

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



TEA BREAK



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



LUNCH BREAK



TIME	VENUE	SESSION
02:00 PM – 03:00 PM	CMS 1	IN-DEPTH Justice (Retd) Subhasis Talapatra in parley with Aruna Chakravarti 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 Borah Hazarika reflects on India's ties with our Western neighbours with Kalol Bhattacherjee 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



TEA BREAK





TIME	VENUE	SESSION
04:15 PM - 06:15 PM	RANGGHAR AUDITORIUM	FORMAL OPENING OF THE FESTIVAL

HIGHLIGHTS

CHIEF GUEST: Yeshe Dorjee Thongchi, Writer

WELCOME ADDRESS: Prof. Jiten Hazarika, Vice Chancellor, Dibrugarh University

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Talmiz Ahmad (IFS Retd), India's former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, UAE & Oman

SPECIAL ADDRESS: Jayanto Narayan Choudhury (Patron, FOCAL)

5:30PM: Cultural Programme: University Cultural Troupe, others