



BIPS

Workshop

Ancient India and Persia: An Interaction

(Attendance by invitation only)

2026

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (Mumbai)
4-5 December 2026

Ancient India and Persia: An Interaction

A Workshop at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai

Ancient India and Persia: An Interaction

This workshop will consist of a series of papers and discussions where new evidence of transmission of ideas from ancient Persia and Central Asia to India will be addressed. Questions will focus on which ideas were developed in ancient Persia – and Central Asia – that may have contributed to a fusion in the field of art, architecture and religious texts, as well as the 19th and 20th century architecture of Zoroastrian fire temples in India.

These and other points will help us to understand a long and fruitful interchange of cultural ideas that have survived challenges and have contributed to the formation of different religious, artistic and cultural models from Persia to India and beyond.

Conference organisers

British Institute of Persian Studies

BIPS is the UK's foremost learned organisation dedicated to promoting and supporting scholarship and research excellence on all aspects of Iran and the wider Persianate world, and to increasing public understanding and knowledge of this region.

BIPS is one of the British International Research Institutes (BIRI), supported by the British Academy.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya

The aim at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) is to create awareness and sensitivity towards our rich heritage through a visitor-friendly museum for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment of the public.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, formerly known as the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India, is one of the premier art and history museums in India. It is a not-for-profit organisation established by Act III of 1909 of the Bombay Legislation by the then Bombay Presidency, called the Prince of Wales Museum Act (now known as the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya Act).

Provisional Programme

Friday, 4 December 2026

9.30-9.50 AM Arrival

9.50-10.00 AM Welcome
by **Dr Sabyasachi Mukherjee**, Director of the CSMVS
Introduction

Session 1

10.00-12.45 PM

10.00-11.00 AM **Professor Suchandra Ghosh**, Hyderabad University - Keynote
From the Achaemenids to the Sasanids: Diverse voices of Cultural Dialogue in the Indo-Iranian Borderlands

11.00-11.20 AM **Professor Susmita Basu Majumdar**, University of Kolkata
The Mauryas and the Persian Connection

11.20-11.35 AM **Discussion**

11.35-11.50 PM **Coffee break**

11.50-12.10 PM **Dr Arish Dastur**, Mumbai
Themes from the Yashts

12.10-12.30 PM **Professor Almut Hintze**, SSPIZS, SOAS
Sanskrit in the manuscript culture of the Parsis

12.30-12.45 PM **Discussion**

12.45-2.00 PM Lunch

Session 2

2.00-5.00 PM

- 2.00-2.20 PM **Dr Fabrizio Sinisi**, Austrian Academy, Vienna
The religion of the Kushans: a historical approach to non-Persian Zoroastrianism
- 2.20-2.40 PM **Dr Yousef Moradi**, SOAS
Sarab-e Murt: architectural transmission between Central Asia and India in the Parthian period
- 2.40-2.55 PM **Discussion**
- 2.55-3.10 PM **Tea break**
- 3.10- 3.30 PM **Dr Michael Alram**, Austrian Academy of Sciences,
Sasanian Zoroastrianism and the coinage of Sind
- 3.30- 3.50 PM **Professor Ashish Kumar**, Panjab University
Indo-Sasanian Interaction
- 3.50-4.05 PM **Discussion**
- 4.05-4.25 PM **Dr Judith Lerner**, NYU
Zoroastrianism (Mazdaism) amongst the Sogdians
- 4.25-4.45 PM **Dr Sarah Stewart**, SOAS/BIPS
Zoroastrian religious ideas: from Iran to India
- 4.45-5.00 PM **Discussion**
- 7:30 PM **Dinner**

Saturday, 5 December 2026

Session 1

10.00-12.30 PM

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| 10.00-10.20 AM | Burzine Waghmar, SOAS
<i>The Persian and Indian oikumenes after the conquests</i> |
| 10.20-10.40 AM | Dr Rukshana Nanji, Independent Researcher, Pune
<i>The Sanjan Saga – a chronology in ceramics</i> |
| 10.40-10.55 AM | Discussion |
| 10.55-11.10 AM | Coffee Break |
| 11.10-11.30 AM | Dr Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis, BIPS, BM
<i>Zoroastrianism in the art of Arsacid Parthia and Persis</i> |
| 11.30-11.50 AM | Discussion |
| 11.50-12.30 PM | Closing remarks and plans for publication |
| 12.30-1.30 PM | Lunch |

This programme is organised by British Institute of Persian Studies (BIPS) in collaboration with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS), Mumbai, as part of 'Networks of the Past: A Study Gallery of India and the Ancient World'. The Conference programme is being supported by BIPS and the Venue costs at Mumbai are being supported by CSMVS through the Citi-CSMVS Museum on Wheels Initiative.



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- **Full** (£50 a year);
- **Fellow** (£60 a year for academics).

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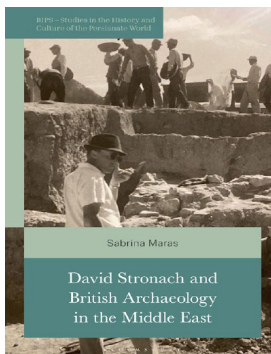
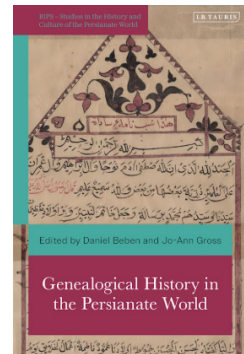
Becoming a member is your chance to support our work and contribute to our efforts to broaden appreciation of the cultural heritage of the Persianate world.

BIPS Publications

BIPS publishes two monograph series, *Studies in the History and Culture of the Persianate World* and *BIPS Archaeological Monographs*, and the peer-reviewed academic journal *IRAN* (two issues per year).

Genealogical History in the Persianate World. Edited by Jo-Ann Gross and Daniel Beben. Published: June 2025.

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David Stronach and British Archaeology in the Middle East. By Sabrina Maras. Published: June 2026.

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