



NALANDA LITERATURE FESTIVAL 2025

21 -25 DECEMBER

“Glimpses of the topics during the NLF’25
with their respective descriptions”





SECTION 1: BIHAR LANGUAGE/LITERATURE



1. Topic: Culture Crossover with Languages

Description: Relevance of Bajjika, Angika, Magahi, Bhojpuri, Surjapuri in Indian Literature and their impact on the geo-political and cultural significance on the people of Bihar.

The dialects of Bihar—Bajjika, Angika, Magahi, Bhojpuri and Surjapuri—are not just modes of communication but repositories of vibrant folk traditions, literature and cultural identity. These dialects reflect the sociopolitical and ecological landscapes of the region. Bhojpuri, for instance, has a thriving tradition of folk songs, theatre and cinema, with global reach among diaspora communities. Magahi and Angika preserve centuries-old oral narratives, riddles and moral tales rooted in agrarian life. Bajjika and Surjapuri, while lesser known, are equally rich in idioms and folk customs. These dialects are essential to understanding regional literary evolution outside the mainstream Hindi canon. Though rarely part of formal education or literary curricula, they thrive through oral storytelling, popular music and community celebrations. Literary contributions in these dialects highlight local worldviews, social hierarchies and aspirations. Translating and publishing these works can expand the national literary imagination. Their inclusion in academic discourse, radio and digital platforms is crucial for survival. Recognizing these dialects in literature promotes linguistic democracy and ensures that regional creativity finds its rightful place in India's cultural history.

2. Topic: The Lost Love

Description: Challenges and Opportunities to preserve Bajjika, Magahi and Angika in Modern Bihar. Besides, strategies to revive these lesser-known regional languages.

Bajjika, spoken in the western districts of Bihar such as Vaishali, Muzaffarpur and Samastipur, is a dialect of great linguistic and cultural importance. Despite being spoken by millions, Bajjika lacks formal recognition and suffers from underrepresentation in education, media and governance. It has a vibrant oral tradition with folk songs, lullabies, and proverbs that embody regional wisdom and worldview. One of the major challenges in preserving Bajjika is the absence of a standardized script or grammar, making its documentation difficult. Younger generations often shift to Hindi or English for socioeconomic mobility, contributing to linguistic decline. However, there are opportunities for revival through digital media, community radio and local literature. Folk artists, teachers and linguists have started initiatives to record and archive Bajjika stories and songs. Including Bajjika in school curricula and encouraging local publications can bolster its status. Language festivals and competitions can also generate pride and awareness among youth. Recognition of Bajjika by academic bodies and cultural organizations will further legitimize its place in India's linguistic map. Preserving Bajjika is not only about saving a dialect but about honoring the voice of a region and sustaining its cultural continuum.

3. Topic: Beyond Bolis we are languages

Description: To compare the poetic traditions of Maithili and Bhojpuri, focusing on their lyrical quality, themes and cultural significance.

Beyond Bolis, We Are Languages explores the rich poetic traditions of Maithili and Bhojpuri, moving past their frequent categorisation as mere dialects to recognise them as vibrant literary languages with deep cultural roots. The session undertakes a comparative reading of their lyrical sensibilities, tracing how rhythm, melody and oral traditions shape their poetic expressions. While Maithili poetry often carries a refined classical lineage, marked by devotion, philosophical depth and aesthetic subtlety, Bhojpuri poetry draws its strength from the soil—robust, earthy and emotionally direct, reflecting everyday life, labour, migration, love and resistance. Together, these traditions reveal distinct yet interconnected worlds of expression, shaped by history, geography and collective memory. The discussion also highlights how both languages have sustained cultural identity across generations through folk songs, performance and contemporary writing. By placing Maithili and Bhojpuri in dialogue, the session argues for linguistic dignity, literary recognition and a broader understanding of India’s plural poetic heritage beyond imposed hierarchies of language.

4. Topic: Words to Screen

Description: It primarily talks about adaptation from published words to the cinematic form. Besides, it includes the status of various dialects in Indian Cinema.

This session explores the fascinating journey of stories as they travel from the written word to the cinematic frame. It examines how novels, short stories, plays, poems and non-fiction texts are adapted into films and series, and how narrative structures, characters and emotions are reshaped to suit the visual and auditory language of cinema. The discussion will reflect on the creative choices, challenges and ethical responsibilities involved in translating literature into moving images, while retaining the soul of the original text.

