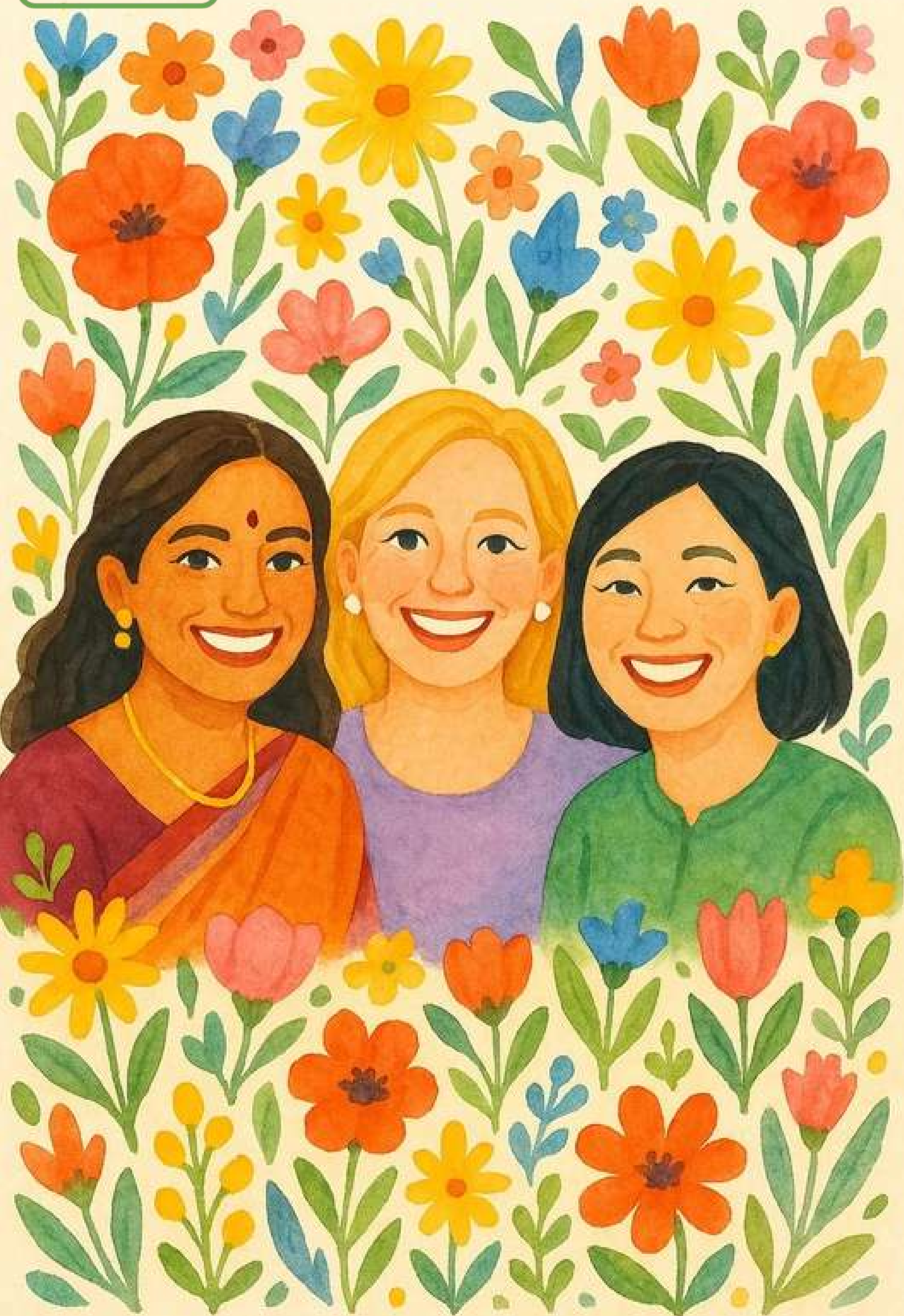




DECEMBER 2025



Happiness grows where friendship flows



DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

1 Mon	10.00 am 11.00 am	Managing Committee Executive Committee	Writer's Cafe
2 Tue	10.15 am	History, Culture & Tours	Cricketer, (2 nd Floor) Madras Cricket Club
3 Wed	3.00 pm	Arts & Handicrafts	Banquet hall, Taj Coromandel
4 Thu	11.00 am	Christmas	Ballroom, Madras Club
9 Tue	10.15 am	Book Discussion	Diya Hall, (11 th Floor) The Leela Palace
11 Thu	10.15 am	Health & Ecology	Azure-The Oceanic (16 th Floor)
13 Sat	Day Trip	History, Culture & Tours	NMACC Mumbai
17 Wed	11.15 am	Music & Performing Arts	Music Academy



FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Dear Friends,

December is here, bringing warmth, sparkle, and that beautiful feeling of togetherness. It reminds us how blessed we are to share a community as generous, vibrant, and supportive as IWA. With grateful hearts, we welcome this season of friendship, giving, and joy.

We look forward to seeing you on **December 4th at the Madras Club for our Christmas Celebration**. Our sincere thanks to **Cibi Mammen, Kiran Rao, and Shanthi Thomas** for generously sponsoring the festivities.

We are also delighted to welcome our newest members, and **we thank our Membership Committee** for their valuable contributions and sincere efforts.

As the year winds down, our Activity Chairs have thoughtfully planned vibrant December meetings, and we hope many of you will join us. **Your enthusiasm and presence throughout the year have made it exceptional, and for that, we are deeply grateful.**

A gentle reminder that attendance records will be available at all December meetings.

IWA will take its annual break toward the middle of the month and resume on **22nd January 2026**. Until then, we wish each of you a holiday season filled with joy, peace, and the warmth of loved ones.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

In friendship,
Your Presidents,

Somna Sachdev & Jina Park



FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Dear Members,

