Remembering Tagore

May 7, 2018 would mark Rabindranath Tagore’s 157th birth anniversary. Some of his thoughts on India appear most relevant even after 77 years of his passing away.

As Rabindranath says in his memoir, My Life (Jibansmriti), “I was born in 1861, an important year in the history of Bengal. Just as we have our places of pilgrimage where the great rivers meet,... So we have the currents of three movements in the life of India. These currents met about the time I was born.”

The first of those three currents were the reforms of Brahma Samaj, with which Rabindranath’s father was deeply connected. “I was born in this atmosphere of new ideals, but ideals which were older than all the other antiquities of which that age was proud.”

The second current was the literary upsurge of newly creative writing that began with the novels of Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay which, in Rabindranath’s words ‘lifted from our language the dead weight of ponderous forms.’

The third current was national which ‘began to express our people who were trying to assert their own personality.’

Tagore described India as the world in miniature and said: “India is too vast in its area and too diverse in its races. It is many countries packed in one geographical receptacle. It is just the opposite of what Europe truly is, namely one country made into many. Thus Europe in its culture and growth has had the advantage of the strength of the many, as well as the strength of the one. India on the contrary, being naturally many, yet adventitiously contd. on page 2

HOMAGE

Nehru Centre will pay homage to the memory of late Barrister Rajni Patel, founder member and former General Secretary of the Centre, on his 36th Death Anniversary.

All are requested to join.

Date: Thursday, 3rd May 2018
Time: 11.00 a.m.
Venue: Ground Floor
Discovery of India Building
one, has all along suffered from the looseness of its diversity and the feebleness of its unity.”

Commenting on India’s social organization, Tagore said: “the thing we, in India, have to think of is this – to remove those social customs and ideals which have generated a want of self respect and a complete dependence on those above us, - a state of affairs which has been brought about entirely by the domination in India of the caste system and the blind and lazy habit of relying upon the authority of traditions that are incongruous anachronisms in the present age.”

Tagore placed the ideals of humanity above the country and said in an essay written in 1917: “Those of us in India who have come under the delusion that mere political freedom will make us free have accepted their lessons from the West as the gospel truth and lost their faith in humanity. We must remember whatever weakness we cherish in our society will become the source of danger in politics. The same inertia which leads us to our idolatry of dead forms in social institutions will create in our politics prison houses with immovable walls. The narrowness of sympathy which makes it possible for us to impose upon a considerable portion of humanity the galling yoke of inferiority will assert itself in our politics in creating tyranny of injustice.”

Tagore had very strong views on nation states and nationalism. He said” “I am not against one nation in particular, but against the general idea of all nations. What is the nation? It is the aspect of a whole people as an organized power. This organization incessantly keeps up the insistence of the population on becoming strong and efficient. But this strenuous effort after strength and efficiency drains man’s energy from his higher nature where he is self sacrificing and creative. For thereby man’s power of sacrifice is diverted from his ultimate object, which is moral, to the maintenance of this organization, which is mechanical. Yet in this he feels all the satisfaction of moral exaltation and therefore becomes supremely dangerous to humanity.” No wonder Tagore thought that “nationalism is a great menace.” In the words of Ray Monk “Nationalism”, for Tagore, “was an unfamiliar and incomprehensible western notion.” It was, in Tagore’s opinion, “a dangerous and idiotic cult that had not only brought upon Europe the terrible devastation of the First World War, but was also threatening to destroy all that was great in the ancient Eastern civilizations.”

What was of primary importance to him was the struggle between the people and the Nation, between ignorance and education, between racial conflict and racial harmony, and between competition and co-operation. His faith that the values of humanity would triumph in this struggle stayed with him until his death in 1941.

Let this small collection of Tagore’s thoughts end with a beautiful piece from ‘Gitanjali’ which contains his most profound thoughts for his country.

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Where the mind is without fear
and the head is held high;
Where knowledge is free;
Where the world has not been broken
up into fragments by narrow domestic
walls;
Where words come out from the depth
of truth;
Where tireless striving stretches
its arms towards perfection;
Where the clear stream of reason
has not lost its way into the dreary
desert sand of dead habit;
Where the mind is led forward by thee
into ever widening thought and action –
Into that heaven of freedom,
my Father, let my country awake.