Beyond adaptation, the session also engages with the evolving presence of Indian dialects in cinema. It considers how regional languages, accents and speech patterns contribute to authenticity, cultural rootedness and character depth, while also addressing issues of representation, stereotyping and accessibility. Together, these perspectives offer a nuanced understanding of how words transform into screen narratives in India’s linguistically diverse cinematic landscape.

5.Topic: Exploring Nalanda Spirit in the World

Description: To explore the spirit of Nalanda through linguistic and literary expressions around the world.

This session seeks to rediscover the enduring spirit of Nalanda as it resonates across linguistic and literary traditions worldwide. Nalanda was not merely an ancient seat of learning; it was a living symbol of intellectual openness, dialogue and the free exchange of ideas that transcended geography, language and belief systems. Through literature, philosophy, travelogues, translations and contemporary writings, the Nalanda spirit continues to travel across cultures, inspiring conversations on knowledge, ethics and coexistence. This discussion will examine how writers, poets, scholars and thinkers from different parts of the world have echoed Nalanda's values—plurality, curiosity and critical inquiry—within their own linguistic and cultural contexts. By tracing these global literary and linguistic expressions, the session aims to highlight Nalanda as a shared human legacy rather than a localized historical monument. It will also reflect on how this spirit can guide present-day intellectual and creative practices in an increasingly interconnected yet divided world.

6.Topic: Satyagrah: Champaran Prayog

Description: to discuss the usage of Satyagrah in Gandhian philosophy with special reference to Champaran movement.

This session explores the philosophy of Satyagraha through the historic lens of the Champaran Movement, marking Mahatma Gandhi's first major experiment with nonviolent resistance in India. Rooted in truth, moral courage, and civil disobedience, Satyagraha emerged as a powerful tool to challenge injustice without resorting to violence. The Champaran Satyagraha of 1917 exemplified this philosophy in action, as Gandhi stood alongside indigo farmers oppressed by the exploitative tinkathia system imposed by British planters. Through patient dialogue, fact-finding, and collective resistance, Gandhi transformed individual suffering into a moral force capable of confronting colonial authority. This discussion examines how Champaran became not merely a local agrarian protest but a foundational moment in India's freedom struggle. It highlights the ethical and strategic dimensions of Satyagraha, its emphasis on dignity and self-reliance, and its enduring relevance as a method of peaceful resistance in contemporary social and political movements.

7.Topic: Tales beyond Chokha and Gamchhas

Description: To compare the traditional food of Bihar and their lifestyle.

This session moves beyond familiar symbols like litti–chokha and the gamchha to explore the deeper cultural landscape of Bihar through its food and lifestyle. Bihar’s culinary traditions are rooted in seasonality, frugality and community living—where recipes are shaped by geography, festivals and social customs. From the subtle sophistication of dishes like khaja, thekua and saag-based preparations to the everyday simplicity of sattu, food becomes a reflection of resilience and ecological wisdom. Equally revealing is the Bihari way of life, marked by close-knit families, agrarian rhythms, oral traditions and an understated elegance in daily practices. The discussion compares how traditional food habits mirror values such as sharing, sustainability and adaptability, while also examining how migration, urbanization and modern influences are reshaping these practices today. Together, food and lifestyle emerge not as stereotypes, but as living narratives that tell richer, layered stories of Bihar’s cultural identity.

8.Topic: Nalanda A window to the world

Description: To discuss the pathway of cultural and educational legacy of Nalanda for the rest of the world.

Nalanda stands as one of the earliest and most influential centers of learning in human history, offering a luminous window into the world’s shared intellectual heritage. Far beyond a regional institution, Nalanda functioned as a global knowledge hub, attracting scholars from China, Korea, Tibet, Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent. Its pathways of learning blended philosophy, logic, medicine, astronomy, linguistics and the arts, creating a culture of dialogue that transcended borders, languages and beliefs. The pedagogical ethos of Nalanda encouraged debate, critical inquiry and the free exchange of ideas, shaping educational traditions across Asia. Texts translated and transmitted from Nalanda travelled along ancient routes, influencing monasteries, universities and knowledge systems far beyond India. Even in its ruins, Nalanda speaks of an inclusive, cosmopolitan worldview where education was seen as a collective human pursuit. Revisiting Nalanda today allows us to reflect on how its legacy can inspire contemporary global education rooted in openness, plurality and intellectual exchange.



