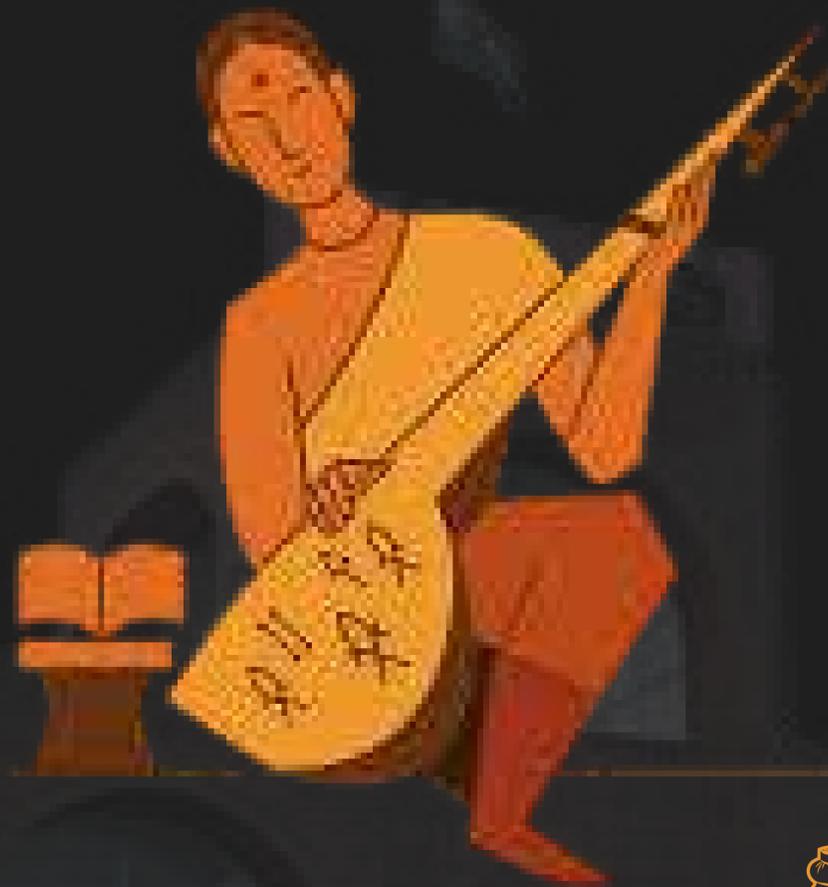




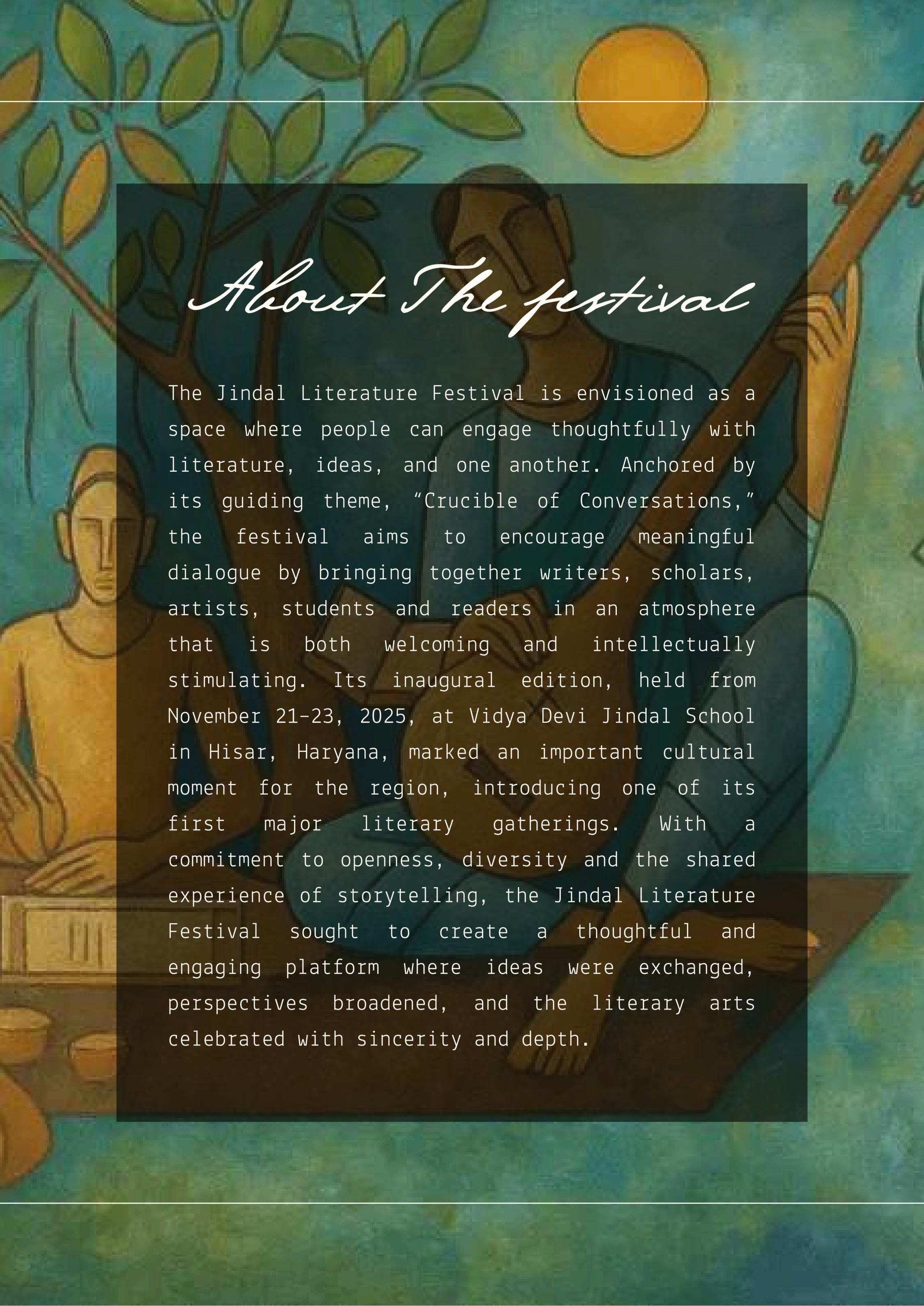
# VDJS GAZETTE

VOL. 20 ED. 3

*Special edition*



JINDAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL

An artistic illustration in a folk-art style. The background is a teal color. In the upper right, a bright yellow sun is visible. A large tree with green and yellow leaves dominates the left and center. In the foreground, a person with dark skin is shown from the waist up, wearing a blue tunic and playing a stringed instrument, possibly a veena or similar. To the left, another person is partially visible, wearing a yellow tunic. The overall mood is peaceful and cultural.

## *About The festival*

The Jindal Literature Festival is envisioned as a space where people can engage thoughtfully with literature, ideas, and one another. Anchored by its guiding theme, "Crucible of Conversations," the festival aims to encourage meaningful dialogue by bringing together writers, scholars, artists, students and readers in an atmosphere that is both welcoming and intellectually stimulating. Its inaugural edition, held from November 21-23, 2025, at Vidya Devi Jindal School in Hisar, Haryana, marked an important cultural moment for the region, introducing one of its first major literary gatherings. With a commitment to openness, diversity and the shared experience of storytelling, the Jindal Literature Festival sought to create a thoughtful and engaging platform where ideas were exchanged, perspectives broadened, and the literary arts celebrated with sincerity and depth.

# THE THINK TANKS



Mrs. Deepika Jindal, Creative Head and Managing Director of JSL Lifestyle Ltd. and founder of Arttd'inox, is a visionary entrepreneur who transformed stainless steel into a lifestyle and design statement. She serves as Chairperson of leading schools, medical institutions, and the Jindal Stainless Foundation, driving initiatives in education, healthcare, skill development, and women empowerment. A believer in spirituality and aesthetics, she champions the idea of blending art with industry while fostering confidence and growth, especially for women. It is her dynamic vision that brought Jindal Literature Festival into existence.

## THE FOUNDER



## THE FESTIVAL DIRECTOR



Mr. Amitabh Singh Baghel adorned the first Jindal Literature Festival as its Festival Director. He is a curator and director of prominent literary and cultural initiatives. He is the Founder of the Nainital Literature Festival (2025), widely acclaimed in publications such as Condé Nast Traveller, The Week, The Print, and the Times of India. He also established the Aaghaz Poetry Movement, which brings Urdu and Hindustani poetry to global audiences.

