

Press Release

Kolkata Centre For Creativity Hosted The Third Season Of KCC Baithakkhana

Kolkata, 21st April 2026: Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC) hosted the third season of KCC *Baithakkhana*. Curated by **Chandril Bhattacharya** and **Sanchari Mookherjee**, this one-of-a-kind literary meet was a three-day celebration of Bengali literature and culture through talks, discussions, debates, readings, and performances. Scheduled from **17th to 19th April 2026 at KCC**, this year's *Baithakkhana* explored the theme of **সীমানা / Border** across literature and popular media.

Following two successful editions, this year's programme brought together a diverse line-up of writers, filmmakers, actors, musicians, and thinkers. The festival opened with **Chhotoder Baithakkhana**, a dedicated segment for younger audiences, offering a space for literary and creative exchange. It included a storytelling session by **RJ Agni** featuring Sukumar Ray's *Pagla Dashu* and *HaJaBaRaLa*, a creative writing workshop conducted by **Indranil Sanyal**, and a debate on the importance of the mother tongue, judged by one of the curators, **Sanchari Mookherjee**.

The programs for the second and the third day of *KCC Baithakkhana* featured a wide range of discussions, speeches, and performances that engaged with the idea of boundaries across literature, cinema, and everyday life. Highlights included a conversation on the shifting lines between art and commercial cinema with **Anjan Dutt** and **Chanchal Chowdhury**, moderated by **Chandril Bhattacharya**; a session on divided Bengal with **Semanti Ghosh** and **Jayanta Sengupta**, in conversation with **Shishir Roy**; and a discussion on crossing personal and social boundaries featuring **Anirban Chakraborty**, **Jojo Mukherjee**, **Abir Chattopadhyay**, and **Ishaa Saha**. A keynote address by **Joy Goswami** reflected on the limits of meaning in poetry, while another session revisited borders in the works of Saadat Hasan Manto with **Srijit Mukherjee**, **Abdul Kafi**, and **Yashodhara Ray Chaudhuri**. Conversations also examined literary forms beyond conventional structures with **Ranjan Bandopadhyay** and **Srijato**, and the portrayal of Partition in the films of Ritwik Ghatak with **Kamaleshwar Mukherjee** and **Sanjoy Mukhopadhyay**.

The final day brought together a range of sessions including a speech by **Chandril Bhattacharya**, a debate on generational identity featuring **Riddhi Sen**, **Ushasi Ray**, **Anusha Viswanathan**, **Swati Bhattacharya**, **Pabitra Sarkar**, and **Anindya Chattopadhyay**, and discussions on themes such as Apu's journey across village and city with **Joydeep Ghosh** and **Indranil Roy Chowdhury**. Additional conversations explored gender and identity with **Ipshita Halder**, **Anuttama Banerjee**, and **Sandip Roy**, as well as children's literature and popular fiction with **Pracheta Gupta**, **Sakyajit Bhattacharya**, and **Aparajita Dasgupta**. The programme also included a session on navigating mid-life with **Anindya Chattopadhyay**, **Srijato**, and **Sanchari Mookherjee**. Day 2 concluded with a



storytelling presentation by **Somak Ghosh** and **Deepanjan Ghosh**, while Day 3 closed with an instrumental performance inspired by the Apu Trilogy by **Debojyoti Mishra**.

Organiser's quote

"At Kolkata Centre for Creativity, Baithakkhana has evolved into a meaningful space for dialogue where literature remains deeply connected to contemporary thought and lived experience. With each edition, we seek to bring together diverse voices and perspectives that reflect the complexity of our cultural landscape. This year's theme, *Border*, invites us to consider the many visible and invisible boundaries that shape our identities, relationships, and creative practices, and to reflect on how these boundaries are constantly being questioned, negotiated, and reimagined.

— **Richa Agarwal**

Chairperson, Kolkata Centre for Creativity

Curator's quotes

"We started curating '*KCC Baithakkhana*' (a Bengali literary festival) out of love for Bengali culture and now it has become an addiction, especially because of a loyal audience who love fun and seriousness with equal intensity. This is the third year, and this year's theme is '*Border*'. We have discussions about the 1947 partition and also the divide between art films and commercial films. Topics will embrace *Manto*, *Ghatak*, and also the concept of gender in a woke society. A debate will ask whether the Gen-Z is beyond the borders of our understanding. We hope to surpass the borders of expectation this year."

— **Chandril Bhattacharya**

Curator, KCC Baithakkhana Chapter 3

"We are really excited to be curating *KCC Baithakkhana* for the third time – it's more than just an event, it's an emotional ride for us. When we started in 2024, our vision was to create a unique Bengali cultural and literary festival centred around a single theme. We were unsure if it would resonate with the audience, but it exceeded our expectations. The second edition was a success too, and now we're back with '*Border*' as our theme. We're determined to make it another memorable one. We want to weave together laughter, tears, fun, love, and resistance into a festival that leaves a lasting mark, something audiences will cherish forever and eagerly await the next Baithakkhana."

— **Sanchari Mookherjee**

Curator, KCC Baithakkhana Chapter 3

সীমানা

সীমানা মানা বা না-মানার ওপর নির্ভর করে আমাদের আচরণ। দেশের সীমানার ওদিকের লোকদের আমরা কী চোখে দেখি, জাতের গন্ডির বাইরের লোক, লিঙ্গের গন্ডির বাইরের লোক, ভাষার গন্ডির বাইরের লোককে বন্ধু মনে করি না শত্রু — এই দৃষ্টিভঙ্গি অনুযায়ী নির্ধারিত হয় আমাদের নীতি ও সভ্যতা। গদ্য বা পদ্যের প্রচলিত সংজ্ঞার চৌকাঠ ভেঙে অনেকে শিল্পে বিপ্লব এনে দেন। ইতিহাসে দেখা যায়, সীমানার এ-ধারে যিনি নায়ক, ও-ধারে তিনিই উগ্রপন্থী, খলনায়ক। আর সমাজ আমাদের দশদিকে যে একশো সীমানা টেনে দিয়েছে, সেগুলোকে আমরা কীভাবে ঠেলছি, টানছি, বেঁকাচ্ছি, তার ওপর নির্ভর করে আমাদের সুখ আর উত্তাল ফেসবুক।

Border

Borders define and dictate our attitudes. We are often biased towards people belonging to other countries, communities, genders, and languages. Sometimes in literature, new horizons are created when the boundary between fiction and non-fiction is blurred, or that between prose and poetry. Some believe there is a clear line between love and infatuation. In history, figures celebrated as heroes on one side are often seen as villains on the other. There are also boundaries of accepted thought in society that must be crossed to arrive at new ideas and perspectives.

About

Kolkata Centre for Creativity: Kolkata Centre for Creativity is a multidisciplinary interactive art centre based in Kolkata. As a unit of the Anamika Kala Sangam Trust, it promotes research and experimentation while championing inclusivity and accessibility at the intersection of arts and society. Led by Chairperson Richa Agarwal, KCC is dedicated to socially responsible programming that integrates diverse creative and cultural practices. Through curated initiatives, it offers collaborative programmes across arts and culture, education, research, mentorship, and community engagement.

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