



ANNUAL REPORT

2025 - 2026





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The Executive Committee has the pleasure in submitting the
Annual Report of its activities for 2025-26

ABOUT IBSA

The Indo-British Scholars' Association or IBSA is a non-profit registered society with 80G certification, set up under the auspices of the British Council. IBSA was founded in 1997, during the visit of then Prime Minister Sir John Major to Kolkata on the sidelines of the CII Partnership Summit. IBSA seeks to deepen relations between India and the UK through a range of activities, in the fields of Education, Art and Culture, Science and Technology, Business and Entrepreneurship.

IBSA also supports several social causes including extending scholarships for spoken English classes for deserving students through British Council. It supports some NGOs working in the area of education, skills development and counseling for women and girls. IBSA has extended support for children who are cancer survivors through Tata Memorial Cancer Centre. IBSA provided sports scholarships and cricket kits for differently abled youth and for girls under 19 years selected by Jhulan Goswami and CAB.

IBSA members are typically either alumni of UK universities, or have worked, trained or undertaken research at institutions in the UK. In addition, IBSA invites a select number of organisations, with strong connections to the UK, to join as Corporate Patrons. At present, members of IBSA number over 390 and include many prominent citizens of India and beyond. Corporate Patrons number 35 and comprise of organisations of national and global repute.

Further information about IBSA may be found online at **www.ibsa.in** on the Facebook page **www.facebook.com/ibsa.kol** and the Instagram handle is **[@ibsa.kolkata](https://www.instagram.com/ibsa.kolkata)**



Inauguration of IBSA by Sir John Major in January 1997



Past Presidents of IBSA at the Silver Jubilee celebration

IBSA LEADERSHIP TEAM 2025 - 2026



Ms. Reetasri Ghosh
President



Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta
Vice President



Mr. Abhrajit Mitra
Ex Officio & Chair,
Presidents Council



Mr. Saptarshi Kar
Secretary



Mr. Sameer Nandwani
Treasurer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Dr. Debanjan Chakrabarti
Director, British Council
East & Northeast India



Dr. Amit Ghose
Chair
Health Sciences Council



Mr. Anamitra Chatterjee
Chair
Education Council



Dr. Debasis Datta
Chair
Programmes Council



Mr. Manoj Mohanka
Chair
Collaborations and Outreach



Ms. Husna-Tara Prakash
Chair
Hospitality and Tourism



Mr. Rajeev Ginodia
Chair
Legal Council

SPECIAL INVITEES



Mr. Ashok Barat



Ms. Aakriti Jhunjhunwala



Mr. Amitava Ghose



Dr. Debashish Bhattacharjee



Mr. Gopal Krishna, GSS



Dr. Nandini Ray



Dr. Rizwan Javed



Mr. Sandeep Kumar



Mr. Subhankar Chakraborty

HONORARY PATRONS

DISTINGUISHED PATRON



Late Dr. Jamshed J Irani, KBE

HONORARY PATRONS



Dr. Hari Krishna Dwivedi, IAS



Dr. Tarun Das, OBE



Dr. Subrata Gupta, IAS



Ms. Vandana Yadav, IAS



Mr. Soumen Mitra, IPS



Dr. P.B. Salim, IAS



Mr. Gaurav Kanaujia, IRS

FORMER **PRESIDENTS**



Late Mr. Subimal Ghosh



Mr. Jayanta Mitra



Prof. Partha Ghose



Late Mr. Ranajit Banerjee



Late Prof. Shanta Mahalanobis



Mr. Anindya Mitra



Mr. Somendra Dhar



Late Dr. Sandip Chatterjee



Late Prof. Dwarka Nath Bose



Mr. Subrata Ghose



Ms. Nayantara Palchoudhuri



Mr. Rajive Kaul



Mr. Subrata Paul



Mr. Abhrajit Mitra

INDIVIDUAL PATRONS



Mr. Jayanta Mitra



Prof. Partha Ghose



Late Prof. Dwarka Nath
Bose



Ms. Nayantara
Palchoudhuri



Late Dr. Sandip
Chatterjee



Mr. Rajive Kaul



Mr. Subrata Paul



Mr. Abhrajit Mitra



Dr. Hirak Sen



Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta



Mr. Amitabha Ghose



Late Mr. Samir K Datta



Dr. Debashish Bhattacharjee



Mr. Siddhartha Datta



Ms. Swati Gautam



Mr. Amitava Bhattacharya



Mr. S.N. Mookherjee



Dr. Nandini Ray



Mr. Sanjay Guhathakurta



Mr. Aditya Jain



Mr. Siddharth Bhutoria



Mr. Srinjoy Sen



Ms. Sumegha Ginodia



Mr. Sudipto Sarkar



Mr. Ratnanko Banerji



Mr. Anamitra Chatterjee



Mr. Rajeev Ginodia

CORPORATE & INSTITUTIONAL PATRONS

CORPORATES



EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



LEGAL AND BUSINESS ADVISORY FIRMS



PROGRAMMES & ACTIVITIES

29TH IBSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10th September, 2025 | British Council



IBSA Members at the AGM

BATA IBSA UK-INDIA QUIZ

20th September, 2025 | Tollygunge Club



The first edition of the Bata IBSA UK-India Quiz, powered by BATA and held at the Tollygunge Club in partnership with the British Deputy High Commission and the British Council, was a grand success. The event was supported by media partner The Telegraph.

Around 50 teams participated, with 8 qualifying for the finals. QMs Arpan Banerjee and Prasenjit Guha (from IBSA) were joined by guest QMs Dr Andrew Fleming, Dr Debanjan Chakrabarti, Mr. Ashok Barat (Independent Director, Bata) and Brigadier (Retd) V. Ganapathy. Mr. Anjan Kundu of Bata awarded the winners' prizes.

The team of JU Arts Alumni (which included a UK university alumnus) emerged champions, followed by the District Grand Lodge (Freemasons) and the Calcutta High Court Bar Library Club. Other finalists included Capgemini, IBSA corporate member DP Ahuja & Co, and alumni teams from IIM Calcutta, JU Engineering and Medical College.

