



**Department of Liberal Arts
Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai**

presents

3rd Graduate Research Meet

Crisis and Hope in Contemporary South Asia

Programme

7 November 2025

10.00:

Welcome Address: Anubhav Pradhan (Associate Head, Department of Liberal Arts, Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai)

10.10 – 11.00:

Keynote: *Shortcuts/Thinking about Roads and Rain: Urbanisation and Infrastructure in Kullu and Manali*

Diya Mehra (South Asian University)

11.00 – 11.15: Refreshments

11.15 – 12.15: Panel: Negotiating the Crisis of Being and Belonging

Chair: Chandrani Sanyal (Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai)

- *Unruly Archives: Dalit-Trans Narratives as Sites of Radical Hope in South Asia's Crises*
Hemant Dahayat (Indira Gandhi National Open University Delhi)
- *Posthuman Crises in S.B. Divya's Machinehood*
Ashish Kumar Pandey (Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur)
- *Counter-Picturesque Care: Feminist Storytelling and Reparative Hope in Northeast India*
Debasmita Sarkar (Shri Ramasamy Memorial University, Sikkim)

12.15 – 12.20: Break

12.20 – 13.20: Panel: Ecological Crisis and Resilience

Chair: Barsha Santra (Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai)

- *The Living Climate: Ecological Portrayals of Imphal in Pacha Meetei's Imphal Amasung Magi Eshing Nungshitki Phibam*
Khaidem Chengleinganbi Devi (Noida International University)
- *Infrastructural Coloniality and the Co-Production of Crisis and Hope: A Postcolonial Ecofeminist Reading of Sarah Joseph's Budhini*
Shefali Kohli (Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee)
- *The Nexus of Land, People, and Neo-Colonizers: Indigenous Knowledge Systems for Sustainable Futures in Sheela Tommy's Valli*
Mansea Pandit (National Institute of Technology Raipur)

13.20 – 14.30: Lunch

14.30 – 15.30: Panel: Precarious Lives and Public Spaces

Chair: Rudrani Dasgupta (Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai)

- *Chronicle of a Crisis Untold: Of Puppets, Puppeteers, and Systemic Precarity*
Parthasarathi Dash (Independent Researcher)
- *Queer Futures Amid Crisis: Queer Student Activism and the Reclaiming of Spaces in the University of Delhi*
Pallavi Pradhan (University of Delhi)
- *Naming in Crisis: Queer Identity, Family, and Media in Starbucks India's #ItStartsWithYourName Campaign*
Sameeksha Singh (English and Foreign Languages University, Lucknow)

15.30 – 15.35 Break

15.35 – 16.35: Panel: Reimagining Crisis in Postcolonial South Asian Literature

Chair: Deepanwita Dey (Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai)

- *A Fractured Mirror: Trauma, Crisis, and the Search for Hope in Select Contemporary South Asian Fiction*
Umesh Kumar. C A (Karnataka University)
- *"You can't unsee it" – Chaos, Crisis and Hope in the Slums: Examining the Spatial Politics and Aesthetics of Grafty's Wall*
Nihar Vyas (Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee)
- *Who Can Haunt? The Crisis of Nineteenth-Century Colonial Calcutta's Ghost*
Himaghna Bandyopadhyay (Presidency University, Kolkata)

16.35 – 16.45: Refreshments

16.45:

Concluding Remarks: Sruthi Vinayan (Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai)