Preface:

Culture • Consciousness • Knowledge • Technology • Humanity

Civilizations are shaped by the interplay of culture, knowledge, creativity, technology and human values. Amid rapid technological advancements, ecological challenges and social transformations, humanity stands at a critical crossroads, inviting reflection on the meaning of progress and the future we aspire to create.

The international conference *Civilizations at the Crossroads* is organised as part of the dissemination activities of the European Union-funded research project **InEq-SL - "Fostering Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education to Stimulate Lifelong Sustainable Learning Opportunities for HEIs in India."** It will be co-organised by **MITRAJ Sarvajanik Institute of Design, Planning and Technology (MS-IDPT), Sarvajanik University; Ganpat University; CVM University; and D. Y. Patil College of Engineering & Technology.**

The conference provides an interdisciplinary platform to explore the roles of education, humanities, art, science, technology and culture in shaping civilizations. It highlights the importance of indigenous knowledge, vernacular wisdom and cultural heritage alongside contemporary innovation, while addressing ethics, human dignity, social justice and ecological sustainability.

MS-IDPT, the host institution, brings together architecture, interior design, fine arts and planning, fostering interdisciplinary education, creative exploration and innovation towards sustainable and inclusive built and cultural environments.

Bringing together academicians, researchers, artists, designers, scientists and practitioners, the conference aims to foster dialogue and collaboration towards envisioning humane, inclusive and sustainable futures, guided by a fundamental question: **What kind of civilization are we becoming, and what kind of civilization do we aspire to create?**

Catalyst for the Conference:

Our previous conference, "Designing Identities: Intersections of Art, Architecture, Culture, Religion, Science, Technology & Society" explored the ways in which culture, place, art, architecture and design influence who we are… We now wish to take that discourse a step further - from identity to civilization, and towards a deeper consideration of who we are becoming.

Humanity today stands at a remarkable crossroads. Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies are transforming knowledge, creativity and human interaction. Climate change is challenging the way we inhabit our planet. The experience of the pandemic has reminded us of

our biological vulnerability and the profound relationship between health, society, environment, technology and human wellbeing. Globalisation continues to connect cultures while also creating new questions of identity, belonging and coexistence. At the same time, traditional knowledge and indigenous wisdom are being rediscovered as possible resources for the future.

The conference seeks to examine these transformations through a multidisciplinary and human-centred lens, recognising that civilization is shaped not by one discipline, but by the interaction of knowledge, culture, creativity, technology, ethics, belief, environment and human aspirations.

We envisage participation from Architecture, Design, Urbanism, Visual and Performing Arts, Culture and Heritage, Education, Science, Medicine and Public Health, Technology and Artificial Intelligence, Philosophy and Spirituality, Psychology, Sociology, Economics, Governance, Sustainability, Engineering and the Social Sciences, among others.

About the Conference:

Civilizations are continually shaped by the interplay of culture, knowledge, creativity, technology and human values. At a time of rapid technological advancements, ecological challenges, social transformations and evolving cultural identities, humanity stands at a critical crossroads, prompting us to reconsider the meaning of progress and the future we aspire to create.

The international conference *Civilizations at the Crossroads* seeks to provide an interdisciplinary platform for examining the evolving relationship between humanity, education, art, science, technology, philosophy and culture. It recognises education as a transformative force in shaping future generations and highlights art, cultural heritage, indigenous knowledge and vernacular wisdom as essential dimensions of civilizational identity and continuity.

The conference will explore how traditional wisdom can engage with contemporary scientific and technological innovations to address emerging challenges and envision context-responsive futures. It will also encourage critical dialogue on ethical responsibility, human dignity, social justice, ecological sustainability and the relationship between technological advancement and human wellbeing.

Bringing together academicians, researchers, artists, designers, scientists, technologists and practitioners, the conference aims to foster interdisciplinary exchange, collaborative research and innovative perspectives on contemporary civilizational challenges. It seeks to question

conventional notions of progress and inspire approaches that balance innovation with cultural continuity, human values and environmental responsibility.

Ultimately, the conference invites participants to reflect on a fundamental question: **What kind of civilization are we becoming, and what kind of civilization do we aspire to create for future generations?**

Conference Theme:

Humanity stands at a critical crossroads shaped by technological advancements, ecological challenges, cultural transformations and evolving human values. This conference explores how education, art, science, philosophy and the humanities shape civilizations and influence our collective future. It seeks to bridge traditional wisdom and contemporary innovation while addressing questions of ethics, identity, sustainability and human dignity. Through interdisciplinary dialogue, the conference aims to envision inclusive, humane and ecologically responsible futures.

Objectives of the Conference:

1. To critically examine the evolution of civilizations through humanities, philosophy, history, art, culture and human identity.
2. To explore the role of education and knowledge in fostering critical thinking, creativity, ethical values and future-ready generations.
3. To investigate the impact of emerging technologies and scientific innovations on humanity, creativity, ethics and human agency.
4. To explore the integration of art, cultural heritage, vernacular wisdom and indigenous knowledge with contemporary science and technology.
5. To promote sustainable, inclusive and resilient futures through architecture, urbanism, ecological stewardship, human wellbeing and social justice.
6. To foster interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration towards envisioning humane, ethical and ecologically responsible future civilizations.

Scientific Sessions – Tracks:

The following five integrated tracks bring together design, humanities, education, art, science, technology, culture and ecology. They extend the discourse from Designing Identity 2026 towards a broader exploration of how civilizations evolve, what they value and what kind of futures humanity wishes to create.

Track 1. Education, Knowledge and the Making of Civilizations
How do we shape the minds, knowledge and values of future generations?

- Education as a force shaping civilizations, worldviews and collective futures
- Philosophy of knowledge, humanities and interdisciplinary learning
- Critical thinking, creativity and human intelligence in the age of AI
- Ethics, empathy, values and civic responsibility
- Decolonising knowledge and reimagining design education
- Universities as catalysts for civilizational transformation
- Future generations, lifelong learning and the changing nature of knowledge

Track 2. Human Identity, Art, Culture and the Search for Meaning
How do humans express who they are, understand their world and imagine who they might become?

- Art, aesthetics and the evolution of civilizations
- Human identity, consciousness, philosophy and spirituality
- Art, literature, imagination and creative expression
- Civilizational histories, cultural memory and collective narratives
- Indigenous knowledge, vernacular wisdom and living heritage
- Traditional dialogues in the era of AI, digital fabrication and contemporary science
- Cultural diversity, decolonisation and evolving identities

Track 3. Technology, Science and the Ethics of Human Futures
Are we designing technology, or is technology designing us?

- Artificial intelligence, human agency and digital civilizations
- Scientific innovation, biotechnology and human enhancement
- Generative AI, creativity, authorship and intellectual responsibility
- Digital fabrication, computational design and emerging technologies
- Ethics, privacy, truth, trust and technological governance
- Science, philosophy and the boundaries of human intervention
- Responsible innovation and alternative technological futures

Track 4. Ecological Civilization, Architecture and the Future of Living
How can humanity live well within planetary limits?

- Climate change, planetary health and environmental justice
- Architecture, health, wellbeing and the human experience
- Water civilizations, rivers, landscapes and nature-based solutions

- Vernacular intelligence, climate-responsive design and indigenous ecological knowledge
- Sustainable cities, housing, public spaces and social coexistence
- Regenerative design, circular economies, repair and reuse
- Climate adaptation, resilient settlements and human–nature relationships

Track 5. Society, Ethics, Power and the Futures of Civilization
What kind of civilization should we consciously choose to become?

- Moral philosophy, human values, justice and dignity
- Sociology, anthropology, political thought and social transformation
- Democracy, power, inequality and the right to the city
- Globalisation, migration, pluralism, conflict and peace
- Public art, monuments, collective memory and the politics of representation
- Truth, misinformation, trust and collective responsibility
- Intergenerational justice, speculative futures and civilizational change

Paper Submission Guidelines:

a) **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

b) 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.

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 ABDC/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:
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	1st November 2026
Abstract Submission Deadline	20th November 2026
Abstract Review Notification	30th November 2026
Paper Submission Deadline	31st December 2026
Registration Opens	10th January 2026
Paper Review Notification	20th January 2027
Final paper Submission Deadline	31st January 2027
Registration Closes	20th February 2027
Conference dates	25-27 February 2027

Registration Fees:

Students	1,000 INR
Research Scholars	2,000 INR
Academicians	2,000 INR
Professionals	5,000 INR
Industry Representatives	5,000 INR
NRI/Foreign Delegates	10,000 INR

Mode of Payment:

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