Special awards were presented for the best prelims score by a public sector team (Eastern Railway), private sector team (Capgemini), and UK-affiliated team (Cambridge and City Alumni). A special mention also went to the West Bengal IAS Association for registering the maximum number of teams.

BOOK LAUNCH OF THE CAREER EDGE BY KAUSHIK MITRA, VP AND CFO OF PEPSICO INDIA AND SOUTH ASIA

15th November, 2025 | Saturday Club



IBSA in collaboration with Ahava Communications and Penguin Books India celebrated the book launch of *The Career Edge: The Unwritten Rules of Success* by Kaushik Mitra, VP and CFO of PepsiCo India and South Asia. A seasoned global business leader with three decades of rich experience, Kaushik urges us to think of a career in corporate as a marathon rather than a sprint. In an anecdotal style, he demystifies the complexities of the corporate world as he offers valuable insights across three pivotal areas of self-development, collaboration and building resilience to deliver results.

The book launch included an esteemed panel of Kaushik Brahma, Head of Corporate Administration from Tata Steel who shared sharp perspectives on workplace culture. Reetasri Ghosh, IBSA President and leadership facilitator who spoke about the importance of “Shoshin” and continuous self-growth. Joydeep Datta Gupta, Independent Director and former Deloitte Partner offered grounded insights drawn from his long career. Moderator Beth Caldwell, founder of Take Two Coaching, kept the conversation flowing with clarity and warmth. As Guest of Honour, Dr. Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commissioner to East and Northeast India, delivered opening remarks which set a thoughtful and inspiring tone. Elizabeth Lee, Director American Center was a special Guest. It was a memorable evening that was insightful and engaging, reminding everyone how resilience, adaptability, learning agility along with “employee-ship” is important to navigate corporate careers.

6TH EDITION: **FELICITATION OF KOLKATA POLICE**

25th November, 2025 | Limelight Police Building



IBSA recognised Kolkata Police Officers for their exemplary service on the roads of Kolkata during the festive season in the presence of our Chief Guest Shri. Manoj Kumar Verma, IPS – Commissioner of Police. Special Guests present were Shri. Subhankar Sinha Sarkar, IPS – Additional Commissioner of Police III, Shri. Rupesh Kumar, IPS – Joint Commissioner of Police – Traffic, Shri Amit Verma, IPS – DC 1st Battalion along with IBSA President Mrs. Reetasri Ghosh and Dr. Debanjan Chakrabarti, Director British Council – East and Northeast India.

The sixth edition of this event, initiated by past President late Dr. Sandip Chatterjee in 2018 and represented by his wife Dr. Uttara Chatterjee, was held at the heritage Limelight Building, which serves as the Police Library and Museum. Over the years this event has grown into a valued tradition, and this year's gathering of fellow IBSA members and senior Police officers carried that spirit forward.

20TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF UN GCNI

THEME: FINANCING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: ALIGNING CAPITAL WITH CLIMATE, EQUITY & GROWTH

12th December, 2025 | The Westin, Rajarhat



The 20th National Convention of UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) in association with IBSA was held at The Westin Rajarhat, Kolkata. The Convention was centered on the theme “Financing a Sustainable Future: Aligning Capital with Climate, Equity, and Growth.”

Some key highlights of the Convention were:

- Participation of over 600 delegates, fostering vibrant dialogue and meaningful knowledge exchange
- The launch of the UN GCNI Compendium and a White Paper by Intueri Consulting, titled ‘The Hard Economics of India’s Transition: How Capital, Capacity and Institutions Will Shape the Low-Carbon Future’
- In-depth discussions on critical thematic areas such as renewable energy and low-carbon infrastructure financing, adaptation and resilience project funding. Also ESG-linked finance instruments and technology enablers like AI, blockchain and fintech for sustainability
- A highly engaging Oxford-style debate

Among the distinguished speakers were Ms. Arundhati Bhattacharya, President & CEO at Salesforce South Asia and Former Chairperson, State Bank of India and Mr. Chandra Sekhar Ghosh, Chairman Bandhan Group, Former MD & CEO of Bandhan Bank, who in their keynote address, shared insights on long term impact that climate and sustainable finance can bring about both in social sphere and business.

The UN GCNI 20th convention thus provided a platform for dialogue, knowledge sharing amongst the stakeholders, resulting in partnerships to channel both private and public capital toward achieving India’s sustainability and climate goals.

CHRISTMAS DINNER AND **HOLIDAY PARTY**

23rd December, 2025 | Baqlava Lounge Lawn, The Royal Calcutta Turf Club



The year ended on a high note over our annual Christmas Dinner and Holiday Party hosted by Joydeep Datta Gupta, Vice President, IBSA and his wife Chandreyee on 23rd December, 2025. We were joined by special guests Dr. Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commissioner to East and North-East India, Rittika Chanda Parruck, Director Education British Council, Dr Debanjan Chakrabarti, Director British Council East and North-East India, members of Bengal Heritage Foundation.

IBSA members with their spouses enjoyed the evening of food, drinks, carols and camaraderie at the beautiful setting of Baqlava Lounge Lawn of historic The Royal Calcutta Turf Club.

6TH EDITION OF INDO-BRITISH HERITAGE CUP FOR CRICKET

28th December, 2025 | Eden Gardens



The 6th edition of our annual cricket match was played at the iconic Eden Gardens with representation from Bengal Heritage Foundation (BHF), Indo-British Scholars Association, British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata and the British Council. It was a celebration of friendship, sportsmanship and shared Indo-UK heritage and love for the game.

This year's tournament stood out for many reasons. It featured two women umpires for the second consecutive year. Adding to the momentous occasion was a brilliant woman commentator, Annesha Ghosh. One of the highlights of the day was supporting the talent of grassroot cricket by presenting cricket kits to five Under 15 girls, selected by CAB and Jhulan Goswami.

IBSA members and their families got a visual treat to watch the match from the B.C Roy clubhouse gallery.