## THE FESTIVAL ADVISORS



Mrs. Naina Dhillon, Principal of Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hisar adorns the Jindal Literature Festival as the Festival Advisor. A distinguished educationist, she brings over two decades of impactful leadership from some of India's premier residential schools. An alumna of The Lawrence School, Sanawar, and a postgraduate in English Literature, she has served in key academic and administrative roles at esteemed institutions such as Yadavindra Public School, Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya, and Ecole Globale International Girls' School. She also holds the rare honour of being featured in Education Today Magazine's "The Grit List: 50 Exemplary Leaders – June 2025." As the Festival Advisor, she brought her insight, creativity, and strategic guidance to shaping the festival's cultural and intellectual ethos—giving the event the impeccable "Midas Touch."



Mr. Nikhil Rudra, Administrator at Vidya Devi Jindal School, is the Festival Advisor of Jindal Literature Festival. With over 24 years of cross industry experience in the tea, BPO, textile and education industries, Nikhil Rudra has held roles across a wide range of functions such as operations, administration, and human resources. An alumnus of Sherwood College, Nainital, he has been a keen sportsman throughout his life and has a love for the outdoors. He graduated in History Honours and is an MBA with specialisation in Operations and holds a Diploma in Educational Administration and Management. As the festival Advisor, he brought his administrative acumen to the fore giving grandeur to the festival.

# THE SPEAKERS



JINDAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL



# UMRAO JAAN



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When Muzaffar Ali undertook the making of *Umrao Jaan*, he sought not just to adapt a novel but to resurrect the lost world of 19th-century Lucknow – its courtesans, poetry, culture, and tragedy – through painstaking attention to costumes, language, music, and setting. The film’s visual storytelling, from the ornate hand-woven textiles and period-authentic attire to the slow, sensitive camera work and soulful ghazals, created an immersive emotional landscape that captured the pain, dignity and longing of the central character. According to Muzaffar Ali, these hard-won layers of “commitment and passion” made the film possible; he now asserts that he would never remake *Umrao Jaan*, because no modern attempt could match the sincerity and integrity of the original. Filmmaker Muzaffar Ali took one and all down memory lane at the Jindlal Literature Festival.

# INDIA'S LANDSCAPES: FROM NATIONAL WONDERS TO NEIGHBOURHOOD WILDLIFE

WITH MS. ANITA MANI

“You don't need to buy a ticket to see a sanctuary when you can open a window and see a whole world of birds,” wisely said Ms Anita Mani. Ms Mani is an editor and writer. She works in the field of publishing, writing various books on current affairs for children. She is the author of the book “Women in the Wild”, a book that talks about how women have contributed to the knowledge of wildlife. The students of grades IV-VI and a few select students of grade VII attended a birdwatching session with Ms Anita Mani wherein she described the types of feathers, giving details of purpose, look, and differentiation. She conducted various activities involving feathers that involved observation detail and gave the students an opportunity to learn through a hands-on experience.

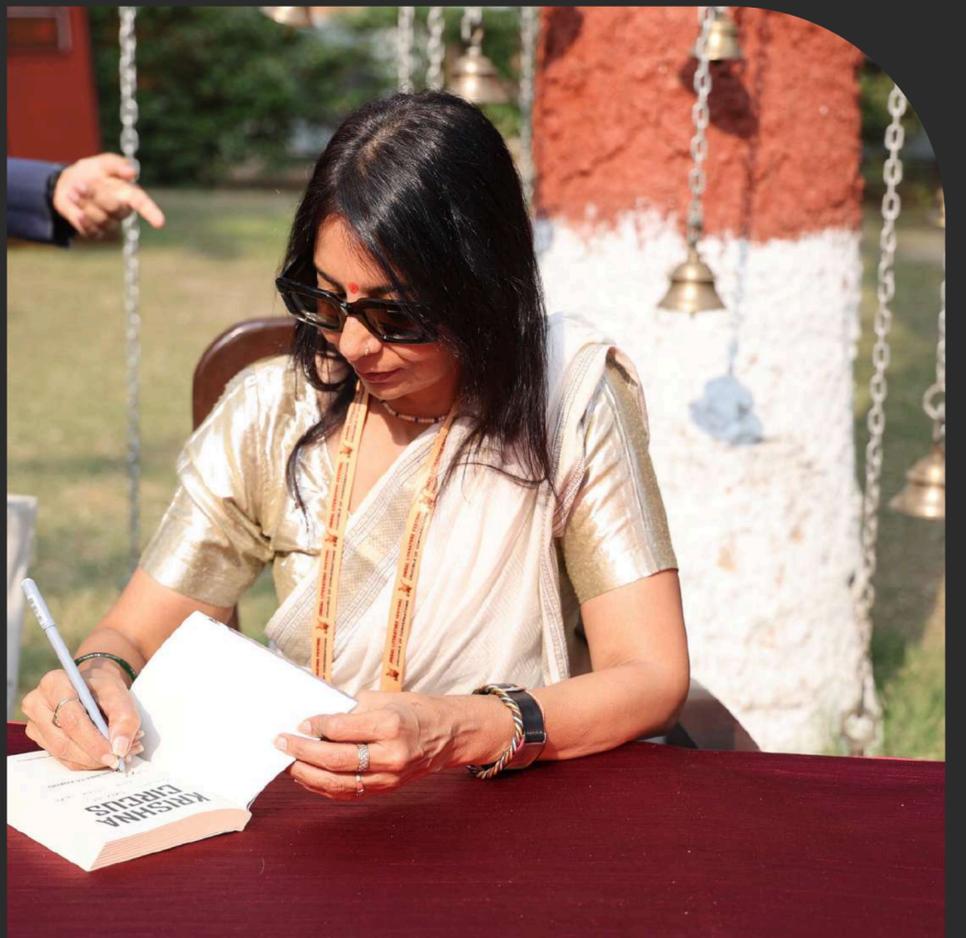




JHOOAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL



ART, SOCIETY AND  
SPECTACLE: FROM  
POETRY TO ROTI-  
KAPDA AND THE  
KRISHNA CIRCUS



# EXPLORING FEMININE NARRATIVES

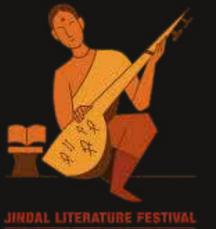


## SUSPENSE, STRENGTH, AND THE GENDERED LENS

With an atmosphere of curiosity and creative energy, the session unfolded into a thoughtful exploration of how women's experiences are shaped and expressed through storytelling and artistic practice. Speakers and participants reflected on the subtle tensions, emotional depth, and resilience that often define feminine narratives, emphasizing how perspective and lived experience influence tone, structure, and creative choices. The conversation underscored the importance of challenging traditional frameworks, expanding space for diverse voices, and allowing women's stories to be told with authenticity and complexity. Overall, it encouraged a more nuanced understanding of feminine expression and highlighted the power of art in reshaping cultural perception.

# 'I AM A SOLDIER'S WIFE'

GEETIKA LIDDER IN CONVERSATION WITH  
NAINA DHILLON



An enticing session on life as a soldier's wife took place on Day 3 of the Jindal Literature Festival. It was hosted by Ms. Naina Dhillon, the Principal of Vidya Devi Jindal School. Ms. Lidder gave the students and guests valuable takeaways about grief, and how to handle it with maturity. She talked quite much about the remnants of her tight-knit family, and majorly about her newfound relationship with her daughter. She also emphasized on the importance of financial literacy and career clarity for women, especially in today's modern world. She ended the session with a very influential line- "There is no moving on; there is only moving with."

