



# Sambhashan IHC Newsletter

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Issue •3



President-IHC, Shri Katikitala Srinavas felicitates Prof. Ojesh Pratap Singh, on the occasion of 'A Celebration of Indian Classical Music' on March 29, 2026

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Dr. Karan Singh, eminent statesman, philosopher and former Union Minister, who delivered the fifth Lecture in the IHC- ICPR Lecture series on 'Vedanta Today' on April 24, 2026 being honoured by Prof. Dr. K.G. Suresh, Director-IHC

## Director's Take



Dear Members,

The last months have been buzzing with activity in the India Habitat Centre. The mission has been to expand the range, content and spectrum of activities at the Centre, bringing new audiences, collaborations and content to the fore.

Our collaboration with Prayas, on social development issues continued and we started a new series of Study Circle Lectures with the Indian Council of Philosophical Research. We also partnered with Bahai Centre to conduct the first Round Table on Media, vide the IHC Connect series that addresses contemporary issues relevant to the Habitat space. The interest in these events has consistently resulted in packed halls and lively engagement with the speakers. Other collaborations are on the anvil.

Being an academician, it has always been my focus to highlight and expand the intellectual content of the institutions I have been associated with, and a key focus area when I joined the IHC was naturally the HLRC. Repositioning the HLRC as the Habitat Library & Research Centre, instead of its earlier identity, elevated the role of the HLRC and setting up the Bharat Bodh Kendra (BBK) within its premises, to reflect the Indian Knowledge System had been widely welcomed. The interest expressed by members has been very encouraging.

Even as members of IHC have access to the information resources in the BBK in the HLRC, bringing this knowledge space to the wider citizenry of Delhi is being achieved through the 'Samlapa' Series of panel discussions held in our premier venue – Gulmohar. The subjects covered have included the role of women from ancient times, rising Bharat, Tagore and the ever relevant subject of Vedanta. The ICPR Study Circle Lectures are also presented by the Bharat Bodh Kendra.

Very eminent persons have been featured in our events such as Mukul Kanitkar, Dr. Karan Singh, Kathak Guru - Shovana Narayan, as well as eminent authors and philosophers.

Another recent addition to the HLRC has been the setting up of the 'Bhasha' section featuring works in Indian languages in their original text and translations.

The annual Samanvay Languages Festival brought together writers, film makers, musicians and performers to unfold a multidisciplinary exploration of ecology as a lived experience and cultural memory.

Even as our Morning Raga Series continued, a special concert to celebrate Indian classical music was also organised, featuring both a Morning Raga Concert and an Afternoon Raga Concert. The artists were honoured by President – IHC, Shri Srinivas Katikithala, Secretary – Ministry of Urban Affairs, Govt. of India.

Lohri was celebrated with all the fanfare and our Hospitality Team came together to launch 'Cheeni Kum', a thoughtfully curated collection of sugar-free desserts. Introduced as a highlight of the 2026 Holi celebrations, this initiative targets health-conscious diners and diabetics visiting the centre's various restaurants. Habitat World introduced calorie-counted menus across its restaurants to promote healthier, informed dining, aligning with the #SwasthBharat and #fitindia campaigns.

The Inter-IHC Institutional Table Tennis Tournament was revived this year post – Corona, in February 2026, fostering camaraderie and sporting values among institutional members.

It has indeed been a very rewarding time and we are constantly working towards expanding the repertoire of offerings to our ever widening audiences.

Warm regards and festive wishes,



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



# IHC Celebrates Republic Day

India Habitat Centre (IHC) marked Republic Day 2026 with a special celebration at IHC, bringing together employees, students and the Habitat community in a morning of patriotism, pride and cultural expression.

The celebrations began with the unfurling of the National Flag Prof. (Dr.) K. G. Suresh, Director-India Habitat Centre and Shri Vijay Goel, Former Union Minister and Vice Chairperson, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, as the Chief Guest.



This was followed by a cultural programme which commenced with the lighting of ceremonial lamp. In his Welcome Address IHC, Director,

Prof. (Dr.) K.G. Suresh, said that a spirit of our Republic lives not only in ceremonies, but in the everyday practice of community, learning and cultural exchange. He added that this celebration reflected the ethos of IHC, where employees, students and members came together to honour the Constitution, celebrate creative-expression and foster an inclusive platform that strengthens civic consciousness through culture and dialogue.

In his address, Chief Guest Shri Vijay Goel, said that Republic day reminds us of the strength of our Constitution and unity of our nation. He added that it is heartening to see institutions like India habitat Centre bringing people together to celebrate our shared values with such enthusiasm and pride.

A short film titled 'Samvidhan Meri Nazar Mein' produced by Habitat Learning Centre, was screened to reinforce the significance of India's democratic values.

The programme included a Mohiniyattam dance and a patriotic group dance performed by 'Dance Kabila' an organization set up by HLC alumnus, Vijay. The entrepreneurial achievements of other successful alumni of the habitat Learning Centre alumni were shared and recognized.

The celebration ended with the singing of National Anthem.

## IHC LAUNCHES 'BHASHA' – A DEDICATED SECTION CELEBRATING INDIA'S LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY



In a meaningful tribute to linguistic heritage, the India Habitat Centre (IHC), inaugurated a specially curated section in the Habitat Library & Research Centre (HLRC), titled 'Bhasha', on February 21, 2026, International Mother Language Day, observed globally to promote the protection, preservation and celebration of linguistic diversity.

This section brings together a rich collection of publications in India's diverse languages, including their English translations, fostering greater awareness, accessibility, and appreciation of Indian language literature.

The new section was inaugurated by Dr. Ram Madhav, President, India Foundation, in the presence of Sh. Sanjay Kulshrestha, Chairman & Managing Director, Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO), as Guest of Honour.

Prof. (Dr.) K. G. Suresh, Director-India Habitat Centre, said that following the setting up of the Bharat Bodh Kendra,

which captures India's profound civilizational legacy in art, , music, philosophy, spirituality, history, the Bhasha section takes journey forward by celebrating the extraordinary linguistic diversity of our nation.

In his address, Dr. Ram Madhav described the library as "the soul of any institution" and warmly commended the initiative, urging its further expansion. He observed that India's history truly resides in its languages, yet their immense value has often remained underappreciated; decoding and exploring these linguistic treasures is essential, and Bhasha marks an important and timely step forward by the India Habitat Centre.



Director-IHC presenting copy of Sambhashan to Dr Ram Madhav.

