

INDIA



# NEW ACROPOLIS

PHILOSOPHY CULTURE VOLUNTEERING



## GLIMPSES



## Message from Yaron Barzilay

New Acropolis Cultural Organization, India (North), National Director

Dear Friend,

This document is shared with you to give you some insight into the activity of New Acropolis Cultural Organization in India. It is a challenging attempt, as these can only be a few expressions of who we are and our constant daily work. We work in three verticals, Philosophy, Culture and Volunteering, all well interlinked, to express philosophy as a way of life, where learning turns into practice, and practice, in return, offers a deeper level of learning and understanding. A school of philosophy, in the classical sense of the term, is a School of Life where human development constantly drives individuals and the collective to the betterment of oneself of the relationships one builds with the other, be it man or nature. The word Acropolis presents a universal idea that crosses cultures throughout the ages; it is the idea of a Higher City within the society and each individual. It represents a summit of our consciousness that we can rise to, within ourselves, and be oriented towards through our daily activities.

It acts as the inspiration for our highest dreams, our hopes, a possibility to elevate ourselves towards the good, the just, the beautiful and the true, as Plato and many other philosophers suggested.

This timeless idea, which we call today New Acropolis, seems relevant more than ever in this 21st century of ours; while human activities advance further in complexity like never before, it is essential to offer a possibility to integrate ourselves towards an elevated centre that unites us from within; a state of consciousness, illuminated by the best teachings of humanity to explore and transferred into living experience.


Looking forward to meet you at New Acropolis!

Sincerely,  
Yaron Barzilay

 [www.acropolis.org.in](http://www.acropolis.org.in)

 [@NewAcropolisMumbai](https://www.youtube.com/@NewAcropolisMumbai)

 [@NewAcropolisIndia](https://www.facebook.com/@NewAcropolisIndia)

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## New Acropolis Cultural Organization, India (North)

[www.acropolis.org.in](http://www.acropolis.org.in)

New Acropolis Cultural Organization, India (North) is an independent member of an international non-profit association International Organization New Acropolis (IONA), represented in over 50 countries. IONA promotes an ideal of timeless values to contribute to individual and collective evolution. Its associative structure guarantees respect for diversity, autonomy and initiative of each of its member associations. Its operational structure enables it to act independently of all political, religious or financial interests.

Since 2006, New Acropolis Cultural Organization (India) has been taking inspiration from the timeless principles of the Indian tradition, with the specific focus to rediscover India's rich artistic, scientific and human heritage to offer it as a vital contribution to collective human progress relevant to our times today.

We actively promote inclusive education, environmental conservation, peacebuilding, and fostering global partnerships to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 4, 15, 16, and 17 respectively.

We are a Section 8, not-for-profit company, having Section 12 AA registration and Section 80G Certification under the Indian Income Tax Act.



## Press Coverage in India





**“Every moment in history in every epoch has its problems, but each problem has a solution, and we will have to look for those solutions. In order to achieve a more just society and a more humane world, the individual has to be valued once again.”**

Carlos Adelantado Puchal, International Organisation New Acropolis, President

## The Three Pillars of Our Work

### Philosophy

Philosophy, when it is practical, is educational. It helps us to know ourselves and to improve ourselves. To be a philosopher is to choose a way of life committed to the best aspirations of humanity. The philosophy we propose in New Acropolis is a way of living that is accessible to all and consists of putting into practice the teachings of the great sages of all times. The application of knowledge results in better individuals, who will therefore be capable of building a better world.

The living experience of philosophy promotes an active and participatory attitude in individuals, which brings out their best qualities. We achieve this not only through reading, studying and theoretical knowledge, but also by learning to live well, with strength and efficiency, at every moment of our lives; making use of the opportunities that arise and learning something positive even from adversity. This is what we mean by “Philosophy as a way of life”.

### Culture

Putting into practice human values forms the basis of a model of active and participatory culture that draws on the qualities of each person, broadens the horizons of the mind and makes the expressions of the spirit available to all. This model of culture covers a wide area and embraces the most diverse disciplines: such as history, anthropology, physics, art, sport, etc. to help explain the phenomena and issues of our times.

### Volunteering

Volunteering is the natural expression of a spirit of union with life and humanity, which manifests in the practice of values such as selflessness, commitment and striving for the common good. Volunteering is the fruit of the will, when it is placed at the service of others. We think there is no greater wealth than that of good will. All the activities that New Acropolis carries out around the world, are achieved thanks to the work of thousands of volunteers.

