

# Timeline

**An overview of relevant events in India (in purple) and the compelling ways that Sahmat responded (in red).**

## 1857

India's First War of Independence (the Sepoy Revolt) against British rule.

## 1947

August 15: India gains independence from British colonial rule. The partition of the subcontinent results in the creation of two independent nation-states, India and Pakistan. The partition is marked by massive migration and violent displacement of large sections of the population, causing over a million deaths.

Jawaharlal Nehru assumes office as prime minister of independent India's first government, led by the Congress Party.

## 1948

January 30: Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, the foremost leader of India's struggle for independence from British rule, is assassinated by Nathuram Godse, a Hindu nationalist activist.

## 1950

January 26: The Constitution of India comes into effect. India becomes a republic.

## 1957

The first elected Communist government comes to power in the southern Indian state of Kerala, with E. M. S. Namboodiripad as chief minister.

## 1964

Jawaharlal Nehru dies. Gulzarilal Nanda serves as caretaker prime minister for a few days, until the election of Lal Bahadur Shastri.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) / CPI(M) is formed by a breakaway faction at the Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of India / CPI, held in Calcutta.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad / VHP (World Hindu Council) is formed. VHP is the religious wing of the Sangh Parivar, a group of organizations that work in favor of Hindu-majoritarian nationalism. The VHP becomes a major promoter of the Hindu identity movement (*Hindutva*) within and outside India.

## 1966

Indira Gandhi is chosen as leader of the Congress government after the sudden demise of Lal Bahadur Shastri.

## 1967

Non-Congress governments are formed in several Indian states after the general elections, weakening the hold of the Congress Party, which remains in power at the center.

## 1970–71

Following a civil war in Pakistan, East Pakistan emerges as the independent, secular nation-state of Bangladesh.

## 1975

June 26: In the wake of widespread political opposition to the Congress government, strikes and protests across the country, and an Allahabad High Court judgment pronouncing Indira Gandhi's election to office in 1971 as null and void, President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, upon request by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, declares a State of Internal Emergency under Article 352 of the Indian Constitution, citing threats to national security and a weakened economy as the reasons. The 21-month period of the emergency, one of the most controversial times in the history of independent India, witnesses suspension of civil liberties and imprisonment of

hundreds of thousands of political opponents. It is lifted on March 21, 1977.

## 1977

A coalition of opposition parties called the Janata Party, led by Morarji Desai as prime minister, assumes power after winning the election, breaking the hold of the Congress Party at the center for the first time since independence. The Jan Sangh, a right-wing Hindutva party, merges with the Janata Party.

## 1980

The Congress Party, led by Indira Gandhi, comes back to power, winning the election with a large majority. The Janata Party splits; the Jan Sangh leaves the coalition to establish itself as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The BJP emerges as India's second largest political party, on a right-wing political platform.

## 1984

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi is assassinated in Delhi by her Sikh bodyguards in retaliation against the military operation (Operation Bluestar) targeting Sikh militants at the Golden Temple, Amritsar. Her death leads to large-scale violence and attacks against the Sikh community at large, especially in Delhi.

Rajiv Gandhi, Indira Gandhi's son, is elected with a massive majority. The Congress Party government led by him as prime minister continues until 1989.

## 1988

The telecast of serials based on the Hindu epics *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* creates a revivalist cultural ambience.

## 1989

January 1: Safdar Hashmi and his street theatre group Jana Natya Manch (Janam) are attacked in Sahibabad, on the outskirts of Delhi, while performing a play. Hashmi is fatally injured.

January 2: Hashmi dies in a hospital in New Delhi. People march in protest from the Supreme Court to Rabindra Bhavan (where the government-run national academies of art, literature, music, and dance are located).

January 3: Hashmi's funeral takes place; large numbers join the funeral procession in Delhi.



January 4: March from Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi, to Sahibabad, where Janam performs their unfinished play of January 1.

January 5: Silent march from Shivaji Park, Minto Road, Delhi, to the residence of the Union Home Minister, Buta Singh.

January 9: Meeting of artists and cultural activists at Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi, after a torchlight procession. The demand is raised at the meeting that College Street, at the Mandi House circle (the cultural hub of the city), be renamed Safdar Hashmi Marg (Road).

January 12: Actor Shabana Azmi reads protest statement against Hashmi's murder at the awards ceremony of the 12th International Film Festival of India, held at Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi.