## Bhasha (Contd.)

The launch of Bhasha complements IHC's annual festival, IHC Samanvay-Celebrating Indian Languages, which continues to inspire deeper engagement with our linguistic heritage.

## IHC–ICPR Study Circle Lecture Series

The IHC-ICPR Study Lecture Series is a new initiative of the Bharat Bodh Kendra (HLRC), in collaboration with the Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR).



The inaugural lecture in the series was held on December 17, 2025, setting the tone for sustained dialogue on Indian philosophy, texts, and contemporary relevance.

The programme began with the lighting of the lamp, followed by the welcome address by Prof. (Dr.) K. G. Suresh, Director-IHC. In his remarks, he outlined the vision of Bharat Bodh Kendra and emphasised the importance of creating awareness about India's rich heritage, civilisation, and cultural traditions. He described

Both Kendra (BBK) as a significant segment of HLRC that serves as an outreach platform for Indian culture and thought.

Prof. Bindu Puri, Centre for Philosophy, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Co-Convenor of this series underscored the importance of context in understanding texts, culture, and habitat. Prof. Puri reflected on the relationship between human and non-human worlds and need for their interaction in addressing habitat-related challenges.

Delivering the inaugural lecture, 'Text, and Context: Some Reflections', Prof. Sachchidanand Mishra, Member Secretary, ICPR drew upon the ideas of twentieth-century philosopher Jacques Derrida and his concept of deconstruction. He explained that the meaning of a text is not fixed but emerges through the dynamic interplay between the text and its context, allowing for multiple interpretations. He emphasised that to understand India and its traditions, texts must be approached carefully and without distortion or deviation. A clear and contextual reading of texts, he observed, is essential for preserving the depth and integrity of India's philosophical heritage.



The second lecture in the series was delivered by Sh. Mukul Kanitkar, Noted Educationist, Thinker & Author, on 'गहरी जड़ों से उभरता भारत/ Rising Bharat from Deep Roots' on January 8, 2026.

The session was chaired by Prof. (Dr. K.G. Suresh, Director-IHC. Prof. in his address, Prof. Suresh highlighted the significant role played by Sh. Mukul Kanitkar in shaping the National Education Policy (NEP). He noted that a person who has worked extensively at the grassroots level is best suited to speak on this subject. He explained that the idea behind the IHC–ICPR Study Circle is to create a dedicated space where members and researchers can understand philosophy, Indian culture, Indian civilization, and Indian belief systems

The Co-Convenor of this series, Prof. Bindu Puri, Centre for Philosophy, Jawaharlal Nehru University, spoke about contemporary issues such as climate change and emphasised the importance of understanding the synergistic relationship between humans and nature.



She observed that Western frameworks have dominated ways of looking at relationships for a long time. In contrast, ancient Indian thought presents the idea of an infinite soul and the concept of union. This, she said, forms the heart of India's classical traditions and literature. The non-human world existed in close companionship with the human world, and ancient Indian life did not view surroundings as separate or hostile. She summed up the Indian worldview through the concept of Sachidanand, which she explained in detail.

Delivering the keynote address, Sh. Kanitkar reflected on the limitations and complexities of language, noting that understanding is often deepest in the language in which we dream. He pointed out that languages carry their own boundaries and conceptual baggage. He explained that India's progress into the future must draw nourishment from its civilisational foundations. An authoritative scholar of Swami Vivekananda's philosophy, he remarked that a nation can soar into the "infinite skies of the future" only when it remains firmly anchored in its cultural and intellectual heritage. He further noted that many pillars of modern Western science and technology reflect philosophical principles deeply embedded in Indian civilization and added that experiencing a sense of eternal and expansive unity amid vast diversity is the true meaning of reconnecting with India's deep roots. He emphasised that comprehensive national development is inseparable from a strong cultural and philosophical identity.

Chief Guest, Prof. Parikshit Singh Manhas, Director, Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC), UGC, spoke about the need for more research and be more adaptive; and highlighted that we need to understand from where we come from, what our history is all about, what our culture is all about.

The session included an engaging question-and-answer session.



The third Lecture in the IHC–ICPR Study Circle Lecture Series was delivered by Prof. Mrinal Miri, Retired Professor of Philosophy, on 'Family morality and absolute in the Bhagavad Gita', held on February 26, 2026. Prof. Bindu Puri, Co-Convener of the Study Circle, introduced the theme of the lecture and set the context by emphasizing the civilizational continuity of Indian philosophical thought of which, the Bhagavad Gita becomes very important.

In his lecture, Prof. Miri explained that he approached the Bhagavad Gita from a philosophical perspective, treating it as a series of philosophical reflections, adding that human life that includes both physical and non-physical dimensions. This perspective differs from the common Western philosophical distinction between body and mind.

Prof. Miri further explored the opening chapters of the Bhagavad Gita, a foundational philosophical text that addresses the moral and metaphysical dilemmas faced by Arjuna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra. He highlighted how this moment raises important philosophical questions about duty (dharma), moral doubt, grief, and attachment; and examined the tension between familial loyalty and the demands of a higher, absolute moral order, reflecting on questions of duty (dharma), moral doubt, attachment, grief, and transcendence.

Highlighting how classical Indian thought grapples with enduring ethical conflicts, Prof. Miri emphasised that the philosophical insights of the Bhagavad Gita continue to remain deeply relevant in contemporary personal and public life.



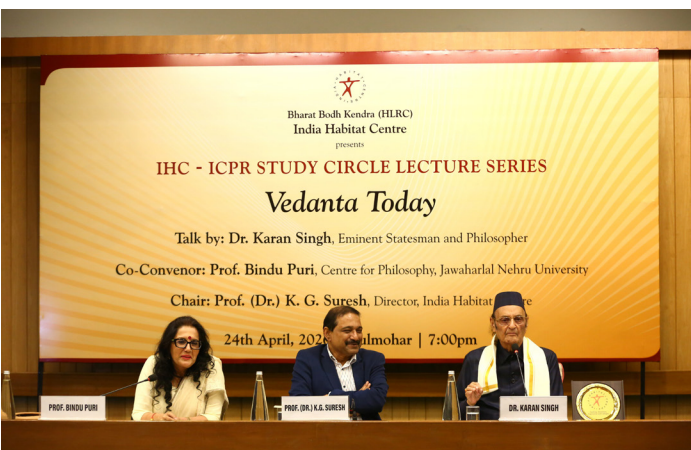
The fourth Lecture in the IHC–ICPR Study Circle Lecture Series was delivered by Prof. Bindu Puri, Centre for Philosophy, Jawaharlal Nehru University on 'Rabindranath Tagore on the Harmony of Inter-relationship in the Universe', held on March 30, 2026.

