"EVERY CULTURE IS A CANVAS OF COUNTLESS HANDS."
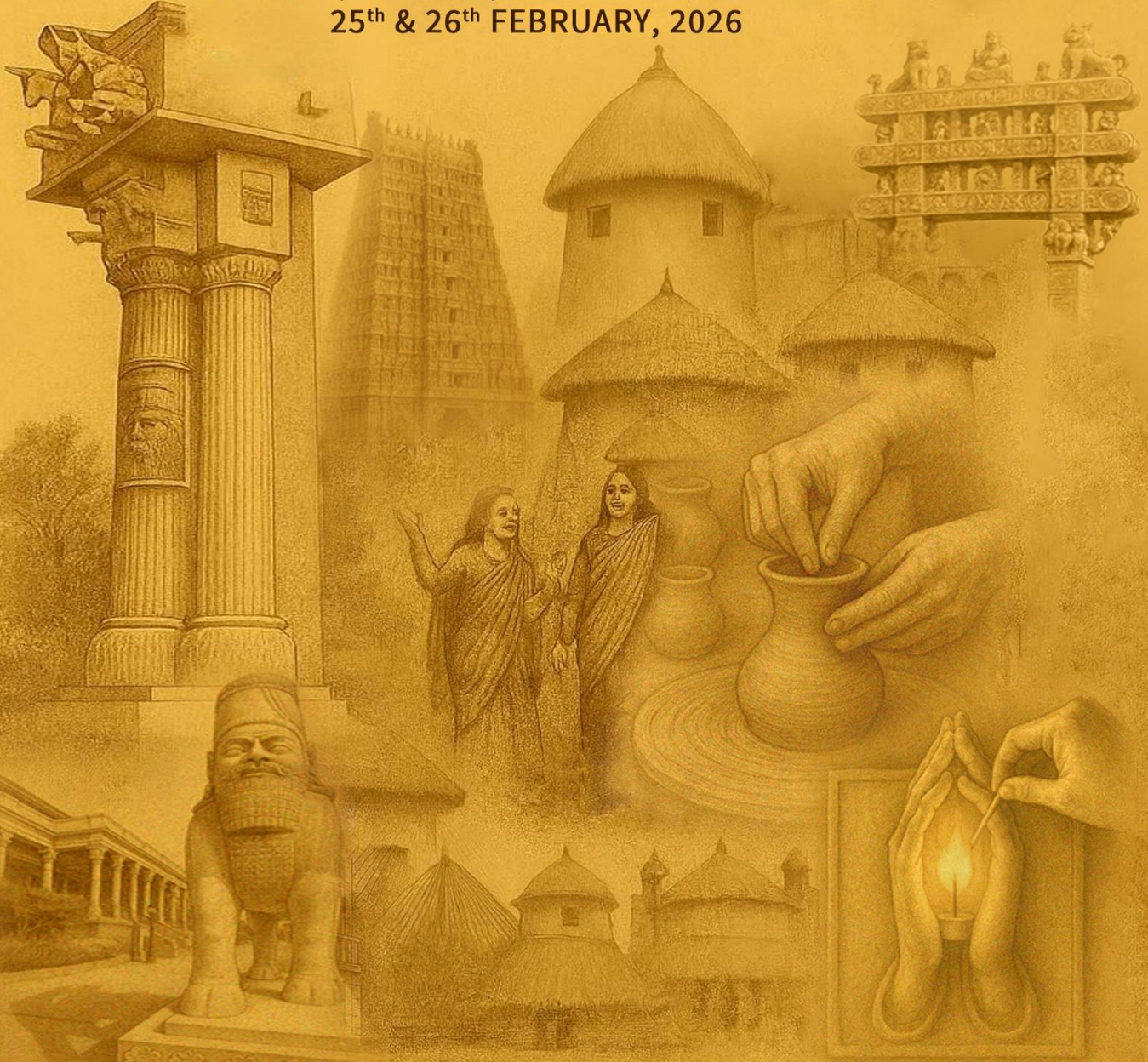
MULTIDISCIPLINARY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

DESIGNING IDENTITIES

"IDENTITY IS NOT BUILT IT IS REVEALED THROUGH WHAT WE CREATE."