January 24: The University of Calcutta confers posthumous Honorary D. Litt. (Doctor of Letters) degree on Safdar Hashmi.

February: **The Safdar Hashmi Memorial Trust (Sahmat) and Committee are formed.**

April 12: Sahmat gives a call for Hashmi's birthday to be observed as **National Street Theatre Day** all over the country. National Street Theatre Day, observed every year since then, continues to focus attention on the street theatre movement. Sahmat produces a new poster annually to distribute to street theatre groups throughout India.

April 12–16: Sahmat holds a five-day cultural festival, **Safdar Samaroh (Safdar Festival)**, and an **art exhibition and auction, Artists Alert**, in New Delhi. Sahmat releases children's books based on Hashmi's writings, illustrated by contemporary artists.

September 13–16: Sahmat organizes a festival of street theatre, **Chauraha (Crossroads)**, in New Delhi.

Proponents of Hindu nationalism launch a movement, with support from the BJP, for the demolition of a historic mosque of the medieval era, Babri Masjid (Babur's Mosque), in the north Indian city of Ayodhya, to reclaim the site as Ramjanmabhoomi (the birthplace of the Hindu god-king Rama, whose story is told in the *Ramayana*). The Vishwa Hindu Parishad spearheads the movement.

The Indian government bans the import of copies of Salman Rushdie's book *The Satanic Verses*, in response to angry protests from Muslims.

## 1989–91

The Congress Party loses its majority in the general election and two successive non-Congress governments, led by V. P. Singh first and then Chandrashekhar, come to power. Under V. P. Singh's prime ministership (1989–90), an attempt is made to implement the 10-year-old recommendations of the Mandal Commission, aimed at affirmative action in favor of the backward classes and castes by reserving seats and creating quotas in educational institutions and public sector jobs; the move is met with widespread opposition and agitation from upper-caste groups.

## 1990

January 1: Sahmat initiates the **Safdar Hashmi Memorial**, which has been held annually ever since to commemorate the day of the attack against Safdar Hashmi and Janam. A protest march is held from Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi, to Sahibabad, where a street play is performed and there is a display of paintings, including a 44-foot-long collective painting made by artists.

January 2: Sahmat pays homage to Hashmi with recitations of poetry, readings, and music and dance performances at Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi. College Street at the Mandi House circle is renamed Safdar Hashmi Marg (Road).

October–November: Sahmat organizes **Janotsav (People's Festival)**—a month-long series of community-based cultural workshops, performances and exhibitions, conducted at Mangolpuri, a resettlement colony in Delhi.

## 1991

Indian politics witnesses a right-wing upsurge. BJP president L. K. Advani begins his 36-day-long *Rath Yatra* (literally, "chariot procession/journey") on September 25, described by the BJP as a *dharam yatra* (holy pilgrimage). It engenders violence and communal riots all along its route.

January 1: Sahmat initiates the campaign **Artists Against Communalism (AAC)**, with a 17-hour cultural sit-in and performances at Safdar Hashmi Marg, New Delhi. Similar programs are held on January 30, 1991, on the anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's assassination, in the cities of Aligarh, Bangalore, Baroda, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Patna.



## Timeline

April 12: Sahmat presents the exhibition **Images and Words**, as part of the **AAC** campaign, involving more than 400 painters, writers, and photographers. The exhibition travels to 30 cities and then tours 40 schools in Delhi over the following year.

April 21–30: Exhibition of photographs made by children of Mangolpuri during *Janotsav*, at National Centre for Performing Arts, Bombay.

May: Rajiv Gandhi is assassinated in Tamil Nadu, during his election campaign.

November 10–25: Sahmat organizes **Chauraha (Crossroads)**, an **All-India Street Theatre Workshop**, in New Delhi. Around 100 street theatre activists interact among themselves and with leading practitioners of theatre and other art forms.

### 1991–96

Congress-led government comes to power at the center with P. V. Narasimha Rao as prime minister.

### 1992

January 1: Sahmat presents **Slogans for Communal Harmony**, a public art project involving auto-rickshaw drivers in a contest to create slogans for communal harmony in New Delhi. In March, a similar contest of slogans for communal harmony is conducted in Bombay, involving the city's taxi drivers.



March 9–17: Sahmat presents several AAC events in Bombay including a 12-hour cultural sit-in and concert (March 14) at Shivaji Park; **Images and Words** exhibition and auction; street plays by Jana Natya Manch; film screenings; and a seminar on "Culture and Communalism."