In his welcome address, Prof. Suresh reiterated the Centre's commitment to fostering meaningful dialogue on India's rich philosophical heritage. He highlighted the ongoing initiatives of the Bharat Bodh Kendra in deepening understanding of Indian culture and traditions. Emphasising the enduring relevance of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, Prof. Suresh spoke about the importance of universal interconnectedness in today's fragmented world. He also reflected on Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's vision and underscored the value of the Gurukul system, calling for wider national-level discussions on these themes in contemporary education.



Delivering the keynote lecture, Prof. Bindu Puri offered a profound philosophical exploration of Tagore's thought, focusing on interconnectedness, the infinite dimension of human existence, and the harmonious relationship between humans and nature. She highlighted Tagore's strong rejection of exploitative attitudes toward nature in favour of mutual respect and joyful coexistence. Prof. Puri emphasised that Tagore's ideas transcend disciplinary boundaries and remain highly relevant to addressing today's ecological and ethical challenges.

Chief Guest, Prof. Baldev Bhai Sharma lauded the attentive and reflective audience, describing it as a rare gathering. He appreciated the efforts of the Bharat Bodh Kendra and commended Prof. K. G. Suresh for his leadership. Congratulating Prof. Bindu Puri on her insightful lecture, he noted that such programmes play a vital role in broadening perspectives. He particularly praised the young participants for their deep engagement and reflected on the continued relevance of Tagore's philosophy, advocating a return to simplicity, ethical living, and depth in an increasingly superficial world.



Dr. Karan Singh, eminent statesman, philosopher and former Union Minister, delivered the fifth Lecture in the IHC- ICPR Lecture series on 'Vedanta Today'. The Lecture, held on April 24, 2026, drew a distinguished and intellectually engaged audience of academics, researchers, students, and IHC members.

Prof. (Dr.) K. G. Suresh, Director-IHC, in his welcome address, highlighted the Centre's commitment to fostering serious philosophical dialogue and initiatives of Bharat Bodh Kendra, IHC.. He emphasized that Vedanta is a living framework that nurtures ethical reflection and relevance in a fast-changing world. Vedanta is Indian cultural wisdom that offers a deep understanding of life.

Setting the context, Co-Convenor, Prof. Bindu Puri, Centre for Philosophy, Jawaharlal Nehru University, said that Vedanta teaches that human beings, nature, and the universe are not separate but one integrated whole. It sees the world as a non-divided consciousness where everything is connected, and the Indian way of thinking encourages us to move beyond separation between humans and nature.

Delivering the keynote lecture, Dr. Karan Singh presented a deeply reflective exposition of Vedanta. Drawing attention to India's spiritual heritage, he underscored the importance of revisiting foundational texts such as the Upanishads as enduring guides for contemporary life.

Emphasising the relevance of Vedanta in the modern world, Dr. Karan Singh spoke about the enduring relevance of the Upanishads as the essence of Vedic wisdom. He further talked about Universal Consciousness, emphasising the concepts of Brahman (infinite space and time) and Atman (the divine spark within each individual). Speaking about the path of Yoga, he described Yoga not merely as physical exercise, but as the core methodology for uniting the individual soul (Atman) with the universal divine (Brahman). He underscored the value of Global Ethics and stressed the Vedantic principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, the whole world as one family, and highlighted the unity of all religions.

## Samlapa – The Discourse Series

Bharat Bodh Kendra (BBK-HLRC), India Habitat Centre, organised a book discussion under its series named Samlapa, titled 'In her footsteps: women who made India', by Ms. Mandira Ghosh, author, Secretary and Treasurer, The Poetry Society (India) and panelists: Sh. K Jayakumar, Former Kerala Chief Secretary and President of The Poetry Society (India); Dr. Amarendra Khatua, Former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and former Director General, ICCR; Dr. Radha Chakravarty: Former Professor of Comparative Literature & Translation Studies, Ambedkar University; Ambassador Sangeeta Bahadur: IFS officer and diplomat; Dr. Payal Nagpal: Professor of English, Janki Devi Memorial College, Delhi University; Ms. Shubhi Arya: Representative from Parchment Publications, held on November, 2025.



The welcome address was delivered by Prof. (Dr.) K. G. Suresh, Director-IHC. The objective of the series is to create awareness, especially among the younger generation, about India's rich cultural and intellectual heritage and the immense contributions of women across centuries. He spoke about India and the world coming together at Habitat and highlighted the Centre's initiatives in promoting Indian philosophy and Indian culture. Referring to Delhi Documenta, he traced Delhi's journey from Indraprastha to Lutyens' Delhi. Prof. Suresh congratulated the author, Mandira Ghosh, for bringing out such an important book that foregrounds women's contributions to Indian society. He emphasised that India has a rich tradition where women have contributed immensely to philosophy, the freedom movement, and various fields of knowledge.



Sh. K. Jayakumar, former Chief Secretary-Government of Kerala and President of The Poetry Society (India) sent a video message congratulating the author. He briefly spoke about the book and observed that India has traditionally respected women and that discrimination was not inherent to Indian traditions but emerged later due to distorted ideas.

Dr. Amarendra Khatua, IFS, former Secretary - Ministry of External Affairs and Director General, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) spoke about the structure of the book, noting that Mandira Ghosh has covered 55 women personalities—39 freedom fighters, 10 poets, and 6 philosophers. He said the book would be very useful for universities, educational institutions, and Indian youth. Referring to the decline in reading habits, he mentioned that reading has reduced. He appreciated the book for being brief and precise and suggested that it should be translated into different languages to reach a wider audience.

Author Mandira Ghosh, Secretary and Treasurer, The Poetry Society (India) thanked HLRC, Director-IHC, and all the panelists. She referred to her visit to Indore and mentioned that during her travel from IGI Airport to Indore, she noticed that both airports were named after women. She spoke about her extensive research on Ahilyabai Holkar and mentioned that her parents had a rich collection of books. She referred to thinkers like Maitreyi and Gargi and described on poets as courageous voices.

She explained that the book is a tribute presenting brief biographies that capture the fearlessness, sacrifice, and wisdom of women.

