Sambhashan
IHC Newsletter

November, 2025

Volume 1 • Issue •2

India Habitat Centre was honoured by World Book of Records, London for outstanding contribution to promoting sustainable development, cultural exchange, public engagement and intellectual collaboration, serving as a premier and environmental stewardship in India and beyond.

Contents

- Director's Take 02
- IHC Signs MOU with National Stock Exchange 03
- Natyashastra workshop 03
- हिंदी पक्षोत्सव (14-28 सितंबर) 05
- Independence Day celebrations 06
- National Librarians' Day celebrations 06
- National Teachers' Day celebrations 07
- Samlapa: The Discourse, a new series 07
- Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC) 07
- IHC Walk 09
- Diwali Celebrations 09
- IHC Theatre Festival 10
- IHC Sangeet Sammelan 11
- IHC Morning Ragas 12
- Utsav Series in 'अन्न' 12
- Visual Arts Gallery 13
- News in Pics 16
- Award winning Hindi poems 18
- Award winning posters 20

Governing Council Meeting

The 125th meeting of Governing Council, chaired by Shri Kathikithala Srinivas. IAS, was held on Oct 31, 2025.

Director's Take

Dear Members,

The past quarter has been one of the most vibrant and purposeful periods at India Habitat Centre. A steady stream of programmes, partnerships and innovations has reaffirmed IHC's position as a unique confluence of intellect, culture, community and well-being.

I am delighted to share that the World Book of Records, London has conferred a special honour upon the India Habitat Centre for its sustained contribution to sustainability, cultural exchange, public engagement and intellectual collaboration. This global recognition is a tribute to the unwavering commitment of every member of Team-IHC across decades. Earlier this year, we were also conferred the Certificate of Club Excellence in acknowledgement of the elevated standards we continue to set in private club experiences.

Our larger vision remains clear: to establish IHC as India's pre-eminent think tank while simultaneously enriching the everyday experience of our members. The Habitat Library & Resource Centre (HLRC) has been renamed as the Habitat Library & Research Centre (HLRC) to reflect this sharpened intellectual mandate. A dedicated research ecosystem is being created through strategic partnerships, and the newly launched Bharat Bodh Kendra is already emerging as a beacon for the exploration and celebration of Indian Knowledge Systems.

Among the many milestones of recent months:

- An MoU with the National Stock Exchange to roll out a sustained financial-literacy programme, commencing January 2026.
- A monthly social-dialogue series with Prayas JAC Society that converts conversation into actionable outcomes on pressing civic concerns.
- A year-long Study Circle of twelve distinguished lectures in collaboration with the Indian Council of Philosophical Research, inaugurated this December.
- A deeply appreciated workshop on 'Natya Shastra in the Indian Knowledge System' and the
- Launch of Samlapa: The Discourse, our new platform for serious book conversations under the Bharat Bodh Kendra.

For the first time, Independence Day was celebrated with great fervour by the entire IHC family, complete with patriotic performances. The newly constituted Rajbhasha Karyanvayan Samiti successfully organised Hindi Fortnight, featuring a Hindi book exhibition, competitions and an outpouring of enthusiasm that has now set an annual tradition.

Setting up of a curated book collection in Indian Languages, in the HLRC is underway.

Member convenience and delight remain at the heart of everything we do. The RFID membership card (including spouse cards) now doubles as a prepaid wallet across the Centre. QR-code menus are live in all restaurants, and calorie counts will soon appear alongside every dish—an initiative that aligns with the national #Fit India vision and empowers informed, healthier choices. Our kitchens brought festive cheer through the inaugural Utsav thali series for Onam, Navratra, Diwali and Chhath, alongside the now-legendary Jowar Badam Peetha—a signature Diwali creation that vanished from the counters almost as soon as it appeared! We are also organising a series of health camps and talks in collaboration with HEAL Foundation, aimed at creating awareness about health and lifestyle issues.

The performing arts calendar continues to draw packed houses—the annual Theatre Festival, Lok Sangeet Sammelan and the ever-popular Morning Ragas in the Amphitheatre have all been resounding successes.

On the people front, we conducted our first comprehensive education-mapping of staff, leading to the creation of the Human Resource Development Centre under the Habitat Learning Centre. Two upskilling programmes have already been delivered. We also marked National Librarians' Day and Teachers' Day for the first time, honouring the extraordinary teams that power our intellectual hubs. Our chefs continue to bring laurels at national and international competitions, and exclusive IHC souvenirs (T-shirts and ceramic cups) are now available at the Information Centre.

Every initiative—whether a new partnership, a culinary innovation or a staff development programme—has one common denominator: the desire to serve you, our members, better. Your continued patronage and candid feedback are the compass that guides this journey.

Warm regards and festive wishes,

Prof. (Dr.) K. G. Suresh
Director, India Habitat Centre

India Habitat Centre Signs MOU with National Stock Exchange

India Habitat Centre (IHC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) to collaborate on spreading financial literacy and investor awareness about the securities market

The National Stock Exchange, as India's leading stock exchange, has long been at the forefront of promoting financial education and safeguarding investor interests.

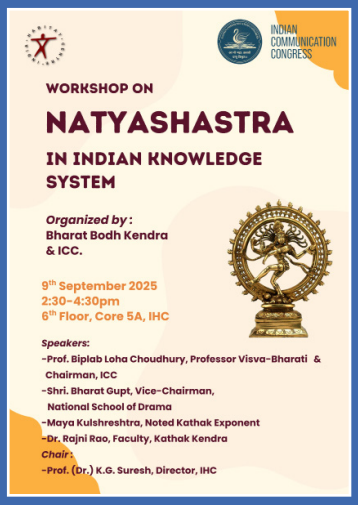
Investor education forms a core component of NSE's outreach initiatives, with the objective of equipping individuals with the knowledge and confidence to make informed financial decisions.

Through this partnership, Investor Awareness Programmes (IAPs) will be conducted at India Habitat Centre. These programmes will cover essential topics such as personal finance, financial markets, and a wide range of investment products. The focus will be on helping investors select appropriate financial instruments, avoid fraudulent schemes, understand their rights and obligations, and align investments with individual financial goals.

Prof. (Dr.) K. G. Suresh, Director - India Habitat Centre, said: "*At India Habitat Centre, we believe that true empowerment comes through education. Partnering with NSE to bring financial literacy and investor awareness to our audiences reflects our commitment to creating informed, responsible, and financially secure citizens.*"

The awareness programme series will be offered free of cost and will commence with a series for members, early next year.