# Philosophy

At New Acropolis, we attempt to put into practice what we learn. The idea is to build better individuals who are capable of building a better world, working to overcome limitations and transform themselves a little, in order to serve a cause larger than themselves. This approach promotes an active and participatory attitude, towards genuinely impacting the world around, for the better. This is how we 'Live Philosophy' as a way of life. We offer this opportunity through Introductory Courses, Advanced studies and Public Events.



## Living Philosophy Course

### Introduction to Philosophy as a Way of Life

**1,500+**

Students enrolled in  
introduction course  
since 2007

Living Philosophy is a 20-session foundation course that we offer in Mumbai and Pune, to those aspiring to put philosophy into practice, day after day. The course is an opportunity to discover oneself and the world around, through insights from ancient philosophies and human wisdom from various eras and cultures. The aim is to extract practical tools that enable us to live with more freedom and sustained happiness by making wise choices. Therefore, we explore the path of inner change as the key to actively contributing towards building a better world.

# Philosophical Talks

## Public Events

**40,000+**

Participants in events  
Celebrating Philosophy,  
Culture & Volunteering  
since 2006

On weekends, we invite those interested in exploring philosophy, to a series of free public talks covering a wide range of themes such as Sacred Architecture, the Bushido code of the Samurai warriors, Awakening the Hero Within, to name a few. These events give a glimpse of the kind of 'practical philosophy' that we offer, for those that wish to pursue it further. Since 2006, thousands have attended our Public Events.



## World Philosophy Day

Celebrating every year since 2011

World Philosophy Day has been an event that we celebrate as an annual tradition every November, to mark the day most special to philosophers around the world. In 2022, the theme across over 50 countries of the International Organization New Acropolis, was 'Exploring the Meaning of Life through Symbols'. In India, it was attended by over 300 guests.

# Culture

New Acropolis promotes Culture as a way of raising our gaze above the mundane mechanics of daily life. Culture guides the essence that elevates us as human beings, towards that finer and indefinable, that we aspire to experience and express. Through a process of investigation orientated towards connecting with the meaning of life, we invite renowned figures to express the philosophy behind their particular art form.



## New Acropolis Culture Circle

Culture with a Philosophical Lens

**700+**

Public Events Celebrating  
Philosophy, Culture and  
Volunteering since 2006

Spanning various aspects of culture, we have been privileged to host a diverse array of artistes and speakers like Padma Shree Sudha Murthy, Dr. Saamdu Chetri – co-founder of the Gross National Happiness Centre in Bhutan, Dr. Udawadia, Mandakini Trivedi, Chintan Upadhyay, Rekha Bhardwaj and many others, who have graced our centre with their offering. The medium of expression has ranged from sculpture to sacred geometry to happiness - with multiple art forms in between.



**"... the great ability that culture has to unite nations and to enable people to understand different mentalities. ... an important function of culture is to lift up our consciousness and open our hearts."**

Carlos Adelantado Puchal, International Organisation New Acropolis, President

## Eminent speakers who have graced our centres

Adam Williamson, Sacred Geometry

Amish Tripathi, Literature

Prof. Anantha Lal, Literature

Arzan Khambatta, Art

Asad Gulrez Khan, Music

B.V. Doshi, Architecture

Carlton Hill, Martial Art

Chintan Upadhyay, Music

Fali Pavri, Music

Dr Farokh E. Udhwadia, Medicine

Gauri Sharma Tripathi, Dance

Jayanthi Nayak, Literature

Jehan Manekshaw, Theatre

Jesal Thacker, Art

Laxmandas Baul, Music

Mandakini Trivedi, Dance

Matibaani, Music

Mini Menon, History

Miti Desai, Dance

Mooralala, Music

Nehha Bhatnagar, Dance

Neil Mukherjee, Music

Olivia Fraser, Art

Parul Zaveri, Architecture

Pelva Naik, Music

Priya Singh, Dance

Purnima Sampat, Art

Radhika Sood, Music

Raghu Ananthanarayan, Yoga

Rasika Shekar, Music

Rekha Bhardwaj, Music

Dr. Saamdu Chetri, Society

Seema Mehta, Dance

Shabnam Virmani, Film

Shaizia Jifri Manekshaw, Inspiration

Shekhar Sen, Music

Shubha Tole, Science

Soonil Taraporevala, Photography

Sudha Murty, Literature & Philanthropy

Swagath Sivakumar, Music

Tara Kini, Music

Prof. T.S. Powdyel, Education

Urja Desai, Dance

Ushma Williams, Ayurveda

Vandana Alase Hazra, Dance

Vipul Rikhi, Literature

Zubin Balaporia, Music



Arzan Khambatta - artist's studio visit



Sudha Murty - on observing and writing



Amish Tripathi - on mythology



Heritage walk - discovering Banganga



B.V.Doshi - celebrating architecture



Urja Desai - an evening of Kathak



Olivia Fraser - exploring painting

# Volunteering

The work done at New Acropolis centres around the world, is service from the heart carried out by our member-volunteers. In particular, Volunteering activities aim at putting philosophy into action in our immediate environment, by taking responsibility for our surroundings. This includes restoration of mangroves, planting trees, conducting blood donation drives, engaging with the elderly in old age homes, children from slums, serving home-cooked meals to those isolated during the pandemic – and a lot more.



