



Programme

8.30-9.30 hrs – Registration

INAUGURAL SESSION

9.30-10.15 hrs	Welcome Speech	Mr Vivek Kumar, Founding member, Indian Copyeditors Forum (ICF) (https://www.linkedin.com/in/vivekkumardelhi/)
	Keynote session: Essential Mind-shifts for an AI-Driven Editorial Future	As machine intelligence masters thinking, creativity, and expression, the editorial community faces a moment of reckoning. Between anxiety and optimism, we now have a rare opportunity to pause and revisit the basics: what truly constitutes editorial work, why the editorial approach matters, and where the profession should be headed. This talk attempts to reframe the role of editors in an AI-first world and calls for perspectival shifts on editing as an academic, commercial, and cultural pursuit. Sreetilak Sambhanda, Director Publishing, Viva Books Private Limited (https://www.linkedin.com/in/sreetilak/)

Session 2: How AI Is Changing the Editorial Profession

10.15-10.45 hrs	<p>A forward-looking overview of the evolving editing landscape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How AI is changing content creation workflows. - New opportunities for editors: AI content review, AI-assisted editing, prompt editing. - Skills editors should build now to stay relevant. - Why human judgment, narrative sense, and structural editing remain irreplaceable. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Malobika Chakraborty, Manager, Portfolio Management @ Pearson (https://www.linkedin.com/in/malobika-chakraborty/) 	
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10.45-11.15 hrs – Tea Break

Session 3: AI for Editors: What Works and Where to Start

11.15-12.00 hrs	<p>AI is already part of how many editors work—checking consistency, getting a second opinion on a style call, catching what a fifteenth read-through might miss. This talk skips the for-or-against debate and starts from a practical premise: copyeditors know what good prose looks like, and that makes them the right people to decide how these tools should be used. Someone without that training will accept what the machine gives them. A skilled editor will argue with it, and the work will be better for it. The session will cover what AI tools can actually do for a working editor today, where they get things confidently wrong, and how to build them into your daily workflow. Editors who engage with AI on their own terms make their expertise harder to replace. If you don't learn to use these tools well, someone who edits less well than you already is.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Meru Gokhale, Founder and CEO, Editrix.ai (https://www.linkedin.com/in/meru-gokhale/) 	
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Session 4: Challenges and Opportunities in Publishing in the AI Era

12.00-12.45 hrs	<p>Publishing is a business of imagination. In the era of AI, where machines mine data to find the best possible solution, can imagination still play a role? AI is also intuitive and would it play a role in maneuvering of the readers' mind to still appreciate human imagination? We will have to find out.</p> <p>AI is transforming publishing by making content creation faster, cheaper, and more accessible. It enables efficient editing, personalized content, multilingual publishing, and data-driven decision making, opening new growth opportunities for authors and publishers. However, it also brings challenges such as concerns over content quality, plagiarism, copyright issues, job displacement, and the spread of biased or inaccurate information. The ease of content generation can also lead to market saturation. Overall, the future of publishing lies in a balanced approach, where AI supports productivity while human creativity, ethics, and editorial judgment ensure quality and originality.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Manish Purohit, Cofounder AuthorsUpFront (https://www.linkedin.com/in/manishpurohit-auf/) 	
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	<p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Chandni Mathur, Founder, Wordly Wise Publishers (https://www.linkedin.com/in/chandni-mathur-5a545715/) Sanjay Kumar, Publisher at Excel India Publishers, COO at Group Excel India (https://www.linkedin.com/in/sanjaygrouoexcelindia/) Renu Kaul Verma, MD, Vitasta Publishing (https://www.linkedin.com/in/renu-kaul-verma-a09a5014/)
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12.45-13.45 hrs – Lunch Break

Session 5: The Developmental Editor as Story Architect in the AI Era: Diagnosing Narrative Pressure in Fiction

13.45-14.15 hrs	<p>AI makes drafting easier, and editors increasingly encounter fiction that almost works—clean prose, recognizable structure, yet a story that never quite grips the reader. This session explores how developmental editors diagnose narrative pressure in AI-assisted fiction and pinpoint where the story loses force, and how to strengthen it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dola Basu Singh, Editor Author Writing Coach (https://www.linkedin.com/in/dola-basu-singh/)
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Session 6: What Prospective Employers Look for in a Candidate When Hiring an Editor?

14.15-15.00 hrs	<p>The process of hiring a candidate goes beyond ticking items off a checklist. Hiring decisions are often shaped by practical considerations such as project requirements, timelines, and budget. In other words, the “best” candidate is not always the most qualified on paper, but the one whose skills and experience align most effectively with the organization’s immediate needs.</p> <p>Hiring an editor goes beyond qualifications on paper. This session explores how employers assess candidates based on project needs, timelines, and editorial fit. It highlights the importance of adaptability, reliability, and sensitivity to an author’s voice, offering a practical perspective on what truly matters in real-world publishing decisions.</p> <p>The authors’ perspective on the author-editor relationship, what we look for in an editor, what works and what doesn’t.</p> <p>Moderator: Abha Thapalyal Gandhi, The Legal Watch, Sr Partner (https://www.linkedin.com/in/abha-thapalyal-gandhi-939a8b1/)</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Shalini Mullick, First Winner of the IGF Archer Amish Award, Author, Pathologist (https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-shalini-mullick-ab2303307/) Renu Kaul Verma, MD, Vitasta Publishing (https://www.linkedin.com/in/renu-kaul-verma-a09a5014/) Dharmesh Patnaik, General Manager - Copyediting at Aptara (https://www.linkedin.com/in/dharmeshpatnaik/)
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15.00-15.30 hrs – Tea Break

Session 7: On the Production Desk: Sustainable Editing and the Business of Book Publishing

15.30-16.00 hrs	<p>This session is on “production editing” and how it works in book and periodical publishing, what “production editing” means (as opposed to copyediting or developmental editing), how its scope can be extremely wide, and how, through hands-on editing and editorial oversight, it makes the business of book publishing more sustainable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supriya Thanawala, Production Editor, Westchester Publishing Services (https://www.linkedin.com/in/supriyathanawala/)
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Session 8: Bridging the SME-Tech Divide: How Domain Expertise Drives AI Product Strategy

16.00-16.30 hrs	<p>This session explores the evolution of publishing from manual copyediting to AI-driven workflows. Drawing from two decades of experience, we will discuss how “software as a solution” addresses modern publishing challenges, focusing on building intelligent, scalable infrastructure such as PubSkoler that empowers editors rather than replacing the human touch.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anitha Kumaran, Program Leader Product Strategist (PubSkoler & iDoks), IKomet (https://www.linkedin.com/in/anitha-kumaran-1bbba1118/)
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Closing Remarks: Vivek Kumar

End of Conference