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# CONQUERING YOUR INNER CRITIC: OVERCOMING MENTAL BARRIERS

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An interactive session on the theme "The Inner Game" was conducted by Ms. Payal Talwar for the students of Grade IX. The workshop centred on neurolinguistic programming (NLP)—a set of techniques for communication, personal development, and psychotherapy that explores the connection between neurological processes, language, and behavioural patterns.

The session opened with a positive reinforcement activity in which students described themselves using empowering adjectives. Ms. Talwar explained how strongly words influence our thoughts and actions. She highlighted that we all play two games—one external and one internal—and it is the inner game that shapes the outer one.

Through an engaging twisting-and-turning activity, she demonstrated how visualisation can enhance performance. Ms. Talwar also spoke about the strong influence of body language on one's mood and behaviour. She reiterated that words have immense power, which is why one should work on improving one's vocabulary and self-talk. She concluded with the thought: "The goal of a goal is to inspire."



# THE CHOLA EMPIRE AND THE WISDOM OF NALANDA

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Amid the vibrant and intellectually stimulating atmosphere of the Jindal Literature Festival, one of the sessions by Mr Anirudh Kaninsetti and Mr Abhay K. offered a captivating exploration of the rich historical legacies of the Cholas and the ancient university of Nalanda. The discussion provided a detailed look at the Chola dynasty, highlighting their remarkable achievements in governance, art, architecture, and maritime trade, and underscoring how their political and cultural vision shaped the broader South Asian region. In parallel, the session delved into Nalanda's enduring significance as a global centre of learning, examining its contributions to philosophy, science, and cross-cultural intellectual exchange, and reflecting on the ways it fostered dialogue and knowledge that transcended borders. Framed within the festival's celebration of ideas, literature, and critical inquiry, the session not only illuminated the depth and complexity of India's past but also encouraged reflection on the interconnectedness of history, knowledge, and cultural heritage, leaving attendees with a deeper appreciation for the legacies that continue to shape contemporary thought and identity.



# INDIA'S FABRIC: FROM EMPTY HEIGHTS TO UNTOLD BATTLES

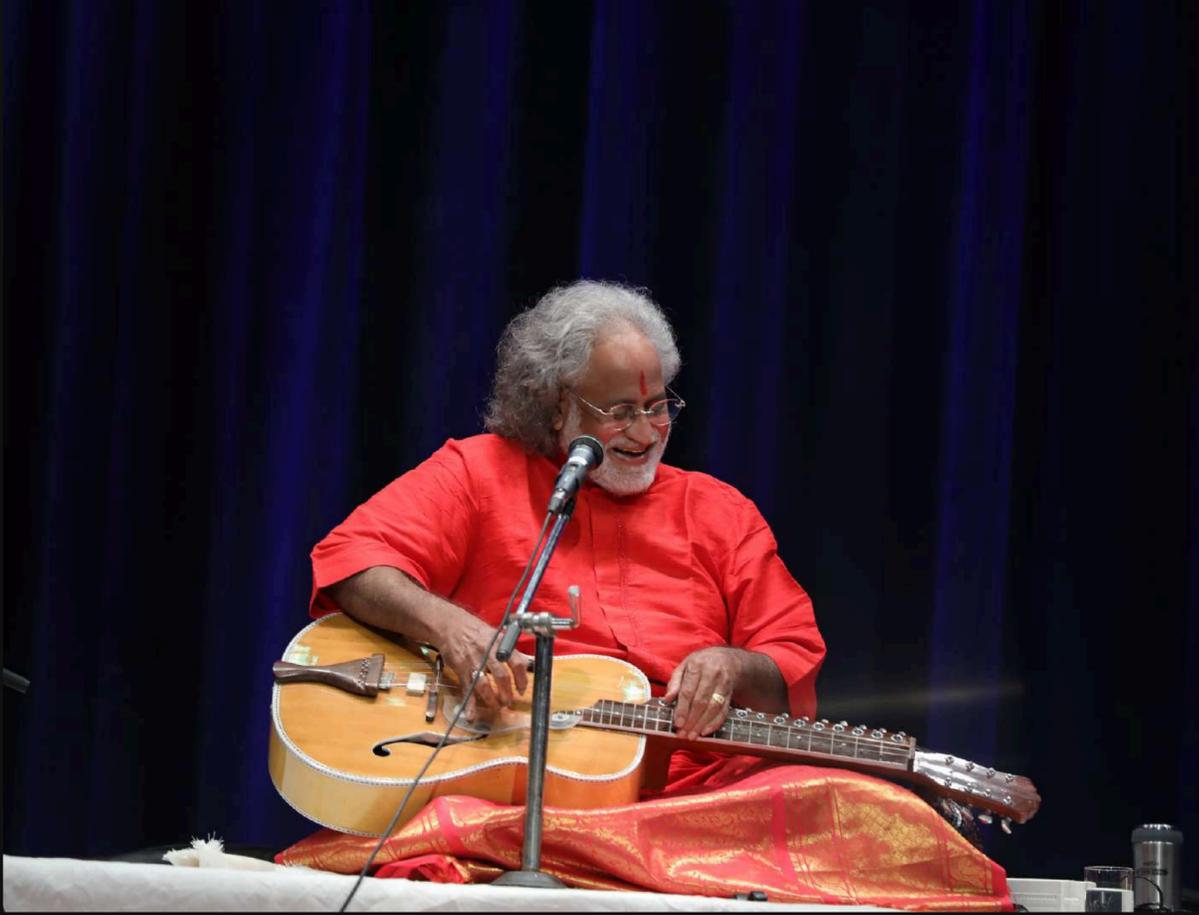


India's fabric is a living weave of competing political imaginations, where democracy continuously renegotiates its identity through contestation and plural aspirations. At the social-psychological level, this fabric reflects deep-rooted diversity. Together, these threads form a dynamic tapestry where political structures and collective psychology intersect, defining India not as a fixed idea but as an evolving, dialogic civilisation. The Jindal Literature Festival offered deep insights on the fabric of India.

# THE PERFORMANCES



JINDAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL





# PERFORMING ART- ISHQ RANGREZ

The Jindal Literature Festival came alive with emotion and excitement during the enchanting Ishq Rangrez performance by the talented artist Kena Shree. Her presentation, centered around the themes of ishq, love at first sight, and the many colours of human emotion, left the audience deeply engaged and moved. Through her heartfelt storytelling and poetic expression, she transported listeners into a world filled with warmth, passion, and the magic of first love. The audience remained fully captivated throughout the performance, responding with admiration and loud applause. The Ishq Rangrez act was not just a performance but an emotional journey that celebrated the power of love.

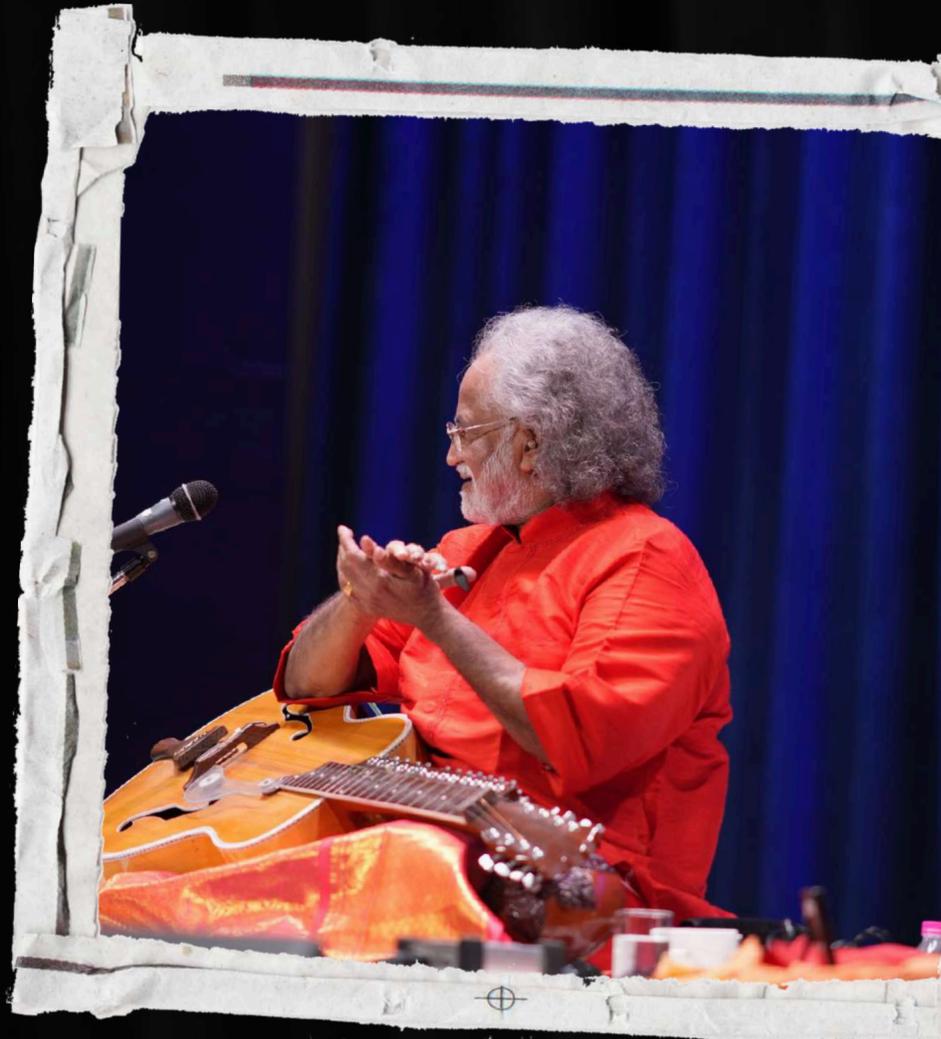
# PERFORMING ART-STRINGS OF LEGACY



**"MUSIC IS THE LANGUAGE OF GOD CREATED FOR THE BENEFIT OF MANKIND. TO ME MUSIC IS THE MEDIUM TO TALK TO GOD."**

Vishwa Mohan Bhatt is a renowned Indian classical musician, composer, and inventor of the Mohan veena. A recipient of the Grammy Award and the Padma Bhushan. A master of Hindustani classical music and a foremost disciple of Pandit Ravi Shankar, he gained global acclaim with the album 'A Meeting by the River' (with Ry Cooder), which won him the Grammy Award in 1994.

The festival was extremely blessed to have him perform his music as a special evening performance.