SECTION 2: NORTH-EAST LANGUAGE/LITERATURE



1. Topic: The Language Tribe

Description: Significance of tribal languages in preserving cultural heritage and identity of North East.

North-East India is a linguistic mosaic, home to more than 200 languages and dialects across eight states. These languages belong to several language families, including Indo-Aryan, Tibeto-Burman and Austroasiatic, creating a complex web of communication and identity. This diversity is evident not only in speech but in script, grammar and phonetics. Each language carries its own worldviews, traditions and cultural heritage. Examples include Khasi in Meghalaya, Mizo in Mizoram, and Ao in Nagaland. This diversity poses both an opportunity and a challenge. On the one hand, it enriches India's cultural landscape; on the other, it requires careful policy-making to ensure inclusion and protection. Languages with smaller populations face endangerment due to lack of institutional support and intergenerational transmission. Multilingual education policies and mother-tongue instruction are essential to promote linguistic equity. Language preservation projects, such as dictionaries, grammars and storybooks, are underway by local scholars and NGOs. Digital tools, like mobile apps and online archives, are increasingly being used to document and revitalize endangered languages. Celebrating this linguistic richness also fosters inter-ethnic harmony and cultural pride. North-East India stands as a living example of how language diversity can coexist with national unity.

2. Topic: Inscriptions of NE States:

Descriptions: To delve into the stories of its past through the inscriptions of the North Eastern states.

The North Eastern states of India possess a rich legacy of inscriptions that provide insight into the historical, linguistic and cultural evolution of the region. These inscriptions are found on stone tablets, temple walls, copper plates and manuscripts, and are written in various ancient scripts such as Ahom, Tai, Meitei and Devanagari. They document land grants, royal proclamations, religious practices and socio-political events. For instance, Ahom inscriptions from Assam highlight the administrative sophistication and cultural influence of the Ahom dynasty. Meitei inscriptions offer valuable evidence about the kingdom of Manipur and its interaction with neighboring regions. Many of these inscriptions reflect the spread of Hinduism and Buddhism and their role in shaping regional identities. The challenge lies in their preservation, decipherment and interpretation due to weathering and lack of documentation. Epigraphists and historians are working to digitize and translate these records, making them accessible for academic and public research. These inscriptions bridge gaps in historical narratives and establish continuity between oral traditions and written records. They are critical for reconstructing the region's past and asserting the antiquity and identity of its people.

3.Topic: Seven Sisters and the journey of languages

Descriptions: Linguistic diversity of North East India, the Tibeto-Burman, Indo-Aryan and Tai-Kadai language families. Also, includes major languages like Assamese, Bodo, Khasi, Mizo, Manipuri (Meitei), Nagamese and Arunachali languages.

The North-Eastern region of India, often called the Seven Sisters, represents one of the most linguistically vibrant landscapes in South Asia. This region is a living archive of languages shaped by migration, geography, oral traditions and cultural exchange. The linguistic diversity of the North East is primarily anchored in three major language families—Tibeto-Burman, Indo-Aryan and Tai-Kadai—each reflecting distinct historical journeys and worldviews. Tibeto-Burman languages, spoken widely across Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and parts of Manipur and Assam, dominate the region and encompass numerous indigenous tongues deeply rooted in community life and folklore. Indo-Aryan languages such as Assamese and Bengali function as literary, administrative and cultural bridges, connecting the region to the broader Indian linguistic sphere. The Tai-Kadai family, represented notably by Tai Ahom, recalls ancient trans-Asian connections and forgotten scripts. Together, these languages narrate the story of the North East—not merely as a geographical entity, but as a dynamic confluence of voices, memories, and identities.



**SECTION-3: BOOK REVIEW
OF CONTEMPORARY
WRITERS**



1. A Zigzag Mind: Dr. Sonal Mansingh in conversation with Dr. Vikram Sampath

2. Echoes of Eternity: A Journey through Indian Thought from the Rig Veda to the present: Shree Pavan K Varma in conversation with Sh. Sunit Tandon

3. How India scaled Mt G 20: The Inside Story of The G20 Presidency: Sh. Amitabh Kant in conversation with Prof. Sunaina Singh



SECTION 4: ICT IN LANGUAGE SECTION



1. Topic: Shabdon ki social factory

Description: Status of languages in the present digital era where digital age of AI & Robotics software plays key role to magnify any perspective of culture and language.