WORKSHOP ON NATYASHASTRA IN INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM



The "Workshop on Natyashastra in Indian Knowledge System," presented by Bharat Bodh Kendra and the Indian Communication Congress (ICC), was held on September 9, 2025, at the India Habitat Centre (IHC), New Delhi. The event brought together distinguished scholars, practitioners, and cultural enthusiasts to explore the multifaceted heritage of the Natyashastra and its enduring relevance within contemporary Indian Knowledge Systems.

The workshop saw a vibrant gathering of media educators, communication theorists, renowned performing artists, and historians.

United by a shared goal, they sought to explore, preserve, and promote India's rich cultural heritage through the study of the Natyashastra. The distinguished panel included, Shri Bharat Gupt (Vice-Chairman, National School of Drama), Prof. Biplab Loho Choudhury (Professor at Visva-Bharati and Chairman, ICC), Ms. Maya Kulshreshtra (noted Kathak exponent), Dr. Rajni Rao, (Faculty at Kathak Kendra) and the workshop was chaired by Prof. (Dr.) K.G. Suresh-Director-India Habitat Centre.

Contd in next page...

Natyashashtra workshop at Director's Coference room

Natyashashtra Contd..

Other notable attendees included former Union Minister K. J. Alphons, Prof. J. C. Jaithwani, Prof. Rakesh Upadhyay, Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), veteran journalist Mr. Sunit Mukherjee, Mr. Madhav, and Prof. F. B. Khan, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), with many offline and also online participants.

The session began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp ((Deep Prajwalan) and welcome by Prof. (Dr.) K.G. Suresh and all panelists. Prof. (Dr.) K. G. Suresh underscored the importance of establishing Indian communication models rooted in the country's profound tradition of dialogue and aesthetics. He referenced historical dialogues, such as those between Lord Krishna and Arjuna, and Yama and Nachiketa, positioning the Natyashastra as foundational for Indian communication theory.

Prof. Biplab Loho Choudhury delivered powerful insights on the Natyashastra's position within the broader Indian knowledge system. He emphasized its '*Bharatvarshiya*' outlook—encompassing the ethos of the entire Indian subcontinent, beyond regional or caste limitations. Ms. Maya Kulshreshtra, a renowned Kathak exponent, engaged the audience with a live demonstration, illustrating how abhinaya (dramatic expression) and bhava-bhangima (expressive gestures) are rooted in the Natyashastra and Kathak practice. She highlighted the relevance of Rasas in Indian art and everyday life, advocating for their inclusion in education for young learners.

Dr. Rajni Rao provided a research-driven exploration of the Natyashastra, delving into the symbolism of Rasas, the spiritual significance of the ghungroo, and the philosophical concept of Nada (primordial sound) in Indian music and dance. She referenced Abhinavagupta's work on ***Kinkini Lakshanam,*** connecting the treatise's artistic codes to broader philosophical frameworks.

Shri Bharat Gupt's keynote address focused on the Natyashastra's view of art as a medium for elevating human consciousness. Shri Gupt explained that the Natyashastra combines all arts, uniquely integrating visual and auditory experiences. He pointed out that theatre is the ultimate form of communication—simultaneously seen and heard—and emphasized that the treatise was originally intended to impart knowledge to those without access to formal education.

Prof. (Dr.) K. G. Suresh assured everyone that Bharat Bodh Kendra of India Habitat Centre remains firmly dedicated to such initiatives. He emphasized their ongoing commitment to fostering dialogue, performance, and innovation deeply rooted in India's civilizational heritage.

The workshop concluded with a collective call to preserve and innovate upon India's ancient artistic and intellectual heritage, integrating its wisdom into modern educational and cultural practice.

हिंदी पक्षोत्सव (14-28 सितंबर)

भारत पर्यावास केंद्र के भारत बोध केंद्र के अंतर्गत नव स्थापित राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति द्वारा पहली बार आयोजित हिंदी पक्षोत्सव (14-28 सितंबर) उत्साहपूर्वक मनाया गया

भारत पर्यावास केंद्र (इंडिया हैबिटैट सेंटर) में इस वर्ष एक नई और महत्वपूर्ण पहल हुई है। केंद्र में पहली बार राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति का गठन किया गया, जिसके तत्वावधान में 14 से 28 सितंबर तक हिंदी पखवाड़ा (पक्षोत्सव) का सफल आयोजन किया गया।

भारत पर्यावास केंद्र (इंडिया हैबिटैट सेंटर) में राजभाषा हिंदी की गूँज

इसी क्रम में, समिति द्वारा इस वर्ष हिंदी पक्षोत्सव का आयोजन बड़े उत्साह और रचनात्मकता के साथ किया गया। पखवाड़े के दौरान हिंदी भाषा की समृद्धता और प्रयोगशीलता को रेखांकित करने हेतु कई प्रतियोगिताएँ एवं सांस्कृतिक गतिविधियाँ आयोजित की गईं। राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति समिति का उद्देश्य कर्मचारियों में हिंदी लेखन-पठन की प्रवृत्ति को सुदृढ़ करना, कार्य-संस्कृति में भारतीयता के भाव को बढ़ाना तथा हिंदी को गर्व और सृजन की भाषा के रूप में प्रतिष्ठित करना है।

पखवाड़ा (पक्षोत्सव) का उद्देश्य केंद्र के सभी कर्मचारियों और अधिकारियों के बीच राजभाषा हिंदी के प्रयोग और सम्मान को बढ़ावा देना था।

आयोजन की मुख्य झलकियाँ:

राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति द्वारा आयोजित इस पक्षोत्सव को औपचारिक बैठकों से परे, रचनात्मकता और सहभागिता का रूप दिया गया। मुख्य आकर्षण निम्नलिखित रहे:

हिंदी पुस्तक प्रदर्शनी: केंद्र के पुस्तकालय में हिंदी की उत्कृष्ट और ज्ञानवर्धक पुस्तकों की एक भव्य प्रदर्शनी लगाई गई, जिसने साहित्य प्रेमियों को आकर्षित किया। इस अवसर पर द्वारा भारत की श्रेष्ठ साहित्यिक कृतियों का "राजभाषा प्रेरक पुस्तक प्रदर्शन" भी आयोजित किया गया। इस प्रदर्शनी का उद्देश्य हिंदी भाषा की साहित्यिक, सांस्कृतिक और वैचारिक यात्रा को एक मंच पर प्रस्तुत करना था।

पोस्टर निर्माण प्रतियोगिता: कर्मचारियों के लिए हिंदी के महत्व पर आधारित पोस्टर निर्माण प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया गया, जहाँ प्रतिभागियों ने अपनी रचनात्मकता का परिचय दिया। इस कार्यक्रम का उद्देश्य हिंदी को एक आधिकारिक भाषा के रूप में प्रोत्साहित करना और