This is just a little reminder that for all members, except Senior Members, the **attendance of 10 meetings during the IWA year must be completed by 31st March 2026**. Attendance at meetings in April 2026 counts towards attendance for the year 2026-2027. The record of attendance will be tabled at meetings during the month of **December 2025** and again at meetings in **February 2026**. Members may check their attendance records with **Kyoko Kawaguchi (88078 18719/ kyonn1152@gmail.com)**. Please check your individual tally and make up any shortfall in attendance, during the coming months.

Members are reminded that a **guest may attend only four meetings** during the IWA year, irrespective of which member signs them in. **Daughters and daughters-in-law** may attend as many meetings as they like, along with the member. Requests for **leave of absence** should be addressed to the undersigned.

Nirupa Sundaravadanan

New No.2, Old No.9, Anusuya Avenue,
Ormes Road, Kilpauk,
Chennai 600010

98402 34623

iwainchennai@gmail.com

bss_nimmu@yahoo.co.in

Thank you for your cooperation.

Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for a fabulous New Year!

Nirupa Sundaravadanan



FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Dear Members,

The Membership Committee convened on 4th November 2025 to meet the prospective candidates for IWA membership. Three applicants have been accepted as **Special Guests** and they can enjoy the relevant privileges till April 2027. They are:

Shilpa Krishna
Madhuri Rao
Nandita Thakkar

Many thanks to all on the **Membership Committee** for sharing their time and focusing their efforts throughout this important process.

We are delighted to welcome one new **Temporary Non-Indian Member**:

Leigh Ave-Lallemant A-8 (American-British)
"The Flame", 34 Cenotaph Road 2nd Lane, Teynampet,
Chennai 600018
Phone: +91 7305076394/ WA +977 9810096875
Email: leigh_ave@yahoo.co.in

Nirupa Sundaravadanan



IN FOND REMEMBRANCE



DHUN DALAL

MEMBER SINCE 1994

Always remembered,
deeply missed,
eternally loved.

We express our deepest condolences
to the family of
Dhun Dalal

**MAY HER SOUL FIND
PEACE AND COMFORT**



IN FOND REMEMBRANCE



NINNA HOGEDAL

FORMER MEMBER

Those we love don't go away;
they walk beside us in our hearts and
memories.