The digital era has dramatically transformed how languages are used, preserved and perceived. Online platforms such as social media, blogs and messaging apps have made multilingual expression more accessible. Regional languages now thrive in digital spaces through memes, reels, e-books and podcasts. Unicode and voice typing have broken barriers in script usage. Mobile apps and translation tools are promoting linguistic diversity among younger audiences. However, English and dominant languages still overpower less digitized tongues, creating a digital divide. The rise of AI-powered tools like chatbots and virtual assistants demands language-specific data sets, prompting interest in natural language processing (NLP) for regional scripts. Online dictionaries and text-to-speech engines are being developed for languages like Maithili, Santali and Konkani. Language-learning apps offer customized courses in dialects and endangered languages. YouTube storytelling and Instagram poetry in native tongues are redefining literary engagement. Crowdsourced platforms like Wikipedia are encouraging digital content creation in regional languages. Still, many languages lack digital infrastructure and investment. Government and institutional support is critical to bridge this gap. The digital era offers unprecedented opportunities to document, disseminate, and democratize linguistic heritage. When nurtured consciously, it can safeguard linguistic pluralism for future generations.

2. Topic: Algorithms to Accents

Description: The potential of creating NLP (Natural Language Processing tools (e.g., chatbots, translators) for Indian dialects and languages and the hurdles posed by its oral dominance.

Opportunities and Challenges NLP presents a significant opportunity to preserve, analyze and modernize a language spoken by millions across India and the diaspora. Bhojpuri, despite its wide reach, lacks formalized linguistic resources such as annotated corpora, part-of-speech taggers, or robust speech-to-text systems. This absence limits the development of applications such as Bhojpuri search engines, voice assistants, or automated translation services. Opportunities lie in collecting and curating Bhojpuri texts, including folk literature, cinema scripts and oral histories. Challenges include dialectal variations, informal orthography and low digital footprint. AI models need large, quality datasets that are still being built. Nonetheless, initiatives by Indian universities and open-source platforms are emerging to bridge this gap. NLP tools can enable sentiment analysis, chatbot development and educational resources in Bhojpuri. Collaborations with tech companies, linguists and native speakers are crucial. The goal is not only digitization but empowerment—preserving Bhojpuri as a living language while making it usable in contemporary digital ecosystems.



**SECTION 5: NATIONAL
LANGUAGE &
LITERATURE SECTION**



1. Topic: Language as legacy, How regional tongues safeguard our cultural roots?

Description: Significance of regional languages in preserving cultural heritage and identity. Regional languages play a vital role in preserving the cultural identity and traditional values of a community. They carry within them the collective memory of generations through oral traditions, folklore, songs and proverbs. These languages offer insights into a region's customs, belief systems and way of life. When regional languages thrive, so do the rituals, festivals and stories they narrate. They serve as the medium through which local knowledge—especially in agriculture, medicine and craftsmanship—is transmitted. In India, languages like Maithili, Bhojpuri and Bodo reflect distinct cultural ecosystems. As globalization promotes homogenization, preserving linguistic diversity ensures cultural resilience. Governments and institutions must prioritize education, media content and official communication in regional languages. Regional theatre, literature and cinema are essential tools in sustaining linguistic traditions. Language also shapes thought processes; thus, its preservation enriches the cognitive and emotional fabric of society. Loss of a language can lead to an irreversible loss of intangible cultural heritage. Active documentation and use in digital spaces are crucial today. In multilingual societies, regional languages foster inclusion and community bonding. Their promotion is not just a cultural act, but a step towards equity and pluralism.

2. Topic: From folklore to future: Evolving voices

Description: Latest trends in regional language and literature, including the impact of globalization and technology. Modern regional literature in India has evolved beyond its traditional themes to engage with contemporary issues like gender rights, caste oppression, migration and urbanization. Writers are experimenting with new forms like flash fiction, blogs and spoken-word poetry. The digital revolution has democratized publishing, allowing regional voices to flourish on social media platforms and e-magazines. There is a growing focus on writing from the margins—by Dalit, tribal and women authors—in languages like Marathi, Malayalam and Assamese. Young readers are drawn to bilingual or hybrid formats that combine English with regional scripts. Literary festivals and translation projects are reviving interest in local classics and introducing new voices to broader audiences. Regional literature is increasingly becoming a tool for resistance and identity assertion. Cross-border linguistic communities (e.g., Tamil in Sri Lanka, Bengali in Bangladesh) are enriching the literary canvas. Audiobooks and YouTube storytelling channels have made these texts more accessible. There is also a trend of incorporating modern themes like environmental degradation, LGBTQ+ narratives, and digital life. Despite challenges like low institutional support, the self-publishing boom has empowered grassroots creativity. Regional language comics, graphic novels and films adapted from literature are gaining popularity. The synergy of tradition and innovation marks the vibrancy of the current scene.

