



# FINDING COMMON GROUND

FEBRUARY 2026



## **OBJECTIVES OF INDUS**

To provide a cultural opportunity for English speaking Indian and Non-Indian women to meet together for joint participation in activities of mutual interest, to promote understanding between countries and to provide a forum for the development of fellowship.

Indus International M.O.A. 1967

### **Postal Address:**

Indus International  
DBS Business Centre  
213 Raheja Chambers, 2nd Floor  
Free Press Journal Marg  
Nariman Point  
Mumbai 400 021

**Website:** [www.indusinternational.org](http://www.indusinternational.org)

**Email:** [membershipindus@gmail.com](mailto:membershipindus@gmail.com)

**Instagram:** @indusinternationalmumbai

# February at a Glance

DATE	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER	VENUE
Friday 6th	Performing Arts	Angira Bhattachariya	Roxanne Patel Shanazeen, 3rd Floor Khareghat Colony, Babulnath Rd. (Opp Premपुरी Ashram) Mumbai 400007
Tuesday 10th	Arts & Handicrafts	Pradnya Chauhan	Anupam Anand 304, Bakhtavar Opp.Colaba PO Mumbai 400005
Wednesday 11th	History and Culture	Savitha Suri	Dwarkadish Mandir, Vithal Wadi (Google Map Link will be shared) Mumbai 400002
Thursday 12th	Executive Meeting		Dorothy (Dottie) Wagle The Imperial, North Tower 33rd Floor, Flat 3307 Balkrishna Nakashe Marg Janata Nagar, Tardeo Mumbai, 400034
Tuesday 17th	Philosophy and Religion	Khushnuma Ferzandi	Varsha Sheth 2605, The Imperial 26th floor - North Tower (Near Mahindra Towers/Imperial Edge) Tardeo Road, Mumbai 400034
Thursday 19th	Book Discussion	Anjali Karpe	Isha Kedia 2301/2401, Orbit Arya Darabsha Lane Nepeansea Road Mumbai 400036
Friday 20th	Health and Ecology	Dr. Aarthi Kannan	Sunita Nahar 51/52 Infinity Tower 15 Narayan Dabholkar Road Mumbai 400006 Parking Available
Monday 23rd	Music	Fareed Curmally	Rohini Himmatsingka 41, Somerset House 4th Floor, A Wing Warden Road, Breach Candy Mumbai 400005
Tuesday 24th	Current Events	Arish Dastur	Vandana Kanoria Bhagwati Bhavan, 3rd floor 31b Carmichael Road Mumbai 400026
Friday 27th	Cooking Swapshop	Soonita Sidhwa	Soonita Sidhwa Maison Belvedere 1st Floor Flat No. 12 Maharshi Karve Road Mumbai 400020

# From The Desk of The Presidents

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While as many as 50 members are still revelling in the recent serene and fun-filled Picnic Day at Alibaug, others have started packing their bags for the Indus domestic trip in Bihar – the Buddhist Trail, in the first week of February.

In addition to the trip, February holds out the prospect of many exciting meetings and our Annual Event – this time an evening event on 25th February – which aims to bring together members and their spouses for a relaxed night of good food, drinks, and engaging conversation. With hopes for a strong turnout, the event offers a wonderful opportunity to connect, socialize, and get to know one another better. Don't miss it and look out for more details on the Noticeboard!

The Nominating Committee has been formed and will soon start their meetings to review and discuss the suggestions from our members for next year's positions on the Board. The Committee is looking forward to receiving your nominations!

**Armaity Sumariwalla**

**Gülçin Körpe**

# Notice Board

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## **Condolences**

Extending our deepest condolences to member Nayantara Jain on the passing of her father-in-law; our thoughts are with you and your family during this time.

## **Congratulations**

Indus would like to wish a happy 95th birthday to Jinx Akerkar on February 23rd. Thank you for being such an active member, and wishing you all the best!

Congratulations Jeannie Madan on winning the All India National Mahjong Tournament!

**Elected Office Bearers** - Members are invited to nominate other members to be office bearers for the upcoming year 2026-2027. Please contact the Nominating Committee with suggestions.