## Ecological Initiatives

### Mangrove Cleanup + Tree Plantation

Our enthusiastic member-volunteers gather regularly in large numbers to restore the mangrove wetlands in Colaba. Residents and students of the locality, also participate in the effort. It is gruelling work, and on many occasions, volunteers collect over 1000 kg of garbage in a few hours. Humbling, indeed, to do our small bit for mother nature who gives us everything.

Our ecology drives continue with the planting of saplings in multiple locations - urban as well as rural - some creating sacred groves, others using the Miyawaki technique, to keep our surroundings green.

# Human Initiatives

## Blood Donation Drives + Covid Patient Support



Year on year, we have organized blood donation drives to offer a small drop of assistance and hope, towards the life-saving efforts made by our city's hospitals.



During the pandemic, we offered 'A Plateful of Love' - 700 nutritious home-cooked meals were delivered to support those who were in home isolation due to Covid.



# EMPOWERING *REAL* CHANGE

## Leadership for a Better World

The need for social, political, ecological, and spiritual change is evident in our times. In early 2017, New Acropolis Cultural Organization conceived Empowering Real Change, an ongoing series of events to examine the journeys of leading change-makers.

### Past Speakers Include:



Fernand Schwarz



Pierre Poulain



Yaron Barzilay



Dr. Vandana Shiva



Anu Aga



Shabnam Virmani



Dr. Tridip Suhrud



Dr. Saamdu Chetri



Sonam Wangchuk



Chetna Gala Sinha



Ronnie Screwvala



Miti Desai

## Empowering Real Change

INDIAN EXPRESS GALLERY, MUMBAI

Educationist and environmentalist Sonam Wangchuk, philosopher Yaron Barzilay and philanthropist Zarina Screwvala come together to discuss the tools necessary for us to be the change we wish to see in the world. The esteemed panelists explored the true role of education in society, the need to revive human's connection with nature, and how the only path to sustainable change requires for each one of us to take responsibility for our collective future.



## Empowering Real Change Philosophy & Art

NATIONAL GALLERY OF MODERN ART, MUMBAI

Photographer and philosopher Pierre Poulain, classical dancer Miti Desai, founder of The Kabir Project Shabnam Virmani and National Director of New Acropolis (India) Yaron Barzilay came together to explore the inherent connection between Philosophy and Art in its diverse expressions, in order to create sustainable change and promote beauty and harmony for the individual and society.



## Empowering Real Change

# Leadership for a Better World

TAJ PRESIDENT, MUMBAI

On the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, we drew inspiration from Gandhi's relentless pursuit of Truth and leadership through personal example. This full-day conference brought together change-makers who have been striving to make a better world through various fields such as Education, Philosophy, Ecology, Anthropology, Microfinance and Corporate Responsibility. The event culminated in a Resolution that spearheaded over 175 events internationally.



## Recognition and Support

We are deeply grateful for the recognition and letters of support we have received for our endeavour, from honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi; former Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Devendra Phadnavis; His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama; Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus; industrialists Ratan Tata, Pheroza Godrej, Harsh Goenka; and A. Annamalai, Director of the National Gandhi Museum, to name a few.