May 14: Sahmat hosts a symposium on "**Freedom of Expression and Growing Intolerance.**"

December 6: Babri Masjid (Babur's Mosque) in Ayodhya is demolished by Hindu nationalist activists during a rally-turned-riot at the culmination of the Ramjanmabhoomi movement. Widespread communal riots erupt around the country, including bloody riots in Bombay (December 1992–January 1993) and in Surat, Ahmedabad, Kanpur, Delhi, and other cities.

December 7–13: Sahmat holds a cultural protest against the demolition of the Babri Masjid at Safdar Hashmi Marg in New Delhi with protest music, poetry recitations, and installations and street painting by artists. Manjit Bawa and Paramjit Singh create the painting *Kaun Mara? (Who Died?)* on site.

December 25, 1992–January 1, 1993: Sahmat presents **Anhad Garje** (a phrase from the poet Kabir that roughly translates to "the silence reverberates"), a program inspired by the Sufi-Bhakti traditions, in New Delhi, Bombay, Surat, Valod, Baroda, Ahmedabad, and Lucknow. It includes concerts by classical musicians and folk singers, lectures by eminent scholars, and film screenings.

### 1993

Sahmat publishes a series of posters titled **In Defense of Our Secular Tradition**, juxtaposing verses from Sufi-Bhakti poetry with paintings by some of India's best-known contemporary artists.

August 9: Sahmat presents an exhibition titled **Hum Sab Ayodhya (We Are All Ayodhya)** that explores the multifaceted history, geography, culture, and life of the people of Ayodhya. The exhibition is on view in 17 Indian cities.



August 14–15: Sahmat organizes **Muktnaad** (Free Sound/Liberated Sound), a night of performances on the banks of the Sarayu at Ayodhya, in an effort to break the siege of the Hindutva forces through creative, rather than political action.

August 21: The "Ram-Katha" panel, delineating different versions of the *Ramayana* of the *Hum Sab Ayodhya* exhibition is confiscated from Teen Murti House, New Delhi; Sahmat files a case to revoke the confiscation order.

Assembly elections between 1993 and 1995 signal a major shift in Indian politics favoring a competitive multi-party system. The field consists of many smaller parties that represent the substantial ethnic, social, and regional diversity of India.

### 1994

January 1: Sahmat presents **Safdar Hashmi Memorial: In Defense of Our Secular Tradition**.

January 30: Sahmat publishes **Punchline: Cartoons Against Communalism**, a book of cartoons against communalism drawn from the period three months prior to and three months after the demolition of the Babri Masjid. More than 30 cartoonists participate in a seminar to discuss the specifics of the genre. An exhibition titled **Punchline** that comprises a selection of the cartoons is displayed in various schools in Delhi and travels to 25 cities in India.



April 13: Sahmat commemorates the **75th anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre**, which marked a turning point in the national movement for independence. The program includes the release of a poster; readings by actor Zohra Sehgal, film director Saeed Mizra, theatre director Ramgopal Bajaj, and Professor Malini Bhattacharya; and a performance of the play *Baghe Jallian* (once banned by the British), directed by M. K. Raina and performed by schoolchildren.

June 19: The Bajrang Dal (a hardline youth wing of the VHP) attacks the *Punchline* and *Hum Sab Ayodhya* exhibitions at a venue in Pune and destroys exhibition panels. The exhibition travels on to Ahmedabad with a fresh set of panels.

October: India's Supreme Court refuses to advise the central government on the bitter religious dispute between Hindus and Muslims regarding the mosque-temple site at Ayodhya. However, the Supreme Court upholds the government's takeover of the site.

## 1995

January 1: Sahmat presents ***Safdar Hashmi Memorial—Manas Bana: A Tribute to Mahatma Gandhi***.

October 2: Sahmat presents ***Postcards for Gandhi***, commemorating the 125th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's birth.



December 16: Sahmat organizes a protest meeting against the ban on Salman Rushdie's novel *The Moor's Last Sigh*, with public readings from the book.

## 1996

January 1: Sahmat presents ***Safdar Hashmi Memorial: Parwaaz***.

The BJP emerges as the single largest party in parliament for the first time. Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee cannot muster a majority, however, and the government falls after 13 days. United Front governments are formed by a coalition of parties opposed to the BJP, with H. D. Deve Gowda and then I. K. Gujral as prime minister, during 1996–98.

