

# DAY 01

18th FEBRUARY, 2026

Focus : Writings from the Middle East and North Africa

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



TEA BREAK



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



**LUNCH BREAK**



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



TEA BREAK



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