AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

PROGRAMME

PERSIA IN THE MIRROR OF MUGHAL INDIA



10 – 12 November 2026

India International Centre, New Delhi

ORGANISED BY

BIPS

ASHOKA UNIVERSITY | Harish & Bina Shah School of Humanities

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

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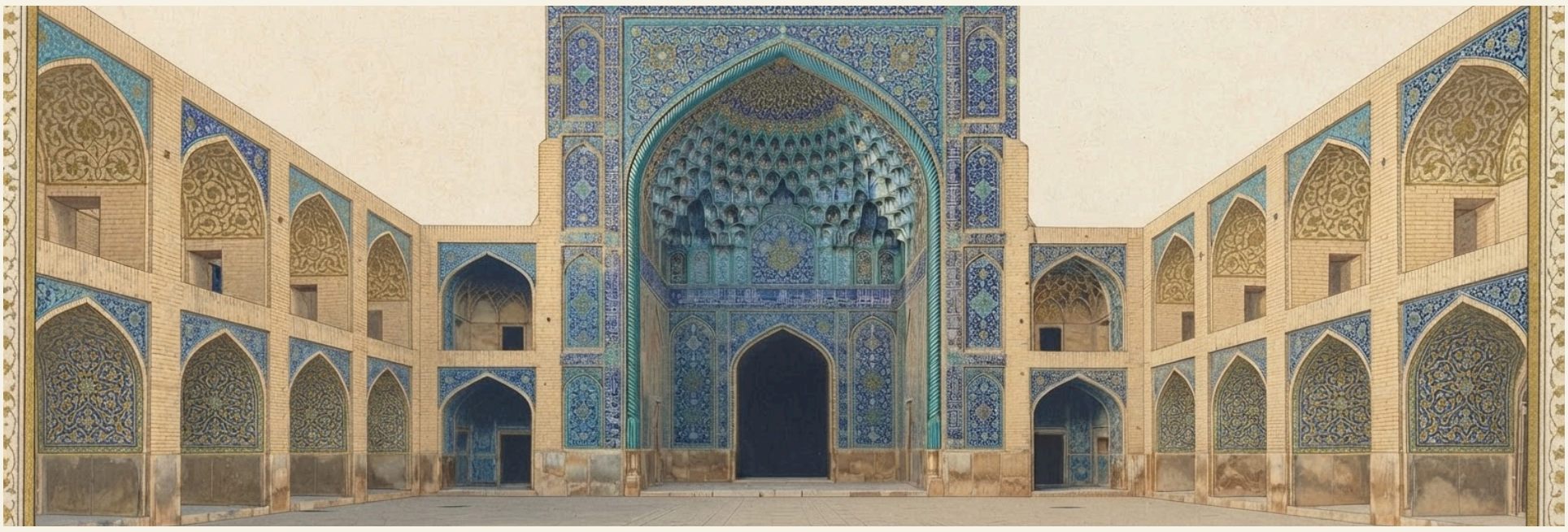
10 NOVEMBER 2026