We express our deepest condolences
to the family of
Ninna Hogedal

**MAY HER SOUL FIND
PEACE AND COMFORT**



HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

Our heartfelt condolences to
Shobha Hebbar
on the loss of her dear husband

Our heartfelt condolences to
Padma Ashok
on the loss of her dear mother

Our heartfelt condolences to
Poonam Lalchand
on the loss of her dear husband



HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to
Jennifer Ann
for winning the
Samyukhta & Govindarajulu S P Memorial Bridge Trophy!





HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS



VIDYA GAJAPATHI RAJU SINGH

THE MAGIC AND LEGACY OF PEARLS

A Journey Through History, Beauty, and Timeless Allure

2nd December 2025 | 10:15 am
Cricketer, Madras Cricket Club

RAJSHRI SUNDRANI

MAHIMA PODDAR

HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS



Date: Tuesday | 2nd December

Time: 10:15 am

Venue: Cricketer, 2nd Floor, Madras Cricket Club

Address: 1 Bells Rd, Chepauk, Triplicane,
Chennai 600 005

Please note: Ample onsite parking available

THE MAGIC AND LEGACY OF PEARLS

A Journey Through History, Beauty, and Timeless Allure

A captivating presentation that traces the story of pearls — from their discovery in ancient oceans to their enduring charm today. Vidya takes us through the fascinating world of natural and cultured pearls, their place in history and legend, and the people and cultures that treasured them. Expect anecdotes of famous pearls, iconic wearers, and tales of rarity and splendour — all strung together by someone who embodies grace, adventure, and curiosity in equal measure.

Vidya Gajapathi Raju Singh, Princess of **Vijayanagaram**, was born into the erstwhile royal family of Andhra Pradesh. A former President of IWA and an active Rotarian, Vidya's interests span from philanthropy and sport to travel and the arts! A national-level swimmer, trekker, columnist, and founder of Sumyog, a wedding and event planning company, she brings to everything she does a rare mix of discipline, elegance, and zest for life!

Join us for a morning where history gleams, stories shimmer, and every tale catches the light just a little differently!

A heartfelt thank you to **Tulsi Reddy** for sponsoring this meeting.

RAJSHRI SUNDRANI

MAHIMA PODDAR



ARTS & HANDICRAFTS



Upasana Asrani



IWA X MADRAS ART WEEKEND

A Cultural Afternoon You Won't Want to Miss!

3rd December 2025 | 3:00 pm

Taj Coromandel

SHEFALII DADABHOY

ANJALI SACHETI



ARTS & HANDICRAFTS



Date: Wednesday | 3rd December

Time: 3:00 pm - 4:45 pm

Venue: Taj Coromandel,

37 Mahatma Gandhi Road,

Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 034

IWA X MADRAS ART WEEKEND

A Cultural Afternoon You Won't Want to Miss!

Get ready for an afternoon where art comes alive and IWA helps kick things off! We're excited to share that IWA has been specially invited to be a part of the inauguration of **Madras Art Weekend**, one of Chennai's most dynamic celebrations of art and creativity.

MAW, founded in 2022 by **Upasana Asrani**, is an annual art festival in Chennai that brings together artists, galleries, and the public to celebrate contemporary art.

Here is the curated IWA program for the event:

- 3:00–3:30PM: Hi-Tea—A chance to mingle and enjoy refreshments.
- 3:30–3:45 PM: Lighting of the Lamp—The formal opening of MAW
- 3:45–4:45 PM: Gallery Walkthrough—A guided stroll through the curated art spaces with Upasna Asrani

During our visit, we will have the opportunity to interact with the following artists, **Vrindavan Solanki, Satish Gupta and Ashok Bhowmick**.

There will also be a panel discussion moderated by our member **Deepali Goyal** following the walkthrough, so if members are interested they may enjoy the rest of the evening at the festival.