3.Topic: Her Words, Her World, Exploring Women's Voices in Indian Writing.

Description: Significance of Women's representation and its contribution in Indian literature that has witnessed a growing assertion of women's voices across languages and regions. From the bhakti poets like Mirabai and Akka Mahadevi to contemporary writers like Mahasweta Devi and Indira Goswami, women have articulated dissent, desire and defiance. These voices often challenge patriarchal norms and reflect the lived experiences of women in both rural and urban India. Themes such as domestic violence, motherhood, gender identity and agency are central. Regional language literature, especially in Tamil, Bengali and Marathi, has produced path-breaking feminist narratives. Women authors use metaphors from mythology, nature and folklore to subvert traditional gender roles. Autobiographies and memoirs by Dalit and tribal women writers are adding new layers to intersectional discourse. Translations have brought these works into national and global limelight. Many writings also highlight women's roles in resistance movements and community leadership. In recent decades, digital platforms and self-publishing have enabled new, younger voices. Poetry, short stories and blogs have become mediums for expression and solidarity. Despite facing barriers in publishing and recognition, women continue to shape the literary landscape with authenticity and courage. These voices are not monolithic but represent diverse socio-cultural and linguistic contexts. They are central to any understanding of Indian literature today.

4.Topic: From Local to Global, Evolving practices in the landscape of literary translations.

Descriptions: Latest trends in translation of Hindi and other Indian languages to English and vice-versa. In an increasingly interconnected world, literary translation has emerged as a vital bridge between local narratives and global readerships. The translation of Hindi and other Indian languages into English—and the reverse—has evolved beyond mere linguistic transfer to become a culturally sensitive and creative practice. Contemporary translators are engaging deeply with context, idiom, rhythm and socio-political nuances, ensuring that the soul of the original text travels intact across languages. Recent trends reveal a growing emphasis on regional voices, marginalized narratives and oral traditions, reflecting India's diverse literary ecology. At the same time, reverse translations—from English into Indian languages—are expanding access to global thought, theory and contemporary fiction for vernacular readers. Digital publishing platforms, AI-assisted tools and collaborative translation models are further reshaping the landscape, enabling faster dissemination while raising important questions about authenticity and authorship. This evolving practice underscores translation not merely as a technical skill, but as an act of cultural negotiation—one that allows local stories to claim their rightful place in global literary conversations while enriching Indian languages with global influences.

5.Topic: From Charkha to Chaupal, Gandhi's ideals and their echo in Bihar's Folk traditions.

Description: Influence of Gandhi, Satyagrah, Charkha on folk tradition of India with special focus on Bihar. This session explores the enduring imprint of Mahatma Gandhi's ideals on India's folk consciousness, tracing their journey from the symbolic charkha to the living spaces of the chaupal. Gandhi's philosophy of Satyagraha, self-reliance, simplicity and moral resistance did not remain confined to political movements alone; it found a powerful cultural resonance within folk traditions. With a special focus on Bihar—one of the key theatres of Gandhi's mass movements—this discussion examines how folk songs, oral narratives, Birha, Sohar, Kajri and village performance traditions absorbed and reflected Gandhian values. The charkha emerged as more than a tool of spinning; it became a metaphor for dignity of labour and collective awakening, while the chaupal evolved into a democratic space of dialogue, resistance and social reform. By examining these cultural expressions, the session highlights how Gandhian thought seamlessly blended with Bihar's folk idioms, transforming political ideology into lived cultural memory that continues to echo in rural imagination even today.

6.Topic: Reimagining Bhartiya Itihas from an Indic perspective: A conversation.

