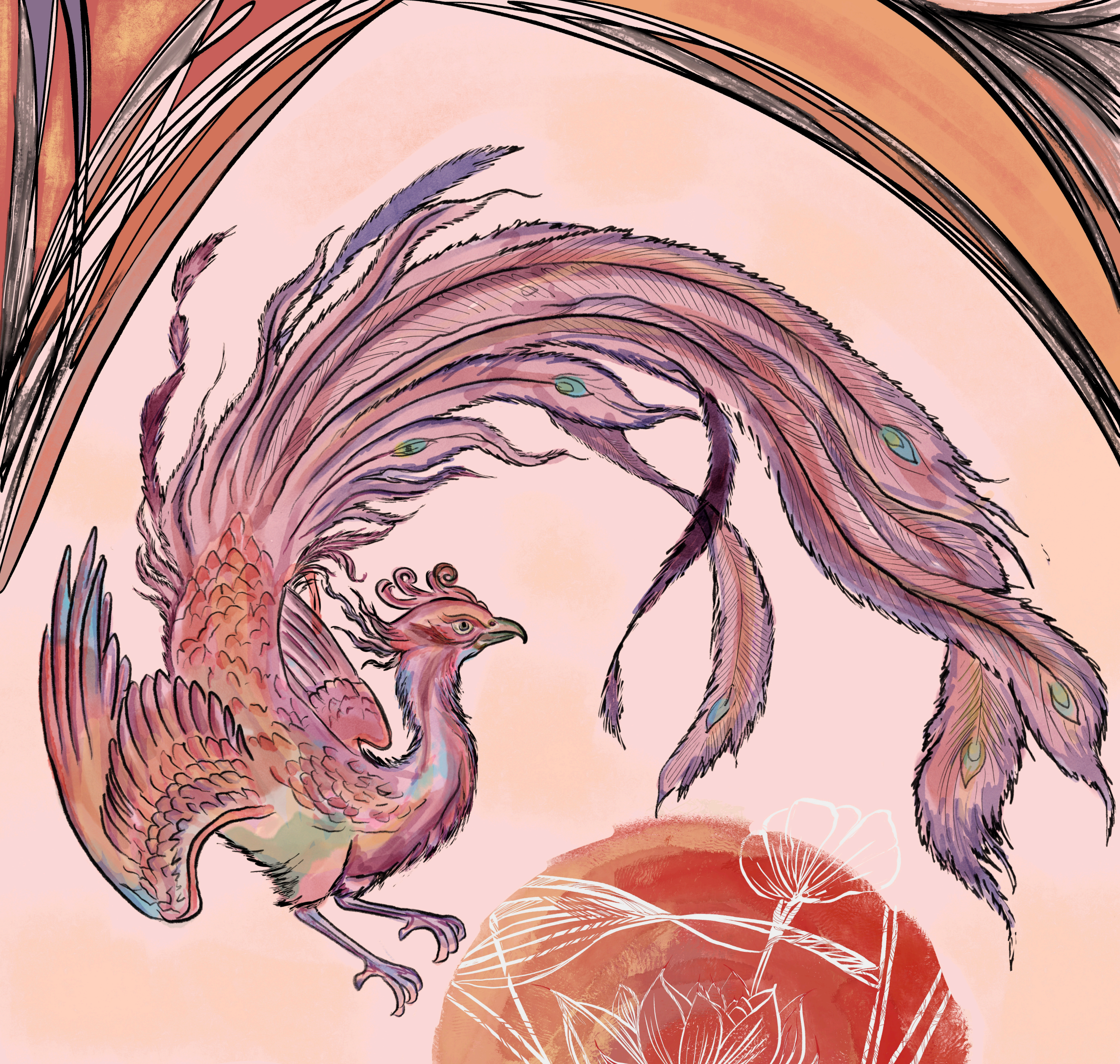




The Syncretic Traditions of the Subcontinent: Voices Past & Present

12th and 13th October 2026

India International Centre

Organised by Dara Shikoh Centre for the Arts
With the support of The Bharat Ram Research Grant & Parzor Foundation