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What Nehru said....

Gurudeva was a rare kind of person to be born anywhere. In India he represented a multitude of things. The most dominant impression which one gets about him is that he was one in the long line of the ancient sages and rishis whom India has produced from time to time. Yet this tradition did not prevent him in the slightest from being a modern of moderns and making the whole world his field of thought and action.

May 9, 1961
Summer Workshops 2018

Nehru Centre, Mumbai is organizing the following Workshops for Secondary School students during summer 2018 for students of VII & VIII standards.

**Workshop on wonders of Biotechnology** on Tuesday 8 May 2018. The Workshop will be conducted by Dr. Siddhvinayak Barve, Department of Bio-Technology, V.G. Vaze College, Mulund, Mumbai.

**Workshop on Micro-Biology** on Wednesday 9 May 2018. The workshop will be conducted by Dr. Pramod Ghogare, Department of Microbiology, SIES College, Sion, Mumbai.

**Workshop on Climate Changes** on Thursday, 10 May 2018. The workshop will be conducted by Dr. Nandini Deshmukh, Director, Ecopersona, Mumbai & District Manager, Climate Reality Project (India) Mumbai.

**Workshop on Astronomy** on Friday 11 May 2018. The workshop will be conducted by Arvind Paranjpye, Director, Nehru Planetarium, Mumbai.

**Workshop Joy with Chemistry** on Saturday, 12 May 2018. The workshop will be conducted by Dr. Chitra A. Joshi, Former Lecturer, Dept. of Chemistry, Ram Narayan Ruia College, Matunga, Mumbai - 400019.

**Workshop on Concept Development in Sciences** on Tuesday 15 May 2018. The workshop will be conducted by Dr. (Mrs.) Manasi Rajadhyaksha, Director, Concepts Unlimited Science Education and Research Centre Mumbai.

**Workshop on Joy of Experimentation** on Wednesday 16 May 2018. The workshop will be conducted by Shri C. S. Pulliwar, Education Officer, Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai.

**Workshop on Fun with Physics** on Thursday 17 May 2018. The workshop will be conducted by Dr. Lochan Jolly, Dept. of Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering, Thakur College, Kandivali, Mumbai.

**Workshop on Nurture Nature: An Environmental Awareness** on Friday, 18 May 2018. The workshop will be conducted by Dr. Rajendra Shinde, Department of Botany, St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai.

**Workshop on Wonders of Marine Life** on Saturday, 19 May 2018. The workshop will be conducted by Dr. Vinay Deshmukh, Former Principal Scientist, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Versova, Mumbai.

**Science Experimentation Workshop** on Tuesday 22 May 2018. The workshop will be conducted by Mr. Rajiv Vartak, Institute for School Science Education, Mumbai.

**Workshop on Mathematics** on Wednesday 23 May 2018. The workshop will be conducted by Ms. Shweta Naik, Scientific Officer, Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), TIFR, Mankhurd, Mumbai – 400 085.

Duration: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Venue: Hall of Quest, Nehru Planetarium, Worli, Mumbai 400018
Admission to the Workshop is free (On a first-cum-first basis)

For participation and further details contact Mr. Sanjay R. Dalvi, Office Assistant, Nehru Planetarium, Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai 400 018, (Tel No. 24964676-80).
This month that year

Today almost everyone, interested in science or not, have heard of Albert Einstein. It was not so exactly 100 years ago. What made Einstein famous overnight was one observational exercise made during the total solar eclipse on 23rd May 1919.

Issac Newton, who first wrote down the laws of gravity, in 1704 published a book titled ‘Opticks’ in which he analyzed the fundamental nature of light. In the book, he discussed various properties of light based on observations he made. At the end, he lists out 31 queries which were at the boundaries of physics at that time.

The very first query was “Do not bodies act upon light at a distance. And by their action bend its Rays; and is not this action [caetris paribus] strongest at the least distance?” Or in other words he is wondering will a ray of light passing by a massive object change its direction.