Dr. Radha Chakravarty, (Retd.), Professor of Comparative Literature & Translation Studies, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, Delhi noted that the book revisits the past by highlighting selected women who shaped Indian life and achievements. She observed that it retells history from a women-centric perspective and that the title clearly reflects this intention. The book, she said, is a long narrative made up of many interlinked stories and highlights women's contributions beyond the freedom movement.

Ambassador Sangeeta Bahadur, IFS, appreciated the book and the author, describing the women covered as extraordinary and adding to the aura of women's legacy. Dr. Payal Nagpal, Professor of English, Janki Devi Memorial College, Delhi University described the book as a collection of brief biographies ranging from the ancient period to the modern era. Shubhi Arya, Publisher - Parchment Publications spoke about women who paved the path for future generations and described the book as motivating and inspiring. The programme concluded with a question-and-answer session followed by a vote of thanks.

Bharat Bodh Kendra-HLRC hosted a thought-provoking session of 'Samlapa: The Discourse Series'. Celebrating the work of Kathak Guru Shovna Narayan, based on her biography, 'I am a fleeting moment in time: Kathak Guru Shovana Narayan' by Dr. Maya Parijat and panellists: Shovana Narayan, Kathak Guru;

Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar, former Diplomat. Chair: Prof. (Dr.) K.G. Suresh, Director-IHC, was held on February 17, 2026.

Chairing the session, Prof. (Dr.) K. G. Suresh, Director-IHC emphasized that classical arts must be understood beyond entertainment. He stressed the importance of discussing their aesthetic significance, philosophical depth, and cultural context to truly appreciate their value.

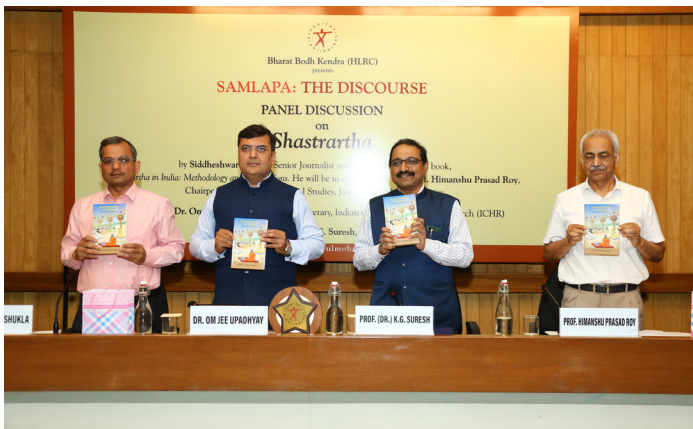


In her reflections, Guru Shovana Narayan spoke about her Sahityik (literary) family background and credited her mother and her guru Naina Devi for giving her art its inner soul. She acknowledged learning the aesthetics and refined grammar of Kathak from Birju Maharaj. She emphasized that emotions in dance are universal and must move beyond technique to create a deep human connection.

The discussion was beautifully moderated by Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar, who conducted the session in an excellent and highly engaging manner. With clarity, warmth, and insight, he guided the conversation seamlessly across themes of art, literature, discipline, and public service. He congratulated the Director-IHC for conceptualizing such meaningful dialogues through the Samlapa series and appreciated the efforts of Bharat Bodh Kendra. He described the book as deeply engaging, noting that it recounts numerous life instances and unfolds layer by layer, offering a 360-degree portrayal of the personality, thoughts, and ideas of Shovana Narayan.

## Decoding Shastrartha: Panel Discussion

Dr. Maya Parijat shared how the idea of the book emerged and spoke about the extensive interactions and research that went into documenting the life of Guru Shovana Narayan. Dr. Maya Parijat shared that the book's journey began a year ago with a vision to present something distinct. She highlighted Shovana Narayan's humility, dedication, commitment etc.



Based on the book titled, 'Shastrartha in India: Methodology and Applications', by Siddheshwar Shukla, Senior Journalist.

Panelists: Prof. Himanshu Prasad Roy, Chairperson, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Chief Guest, Dr. Om Jee Upadhyay, Member Secretary, Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR). Chair: Prof. (Dr.) K.G. Suresh, Director-IHC.

This panel discussion held on April 30, 2026, explored a very significant aspect of debate. In his opening remarks, Prof. (Dr.) K. G. Suresh noted that Shastrartha in India advances a pragmatic

approach to decolonizing the Indian education system by re-centering indigenous dialogic traditions of inquiry, debate, and reasoning, integrating classical frameworks with contemporary pedagogy to foster critical thinking, contextual understanding, and epistemic self-reliance. Prof. Suresh added that the method of Shastrartha can be used in media literacy, research methodology and other areas of the modern education system.

Dr. Om Ji Upadhyay, through engaging accounts of historical Shastrarthas, highlighted their importance and relevance in shaping the democratic ethos of Bharat. He observed that the Shastrartha method of dialogue is inherently respectful and reasoned, with no space for anger or shouting, as often seen in modern media debates. He added that contemporary institutions can learn much from its structured and disciplined approach to discussion.

Prof. Himanshu Prasad Roy, drawing on diverse evidence, deconstructed ill-founded narratives of colonial thinkers that continue to influence education in independent India. He opined that Indian scholars must not accept colonial accounts uncritically, but instead undertake rigorous research to verify evidence and challenge interpretations.

The author presented the conceptual framework of the book, highlighting its key themes and contemporary relevance. He noted that the Shastrartha method has evolved academically from the Vedic period through the contributions of sages and scholars; and that it can be meaningfully applied across modern disciplines, particularly in research methodology, communication, media debates, legal discourse, and public dialogue. Emphasizing its significance, he underlined that just as yoga is important for a healthy body, Shastrartha is for healthy thought. He thus concluded that Shastrartha is intellectual yoga.

## IHC CONNECT

India Habitat Centre launches 'IHC Connect' series with roundtable on the role of media in fostering constructive public discourse Delhi: The India Habitat Centre (IHC), through its Habitat Library & Research Centre, inaugurated a new discussion series titled 'IHC Connect' aimed at exploring contemporary issues concerning habitat and society.

The inaugural event, 'The Role of Media in Fostering Constructive Public Discourse: A Round Table Discussion', was organized on December 5, 2025, in collaboration with the Office of Public Affairs of the Baha'is of India. The roundtable examined the media's critical responsibility in upholding the quality and integrity of



public discourse by presenting facts accurately, prioritizing issues of significance, and ensuring diverse voices are represented in discussions on the common good.



