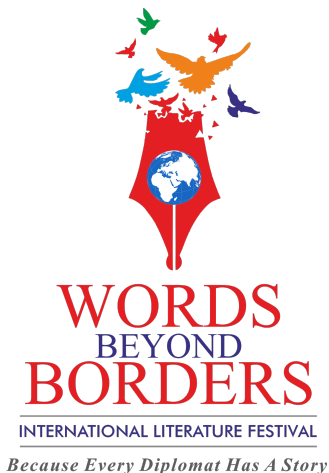




WORDS BEYOND BORDERS

INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL

SESSION PLAN

25-27 OCTOBER 2026

Raffles University

Neemrana, Rajasthan, India

34 sessions • 3 days • 4 venues

Your Festival Guide

PROGRAMME NOTE

This is a working session plan. Please verify all timings and venues on the official website for the latest updates.

AT A GLANCE

- 25 October • Inauguration Ceremony
- 26 October • Sessions 01-17
- 27 October • Sessions 18-34 and Valedictory Ceremony

Inauguration Ceremony

SUNDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2026

AUDITORIUM • 05:30 PM-07:00 PM

CHIEF GUEST

Shri Bhupender Yadav

Union Cabinet Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change

GUESTS OF HONOUR

Smt. Diya Kumari

Deputy Chief Minister, Rajasthan

Shri K. Laxman

Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha

SPECIAL GUEST

Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla

Member of Parliament & Former Foreign Secretary

DISTINGUISHED GUEST

Éilís Ní Dhuibhne

Fiction Laureate, Ireland

Day Two

MONDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2026

SESSIONS 01-04

SESSION 01 INDIA THROUGH THEIR EYES Monisha Advani (India) in conversation with Diana Mickevičienė (Lithuania), Luís Filipe Castro Mendes (Portugal) and Mohamed Maliki (Morocco) Flytta Hall • 10:00 AM -11:00 AM	60 MIN
SESSION 02 PLAYING THE PART: WHEN LIFE BECOMES THEATRE Éilís Ní Dhuibhne (Ireland) chairs a conversation with Hema Devare (India) and Branimir Farkaš (Croatia) Gomber Hall • 10:00 AM-11:00 AM	60 MIN
SESSION 03 BHUTAN: BEYOND THE POSTCARD Ranjit Rae (India) in conversation with Thierry Mathou (France) on his books on the country Auditorium • 10:15 AM-11:00 AM	45 MIN
SESSION 04 THE CHEETAH STORY: BRINGING DIPLOMACY & CONSERVATION TOGETHER K.S.P.V.Pavan Kumar (India) in conversation with Prashant Agrawal (India) Wonder Hall • 10:15 AM-11:00 AM	45 MIN
11:00-11:20 AM TEA BREAK	

Day Two

MONDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2026

SESSIONS 05-09

SESSION 05 WORDS AS COMPANION SERIES Mamang Dai (India) explores the poetry and literary world of Indran Amirthanayagam (USA) Flytta Hall • 11:20 AM-12:00 PM	40 MIN
SESSION 06 SHORT IS BEAUTIFUL Navtej Sarna (India) chairs a conversation with M. M. Tawfik (Egypt), Anju Ranjan (India), and Janne Teller (Denmark) Auditorium • 11:45 AM-1:00 PM	75 MIN
SESSION 07 INDIA, ASEAN AND EAST ASIA Major General K. Narayanan (Retd) (India) in discussion with Gurjit Singh (India), Aftab Seth (India) and Sudhir T. Devare (India) Gomber Hall • 11:45 AM-1:00 PM	75 MIN
SESSION 08 EUROPE AT A CROSSROADS? Raffaela Puggioni (Italy) in conversation with Sandra Kalniete (Latvia), Frédéric Doré (France) and Piotr Antoni Świtalski (Poland) Wonder Hall • 11:45 AM-1:00 PM	75 MIN
SESSION 09 WORDS AS COMPANION SERIES Krishnan Srinivasan (India) in conversation with Mandla Langa (South Africa) Flytta Hall • 12:20 PM-1:00 PM	40 MIN
1:00-2:15 PM LUNCH	