## **Nominating Committee 2025-2026**

Bharti Chotirmall – Chairperson

Rachel Bhot

Sanae Yamada Östberg

Kamal Mulla

Ferzana Khanna

Armaity Sumariwalla – President

Gülçin Körpe – President

## **Successors for Chairladies**

Our resourceful Chairladies who gave you outstanding meetings are looking for their successors. Being a chairlady or on any team is the quickest way to making and fostering friends within Indus. If you are interested in taking on a position as an activity chair or being on any INDUS Team, do contact any Board Member.

## **Save the Date! Annual Event**

The Indus Annual Event will be held on 25th February as an evening event. More details to follow on the Noticeboard!

# Notice Board

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## **Save the Date! Annual Quiz in March**

This year's edition is dedicated to the fascinating world of architecture. Join us for yet another round of clever questions, friendly competition, and great company. Curious minds, good spirits, and a love for design are most welcome.

Date: 23rd March

More details to follow in the March Newsletter!

To take part in this battle of wits and earn a participation point, please WhatsApp your names to the Vice Presidents:

Ranjana Mahadevia: +91 98201 36941

Kristin Mehta: +91 98197 46979

## **Save the Date! AGM**

Save the Date for the AGM on Wednesday, April 15th.

## **Meeting Reminder**

We have had some queries from members regarding the events that count/do not count towards the 10 meeting attendance requirement in the course of the year.

**Please note that attendance at the Fellowship, Christmas Coffee Morning and Picnic is NOT counted towards the annual 10 meeting attendance requirement.** Attendance at the Quiz IS counted towards the same.

## **Newsletter**

Monthly newsletters will be sent by email and WhatsApp to all members. A hard copy of the newsletter will **NOT** be sent by post. Do update your email address with the Membership Officers.

# Notice Board

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## Whom to Contact on the Board if...

- You notice an error in the directory – **Membership Officers**
- You do not receive your newsletter – **Secretaries**
- You have an idea for a fellowship meeting, the picnic or the Quiz – **Vice Presidents**
- You would like to assist with a fellowship meeting, the picnic or the quiz – **Vice Presidents**
- You would like to offer your home for a meeting – **Vice Presidents**
- You have changed your address, phone number, or email ID – **Membership Officers** (membershipindus@gmail.com)
- You wish to change your status – **Membership Officers**
- You have a foreign friend who wants to become a member – **Membership Officers**
- You will be unable to attend meetings for an extended period of time – **Membership Officers**
- You need a new name badge – **Membership Officers**
- You have an idea for a speaker for a meeting – **the relevant Activity Chairladies**

# Notice Board

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## **General Tips for all Members**

### **Attendance**

- The Indus year begins on 1st April and ends on 31st March
- 10 meetings must be attended in a year
- 7 meetings should be attended before the end of December
- Please only sign yourself in. If guests are allowed, then sign in your guest
- Arrival after 11:15 am will not be eligible for attendance
- Departure before the speaker has finished, or before the chairlady closes the meeting, will also count as non-attendance
- For in-person meetings, wear your badge at all times. This also applies to Chairladies and hostesses as there are a lot of new members who do not know who you are

### **Ways to Earn a Participation Point**

- Being a hostess for a meeting
- Arranging a speaker or demonstration
- Registering names for a meeting
- Introducing or thanking a speaker in the absence of the Chairlady
- Helping a Board Member with computer work or collection of payment
- Helping Chairladies at meetings
- Helping with or hosting one of our many events – Annual Event, Fellowship, Christmas Coffee Morning, AGM, Quiz, Picnic or any other special event
- Acting, dancing, working back-stage, speaking, demonstrating, baking for any special event, taking part in the quiz, etc.
- Giving a donation to Indus International

**You need three (3) participation points during the year.**



# Notice Board

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## Indus Etiquette

We have restarted in-person meetings; so let's remember that the spirit of Indus is about new friendships!

Indus thrives when our members are active and participate. Please ensure that you complete 10 attendance points and 3 participation points during the year, from 1st April to 31st March. 7 attendances should be completed by December.

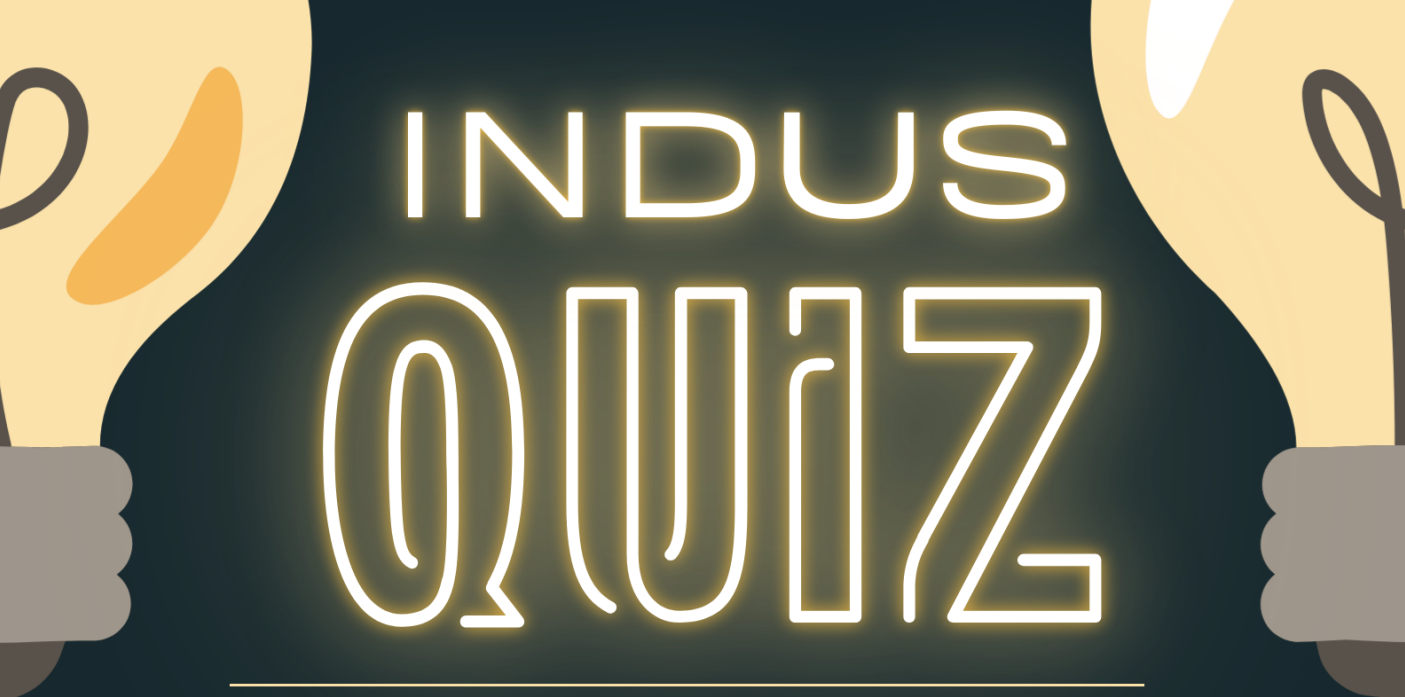
## A few gentle reminders

### For meetings at members' homes (in-person meetings)

1. Please wear your badge at the meeting to make it easier to mingle.
2. If you can host a meeting at your home, please inform the Vice Presidents or any member of the Board.
3. Since wearing a mask is no longer mandatory, please be responsible and avoid attending a meeting if you are unwell.
4. **Only tea, coffee, a cold drink and biscuits should be served by the hostess.** Being a hostess should be easy and the focus should be on the speaker!
5. Please ensure that your cell phones are in silent mode or switched off during meetings.
6. Meetings begin at 11:15 am and end at 12:15 pm. **Your attendance will not be counted if you come in after 11:15 am or leave before 12:15 pm.**
7. Under no circumstances should Indus be used as a forum for publicity. It is strictly forbidden to use the directory to build e-mails or phone listings to advertise.

### For Zoom Meetings

1. All members should enter their names on the screen in the following order: **Membership Number, Surname, First name.**
2. Keep your videos on at all times, unless advised otherwise by the Chairlady.
3. Do not unmute yourself for the entire duration of the meeting.
4. Be presentable while attending a zoom meeting.
5. Please maintain some decorum even during online meetings.
  - Some members were seen eating or lying back and some even dozing!
  - Some were seen attending meetings in their night clothes.
6. If you have to do anything other than listen to the speaker, kindly turn your video off.
7. Zoom meetings begin at 11:15 am and end at 12:15 pm. **Your attendance will not be counted if you come in after 11:15 am or leave before 12:15 pm.**



# INDUS QUIZ

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MONDAY, MARCH  
23RD

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11:00am -12:15pm

Location TBD

The Indus Quiz 2026 covers the vast and magnificent subject of architecture. We seek to travel from antiquity to modern times, exploring both the creators and their creations. We delve into structures built to represent glory, grief, faith, and conservation. We pay tribute to this incredible field that encapsulates both the logic of engineering and the spatial expressions of human creativity, with its immeasurable breadth of vision.