Our gratitude to Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) and all the stakeholders, partners and sponsors for making the Indo-British Heritage Cup 2025 an annual flagship event on our calendars.

ALEGROPOLITICS - THE POLITICS OF JOYFULNESS: CREATIVITY & CONNECTIONS BY PROF. ANANYA JAHANARA KABIR, FBA, KING'S COLLEGE

12th January, 2026 | British Council



British Council in collaboration with IBSA curated an engaging fireside chat with Prof. Ananya Jahanara Kabir, FBA of King's College London who was in dialogue with Dr. Debanjan Chakrabarti, Director East and Northeast India and Malavika Banerjee, Director of the Kolkata Literary Meet.

It was a free-flowing conversation exploring the unique concept of Alegropolitics – the politics of joyfulness as coined by Prof Kabir. The evening explored how dance, music, food, sports and culture can be powerful spaces for identity, connection and resistance. Through stories and anecdotes, Prof Kabir shed light on how beginning with dance, her interests now encompass textile, food and heritage as indices of creolisation.

29TH FOUNDERS DAY

18th January, 2026



The 29th IBSA Founders Day was made special by the warm hospitality of Past President Rajive Kaul and Manjari Kaul as they hosted the lunch at their beautiful home. Their cosy garden nestled in Alipore was a riot of vibrant colours. Over good food, interesting conversations and laughter, we got the opportunity to celebrate IBSA for all it stands for.



We were pleased to have with us Mr. Harsh Neotia, Chairman – Ambuja Neotia Group, Dr. Vikram Somany, Chairman and MD, Cera India, Mr. Niraj Basotia, Group COO, Usha Martin Technologies, Revd. Dr. Felix Raj SJ, Vice Chancellor, Xavier's University Kolkata, Dr. Father KS Casimir, Vice Chancellor XIM University and Dr. Debanjan Chakrabarti, Director British Council, East and Northeast India and several others.

KOLKATA MEDICAL COLLEGE HERITAGE WALK

28th January, 2026



On the eve of its 192nd anniversary, a curated Heritage Walk at Calcutta Medical College, led by Dr Amit Ghose, took IBSA members through the campus's Indo-British architecture and layered medical history, bringing it to life through stories and anecdotes.

The walk was followed by an engaging panel discussion with eminent speakers like Dr. Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commissioner to East and North East India, Mudar Patherya, Heritage conservationist and activist, Partha Ranjan Das, leading architect, Iftekhar Ahsan Founder of Calcutta Walks and Calcutta Bungalow, Rajita Banerjee, Graduate of South Asian Studies, Columbia University and Reetasri Ghosh, President of IBSA.

For many members it was the very first time on this living, breathing campus, rich in Indo-British history and heritage; an institution that has witnessed a confluence of erudite minds shaping medical history..

EAST KOLKATA WETLANDS WALK (WITH INTACH)

1st February, 2026



An informative and experiential East Kolkata Wetlands Walk was organised by INTACH for IBSA members to commemorate World Wetlands Day.

Our appreciation to Mr. GM Kapur, State Convenor INTACH along with Dr. Jayanta Sen and Ms. Swarnali Chattopadhyaya for making it possible. The tour was enlightening, but also an eye opener and deeply alarming as it was a glaring reminder of the brazen destruction of our city's environment.

FESTIVAL FEVER - THE ARTS FESTIVAL IN THE 21ST CENTURY WITH NELSON FERNANDEZ, OBE

11th February, 2026 | Glenburn Penthouse



IBSA in partnership with Pickle Factory Dance Foundation and Glenburn Penthouse presented 'Festival Fever' – a conversation between international arts consultant Nelson Fernandez from London and artist-curator-consultant Vikram Iyengar from Kolkata. The discussion moderated by writer, editor and translator Anjum Katyal, focussed on the importance and impact of performing arts festivals in our current times, drawing from international examples from the UK and South Africa as well as festivals closer to home in Goa and our own festival-mad city.

The animated conversation brought in questions of what makes a good festival, how a festival can remain locally and globally relevant, and – very importantly – sustainable. A central idea was the oft-overlooked capacity of intensive arts experiences to bring together communities, cement relationships, and reconnect us all with our humanity.

YES TO LIFE! CELEBRATING **LIFE WITH CANCER SURVIVORS**

21st February, 2026 | Premashraya | Tata Medical Centre



The Indo-British Scholars' Association hosted a deeply moving “Yes to Life!” celebration for young cancer survivors at Tata Medical Center, Premashraya – standing in solidarity with strength, resilience, and unwavering hope. The association also contributed towards patient care, reaffirming its commitment beyond words and into meaningful action.

Filled with music, magic, laughter, and shared moments of joy, the morning brought light to every heart present. One young survivor’s story – of courage, community support, and healing through music – left the room profoundly touched, reminding us of the extraordinary strength that lives within the smallest warriors.

It was a celebration not just of survival, but of spirit. A reminder that even the simplest acts of kindness can illuminate lives in the darkest of times.

Together, we said Yes – to life, to hope, and to humanity.

SON ET LUMIERE AT ALIPORE MUSEUM & INTERACTION WITH DIRECTOR DR JAYANTA SENGUPTA

5th March, 2026



IBSA organised a thought-provoking evening with fellow IBSA members at the Alipore Museum. The immersive Son et Lumière show was preceded by an engaging interaction with the erudite and distinguished historian Dr. Jayanta Sengupta, Director of the Museum. He shared fascinating insights into the rich history of the Alipore Jail across the colonial and post-colonial periods, and its significant role in India's freedom movement.

The jail once housed several prominent inmates including Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, Aurobindo Ghosh, Dr B. C. Roy, and Dinesh Gupta of the famed Binoy-Badal-Dinesh trio.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - THEME # GIVE TO GAIN

8th March, 2026



IBSA celebrated International Women's Day through a reel compiled on the theme for 2026 #Give to Gain!

POETRY THERAPY SESSION WITH SWAYAM, FACILITATED BY BETH CALDWELL

12th March, 2026 | Swayam



IBSA in association with Swayam organised a fabulous evening celebrating Women through Poetry. A Poetry Therapy Workshop was led IBSA member Beth Caldwell, a Transformational Coach in celebration of International Women's Day at Swayam.