Day Two

MONDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2026

SESSIONS 10-13

SESSION 10 ILLUSTRATING A TALE Trisha De Niyogi (India) in discussion with Laimonas Talat-Kelpša (Lithuania), Janne Teller (Denmark) and Gurjit Singh (India) on stories told through sketches Auditorium • 2:15 PM-3:15 PM	60 MIN
SESSION 11 ACTIVE NON-ALIGNMENT : A WAY FORWARD FOR THE GLOBAL SOUTH Deepak Bhojwani (India) in conversation with Jorge Heine (Chile) Gomber Hall • 2:15 PM-3:00 PM	45 MIN
SESSION 12 WORDS AS COMPANION SERIES Padma Rao Sundarji (India) unravels the mystery of Thomas Prinz (Germany) Wonder Hall • 2:15 PM-3:00 PM	45 MIN
SESSION 13 BEYOND THE SOUTHERN CROSS Chinmaya Lal Thakur (India) in conversation with Felicity Volk (Australia) Flytta Hall • 2:20 PM-3:00 PM	40 MIN
03:15 - 03:45 PM TEA BREAK	

Day Two

MONDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2026

SESSIONS 14-17

SESSION 14 THE “FOREIGNER” IN TRANSLATION Navdeep Suri (India) chairs a discussion with Gonchig Ganbold (Mongolia), Mohamed Tawfik (Egypt) and Navtej Sarna (India) Gomber Hall • 3:45 PM-5:00 PM	75 MIN
SESSION 15 THE INSIDE-OUTSIDE DILEMMA IN MEMOIR Éilís Ní Dhuibhne (Ireland) chairs a discussion with Sandra Kalniete (Latvia), Ernesto Pinto-Bazurco Rittler (Peru) and Aftab Seth (India) Wonder Hall • 3:45 PM-5:00 PM	75 MIN
SESSION 16 POETRY WITHOUT PASSPORT Dnyaneshwar Mulay (India), Poonam Surie (India), Indran Amirthanayagam (USA) and Anju Ranjan (India). Reading & Discussion Flytta Hall • 3:45 PM-5:00 PM	75 MIN
SESSION 17 INDO-PAK TIES: WILL THE TWAIN EVER MEET? Sreeram Chaulia (India) analyses India’s ties with Pakistan with T. C. A. Raghavan (India), Ruchi Ghanashyam (India) and Ajay Bisaria (India) Auditorium • 4:00 PM-5:00 PM	60 MIN

Day Three

TUESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2026

SESSIONS 18-22

SESSION 18 WORDS AS COMPANION SERIES Trisha De Niyogi (India) in conversation with Janne Teller (Denmark) Gomber Hall • 9:50 AM-10:35 AM	45 MIN
SESSION 19 NEPAL THROUGH THEIR EYES Felicity Volk (Australia) in discussion with Madan Kumar Bhattarai (Nepal), Lisa Choegyal (UK) and Ranjit Rae (India) Flytta Hall • 10:05 AM-11:20 AM	75 MIN
SESSION 20 THREADS OF STORIES Vikas Swarup (India) (Chair), Mandla Langa (South Africa), Frédéric Doré (France) and Firat Sunel (Turkey) on novels and their plots Auditorium • 10:05 AM-11:20 AM	75 MIN
SESSION 21 THE BRAVE VOICES OF INTEGRATION Major General K. Narayanan (Retd) (India) in conversation with South Korean writers Thae Yong-ho and Hye Seon Oh Wonder Hall • 10:20 AM-11:20 AM	60 MIN
SESSION 22 FIRST BUT NOT THE LAST Keshav Padmanabhan (India) converses with debut novelist Puja Priyadarshini (India) Gomber Hall • 10:45 AM-11:20 AM	35 MIN
11:20-11:45 AM TEA BREAK	