A campaign orchestrated by Hindu chauvinists is launched against India's most prominent modern artist, M. F. Husain (1915–2011). Sahmat organizes a protest march in New Delhi, which is attended by prominent politicians.

## 1997

January 1: Sahmat presents ***Safdar Hashmi Memorial: In Defense of Our Secular Tradition***.

May 11: Sahmat organizes an event celebrating the **140th anniversary of the 1857 Sepoy Revolt**. Classical singers and rock bands perform, setting old folk songs on the revolt to their own music. Large numbers of schoolchildren paint during a "paint sit-in."

September 11–20: Sahmat organizes ***Gift for India***, an exhibition of 200 gift boxes made by artists from within and outside India, celebrating 50 years of India's independence.

## 1998

January 1: Sahmat presents ***Safdar Hashmi Memorial: In Defense of Our Secular Tradition***. Sahmat publishes a pledge to fight communalism, citing the assassination of Gandhi and the demolition of Babri Masjid in Ayodhya as instances of bigotry.

May: Mention in Parliament of ***Secularism Alert***, a dossier prepared by Sahmat, by Rashtriya Janata Dal leader and Member of Parliament Lalu Prasad Yadav.

## 1998–2004

Atal Behari Vajpayee leads the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), a BJP-led coalition government, as prime minister.

## 1998

May: Hindutva groups mount attack on M. F. Husain's Mumbai residence. Sahmat holds a press conference to condemn the attack and an artists' delegation submits a memorandum to the president of India.

December: Hindutva groups attack iconic Hindi film actor Dilip Kumar's residence in Mumbai. Sahmat organizes a candlelight protest meeting at Home Minister L. K. Advani's New Delhi residence.

December 27–31: Sahmat organizes ***Dastak***, a convention on secular cultural action.

## 1999

January 1: Sahmat presents ***Safdar Hashmi Memorial: In Defense of Our Secular Tradition***.

August 16–23: Sahmat produces ***Harvest of Hatred***, a 38-panel poster exhibition documenting the attacks by right-wing communal forces on civil society, minorities, and cultural freedom. The exhibition travels to the cities of Nagpur, Jhansi, Bhopal, Kanpur, and Sihora over the next month.



September 24–October 1: Hunger strike by Shabnam Hashmi at Gandhi Maidan, Lucknow, to protest a BJP attack on Sahmat Rangmanch (a theatre group started by Sahmat) while performing a street play against the communal politics of the BJP.

## Timeline

### 2000

January 1: Sahmat presents *Safdar Hashmi Memorial: Tribute to freedom fighter Udham Singh*.

June 23–September 4: Hoopoe Curatorial presents *Dust on the Road*, an exhibition that showcases Sahmat's projects alongside works by Canadian artists, presenting it in five cities in Canada.

### 2001

January 1: Sahmat presents *Safdar Hashmi Memorial*.

March–April: Sahmat organizes *Art on the Move*, a mobile exhibition. Artists are invited to submit proposals using ready-made vehicles as bases for sculptures that are taken around different locations in New Delhi.



July 17: A Delhi High Court judgment lifts the ban on the Ram Katha panel in Sahmat's *Hum Sab Ayodhya* exhibition.

August 4–6: Sahmat organizes a convention on the "**Communalization of Education**" in New Delhi. More than 600 delegates, including education ministers from several Indian states, attend; the convention discusses the Hindu-nationalist education policy that the BJP-led government has been pursuing since it came to power in 1999.

September 11: Muslim terrorists attack the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. In October the United States retaliates by launching the War on Terror and invading Afghanistan.

### 2002

January 1: Sahmat presents *Safdar Hashmi Memorial: Against War*.

February: Around 59 Hindu pilgrims and activists who were returning from Ayodha die aboard the Sabarmati Express when a mob sets one of the train cars on fire in Godhra, Gujarat. The incident triggers widespread violence against and brutal killing of hundreds of Muslims across the state.

March 1: Best Bakery, a business operated by a Muslim family in Vadodara, Gujarat, is attacked and burned by a mob of Hindutva activists, killing 14 (12 Muslims, 2 Hindus). The legal case is widely viewed as a test case for human rights and justice in India.