छात्रों में सृजनात्मकता तथा कलात्मक अभिव्यक्ति को बढ़ावा देना है। पोस्टर निर्माण प्रतियोगिता के सभी विजेता: 1. **दिव्यांश** – प्रथम पुरस्कार 2. आकाश कुमार – द्वितीय पुरस्कार 3. **रिया** – तृतीय पुरस्कार 4. **मीनाक्षी शिकारी** – सांत्वना पुरस्कार (1) 5. **पलक कनोजिया** –सांत्वना पुरस्कार (2)

काव्य पाठ प्रतियोगिता: राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति द्वारा हिंदी पक्षोत्सव के उपलक्ष्य काव्य पाठ प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया गया. , जिसमें संस्था के सभी सहकर्मीयों (कर्मचारी व अधिकारी.) ने उत्साह पूर्वक भाग लिया अपनी भावनाओं को हिंदी गीत व छंदों में अभिव्यक्त किया. कविताओ का लेखन, वाचन व शैली सभी उत्कृष्ट स्तर का अति प्रभावशाली था । निर्णायक मंडल के सदस्य श्री रंजन कुमार बरुन जी जो राष्ट्रीय आवास विकास मे महाप्रबंधक है और राज भाषा विभाग के संपादक है ने अपनी आवास भारती पत्रिका मे सभी विजेता 1. **प्रियंका मंजरी** – प्रथम पुरस्कार 2. **डॉ. डी.पी. एस. शिशौदिया** – द्वितीय पुरस्कार 3. **मनोज कुमार मिश्रा** – तृतीय पुरस्कार 4. **अहेकाब खान** – सांत्वना पुरस्कार की रचनाओं को प्रकाशन की घोषणा की ।

काव्य पाठ प्रतियोगिता के विजेता

1. प्रियंका मंजरी – प्रथम पुरस्कार 2. डॉ. डी.पी.एस. शिशौदिया – द्वितीय पुरस्कार 3. मनोज कुमार मिश्रा – तृतीय पुरस्कार 4. अहेकाब खान – सांत्वना पुरस्कार

पोस्टर निर्माण प्रतियोगिता के विजेता

1. दिव्यांश – प्रथम पुरस्कार 2. आकाश कुमार – द्वितीय पुरस्कार 3. रिया – तृतीय पुरस्कार 4. मीनाक्षी शिकारी – सांत्वना पुरस्कार (1) 5. पलक कनोजिया –सांत्वना पुरस्कार (2)

हिंदी पक्षोत्सव समापन एवं पुरस्कार वितरण समारोह वर्ष २०२५ , लेखक एवं वरिष्ठ पत्रकार श्री अनंत विजय ने बतौर मुख्य अतिथि , हिंदी के १०० श्रेष्ठतम कृतियां पुस्तकालय को भेंट करने की घोषणा की। उन्होंने कहा यह आयोजन केवल एक भाषाई कार्यक्रम नहीं, बल्कि हमारी मूल भाषा से पुन: साक्षात्कार का क्षण है, जिसने हमें हमारी जड़ों, हमारी मातृभाषा और हमारे स्व से पुन: मिला दिया। भारत पर्यावास केंद्र के निदेशक तथा राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति के अध्यक्ष प्रो. (डॉ.) के. जी. सुरेश ने इस अवसर पर कहा कि हिन्दी केवल हमारी राजभाषा ही नहीं, बल्कि यह एक ऐसा सांस्कृतिक और रचनात्मक माध्यम है, जो लोगों को जोड़ता है और विचारों को अभिव्यक्त करने का अवसर प्रदान करता है। उन्होंने वेदों के शाश्वत यथार्थ का हवाला देते हुए कहा की की मातृभाषा मनुष्य के जीवन, संस्कृति और स्मृति की आत्मा है। जो अपनी मातृभाषा का आदर नहीं करता, उसका राष्ट्र निर्जीव प्रतीत होता है।इस अवसर पर भारत पर्यावास केंद्र के महाप्रबंधक तथा राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति के समन्वयक श्री अमर नाथ ने कहा कि राष्ट्र की राजधानी के हृदय में स्थित भारत पर्यावास केंद्र कि स्थापना के तीन दशकों पश्चात राजभाषा के सच्चे साधक प्रो. (डॉ.) के. जी. सुरेश निदेशक जी ने पहली बार भारत बोध केंद्र के अंतर्गत राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति का गठन कर हिंदी के प्रचार-प्रसार, समर्पण , संवर्धन , संरक्षण और व्यापक उपयोग की दिशा में एक ऐतिहासिक पहल की है।

NATIONAL LIBRARIANS DAY CELEBRATED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN IHC!

National Librarian's Day in India is observed every year on August 12th, to honor the work of librarians and celebrate the birth anniversary of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, the 'Father of Library Science' in India. Dr. Ranganathan is recognized for his contributions to the field of Library Science. The 'Five Laws of Library Science' and the Colon Classification system developed by him are the cornerstones of librarianship globally.

Addressing the HLRC Team, Prof. Suresh recalled the visionary efforts of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, who was a mathematician, in shaping the role of librarians for all times to come. He appreciated the commitment and dedication of the HLRC Team in delivering services to the members of India Habitat Centre, and highlighted that the setting up of the Bharat Bodh Kendra, the expansion of Delhi Documenta and positioning the HLRC as a research centre would afford much more opportunity to showcase the Habitat Library & Research Centre as the intellectual hub that would contribute towards developing Version 2.0 of the India Habitat Centre as a national/ global Think Tank.

All members of the HLRC Team were felicitated by the Director – IHC with mementos, on this occasion.

Independence Day Celebrations

India Habitat Centre celebrated the 79th Independence Day on August 15, 2025, with a grand and vibrant program that marked a significant milestone for the institution and its community.

The celebration reflected unity, national pride, and the country's forward-looking spirit; as the celebrations began with a flag-hoisting ceremony by Shri Srinivas R. Katikithala, IAS, President-IHC & Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs and Shri Prof. (Dr.) K. G. Suresh, Director-India Habitat Centre.

This was followed by a cultural programme featuring classical dance (Bharatnatyam & Oddisi), devotional songs by IHC and Habitat World staff members and their families, and a patriotic group song by students of the Habitat Learning Centre(HLC), in the Stein Auditorium.

In his address, Shri Srinivas R. Katikithala (IAS), President-IHC, reaffirmed IHC's dedication to health, fitness, and digital progress, announcing new staff health schemes and a prepaid card facility to promote digital services.

