



**Tentative Programme**

*(as on 30 March 2026)*

## 8.30-9.30 hrs – Registration

### INAUGURAL SESSION

9.30-10.15 hrs	Welcome Speech	Mr Vivek Kumar, Founding member, Indian Copyeditors Forum (ICF) ( <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/vivekkumardelhi/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/vivekkumardelhi/</a> )
	Keynote session	Dr Vivek Mehra, Founder and CEO, Vikramshila Research ( <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/vivekmehra03/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/vivekmehra03/</a> )
	Chief Guest	*Director General, Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
	Vote of Thanks	Speaker from PHD

### Session 2: The Developmental Editor as Story Architect in the AI Era: Diagnosing Narrative Pressure in Fiction

10.15-10.45 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"> <li>Dola Basu Singh, Editor   Author   Writing Coach (<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/dola-basu-singh/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/dola-basu-singh/</a>)</li> </ul>
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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"> <li>Ms. Meru Gokhale, Founder and CEO, Editrix.ai (<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/meru-gokhale/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/meru-gokhale/</a>)</li> </ul>
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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><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Manish Purohit, Cofounder AuthorsUpFront (<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/manishpurohit-auf/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/manishpurohit-auf/</a>)</li> </ul>
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	<p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Chandni Mathur, Founder, Wordly Wise Publishers (<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/chandni-mathur-5a545715/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/chandni-mathur-5a545715/</a>)</li> <li>• Sanjay Kumar, Publisher at Excel India Publishers, COO at Group Excel India (<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/sanjaygrouoexcelindia/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/sanjaygrouoexcelindia/</a>)</li> <li>• *Dipankar Mukherjee, Founder at Aeronova Industries, Publisher at Readomania, Partner at Faraway Renz (<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/dipankarmukherjee/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/dipankarmukherjee/</a>)</li> <li>• *Penguin Publisher</li> </ul>
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#### Session 5: How AI Is Changing the Editorial Profession

12.45-13.15 hrs	<p>A forward-looking overview of the evolving editing landscape.</p> <p>Coverage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How AI is changing content creation workflows.</li> <li>- New opportunities for editors: AI content review, AI-assisted editing, prompt editing.</li> <li>- Skills editors should build now to stay relevant.</li> <li>- Why human judgment, narrative sense, and structural editing remain irreplaceable.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Malobika Chakraborty, Manager, Portfolio Management @ Pearson (<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/malobika-chakraborty/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/malobika-chakraborty/</a>)</li> </ul>
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### 13.15-14.15 hrs – Lunch Break

#### 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>The authors’ perspective on the author-editor relationship, what we look for in an editor, what works and what doesn’t</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Dharmesh Patnaik, General Manager - Copyediting at Aptara (<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/dharmeshpatnaik/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/dharmeshpatnaik/</a>)</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Shalini Mullick, First Winner of the IGF Archer Amish Award, Author, Pathologist (<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-shalini-mullick-ab2303307/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-shalini-mullick-ab2303307/</a>)</li> <li>• *Renu Kaul Verma, MD, Vitasta Publishing (<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/renu-kaul-verma-a09a5014/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/renu-kaul-verma-a09a5014/</a>)</li> <li>• *Shantanu Ray Chaudhari, Editor in Chief, Om Books International (<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/shantanu-ray-chaudhuri-87009142/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/shantanu-ray-chaudhuri-87009142/</a>)</li> <li>• *Amarjyoti Dutta, CEO and Publisher at FeelFirst Publishing (<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/amardutta/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/amardutta/</a>)</li> </ul>
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#### Session 7: On the Production Desk: Sustainable Editing and the Business of Book Publishing

15.00-15.30 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"> <li>• Supriya Thanawala, Production Editor, Westchester Publishing Services (<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/supriyathanawala/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/supriyathanawala/</a>)</li> </ul>
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### 15.30-15.45 hrs – Tea Break

#### Session 8: Bridging the SME-Tech Divide: How Domain Expertise Drives AI Product Strategy

<b>15.45-16.15 hrs</b>	<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> <p>Anitha Kumaran, Program Leader   Product Strategist (PubSkoler &amp; iDoks), IKomet (<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/anitha-kumaran-1bbba1118/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/anitha-kumaran-1bbba1118/</a>)</p>
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#### **Session 9: Essential Mind-shifts for an AI-Driven Editorial Future**

<b>16.15-16.45 hrs</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>Sreetilak Sambhanda, Director Publishing, Viva Books Private Limited (<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/sreetilak/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/sreetilak/</a>)</p>
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**\*To be confirmed**