

PRESS RELEASE

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The World Is One Family) Sixth Edition of KCC's Annual Conference

Co-Programmers: Dr Shwetal A. Patel & Ushmita Sahu
23rd to 24th January 2025 | Kolkata Centre for Creativity

Theme for VK VI:

INTERSECTIONS & CONFLUENCES:

Art, Architecture, Design, Craft, Music, Textile, Ecology & Community

Blurb: *The VK VI Conference at KCC explores holistic creativity, cross-discipline intersectionality, and policy solutions. Leading voices from ecologically driven art, design, architecture, fashion, textile and public sector converge for two days of dialogue, workshops, and performances.*

[Webpage Link](#)

Keywords: Dialogue, Collaboration, Ecology, Sustainable, Design, Visual Arts, Architecture, Textiles, Policies, Backward integration, Grass Root work.

Who Benefits: Fashion, Design, Textile & Architecture students, Textile designers, Craftsperson, Visual artists, Academics, Educationists, Museum sector workers, Architects, Researchers, Policy makers, Community Based Practitioners, Ecologically Conscious Individuals, Grass Root Workers, Makers and many more ++

Addresses: Holistic development and the urgent need for intersectional cooperation and alliance. Building a community around solutions. Solidarity, Ecosystem and Policy Discourse. From circular economy models to regenerative design, these discussions will spark ideas and ignite passion.

Format: Illustrated Presentations, Conversations, Panel Discussions, Screenings, Audience Integration, Round Table and more by Industry Leaders

Concept: The annual gathering at KCC examines the notion of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* and a vision of holistic development and respect for all forms of life and practice. The conference theme explores this Indic thought and its influence on contemporary creativity, and society more broadly, through a two-day programme that is open to practitioners and the public at large.

VK VI at KCC brings together leading figures from the worlds of textile art, design, architecture, visual art and ecology to explore the intersectional disciplines through design and intervention targeted to problem solving. It aims to find synergies and overlaps, whilst enquiring prevailing hierarchies and dismantling hegemonies.

The conference will be held as part of the AMI Festival at KCC and will bring together voices and energies that can help illuminate contemporary practices, policies, while encouraging dialogue and collaboration between disciplinary siloes. It also hopes to shed light on the intersectionality of how various forms of discrimination affect individuals and creative practitioners and offer solutions through dissemination of proven strategies at play in today's India.

VK VI is a **call to action**.

Quote by Richa Agarwal, Chairperson, KCC

"As someone who has been deeply invested in this journey since its inception, the VK VI Conference holds a special place in my heart. What began as a small gathering of creative minds has grown into a powerful platform for cross-disciplinary collaboration, a space where diverse ideas meet to shape a better, more sustainable future. The principles of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*—the idea that the world is one family—have always guided our vision, and seeing it come to life in the form of such rich dialogue and innovative thinking is incredibly rewarding. This symposium is not just about design, architecture, or art; it's about creating a community that believes in holistic growth, in pushing boundaries, and in addressing the challenges of our time with empathy and creativity. Personally, I'm inspired by the energy and commitment of those who come together here, and I believe the solutions born from this gathering will leave a lasting impact on the world we are striving to build."

Quote by Dr. Shwetal Ashwin Patel

"The sixth edition of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*, titled "INTERSECTIONS & CONFLUENCES: Art, Architecture, Design, Craft, Music, Textile, Ecology & Community", marks a new chapter for this important initiative by the founders of Emami Group, Anamika Kala Sangam Trust and KCC. I am fortunate to have been a part of VK since its inception in 2019 and I am looking forward to co-curating the upcoming edition with Ushmita Sahu. INTERSECTIONS & CONFLUENCES is another layer of research that seeks to approach notions interconnectedness and its implications on interdisciplinary creativity today. Whilst we can see and experience the manifold challenges around us, I hope VK is an opportunity for practitioners and publics to gather, converse and reflect on new ways to live and work in harmony with each other and the planet."

Quote by Ushmita Sahu

"The VK VI Conference is more than a meeting of creative minds—it's a catalyst for change. In a world that increasingly demands sustainable solutions, this event emphasizes the need for cross-disciplinary collaboration, where architects, designers, artists, and thinkers come together to challenge norms and rethink possibilities. By embracing the principle of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*, we acknowledge the interconnectedness of our work and our world. This year's focus on ecological practices, grassroots innovation, and policy reform demonstrates that creativity isn't just about aesthetics—it's about responsibility. The conversations and partnerships forged here have the potential to spark new pathways for designing a future that values diversity, equity, and the environment. VK VI is a space for bold ideas, but more importantly, it's where those ideas are transformed into real-world impact."