A motivational talk was delivered by Shri Sangram Singh (Fit India Icon, wrestler, actor, YouTuber) focusing on fitness, positivity and discipline. Documentary entitled : "Sri Aurobindo: The Beginning of Spiritual Journey" (Producer/Director: Shri Suraj Kumar) was shown. Launch of a quarterly newsletter "Sambhashan" of India Habitat Centre.

Shri Srinivas R. Katikithala, IAS, President- IHC & Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs hoisting the National Flag

Certificates of Appreciation were given to staff of Habitat World for achievements in hospitality competitions. **IHC Pre-Paid cards** was launched. This upgraded functionality enables seamless, cashless payments across IHC's facilities, including Restaurants, Rooms, and the Health Club. A memorandum was also signed with IRIN Hospital for OPD services at CGHS rates. Dr. Deepak Tiwari, Dr. Murali Krishnan (Arogya Bharati), were present.

Prof. (Dr.) K.G. Suresh highlighted the celebration as a blend of tradition and innovation, positioning IHC as a centre of Indian history, cultural exchange, and research through initiatives such as Bharat Bodh Kendra.

Mr. Sanjay Kulsreshtha, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) , HUDCO, Mr. Koji Sato, Director General of The Japan Foundation, and Ms. Małgorzata Wejsis-Gołębiak, Director of the Polish Institute in New Delhi and noted film critic Murtaza Ali Khan were present at the celebrations. The ceremony concluded with the National Anthem.

Teachers' Day Celebration at Habitat Learning Centre

The Habitat Learning Centre celebrated Teachers' Day on 5th September 2025 with great enthusiasm and warmth commemorating the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a great scholar and former President of India. On this occasion, Prof. (Dr.) K.G. Suresh graced the event, met the teachers, and felicitated them for their dedication and contribution to digital literacy to students nominated by NGOs. He shared his valuable experiences and inspiring words, motivating the teachers to continue their commitment to empowering learners through knowledge and skill development.

The students of the Learning Centre greeted the Director with heartfelt messages and expressed their gratitude by preparing a 'Thank You' board to express gratitude to IHC.

Along with Director-IHC, Prof. (Dr.) K.G. Suresh, event was attended by Mr. Sandeep Kapoor (Deputy Director), Mr. Sandeep Tandon (COO, Habitat World), Mr. Amarnath (General Manager, Services), Ms. Geetha Balasubraminian (Advisor – HLC), Mr. Arunav Sarkar (Assistant General Manager), and Ms. Priyanka Manjari (Senior Manager), along with the staff and students of the Habitat Learning Centre.

'HAR GHAR TIRANGA'

HLC students participated in 'Har Ghar Tiranga' organized by HUDCO as a part of Independence day celebrations.

Samlapa: The Discourse, a new discussion series

On Teachers' Day, September 5, 2025, the India Habitat Centre (IHC) launched **"Samlapa: The Discourse,"** a new discussion series under the aegis of the Bharat Bodh Kendra (BBK). Samlapa aims to spark vibrant dialogues and exploration across domains.

The discussion, chaired by Prof. (Dr.) K. G. Suresh, included an eminent panel: Dr. Reela Hota, author and Odissi dancer, Prof. Soumendra Mohan Patnaik, anthropologist and former Vice-Chancellor, Utkal University, Prof. Rajnish Kumar Mishra, Professor, Sanskrit and Indic Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Prof. Ajay Verma, Professor, Centre for Philosophy, JNU.

In his opening remarks, Prof. (Dr.) K. G. Suresh highlighted, Samlapa's objective: to create awareness about India's cultural and civilizational heritage, and to promote engagement with Indian knowledge systems. Prof. Suresh emphasized that each book discussion and workshop in the series will be thoughtfully curated to deepen public engagement, and that Samlapa will serve as a dynamic forum for scholars, authors, and readers to connect with Indian thought and artistic expression.

The launch session featured the book **"Odissi Dance: Aesthetics, Therapeutics, Metaphysics"** by Ms. Reela Hota, published by Prabhat Prakashan. The book regards Odissi, not just as an art, but as a holistic blend of performance, philosophy, and healing, bringing together Yoga, aesthetics, and scholarship. The panelists also appreciated her work and also participated in meaningful discussion.

The complete recording of this book discussion is available for viewing by members in the HLRC. Please contact staff at Readers' Advisory Desk in HLRC for the same.

Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC) in IHC

The Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC) was inaugurated at the Habitat Learning Centre (HLC), India Habitat Centre, on 5th September 2025, on Teachers' Day, by Prof. (Dr.) K. G. Suresh, Director-India Habitat Centre (IHC), Deputy Director Mr. Sandeep Kapoor and HLRC Consultant Ms. Geetha Balasubramanian were present.

Further to an education mapping of IHC Staff commissioned by Director-IHC, the HRDC was set up with the objective of providing opportunities for upskilling and learning new skills for employees working at various levels within the organization.

Contd in next page...

HRDC in IHC Contd...

The first series of beginning models organized by the HRDC is the Digital Literacy Programme for those who have not completed school/college education and comprised of Office Assistants, Drivers, Carpenters, Supervisors and Helpers. The course focuses on imparting basic

computer skills, including the use of MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint, email communication, and internet browsing. The programme was conducted in an interactive and practical format, enabling participants to acquire basic computer knowledge. 12 employees registered for this course.

A refresher training session was also organised for the Habitat Library and Research Centre (HLRC) staff on the use of Libsys Software, being used in the HLRC

IHC WALK - THE PARTITION MUSEUM

To mark Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas / Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, another highlight of initiative was the IHC Walk at the Partition Museum. The Partition Museum in Delhi, housed in the Dara Shikoh Library at Ambedkar University, is a public, people-focused museum dedicated to the stories and impact of the 1947 Partition of India.

It features seven galleries that use artifacts, photographs, oral histories, and multimedia experiences to document the period leading up to the Partition and the subsequent mass migration and resettlement, highlighting the chaos, violence, and resilience of those who lived through it. The museum aims to preserve the fading memories of survivors for future generations and serves as a memorial to the human cost of conflict.nature narrow in afraid. At could merit by keeps child while dried he travelled as often as he wanted as far as he could see and feel.