SHEFALII DADABHOY

ANJALI SACHETI



CHRISTMAS

**4th December 2025 | 11:00 am
Ballroom, Madras Club**

**SOMNA SACHDEV & JINA PARK
The Managing and Executive Committees**

CIBI MAMMEN, KIRAN RAO & SHANTHI THOMAS WARMLY INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

Date: Thursday | 4th December

Time: 11:00 - 11.30 am Fellowship

11:30 - 12:30 pm Program

12:30 pm Lunch

Venue: Ballroom, Madras Club

8, Adyar Gate Club Road

R.A Puram,

Chennai - 600018

CHRISTMAS

‘Tis the Season to Sparkle and Celebrate!

Cibi Mammen, Kiran Rao and Shanthi Thomas

invite you to share in the **magic of Christmas-**

a time for friendship, laughter, and the joy of being together.

Come bask in the glow of the season's cheer,

where hearts are light and smiles are near.

Delight in a charming program,

a festive feast, and moments made merry

with the warmth of dear friends and the sparkle of the season.

Dress Code:

Celebrate the colours of Christmas - **Red, Gold, and Green**

Let love and laughter twinkle bright,

and may our hearts be merry and light!

We look forward to celebrating this beautiful season with you.

Members only.

Club Dress Code (Ladies): Please dress decorously.

Faded or torn jeans are not permitted



BOOK DISCUSSION



ZAI WHITAKER

SssssScaling Up to New Heights
ZAI WHITAKER'S CROCODILE TALES

9th December 2025 | 10.15 AM
The Leela Palace

ROSHAN PONCHA

PAOLA PIGNATARO

BOOK DISCUSSION



Date: Tuesday | 9th December

Time: 10:15 am

Venue: The Leela Palace,
Diya Hall, 11th Floor,
Adyar Seaface, MRC Nagar,
Chennai 600 028

SssssScaling Up to New Heights ZAI WHITAKER'S CROCODILE TALES

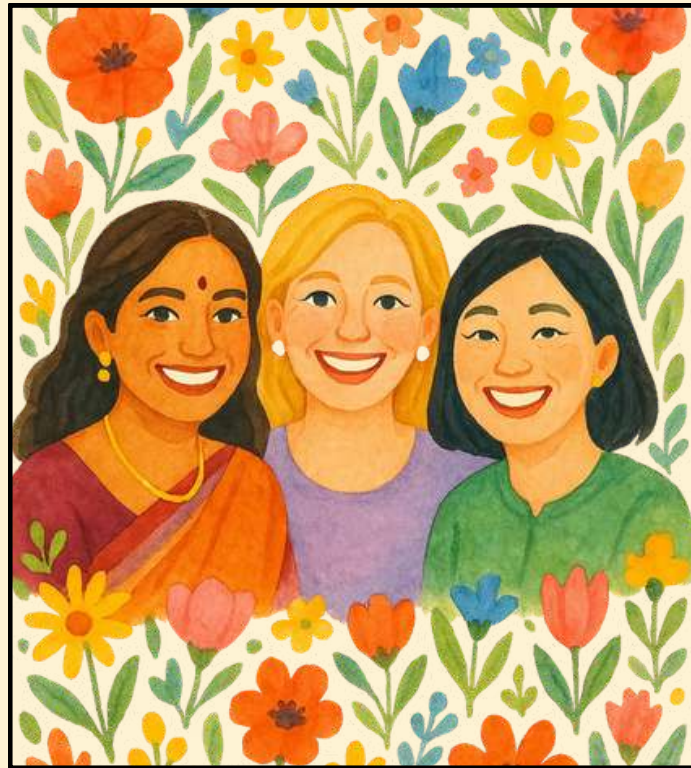
Zai is managing trustee of the **Madras Crocodile Bank**, which she started in 1976 along with her then husband **Rom Whitaker**. Apart from her interest in wildlife and its conservation, she is an author with 22 published books, most of them for children including **Cobra in my Kitchen**, **Andamans Boy**, & **Kali & The Rat Snake** to name a few.