**Registration for the 2026 Indus Quiz will be shared in the next newsletter and on the WhatsApp Announcement Group.**

# Performing Arts

**Friday 6th February**

**11:00 am – 12:15 pm**

**Residence:**



**Roxanne Patel**

Shanazeen  
3rd Floor  
Khareghat Colony  
Babulnath Road  
(Opp Prempuri Ashram)  
Mumbai 400007

**Limit: 30 members**

## **WHERE STORIES DANCE WITH TIME – KATHAK LEC-DEM**

**Angira Bhattachariya** is an accomplished Kathak exponent, choreographer and educator, with over 20 years of experience dedicated to the arts. From sacred storytelling to contemporary rhythm, Angira will help us to understand the intricacies of this glorious dance tradition. Her mastery spans both the Lucknow and Jaipur gharanas, and she has graced prestigious platforms locally and globally. You may recognize her wizardry in such acclaimed works as *Mughal-e-Azam* and *Kaneez*. She is also a passionate mentor whose students cover the globe.

Angira will take us on a journey of her passion through a lecture-demonstration. So come and be transported into the magical world of Kathak.

**Nandhini Ashok**

**Avantika Akerkar**

# Art & Handicrafts

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**Tuesday 10th February**

**11:00 am – 12:15 pm**

**Residence:**

**Anupam Anand**

304, Bakhtavar  
Opp. Colaba PO  
Mumbai 400005



## **RADNYA CHAUHAN ARCHITECT, ARTIST AND EDUCATOR**

**Pradnya Chauhan** is a distinguished architect and designer whose work seamlessly blends traditional craft and modern architectural thought. Since 1975, she has been a pioneer in the art of macramé. Her work explores the medium's full potential, ranging from the large scale architectural screens and wall hangings to intricate jewelry. Her designs have been featured in exhibitions, including a long standing showcase at Taj Khazana.

Raised in a Maharashtrian family within the vibrant landscape of Gujarat, allowed her to synthesize two distinct cultural streams: the artistic sensitivity towards built forms found in Gujarat and performing Arts tradition of Maharashtra.

**Reema Pahuja**

**Maria Bharwani**



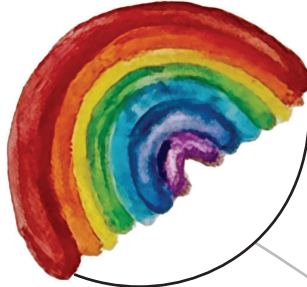
# History & Culture

**Wednesday 11th February**

**8:00 am – 10:00 pm**

**Note: Change of Date and Time**

**Meeting Point:**



Dwarkadish Mandir  
Vithal Wadi  
(Google Map Link will be shared)  
Mumbai 400002

## **TEXTILE HERITAGE WALK AROUND KALBADEVI**

The Textile Heritage Walk is a captivating journey through the historic lanes of Kalbadevi, the traditional commercial heart of Mumbai. This guided walk is designed to unveil the rich legacy of Indian textile trade and the role it played in making Mumbai the city it became.

Conducting this walk is **Savitha Suri**, a Mumbai-based author, textile researcher, and market revivalist, works at the intersection of scholarship, community, and markets to document, preserve, and sustainably revitalise India's handloom heritage. She has co-authored landmark publications, pioneered crowd-funded revivals of endangered textiles like the Udupi sari and Kunbi kaapod, and curated acclaimed exhibitions and festivals in India and abroad. Learn about the origins of some of the key markets, their architecture and the stories of the families who have run these establishments for generations.

The walk will also attempt to decode what this historical legacy and its preservation means to us today.

There is a charge of Rs.200 per person for this walk.