Participants deliberated on the sharp decline in the quality of public discourse in India and globally, driven by disinformation, polarization, partisanship, and the superficiality often amplified by social media. The central question addressed was how media can continue to serve as an impartial source of facts, a reliable guide for public opinion, and a facilitator of consultative dialogue among stakeholders for societal well-being. The discussion brought together senior journalists from print, electronic, and digital media, media educators, podcasters, and communicators working through significant platforms such as films.

The conversation was described as meaningful, free-flowing, and comprehensive, covering the evolving challenges and opportunities facing media today. Moderating the session, Prof. (Dr.) K. G. Suresh, Director-IHC expressed hope that the media would regain public trust through constructive and inclusive discourse, play a pivotal role in realizing the vision of a Viksit Bharat. The IHC Connect series will continue to provide a neutral platform for thoughtful engagement on issues vital to India's social and cultural fabric.

## IHC Conversations with Authors

The book titled, 'Gender Equity in Hospitality: The Case of India', by Dr. Payal Kumar, published by Emerald Publishing, was featured in this series on November 10, 2025.

The book showcases the barriers, both systemic and individual, to women leadership in the hospitality sector in India, while also highlighting HR policies, such as flexi-timing, that have successfully benefited women in hospitality, and which have the potential to serve as future models for implementing systemic change.

Author, Dr. Payal Kumar is currently Principal Academic Advisor, Indian School of Hospitality, and also visiting professor, XLRI India. She is a prolific writer with 18 books and several research papers under her belt, and is also a prize-winning researcher with national and international awards.

A PowerPoint presentation was made by Dr. Payal Kumar that provided an overview of the discussion and findings from the book and a comprehensive roadmap of policy interventions, organizational reforms, and social support mechanisms necessary to achieve gender equity.

Prof. (Dr.) K. G. Suresh, Director of the India Habitat Centre, graced the occasion with his words of wisdom. The author, Dr. Payal Kumar presented a copy of her book to the Director.



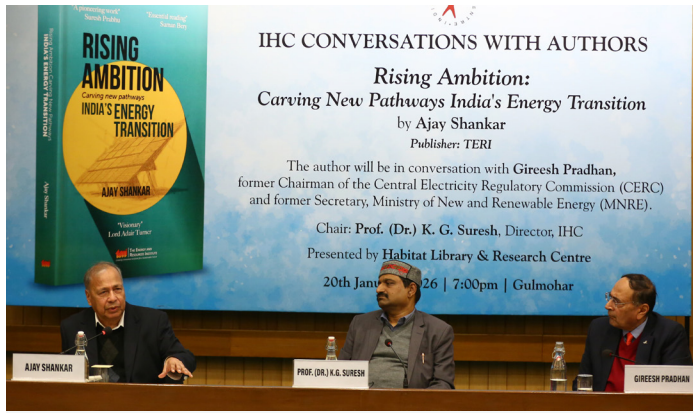
The event proceeded with a panel discussion, which included the following esteemed speakers:

Mr. Dilip Puri, Founder & Executive Chairman, Indian School of Hospitality, former Managing Director, Starwood Hotels and Resorts; Mr. Sandeep Tandon, Chief Operating Officer, Habitat World; Ms. Anjali Mehra, Executive Vice President - Brand and Communications - The Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts; Founder - Reefknot Consulting; Ms. Ajay Tyagi, President and Managing Partner, Lex Terrae; Mr. Yogesh Kumar, Associate Vice President - Development, The Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts; Prof. Payal Kumar, Author, trainer and Advisor - Hospitality Schools, Visiting Professor, XLRI; Ms. Bindu Jacob Mathew, Corporate Head Sustainability & Compliance, Mahindra Holidays & Resorts India Ltd. (Moderator).

The discussion was very lively and interactive, with the participation of a wonderful audience.

The book titled, 'Rising ambition: carving new pathways-India's energy transition' by Mr. Ajay Shankar, was featured in this series on January 20, 2026.

The author was in conversation with Sh. Gireesh Pradhan, former Chairman of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) and former Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). The session was chaired by Prof. (Dr.) K. G. Suresh, Director, IHC.



The discussion focused on net-zero emissions strategies and policy choices.

It was a serious, rich and insightful book discussion on various aspects of India's energy transition, with the active participation of audience and their thoughtful questions to the author and discussant.

## IHC-NSE Financial Literacy Series

Marking the beginning of a strategic collaboration between the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and India Habitat Centre, to spread 'Investor Awareness', the inaugural session of this series was organised on March 26, 2026.

In his Welcome Address, Shri Sriram Krishnan (Chief Business Development Officer, NSE) underscored the NSE's commitment to making financial knowledge accessible to all citizens.



Chairing the session, Prof. (Dr.) K. G. Suresh, Director-IHC, talked about the MoU signed by IHC with National Stock Exchange and reaffirmed IHC's role as a catalyst for empowering members and other stakeholders to impart financial literacy.

Guest of Honour, Shri B.K. Gupta (DGM, SEBI), representing the Regulator, highlighted the importance of investor protection and awareness in the evolving digital landscape.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Shamika Ravi (Member, Economic Advisory Council to the PM) described financial knowledge as a core life skill equivalent to knowing how to drive or swim. She stressed that financial literacy must be treated as a public good and integrated early into the schooling system. She noted that the new education policy makes a concerted effort to ensure students graduate with a core knowledge of cash flow and what a savings account is.

This was followed by an educative, informative and engaging module on Financial Literacy by Shri. Joginder Singh, from the National Stock Exchange.

## IHC Samanvay 2026: Celebrating Indian Languages

Samanvay 2026: Celebrating Indian Languages was themed 'This Blessed Land: यह धरती अपनी' a journey through the diverse landscapes of our nation - mountains, rivers, forests, deserts, and coastlines - celebrating the rich tapestry of our languages. The festival showcased speakers from various parts of the country including, Sunita Narain, Mike Pandey, Namita Gokhale, Navtej Sarna, Mamang Dai, Dr. Sunita Reddy, Vivek Menon, Joshil, Prof. Rekha M Shangpliang, Dr Anant Pande, Murali Manoharkrishna, Yogesh Gokhale, William Dalrymple and more. This year, as part of Samanvay we also celebrated 50 years of Mike Pandey's filmmaking journey, and screened his renowned films.