April 26–27: Sahmat (with *Communalism Combat*, Mumbai) presents "**Punish the Guilty: Testimony of Survivors**": testimonies by about 40 survivors from relief camps in Gujarat. A delegation including victims of the Gujarat violence meets President K. R. Narayanan. Sahmat also presents *Listen to the Survivors—Genocide in Gujarat 2002*, an exhibition of photographs from Gujarat by Sahir Raza, at Vitthalbhai Patel House, New Delhi.

December 23, 2002–January 4, 2003: Sahmat presents the exhibition *Ways of Resisting: 1992–2002*, at Lalit Kala Akademi Galleries, Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi.



### 2003

January 1: Sahmat presents *Safdar Hashmi Memorial: Ways of Resisting*.

February 26: Sahmat holds a meeting and press conference to protest the unveiling of a portrait of right-wing ideologue and leader V. D. Savarkar in Parliament House.

March 8: Sahmat organizes a meeting and press conference to critique the court order of the Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court directing the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), to excavate the Babri Masjid site in Ayodhya.

April 12: On National Street Theatre Day, Sahmat organizes *Dharti ko Aman Chahiye (The World Needs Peace) anti-Iraq War program*: artworks, street play by Janam, anti-war readings, songs, poetry, and performances.

April 17: Sahmat holds a meeting and press conference on the destruction of the Baghdad Museum.

April 27: Sahmat holds a meeting and press conference on "**Gujarat: A State under Siege**" (with *Communalism Combat*).

June 17: Sahmat holds a meeting and press conference to discuss issues raised by the ASI's excavation of the Babri Masjid site.

July 11: Bhisham Sahni, eminent writer and chairman of Sahmat, passes away.

July 16: Sahmat hosts a condolence meeting for Bhisham Sahni.

August 29: Sahmat organizes a meeting and press conference to discuss the ASI report on excavation of the Babri Masjid site.

September 1: Sahmat organizes a meeting to protest attacks on Habib Tanvir and Naya Theatre, on the occasion of Habib Tanvir's 80th birthday.

October 9: Sahmat holds a protest meeting against attacks on Habib Tanvir and Naya Theatre; Janam and Act One stage plays.

November 2: Sahmat presents *The Making of India* in Chennai (with Asian College of Journalism and Swaralaya): exhibition, seminar, and an evening of Sufi-Bhakti music and dance performances.

November 3: The judgment is handed down in Safdar Hashmi's case, 14 years after his murder. The accused, Mukesh Sharma and 12 others, are found guilty by a Ghaziabad court.

December 29: Sahmat holds a seminar on "The Making of India," in New Delhi.

## 2004

The first United Progressive Alliance (UPA), a coalition government led by the Congress Party, with Manmohan Singh as prime minister, comes to power after the general election, ending the rule of the BJP-led NDA government.

January 1: Sahmat presents **Safdar Hashmi Memorial: The Making of India.**

January 6–12: Sahmat presents **The Making of India** exhibition.



January 31: Sahmat holds a protest meeting against destruction by the VHP and Bajrang Dal of paintings by M. F. Husain and Chitrabanu Majumdar in the Golden Art Gallery of Art and Textiles, Surat.

February 21: Sahmat holds a protest meeting against attacks on culture (with Janvadi Lekhak Sangh); poster and book release, *Barbarians at the Gate*.

April 10–12: Sahmat celebrates **National Street Theatre Day** on Safdar's 50th birthday with a lecture, "Republic of Hunger" by Utsa Patnaik; book release, *Republic of Hunger*; and street plays by Naya Theatre and Janam.

June 11: Sahmat holds a convention demanding withdrawal of "saffronized" NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training) textbooks.

July 5: Sahmat holds a symposium on **"India: An Economic Agenda for 2004."**

October 19: Sahmat organizes a convention to deliberate issues arising from the proposed draft for the Employment Guarantee Act.

November 13: Sahmat holds a symposium on **"Justice in Gujarat."**

## 2005

January 1: Sahmat presents **Safdar Hashmi Memorial: Commemorating Munshi Premchand's 125th Birth Anniversary.**

February 10–27: Sahmat presents an exhibition and symposium on iconic Urdu and Hindi writer Premchand at Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi.

March 12: Sahmat commemorates the **75th Anniversary of Gandhi's Dandi March (Salt Satyagraha)** with an exhibition, symposium, book release of *Dhundhle Padchinh*, a Dandi March poster, and music by Vidya Shah.

