

# WIC Newsletter: October 2020

## President's Report



Dear Members

January 2020 arrived to the fading strains of Auld Lang Syne, bringing with it the strangest of times, though we did not know it then. As the year continues to unfold, we find ourselves in interesting times, when we can script our own definition of wisdom and foolishness, belief and incredulity, and decide in retrospect, whether this was a season of darkness and despair or a season of light and hope. In the last few months our club has perhaps not been able to "meet" in the way we were used to, but the manner in which we have reached out to each other in this "new normal" and strengthened bonds and cemented friendships, may have left us with a desire to pack more into tea and cakes and conversations in the future!

It was great seeing so many of you at the AGM, and again the circle meetings have been very well attended. It has given the committee a boost and we are hopeful that the rest of the year will be very successful. Thank you, dear Members, for your support.

We have been busy trying to get our act together to do the handover in this short time - usually we get four months after the AGM, not two weeks! It has not been easy. I would like to thank my committee for the hard work they have put in.

We now have a "Mentorship Committee", as was suggested at the AGM, and they are helping us sort out the issue of the WIC history/cookbook.

The "Case of the Missing Coins" is still a mystery, but one we hope to sort out soon with Dakshina's help.

We have exciting programmes lined up for this month. For the General Meeting, Suneeta will be taking us to Kolkata for Durga Puja. We shall go pandal hopping with the best of the locals. Leena's circle leaders have also been busy, organising three meetings for this month.

I look forward to seeing you at these meetings. Keep well and keep safe.

Anita Meattle

**President**

## Executive Committee 2020-21

**President - Anita Meattle**

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**Treasurer - Ashwini Pai Bahadur**

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## Meet the Mentorship Committee ...



**Peggy Sood**



**Sheila Ghatate**



**Smita Divan**

# GENERAL MEETING: 3pm, 14 October

## “The Beauty of Kolkata’s Durga Puja”

The world's most gigantic, non Govt sponsored outpouring - with little to do with religion but everything to do with coming together across faiths, & social strata. The Pujas are the only free entertainment the less privileged have all year.



The festival celebrates Ma Durga's victory over Mahishasura and symbolises the eternal victory of good over evil. It is also a harvest festival, paying homage to the Goddess, as the font of creation and life. During the Pujas, the Goddess is believed to descend from her husband Shiva's home on Kailasha, to visit her ancestral home.

'Akaal bodhan' - the worship of the Goddess at an unusual time, tied up (perhaps) with

Ram's invocation of Durga before embarking on hostilities against Ravana.

Shaktism - the concept of Stree Shakti. Kali - the darker manifestation of Durga. Rituals: Tarpana - Mahalaya, bodhana, arati, dhakis, shondhipuja, sindur khela etc.

The significance of the different vahanas on which Durga arrives and departs.

For a display of sheer beauty, artistic innovation and breathtaking aesthetics, the Puja's are unmatched and unique. They provide a major source of livelihood for countless numbers, and the Puja's bring out the best in all - we see the police and the hordes at their disciplined best.



We will be taken on this tour by Oindrilla Dutt who curates cultural events, directs son et lumieres at heritage sites, is a freelance writer, is associated with leading NGOs, and is a die-hard Calcuttan.

## Annual Membership Subscription for 2020-21 are Now Due

Due to the pandemic fees have been reduced to **Rs 2500/** for this year. Payment may be made **online or by cheque**. Payment must be made **by 15 Nov 2020**.

### ONLINE PAYMENTS

WOMENS INTERNATIONAL CLUB  
Account No: 50100075742084  
RTGS/NEFT/IFSC CODE: HDFC0000003  
HDFC Bank 209-214 Kailash Building 26  
Kasturba Gandhi Marg New Delhi 110001

### CHEQUE PAYMENTS

Please make all cheques in the name of **Women's International Club** and mention your name in capital letters and phone no at the back of the cheque.

### PAYMENT RECORD

Once payment is made kindly WhatsApp, SMS or email screenshot of payment confirmation / ref no / bank SMS of payment / cheque drop off location to 9810129873 or [treasurer2020.wic@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer2020.wic@gmail.com)

### CHEQUE DROP-OFF POINTS

For your convenience, cheques may be dropped off at the locations below. Kindly place cheque inside envelope and label as Treasurer WIC 2020-21. This can be handed to the Security Guards of the respective locations. Receipts will follow by email.

#### Noida

Leena Singh  
House No 455  
Sector 15A, Noida

#### Delhi

Anita Meattle  
26-A Prithviraj Road  
New Delhi -110011

#### Delhi

Anita Meattle  
Paharpur Business Centre  
21 Nehru Place  
Nehru Place Greens  
New Delhi 110019

#### Gurgaon & South West Delhi

Ashwini Pai Bahadur  
Pai Farms  
30 Rajokri Road  
Samalkha New Delhi -110037

# CIRCLE MEETINGS

## Cultural Kaleidoscope: 3pm, 8 October

### “Hindu Deities & Sanskrit in Japan”

How many know that Hindu deities are worshipped everyday by the people of Japan? How many know that the “homa” or “havan” is performed in 1,200 temples of Japan daily, along with chanting in Sanskrit? All this and more will be seen in the talk and film presented by eminent art historian, filmmaker, and photographer Benoy K Behl.