Her other interest is education. She taught at **Kodai International School** for 18 years and was principal of two schools, **Outreach** in **Bangalore** and **Abacus Montessori** in **Chennai**.

In her session, **Zai** will speak about her book **Scaling Up** - about some of her adventures with Rom in the field after she moved to Chennai in 1974. This includes her meeting with the **Adivasi** snake catchers the **Irular**, who caught and sold millions of snakes to the snake skin industry before it was banned. Her work with Rom included developing the **Snake Park**, **Crocodile Bank** and other projects. She will speak about the Crocodile Bank today and plans for its further development. **Zai** will also talk about how the **Scaling-Up project** began, and take us through a few pages from it.



IWA MEMBER'S SPEAK SERIES HEALTH & ECOLOGY



USHA KRISHNAMURTHY
PRIYA GOPALEN
SUGUNA ANUMOLU

NURTURING MIND, CITY, SOIL

IWA Members Speak Series - Health & Ecology

11th December 2025 | 10:15 am
Party Hall at Azure- The Oceanic

SUCHITRA GIRISH

ARTHI BEZAWADA

HEALTH & ECOLOGY



Date: Thursday | 11th December

Time: 10:15 am

Venue: The Party Hall at Azure-The Oceanic

16th Floor, No.40

South Canal Bank Road, RA Puram,

Chennai 600 028

NURTURING MIND, CITY, SOIL

IWA Members Speak Series - Health & Ecology

In this **Members Speak** series, we spotlight three women who don't just talk about wellbeing and sustainability — they live it. Their journeys span classrooms, counselling rooms, city balconies, and farmland, reminding us that health is emotional, environmental, and deeply personal.

Usha Krishnamurthy — A Life Spent Showing Up for Others

Usha's story reads like a map of service: a young accounting teacher in Uttar Pradesh, a scribe, a guide for students with learning challenges, and now, as a counsellor. She'll talk about the life-lessons stitched into these experiences over 35 years — and share a few tools that can steady us when everything feels too much.

Priya Gopalen — Where Kids, Cities, and Plants Meet

The belief that even a cramped city balcony can hold a little magic turned into *The Magic Bean*, where Priya teaches people — especially children — to grow their own food in the spaces they already have. She'll take us into the world of microgreens: tiny, flavourful, power-packed greens with a surprising amount of wellness.

Suguna Anumolu — Farming With Heart, Not Just Technique

At her 60-acre regenerative farm, *Anmol Harvest*, Suguna works with nature rather than against it. What she has built is more than a farm; it's a living example of how biodiversity, patience, and intuition can heal both land and people. She'll talk about her journey and the power of regenerative farming that restores both land and community.

SUCHITRA GIRISH

ARTHI BEZAWADA



HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS



THE NUTCRACKER ON ICE

A Day Trip wrapped in Christmas Magic!

13th December 2025
Day Trip
NMACC Mumbai

RAJSHRI SUNDRANI

MAHIMA PODDAR

HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS



Date: Saturday | 13th December

Time: Day Trip

Venue: NMACC Mumbai

THE NUTCRACKER ON ICE

A Day Trip wrapped in Christmas Magic!

Our IWA trip to Mumbai is now beautifully finalised! We are delighted to share more about the spectacular experience awaiting us at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC): ***The Nutcracker on Ice*** — the world’s most beloved Christmas fairytale- presented in India for the very first time!

This landmark production blends Olympic-level skating, breathtaking choreography, and timeless storytelling on a specially created glistening rink at The Grand Theatre, NMACC. The internationally acclaimed Imperial Ice Stars elevate Tchaikovsky’s masterpiece into a shimmering winter spectacle!

Set in early 1900s St. Petersburg, the story follows young Marie, who receives a magical Nutcracker doll on Christmas Eve. Her enchanted journey takes her through a world of toy soldiers, dancing sweets, the elegant Sugar Plum Fairy, and sparkling dreamscapes — all brought to life with world-class skating, stunning visual effects, and theatrical magic!

