

Kolkata Centre for Creativity

Presents

Fifth Edition of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

Titled

From Dialogue to Action: Lessons from Sustainability Practitioners

Kolkata, 13th May 2023: Kolkata Center for Creativity (KCC) presented Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam V (VK V), a 2 –day conference over 13th and 14th May, which aimed to go beyond just dialogue and initiate practical engagement with the issues that our planet is currently facing. It continued the tradition of exploring what arts organizations like KCC can do to achieve shared goals and aspirations.

VK's fifth edition intended to provide a platform for diverse practitioners including researchers, artists, students and civil society to present their on-ground actions and experiments in local contexts. This had encouraged peer-to-peer learning and facilitate the exchange of ideas and knowledge systems. It is an opportunity to collectively share our expertise and experiences to foster a better future for all.

Theme for VK V – ‘From Dialogue to Action: Lessons from Sustainability Practitioners’

The fifth edition of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, was a conference that focused on sustainability and the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030. This year's conference, titled **‘From Dialogue to Action: Lessons from Sustainability Practitioners,’** was held on **May 13th and 14th, 10 am to 7 pm** at the Kolkata Centre for Creativity. **The two-day event was also live-streamed on Zoom for participants who are located outside Kolkata.** The conference had been programmed and curated by Dr Gurudas Nulkar, Programmer Ms. Reena Dewan, Director KCC and Dr Shwetal A Patel co curator.

The UN has declared this decade the ‘Decade of Ecosystem Restoration,’ recognizing the urgent need to heal and restore the planet's ecosystems. This conference drew attention to the importance of sustaining ecosystems and the consequences of their degradation. It highlighted the need for collective learning and action to achieve an ecologically equitable planet.

The conference brought together sustainability practitioners to share their experiences and knowledge of understanding the inner workings of nature, how societies behave, and how

economies depend upon it. It emphasized the importance of deep understanding of local conditions, both physical, biological, and social, to achieve ecological restoration.

The conference also emphasized the role and importance of partnerships and cooperation across socio-economic groups to achieve the United Nations 2030 17 SDGs.

Richa Agarwal, Chairperson, Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC) said, "The theme of VK V is very timely and relevant as we enter the 'Decade of Ecosystem Restoration'. The arts and culture sector has a crucial role to play in promoting sustainability and ecosystem restoration. VK V recognizes this and seeks to explore how arts organizations like KCC can use their platforms to amplify the voices of sustainability practitioners and create meaningful change and exchange of ideas. We believe that by bringing together practitioners from different sectors and disciplines, we can build a more equitable and sustainable world for all. I wish the fifth edition of the annual conference all the best."

Reena Dewan, Director, Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC) said, "VK V is not just another conference on sustainability. It aims to bridge the gap between dialogue and action by showcasing real-life examples of sustainability practitioners who have taken so many inspiring initiatives and experiments happening at the local level that often go unnoticed. By bringing together researchers, artists, students, and civil society members, KCC hopes to create a space for sharing stories, experiences and knowledge that will inspire others to take action towards a more sustainable future."

About Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC)

A unit of Anamika Kala Sangam Trust (AKST), Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC) is a multi-disciplinary interactive art and creativity Centre located in Kolkata, West Bengal. It is the first in Eastern India to make Art accessible to visually impaired and differently abled under their 'Art for All' initiative. Spearheaded by Richa Agarwal as its Chairperson, the 70,000 sq. ft. center champions the art and cultural landscape of contemporary India since November 2018. It comprises an Amphitheater, Exhibition & Learning Spaces, Dance studio, Conservation Lab, Books & Materials Library, Creative Culinary space, Craft & Design outlet and a Skill Development Maker's section. Integrating several expressions of art and design to highlight their common creative core – KCC encourages visitors to explore, interact and design ideas on various art forms. KCC works in the areas of Capacity Building, Well-Being, Conservation & Restoration, Craft & Design, Culinary, Visual and Performing Art. It acts as a catalyst for Artistic enhancement through Displays, Presentations, Fellowships, Laboratories, Residences, Conservation, Research and Discourses. The programs at KCC are designed on the principles of Cultural Diversity, Gender Equality, Conservation of the Environment and Inclusion of people with different abilities. The Centre offers free entry to the public and is open between 11 am to 6 pm. For more information about exhibitions and the conferences, please visit www.kolkatacentreforcreativity.org