April 14–17: Sahmat holds a convention in support of Gujarat victims: **"Flashback–2002–Gujarat Genocide" (with Communalism Combat).**

May 25: Sahmat holds a convention on undoing the anti-secular legacy of the BJP/NDA regime: **"The Unfinished Agenda in Education and Culture."**

August 6: Sahmat holds **"Debating Education I,"** a convention on school education, demanding revision of the National Curricular Framework.

September 24: Sahmat holds **"Debating Education II,"** a convention on higher education.

## 2006

January 1: Sahmat presents **Safdar Hashmi Memorial: 75th Anniversary of the Dandi March.**

May 8: Sahmat leads a delegation of artists to meet Home Minister Shivraj Patil, in support of artist M. F. Husain.

September 2: Sahmat hosts **"Iconography Now: Rewriting Art History,"** a symposium in support of M. F. Husain and against communal assaults on art and culture in India, coinciding with the release of a book of essays under the same title.

November: The Report of the Sachar Committee (a committee set up by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh) on the social, economic, and educational status of Muslims in India is released. It is the first official attempt since India's independence to conduct a systematic, data-based survey of the status of a minority community.

## 2007

January 1: Sahmat presents **Safdar Hashmi Memorial: 150th Anniversary of the 1857 Revolt.**

January 30–February 5: Sahmat organizes **Making History Our Own**, an exhibition celebrating 60 years of India's independence and the 150th anniversary of the 1857 Revolt.





## Timeline

February 22–24: Sahmat holds a seminar on **"India Independent: Economics, Politics & Culture"** (with *Social Scientist*).

April 12–19: Sahmat's exhibition ***Making History Our Own*** is on view at its second venue, the Women's Press Club of India, New Delhi.

May 14: Sahmat holds a protest meeting at Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi, against the right-wing attack on students and faculty of the Faculty of Fine Arts, M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara, Gujarat.

Bomb explosion in Samjhauta Express, a train service that connects New Delhi, India, to Lahore, Pakistan. Of the 68 fatalities, most are Pakistanis. It is thought to be the work of a Muslim militant group until 2012, when investigations reveal that Hindutva extremists were responsible for the bombing.

October 2: Sahmat organizes a street festival on the lawns of Vitthalbhai Patel House in New Delhi to celebrate **M. F. Husain's 92nd birthday**. The location is near Husain's mural of Jawaharlal Nehru on the wall of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research building, which was done in the early 1960s.

### 2008

January 1: Sahmat presents ***Safdar Hashmi Memorial: Jashn-e-Dauran, Envisioning the Modern*** with talks on the works of M. F. Husain, photographer Sunil Janah, and artist Chittaprosad, and renderings of IPTA songs.

May 19: Sahmat organizes a meeting on the M. F. Husain judgment delivered by Delhi High Court; book release, *Maqbool Fida Husain . . . Petitioner*.

July: Government of India signs a nuclear deal with the United States. Left parties withdraw support to the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government in protest.

August 22–25: Sahmat organizes an exhibition of reproductions of M. F. Husain's works and photographs of Husain by other artists at the Vitthalbhai Patel House lawns, in protest against his absence at the India Art Summit. The exhibition is vandalized on August 24.

August 26–September 2: Sahmat presents the Husain exhibition at Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi.

September 1: Sahmat inaugurates the program ***Of Resonance and Resistance: 20 Years of Sahmat***, with Habib Tanvir's 85th birthday celebration, a panel discussion, and songs by Naya Theatre.

October–November: Sahmat presents the program *Of Resonance and Resistance: 20 Years of Sahmat*: Sufi–Bhakti music concerts by Madan Gopal Singh, Shubha Mudgal, Dhruv Sangari, Rekha Raj, Deepak Castelino, Pritam Ghoshal, and Sunanda Sharma.

### 2009

January 1: Sahmat presents ***Safdar Hashmi Memorial: 20 Years of Sahmat***.

January: Sahmat presents lectures by Akeel Bilgrami on "Some Threats to Democratic Culture," and Arindam Dutta on "Media, c. 1993."

January 15–February 14: Sahmat produces ***Image, Music, Text: 20 Years of Sahmat***, a retrospective exhibition, at M. F. Husain Art Gallery, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi. Music concerts by Madan Gopal Singh, Rekha Raj, Vidya Shah.