INTERSECTIONS OF ART, ARCHITECTURE, CULTURE, RELIGION, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY

25th & 26th FEBRUARY, 2026

MITRAJ

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SU
SARVAJANIK UNIVERSITY

MITRAJ SARVAJANIK
INSTITUTE OF DESIGN, PLANNING AND TECHNOLOGY

- AAERT & The SSB Faculty of Architecture
- Colourtex Sarvajanik School of Interior Design
- Sarvajanik School of Planning
- Sarvajanik School of Fine Arts

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creating an enlightened society.

Hosted by Sarvajanik University & MITRAJ-IDPT

About MITRAJ Sarvajanik Institute of Design, Planning & Technology, SCET:

The MITRAJ Sarvajanik Institute of Design, Planning and Technology (IDPT) at Sarvajanik University stands as a dynamic centre for interdisciplinary design education, creative exploration, and academic excellence. Encompassing the Faculty of Architecture, the Sarvajanik Colourtex School of Interior Design, the Sarvajanik School of Fine Arts, and the Faculty of Planning, MITRAJ IDPT fosters a holistic approach that bridges design, technology, culture, and the arts. With a progressive and globally aligned curriculum, experienced faculty, and a commitment to innovation, MITRAJ IDPT continues the legacy of the Sarvajanik Education Society by nurturing future-ready professionals and visionary thinkers who shape sustainable and inclusive built and cultural environments.

Catalyst for the Conference:

"Fostering Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education to stimulate lifelong Sustainable Learning opportunities for HEIs in India - InEq-SL" is an on-going international research project coordinated by MITRAJ Sarvajanik IDPT, along with 5 partner Universities and funded by the European Union. The Project has been a collaborative endeavor toward realizing the vision of SDG 4 and SDG 8 - through this collaboration, we have worked toward accessible, technology-enabled, and sustainable learning for students with fewer opportunities, ensuring that education becomes a right, not a privilege.

As we moved through this journey, it became clear that the barriers to inclusion in education are deeply interwoven with the larger design of society… in our culture, economy, religion, art, and technology. This realization inspired the conception of this international conference, "Designing Identities: Intersections of Art, Architecture, Culture, Religion, Science, Technology & Society."

The conference stands as both a celebration and an extension of the Erasmus+ project - transforming its spirit of inclusion into a broader, multidisciplinary conversation about how creative, technological, and cultural dimensions together can design a sustainable, equitable, and compassionate world for all.

About the Conference:

Art, Architecture, Culture, and Religion have long been central to the human story. Sacred spaces, cultural practices, and artistic traditions not only shape our built environments but also define our values, collective memory, and sense of belonging. Over centuries, trade, migration, colonial encounters, and globalization have generated profound cross-cultural exchanges that continue to influence visual, spatial, and ritual forms.

In the 21st century, the production of identity extends far beyond monuments and rituals. Markets, algorithms, media, finance, public policy, and science play equal roles in shaping how societies imagine themselves and their futures. As urbanization accelerates and digital technologies transform culture, it becomes urgent to rethink the role of heritage, spirituality, science, technology and creativity in designing inclusive, sustainable, and meaningful futures.

This conference positions the visual, performing, and built arts at the center of an interdisciplinary dialogue that brings Art and Architecture into conversation with Religion, Science, Economics, Management, Media, and Social Sciences. It will highlight both tangible and intangible dimensions of identity and explore how they converge to shape human societies.

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Conference Theme:

The conference explores the intersections of Art, Architecture, Culture, and Religion as enduring forces of identity-making, while expanding the scope to include Science, Technology, Media, Economics, and Policy as contemporary drivers of societal transformation. It seeks to reimagine how tradition and innovation together can build sustainable, inclusive, and globally connected futures.

(A comprehensive explanation can be found on the last two pages.)

Objectives of the Conference:

- To explore how Art, Architecture, Culture, and Religion have historically shaped identity, heritage, and collective memory.
- To examine the Cross-Cultural Exchanges that influenced sacred art, architecture, and social life across civilizations.
- To address contemporary challenges of Globalization, Urbanization, Sustainability, and Digital Transformation in shaping a sustainable world.
- To integrate perspectives from Social Sciences, Technology, Economics, and Management into the study of human identity.
- To foster collaboration between Academics, Practitioners, Policymakers, and Communities in rethinking inclusive and sustainable futures.

A) Poster Competition

Theme: *Designing Identities: Intersections of Art, Architecture, Culture, Religion, Science, Technology & Society.*

Concept:

The competition invites creative interpretations that visualize how Art, Architecture, Culture, and Religion continue to shape human identity - while engaging with contemporary forces such as Science, Technology, Media, Economics, and Policy. Participants are encouraged to explore how **Tradition** and **Innovation** can coexist to build **Sustainable, Inclusive,** and **Globally Connected Futures.**

Size	Poster in portrait format, measuring **8.5" x 11" (A4 size)**.
Media	Only physical drawing and painting allowed. All posters must be original art. No trademarked or copyrighted images or phrases should be used.
Eligibility	Open to only for Registered participants.
Participation Fee	Included in Registration Fees. Registration is mandatory.
Material and Paper	Paper will be provided in the conference. Team needs to bring your own colours and other relevant materials.
Time	1 hour
Entry Limit	One per person or One per team
Best Poster Award	Two awards (1st & 2nd Winner)

B) Scientific Sessions – Tracks:

Topics include but are not limited to…

Track 1: Socio-Cultural Praxis

a) Sacred & Cultural Spaces: Architecture, Rituals, and Cultural Landscapes as anchors of identity.

b) Artistic Expressions of Faith & Culture: Visual and Performing Arts as living traditions

and contemporary reinterpretations.

c) Memory, Heritage & Preservation: Tangible and Intangible Heritage, Digital Documentation, Museum Practices, Adaptive Reuse.

d) Sustainability & Spirituality: Sacred Ecologies, Vernacular Wisdom, and Climate-Responsive Design.

e) Society, Politics & Communities: Gender, Caste, Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora, and Transnational Identity Formations.

Track 2: Science, Technology & Media

a) Art, Religion & Architecture in the Digital Age: AI, AR/VR, Virtual Pilgrimages, and Online Cultural Communities.

b) Technology, Science & Material Culture: Conservation Science, GIS, Heritage Data, and Material Innovation.

c) Health, Wellness & Therapeutic Spaces: Sacred Design and Healing Landscapes for holistic wellbeing.

Track 3: Business, Management & Education

a) Cultural Industries & Creative Economies: Entrepreneurship, Heritage Tourism, Creative Accounting, and Cultural Valuation.

b) Policy, Governance & Law: Cultural Policy, Heritage Law, Restitution, and Governance Frameworks.

c) Education & Pedagogy: Integrating Heritage, Culture, and Religion into design and professional curricula.

C) Special Sessions:

- **Keynote Addresses:** Global Perspectives on Art, Architecture, Culture, and Religion
- **Exhibition:** Student works, models, digital heritage, and heritage-inspired design projects
- **Cultural Evening:** Performances in music, dance, and theatre that reflect the conference theme
- **Traditional Craft Workshops:** Live demonstrations by artisans with interactive dialogue

D) Who can participate?

- Students
- Academicians and Researchers from Architecture, Design, Arts, Religion, Cultural Studies, Management, Science, Technology, Social Sciences and Planning.
- Practicing Artists, Architects, Designers, Curators, Art Historians, Technocrats, Scientists and Economists.
- Entrepreneurs & Business Leaders.
- Representatives from Civil Society and Business Associations.
- Heritage Professionals, Cultural Organizations, and NGOs.
- Other interested individuals.

E) Paper Submission Guidelines:

- **Abstract Submission:** Abstract should not be more than 250 words. It will comprise of the title

of the paper, about authors - name, designation, affiliation email ID and Mobile no., objectives, methodology, rationality and significance. An abstract should accompany 5 key words.

Find the Template for Abstract:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Wnq47WLqqQxycri16o8lH9K9qK5l4LZ5/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=107748176211372081072&rtpof=true&sd=true

Submit abstract through Microsoft's Conference Management Toolkit: https://cmt3.research.microsoft.com/DIiAACRSTS2026/Submission/Index

Full Paper Submission: Full paper should be **less than 8000 words.** It should have an abstract, key words, introduction, literature review, objectives and methodology, analysis & discussion, conclusion and scope for further study followed by references and appendix.

- **Review Process:** The abstracts/ full papers submitted for the possible presentation in the conference are subject to a blind review process. The decision of the reviewers will be final and binding. Acceptance/comments of the reviewers of the abstract/full paper will be communicated to the corresponding author within a week of the receipt of the abstract/paper.
- Submitted papers must NOT have been previously presented, scheduled for presentation, published, or accepted for publication by any other source (journal, publisher or any other organization). If a paper is under review at the time of submission, it must NOT appear in print before the Conference.
- NO changes in the paper title, authorship, nor submitted document can occur AFTER the submission deadline.
- **One Research paper** can have one or more (max. 3) authors. Contact details and affiliation of all the authors need to be mentioned while submitting the abstract and paper. Registration fees is per paper and not per author however all authors must register.
  - Citations & references should comply with the APA style of referencing. For details on APA referencing style, please visit http://www.apastyle.org
  - Submission must be in MS-Word format (no other format will be accepted) with all four sides 1 inch margin. Should be typed in **Times New Roman with font size of 11. Paper title in 14 (Bold)** and **all sub-headings in 12 (Bold)** and **single line spacing.**
  - The maximum length of the submission is limited to 8,000 words (including title page and all figures, tables, appendices, and references.).
  - Link to submit paper will be intimated through email once the abstract is accepted.

F) Publication Opportunities:

The conference offers publication opportunities. Selected papers will be considered for publication in a reputed Journal like SCOPUS Indexed/ Web of Science after a double-blind review process. The publication PROCESSING fees for the selected papers to be published in the SCOPUS Indexed/ Web of Science journal will be borne by the authors.

Remaining papers will be published in the conference proceedings as e-book with ISSN no.

Policy for Plagiarism:

All the submitted papers will undergo a plagiarism check. Permissible similarity can be up to 10% or as per rules and regulations of the journal.

Best paper awards:

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Best Paper Awards shall be given based on the assessment of each track/sub tracks.

Certificate of Participation:

E-Certificate of participation will be awarded to the paper presenters and participants attending all the sessions of the Conference.

Registration:

- Registration is mandatory for all participants.
- Registration should be made before registration deadline.
- Presentation in absentia is not encouraged.
- The fee is inclusive of a conference kit, food, and e-certificate.
- The registration fee is non-refundable.

Important Timelines:

Call for Abstract Opens	17th October 2025
Abstract Submission Deadline	**15th December 2025**
Abstract Review Notification	20th December 2025
Paper Submission Deadline	10th January 2026
Registration Opens	10th January 2026
Paper Review Notification	25th January 2026
Final paper Submission Deadline	5th February 2026
Registration Closes	10th February 2026
Conference dates	25th & 26th February 2026

Registration Fees:

Students	500 INR
Research Scholars	1000 INR
Academicians	1500 INR
Professionals	2000 INR
Industry Representatives	2500 INR
NRI/Foreign Delegates	2500 INR

Mode of Payment:

Bank Transfer NEFT/RTGS/IMPS: Account details will be shared once the registration opens for the conference.

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Detailed Explanation about the Theme:

1. MEANING: "Designing Identities"

The phrase "Designing Identities" means the process of shaping who we are individually and collectively through design, culture, faith, society and creative expression.

- "Designing" refers not just to making objects or buildings, but to the act of creating, planning, and giving form - to ideas, values, lifestyles, and spaces.
- "Identities" refer to the sense of self and belonging that people and communities have - defined by their culture, religion, art, language, technology, traditions, and environment.

So, when we say "Designing Identities," we mean:

How art, architecture, culture, religion, science, technology, politics and society together shape the way we see ourselves and our world.

It also suggests that identity is not fixed-it is something we create, express, and redesign constantly through our choices, spaces, symbols, education, and innovations.

In short,

"Designing Identities" means the creative and continuous process of forming who we are - as individuals, as communities, and as societies - through the things we design, the values we live by, and the cultures we build.

2. EXPLANATION: Designing Identities: A Multidisciplinary conference

"Designing Identities" reflects the belief that human identity is not fixed - it is created, shaped, and redesigned continuously through our beliefs, behaviors, and built environments.

Each discipline - whether art, science, religion, or technology - contributes to the design of who we are and how we live together.

This conference explores several dimensions that influence and construct identity in contemporary society. Together, they demonstrate that identity is not a product of chance, but of design - a living synthesis of culture, knowledge, and creativity.

▪ **Religion as Identity:**

Religion is one of the earliest and most enduring forms of identity. It provides meaning, moral order, and continuity across generations. Sacred spaces - temples, mosques, churches, and fire temples - are not just places of worship; they are architectures of belief, giving physical form to spiritual values. Religion defines festivals, rituals, and community life, and continues to shape ethics, culture, and social cohesion in the modern world. As pluralism and dialogue grow, religion invites us to rediscover the shared human search for truth, empathy, and transcendence. It is, in essence, a design of the spirit - the creative articulation of faith as a way of being.