Swayam is an NGO that for 3 decades has been working closely with survivors of domestic violence. On this occasion, IBSA showed its support by donating a cheque to Amrita Dagupta, Director of Swayam.

The workshop focussed on women-centric poems by Lucille Clifton and Audre Lorde where the poetry was used as a medium to encourage participants to express themselves in a safe space and generate dialogue on marginalisation, patriarchy and women leadership.

It was a highly interactive, multi-generational session where IBSA members were joined by some post graduate students from Loreto College and Shri Shikshayatan. It was refreshing to exchange thoughts with the younger generation on breaking the mould and moving forward as a society.

HEALTH PANEL: **WEIGHT! WAIT NO MORE**

15th April, 2026 | Bengal Club



In celebration of World Health Day, IBSA and The Bengal Club, in association with Hi Care Remedy, brought together medical experts for an engaging session on holistic health and lifestyle management – ‘Weight! Wait No More!’ at the Bengal Club.

A “weighty” subject, addressed with candour and a touch of humour by an esteemed panel of doctors - Dr. Sudip Chatterjee, Dr. Samit Ghosal, Hena Nafis, Dr. Jai Ranjan Ram - expertly moderated by Dr. Debasis Datta, Chair of Programmes Council. The audience left with meaningful insights and practical takeaways.

CLASH: AMAZON VS WALMART

A FIRESIDE CHAT WITH PROF. NIRMALYA KUMAR

30th April, 2026 | Indian Management Institute (IMI) Kolkata



IBSA in collaboration with CII and IMI Kolkata organised an engaging Fireside chat with Prof. Nirmalya Kumar and Mr. Shiv Siddhant Kaul. The session centred on Prof. Kumar's latest book, *Clash: Amazon vs Walmart – How Upstarts Challenge and Incumbents Respond*.

Prof. Nirmalya Kumar – an academic, art enthusiast, and acclaimed author of 10 books – has taught at leading institutions including Harvard, London Business School, INSEAD, IMD and has advised over 50 Fortune 500 companies across 60 countries. He is a leading thinker in Marketing and Strategy and recognised by Thinkers50, amongst the 50 best and most influential Business School professors in the world.

Mr. Shiv Siddhant Kaul, MD of Nicco Engineering Services brought his own depth of industry and leadership experience to the conversation.

Prof. Kumar unpacked insights from years of studying retail giants like Walmart and Amazon – offering sharp perspectives on e-commerce vs traditional retail, the evolution of business models in a digital era, countercyclical marketing and the expanding role of advertising in sustaining scale.

The session concluded with an energetic Q&A that reflected the curiosity and engagement of the audience.

CELEBRATING TAGORE AND THE UK CONNECT: **ECHOES OF HARMONY**

15th May, 2026 | British Council



Kobiguru Rabindranath Tagore was celebrated jointly by British Council and IBSA through Echoes of Harmony: Tagore in UK.

Recitation, narration, songs and music mesmerised a packed hall at the British Council with an eclectic audience drawn from all walks of life! Curated by Korak Basu along with a talented ensemble of singers and performers – Pradip Dutta, Rinadolon Bandopadhyay, Subrata Babu Mukherjee and Anjan Bandopadhyay, the evening featured deeply moving recitations by Swati Gautam and Ipsita Ganguli.

The programme concluded with a rendition of Purano Shei Diner Kotha, inspired by Robert Burns, symbolising a shared cultural memory and timeless human connection.

4TH EDITION: WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2026 PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION & EXHIBITION - **CONTOURS OF CLIMATE ACTION: OUR PLANET, OUR LENS**

9th June, 2026 | Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC)



Art meets advocacy. Contours of Climate Action: Our Planet, Our Lens was an extraordinary Photography contest with over 250 entries culminating in the exhibition at Kolkata Centre for Creativity along with felicitation of Finalists.

This joint initiative by IBSA, the British Deputy High Commission Kolkata, Kolkata Centre for Creativity, and Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage has sparked vital conversations around habitat preservation, biodiversity, and clean energy. We are grateful to Dr Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commissioner to East and North-East India and Richa Agarwal, Chairperson Kolkata Centre for creativity KCC for their partnership.

The evening brought together stunning visual narratives of wildlife, clean energy, and habitat preservation from our talented contest finalists.

This exhibition was brought to life through the invaluable support of our esteemed sponsors and partners. We are incredibly grateful for their shared commitment to climate awareness and environmental storytelling.

WILD STORIES:

A CONVERSATION WITH ASHWIKA KAPUR, GREEN OSCAR WINNER

19th June, 2026 | British Council



An exclusive, power-packed evening at the British Council brought award-winning natural history filmmaker Ashwika Kapur to the stage, sharing her behind-the-scenes stories from the wild alongside a heartfelt tribute to Sir David Attenborough.

The event celebrated Attenborough's 100th year, honouring his towering legacy in natural history filmmaking. Ashwika also spoke passionately about Catapults to Cameras, her project with children from wildlife hunting communities in West Bengal, transforming would-be hunters into young conservationists.

Curated by the British Council and IBSA, the evening featured Ashwika in conversation with Debanjan Chakrabarti, Director, British Council, East and Northeast India.

SCRABBLE EVENING

27th June, 2026 | British Council



The Indo-British Scholars' Association in collaboration with the British Council, hosted an exciting Family Scrabble evening at the British Council Library.

From seasoned wordsmiths to enthusiastic beginners, players of all ages came together for a memorable evening of strategy, word play and friendly competition.

Aakriti Jhunjunwala Co-Chair of Programmes Council, IBSA, ideated and adeptly led this session. Members joined with their families and past President IBSA Subrata Paul handed out prizes graciously sponsored by Goldex Pens. Warmest congratulations to our champions Ritushree Guha and her 10-year-old daughter Raiana Suchitra Guha.