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Programme

10 am to 10:20 am	Registration	
10:30 am to 10:45 am	Welcome Address by Ambassador Shyam Saran	
10:45 am to 11:00 am	Inaugural Remarks by Dr Jyotsna Singh	
11:00 am to 11:30 am	Keynote Lecture: Syncretic Traditions of India and the Subcontinent	Dr Karan Singh
11:45 am to 1:00 pm	SESSION I Sacred Geographies and Devotional Cultures	“Making Sense of Udasi Panth: Limits of Syncretism” Dr Yogesh Snehi “Between Empires: The Suriyani, the Russians and Inter-Imperial Subjectivity ” Dr Jonathan Koshy Varghese “Ekam Sad Viprā Bahudhā Vadanti”: Unraveling Co-existence, Conflict and Assimilation in Early India” Prof. R. Mahalaxmi Moderator: Dr Nayana Dasgupta
1:00 pm to 2:00 pm	SESSION II: Panel Discussion Modes of Expression: The Sacred & the Profane	“The Liminal Performer: The Tawa’if and the Syncretic Histories of Music and Culture in 1900s-1930s” Dr Shweta Sachdeva-Jha “Divine Myths Retold” Ms Bulbul Sharma “Divine Kashmir and its Syncretic Traditions” Commodore Dalbir Sodhi (retired) Moderator: Prof. Arti Minocha
2:30 pm to 3:45 pm	SESSION III The Syncretic in Material Cultures	“Sharing Objects: Makers, Users, and the Everyday Syncretism of Craft” Dr Ritu Sethi “The Complexity of Shared Traditions: Architecture in Sultanate and Mughal India” Dr Swapna Liddle Moderator: Prof. Shernaz Cama
3:45 pm to 5:00 pm	SESSION IV: Panel Discussion Colonial Archives and Knowledge Production	Participating Researchers from LSR College Bhaibhabi Hazra: “Reading the Lines: Cartography, Sovereignty and the Making of Boundary as Legal Fact in Colonial South Asia” Satyapriya Narang: “Economics of Travel in <i>Varthamanappusthakam</i>” Sivaranjani Iyer: “Minting Authority: Reading Nineteenth-Century British Colonial Coins as Everyday State Practice” Aditi Mishra: “A Letter Without a Sender: Reading a Woman’s Travel Writing” Panel Chair & Discussant: Prof. Uma Chakravarty

10 am to 10:45 am	Keynote Lecture: Architecture of Confluences	Ms Amita Baig
11:00 am to 12:30 pm	SESSION V Regional and Cultural Multiplicities	“Syncretic Traditions of Goa” Mr Subodh Kerkar “The Himalayan Table: Language of Syncreticism through the Conduit of Food” Mrs Rohini Rana “Living with Thumri’s Syncreticism” Ms Vidya Rao Moderator: Dr Jyotsna Singh
12:30 pm to 1:30 pm	SESSION VI: Panel Discussion Representing Cultural Communities	“Graphic Memory Keeping from Peoples Movements” Ms Ita Mehrotra “Pastoralism: A Living Tradition of the Subcontinent” Dr Javaid Rahi Moderator: Prof. Gurpreet Mahajan
2:00 pm to 3:30 pm	SESSION VII Reimagining Histories through the Literary & Artistic	“Ganga-Jamuni-Sarayu Tehzeeb: Kalyan Malla's Suleimain Charitra and the Hindu-Muslim-Jewish Syncretism of North India” Prof. Jonathan Gil Harris “The Women Behind the Image: Reimagining the History of the Illustrated Book” Ms Ritika Kochhar “Syncretic Traditions through the Lens of Music, Literature, and Films” Ms Amrita Bhalla Moderator: Ms Parvati Sharma
3:30 pm to 4:45 pm	SESSION VIII: Panel Discussion Mediating the Past through Visual Narratives	Participating Researchers from LSR College Molli Sharma: “The Colonization of God in <i>Varthamanappusthakam</i> ” Khushi Joshi: “Do Archives Have Feelings?” Sakshi Singh: “The Liminal Body in <i>Varthamanappusthakam</i> ” Yoganjana Singh: “The Architecture of Lisbon, <i>Varthamanappusthakam</i> ” Moderator: Dr Jonathan Koshy Varghese
4:45 pm to 5:00 pm	Closing Remarks by Prof. Shernaz Cama, and Release of the young scholars’ publication by Mr K. N. Shrivastava	
5:00 pm to 5:15 pm	Valedictory Address Mr K.N. Shrivastava, Director, IIC	
6:00 pm to 8 pm	Performance by Ustad Fareed Hasan The performance will be introduced by Ms. Shailaja Khanna Venue: C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC Main Block	