Day Three

TUESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2026

SESSIONS 23-26

SESSION 23 TRAVELLERS' TALES Monisha Advani (India) in conversation with Enrique Criado Navamuel (Spain), John Brady Kiesling (USA) and Sadhna Shanker (India) Auditorium • 11:45 AM-1:00 PM	75 MIN
SESSION 24 LET'S TALK ABOUT LATIN AMERICA Mariano Caucino (Argentina), Jorge Heine (Chile) (Chair), Ernesto Pinto-Bazurco Rittler (Peru) and Alberto Guani (Uruguay) Wonder Hall • 11:45 AM-1:00 PM	75 MIN
SESSION 25 THE TORTUOUS EVOLUTION OF SAARC Kallol Bhattacharjee (India) in conversation with Tariq Ahmed Karim (Bangladesh) on his book Gomber Hall • 12:05 PM-1:00 PM	55 MIN
SESSION 26 WORDS AS COMPANION SERIES Olesia Mamchych (Ukraine) in conversation with Luís Filipe Castro Mendes (Portugal) Flytta Hall • 12:15 PM-1:00 PM	45 MIN

1:00-2:00 PM | LUNCH

Day Three

TUESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2026

SESSIONS 27-30

SESSION 27 THE WEST ASIA IMBROGLIO Talmiz Ahmad (India) chairs a discussion with Narayanappa Janardhan (India), Navdeep Suri (India) and Anil Trigunayat (India) on the evolving scenario in the Middle East Auditorium • 2:00 PM-3:15 PM	75 MIN
SESSION 28 DIPLOMATS AFTER DARK Padma Rao Sundarji (India) in conversation with Krishnan Srinivasan (India), Thomas Prinz (Germany) and Firat Sunel (Turkey) on crime fiction and thrillers Wonder Hall • 2:15 PM-3:15 PM	60 MIN
SESSION 29 SPACES WE CALL HOME: DIASPORA & BELONGING Abdulla Shahid (Maldives) chairs a conversation with Ani Yeremyan (Armenia), Mookhesswur Choonee (Mauritius) and Dnyaneshwar Mulay (India) Flytta Hall • 2:15 PM-3:05 PM	50 MIN
SESSION 30 TIES THAT BIND? Nasmeem Akhtar (India) in conversation with Mpho Boshego (South Africa) on her debut novel Diplomatic Ties Gomber Hall • 2:35 PM-3:15 PM	40 MIN
3:15-3:45 PM TEA BREAK	

Day Three

TUESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2026

SESSIONS 31-34

SESSION 31 THE EVOLVING CHINA DYNAMICS Nalin Surie (India) (Chair), Gonchig Ganbold (Mongolia) and Madan Kumar Bhattarai (Nepal) Auditorium • 3:45 PM-5:00 PM	75 MIN
SESSION 32 REPORTING DIPLOMACY & CRISIS S. Venkat Narayan (India) chairs a discussion with Branimir Farkaš (Croatia), Dr. Wael Awwad (Syria) and Padma Rao Sundarji (India) Wonder Hall • 3:45 PM-5:00 PM	75 MIN
SESSION 33 SOFT POWER & DIPLOMACY T.C.A. Raghavan (India) chairs a conversation with Poonam Surie (India), Vikas Swarup (India), Enrique Criado Navamuel (Spain) Flytta Hall • 3:45 PM-5:00 PM	75 MIN
SESSION 34 A WORLD WITHOUT WAR M. Behzad Fatmi (India) in conversation with Sundeep Waslekar (India) Gomber Hall • 4:15 PM-5:00 PM	45 MIN

Valedictory Ceremony

TUESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2026

AUDITORIUM • 05:30 PM-07:15 PM

CHIEF GUEST

Shri Haribhau Kisanrao Bagade

Hon’ble Governor of Rajasthan

GUEST OF HONOUR

Shri Pramod Pandurang Sawant

Hon’ble Chief Minister – Goa