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Covid-19: British Council, Art X Organise E-Series Of Seminars

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The next Festival Connections webinar is Friday March 27 at 4-6pm with festival case studies from Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Delhi and UK. The details are mentioned in the link below.

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by BW Online Bureau

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Festival Connections, a series of seminars for professionals, brings senior managers, artists, and stakeholders together to exchange, discuss, and share issues relevant to the festival sector, as an informal mechanism for learning and capacity development.

In light of the rapidly evolving Covid-19 situation in India and the UK, the British Council and partners Art X have shifted the discussions on Festival Building and Management in India: Lead, Govern, Scale, Repeat, to the digital platform, adapting to the needs of our partners and participants. The sessions, now happening online in the form of webinars, bring together industry experts from India and the UK, for sessions that delve into practices around governance of festivals, leadership of such organisations and roles and workflows of key festival members.

The next Festival Connections webinar is Friday March 27 at 4-6pm with festival case studies from Kolkata, [Chennai](#), Bengaluru, [Delhi](#) and UK. The details are mentioned in the link below.

Speakers from five cities will join us on the Zoom platform where they will present case studies of festivals they represent, discuss key points in the cultural festivals space, and take questions from an online audience. The speakers include:

Harishankar Krishnaswami - Secretary, Narada Gana Sabha, [Chennai](#)
 Kate Ward - Creative Producer and Consultant, UK
 Lubna Shaheen - Programme Director, Ziro Festival of Music, Ziro
 Sanjoy Ganguly - Artistic Director, Jana Sanskriti Centre for Theatre of the Oppressed, Kolkata
 Srikrishna Ramamoorthy - Co-Founder, Bangalore Poetry Festival
 Varun Gupta - Co-founder and Director - [Chennai](#) Photo Biennale
 Vikram Iyengar - Founder and Director, Pickle Factory Dance Foundation, Kolkata



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Jonathan Kennedy, Director Arts, British Council, India said, "We are adapting to the needs of our partners and participants. The first webinar on 20 March included 8 speakers from [Delhi](#), Mumbai and London, six festivals, 241 participants, with minimum 101 engaged online throughout. Participants from India, US, Indonesia, Sweden, Germany and the UK logged in. More participants attended online than would have been feasible in a more usual face-to-face context. This is a strong example of responsive resilience, digital innovation and commitment to a flexible approach for programme continuity and solidarity with the arts and culture sector in India during these challenging times."

The webinar on March 20' 2020 had the following speakers.
Harsha Tapke - Co-Founder, Koli Seafood Festival
Smriti Rajgarhia - Director, Serendipity Arts Festival
Sarah Elizabeth Chawla - Co-Founder and Director, Magnetic Fields Festival
Tarini Sethi - Founder and Curator, The Irregulars Art Fair
Tom Wilcox - Senior Partner, Counterculture
Warren de Sylva - Chief Creative Officer, Believe Entertainment

The British Council's long-standing history of supporting major festivals and venues in India is in line with capacity building of festival managers across the world. With multiple opportunities in the cultural sector, the Festivals for the Future programme will empower participants to find new solutions and routes to business sustainability, develop a clear understanding of the principles of festival management and grow networks of new and emerging professionals from the festival sector across India and UK.

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