**To register WhatsApp Only (with your membership number and name)**

**Shivani Chadda - 98210 45900 on Saturday, 7th Feb. between 10a.m.-2p.m.**

**Varsha Alwani**

**Kavita Aswani Chadda**

# Executive Meeting

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**Thursday 12th February**

**11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Residence:**



**Dorothy (Dottie) Wagle**

The Imperial  
North Tower, 33rd Floor  
Flat 3307  
Balkrishna Nakashe Marg  
Janata Nagar, Tardeo  
Mumbai, 400034

Chairladies, please email a copy of the blurb for your March meeting, latest by 10th February to both:

Ranjana Mahadevia - [ranjanamahadevia@gmail.com](mailto:ranjanamahadevia@gmail.com)

Kristin Mehta - [kristin.donaldson3@gmail.com](mailto:kristin.donaldson3@gmail.com)

We do not require a hard copy of the blurb.

After your event, please take a clear, straight, and easy-to-read photo or scan of your attendance sheets and upload it to the INDUS Attendance WhatsApp group.

[chris.mirani@gmail.com](mailto:chris.mirani@gmail.com)  
[nicola@fusionstudio.eu](mailto:nicola@fusionstudio.eu)

**Ranjana Mahadevia**

**Kristin Mehta**

# Philosophy & Religion

**Tuesday 17th February**

**Note: Change of Date**

**11:00 am – 12:15 pm**

**Residence:**



**Varsha Sheth**

2605, The Imperial  
26th floor - North Tower  
Tardeo Road  
Near Mahindra Towers &  
Imperial Edge  
Mumbai 400034

## **COME SHARE IN THE JOY OF THE IRANI NEW YEAR TABLE WITH US!!**

This Navroze, as we welcome the Irani New Year, we come together to celebrate the spirit of new beginnings, renewal, and hope. Rooted in a centuries-old tradition, Navroze marks a time of reflection, gratitude, and looking ahead with optimism and joy. Navroze falls on the 21st of March every year.

The session will be held by Khushnuma Ferzandi, a new member of our community. Khush's Irani khandan traces its journey to India in the early 1900s from Yazd and Zainabad, bringing with it a rich cultural and spiritual heritage. During the session, Khush will share the significance of Navroze, its customs and traditions, and guide us through the setting of the Nowruz table, also known as the Haft-Sin, explaining the meaning behind each symbolic element.

This gathering promises to be a fun and enriching experience—one that honors tradition while inspiring a fresh start and meaningful connections as we step into the new year together. While there we also get to taste all the delicacies that bring together this special day in the year :)

**Sangeeta Javeri**

**Binaifer Havaladar Antia**

# Book Discussion

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**Thursday 19th February**

**11:00 am – 12:15 pm**

**Residence:**



**Isha Kedia**

2301/2401, Orbit Arya  
Darabsha Lane  
Nepeansea Road  
Mumbai 400036

**Guests Welcome**

## **SIACHEN 1987: BATTLE FOR THE FROZEN FRONTIER – AUTHOR LED DISCUSSION**

On April 13, 1987, the Indian Army landed on the Siachen glacier to prevent what was ostensibly a Pakistani climbing expedition from claiming the glacier as their own. What ensued was a tale of 'guns and roses' on the toughest battlefield in the world.

Co-authored by **Anjali Karpe** this nonfiction novel narrates her father's, Lt Gen. Ramesh Kulkarni's personal story of his 22-month-long tenure as the commander of an infantry division, offering an insider's view and a detailed account on life on Siachen glacier.

It highlights not only the strategic importance of Siachen in the geopolitics of the region but also the leadership issues, battle situations and the human challenges posed by the extreme weather conditions.

Anjali Karpe is a prominent Indian educator and author, former Deputy Head of Bombay International School, currently serving as the Principal of Lodha Oakwood School in Mumbai as of 2026. She is well-regarded for her 25-year career in progressive education.

**Sejal Mody**

**Andrea Wrumnig**



# Health & Ecology

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**Friday 20th February**

**11:00 am – 12:15 pm**

**Residence:**



**Sunita Nahar**

51/52 Infinity Tower  
15 Narayan Dabholkar Road  
Mumbai 400 006  
Parking Available

**Limit: 35 Members**

## **TALK BY Dr. AARTHI KANNAN ON “LONGEVITY CODE”**

**Dr. Aarthi Kannan** MBBS, MD USA, has a clinical geriatric fellowship from Stanford University and GRECC Veteran affairs hospital, California. She is a full time Consultant at PD Hinduja Mahim and visiting at PD Hinduja Khar.