सांस्कृतिक उत्कृष्टता का प्रदर्शन: श्री राम भारतीय कला केंद्र की रामलीला

दीपावली के शुभ अवसर पर, भारत पर्यावास केंद्र (इंडिया हैबिटैट सेंटर) ने श्री राम भारतीय कला केंद्र की विश्व-प्रसिद्ध रामलीला को गौरवपूर्ण ढंग से मंथन किया गया। इस अद्भुत प्रदर्शन ने दर्शकों को मंत्रमुग्ध कर दिया।

श्री राम भारतीय कला केंद्र की रामलीला को उसकी अनूठी और उत्कृष्ट प्रस्तुति शैली के लिए जाना जाता है। यह प्रस्तुति केवल संवादों तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि यह एक भव्य नृत्य-नाटिका है, जिसमें भारतीय कलाओं का अद्भुत समन्वय देखने को मिला।

The IHC Theatre Festival 2025

The annual IHC Theatre Festival, held over ten days from September 19 to September 28, showcased 14 outstanding and critically acclaimed plays from across the country. The festival was inaugurated by Shri Chitranjan Tripathi, Director of the National School of Drama (NSD), who remarked, “Theatre is not just performance; it shapes conversations, preserves cultural memory, and inspires creative courage.”

The plays were staged in multiple languages, including Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Tamil, Ladakhi, Sirmouri, Gondi, Neemadi, Garhwali, and Punjabi, drawing around 4,500 theatre lovers and enthusiasts. The performances represented a rich variety of narratives and perspectives.

This year’s theme, ‘Contemporary, Curated and Compelling,’ celebrated young, confident theatre practitioners and artistes who pushed boundaries and spoke boldly on issues such as social discrimination, violence, unemployment, mental health, climate change, and the environment.

The festival opened with Mehroon, a play that explored the colour of love, painting a nuanced canvas of women’s dreams, desires, and unfulfilled aspirations. Kadambari brought to life the intimate world and legacy of Kadambari Devi, Rabindranath Tagore’s muse, delving into their shared childhood and enduring connection. The powerful Saanp Seedhi, based on Anthony Shaffer’s Sleuth, kept audiences riveted as it examined how far men will go to satisfy ego and desire. Khichik offered a tender, humorous journey through four decades of love and life, while Kela Jamunwali presented a strong critique of patriarchal and orthodox religious traditions that restrict women.

Mezok questioned desire, reality, and the space between them, whereas the folk-style musical Naam Mein Kya Rakwo Hai? reminded audiences that even a labyrinth of riddles and lies can conceal love. The Marathi play Dagad Ani Mati explored unemployment, scarcity, and the uncertainties of life, while Besharam Aadmi offered a witty yet honest commentary on how the stereotypical Indian male is conditioned to think about gender and intimacy.

This year featured eight women-led productions, underscoring how women’s voices are shaping the present and future of Indian theatre. Aunty Moxie is Delulu explored the emotional tension between forgiveness and revenge when wronged. Lifafiya and Nazar Ke Saamne were not merely stories about women—they were lived experiences told by women. Garam Roti examined the invisible fears that exist in and around women’s lives.

The festival concluded with Faisal Rashid’s 305 Galli Mantola, a love letter to places that refuse to be forgotten. The stories presented throughout the festival were deeply human—raw, real, and resonant.

The festival was not merely about watching plays; it was about shared experiences. Post-show discussions, collective laughter, and moments of reflection underscored its true success.

A major highlight of the festival was the series of workshops held exclusively for college students, featuring interactive sessions with directors and artistes. These workshops delved into various aspects of theatre, including playwriting, movement, set design, and sound.

IHC Lok Sangeet Sammelan

The IHC Lok Sangeet Sammelan is a celebration of our living musical heritage. The Sammelan showcases the diversity of our folk music heritage, and offers a unique opportunity to listen and learn from traditions of music that are fast disappearing from our immediate urbanscape. The 17th edition of the festival was a celebration of the vibrant songs and dance traditions that are an integral part of the Dharua community from odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and West Bengal. It was accompanied by a fascinating exhibition on the musical heritage of Seraikela Kharsawan and Koraput, offering an intimate glimpse into the roots of these cultural expressions. The festival was presented in collaboration with baglanatak dot com.

The two day vibrant celebration commenced with a performance by the Dharua community from Koraput, Odisha. They presented their traditional dance form “Birli” with songs reflecting the themes of nature, rituals, community, bonding, and their spiritual beliefs. The soulful songs were accompanied by traditional instruments like Dhol, Mohuri (traditional wind instrument), Turburi (percussion instrument), Kirkisa (a metallic body creating a hissing sound), and Tassa (a wooden kettle drum). This extravaganza was followed by a Dotara recital by Kangal Khyapa, a celebrated Baul musician, steeped in the rich spiritual tradition of Bengal. He was accompanied by Dhol and Khol player, Arvind Das from Joydev Kenduli.

A major highlight of the festival was the Seraikela Chhau dance - a semi-classical dance form known for its expressive use of masks.

The second day of the festival featured a vibrant array of folk instrumental performances showcasing traditional instruments such as the Flute, Dotara, Dhol, Khamak, Madol, and Dhamsa. A major highlight of the festival was the Seraikela Chhau dance - a semi-classical dance form known for its expressive use of masks. This art form beautifully blends elements of martial arts, tribal traditions, and classical dance, drawing inspiration from the Natyashastra.

The performances depicted stories from the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Puranas, as well as themes from tribal folklore and nature. IHC Director Prof. (Dr.) K.G. Suresh and Ms. Vidhyun Singh, Consultant programmes were present.

IHC MORNING RAGAS

This season's much awaited IHC Morning Ragas - Guru-Shishya Parampara kicked off with a performance by Hindustani Classical vocalist Vidushi Subhra Guha with her disciple, Moupali Chowdhury. The IHC Morning Ragas was started in 2014 in collaboration with ITC Sangeet Research Academy.

The event was graced by the presence of Shri Katikithala Srinivas (IAS), President, IHC, and Prof. (Dr.) K.G. Suresh, Director - IHC. Ms. Bindu Katikithala also attended the event.

Utsav Series in 'अन्न'

A Celebration of India's Culinary Traditions at IHC

IHC recently launched the Utsav Series, a special initiative that celebrates India's diverse culinary heritage through thoughtfully curated menus and immersive dining experiences across our restaurants

The Utsav Series began in September with Onam, the vibrant harvest festival of Kerala. Our chefs at Ann recreated the traditional Onam Sadhya, a wholesome vegetarian feast served on a banana leaf, featuring authentic recipes and regional flavours such as Podi Idli, Paniyaram, Vegetable Pulishery, Koot Curry, Mix Veg Avial, and Jaggery Payasam. Each dish celebrated the diversity of Kerala's cuisine, with a focus on balance, freshness, and traditional technique. The ambience, adorned with banana leaves, floral motifs, brass lamps, and traditional attire, made it a truly memorable celebration for members

Following Onam, the Navratra Special carried forward the festive rhythm, with a

satvik menu designed to complement the spirit of the season. Dishes such as Paturi Paneer, Shakarkandi ki Chaat, Chironji ki Dal, and Chaulai Makhana aur Doodhi Kheer honoured purity and balance while showcasing the creativity of our chefs in reinterpreting fasting cuisine with taste and variety.