THE DALAI LAMA



प्रधान मंत्री  
Prime Minister



Gandhi Research Foundation  
Gandhi Teerth, Jalgaon



संघमोक्ष जयन्ते  
Government Of India



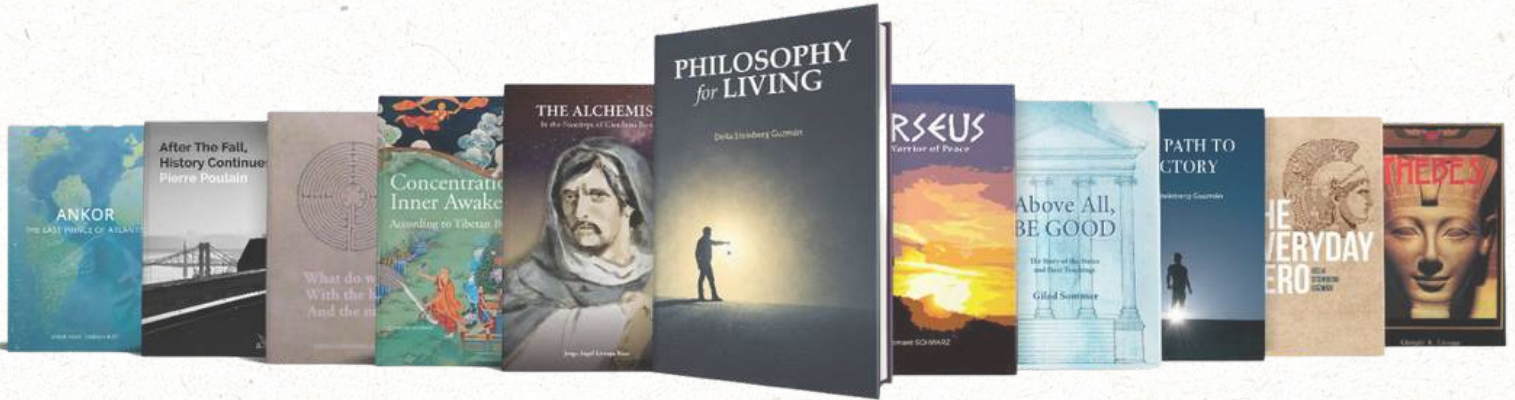
JAMNALAL BAJAJ FOUNDATION



TATA TRUSTS



राष्ट्रीय आधुनिक  
कला संग्रहालय  
NATIONAL GALLERY  
OF MODERN ART



## Publications in English

Building bridges from the past to the future

New Acropolis India has published various books written by our leaders from around the world. We have a library of over 4000 books, an online library of articles as well as an audio library.



Every quarter since October 2014, we publish a magazine called 'The Acropolis', which emphasizes cultural and human values that harmonize and move an individual in the direction of what is fairer, truer and more beautiful.

[www.theacropolitian.in](http://www.theacropolitian.in)

 **13+**  
Books Published

 **35+**  
Magazine Issues

 **500+**  
Articles in English

 **100+**  
Audio Articles



View our talks and events on YouTube @NewAcropolisMumbai

Know more about our events on @The Mumbai Philosophers Meetup by New Acropolis

*meetup*



## Deepening our Roots

In 2022, New Acropolis acquired an 10+ acre area in nature where we can put into practice some of what we learn through our program of study. We call this home outside the city 'Manav Bustan', which is a space for the development of human beings. We do this through planting trees, composting, nature walks and enjoying moments of introspection amidst Nature.



**1000+**

Trees providing us opportunities to serve and learn

**10+**

Acre land to put our study into practice

**“Nature gives up her innermost secrets and imparts true wisdom only to him who seeks truth for its own sake and who craves knowledge in order to confer benefits on others, not on his own unimportant personality.”**

Helena Petrovna Blavatsky



## New Acropolis Cultural Organization, India (North)

### Mumbai (Main Centre)

Address: A-0 Ground Floor, Connaught Mansion, Opp. Colaba Post Office, Colaba, Mumbai, Maharashtra  
Phone: 91-22-22163712 | Email: [mumbai@acropolis.org](mailto:mumbai@acropolis.org)

### Pune (Branch)

Address: Plot no.22, Gangajanan Society, Lane no. 7 Koregaon Park, South Main Road, Pune, Maharashtra  
Phone: 91-9930198253 | Email: [pune@acropolis.org](mailto:pune@acropolis.org)

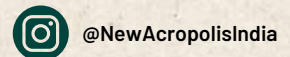
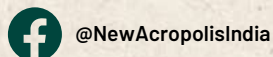
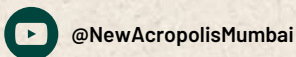
### Manav Bustan (Rural Centre)

Address: Tamhane Tarf Goregaon, Raigad District, Maharashtra  
Phone: 91-9833033239 | Email: [mumbai@acropolis.org](mailto:mumbai@acropolis.org)

We are a Section 8, not-for-profit company, having Section 12 AA registration and Section 80G Certification under the Indian Income Tax Act.



[www.acropolis.org.in](http://www.acropolis.org.in)



### Global Statistics

Presence in  
**50+**  
Countries

**400+**  
Centres Worldwide

**16,900+**  
Participants in  
our advance  
Program of  
Philosophy

**4.2 lac+**  
Volunteer Hours Annually