HAND PRINTS / MIND PRINTS

30th July, 2026 | TRI Art Gallery



As a part of its immersion into the artistic and cultural linkages between India and the UK, IBSA members enjoyed an exploration of 70 years of printmaking by the celebrated artist Gulammohammad Sheikh titled Hand Prints/Mind Prints at Tri Art & Culture, an exciting space for innovative artistic and sensory experiences.

A recipient of ARCA from the Royal College of Art, London Sheikh's printmaking journey took us from traditional formats to more innovative contemporary digital outputs and his Accordion Books. Greatly influenced by Ebstorf maps while in the UK, the artist displayed his Mappa Mundi series where he uses maps as metaphors, questioning colonial borders, memory and geo-political themes.

This private viewing and curated walk-through was organised by Madeleine St. John, Director of TRI and Muskan Sukarchakia, Assistant Curator TRI exclusively for IBSA members and guests.

DR SANDIP CHATTERJEE MEMORIAL DEBATE

22nd August, 2026 | Calcutta Club



The second edition of the Dr Sandip Chatterjee Memorial Debate was held on Aug 22, 2026 at Calcutta Club. The Motion "**Indians work best as Immigrants**" was debated fiercely with dollops of humour, poetry, statistics, theories and banter thrown in.

Proposing the Motion were Ret'd Justice Talukdar, Debdeпта Roy, Supriya Newar and Dr Kaushik Ghosh. Those in the Opposition included Prof Krishna Sen, Prof Sumantra Bose, Moyuree Mukherjee and IBSA's very own past President Abhrajit Mitra.

Organised jointly by IBSA and Calcutta Debating Circle with the support of Carring Minds, the Debate was Co-Chaired by Dr Kunal Sarkar and Pradeep Gooptu. Present on this occasion was the family of late Dr Sandip Chatterjee. Dr Uttara Chatterjee handed out Citations of Excellence to three outstanding school debaters.

UK ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMMES



BRISTOL UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MEET

1st November, 2025 | The Backyard Kolkata

Bristol graduates, along with their families, gathered for an evening filled with laughter, nostalgia, and renewed connections. The event created a vibrant space for alumni from various UK universities to share their journeys and relive their cherished days abroad.



UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD SAID BUSINESS SCHOOL

14th December, 2025 | Sky Turf

The Oxford University Said Business School in collaboration with IBSA brought together alumni members of 10 universities for cricket and fellowship. Alumni from Oxford, Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Imperial College London, Warwick, Strathclyde, Queen Mary London, Buckinghamshire and Nottingham, with their family members interacted over sports, conversation and refreshments.



INDIAN MUSEUM VISIT WITH LSE ALUMNI NETWORK

1st November, 2025

The Indo-British Scholars' Association participated in an enriching Museum Tour, organised by the dynamic Ms. Nayantara Pal Choudhuri, head of LSE Alumni Society and Founder member, Past President of IBSA.

The event was supported by the Deputy Director and Joint Director of the Indian Museum, along with research scholars and interns, who offered valuable insights into India's artistic and cultural heritage. As part of the Welcome to the City programme for fresh LSE graduates, the tour provided an educative and engaging introduction to Kolkata's history and culture. Special thanks was given to Mr. G.M. Kapoor, State Convenor of INTACH, for his presence and support. The event was well attended and greatly appreciated by IBSA members and their children too who joined their parents for this exclusive tour.

IBSA UK NETWORK GROUP MEETING IN LONDON

11th May, 2026 | London



**FROM KOLKATA TO LONDON,
THE IBSA COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO GROW STRONGER ACROSS BORDERS.**

A wonderful first meet-up of our UK network in London was organised and hosted graciously by our Past President, Rajive Kaul. Thank you for bringing the community together and setting the tone for many more meaningful connections ahead.

We were delighted to have Bengal Heritage Foundation presence through Sourav Niyogi and Suranjan Som.

PRESIDENTS COUNCIL MEETING

26th July, 2026 | Hosted by Abhrajit Mitra



Sitting L-R:

Mr. Subrata Paul, Mr. Rajive Kaul, Mr. Jayanta Mitra, Mr. Anindya Mitra, Mr. Subrata Ghose

Standing L-R:

Dr. Debanjan Chakrabarti, Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta, Ms. Reetasri Ghosh, Mr. Abhrajit Mitra

Strong leadership drives lasting impact. At the IBSA Presidents Council Meeting, leadership convened to consolidate successes, exchange ideas and strategise for the future of the organisation.

MEDIA COVERAGE

BATA IBSA UK-INDIA QUIZ

THE BATA IBSA UK-INDIA QUIZ, WITH **THE TELEGRAPH**, CELEBRATES WIT, WISDOM AND BRITISH TRIVIA



(L-R) Anjan Kundu of Bata and IBSA president Reetasri Ghosh handed winners Debanjan Bose and Sarbajit Mitra representing the JU Arts Alumni team their winner's trophies. "The victory has come as a pleasant surprise; we did not expect to clinch the title, but a few crucial moments and smart calls went our way at just the right time," the winners said.



(L-R) Anil Vaswani and Anirudh Chari of team District Grand Lodge (Freemasons) received the second prize from physicist Dr Partha Ghosh, British deputy high commissioner Andrew Fleming and advocate Abhrajit Mitra. "It was an absolutely fantastic quiz. We loved every moment of it. It covered a whole range of topics and was tremendous fun. You don't often see quizzes focused specifically on the UK, and putting together questions that are both entertaining for the audience and challenging for the teams is no easy task. The quizmasters, who are dear friends, did a truly wonderful job," said the runners-up duo.

"What an incredible, diverse group of participants for our first edition of The BATA IBSA UK-India Quiz at this iconic venue of the Tollygunge Club in collaboration with our partners, British Deputy High Commission and British Council. This quiz is unique, focusing on Indo-British trivia," said IBSA president Reetasri Ghosh.



"It was a very tough and highly competitive quiz, so we're really glad to have emerged third. We honestly didn't expect it, which makes the result even more satisfying. The questions were excellent tough but very well curated and we're just happy to have been part of the experience," said second runners-up Shayak Chakraborty and Jhuma Sen (both holding trophies), representing Calcutta High Court Bar Library Club.