She is trained and worked as a Geriatrician at Stanford, California where she gained significant experience working with experts in her field, her main interests being preventive geriatrics, geriatric primary care, post discharge care geriatric rehab, gut health and longevity. She is passionate about safely reducing medications in older adults, teaching them how and how much to exercise, fall prevention and helping them live a long and independent life.

Dr. Aarthi has many international & national publications to her credit. She has been a member of the American Geriatrics society.

**Sunita Nahar**

**Els Reynaers**

# Music

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**Monday 23rd February**

**4:30 pm – 5:45 pm**

**Note: Change of Date and Time**

**Residence:**



**Rohini Himmatsingka**

41, Somerset House

4th Floor, A Wing

Warden Road

Breach Candy

Mumbai 400005

## **FAREED CURMALLY - THE MAGIC OF OPERA**

**Fareed Curmally** is a vocal expert and an authority on the lyric art of opera. He is the only Indian to have been invited as an opera critic to the Salzburg Summer Festival and La Scala in Milan.

In this informative session, Fareed will guide us through the rise of opera from the opening of the sixteenth century right through to the modern day. Highly influential composers such as Monteverdi, Mozart, Wagner and Verdi will be covered as we learn about what opera is all about and why it still holds such an important place in today's world.

In addition, Fareed will impart practical tips and information on attending performances along with how to obtain competitively priced tickets and joining tours to see the great masterpieces of opera throughout Europe and Great Britain.

There will be pictures and musical excerpts to illustrate the lecture.

**Gita Purandare**

**Fiona Rouse**

# Current Events

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**Tuesday 24th February**

**Note: Change of Time**

**4:00 pm – 5:15 pm**

**Residence:**



**Vandana Kanoria**

Bhagwati Bhavan

3rd Floor

31b Carmichael Road

Mumbai 400026

## **ZOROASTRIANISM IN A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE**

Sharing deep roots with the ancient Vedic tradition of India, Zoroastrianism is among the world's oldest living religious traditions. Across centuries and civilisations, it has interacted with diverse cultures, philosophies and religious traditions - shaping ideas far beyond its geographic horizons. It has profoundly influenced Christianity and, through it, many aspects of Western imagination. Yet today, little is widely known about this remarkable tradition.

At this Indus Gathering, **Arish Dastur** will offer an introduction to Zoroastrian theology and cosmology, exploring its fundamental and distinctive themes, often in dialogue with other world religions.

Arish Dastur holds a BA with a double major in Neuroscience and Religion from Oberlin College and an MSc in Urban Planning from Columbia University. After twelve years at the World Bank in Washington, D.C., he pursued an MA and PhD in Zoroastrianism, focusing on the Avestan language in which the most sacred texts of the tradition are composed.

**Ritu Prakash**

**Lizzie Chapman**

# Cooking Swapshop

**Friday 27th February**

**11:00 am – 12:15 pm**

**Residence:**

**Soonita Sidhwa**

Maison Belvedere  
1st Floor Flat No. 12  
Maharshi Karve Road  
Mumbai 400020



**Limit: 20 Members**

## **SOONITA SIDHWA'S DESSERT EXTRAVAGANZA: TREAT YOURSELF**

Join us for a delightful meeting where we'll indulge in the sweetest of treats! We're thrilled to have an exclusive dessert demonstration that promises to tantalize your taste buds and leave you craving for more.

Our speaker, long standing Indus member **Soonita Sidhwa**, will take us on a culinary journey with her signature desserts. Get ready to learn the art of crafting Tiramisu, whipping up Meringue with luscious strawberry cream, and baking the perfect Caramel Walnut Pie. It's a treat you won't want to miss!

Soonita is a high-end professional chef trained at the prestigious Le Cordon Bleu. Taking orders since 1980, she's a master of creating exquisite desserts that delight the senses. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from a true culinary expert and satisfy your sweet tooth!

A charge of Rs 300 will be collected at the meeting (payment required for all who have registered).

**To register, please Whatsapp your name and membership number to Vrinda Jhunjunwala at +91 9820037105 on Friday February 20th between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm only.**

**Leena Vaid**

**Sasha Zaveri**



# Executive Committee 2025-2026

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## ART & HANDICRAFTS

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# Board Members 2025-2026

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indus  
INTERNATIONAL

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