About Chairperson KCC

Richa Agarwal Inspired by her prolific father-in-law, Mr. R. S. Agarwal, & his business partner, Mr. R. S. Goenka, Ms. Richa Agarwal is driven to safeguard Bengal's artistic & cultural heritage while embracing its contemporary evolution. With a commerce degree from Coimbatore, Ms. Agarwal's natural business acumen & hands-on experience in the family enterprises facilitated her smooth transition into the realm of arts management. As a successful entrepreneur overseeing several companies, she has garnered acclaim for her significant contributions to art & culture, receiving esteemed accolades such as the New Indian Express Group DEVI Award 2022 & the Times Power Women Award 2018.



Ms. Richa Agarwal's vision for Kolkata Center for Creativity and Emami Art is anchored in nurturing and fostering a deeper appreciation for art, crafts, & cultural practices. Her unwavering commitment to this vision has spurred her to initiate projects that address multiple disciplines and approaches — from contemporary and cutting-edge art practices to introducing 'Art for All' and DEAI programs such as a Braille library, to documenting & archiving lesser-known artists, organizing annual art & craft festivals that unite the entire city, as well as hosting ground-breaking symposiums, KCC's diverse & nuanced program offers something for everyone. Under Ms. Richa Agarwal's visionary leadership, Kolkata Centre for Creativity has become synonymous with qualitative yet approachable art and cultural practices in Kolkata.

About Co- Programmers of VK VI (2024)

Shwetal A. Patel works at the intersection of visual art, exhibition-making, and development studies.

As a founding member of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale in India, Shwetal has played a central role in shaping one of South Asia's foremost contemporary art events. Since 2015, he has served as a consultant to the Kochi Biennale Foundation, specializing in international partnerships and program development. In 2020, Shwetal earned a PhD from the University of Southampton with a thesis titled *Biennale Practices: Making & Sustaining Visual Art Platforms*, a critical work that bridges his academic and artistic interests. He also lectures at institutions such as Zürich University of the Arts, the Royal College of Art, and the University of Exeter, where he shares his research on contemporary art practices. In addition to his academic and professional commitments, Shwetal serves on the editorial board of *OnCurating.org* and as a trustee for the Milton Keynes Museum, the Kakar Centre for Psychoanalysis & Culture, and the Coventry Biennial. He divides his time between the UK, Belgium, and India, connecting global perspectives in art-making, cultural strategy, and interdisciplinary research.

Ushmita Sahu, the Director and Head Curator of Emami Art in Kolkata is recognized as a prominent figure in the art world. With a fine arts background from Kala Bhavana, Visva Bharati University in Santiniketan, she has garnered extensive experience as an independent curator, artist, art writer, and mentor before joining Emami Art in 2021. Sahu is known for her distinctive curatorial style that integrates design elements into her exhibitions, significantly contributing to the gallery's status as a vital space for cultural production and discourse within the art market. She boasts an impressive portfolio of national and international curatorial projects and has participated in seminars, symposiums, and talks at esteemed institutions, including the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Sahu frequently lectures at visual art and design colleges including the NIFT and NID. She is a recipient of the India Foundation for the Arts research grant, which she used for her research on Riten Mozumdar. Sahu is based between Kolkata and Santiniketan, West Bengal, India.

KOLKATA CENTER FOR CREATIVITY (KCC)

About

The Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC) is a multidisciplinary interactive art center based in Kolkata. As a unit of the Anamika Kala Sangam Trust, a not-for-profit public trust, it promotes research & experimentation while championing inclusivity & accessibility at the intersection of arts & society.

KCC advocates a multidisciplinary approach in the pursuit of creative & cultural practices. Through well-curated programs, it aims to cultivate an empathetic, optimistic, and informed community. With a trans-local spirit, KCC encourages the cross-pollination of ideas & creativity across borders.

Vision & Mission

In the current climate of apathy, we utilise art to foster empathy & blaze the trail for civic-driven change. We utilise a network of people-public partnerships using research, documentation, conservation, display & public engagement to address global concerns.

We are striving to pave the way for an informed and egalitarian society. Thus, the programs at KCC are designed on the principles of cultural diversity, gender equality, conservation of the environment, as well as inclusion of the differently-abled.