

A Festival of the Arts |
29 OCT-03 NOV 2026



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 Research Institute and Manuscripts Library; Sree Chithra 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*

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

Desi Cafe: A Progressive Jain Culinary Journey

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 Kumar Thukral**, 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: Konkan 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**