▪ **Culture as Identity:**

Culture is the living canvas upon which societies express themselves. It is composed of stories, languages, customs, crafts, and celebrations - the everyday design of life. Each artifact, performance, and tradition carries encoded memories of belonging and evolution. Culture connects generations, but it also adapts through migration, interaction, and innovation. In a globalized age, culture becomes a dialogue between the local and the universal, preserving heritage while fostering transformation. Culture, therefore, is both memory and imagination - a design of continuity that teaches us how to coexist while celebrating difference.

▪ **Science as Identity:**

Science defines identity through knowledge - by helping us understand what it means to be human in relation to nature and the cosmos. From genetics and neuroscience to climate and materials, science shapes the frameworks of truth, reason, and discovery that guide civilization. It redefines our concepts of health, life, and progress. Scientific innovation transforms not only technology but how we think about ourselves - as curious, creative, and responsible beings. Science is both a tool and a worldview: a design of intellect and inquiry that continuously reshapes our collective self-understanding.

▪ **Technology as Identity:**

Technology is the contemporary signature of identity. It mediates how we live, communicate, and connect. Our digital footprints, devices, and networks extend the boundaries of the self - creating virtual spaces of belonging and exclusion. Access to technology determines empowerment, participation, and even justice in modern society. Artificial intelligence, robotics, and

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virtual reality are not only reshaping economies but also redefining human consciousness and creativity. Technology, in this sense, is the design of possibility - both a reflection of who we are and a projection of who we may become.

▪ Economics as Identity:

Economics is an invisible but powerful designer of identity. The ways people earn, spend, migrate, and aspire reveal how they see themselves and how society defines them. Employment, financial inclusion, and access to credit determine dignity and mobility. The flow of capital mirrors the flow of people - both shaping global cultures and communities. Economic systems are not neutral; they embody values of fairness, ambition, and belonging. When designed equitably, economies nurture not only wealth but also human worth. Economics, thus, is the design of livelihood and aspiration - the structure through which societies imagine possibility.

▪ Management as Identity:

Management translates vision into reality. It organizes people, processes, and purpose into shared frameworks of action. The way we manage institutions and industries reflects our collective ethics and values. In this sense, management is not merely administrative; it is a design of relationships and responsibility. It determines how inclusion, leadership, and collaboration manifest within workplaces and governance. Effective management creates cultures of trust, creativity, and belonging - turning organizations into living communities. It is both the science of coordination and the art of designing human potential.

▪ Business as Identity:

Business expresses identity through enterprise and exchange. Every product, service, or brand tells a story of values - innovation, ambition, and culture. Markets and entrepreneurship are modern languages of self-expression, shaping how individuals and societies define success. Business connects economies, but also cultures and ethics; it influences lifestyle, aspiration, and global sustainability. In this light, business becomes a design of interaction and impact - not merely a pursuit of profit, but a medium for shaping responsible and meaningful progress.

▪ Law as Identity:

Law defines the boundaries of identity and belonging. It determines rights, recognition, and justice - giving structure to equality and freedom. Through constitutions and codes, societies design the moral architecture that governs coexistence. Law reflects the collective conscience of a people and transforms ideals into lived reality. It balances order and liberty, shaping the identity of nations as well as individuals. Ultimately, law is the design of fairness - ensuring that every identity is protected and every voice has space within the social fabric.

▪ Conclusion:

The idea of Designing Identities calls upon all disciplines to see themselves as co-creators of humanity's evolving narrative. Each domain - faith, culture, science, technology, economy, management, business, and law - is both a mirror and a maker of who we are.

Together, they remind us that identity is not something inherited, but something designed - through our choices, our systems, and our shared imagination.

Organizing Committee:

CHIEF PATRON:
   Mr. Ashish Vakil, President, Sarvajanik University & Chairman- Sarvajanik Education Society.
   Dr. Kiran Pandya, Provost, Sarvajanik University.

CONFERENCE CHAIR: Prof. Persi Engineer, Principal & Dean, MITRAJ Sarvajanik IDPT, Sarvajanik University & LEAR and Legal Representative, European Union Projects.

CONFERENCE CONVENER: Prof. (Dr.) Jasmine Kaur, Assistant Professor.

CONFERENCE CO-CONVENORS: Prof. Vahhbiz Engineer, Associate Professor.
               Prof. Hardik Gandhi, Associate Professor.

CORRESPONDING ADDRESS: MITRAJ Sarvajanik Institute of Design, Planning and Technology, Dr. R. K. Desai Marg, Athwalines, Surat-395001, Gujarat, India.

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