Description: To discuss about how do we reimagine Indian history from an Indic perspective. This conversation seeks to critically examine the ways in which Indian history has been written, interpreted and transmitted, and to explore how it can be reimaged through an authentically Indic lens. For long, the understanding of Bhartiya Itihas has been shaped by colonial frameworks and Western historiographical models that often-fragmented India's civilizational continuity, marginalized indigenous knowledge systems and reduced complex cultural processes to linear political narratives.

The discussion will focus on reclaiming indigenous epistemologies, oral traditions, texts, archaeology, art, folklore and philosophical thought as legitimate and central sources of historical understanding. It will also deliberate on how concepts such as Itihasa, Smriti, Parampara and lived cultural memory differ from modern Western notions of history and what they offer in constructing a more holistic narrative of India's past.

Rather than a rejection of academic rigour, this reimagining advocates for a balanced, self-reflective historiography—one that integrates evidence with civilisational consciousness, plurality with continuity and scholarship with cultural rootedness. The conversation aims to open pathways for a more nuanced, confident, and inclusive understanding of India's historical journey, relevant both to contemporary society and future generations.

7.Topic: Writing India in English: Celebrating its Multicultural Narratives.

Descriptions: Indian Literature in English and exploring multi-cultural paradise of India.

Writing India in English: Celebrating Its Multicultural Narratives explores how Indian literature in English has evolved into a powerful medium for expressing the country's extraordinary cultural diversity. Rooted in multiple languages, histories, regions and belief systems, Indian English writing captures the lived realities of a nation that is plural by nature. From metropolitan cities to remote hinterlands, from caste and class negotiations to questions of gender, migration, identity and belonging, these narratives reflect India's layered social fabric.

Writing in English has enabled Indian authors to engage both local and global audiences, translating indigenous experiences without diluting their cultural essence. The language becomes a bridge—connecting traditions with modernity, memory with change and the personal with the political. This discussion celebrates Indian English literature as a vibrant multicultural archive, where varied voices coexist, challenge dominant narratives and reimagine India beyond monolithic representations, affirming its identity as a dynamic, inclusive and continuously evolving cultural paradise.



**SECTION 6:
NATIONAL/INTERNATIO
NAL LITERATURE &
LEGACY**



1.Topic: Heritage of Scripts in India

Description: The heritage of scripts of India that refers to the rich history and a wide range of writing systems prevalent in the Indian subcontinent over centuries. India has a rich heritage of scripts, reflecting its linguistic and cultural diversity. From ancient scripts like Brahmi and Kharosthi to Devanagari, Tamil, Bengali and Kannada, Indian scripts evolved over millennia. These scripts played a vital role in preserving sacred texts, literary works and historical records. The diversity of scripts is closely tied to India's multilingual character. Epigraphical evidence from rock edicts to palm-leaf manuscripts reveal the artistic and functional use of scripts. Many scripts, though obsolete today, contributed to the development of modern Indian languages. Efforts are ongoing to digitize ancient scripts to preserve them for future generations.

2.Topic: Oral Literature

Description: Oral literature which refers to stories, songs, poems and other forms of verbal art that are passed down through generations by word of mouth.

Oral literature in India is a living tradition that predates written texts. It encompasses folktales, myths and chants passed down through generations by word of mouth. Regions and communities have their own unique oral traditions, such as the Pandvani of Chhattisgarh or the Baul songs of Bengal. These narratives often serve moral, educational and entertainment purposes. Oral literature preserves regional histories and cultural identities in languages or dialects often excluded from formal writing. Even today, oral storytelling thrives in rural and tribal areas. Oral literature remains a dynamic expression of India's pluralistic culture.

3.Topic: Manuscript Traditions

Description: Manuscript traditions, which refers to the historical processes of creating, copying, transmitting and preserving handwritten texts, often over long periods.

India has one of the world's largest and oldest manuscript traditions, spanning over two millennia. Manuscripts were written on palm leaves, birch bark, cloth and paper, often preserved in temples, monasteries, and libraries. They cover a vast range of subjects—religion, philosophy, medicine, astronomy, mathematics and arts. Manuscript culture promoted scholasticism and intellectual exchange across regions and time. Indian manuscripts span over 70 languages and numerous scripts such as Sanskrit (Devanagari), Tamil, Telugu, Grantha, Sharada, Modi and more. Institutions like the National Mission for Manuscripts are working to catalog and conserve these treasures.

