



University of Mumbai



Interdisciplinary and International Diaspora Lecture Series

**CoHaB Indian Diaspora Centre (CoHaB IDC)
HR College of Commerce and Economics
University of Mumbai
and
Dr. BMN College of Home Science (Autonomous)
SNDT Women's University**

Invite you to

**An International Webcast
on**

**“Exploring the Aesthetics of an Asian-African Heritage through the
Work of Sultan Somjee”**

by

**Professor Mala Pandurang
Principal, Dr. BMN College of Home Science**

Speakers

**Welcome and Introduction of Speaker: Professor Nilufer E. Bharucha, Director CoHaB IDC
University of Mumbai**

Lecture in Diaspora Lecture Series: Professor Mala Pandurang

**Vote of Thanks: Dr. Paromita Chakrabarti, Associate Professor and
Head, Department of English &
Director, Global Research Initiatives
HR College of Commerce and Economics**

**Webcast Host: Ms. Kirti Risbud, Research Associate
CoHaB IDC, University of Mumbai**

**Date: 18 September 2020
Time: 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM IST**

This talk will examine how ethnographer-novelist Sultan Somjee depicts the meeting of Ismaili-Khoja, Masaai and Swahili material culture, which in turn produced an interstitial space at aesthetic and emotional planes. The talk will explore how Somjee uses artefacts that are oral and visual to present Asian-African race relations from a perspective different from what is usually presented in writing from the diaspora.

Mala Pandurang is Professor and Principal at Dr. BMN College (Autonomous). She is a postdoctoral fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (Germany) and has been nominated as ‘Ambassador Scientist to India’ for 2019-2022. Her research grants include: Fulbright Visiting Professor at the The University of Texas at Austin; recipient of the Charles Wallace In-UK Research grant; Major research grant and 3 Minor research grants from the University Grants Commission (New Delhi); Inlaks Fellowship in Social Sciences from Asiatic Society; Associateship at the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies (Shimla); and NET/JRF from UGC. Under her tenure, Dr. BMN College has been selected as a UGC STRIDE Centre for Research Capacity Building (2020-2023). Her areas of research include postcolonial writing, diaspora theory and gender studies. In 2012 she received the SNDT Women's University ‘Maharshi Karve Utkrushtha Shikshak Puraskar’ (Best Teacher Award) from the Governor of Maharashtra.