

**'Contemplating the Active Life: Hannah Arendt'**  
**5 , 6 & 7 December, 2025**

**5<sup>th</sup> December, Friday**

**10:30–11:00** Tea/ Coffee

Poetry Reading

**11:00–11:15** Welcome: Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan

**11:15–11:30** Setting the context (Planetary Sensibility)

**11:30–13:00 Panel on Justice**

'Justice demands seclusion, it permits sorrow rather than anger, and it prescribes the most careful abstention from all the nice pleasures of putting oneself in the limelight.'

**13:00–14:30** Lunch

**14:30–16:00:**

**Panel on Love**

'Fearlessness is what love seeks... Such fearlessness exists only in the complete calm that can no longer be shaken by events expected of the future... Hence the only valid tense is the present, the Now.'

**16:00–16:30:** Smoking Break

Poetry Reading

**16:30–18:00**

**Thinking and Practicing Transnationality: Hannah Arendt and Beyond**

This lecture explores Hannah Arendt's transnational philosophy—its roots in exile, its critique of the nation state, and its method as a practice of translation.

Transnationality is understood here as a standpoint, a field of reflection, and a method and attitude of thinking and acting across borders. The speaker draws on their book on Arendt's transnational philosophy and its reception and argues that Arendt's thought offers important tools for understanding today's crises of democracy, nationalisms, authoritarianisms, and wars, while also calling for its decolonial and feminist renewal.

**19:00** Dramatized reading of *Eichmann Trials*, **Tadpole Repertory**.

**6<sup>th</sup> December, Saturday**

**11:00–11:30** Tea/ Coffee

Poetry Reading

**11:30–13:00 Panel on Freedom**

'Freedom. . . is actually the reason that men live together in political organization at all. Without it, life as such would be meaningless.'

**13:00–14:30** Lunch

Poetry Reading

**14:30–15:00** Lecture Performance

**15:00-16:30 ALWAYS IS HAVING BEEN**

Culmination of a month-long engagement with Hannah Arendt's political theories and poems through the lived, spatial, and sensory experience of the everyday.

**16:30-17:00** Smoking break

**17:00-18:30 Panel on Voice**

The Solidarities of the Conscious Pariah: Four Voices

*'Solidarity, though it may be aroused by suffering, is not guided by it.'* (Hannah Arendt)

Hannah Arendt claims the status of what she calls the '*conscious pariah*' as a means for the marginalized to refuse victimhood, and forge solidarities. Arendt may or may not have been aware that the word '*pariah*' comes, etymologically speaking, from the Tamil '*Paraiyar*' - denoting 'drummers', who were considered to be an untouchable caste. The Portuguese, who also invented the word '*caste*', turned this word, '*Paraiyar*' into '*Pariah*' and turned it into term denoting the excluded, the outcast(e). Today, we could give this word another twist, gesturing not to its origin, but to its present and future itineraries - we could bring to it the sense of '*paraya*', meaning the '*other*', the Hindustani antonym for '*apna*' meaning '*one's own*'. In this panel, four individuals reflect on how being a '*conscious pariah*' enables a special vision of the world, privileging not the flatness of victimhood, but a new, clear, lens with which to view power and hierarchy.

**19:00:** Performance of *Firefly Women* by **Manjari Kaul** and **Deepika Chauhan**.

**7<sup>th</sup> December, Sunday**

**09:00** Meet at MMB

**Walk with Urvashi Butalia on the topic of Freedom, Solidarity, Justice & Love.**

The walk on wheels event will traverse areas in New Delhi that were central, in the early eighties and nineties, to battles for justice for women, and for recognition of their rights. At the time, the streets of Delhi were filled with marches and demonstrations, sounds of street theatre, the *dhol*, the *damru*, and the singing voice, animated conversations about justice and freedom. In our walk, we will retrace some of those journeys and speak about the histories of particular locations. The walk will cover: Supreme Court, Mandi House, Jantar Mantar, Patel Chowk, India Gate.