"This quiz event is a great way to promote the soft power of both the UK and India. The British Deputy High Commission regularly partners with IBSA and I am delighted we partnered today. The quiz is unique because of its theme covering British and Indo-British trivia and the diversity of participants. I was delighted to host a special round for the large and enthusiastic audience," said Andrew Fleming, British deputy high commissioner.

Held on September 20 at The Tollygunge Club, The Bata IBSA UK-India Quiz, in association with **The Telegraph**, was a lively, good-natured contest brimming with intellect, humour and fun. Under the deft stewardship of two seasoned quizmasters, Arpan Banerjee and Prasenjit Guha, the quiz took on the air of an interactive show rather than a stiff contest. The theme, British Trivia, promised a journey through history, culture, politics and pop and it delivered in spades.

From the moment the quiz began, the usual apprehension associated with such competitions melted away. The hosts' easy banter, spontaneous jokes and light-hearted commentary created a welcoming atmosphere where even the sharpest questions felt like part of a friendly game rather than a high-stakes trial. It was a shared celebration of curiosity.

After a tough preliminary round, eight formidable teams had qualified for the final round: IIM Calcutta, JU Arts Alumni, Calcutta High Court Bar Library Club, DP Abhaya and Co., Medical College

Alumni, JU Alumni, District Grand Lodge (Freemasons) and Capgemini. Except for the initial rounds, JU Arts Alumni consistently maintained their lead through a series of high-pressure questions and ultimately clinched victory with a commanding 105 points, with District Grand Lodge (Freemasons) being declared the first runners-up. Glimpses from the evening of quizzing in which a seamless blend of serious knowledge, quick wit, and lively audience participation turned it into a celebration of curiosity and camaraderie.



(L-R) Bata independent director Ashok Barat and IBSA past president Nayantra Palchoudhuri with quizmasters Prasenjit Guha and Arpan Banerjee. "We've received enthusiastic feedback from both seasoned and first-time quizzers," said Prasenjit Guha. "Our questions comprised a carefully curated assortment of British and Indo-British trivia," said Arpan Banerjee.

Merline Gomes (12 inter
 Pictures: Pabitra D)

TAGORE AND UK ECHOES OF HARMONY - T2 (THE TELEGRAPH)

ECHOES OF HARMONY CELEBRATED TAGORE'S LASTING CONNECTIONS WITH BRITAIN

Echoes of Harmony — Rabindranath Tagore & the United Kingdom, held on May 15 by the British Council in collaboration with the Indo-British Scholars' Association (IBSA), belonged unmistakably to a rare kind of evening that lingers softly in memory, in music, in the strange intimacy created when poetry finds its way into a room full of strangers.

Conceived and curated by Korak Basu, the programme unfolded with the unhurried grace of a literary memoir. Through recitation, song, theatre, and narration, it revisited the long and layered relationship between Rabindranath Tagore and Britain, a relationship shaped by intellectual companionship, artistic discovery, and an enduring conversation between cultures.

The evening began in near meditative stillness with a Vedic chant by Ritadolon Bandopadhyay, followed by a recitation by Swati Gautam of IBSA. The atmosphere carried a certain old-world gentleness, preparing the audience for a journey into Tagore's encounters with England — first as a young man arriving there in 1878, curious and impressionable, absorbing unfamiliar landscapes, literature, and musical traditions



Alongside Korak Basu, artists Pradipt Dutta, Ipsita Ganguli and Ritadolon Bandopadhyay carried the narrative with emotional precision, while Subrata Mukherjee on keyboards and Anjan Bandopadhyay on rhythms lent the evening its quiet musical pulse.

that would quietly widen the horizons of his imagination.

Rather than presenting history as chronology, the production allowed moments to surface like recollections. Tagore's return to England in 1912, carrying with him the translated verses of *Gitanjali* — *Song Offerings*, emerged as one of the emotional centres of the evening. The narrative dwelt delicately on the friendships and artistic affinities that followed, with figures such as WB Yeats and William Rothenstein, who recognised in Tagore's writing a luminous spiritual depth unfamiliar to Western literary circles of the time. The Nobel Prize that arrived in 1913 felt within the texture of the performance like the



Swati Gautam of the Indo-British Scholars' Association joined Basu for a recitation.

natural flowering of a voice that had travelled beyond borders.

Music moved through the evening like an undercurrent. Renderings of *Amare tumi ashesh korecho*, *Pran bhortye trisha hortye*,



"It was a great privilege for the British Council to partner with the Indo-British Scholars' Association and Korak Basu to not only celebrate Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary but also delve deep into the cultural and educational links and collaborations he fostered with Britain. Tagore, alongside India's national icons such as Swami Vivekananda and Dr Kadambari Ganguly, were the pioneers of deep people-to-people cultural and educational links between India and the UK. Tagore's friendship with British artist William Rothenstein, modernist poet WB Yeats and Scottish polymath Patrick Geddes was marked by deep mutual respect and inspiration of each other's artistic practices and philosophies," said Debanjan Chakrabarti, director, British Council, East and Northeast India.

composed during Tagore's sea voyage to England, and *Kobobaro bhebechhnu*, touched by the cadence of English lyrical forms, revealed how profoundly travel and encounter had entered his artistic consciousness. The transitions between song and spoken word were seamless, almost fluid, allowing the audience to drift between languages, moods, and eras without rupture.

As the evening progressed, attention turned to Tagore's continuing relationship with Britain through lectures, publications, and exchanges with artists and intellectuals. His Hibbert Lectures at Oxford, the honorary D.Litt. bestowed upon him, and his conversations with thinkers across disciplines suggested a relationship rooted in reciprocity.

The final moments arrived almost imperceptible with *Parano shet dher kotha*, Tagore's Bengali adaptation of *Auld Lang Syne*. As members of the audience began singing along, the performance dissolved into something deeply communal. For a brief moment, the hall seemed suspended between Bengal and Scotland, memory and melody, past and present. It was perhaps the most fitting conclusion imaginable, a reminder that Tagore's legacy survives not in reverence alone, but in participation, in shared feeling, in the human instinct to gather around song and story.

