


DAY 01

18th FEBRUARY, 2026

Focus : Writings from the Middle East and North Africa

TIME	VENUE	SESSION
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	RANGGAR AUDITORIUM	<p>THE MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA WITHIN AND WITHOUT AN INSIGHT INTO THE REGION Talmiz Ahmad (Chair), Sherif Bakr, Prof Kingshuk Chatterjee, Abdelaziz Errachidi, Leila Al Motawa</p>
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	INDIRA MIRI HALL	<p>LIFE, JOURNALISM & LITERATURE A presentation by Lucia Mbomio on her journey as a novelist and journalist</p>
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	CMS 1	<p>HAVE YOUR MANGO AND EAT IT TOO Pratik Choudhury in a fruity-tale conversation with Sopan Joshi on the biography of the king of fruits</p>
10:00 AM – 11:15 AM	CMS 2	<p>KOREAN LITERATURE AND SOCIETY Bibhash Choudhury dives deep into Korean culture with Kyung Sook-Shin, Jeong You Jeong, Sung-il Kim</p>
09:45 AM – 11:15 AM	LIBRARY LAWN	<p>SKETCH IT OUT LOUD Meena Sharma draws in Deboshree Gogoi, Pankaj Saikia and Dennis Laishram in messaging through illustrations</p>
<div>  TEA BREAK  </div>		

TIME	VENUE	SESSION
11:45 AM – 01:00 PM	RANGGHAR AUDITORIUM	<p>QUEERING THE PITCH INDIA'S DEFENCE IN FORWARD MODE K Sree Nair engages with AVM Arjun Subramaniam, Ghazala Wahab and General Bipin Bakshi on India's internal security</p>
11:45 AM – 01:00 PM	CMS 1	<p>THE 'FAIRER' SIDE OF LITERARY CRITICISM Surajit Sharma engages with M S Ashadevi, Susana Sanches Arins (Interpreter Maria Reimondez), and Lana Abdelrahman</p>
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM	CMS 2	<p>IN-DEPTH Arabinda Rajkhowa in conversation with Jahnu Barua on his life and journey</p>
11:45 AM – 01:00 PM	INDIRA MIRI HALL	<p>INDO-NEPAL TIES SHARED BONDS AND MUTUAL PERCEPTIONS Jayanto N Choudhury dwells on the complexities of India's relations with Nepal with Ranjit Rae, Rohini Rana and Akhilesh Upadhyay</p>
11:45 AM – 01:15 PM	LIBRARY LAWN	<p>VERSES SANS FRONTIERS POETRY FROM AROUND THE WORLD Tashi Chopel (moderator) Reem Kais, Yuliya Musakovska, Abhijeet Gogoi, Babitha Justin, Uxue Alberdi, Mamang Dai, Soukaina Habiballah, Maria Reimondez, Gisella Casimiro</p>
<div>  LUNCH BREAK  </div>		

TIME	VENUE	SESSION
02:00 PM – 03:00 PM	CMS 1	IN-DEPTH Justice (Retd) Subashish Talapatra in parleys with Aruna Chakravarty on her literary oeuvres.
02:00 PM – 03:00 PM	CMS 2	REVIVING QAWWALI PEOPLE, PERFORMERS & PERFORMANCES Shantanu Ray Chaudhuri in tune with Manjari Chaturvedi
02:00 PM – 03:15 PM	INDIRA MIRI HALL	INDIA'S AF-PAK IMBROGLIO Obja Hazarika reflects on India's ties with our Western neighbours with Kallol Bhattacharya and Major General Bipin Bakshi
02:00 PM – 03:00 PM	SRI SRI ANIRUDDHADEVA BHAVAN	RESHAPING MYTHOLOGY A GENDER PERSPECTIVE Trisha Niyogi in conversation with Koral Dasgupta and Paramita Satpathy
02:00 PM – 03:00 PM	LIBRARY LAWN	BAZM-E-URDU Mujtaba Khan in conversation with Minu Bakshi on her poetry and writings
<div>  TEA BREAK  </div>		

TIME	VENUE	SESSION
04:15 PM - 06:15 PM	RANGGHAR AUDITORIUM	FORMAL OPENING OF THE FESTIVAL
<div><p>HIGHLIGHTS</p><p>CHIEF GUEST: Yeshe Dorjee Thongchi, Writer</p><p>WELCOME ADDRESS: Jiten Hazarika, Vice Chancellor, Dibrugarh University</p><p>KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Talmiz Ahmad (IFS Retd), India's former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, UAE & Oman</p><p>SPECIAL ADDRESS: Jayanto Narayan Choudhury (Patron, FOCAL)</p><p>5:30PM: Cultural Programme: University Cultural Troupe, others</p></div>		