Screenings included *Shores of Silence - Whale Sharks in India*, *Looking for Sultan*, *Gyamo: Queen of the Mountains*, *The Last Migration - Wild Elephant Capture in Sarguja*, *BROKEN WINGS – The Vanishing Vultures* and *Timeless Traveler - Indian Horseshoe Crab*.

IHC Samanvay 2026 concluded on Sunday after three days of sustained dialogue, performance, and reflection that foregrounded the relationship between India's natural landscapes and its literary, cultural, and artistic traditions. The festival, this year, placed nature at the centre of inquiry, examining how mountains, rivers, deserts, forests, and coastlines have shaped languages, belief systems, creative expression, and community life across the subcontinent.



Bringing together writers, scholars, conservationists, filmmakers, musicians, and performers, IHC Samanvay 2026 unfolded as a multidisciplinary exploration of ecology as lived experience and cultural memory.

The afternoon featured book launches that echoed the festival's core concerns. Paro Anand, children's author, launched 'A Girl, A Tiger and a Very Strange Story', a narrative exploring coexistence and empathy. Umesh Pant, writer and journalist, presented 'Chhani Kharikon Mein', engaging with regional memory and language. Anumeha Yadav, journalist and author, launched 'Our Rice Tastes of Spring', which examined agricultural diversity, food systems, and the urgent need to preserve indigenous rice varieties threatened by modern farming practices.

Sharing his thoughts at the conclusion of the festival, Prof (Dr) K G Suresh, Director-IHC said "As IHC Samanvay comes to a close, the deliberations and artistic expressions across these days reaffirm the profound interdependence between India's linguistic traditions, cultural practices, and the ecological contexts in which they have evolved. This edition has consciously foregrounded ecology as both cultural memory and lived knowledge, reminding us that environmental responsibility is inseparable from intellectual and ethical inquiry. Through IHC Samanvay, India Habitat Centre seeks to sustain a reflective cultural space where ideas are examined with care, traditions are engaged with care, and dialogue contributes meaningfully to a more mindful and sustainable future."

The focus then shifted to Coastlines, with a session examining India's interconnectedness through historic sea routes that shaped trade, migration, and cultural exchange. Delivered by William Dalrymple, the presentation explored India's maritime influence and the gradual eclipsing of the Silk Route, highlighting how oceanic networks became the primary conduits for cultural, commercial, and intellectual exchange across regions. This was followed by Marine Conservation, featuring Dr Anant Pande, head of Oceans and Coasts Conservation at WWF India, and Murali Manoharakrishna, lead for Marine Species at WWF-India, who addressed the fragility of marine ecosystems and the need for sustainable coastal practices. The speakers highlighted the fragility of marine ecosystems and underscored the urgent need for sustainable coastal practices. They emphasized the importance of creating coastal corridors to ensure connectivity between marine habitats, enabling species to move, feed, and breed naturally. The conversation also drew attention to the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project, illustrating how the protection of seagrass meadows is critical not only for the survival of the endangered dugong but also for maintaining healthy coastal ecosystems and supporting livelihoods dependent on the sea. The session was moderated by conservation biologist and author Neha Sinha.

The concluding session, 'Dhrishya Dastavez - Visual Documents of Our Environment', was an immersive audio-visual conversation with environmental filmmaker Mike Pandey and photographer and visual storyteller Milan Moudgill, moderated by conservation biologist and author Neha Sinha. Moudgill presented a powerful photographic journey of Mount Kailasha, capturing its awe-inspiring landscapes while foregrounding its spiritual, cultural, and ecological significance, and reflecting on the responsibility of visual storytellers in documenting fragile and sacred geographies. Marking fifty years of Mike Pandey's journey as an environmental activist and filmmaker, the session also saw him share his long-standing wish to make a film on the power and intelligence of insects, drawing attention to their critical yet overlooked role in sustaining ecosystems, while emphasizing the urgent need for Indian environmental stories to be told to the global community, and reaffirming the transformative role of visual storytelling in environmental advocacy.



IHC Samanvay 2026 concluded with a special tribute celebrating the 100th birth centenary of Dr Bhupen Hazarika, presented through a performance by Mayukh Hazarika. Through song, personal reflections, and lesser-known stories, the performance offered insight into the musical philosophy and humanism of the Bard of the Brahmaputra.



Through conversations, performances, films, and books, IHC Samanvay 2026 reaffirmed the role of language and culture in deepening our understanding of the natural world. The festival closed with an emphasis on listening to landscapes, preserving knowledge systems, and recognizing ecology as central to India's cultural and linguistic inheritance.

## Lohri at IHC

January brought the warmth of Lohri, an enduring chapter of Habitat's winter celebrations since 1999. First envisioned with the involvement of artist Manjit Bawa and cultural patron Madan Gopal Singh, the festival has long combined music, tradition, and seasonal food in an open-air community setting. This year's gathering at Margosa Lawn featured folk and Sufi music rooted in Punjabi tradition, along with a specially curated menu of winter favourites reflecting the harvest spirit of the festival. At Ann, a traditional Punjabi Thali was presented, offering an intimate expression of seasonal North Indian flavours.



## IHC Collegiate and Music Festival

The annual platform showcasing Gen Next, brought together aspiring writer-directors, actors, vocalists and instrumentalists, light and sound, set, and costume designers, all following their passion and honing their talent as they prepared to step onto the world stage. The Music wing, added a few years back to the long-standing Collegiate Festival, infused a wonderful new dimension. There was wide and active participation from dramatic and music societies across Delhi.



## IHC Morning Ragas

The IHC Morning Ragas – Guru-Shishya Parampara was warmly received and deeply appreciated for making the season memorable. The performances for this quarter were – Sitar recital by Pt. Partha Chatterjee with his disciple, Kalyan Majumdar accompanied by Akram Khan on Tabla; Hindustani Classical Vocal recital by Pt. Uday Bhawalkar, with his disciples Sagar Morankar and Prassanna Vishwanathan accompanied by Pratap Awad on Pakhawaj; Sarod recital by Abir Hossain of Senia-Shahjahanpur Gharana, and his disciple Swarnendu Mandal, accompanied by Durjay Bhaumik on Tabla.