Tanesia Ghose Dey
 Pictures: B Halder

MEDICAL COLLEGE KOLKATA HERITAGE WALK – TIMES OF INDIA

A walk through the 192-year-old heritage of the country's first medical college

Dipankar Mitra
 @timesofindia.com

Kolkata: An immersive walk through the historic buildings and grounds of Calcutta Medical College, the first institution in Asia to impart systematic education in Western medicine, traced the evolution of medicine, education and society, while situating history within the living and breathing campus of today.

The heritage walk was organised on the occasion of the 192nd foundation day by Medical College Ex-students' Association (MCESA). "This walk honours the layered legacy of



the institution — medical, architectural, intellectual, and human," said MCESA vice-president Abhik Ghosh. Another member, Anirban Dahi, felt there was a need to make medical history accessible to non-specialist audiences through storytelling.

Medical College was established on Jan 28, 1835, when colonial Calcutta faced repeated public-health emergencies — malaria, cholera, kala-az

Sayan Chakrabarty

REMEMBRANCE & RECONNECTION



Participants at the heritage walk at Calcutta Medical College

The Medical College Heritage Walk is an act of remembrance and reconnection, with an intention to position the campus as a cultural and intellectual heritage site

Amit Ghose
 CONVENER

Some of the architecture of the older building is really interesting, but I think it's more the stories behind them and a reminder of how many groundbreaking scientific discoveries were made in Calcutta

Andrew Fleming
 BRITISH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER
 TO EAST & NORTH EAST INDIA

When I was restoring Presidency University, I saw the buildings of Calcutta Medical College from outside. This is my first visit to the premises, and the architecture and the stories are engrossing

Partha Ranjan Das | ARCHITECT

My connection with Calcutta Medical College is through my grandfather and uncle, who studied here, but I did not know about such a rich history

Reetasri Ghosh
 PRESIDENT, INDO-BRITISH
 SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

— making modern, evidence-based healthcare an urgent civic need. Mountford Joseph Bramley was appointed the first principal of Medical College of Bengal in 1835, and Henry Goodeve was the first professor of medicine, although there was no separate department of medicine then.

Around 150 participants who met in front of the administrative block — a Victorian structure erected in 1911 — were guided through a curated selection of distinguished institutional spaces.

Alumnus of Medical College and convener of the event, Amit Ghose, who conducted the walk, said, "It was at the anatomy building that Madhusudan Gupta per-

formed the first human cadaver dissection by an Indian in 1836, under Goodeve's guidance, challenging deep-seated taboos. The building still houses the dissection hall and has a museum, which has 150 anatomical specimens preserved."

The next stop was Swarnamoyee Hostel and Bidumukhi Hostel. "Maharani Swarnamoyee of Cossimbazar Raj estate donated Rs 1,50,000 to build the hostel for female medical students. The other hostel was named after Bidumukhi Bose, one of the first female medical students," said Sujoy Majumdar, another alumnus who conducted the walk.

The group then visited Eden Hospital, which was inaugurated as a 100-bed facility

in April 1862 by Sir Ashley Eden, Lt Governor of Bengal. "A crucial feature was the isolation ward for cholera patients, the first example of an isolation ward in Asia. It was here that Sir Leonard Rogers carried out research on cholera. When the cholera ward shifted elsewhere, this ward became a septic ward for Eden Hospital — described as the first of its kind in the subcontinent. Over time, it grew into a 250-bed obstetrics and gynaecology unit," Ghose said.

The David Hare Block opened in 1930 as there was no separate surgical ward at Medical College. It was named Prince of Wales Hospital to commemorate his visit to India and renamed David Hare

Block in 1976 as a tribute to the only non-medical principal on his bicentennial birth anniversary: "I spent 10 years in this ward, and we had the privilege of a sunlit OT with Italian marble and the gallery from which we used to see the operations," Ghose recalled.

The walk ended on the iconic stairs of the "oldest building on the premises" — the MCH building — which came up as the college required greater space to accommodate a hospital to get recognition from Royal College of Surgeons of England and University of London. "Lord Dalhousie laid the foundation stone in 1848, and it was inaugurated in 1852 to accommodate 350 patients," Ghose added.

WILD STORIES WITH ASHWIKA KAPUR

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2026

The Telegraph e-Paper

FRONT PAGE FOREIGN NATION EAST BUSINESS

Calcutta Edition | Page 30 Friday, 03 Jul, 2026

Unwrapping the wild

British Council hosts Green Oscar-winning filmmaker Ashwika Kapur for an insightful conversation on wildlife storytelling



Wildlife conservation is not just about saving animals, it's about saving stories. That's the message Ashwika Kapur, a Green Oscar-winning filmmaker, brought to the British Council event.

Kapur, who has won the Green Oscar for her documentary 'Wildlife', shared her journey of capturing the beauty and fragility of the natural world. She emphasized the importance of storytelling in raising awareness about wildlife conservation and the role of filmmakers in shaping public perception.

The event, titled 'Unwrapping the Wild', was part of the British Council's 'Wildlife Week' initiative. It featured a panel discussion with Kapur and other experts on the challenges of wildlife conservation and the power of media in driving change.

Kapur's work has been instrumental in highlighting the plight of endangered species and the impact of human activities on the environment. Her films have been shown in various international festivals and have won numerous awards, including the Green Oscar.

The British Council's 'Wildlife Week' is a series of events aimed at promoting wildlife conservation and the role of media in environmental storytelling. It includes film screenings, panel discussions, and interactive workshops.

ENVIRONMENT

India's broader ambition to advance sustainable development and a resilient, low-carbon future.

Dr. Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commissioner to East and North-East India said:

"I am delighted to share the partnership the British Deputy High Commissioner has forged to drive the Climate Vision 2030, a key pillar of our UK-India Vision 2030, and to see it come together to deliver this photography exhibition. I am impressed by the quality and diversity of images exhibited which capture so well all four themes of our photography contest. I want to especially thank Kolkata Centre for Creativity for providing this initiative and accessible space and was delighted some specially gifted children from Big Leap Initiative Foundation, not only joined but also shared their amazing artwork. Do visit on or before 18th June if you can."

