

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES INVITES YOU TO



RAJYASHREE KHUSHU-LAHIRI LECTURE SERIES

CRAFT IN THE AGE OF TECHNOLOGY

28. 01. 2025

LAILA TYABJI

6:15 PM | AT L13

Laila Tyabji is Chairperson and founder member of Dastkar, an NGO working with crafts and craftspeople all over India. Her work with artisans over the last 40 years includes the chikan workers of SEWA Lucknow, tribals in Karnataka, and the aari, mirror-work and kantha craftswomen in Kashmir, Kutch and Bengal. Many of her projects involve creating new employment avenues through craft for pastoral and marginalised rural communities. She has worked as a freelance designer in textiles, graphics, interiors, and the theatre. She was awarded the Padma Shri for her work in craft and development in 2012, and is also the recipient of the Aid To Artisans Preservation of Craft Award New York 2003 and the NIFT Lifetime Achievement Award among others.

In this talk Laila Tyabji will be dealing with the contradictions in the co-existence of India's millions of skilled craftspeople and ancient craft traditions with our industrial, technological and IT skills and infrastructure. She will be asking and answering the question: **How can each add to and benefit the other and thereby create a unique synergy for the world to emulate?**

Late Dr. Khushu-Lahiri, an illustrious alumna of IIT Kanpur, obtained her PhD in English under the supervision of Professor R. K. Gupta. Her brilliant academic career was marked by a number of awards and recognitions including the Fulbright Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Minnesota, USA, UGC Postdoctoral Fellowship, Associateship at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla and the British Council Grant at Oxford University. Dr Khushu-Lahiri started her teaching career in St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad. In 2006, she joined the department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Roorkee, and later in 2011, she moved to IIT Ropar where she headed the department of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Prof. Somdeb Lahiri instituted Dr. Rajyashree Khushu-Lahiri Memorial Lecture Series that is conducted by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences.