# Debate & Discussions

**IHC collaborative talks on health** covered various topics – ‘Epilepsy Seizure: How To Provide First Aid’ to mark National Epilepsy Day; Longevity Blueprint: Gut Health & InflammAgeing in collaboration with Celiac Society of India; ‘Prevention is better than Cure: the latest in gynecological Care’ by Dr. Rahul Manchanda; Lifestyle Disorders and Homeopathy by Prof. Dr. A. K. Gupta; Book Launch of RISE - The ‘Deep Resilience’ Way by Neena Verma; Busting the Infodemic: How Information Therapy Can Save Lives in collaboration with Heal Foundation; ‘Bacchon Ki Doctor: Desi Parenting’, a doctor-mom’s guide to milk, myths, motherhood and more by Dr. Madhavi Bharadwaj.



**The monthly discussions** in collaboration with India Foundation were moderated by Sh. Alok Bansal, Executive Vice President, India Foundation. Book discussions included,

‘The New World: 21st Century Global Order and India’ by Dr. Ram Madhav; Civil-Military Fusion as a Metric of National Power and Comprehensive Security by Lt. Gen Raj Shukla, and After Me, Chaos: Astrology in the Mughal Empire by MJ Akbar.

**Panel discussions** covered a wide range of topics including, RSS @100; The Viability of Trump’s Peace Plan for Gaza, and India’s Success in Curbing Left-Wing Extremism.



**RIS-IHC Maritime Knowledge Series** featured the following speakers – Sh. Rajiv Ranjan Mishra discussing Maritime India: River Economy - Waterways to Prosperity; Maritime India – Next Gen Ports and Infrastructure by Dr. Arun Singh; Maritime India: Enabling Ship Leasing and Chartering by Sh. Deepak Kumar Sharma, and Maritime India: Global Leadership in Maritime Education, Research & Training by Prof. G. Raghuram.



**‘Aarambh’** - A monthly series featuring young classical performers of music and dance in collaboration with Raza Foundation featured Hindustani Classical Vocal recitals by Radhika Joshi, Ayesha Mukherjee, and Varun Mishra, and Sarod recital by Mallar Rakshi and Rucha Bedekar Toke.

**‘Architecture Matters’** a series of talks in collaboration with Raza Foundation featured talks by Dr. Amita Baviskar, Dr. Sarover Zaidi and Dr. Arun Meno.



Astrology in the Mughal Empire by MJ Akbar. Panel discussions



‘Aarambh’ - A monthly series featuring young classical performers

# Glimpses of Exhibitions held at Visual Arts Gallery

## Outdoor Spaces



## Building Integrated Photovoltaic

The Building Integrated Photovoltaic exhibition by the GRIHA Council presents a compact demonstration structure that illustrates the potential of Building Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV) as both a construction material and a clean energy solution. By seamlessly incorporating photovoltaic systems into the building envelope, the display shows how architecture can generate power while retaining functional and aesthetic integrity. The exhibition highlights BIPV's role in advancing net-zero energy goals, enhancing building resilience, and reducing reliance on conventional energy sources. Aligned with the Summit's sustainability focus, it emphasizes innovative, climate-responsive design approaches that support India's transition toward energy-efficient and environmentally responsible built environments. (November 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025)

## Managing Historic Cities: People, Places

Managing Historic Cities: People, Places and Narratives, presented by the Dronah Foundation in collaboration with the National Institute of Urban Affairs, ICOMOS India, Heritopolis, and Altrim Publications, explores the complex and layered character of India's living urban heritage. Grounded in the cultural landscapes that shape historic settlements, the exhibition highlights how such cities can foster inclusive, resilient, and sustainable growth. Emerging from a nationwide dialogue across more than twenty historic cities, and supported by best-practice examples from India and Asia, it adopts a multidisciplinary perspective to present diverse planning approaches, urban management tools, and interpretive strategies suited to the varied social, cultural, and environmental contexts of historic urban environments. (November 1, 2026 -November 30, 2026)



## Central Atrium



## Junjaali

Junjaali, a solo sculpture exhibition by Sudip Roy, invites viewers into a contemplative visual field where form, light, and colour merge to create moments of transition and quiet introspection. Drawing inspiration from the everyday rhythms of life along the riverbanks and streets of Murshidabad, the works capture fleeting gestures, shifting atmospheres, and fragments of lived memory. Moving between the tangible and the imagined, the sculptures transform familiar motifs into poetic forms that hover between reality and reverie. With light functioning as both material and metaphor, the exhibition becomes a meditation on time, passage, and perception, encouraging a slower, reflective engagement with experience. (December 21, 2025 – February 13, 2026)



## Spatial Futures: Gender and Climate in Cities

**Spatial Futures** is a student exhibition that explores the intersection of gender, climate change, and urban form, focusing on the experiences of women and girls living in Delhi's informal settlements. Organised by the Urban Form Lab at the School of Planning and Architecture, the exhibition presents design-led investigations into the combined challenges of heat stress and urban flooding. Through drawings, models, and speculative proposals, the projects reimagine everyday environments—streets, homes, water edges, and community spaces—as sites of resilience, safety, and care. By foregrounding lived experience and gendered vulnerability, the exhibition advocates equitable, inclusive, and climate-responsive approaches to shaping more adaptive urban futures. (January 30, 2026 to February 5, 2026)



## Shared Tables at India Habitat Centre

At the India Habitat Centre, the winter months arrive not only with a change in season, but with a deepening of warmth, celebration, and togetherness around food. Under the continued guidance of Prof. Dr. K. G. Suresh, Director-India Habitat Centre, the seasonal festivities brought members and guests together through thoughtfully curated dining experiences across Habitat World's restaurants and shared spaces. As part of the continuing Utsav Series, these celebrations reflected the cultural rhythms of the season through cuisine, music, and community.

The festivities began quietly with an internal cake-mixing ceremony held nearly a month before Christmas. This traditional ritual marked the start of the season in the Habitat kitchens, where dried fruits and spices were blended and matured in preparation for festive bakes. The resulting plum cakes, festive breads, cookies, and confections were later made available to members and visitors through The Habitat Patisserie as well as Habiteria, extending the warmth of celebration beyond restaurant tables.



Christmas unfolded across the Centre through specially curated lunches, dinners, and brunches. Christmas brunches took place at Habitat Hub, Ann, and Med, with the brunch at Habitat Hub accompanied by live music that created a relaxed and family-oriented festive atmosphere. East! marked the occasion with a specially curated table d'hôte menu. Seasonal menus, traditional bakes, and celebratory desserts together shaped a moment of comfort and familiarity that defined the spirit of Christmas at Habitat.