The exhibition brings together a compelling collection of photography showcasing the work of finalists—who were facilitated during the event—as well as notable entries from other participants. It also features a distinguished presentation of nature and habitat imagery by the famous Mahabharata, alongside a dedicated conservation segment by Ashwika Kapur.

Richa Agarwal, Chairperson, ICC and CEO, Emami Art said:

"It has been a privilege to host this exhibition and collaborate with partners who share a commitment to raising awareness about one of the defining challenges of our time."

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UK Inaugurates Exhibition on Climate Action to Mark World Environment Day

Contours of Climate Action: Our Planet, Our Lane, an exhibition to mark World Environment Day was inaugurated in Kolkata on June 9, 2026.

This exhibition is organised jointly by British Deputy High Commissioner Kolkata, Indo-British Scholars' Association (IBSA), Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC) and Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage (KSCCH) supported by IIM-UEM Group, Roundglass System, Heritage Bengal Global Connect and Vedic Village Spa Resort (Vedic Wellness).

Images exhibited in the exhibition at Kolkata Centre for Creativity were part of an international contest run by the organisers inviting photographers and visual storytellers to capture compelling images on conservation and climate action. The jury of this photography contest were Dr. Ananta Mahapatra, internationally recognised award-winning nature and conservation photographer, Harmanjit Poddar, Senior Climate and Energy Advisor, British Deputy High Commissioner Kolkata, and Ashwika Kapur, award-winning wildlife and nature history filmmaker.

This initiative reflects the UK and India's shared commitment to addressing climate and environment issues through collaboration, public engagement and people to people partnerships, as set out under the India-UK Vision 2030. By amplifying community led climate action and innovative solutions, the contest supports the UK and



ENVIRONMENT

time. The photographs on display demonstrated how powerful visual storytelling can be in bringing distant realities closer, highlighting local efforts, and encouraging us to think more deeply about our relationship with the natural world.

At Kolkata Centre for Creativity, we believe that art and culture can create meaningful spaces for dialogue around issues that affect our shared future. We look forward to supporting more such collaborations that connect local audiences with globally relevant conversations and inspire greater awareness and engagement."

This exhibition showcases a visual mélange of images and illustrations that demonstrates the fragile and interchanging relationships between our planet, its people and habitat. Images depicted themes of nature and biodiversity, habitat, clean energy and pollution.

Sudipta Paul, Former President, IBSA, said:

"On behalf of the Indo-British Scholars' Association, I want to thank all our partners who have collaborated on this project. Photography has the unique ability to inspire reflection, spark dialogue, and motivate action. This exhibition celebrates the creativity and commitment of photographers who have captured stories of nature, biodiversity, and some amazing habitats. May these visual narratives encourage us all to become more responsible stewards of our planet."



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MEMBERSHIP

We are delighted to report that our membership drives continues to be successful as can be seen in the table below:

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	31.03.2022	31.03.2023	31.03.2024	31.03.2025	31.08.2026
LIFE	204	240	270	291	329
PATRONS	18	21	25	26	28
HONORARY	2	3	4	6	8
CORPORATE	13	19	21	25	35
TOTAL	237	283	320	348	400

MEMBERSHIP ADVANTAGES:

- Network with well known scholars and successful professionals from a wide variety of disciplines, including, but not limited to, liberal arts, sciences, medicine, engineering, education, legal and governance.
- Engage in Knowledge Sessions via seminars, webinars, and conferences on a wide range of subjects.
- Explore business opportunities and collaborations. IBSA provides a robust skills exchange networking platform.
- Extend your company's CSR reach and participate in the social and community outreach initiatives of IBSA.
- Reconnect with alumni across UK universities.

FINANCE

The Accounts for the year ended 31.03.2026 have been prepared and audited. The Auditor's Report together with the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet as on FY 2025-26 has been circulated to the members, are available for inspection.

The **Income** over expenditure was **Rs 11.89 lacs**.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & PHILANTHROPY

IBSA continues to support students from socio economically marginalised sections and provide scholarships to deserving candidates to study English at the British Council.

IBSA has also supported rehabilitation of trafficked girls through education, children who are cancer survivors, sports scholarships for differently abled and Under 19 girls chosen by Jhulan Goswami and The Cricket Association of Bengal amongst other causes.



British Council Scholarship



All-Bengal Women's Union



Tata Medical Centre



Indo-British Heritage Cup for Cricket



Swayam

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The members of the Executive Committee elected in 2025 retiring in 2026, are as follows:

Ms. Reetasri Ghosh (President), Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta (Vice President), Mr. Saptarshi Kar (Secretary), Mr. Sameer Nandwani (Treasurer), Mr. Abhrajit Mitra (Immediate Past President & Chairman, Presidents Council), Dr. Debanjan Chakrabarti (British Council), Dr. Amit Ghose, Mr. Anamitra Chatterjee, Dr. Debasis Datta, Ms. Husna-Tara Prakash, Mr. Manoj Mohanka and Mr. Rajeev Ginodia.

SPECIAL INVITEES

Mr. Ashok Barat, Ms. Aakriti Jhunjhunwala, Mr. Amitava Ghose, Dr. Debashish Bhattacharjee, Mr. Gopal Krishna GSS, Dr. Nandini Ray, Mr. Rizwan Javed, Mr. Sandeep Kumar and Mr. Subhankar Chakraborty.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to acknowledge the continued support received from Dr. Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commissioner to Kolkata and Dr. Debanjan Chakrabarti, Director, East and Northeast, British Council. We thank our Auditors Mitra Mallick Roy & Associates. We appreciate the active engagement and support of our past Presidents and the Chairman of the Presidents' Council, Mr. Abhrajit Mitra. I would like to thank the Executive Committee Members and Special Invitees as well as our entire membership for an eventful and a successful year.

Reetasri Ghosh

President

Date: 7 September, 2026



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