4.Topic: Urdu: From Past to Present

Description: Discuss about evolution of Urdu as national language since its inception and present status.

Urdu emerged around the 12th century in the Delhi region, evolving as a linguistic blend of Persian, Arabic, Turkish and local Indian dialects (primarily Khari Boli). Initially called 'Rekhta,' it flourished in the courts and later emerged as a language of poetry and expression. Iconic poets like Mir, Ghalib, Iqbal and Faiz shaped Urdu into a literary powerhouse. Beyond poetry, Urdu contributed significantly to prose, journalism and cinema. Partition impacted its status, with Hindi gaining prominence in India. However, Urdu continues to thrive in India, especially in cultural and academic spheres.

5.Topic: Beyond the Binary: Transgender characters in today's literature

Description: How gender characters are represented in modern literature, exploring themes such as identity, acceptance and marginalization?

This topic examines how contemporary literature is moving past rigid gender binaries to portray transgender characters with greater depth, dignity and authenticity. Modern writers are increasingly engaging with transgender identities not as metaphors or marginal figures, but as fully realised human experiences shaped by emotion, memory, conflict and resilience. Literature becomes a vital space where questions of selfhood, body, language and belonging are negotiated, often challenging social norms and inherited prejudices.

The discussion explores how themes of identity and self-discovery intersect with struggles for acceptance—within families, communities and cultural institutions—while also addressing persistent marginalisation. Transgender characters in today's writing often navigate violence, erasure and misunderstanding, but they also embody agency, desire, love and creativity. By analysing narratives across genres and geographies, this topic highlights how literature functions both as a mirror to lived realities and as a tool of empathy and social change. It invites readers to reconsider gender as fluid, evolving and deeply human, rather than fixed or prescribed.

6.Topic: India & Indian Diaspora with special focus on Girmityas, legend language and culture beyond boundaries

Description: India and Indian Diaspora regarding legend language and culture beyond boundaries with a special focus on the diaspora countries like Mauritius, Surinam and other Caribbean countries. Besides, a discussion the cultural legacy of Girmityas across the world.

The Indian diaspora, spread across continents, has maintained strong cultural and linguistic ties with their roots. From indentured laborers in the 19th century to modern professionals today, they've carried Indian legends, languages, and rituals with them. Communities in Mauritius, Fiji, Trinidad, the UK, USA and Canada keep Indian traditions alive through festivals, literature and religious practices. Indian languages such as Hindi, Tamil, Bhojpuri and Punjabi are spoken in various diaspora regions. Cultural exchanges have led to hybrid expressions like Caribbean chutney music or South African Tamil theatre. Diaspora writers and artists contribute to global understanding of Indian identity. Despite assimilation, a strong sense of heritage binds these communities. The Indian diaspora acts as a cultural bridge, enriching both host and home countries. Their legacy is a testament to India's civilizational resilience and adaptability.

7.Topic: Live Show on veracities of poems.

Description: Discussion around the journeys and flow of Indian poetry in the global era.

This discussion explores the veracities of poems by tracing the journeys, transformations and enduring truths of Indian poetry in the global era. From ancient oral traditions and classical Sanskrit, Prakrit, Pali and Tamil verses to Bhakti–Sufi poetry, modernist experimentation and contemporary spoken-word expressions, Indian poetry has continually evolved while remaining rooted in lived realities. In a globalized world shaped by migration, digital platforms, translations and cross-cultural dialogues, Indian poems now travel beyond linguistic and geographical boundaries, engaging with universal themes of identity, love, resistance, exile and belonging.

The conversation reflects on how poetic truth is not merely factual accuracy but an emotional and experiential authenticity—how poems respond to changing social contexts, political climates and personal crises. It also examines the tension between local sensibilities and global readerships, questioning how Indian poetry negotiates its cultural specificity while speaking to a wider world. Ultimately, the discussion foregrounds poetry as a living form—fluid, porous and honest—carrying forward the inner veracities of human experience across time and borders.

8.Topic: Does religion overpower our way of life?

Description: Discussion around the relevance of religious books i.e., Bhagwat Geeta, Ramayana, Rig Veda, Quran, Bible, Guru Granth Sahib, Tripitaka, Agmas in present era.