Together, these winter gatherings reaffirm the larger vision of the Utsav Series. At India Habitat Centre, food is not only about dining. It is about memory, continuity, and the shared experience of community. Through season, celebration, and careful culinary curation, Habitat continues to nurture this living cultural space in the heart

# Shared Tables at India Habitat Centre (Contd...)

Soon after, the mood shifted with Eid. There is a natural generosity to the festival that finds its way to the table. The menus reflected this through dishes such as Chicken Reshmi Kebab, Mutton Nihari Gosht, Lucknowi Mutton Yakhni Biryani, and Sheer Khurma. Meals felt fuller, more expansive, and deeply rooted in the idea of sharing.



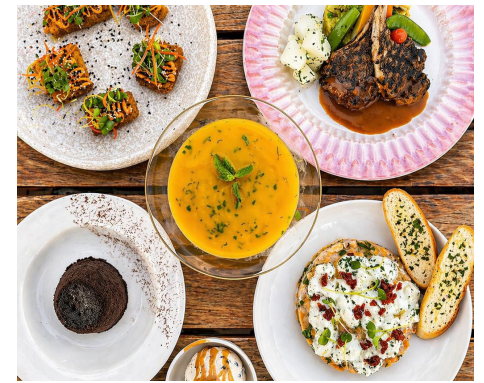
The rhythm gathered energy with Baisakhi. Harvest festivals carry a sense of abundance that naturally reflects in the food. The menu featured dishes such as Pindi Cholle - Kulche, Punjabi Kadi Pakora, Choliya Paneer, and Mah Choliya Di Dal, along with Kesari Rice Phirni and Meethe Peele Chawal. The experience was hearty and familiar, echoing the warmth of shared meals and celebration.



within a larger harmony, creating a meal that felt thoughtful and complete.

Alongside these festival-led experiences, there was also a continued exploration of global cuisines through limited-period menu showcases across the Centre's restaurants.

At Med, a specially curated Greek menu



In early April, Easter was observed through select offerings at Habitat Hub and Habiteria, where the focus remained on comfort and familiarity. Dishes such as Eggs Benedict, Eggs Royale, Shepherd's Pie, Hot Cross Buns, and Carrot Cake shaped an experience that felt easy and unhurried, in keeping with the mood of the season.

Around the same time, Vishu brought a distinctly different expression of tradition to the table. The Vishu Special Thali unfolded with a careful balance of flavours, featuring Inji Rasam, Avial, Beans Thoran, Olan, Kalan, Kootu Curry, Sambhar, Brown Rice, and Beetroot Pacchadi, accompanied by Malabari Paratha, Banana Chips, Murrukku, and Rice jaggery Payasam. Each element held its place

introduced a Mediterranean approach that is both simple and expressive. Dishes such as Charred Prawns, Orange & Chili, River Sole Souvlaki, Slow-Braised Lamb Chops With Lemon Potatoes, and Greek Yogurt Cheesecake With Honey & Figs highlighted a style of cooking that focuses on ingredients and balance, offering a distinct yet approachable dining experience.

At East!, a Korean menu brought forward a more bold and layered flavour profile. The offerings included Spicy Gochujang Sesame Prawns, Yangnyeom Chicken - Deep Fried Spicy Gochujang Chicken, Kimchi Jjigae - Kimchi Chicken Stew, Japchae - Stir Fried Glass Noodles, and Bingsu - Korean Shaved Ice, Sago, Fruit Cream, Vanilla Ice Cream. The experience encouraged a shared style of dining, adding a different energy to the table.

Taken together, these experiences reflect an ongoing effort to create spaces where food connects people to both tradition and change.

At Habitat World, dining continues to be shaped by this balance. It is about returning to what is familiar, while remaining open to what is new. It is about the comfort of known flavours and the quiet excitement of discovery.

As the season settles into its own rhythm, these shared tables continue to hold meaning. In the simple act of coming together, they offer something lasting - a sense of continuity, of community, and of belonging.





# Healthy Eating at IHC

## Cheeni Kum

The India Habitat Centre (IHC) has recently launched Cheeni Kum, a thoughtfully curated collection of sugar-free desserts. Introduced as a highlight of the 2026 Holi celebrations, this initiative targets health-conscious diners and diabetics visiting the centre's various restaurants.

A rotating selection of two signature sugar-free desserts is available daily across all popular IHC restaurants. For those seeking more variety, a broader selection of sugar-free treats can be arranged with 24 hours' advance notice. The initiative focuses on "indulgence with balance," complementing IHC's existing practice of including calorie counts on menus to support informed dining choices.



## Calorie Count



India Habitat Centre (IHC) in New Delhi introduced calorie-counted menus across its restaurants to promote healthier, informed dining. Started in early 2026, the initiative began at the MED restaurant before expanding, aiming to support a 'Fit India' by providing nutritional information for dishes. Following initial success, the calorie counts are being introduced across all Habitat World restaurants. The initiative supports mindful eating and aligns with the #SwasthBharat and #fitindia campaigns.

# The IHC Free Book X'Change

On the first Sunday of every month, IHC welcomes book lovers to a 'book flea market' where the books are free. A book lovers' 'Adda'. Fellow bookworms meet and exchange books and recommendations, browse and pick up a read of their choice, or drop off books that they may no longer have space for and let others enjoy them. You are requested to limit the number of books to take away to a maximum of 2 books at every X'Change Sunday.



# 20th IHC Institutional Table Tennis Tournament

The 20th IHC Institutional Table Tennis Tournament concluded in February 2026 and was a resounding success. Serving not only as a competitive sporting event but also as a platform for fostering camaraderie and sporting values among institutional members, participants and spectators alike, appreciated the high standard of play and organisation.

Matches were played in a round-robin format leading into knockout quarters, semis, and finals, adhering to the official rules of table tennis.

The Men's Category saw National Housing Bank- A as Winner, National Housing B as First Runner Up and HUDCO –A as second Runner up.



Players exhibited exceptional skill, sportsmanship, and competitive spirit throughout group stages, knockout rounds, and final matches.

The tournament included categories as below:

- Men's Singles
- Women's Singles
- Men's Doubles
- Women's Doubles



In the Women's Category HUDCO C stood as winner, IHC/NHB as First Runner-up and HLC C as second runner up.

The closing ceremony featured trophy presentations by Chief Guest Sh.Sanjay Kulshreshtha, CMD, HUDCO along with Prof. (Dr.) K.G. Suresh, Director-IHC who praised the participants for their excellent conduct and competitive performances. Trophies and Participations prizes were distributed to all winners and notable performers.





HAPPY

*Holi*



Newly Renovated Charminar



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