‘Indian Deities Worshipped in Japan’ is a unique film, including scenes of the interiors and shrines of many important temples of Japan, which are not visible to the public. It was made at the request of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

Known for his tireless and prolific output of work over 44 years, Benoy K Behl has taken over 53,000 photographs of Asian monuments and art heritage, made a hundred documentaries on art history and held exhibitions in 74 countries. His films, including 26 documentaries on the paintings of India, and 26 documentaries on the sculpture of India have been nationally telecast on prime time in India, and seen at many universities and museums globally.

In January 2008, National Geographic devoted 18 pages to ancient Indian art revealed through Behl’s photography and BBC World News has carried three major stories about his pioneering work in India and Vietnam.

Behl’s book on ‘The Ajanta Caves’ is published by Thames & Hudson, London and is among the best-selling books on Indian art history in the world. His recent books include ‘The Art of India, Sculpture and Mural Painting’ in two volumes; ‘Buddhism: The Path of Compassion’ on the Buddhist heritage of the world, and ‘Hindu Deities Worshipped in Japan’.

Behl has deeply researched the wonderful cultural connections between India and Japan, for more than 20 years. The Japan Foundation created an exhibition of his photographs and text on Hindu deities worshipped in Japan, which was shown at Rashtrapati Bhavan Museum, the Japan Foundation, and the India International Centre. It was also shown in leading museums in the Indian metro cities.



## Circle Facilitators

### ART & BEYOND

Dominique Chorosz  
Smita Mankad  
Midori Suzuki

### CULTURAL KALEIDOSCOPE

Yuka Ando  
Sunaina Suneja  
Noor Anand Chawla

### HEALTH & WELLNESS

Ruchika Rajan  
Shakuntala Dawesar  
Ashima Singh Ghatate

### PERFORMING ART

Devika Anand  
Rene Singh

### BOOK CLUB

Coming soon!

## Two things you should do

1. RSVP for October meetings using this Doodle link: <https://doodle.com/poll/krgbqvaca9xczbrg>
2. On the date & time of the meeting click on the Zoom link below to join:

**Hindu Deities & Sanskrit in Japan – Oct 8th**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83776152436>

**A ‘Gouaché’, a Jewel in Itself**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88221229721>

**The Beauty of Kolkata’s Durga Puja – Oct 14<sup>th</sup>**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82472995527>

**Introduction to Wine**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82911917939>

Reminders will be sent on WhatsApp.

## Art & Beyond: 11am, 22 October

### “A ‘Gouaché’, a Jewel in Itself”

Have you ever wondered what is behind the making of luxury jewels? In France, we call it ‘Haute Joaillerie’, same as ‘Haute Couture’ and it is all about expertise, high quality to give birth to exceptional creations.

The ‘gouaché’ is a technical drawing that will project a jewel in volume and in colours. It is the first step in the making of a luxury jewel. Some gouachés are true works of art, mastering colours and light. They are the secret treasures of French ‘Haute Joaillerie’.

Cartier was famous for them and of course we will extend our discussion to Cartier’s strong connections with India.

By the way, do you know you can admire some replica Cartier gouachés at the Emporio Mall in Vasant Kunj?



## Health & Wellness: 3pm, 28 October

### “Introduction to Wine”

#### Introduction to wine

**It's gonna be fun and interesting  
Basic, no techie jargon, no boring stuff**

Join Sovna Puri - Wine and spirits consultant, for a session on wines. Sovna is the only Indian, to have been awarded the “Future 50 Awards”, identifying her as among 50 professionals from across the globe who have made a notable contribution to the beverage industry.

**28th October | Wednesday  
ZOOM SESSION | 3 - 3:45 PM**



#### Sovna Puri

Sovna is an independent wine and spirits consultant, conducting wine & spirits tastings, trainings and courses across India.

Sovna is superbly qualified to conduct tastings and trainings. She is a WSET Level 4 Diploma holder in Wines & Spirits from the Wine & Spirit Education Trust, London. This certification makes her one of 2 Indians who hold the qualification (and among 11,065 in the world).

Sovna is the only Indian, to have been awarded the “Future 50 Awards”, identifying her as among 50 professionals from across the globe who have made a notable contribution to the beverage industry.

She was 1 among only 15 other women to have been awarded the “Phoenix Leading Lady Awards 2019” under the category “Personal Brilliance – Breaking Unconventional Barriers”, which recognizes pivotal roles played by women in unconventional fields in India.

Her work experience spanning over a decade, two continents, leading wine & spirits producers, Michelin-starred restaurants and hotel chains, gives her a unique and comprehensive perspective of the industry.