Inaugural session

Multipurpose Hall, Kamaladevi Complex

7:00 – 8:30 pm

Moderator: Akansha Singh



7:00 pm

Ira Rajeev

Director, Harish and Bina Shah School of Humanities, Ashoka University

Welcome Address

7:10 pm

Rishikesha T. Krishnan

Ashoka University

Address by the Vice-Chancellor

7:25 pm

Saurabh Kumar

Former Indian Ambassador to Iran

Address by the Chief Guest

7:40 pm

Charles P. Melville

University of Cambridge

Address by the Guest of Honour

7:55 pm

Neera Chandhoke

University of Delhi

Introduction by Ramin Jahanbegloo, O.P. Jindal University

Keynote Address

DINNER — From 8:30 pm onwards

Day one

11 November 2026

Seminar Hall 1 & 2, Kamaladevi Complex

MORNING

ACADEMIC SESSION I

9:30 – 11:00 am

Competition and Collaboration

Moderator: Meera Masaldan

Rudolph P. Matthee

Capturing Qandahar: The Safavid-Mughal Struggle over a Contested City

Nobuaki Kondo

A Contribution of a Mughal Noble to Iran: Fazil Khan and his Madrasa in Mashhad

TEA 11:00 – 11:15 am

ACADEMIC SESSION II

11:15 am – 12:45 pm

Influence

Moderator: Jatin Abhir

Kashshaf Ghani

Persianate Sufism in Mughal India

Charles P. Melville

Imaging India and Iran in the Sixteenth–Eighteenth Centuries

LUNCH 12:45 – 1:45 pm



Day one

11 November 2026

Seminar Hall 1 & 2, Kamaladevi Complex

AFTERNOON

ACADEMIC SESSION III

1:45 – 3:15 pm

Texts

Moderator: Nikita Bose

Corinne Lefèvre

In the footsteps of Abd al-Karim Kashmiri: Antiquarian perspectives on Mughal Persophilia

Ali Anooshahr

The Poet Jamali Dehlavi and the Making of the Mughal Empire

TEA 3:15 – 3:30 pm

ACADEMIC SESSION IV

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Gifts

Moderator: Muhammed Razin M N

Shounak Ghosh

Writing the Gift: Epistolary and Material Practices in Mughal-Safavid Diplomacy

Pratyay Nath

Which Horse to Gift a Persian Turncoat? Equestrian Economy and Mughal Courtly Culture



Day two

12 November 2026

Seminar Hall 1 & 2, Kamaladevi Complex

MORNING

ACADEMIC SESSION V

9:30 – 11:00 am

Literature

Moderator: Affan Shikoh

Syed Akhtar Husain

Reflection of the Shahnameh in the Mirror of Mughal India

Alexander Jabbari

Persian Grammar in Mughal India

TEA 11:00 – 11:15 am

ACADEMIC SESSION VI

11:15 am – 12:45 pm

Neighbours

Moderator: Damini Jain

Roy S. Fischel

Between Alliance and Rhetoric: The Deccan Sultanates and Mughal-Safavid Competition

Akansha Singh

Afghan Rulership in the Persianate World: Justice, Generosity, and Martial Valour

LUNCH 12:45 – 1:45 pm



Day two

12 November 2026

Seminar Hall 1 & 2, Kamaladevi Complex

AFTERNOON

ACADEMIC SESSION VII

1:45 – 3:15 pm

Connections

Moderator: Khadiza Naufa Fatin

Umang Kochhar

The Persianate East: The Mughal–Aceh Axis and Indian Ocean Contacts

Hannah Hassani

India, Britain, and the Iranian Civil Service

Mariyam Siddiqui

A Persian at the Mughal Court: Bairam Khan in Mughal Historical Memory

TEA 3:15 – 3:30 pm

ACADEMIC SESSION VIII

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Transitions

Moderator: Jaweriya Tasneem

Mahmood Alam

From Plassey to Britain: Warren Hastings and the Legacy of Persian Manuscripts in Bengal

Md Arshadul Quadri

Persia Reimagined: Mirza Ghalib and Persian Literary Tradition of Mughal India



12 NOVEMBER 2026

Valediction & book release

India International Centre, New Delhi

VALEDICTION

5:00 – 5:15 pm

Varun Sahni

Valedictory Address

Dean, Harish and Bina Shah School of Humanities, Ashoka University

CERTIFICATE OF Appreciation

5:15 – 5:45 pm

Distribution of Certificates of Appreciation to the Volunteers of the Conference

BOOK RELEASE

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Iran: Beauty and Tyranny

by Ramin Jahanbegloo

Moderator: Nena Mahal

SPEAKERS

Ramin Jahanbegloo

Syed Irfan Habib

Ashok Vajpeyi





Persia in the Mirror of Mughal India

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CONFERENCE TEAM

Ali M. Ansari, BIPS — Conference Convenor

Charles P. Melville, BIPS — Conference Convenor

Nadeem Akhtar, Ashoka University — Conference Convenor

Charmi Badlani, Ashoka University — Program Coordinator

Uday Bansal, Ashoka University — Conference Coordinator

Yaschen D'lima, Ashoka University — Logistics Coordinator