Nearly 200 years later, in 1915 Einstein published his general theory of relativity. It was the beginning of the era of modern cosmology.

One of the result of this theory was that rays of light can bend under the influence of gravity. Calculations showed that it is almost impossible to test this effect as the effect is far too small to be measured.

Frank Watson Dyson, Astronomer Royal of Britain came up with a perfect answer to resolve the issue. He argued that the path of light of stars passing close to the sun should bend if Einstein’s theory is correct. A ray of light passing close to the edge of the sun would bend by an angle of 1.75 arc seconds. One arc second is an angle that a 50 paisa coin (about 20 mm in diameter) subtends at a distance of 2 km.

It was no secret to anyone that when the Sun is completely blocked by the Moon stars are seen in the sky. Dyson suggested taking a picture of Sun during a total solar eclipse that would also register a few stars right behind the Sun. If indeed the gravity of Sun would bend the light then the positions of stars would be seen displaced compared to the picture taken of the same field of stars in the night a few months earlier or later.

A total solar eclipse was predicted to take place on 23rd May, 1919. The track of totality passed over South America, Atlantic Ocean and South Africa. Interestingly, during this eclipse the Sun was in the direction of relatively dense field of stars, close to Hyades start cluster.

Arthur Eddington who led an expedition to Principe, a remote island off the west of coast of Africa. He sent one team to Sobral, Brazil.

Once observations were analyzed, he announced that results were as predicted. It was big media sensation that overnight made Einstein a global celebrity.

It is said that when his assistant asked how he would have felt had the expedition failed, Einstein is said to have quipped, “Then I would feel sorry for the dear Lord. The theory is correct anyway.”

Acknowledgement/Source - the material for the article was supplemented from internet.
Review: **Rudaad-e-Ghazal (A Presentation of Ghazals in Urdu)**

Rudaad-e-Ghazal programme, which was held on 20th April 2018, was a great success.

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**A Workshop on Kathak**

Pandit Birju Maharaj, the renowned dancer and teacher par excellence, will conduct a Workshop on Kathak dance forms for the students of this classical art from May 14, 2018 to May 18, 2018, both days inclusive.

**Venue:** Nehru Centre Auditorium
Programmes for May 2018

SANJUKTA BARIK

Sanjukta is a self-taught artist, painting for last 20 years. Her paintings are on various subjects in acrylic & oil on canvas.

Tuesday 1st May to Monday 7th May 2018
(AC Gallery)

“Ganga - The Holy River” by KALPANA DAVE

Kalpana is a self-taught artist. Her paintings and still lifes are in oils and mix media. She has exhibited her works in Mumbai and Gujarat.

Tuesday 1st May to Monday 7th May 2018
(Circular Gallery)

CHANAND BAITALIK
RATAN KUMAR
ARDHENDU SARKAR
SOURAV PAL
DIPANKAR PAL
SHEIKH H. RAHMAN
BISWARUP CHOWDHURY

Sanjay received Diploma in Applied Art and A.T.D. from Kalaniketan Mahavidyalaya and Art Masters from Dalvi’s Art Institute, Kolhapur. His paintings are landscapes in water colours and portraits in charcoal.

Tuesday 15th May to Monday 21st May 2018
(AC Gallery)

Haloi. His paintings are in water colours on paper.

Tuesday 8th May to Monday 14th May 2018
(AC Gallery)

KAILAS KALE

Kailas completed A.T.D.; A.M. and B.Ed. in Art from Aurangabad. His abstract paintings are in acrylic on canvas.

Tuesday 8th May to Monday 14th May 2018
(Circular Gallery)

SANJAY KUMHBHAR

Chandan received B. V. A. Degree with 1st class from Kolkata. He has many shows to his credit. His paintings are figurative and landscapes in water colours.

Ratan obtained Ph.D. in Art from Varanasi; M.F.A. in Ceramic & Pottery from Banaras Hindu University. He has had many solo & group shows in India and abroad and has won awards. His artworks are in ceramics.

Ardhendu completed his art education from Rabindra Bharati University with First class First and Gold Medal. His figurative compositions are in tempura with dry pigment.

