

**Jindal School of Languages and Literature**  
and  
**Centre for Translation, Print, and Publishing Studies**  
*cordially invites you to the*

## **GUEST LECTURE**

on

# **The Editor as Curator: Diversity, Discovery, and the Challenge of Tokenism**

### **Abstract:**

Editors shape more than just individual books; they shape what a culture reads, remembers, and values. This talk will explore the editor's role as a curator of voices and ideas, and how every commissioning or rejection contributes to the literary record. And in the Indian context, where publishing is multilingual, unevenly resourced, and still gatekept by access and privilege, the question of diversity becomes both urgent and complex. What does it mean to build a "diverse" list without falling into the trap of tokenism? How do editors balance market demands with the need for risk-taking and representation? And how can emerging professionals - writers and editors alike - expand the boundaries of who gets to tell stories, and who gets to be heard? Drawing from practical experience across commissioning, editing, and curating, this session looks at diversity not as a checkbox but as an editorial philosophy - one that values discovery, depth, and responsibility over optics.



### **Swati Daftuar | SPEAKER**

Swati Daftuar is an independent journalist, editor, and literary consultant with fifteen years' experience in books and publishing. She is Consulting Editor at Speaking Tiger, where she acquires, commissions, and develops literary and commercial fiction, translations, and idea-driven non-fiction. Her specialty is primary and structural book development - shaping editorial roadmaps, positioning, and packaging. Beyond the page, she designs reader-facing programs including author conversations, workshops, and reader-facing experiences. She also hosts The Bookshop Inc.'s Bookclubs, that build communities, celebrate translations, food writing and backlists. She writes regular fiction columns for Scroll and The Hindu. Previously, she was Executive Editor, HarperCollins India, and Deputy Editor at The Hindu, where she led the Books digital vertical. She also founded Delhi's Annual Book & Bake Sale, a community fundraiser celebrating reading culture.

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**TUESDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2025 | 02:00 PM – 03:30 PM**  
**T119, ARUNA ABHEY OSWAL ACADEMIC BLOCK (T4)**  
**O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY, SONIPAT-131001**