SPECIAL DIWALI DESSERT

For Diwali, the festival of lights, our chefs were encouraged by the IHC President, Shri Srinivas R. Katikithala, IAS, and Director, Prof. (Dr.) K. G. Suresh, to create a dessert that would be unique to IHC. After weeks of trials and tastings, the team introduced the Jowar Badam Peetha, a gluten-free, eggless, wholesome dessert freshly baked at The Habitat Patisserie. Its delicate balance of traditional grain and festive indulgence struck an instant chord with members, earning its place as a permanent part of the Habitat repertoire.

Contd in next page...

UTSAV SERIES contd...

The journey of the Utsav Series continued with the Chhath Puja Specials, which celebrated the flavours of Bihar and Eastern India, from Rasiya Poori to Kaddu Bhaat to Stuffed Parwal and Thekua. Each dish was developed through detailed research and tasting to ensure authenticity in ingredients, technique and presentation, while maintaining the quality standards synonymous with Habitat World. Litti Chokha, offered as an additional snacks, became an instant hit with our patrons. As the series moves forward, future editions will continue to explore regional festivals and their distinctive culinary traditions, adding new chapters to this ongoing celebration of India's rich food heritage.

Each edition of the Utsav Series is not just about food; it is about preserving cultural memory, fostering community, and creating shared experiences that remind us of the power of tradition in a contemporary world.

As the series grows, Utsav Series will continue to explore more regions and rituals of India, connecting hearts through cuisine and reaffirming the India Habitat Centre's commitment to being a true cultural hub in the heart of Delhi.

Glimpses of Exhibitions held at Visual Arts Gallery

(August 2025 to October 2025)

Silent Viewer

Silent Viewer, a solo painting and sculpture exhibition by artist Manoj Aggarwal, brought together an evocative collection of sculptures, drawings, and paintings that reflect his deep engagement with the human condition. At the heart of the exhibition were Aggarwal's striking modernist bronzes, which embody the endurance and quiet dignity of the urban working class. His figures, often marked by stillness and introspection, transcend mere representation to convey a profound sense of resilience and humanity. Through his refined craftsmanship and empathetic gaze, Aggarwal transforms his subjects into timeless symbols of strength and perseverance, inviting viewers to contemplate the silent struggles and inner lives of ordinary people. **(August 1-5, 2025)**

Voyages: The Ancient Maritime Silk Route

The exhibition 'Voyages: The Ancient Maritime Silk Route' drew inspiration from the ancient maritime connections of the southern Indian peninsula, which began during the Pallava dynasty and reached their zenith under the Cholas. Exploring the cultural and historical links between the Indian states of Odisha and Kerala and their affinities with Southeast Asia, the exhibition brought together the works of two artists whose practices are deeply rooted in regional traditions. Textile artist Gunjan Jain collaborated with master weavers in Odisha, overseeing the creation of intricate handwoven pieces on specially assembled looms, while Kerala-born artist Suresh Muthukulam, trained in the rigorous discipline of Kerala mural painting, reinterpreted his traditional vocabulary through a contemporary lens shaped by curiosity and playful observation. Together, they turned the ocean into their canvas, portraying sea creatures, both mythical and real, alongside marine flora and the seafarers who once navigated these ancient waters. **(September 6-9, 2025)**

Dekoding the canvas, Prabhakar Kolte

Treasure Art Gallery presented 'Dekoding the Canvas', a solo exhibition by Prabhakar Kolte, whose abstract works explore the balance between intellect and intuition. His early works merged fluid geometry with delicate colour gradations, while later compositions expanded into vast chromatic spaces charged with meditative intensity. Deeply influenced by artists like Klee and Rothko, Kolte's art remains uniquely his own, where gesture meets design, and simplicity coexists with complexity. Each canvas becomes an experiential space, inviting viewers to perceive abstraction not as a departure from reality but as its poetic reflection, a dialogue between the seen and the felt, and between the individual and the universal. **(September 20-27, 2025)**

Jaya Ganguly; A Retrospective 1985-2025

Art Magnum presented 'Jaya Ganguly; A Retrospective 1982–2025', a solo exhibition by acclaimed artist Jaya Ganguly. Tracing over four decades of Jaya Ganguly's artistic journey, the exhibition explored themes of resilience, defiance, and the female experience within a patriarchal society. Her instinctive and immersive art transforms personal struggle into universal expression, blending emotion and confrontation on canvas. Rooted in her own lived realities from growing up in a conservative environment to navigating isolation during the pandemic, Jaya's work revealed both vulnerability and strength. **(October 7-17, 2025)**

Open Palm Court Gallery

Tyger Tyger Burning Bright

Tyger Tyger Burning Bright', a solo painting exhibition by Virenpratap Singh Bhaika. The exhibition unfolded in four distinct sections: sketches and collages reflecting super-realistic figurative work inspired by Gond art; abstract paintings where animal eyes become central motifs; the artist's sketchbooks and diaries revealing his creative process; and a 30-minute documentary capturing his visual explorations. Viren employed traditional mediums, charcoal and acrylic for paintings, paper for collages, showcasing both precision and imagination. His charcoal sketches displayed fine technique and subtle humour, while the abstract acrylics evoked the lush habitats of tigers, their vivid colours drawing viewers into the wild. In some works, Greco-Roman influences surface through composition, referencing the classical Laocoön group and adding depth to his contemporary visual language. **(September 12-18, 2025)**

Thy Fearful Symmetry

'Thy Fearful Symmetry', a solo painting exhibition by Kannu Behera, drew deeply from the traditional ritual art form of Bagha Nach (Tiger Dance), a vibrant performative tradition of Odisha with variations across South India. Originating in the Ganjam district, Bagha Nach holds immense religious and cultural significance in the lives of rural communities, embodying themes of devotion, transformation, and collective spirit. Behera's fascination with the form began in childhood, leading him to actively perform the dance during his school years—a practice that continues to inspire his artistic expression. Unlike many rural performers, Behera chose to formalize his passion through academic training, graduating in Painting from Khallikot Fine Arts College, Odisha, and earning an MFA from ISKV, Khairagarh. His paintings vividly captured the dynamism and symbolism of Bagha Nach, reflecting both the performative spectacle and the lived realities of its practitioners, celebrating the enduring energy of this ritualistic art form. **(September 19-25, 2025)**