Sourav received B.F.A. in Art & Craft from Kolkata with Scholarship. He has participated in many group shows in India. His paintings are figurative with compositions in mix media on paper.

Dipankar passed Visual Arts from Kolkata. His paintings touch significant role of a woman - 'Motherhood' with symbolic representations. His paintings are in acrylic on silver board.

Sheikh is a photographer from Kolkata. His photographs in black & white and colour are portraits on various topics.

Biswarup is a self-taught artist guided by eminent artist Shri Ganesh
**Dhanashri Lonkar Vaishali Wagh**

Dhanashri completed G.D.A. and Dip.Ed from Pune. She has had many shows in Pune. Her landscapes and figurative paintings are in acrylic on canvas.

Vaishali did her Masters in Textile Designing from Pune. Textile has been the forte of her work. She creates wonderful art pieces using Resist Dyeing, Hand Painting, Block Printing and also in various Weaving Techniques. She has many exhibitions to her credit.

**Tuesday 15th May to Monday 21st May 2018**  
(Circular Gallery)

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**Bipin Soni Kavita Soni Dhaivat Soni**

Bipin is a self-taught artist from Bhuj-Kutch, Gujarat. He is a Master of religious paintings with gold leaf. He has exhibited extensively in India and abroad. He has won many prestigious awards. His paintings are in acrylic and oils.

Kavita is also a self-taught artist. She has had many shows in Gujarat. She teaches are to young artists. Her paintings are figurative realistic in acrylic.

Dhaivat has learnt 3D Animation and Architectural visualization. He does photography and short films also.

Tuesday 22nd May to Monday 28th May 2018  
(AC Gallery)

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**R. Solomon**

R. Solomon obtained B.F.A. and M.F.A. in Painting from Chennai. He has won National Award in “Nehru Yu vagendra Youth Festival”, Chennai. He has had many shows in Mumbai and Chennai and won awards. He does landscapes in acrylic on canvas distinctive style.

Tuesday 29th May to Monday 4th June 2018  
(AC Gallery)

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**Satish Modkharkar**

Satish has completed G.D. Art in painting from Alibaug. His paintings are figurative on rural people in acrylic on canvas.

Tuesday 22nd May to Monday 28th May 2018  
(Circular Gallery)

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**Sanjay Mhatre Pallavi Pathak Jyoti Malik**

Sanjay has received B.A. and A.M. in Art from J. J. School of Art, Mumbai. He has won many awards during his academic career. His paintings are in acrylic on canvas.

Pallavi is a self-taught artist. Her paintings and landscapes are in acrylic on canvas.

Jyoti has Diploma in Photography & Fashion Designing. Her paintings are figurative, specially Indian women- in their various moods in acrylic on canvas.

Tuesday 29th May to Monday 4th June 2018  
(Circular Gallery)
Rabindranath Tagore was born on 7th May 1861. Here is a list of suggested readings on his works.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>The religion of man: being the Hibbert lectures for 1930</td>
<td>Rabindranath Tagore</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Towards universal man</td>
<td>Rabindranath Tagore</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>My pictures: a collection of paintings</td>
<td>Rabindranath Tagore</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Personality: lectures delivered in America 1915-1941</td>
<td>Rabindranath Tagore</td>
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<td>The Mahatma and the Poet: letters and debates between Gandhi and Tagore</td>
<td>Rabindranath Tagore</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Gandhi vs Tagore</td>
<td>Sabyasachi Bhattacharya</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Rabindranath Tagore, his mystico-religious philosophy</td>
<td>Shailesh Parekh</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Red oleanders: a drama in one act</td>
<td>Bhupendra Nath</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Rabindranath Tagore: an illustrated life</td>
<td>M. Asaduddin and Anuradha Ghosh</td>
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Let’s Read Together
All of May 2018

Parents, bring your children and their friends and read to them from their books or the books from the library. Refer to the library catalogue for details about children’s books.

OPAC URL: http://nehrucentreportala.in

10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. (Monday to Friday, 1st and 3rd Saturday)
10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. (2nd and 4th Saturday)

Venue: Nehru Centre Library
First Floor, Discovery of India Building,
Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.