guest: **Mahesh Verma**, Trustee, IIC

The exhibition will remain on view from **31 October – 14 November 2026**,

**11 am – 7 pm**

(Collaboration: DAG)

**POETRY | 12:30 PM | Seminar Rooms I–III**

**The World within the Word**

Poetry Reading Session on Nature

Curated by **Malashri Lal** & **Apoorvanand**

Verses from Hindi, English and 6 regional languages

Chief Guest: **Ashwajit Singh**, Trustee, IIC

**FILM | 02:00 PM | C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium**

**Film Festival: Stories on Screen**

**9 to 5** (United States)

(1980 | 110 mins | English)

Director: **Colin Higgins**

(Tribute to **Dolly Parton** (1946–2026))

**DISCUSSION | 03:30 PM | Seminar Rooms I–III**

**The Written Word and Social Progress: How Kerala Achieved 100% Literacy**

Keynote Speaker: **Aswathi Thirunal Gowri Lakshmi Bayi**, Travancore Royal Family

Speakers: **Venu Vasudevan**, Former Chief Secretary, Kerala; **T.K. Manoj Kumar**, Former Secretary, Govt. of India; **Resmi R.**, Registrar, University of Kerala; **Parvathy S.**, Director, State Archives of Kerala

**CULTURAL | 06:30 PM | Fountain Lawns**

**Nirvana Nataka**

**An Intimate Solo Recital**

By **Maa Parvathy Baul**

Chief Guest: **Shailesh Nayak**, Life Trustee, IIC

**CUISINE | 08:00 PM | Rose Garden**

**Food Festival: Journeys Across India**

**Lost Flavours: Culinary Traditions of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh**

Curated by: **Chef Nishant Choubey**

**FILM | 08:30 PM | C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium**

**Film Festival: Stories on Screen**

**Jurassic Park** (United States)

(1993 | 127 mins | English)

Director: **Steven Spielberg**

(Tribute to **Sam Neill** (1947–2026))

SUNDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2026

**CULTURAL | 11:00 AM | C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium**

**Classical Vocal Recital**

**Prakriti ka Sangeet**

By **Kalapini Komkali**

Accompanists: **Shambhunath Bhattacharya** (*Tabla*); **Chetan Nigam** (*Harmonium*); **Akshay Mohan** (*Dholak*)

Chief Guest: **Anita Singh**, Musicologist and Art Historian

CUISINE | 12:00 PM | Rose Garden

Food Festival: Journeys Across India

Sattva: The Jain Rasoi

Curated by: Chef Nishant Choubey

FILM | 01:00 PM | C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium

Film Festival: Stories on Screen

Angoor (India)

(1982 | 130 mins | Hindi with English subtitles)

Director: Gulzar

FILM | 03:30 PM | C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium

Film Festival: Stories on Screen

In Which Annie Gives It Those Ones (India)

(1989 | 112 mins | English)

Director: Pradip Krishen; Screenwriter: Arundhati Roy

Director will be present during the screening for Q & A

DISCUSSION | 04:00 PM | Conference Room II

Architecture, Urban Landscapes and the Future of Cities

Chair: Ashok Lall, Eminent Architect and Educator

Moderator: Ratish Nanda, CEO, Aga Khan Trust for Culture, India

Panellists: A.G.K. Menon, Urban Planner and Architect; Shruti Narayan, Managing Director of Regions and Mayoral Engagement at C40 cities

CULTURAL | 06:30 PM | Fountain Lawns

Natya Bharata: Ramakien

Adapted from Ramakien, the Thai national epic based on Valmiki's Ramayana

Chief Guest: P.K. Tripathi, Member, Executive Committee, IIC

(Collaboration: Emerging North-East Eco Forum (ENEFF) & Thai Bharat Cultural Lodge (TBCL))

CUISINE | 08:00 PM | Rose Garden

Food Festival: Journeys Across India

The Afghan Table

Curated by: Daanesh Anand from Nooshe Joon

FILM | 08:30 PM | C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium

Film Festival: Stories on Screen

Maya Miriga (The Mirage) (India)

(1984 | 120 mins | Odia with English subtitles)

Director: Nirad N. Mohapatra

MONDAY, 2 NOVEMBER 2026

FILM | 11:00 AM | C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium

Film Festival: Stories on Screen

Niagara (United States)

(1953 | 92 mins | English)

Director: Henry Hathaway

(Tribute to Marilyn Monroe (1926–1962))

FILM | 01:00 PM | C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium

Film Festival: Stories on Screen

Mirch Masala (India)

(1987 | 128 mins | Hindi with English subtitles)

Director: Ketan Mehta

DISCUSSION | 03:00 PM | Conference Room II

Guardians of the Grasslands: Pastoralism, Mobility and Ecology

Chair: Ravi Singh, Secretary General and CEO of WWF-India

Panellists: Sushma Iyengar, Lead curator, Living Lightly Exhibition of Centre for Pastoralism (CfP); Ajay Dandekar & Anita Sharma, Shiv Nadar University; Sunil Harsana, Environmental Activist

FILM | 04:00 PM | C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium

Film Festival: Stories on Screen

The Man Who Knew Too Much (United Kingdom)

(1934 | 75 mins | English)

Director: Alfred Hitchcock

05:00 PM | Gandhi-King Memorial Plaza

Release of the IIC Quarterly: Autumn 2026

Edited by K.E. Priyamvada, Editor, IIC

Chief Guest: N.N. Vohra, Life Trustee, IIC

CULTURAL | 06:30 PM | Fountain Lawns

RAGA, A Knot in the Air

Rudra Veena recital by Ustad Mohi Bahauddin Dagar

Accompanist: Pt. Sanjay Agle (Pakhawaj)

Chief Guest: N.N. Vohra, Life Trustee, IIC

CUISINE | 08:00 PM | Rose Garden

Food Festival: Journeys Across India

Une Soirée Française (A French Evening)

Curated by: Chef Vijay Thakral, IIC

FILM | 08:30 PM | C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium

Film Festival: Stories on Screen

The Red Turtle (United States)

(2016 | 80 mins | Animation | No dialogue)

Director: Michael Dudok de Wit

TUESDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2026

FILM | 11:00 AM | C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium

Film Festival: Stories on Screen

The Pianist (United States)

(2002 | 148 mins | English, German & Polish with English subtitles)

Director: Roman Polanski

DISCUSSION | 11:30 AM | Conference Room II

Seeds of Resilience: Women, Family Farms, and the Future of Nutritious Food Systems

Panellists: Heenaben Dave, Vice President, SEWA; Karthik Laxman, Researcher; B. Balasubramanian, India Country Director, GAIN; Purnima Menon, Director, Strategy and Partnerships, IFPRI; Meenakshi Chodhary, SEWA

FILM | 02:00 PM | C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium

Film Festival: Stories on Screen

Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro (India)

(1983 | 132 mins | Hindi with English subtitles)

Director: Kundan Shah

DISCUSSION | 04:00 PM | Conference Room II

Ecology at The Crossroads of Climate Change

Chair: Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Former Director General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

Moderator: Sujata Prasad, Former Civil Servant, Author and Curator

Panellists: Mahesh Rangarajan, Professor at Ashoka University; Patricia Mukhim, Editor, Shillong Times; Neha Sinha, Author & Wildlife Conservationist; Yogesh Jain, Founder, Jan Swasthya Sahyog, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh

CULTURAL | 06:30 PM | Fountain Lawns

Emotional World of Raga

Hindustani Vocal Recital

By Pt. Ajoy Chakrabarty

Accompanists: Pandit Yogesh Samsi (Tabla) & Ajay Joglekar (Harmonium)

Chief Guest: K.N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC

(Collaboration: ITC Sangeet Research Academy)

CUISINE | 08:00 PM | Rose Garden

Food Festival: Journeys Across India

Coastal Crossings: Konkani to Malabar

Curated by: Chef Lakshmi Kini

FILM | 08:30 PM | C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium

Film Festival: Stories on Screen

Ghatashraddha (The Ritual) (India)

(1977 | 108 mins | Kannada with English subtitles)

Director: Girish Kasaravalli