# PERFORMING ART - KASTURI MRIG

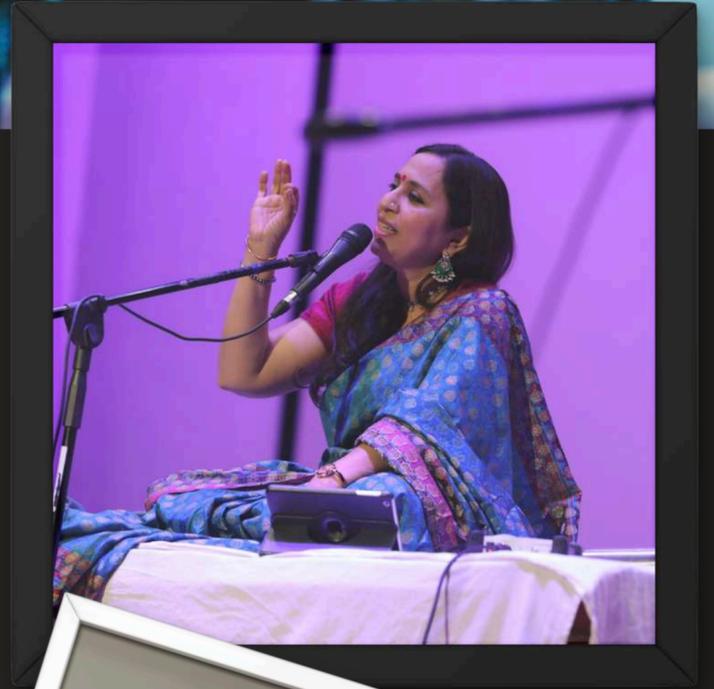


Shinjini Kulkarni is an accomplished Kathak dancer and the granddaughter of legendary maestro Pandit Birju Maharaj, belonging to the renowned Kalka-Bindadin Gharana. At the Jindal Literature Festival, Shinjini Kulkarni brought to life “Kastur Mrig” with a deeply evocative Kathak performance that blended dance, music, and poetic storytelling. Her portrayal, shifting from the innocence of a naive deer to the greed-driven human caught in a web of illusion was graceful, intense and emotionally stirring, leaving the audience visibly moved.





JINDAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL



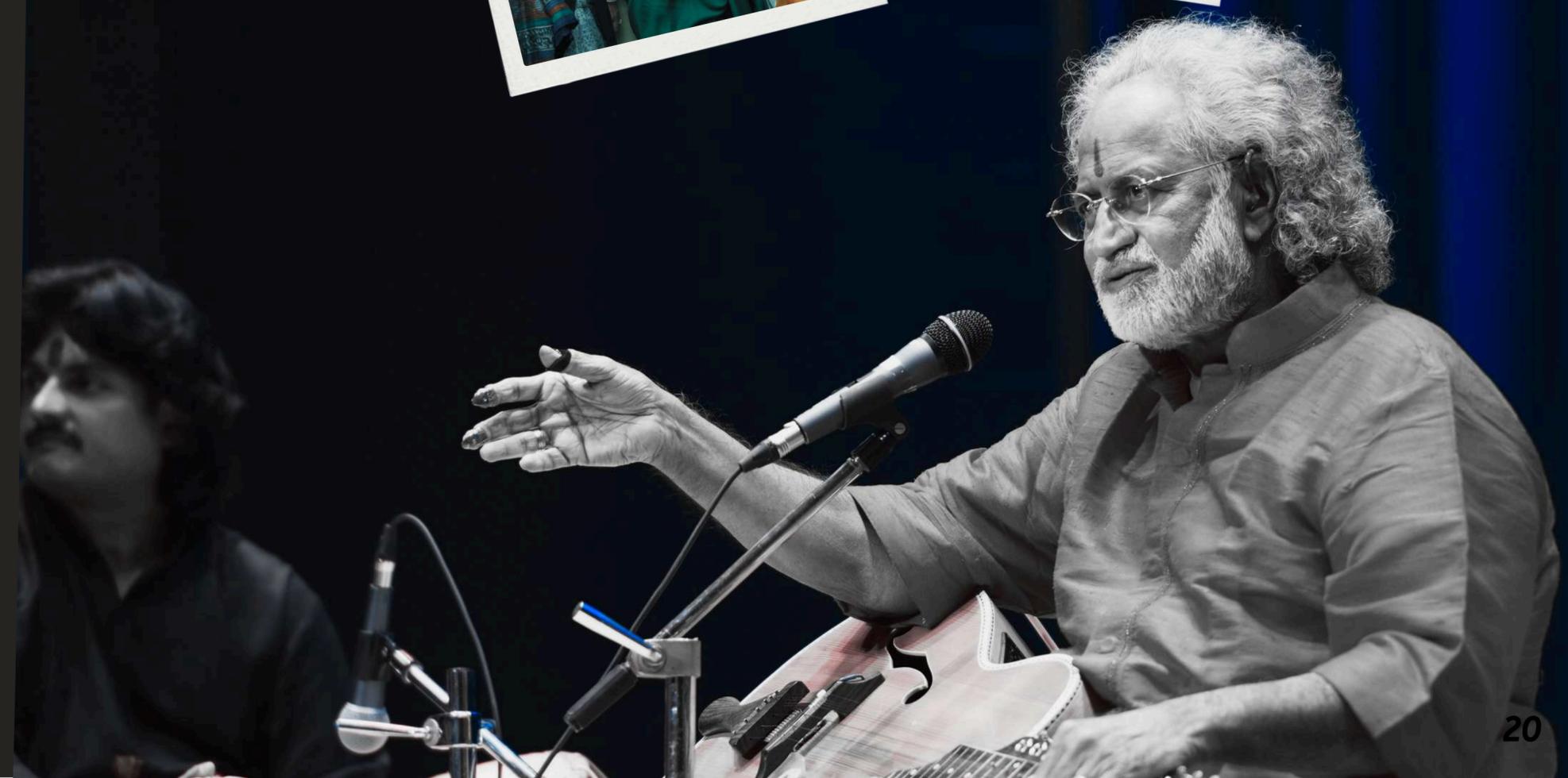
# SUFIYANA

The Jindal Literature Festival witnessed a truly captivating moment when the renowned Indian musician and singer Vidya Shah lit up the stage with her soulful Rang Sufiyana performance. Her performance beautifully blended traditional compositions with her unique style, transporting listeners into the spiritual world of Sufi poetry. Each note resonated with purity and depth, earning enthusiastic applause from the audience. The concert not only highlighted her exceptional talent but also offered students and attendees an unforgettable cultural experience.

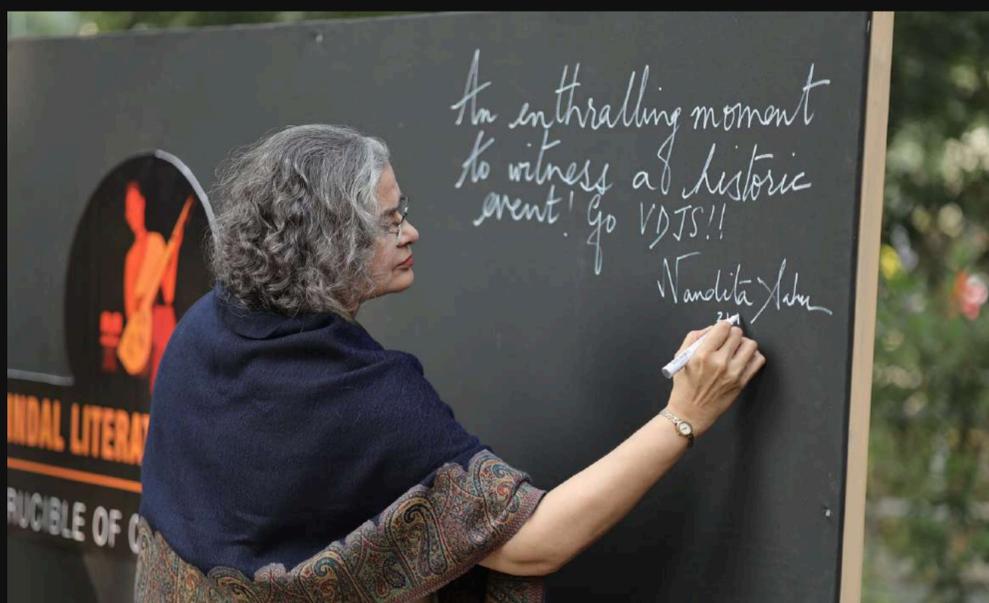
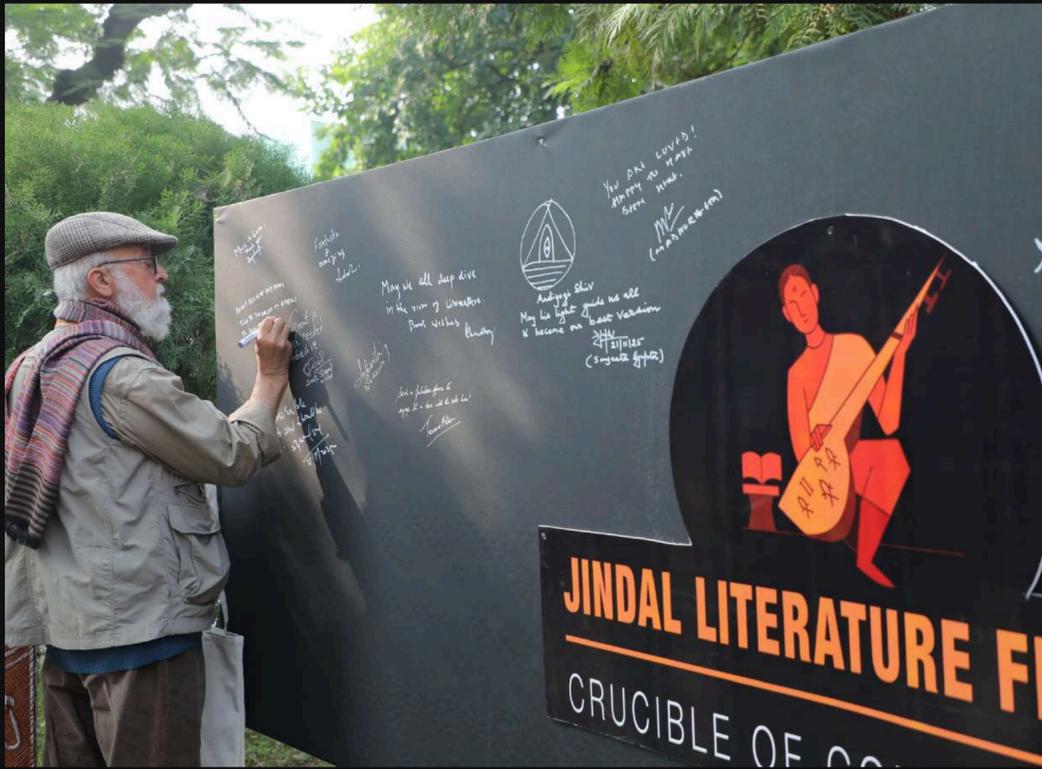
# SPOTLIGHT STORIES