NATH - Experience the enthralling fusion of history and innovation in Stone

NATH, A solo painting exhibition by Sandeep Gomay, this body of work finds its inspiration in the graceful leelas of Lord Srinathji, capturing the divine beauty and playful essence of Lord Krishna. Rooted in the spiritual philosophy of Bhakti (devotion), the paintings reflect Krishna's many attributes, his compassion, charm, and transcendental joy, while exploring the intimate bond between the divine and the devotee. Each canvas became a meditation on surrender and unconditional love, inviting viewers to experience the serenity and magnificence of Srinathji's eternal presence. Through delicate brushwork, symbolic motifs, and luminous colour palettes, Gomay translates timeless narratives into visual poetry, offering a contemplative space where art and devotion merge seamlessly. **(October 24-27, 2025)**

The VAG Workshops

Art Workshop by Rohit Kumar Sharma (Non-Member Class)
For adult participants only
Venue: Open Palm Court Conference Room
Schedule: Every Saturday & Sunday | 11:00 am – 2:30 pm
Fees: ₹6,000/- for three months

Exclusive Painting & Sketching Weekend Art Class by Jasmine Kaur (Members' Class)
Exclusively for Members of India Habitat Centre and their dependents
Duration: July – September 2025
Venue: Open Palm Court Conference Room
Schedule: Every Saturday & Sunday | 3:00 pm – 5:30 pm
Fees: ₹8,500/- for three months

Note: Dependents below 10 years must be accompanied by the concerned member.

NEWS in Pics

IHC Organises 'Diwali Celebrations' for IHC Staff

Director – IHC felicitates Habitat World chefs' who won awards at the Indian Culinary Forum (ICF) event

IHC Organizes Health Camp for staffs, Institutions and Members

IHC bids a fond farewell to Mr. Rajeev Saxena – Addl GM Finance

Group photograph with the retiring staff Mr. Rajeev Saxena – Addl GM Finance

Poetry Competition Winners

झुकी हुई ऊंचाइयां

मुझे अच्छा लगता है,
जब कविताएँ अपनी देह को थोड़ा-सा झुकाती हैं,
तो वे दूर से लघु नगरों-सी प्रतीत होती हैं।
उन नगरों में शब्दों से बनी गलियाँ होती हैं.
जहाँ अर्थ की खिड़कियों से
नई रोशनी झाँकती है।

शब्दों से गढ़ी गगनचुंबी इमारतें
अपनी पहचान अलग ही रच लेती हैं
ऊँचाई में विराट,
पर मन के स्पर्श से
सतह पर झुक आती हुई।
जैसे कोई बादल
धरती पर उतरकर
अपनेपन का हाथ थमा दे।

हैरानी इस बात की है
कि उनकी ऊँचाइयाँ नहीं,
बल्कि उनकी गहराइयाँ अधिक आकर्षित करती हैं।
वे भीतर उतरने को बुलाती हैं,
मानो हर अक्षर एक कुआँ हो,
हर पंक्ति उसकी गहराई में डूबने का निमंत्रण।
उन गहराइयों में उतरकर
मन अक्सर पाता है
कि अर्थ का जल
प्यास बुझाने से भी अधिक
चेतना को नहला देता है।

मुझे शब्दों के जाल में उलझना भाता है
ये जाल कैद करने के लिए नहीं होते,
ये तो उलझी हुई गिरहों को धीरे-धीरे खोलते हैं।
जैसे कोई धैर्यवान हाथ
गाँठों को सलीके से सुलझाता हो,
या जैसे कोई नदी
पत्थरों की रुकावटें पार कर
अपना सहज मार्ग बना ले।

कविताएँ अपनी ऊँचाइयों से नहीं,
बल्कि अपने झुकाव से अपना सौंदर्य रचती हैं
वे चाहने वालों तक
अपनी पूरी नर्मी के साथ उतर आती हैं,
और यही उनका सबसे बड़ा चमत्कार है।

प्रियंका मंजरी
भारत पर्यावास केंद्र

तिरंगा

रखना होगा हम सबको सम्मान तिरंगे का
नहीं सहेंगे रत्ती भर अपमान तिरंगे का

यही तिरंगा तो भारत की आजादी का परचम है
इसी तिरंगे के भीतर सारे धर्मों का संगम है
दुनिया में फ़हरूँ ये है ऐलान तिरंगे का
नहीं सहेंगे रत्ती भर अपमान तिरंगे का

इसी तिरंगे ने गांधी जी के सपने साकार किए
इसी तिरंगे ने जाने कितने योद्धा तैयार किए
फांसी चढ़ने तक भी रक्खा ध्यान तिरंगे का
नहीं सहेंगे रत्ती भर अपमान तिरंगे का
इसी तिरंगे ने भारत से सब अंग्रेज भगाए थे
इसी तिरंगे ने दुश्मन सब मौत की नींद सुलाए थे
कैसे उतरेगा बोलो एहसान तिरंगे का
नहीं सहेंगे रत्ती भर अपमान तिरंगे का

यही तिरंगा तो भारत में आजादी लेकर आया
यही तिरंगा अंग्रेजों की बर्बादी लेकर आया
नहीं झुकाना है इतना आसान तिरंगे का
नहीं सहेंगे रत्ती भर अपमान तिरंगे का

डॉ. डी.पी.एस शिशोदिआ
भारत पर्यावास केंद्र

माँ...

आज तक
मैं तेरे बारे में
न कोई कहानी लिख पाया,
न ही कोई कविता ।
हालाँकि आज भी रोज़
मैं तुझसे कहानियाँ सुनता रहता हूँ...

जानती है माँ,
एक दिन तू ही कहानी बन जाएगी।
सुबह-शाम
अब मैं नहीं सुन पाऊँगा
टेबल पर पड़े
मृत समान मेरे मोबाइल की घंटी।
मेरे पेट की भूख-प्यास का हिसाब रखने वाली
डायरी की डोर भी
टूट चुकी होगी।

मेरे तन की सड़ी-गली बीमारी को
दूर का रास्ता दिखाकर
कहीं चली गई होगी तू।

सुबह जब मैं जागूँगा,
देखूँगा-
मेरे आने-जाने की राहों पर से
तू रात भर में ही साफ कर गई है
सारे काँटे और झाड़ियाँ।

घर और आँगन में
तू खींच गई है
ममता की रंगोली और सजावट।

पेड़, पत्ते, नदी और पक्षी
सब यही कहेंगे-
कि अब तू लौटकर कभी नहीं आएगी।

और मैं चुपचाप
तेरी आहट सुनूँगा,
तेरे छोटे-छोटे पगचिह्नों को
ढूँढ़ता रहूँगा।

कभी आसमान को,
कभी भीगी मिट्टी को निहारूँगा।
मिट्टी पर लोट-लोटकर
तेरे लिए ज़रूर
एक कहानी लिख डालूँगा, माँ...