Directed by theatre-on-ice visionary **Tony Mercer**, with creative contributions from Olympic gold medallist **Evgeny Platov** and World Champion **Maxim Staviski**, this production features 23 champion skaters performing to a reimagined Tchaikovsky score amidst snow flurries, smoke, and dazzling moving sets! With spectacular costumes and sets, The Nutcracker on Ice promises to be a spellbinding start to the festive season!

Special thanks to **Roshan Poncha** for this delightful pick! We look forward to a day filled with culture, camaraderie, and Christmas magic!

RAJSHRI SUNDRANI

MAHIMA PODDAR



MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS



RAGAS, RHYTHMNS AND ELA SAPPADU Margazhi Magic at the Music Academy

17th December 2025 | 11:15 am
Music Academy

PARVATHI NAYAR

NIRMALA RAJA

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS



Date: Wednesday | 17th December

Time: 11:15 am (Registration)

11.30am -12.30pm (Concert)

12.30pm (Lunch)

Venue: The Music Academy

168, TTK Road, Pudupet, Royapettah,
Chennai, 600014

Please note this is a warn in meeting. You may message
Parvathi @+919884014576 or Nirmala @+919789111000 by
December 10th, 6pm

RAGAS, RHYTHMNS AND ELA SAPPADU Margazhi Magic at the Music Academy

It's Margazhi in Chennai — a season when devotion meets melody
and tradition comes alive!

Join us at the iconic **Music Academy's 99th Annual Concert Series**, celebrating the finest in Carnatic music. From legendary maestros to brilliant young performers, the festival offers an unforgettable symphony of rhythm, raga, and bhakti. We'll begin with an hour of soul-stirring music followed by a sumptuous **ela sappadu** lunch — the essence of Chennai's cultural warmth. Stay on to soak in more concerts and the festive spirit of Margazhi — a time when music truly unites hearts and heritage.

A heartfelt thank-you to **Jeyasree Ravi** for so graciously hosting what promises to be a special Margazhi afternoon filled with music, camaraderie, and shared joy — a celebration of tradition, friendship, and the spirit that makes the Margazhi season truly memorable.

PARVATHI NAYAR

NIRMALA RAJA

OUR MANAGING COMMITTEE

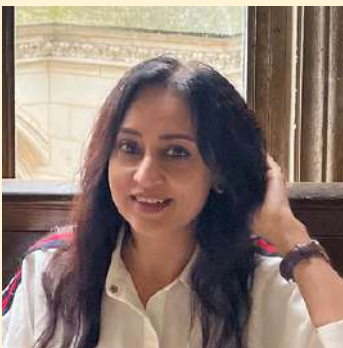


SOMNA SACHDEV

PRESIDENTS



JINA PARK



DEEPAI GOYAL

VICE PRESIDENTS



GEETHA MUTHUSAMY



NIRUPA
SUNDARAVADANAN

SECRETARIES



CATHERINE REDDY



SHEETAL PARAKH

TREASURERS



KYOKO KAWAGUCHI



OUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



SHEFALII DADABHOY

ARTS & HANDICRAFTS



ANJALI SACHETI



ROSHAN PONCHA

BOOK DISCUSSION



PAOLA PIGNATARO



ANURADHA UBEROI

COOKING SWAPSHOP



ROHINI TUMMALA



KAUSALYA SANTHANAM

CURRENT EVENTS



KIRSTINE KAASGAARD



OUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



SUCHITRA GIRISH

HEALTH & ECOLOGY



ARTHI BEZAWADA



RAJSHRI LINESH

HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS



MAHIMA PODDAR
AGARWAL



PARVATHI NAYAR

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS



NIRMALA RAJA



SUGUNA ANUMOLU

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION



MEETING GALLERY

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION



MEETING GALLERY

CURRENT EVENTS



MEETING GALLERY

HEALTH & ECOLOGY



MEETING GALLERY

ARTS & HANDICRAFTS



MEETING GALLERY

COOKING SWAPSHOP



MEETING GALLERY

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS



IWA HELPLINE

NOT RECEIVING NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL OR IDN

Nirupa Sundaravadanan | 98402 34623 | bss_nimmu@yahoo.co.in
Deepali Goyal | 98404 42260 | deepali_gyl@yahoo.com

CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP STATUS OR LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST

Nirupa Sundaravadanan | 98402 34623 | bss_nimmu@yahoo.co.in

ATTENDANCE RECORD OR BYE-LAWS COPY

Kyoko Kawaguchi | 88078 18719 | kyonn1152@gmail.com

CHANGE IN DIRECTORY DETAILS

(Address | email | phone | mobile)

Nirupa Sundaravadanan | 98402 34623 | bss_nimmu@yahoo.co.in

NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deepali Goyal | 98404 42260 | deepali_gyl@yahoo.com

MEETING SUGGESTIONS

Somna Sachdev | 98410 22922 | sachdev.somna@gmail.com
Jinhwa Park | 89258 52547 | schneemonat@gmail.com

HOSTING A MEETING

Somna Sachdev | 98410 22922 | sachdev.somna@gmail.com
Jinhwa Park | 89258 52547 | schneemonat@gmail.com
Deepali Goyal | 98404 42260 | deepali_gyl@yahoo.com

Please call between 10.00 am & 6.00 pm Monday to Saturday



FOUNDER MEMBERS

Nirmal Seshadri - Lakshmi Padmanabhan - Nancy Dean
Saroja Ramamrutham - Anneliese Hazari - Sunita Shahaney - Reva Singh

PAST PRESIDENTS

1986-1988	Nirmal Seshadri	Nancy Dean
1988-1990	Vanitha Mudaliar	Barbara Clarkson
1990-1991	Sunita Shahaney	Janet Picken
1991-1992	Nirmal Mirza	Stina Vasu
1992-1993	Malini Vijayaraghava	Maureen Hudson Murari
1993-1994	Nanditha Krishna	Aruna Vijaykumar
1994-1995	Lily Madhok	Margaret Sekharan
1995-1996	Zubeida Asgarali	Khinthida Lwin
1996-1997	Alagu Muthu	Poonam Lalchand
1997-1998	Rupa Kadhiresan	Anneliese Hazari
1998-1999	Shyla K. Rau	Megan Utley
1999-2000	Gayatri Bewoor	Chandrika Chidambaram
2000-2001	Javanthi Singaram	Eira Doshi
2001-2002	Rani Chada	Seema Sait
2002-2003	Kusum Chadda	Meyyammai Murugappan
2003-2004	Sushila Natraj	Elaine Wood
2004-2005	Vidya Singh	Padma Ashok
2005-2006	Princess Naik	Rathi Nilakantan
2006-2007	Seema Bhargava	Amulya Rao
2007-2008	Kamala Prasad	Raziyeh Sheerazie
2008-2009	Rani Ananth	Lynne Connor
2009-2010	Shobha Hebbar	Elizabeth Aston
2010-2011	Mridula Srinivasan	Uma Ganesan
2011-2012	Nina Kothari	Cherry Venkatesan
2012-2013	Ramani Reddy	Vijaya Rangarajan
2013-2014	Nita Reddy	Priya Asokan
2014-2015	Asha Rammohan	Jo Frogbrook
2015-2016	Achu Kurian	Malini Krishna
2016-2017	Nabila Avais	Jansi Kishore
2017-2018	Badrunnisa Mahadevan	Farah Bangera
2018-2019	Usha Jawahar	Mahvash Sait
2019-2020	Nidhi Kapoor Thadani	Anjali Sacheti
2020-2021	Jeyasree Ravi	Manisha Singhee
2021-2022	Tehnaz Bahadurji	Shobha Jesudasen
2022-2023	Jeyasree Ravi	Mangai Kamal
2023-2024	Ritu Sahi	Sanyukta Gill
2024-2025	Sadiya Khaleel	Stefanie Andruchowitz

IWA REGISTERED OFFICE

Talking Technology Pvt. Ltd. 857, Poonamallee High Road, Kilpauk,
Chennai - 10 www.iwachennai.com