This discussion explores a timeless yet deeply contemporary question: Does religion overpower our way of life, or does it continue to guide it meaningfully? At the heart of the conversation lies the relevance of sacred texts such as the Bhagwat Geeta, Ramayana, Rig Veda, Quran, Bible, Guru Granth Sahib, Tripitaka and Agamas in today's rapidly changing world. These scriptures were composed in specific historical and cultural contexts, yet their philosophical insights, ethical frameworks and spiritual inquiries continue to influence individual choices and collective consciousness.

The dialogue will examine whether modern society interprets these texts as rigid doctrines that dictate behaviour, or as living philosophies offering moral clarity, compassion and balance amid technological advancement and social complexity. By revisiting their teachings through a contemporary lens, the discussion seeks to understand how religion can coexist with modern values—shaping lifestyles not through dominance, but through wisdom, introspection, and humane guidance.

9.Topic: Live Show on Bihar Arts.

Description: A discussion around evolution of various facets of Bihar arts and its present status in the form of live shows. This aims to explore the rich and layered artistic heritage of Bihar by tracing the evolution of its diverse art forms and examining their contemporary expressions on live platforms. From the ancient traditions of Madhubani and Tikuli painting to the lyrical depth of folk music, theatre, dance and oral storytelling, Bihar's arts have long reflected the social, spiritual and cultural consciousness of the region. The discussion will highlight how these forms emerged from everyday life—rituals, festivals, agrarian practices and community narratives—and gradually adapted to changing times.

The show will also focus on the transition of Bihar Arts from intimate, community-based performances to structured live shows on urban stages, festivals and digital platforms. It will examine the challenges faced by traditional artists in the modern era, including issues of visibility, patronage and relevance, while also celebrating the renewed interest among younger audiences and contemporary practitioners. By showcasing live performances, artist conversations and critical insights, the programme seeks to capture the living, breathing nature of Bihar's arts today.

Ultimately, the live show will position Bihar Arts not as static cultural relics, but as evolving, resilient expressions that continue to reinvent themselves, finding new voices and audiences while staying rooted in their timeless cultural ethos.

10.Topic: Live Show on NE Arts

Description: Discussion around evolution of various facets of NE arts and its present status in the form of live shows. This live show aims to explore the rich and evolving landscape of North East Indian arts, tracing its journey from deeply rooted indigenous traditions to its dynamic contemporary expressions. The discussion will delve into various facets of North East arts—music, dance, theatre, visual arts, crafts and storytelling—highlighting how oral traditions, rituals and community practices have shaped their artistic identity over centuries.

The show will examine the impact of history, geography, and cultural diversity on artistic forms across the eight North Eastern states, while also addressing how modern influences, technology and global exposure have redefined creative expressions in the region. Special focus will be given to live performances as a powerful medium of cultural transmission—how folk forms have adapted to stage formats, festivals and digital platforms without losing their authenticity.

Artists, curators and cultural commentators will share insights into the present status of North East arts in live shows, discussing challenges such as representation, funding and mainstream visibility, alongside opportunities emerging through national and international collaborations. The conversation will also reflect on how live shows today function as spaces of dialogue, identity assertion and cultural pride. Overall, the discussion seeks to celebrate the resilience, innovation and growing influence of North East arts in the contemporary cultural ecosystem.



**SECTION:7 EMINENT
SPEAKERS SECTION**



1. Journey of NLF and its motivational facets

Description: Ms D. Aaliya in conversation with Sh. Sanjay Kumar would be reflecting on a wide range of anecdotes she has experienced right from the inception of the idea of Nalanda Literature Festival. She would delve deep into her rationale of giving it back to the society we all have imbibed our cultural and literary heritage from.

2. Interactive Session on Legacy

Description: Dr. Sarita Boodhoo in conversation with Dr. Sachchidanad Joshi would enlighten our imagination with their profound insights on the 'Legacy' we have inherited.

3. Interactive Session on Language

Sh. Adoor Gopalkrishnan in conversation with Sh. Ganga Kumar will be exploring the strengths and challenges of language as a carrier and sometimes as a barrier between the communicator and the receiver, besides other attributes of languages and Boli.

4. Interactive Session on Literature

Dr. Shashi Tharoor in conversation with Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi will be a session to watch out for. The prolific Author -Parliamentarian Dr. Tharoor and Prof Sachin Chaturvedi's eminent session will be quite enriching for the contemporary literary landscape of our times.

“Have an enriching time in Nalanda Literature Festival’2025”

**For More Information
Dhanu Bihar**

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