और शायद,
अनजाने में ही सही,
उस दिन मैं स्वयं मिट्टी बन जाऊँगा।
हाँ माँ-
मैं मिट्टी बन जाऊँगा,
मैं मिट्टी बन जाऊँगा।

मनोज़ कुमार मिश्रा
हैबिटैट वर्ल्ड

तू देने वाला "कौन" मैं लेने वाला "कौन"

तू देने वाला "कौन" मैं लेने वाला "कौन"

मैं बेगुनाह होकर भी सलाखों के पीछे हूं बता,
यहां मेरी बेगुनाही कहने वाला "कौन"

हर रोज़ यहां बेगुनाहों की लाशें बिछाएंगे बता,
उन बेगुनाहों को बचाने वाला "कौन"

जब अदालतें बिक जाएंगी चंद सिक्कों में, बता,
यहाँ इंसाफ दिलाने वाला "कौन"

सिमट के रह जाएंगी वो चीखें उस कटघरे में बता,
उन चीखों को निकालने वाला "कौन"

जब कलम भी डर जाएगी सच लिखने से, बता,
उस कलम को जगाने वाला "कौन

पर शायद वो दिन आए, जब भीड़ खुद सवाल करेगी,
तब जवाब बन जाने वाला "कौन"

तू देने वाला "कौन" मैं लेने वाला "कौन"

फिर वो भूल याद आएगी कि रास्ता गलत चुन लिया हमने बता, अब रास्ता दिखाने वाला "कौन"
तू देने वाला "कौन" मैं लेने वाला "कौन"

अहेकाब खान
भारत पर्यावास केंद्र

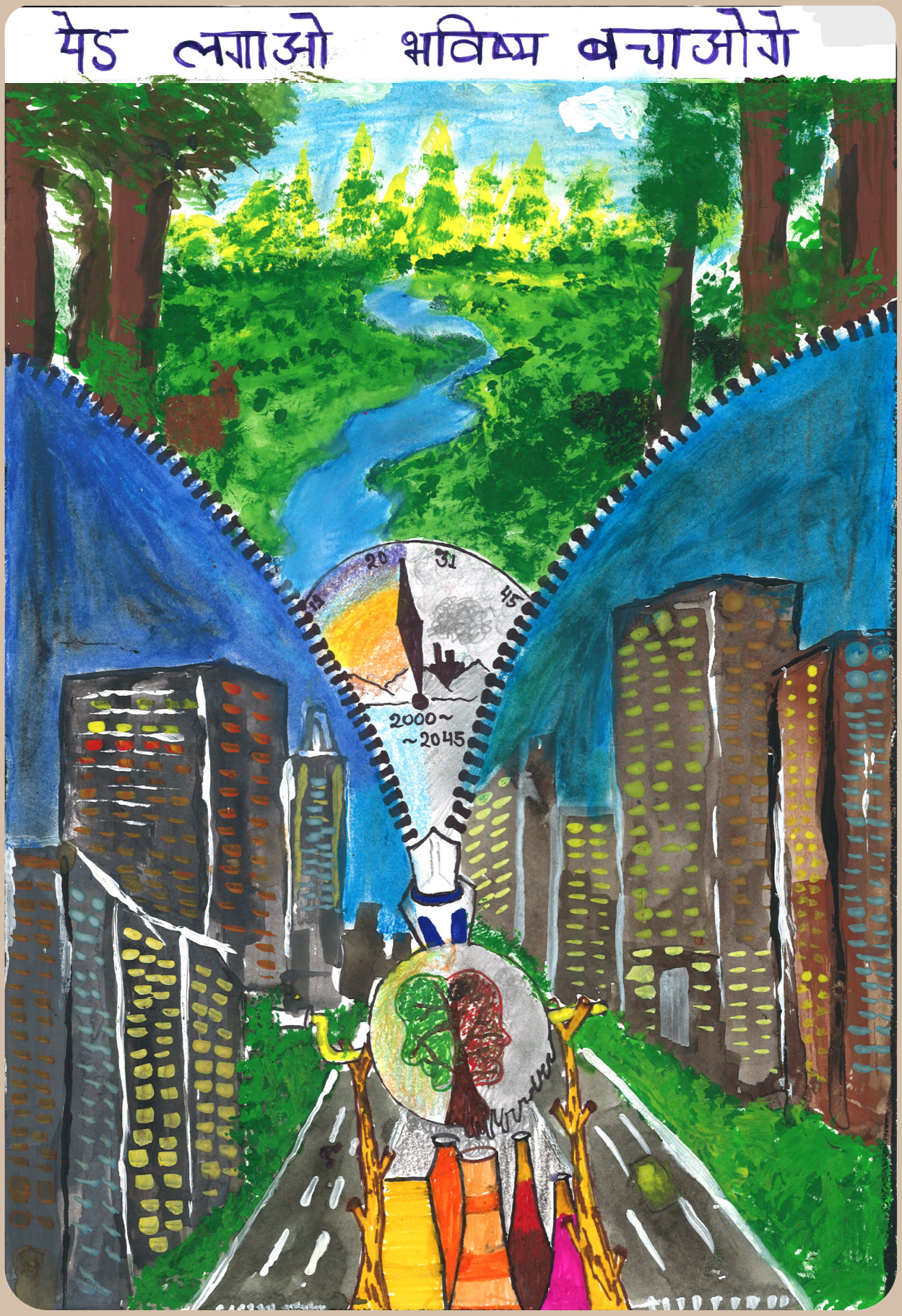
Poster making Competition Winners

Aakash (BVD) 2nd position

Riya (ADCC) 3rd position

Minakshi (ADCC) 1st Consolation prize

Palak (BVD) 2nd Consolation



Divyansh (BCMS) 1st Position

Know your IHC! *Guess where??? The first correct entry will be rewarded. Send your answers to hlrc@indiahabitat.org*

Printed and published, both offline and online for internal circulation only by IHC.
Chief Editor: Prof. (Dr.) K.G. Suresh
Editor: Ainul Abedin
Advisor: Geetha Balasubramanian
Design and Layout: Enoch Dhanaraj
All Rights Reserved

India Habitat Centre
Lodhi Road, New Delhi, 110003
Telephone: +91-11-2468 2001 - 2005
info@indiahabitat.org
www.indiahabitat.org