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Adding a spark of spontaneity and creative energy, the Open Mic events at the Jindal Literature Festival became one of the most vibrant highlights of the festival. Featuring storytelling, poetry recitation, and stand-up comedy, the sessions brought together students and even some teachers, turning the stage into a lively hub of talent and expression. The storytelling segments transported audiences through imaginative narratives and personal anecdotes, ranging from poignant to humorous, while the poetry recitations mesmerised with their rhythm, emotion, and lyrical depth. The stand-up comedy performances had the audience roaring with laughter, combining wit, observational humour, and playful social commentary in a display of spontaneity and confidence. Together, these Open Mic events celebrated inclusivity, creativity, and the joy of performance, leaving both participants and audiences inspired and deeply engaged in the shared experience of artistic expression.

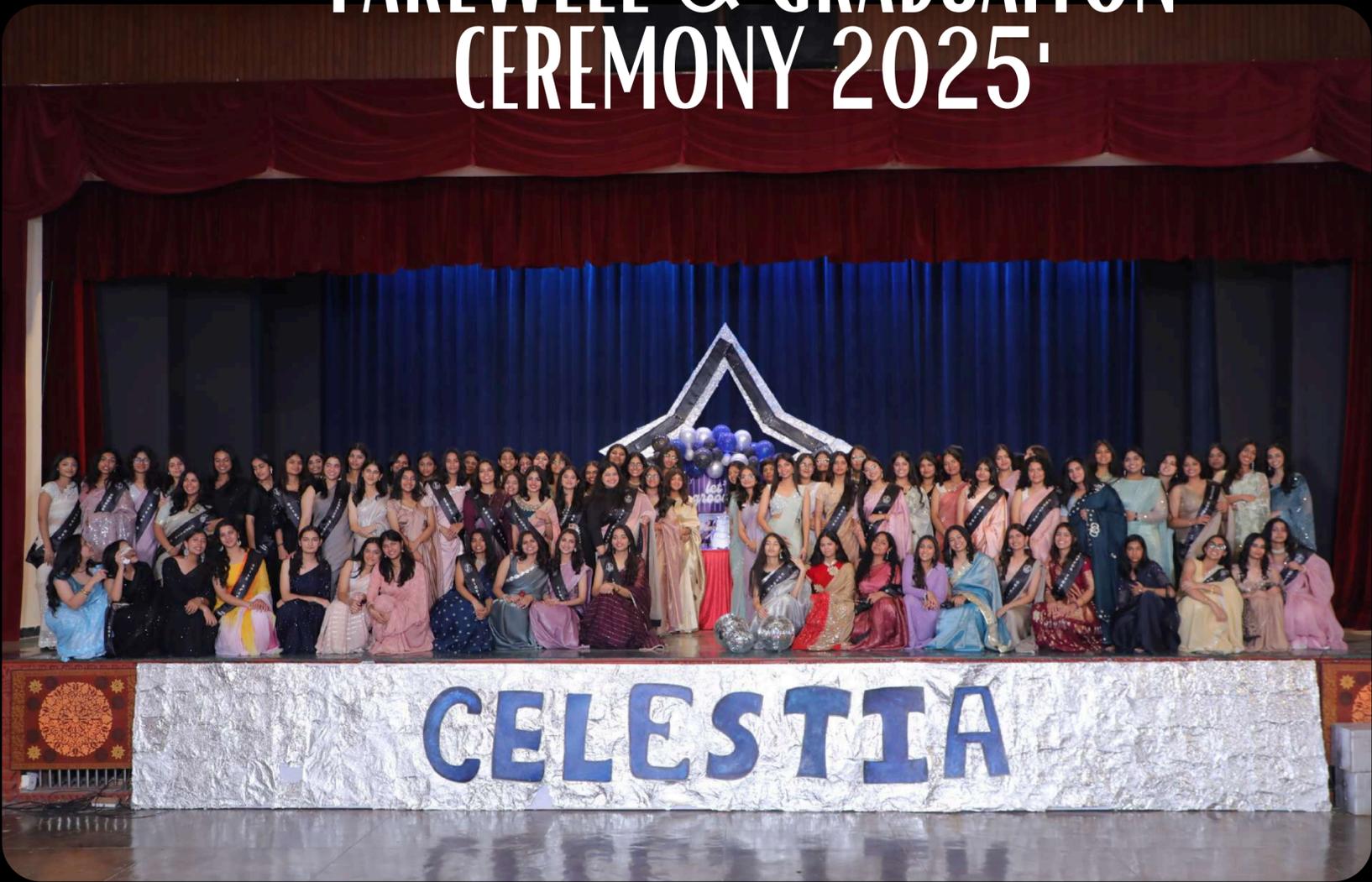


# THE TESTIMONIES



# UPCOMING EDITION

## FAREWELL & GRADUATION CEREMONY 2025



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**Telephone: 01662-281000, 1, 2 Email: [info@vdjs.edu.in](mailto:info@vdjs.edu.in)**

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