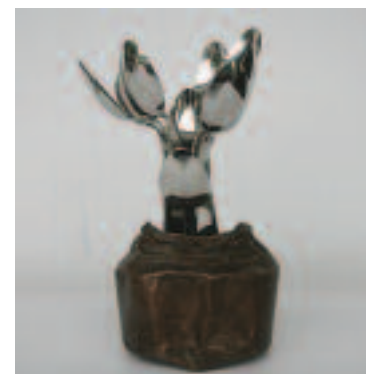
March: The Congress Party–led UPA wins a majority in the general election and comes back to power.

June 8: Theatre personality Habib Tanvir, chairman of Sahmat, passes away.

June 10: Sahmat holds a meeting: **"Remembering Habib Tanvir."**

August 8: Sahmat holds a convention: **"Debating Education 4: The Neoliberal Thrust in Education."**

August 24: Sahmat presents a lecture by Geeta Kapur: "Exile of M. F. Husain."



September 17–24: Sahmat organizes the exhibition ***For Husain at 94***, at M. F. Husain Art Gallery, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi.

November 7: Sahmat hosts a lecture by Ram Rahman: "Sunil Janah: Photographing India in the 1940s and '50s."

November 19: Sahmat hosts the program ***Remembering Faiz Ahmad Faiz*** on the eve of Faiz's 25th death anniversary; Shubha Mudgal sings.

November 25: Sahmat hosts a lecture by Geeta Kapur, in memory of Rummana Hussain: "Rummana's Question: is it what you think?"

December 6: Sahmat's exhibition *Hum Sab Ayodhya* is remounted.

## 2010

January 1: Sahmat presents **Safdar Hashmi Memorial.**

July 28: Sahmat hosts symposium **"Unravelling Hindu Terror."**

August 28: Sahmat hosts symposium **"Kashmir/Culture?"**

September 17: Sahmat organizes **Husain @ 95**, a celebration of M. F. Husain's 95th birthday, at Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi.



December 6–8: Sahmat hosts an all India seminar on **"Fact and Faith: Democracy after the Ayodhya Verdict"** (with *Communalism Combat* and *Social Scientist*).

## 2011

January 1: Sahmat presents **Safdar Hashmi Memorial: Faiz Ahmad Faiz birth centenary celebration.**

June 9: M. F. Husain passes away in London at the age of 95.

July 2: Sahmat presents **Husain Utsav (Festival): Tribute to M. F. Husain.**

August 12: Sahmat hosts a seminar: **"Marxism Today."**

September 17: Sahmat hosts **M. F. Husain's birthday celebration** at Jamia Millia Islamia University.

October 13–15: Sahmat organizes an all India seminar to commemorate 75 years of the Progressive Cultural Movement in India: **"Awaaz Do!" (Raise Your Voice!).**

December 17: Sahmat presents a symposium on **"Redefining the Secular in Indian Society."**

## 2012

January 1: Sahmat presents **Safdar Hashmi Memorial:** celebration of the centenaries of three progressive Hindi poets: Kedarnath Singh, Shamsheer Bahadur Singh, and Nagarjun.

February 27: Sahmat organizes a meeting to observe the 10-year anniversary of the genocide in Gujarat.

April 12: Sahmat celebrates National Street Theatre Day with the release of the book *Balraj and Bhisham Sahni: Brothers in Political Theatre* and a music concert by Madan Gopal Singh.

May–June: Sahmat celebrates Rabindranath Tagore's birth centenary: **Tagore Tells and the Patua Paints**, an exhibition of artworks illustrating three of Tagore's stories for children, made by *patuas*, traditional visual artists from Bengal, and the release of the three illustrated books in English, Hindi, and Bengali.

September 17: Sahmat organizes **Imaging a Legend**, an exhibition of photographs in tribute to M. F. Husain, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

September 28–29: Sahmat presents **"Celebrating 100 Years of Manto,"** a seminar on Saadat Hasan Manto with participation from writers and scholars from Pakistan and India.

October 11: Sahmat (with Act One and Parcham) organizes **Sangharsh ke Geet**, an evening of protest music, with the release of a music DVD of Parcham's new collection of songs, and performances by Parcham, Madan Gopal Singh, Jasbir Jassi, and Harpreet.

## 2013

January 1: Sahmat presents **23rd Safdar Hashmi Memorial.**

February 14: **The Sahmat Collective: Art and Activism in India since 1989** opens at the Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago.