

# CIC NEWS DIGEST

Issue 1 / Jan 2019



## UP NEXT...

### STRATEGY FOR NEW INDIA @ 75

We are happy to kick start the year with a special presentation by Dr Rajiv Kumar moderated by Mr S Krishnan, IAS

Your presence will go a long way in making the 51<sup>st</sup> program for CIC a memorable one for all of us.

When: 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019, 5:30 pm

Where: Madras School of Economics Auditorium, Kotturpuram, Chennai



*CIC community at an event*

## HAPPY 2019!

As we step into an exciting year with many promising initiatives, I wish to take a few moments to reflect on the milestones so far. The past years saw CIC and its Fellows coming together for 50 intellectual conventions while collaborating with some of the brightest minds in diverse sectors.

Through diversified programs and varied formats, we have tried to ensure the topics are well-researched, balanced and reflect our vision of being a true spa for the mind and soul. While we are deeply grateful to all our distinguished speakers for sharing insights, I wish to sincerely thank many of you for sharing your thoughts and contributions towards shaping these events.

Given our sincere commitment to continue the journey with the same energy and fabric, we encourage you to send us your feedback, engage with us periodically, and come forward with ideas on scaling up the organization to greater heights. This newsletter is one of our earnest attempts towards keeping the engagement alive. I take this opportunity to also thank some of you for responding to the Fellowship referral program by bringing in new people to the community.

Your continued support in all our endeavors mean a lot to us. On that note, I sincerely thank you for your support in helping us grow CIC as an organization that Chennai – our city will be truly proud of!

Last but not the least, many thanks to our young group of volunteers – Saiprasad, Abhinav, Raksha, Sanchita and Nandini for coming forward to help us with the newsletter in collaborative ways.

Sincerely,  
Vanitha Shankar,  
Executive Director

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*If you or a young member in your family would like to contribute to the community with subsequent editions of the newsletter, please connect with us stating your interest.*

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## A RECAP OF OUR MOST RECENT PROGRAMS

In July this year we had the privilege of having the Hon'ble Vice President, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, speak on our platform about the need for rural development for CIC's second anniversary.

### BUSINESS/ ECONOMICS



Audience listening to Dr Brooks

- While experts were split on their views about the headwinds faced by the Indian economy as was seen in the widening CAD, Dr Rathin Roy, Director of NIPFP, presented a balanced take on the issue explaining aspects in an understandable format. A lucid conversation that left the CIC audience with a sumptuous feeling of a well-balanced meal.
- SEBI was in the news – an insider's take on the various headlines that was imposed was explained by none other than SEBI's whole-time board member Mr Mahalingam

### DIVERSIFIED CONVERSATIONS

- How voice recognition technology has evolved paving way to digital assistants in the form of Alexa and Siri, and how data privacy issues in the Digital landscape are being addressed - discussed over a panel including Alexa lead, Miriam Daniel from Amazon.
- Can human happiness be pursued in a capitalist world? Weaving in insights from eastern & western philosophies and the world of arts, Prof Arthur Brooks, President of AEI in a conversation with wall street columnist Sadanand Dhume shared insights on the formula to achieve this.

### ARTS, LITERATURE & CINEMA

- Classical art forms are our nation's pride. How equipped are our country's cultural policy? 'Weaving in the vibrancy of classical arts' emphasized the association of artistes & collaborative efforts between organizations & government
- Should someone's grounding in Tamizh be a limitation to public speaking? Having drawn inspiration from Pecha Kucha, a Japanese technique that sharpens public speaking skills, noted actor, diplomat and social worker Suhasini Maniratnam shared with our audience her personal journey.



Ashwin Sanghi enjoying a light moment at CIC

### CURRENT AFFAIRS

- The CIC audience had a unique opportunity to understand the nature of the Sterlite issue with clarity. Sterlite Story Unplugged was an electrifying panel featuring none other than the CEO of Sterlite.
- An intellectual war between constitution and faith in the form of a rapid-fire discussion between young advocates Sai Deepak and Suhrith Parthasarathy received a lot of attention both from the CIC and public.
- Considering deep awareness as need of the hour, one of the most highlighted topics in the state-idol theft was intensely discussed in a session where S. Vijaykumar, the cofounder of India Pride Projects made bold statements on black market for robbery.

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*CIC aspires to be a change agent, and our programs are designed to inspire, provoke a thought, plant an idea, understand context. Have an idea? Wish to refer a speaker? Please connect with us!*

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## FELLOWSHIP

Many thanks to some of you who have responded to the Fellowship referral program that was launched last year, we have new people join in our community. As you know, our objective of introducing this program is to ensure we grow as a community building on the right associations – and you as a CIC Fellow-member know best about the institution and its fabric.

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*As a Fellow of CIC, we encourage you to invite your friends to become a part of the growing community.*

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## IN THE PIPELINE

- Sat, Feb 9<sup>th</sup>: Sridhar Vembu at the launch of CIC Entrepreneurial Circle series

## INSIGHTS CORNER

### IN SEARCH OF OUR MISSING PAST

*By Abhinav Sridhar*

The phrase brings to one's mind myriad images from the past -mythological stories that we were fond of growing up, images of kings and queens ruling the country, our rich and unique cultural heritage ... our train of thought sees no end. One's heart instantly swells up with pride as we dwell upon this, because we, as a nation, have a unique past incomparable to any other country!

Have you ever wondered how our posterity would be made aware of this extraordinary past? Will the efforts of our ancestors be valued a few years down the line? What remains to signify the identity of our nation? Pause, think, wrap your minds around it. Here's some food for thought.



Read more on the actionable points and discussion at our website: [www.cic.in](http://www.cic.in)

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*Wish to contribute to the CIC blog? Please attend our events and help spread the knowledge that we gain!*

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Together, let's unite in intellect and power a progressive future!