Events At a Glance...

Cultural Wing

मराठी कवि संगमन
An evening of recital of Marathi poetry by eminent Marathi poets

Sadanand Dabeer
Kiranj Yele
Prof. Pratibha Saraf
Milind Joshi
Ranamala Shinde

Date: Friday, 14th June 2019
Venue: Hall of Culture
Time: 6.30 p.m.

Art Gallery

On-the-Spot Art Contest for municipal school children.
About 100 children will participate in the age groups:
2nd to 4th std.
5th to 7th std.
8th to 10th std.

Date: Monday, 24th June 2019
Venue: Hall of Knowledge
Time: 10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

1919: A Momentous Year in the Struggle for Freedom

Last month's newsletter dilated on the Rowlatt Bills. Justin Rowlatt, great-grandson of Sir Sidney Rowlatt, who was the architect of those infamous bills, visited Jallianwala Bagh in 2017 and said: “I certainly wasn't expecting to cry. I'd imagined I'd struggle to connect with the horror, that it would seem abstract; an episode from a distant history. But even after ninety-eight years, the garden is resonant with its memory. When you see the bullet holes that pock the wall, or peer into the well where so many had died, you can't help but imagine the terror the protestors must have felt.” According to Sukumar Mukerjee, chairperson, Jallianwala Bagh Board, it was common for Indians and Britshers alike to be overcome by emotion when they looked at this sad page of history at Jallianwala

HOMAGE

Smt. Bakul Patel, Joint Secretary, Nehru Centre paying tribute to late Shri Rajni Patel, Founder Member and Former General Secretary, Nehru Centre, on his 37th death anniversary, on 3rd May 2019. Also present on the occasion were Shri R. D. Pradhan, Vice Chairman, Nehru Centre and Shri I. M. Kadri, General Secretary, Nehru Centre, alongside staff of Nehru Centre.

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Bagh. But Justin, a journalist by profession and known as a man of ethics, nourished a feeling of guilt which he expressed by saying, “I had more reasons to feel ashamed and humbled by what had happened at the Bagh.”

If even after a century Jallianwala Bagh massacre gives rise to such emotions, what must have been its impact at the time it occurred? One has only to go through the letter that poet Rabindranath Tagore wrote to the Viceroy on 30th May 1919 renouncing his knighthood to understand the country’s mood. He wrote:

Your excellency,

The enormity of the measures taken by the Government of the Punjab for quelling some local disturbances has, with a rude shock, revealed to our minds the helplessness of our position as British subjects in India. The disproportionate severity of the punishments inflicted upon the unfortunate people and the methods of carrying them out, we are convinced, are without parallel in the history of civilized governments, barring some conspicuous exceptions, recent or remote. Considering that such treatment has been meted out to a population, disarmed and resourceless, by a power which has the most terribly efficient organization for destruction of human lives, we must strongly assert that it can claim no political expediency, far less moral justification. The accounts of the insults and sufferings undergone by our brothers in the Punjab have trickled through the gagged silence, reaching every corner of India, and the universal agony of indignation roused in the hearts of our people has been ignored by our rulers – possibly congratulating themselves for imparting what they imagine as salutary lessons. Knowing that our appeals have been in vain and the passion of vengeance is blinding the noble vision of statesmanship of our Government, which could so easily afford to be magnanimous, as befitting its physical strength and moral tradition, the very least that I can do for my country is to take all consequences upon myself in giving voice to the protest of the millions of my countrymen, surprised into a dumb anguish of terror. The time has come when badges of honour make our shame glaring in the incongruous context of humiliation, and I, for my part, wish to stand, shorn of all special distinctions, by the side of those of my countrymen who, for their so-called insignificance, are liable to suffer degradation not fit for human beings.

These are the reasons which have painfully compelled me to ask Your Excellency, with due deference and regret, to relieve me of my title of knighthood which I had the honour to accept from His Majesty the King at the hands of your predecessor for whose nobleness of heart I still entertain great admiration.

Yours faithfully,
Rabindranath Tagore

The year 1919 was momentous in the history of India. In the words of Jawaharlal Nehru, it witnessed ‘Satyagraha day, all India hartals and complete suspension of business, firing by the police at Delhi and Amritsar and the killing of many people, mob violence in Amritsar and Ahmedabad, the massacre at Jallianwala Bagh, the long horror and terrible indignity of martial law in Punjab’. About the events of 1919, Sir Chiman Lal Setalvad, the eminent Indian jurist said, “The excesses of the Martial Law Administration that came to light inflamed public feelings and directly led to the boycot of the new constitution by Mr. Gandhi and the Congress. It is evident that if these events had not happened, the Congress would have joined in working the Constitution of 1919.”

Jallianwala Bagh, indeed changed the course of political events in India and laid the foundation of the Civil Disobedience Movement led by Mahatma Gandhi.

What Nehru said....

A man of the keenest intellect, of fine feeling and good taste, wide vision; very human, and yet essentially the ascetic who had suppressed his passions and emotions, a tremendous personality, drawing people to himself like a magnet, and calling out fierce loyalties and attachments - all this so utterly unlike and beyond a peasant. And yet withal Gandhi was the greatest peasant, with a peasant’s outlook on affairs, and with a peasant’s blindness to some aspects of life.

From Freedom from Fear: Reflections on the Personality and Teachings of Gandhi.
Observing Clouds

What is a cloud?

A cloud is defined as a ‘variable mass of condensed water vapour floating in the atmosphere, typically high above the general level of the ground’.

How do clouds form?

During the day, the Sun’s rays heat the land, water and air. Water from the sea, lakes, rivers, and streams evaporates in the form of water vapour, and floats in the air. As the air gets warmer and warmer with the rising sun, it becomes lighter and rises upwards, carrying the water vapour with it, along with fine dust and smoke particles present in the air. These fine particles are not visible to the eye.

As the air carrying the water vapour, dust and smoke particles rises, it cools. The water vapour condenses on the dust particles and forms tiny droplets. When billions of these tiny droplets come together, they become visible as a cloud. If the temperature falls below the freezing point, the droplets form tiny ice crystals.

Thus, a cloud is a collection of a very large number of very small water droplets or ice crystals floating high in the air.

Study of clouds

Meteorologists, or weathermen, constantly observe clouds for the purpose of forecasting the weather. Clouds tell us what is happening in the atmosphere and are indicators of current weather conditions.

Clouds come in various shapes and sizes, and float at different heights from the ground. Based on these differences, they can be classified into various types. The first scientific classification of clouds was proposed in 1801 by a French naturalist, Jean-Baptiste Lamarck (1744–1829). He used French names in his classification. Unfortunately, his work was largely ignored by the world, and even by his own countrymen. The 1939 edition of the International Cloud Atlas offers a possible reason for this: “Perhaps this was due to his choice of somewhat peculiar French names which would not have readily been adopted in other countries.”
A year later, an English pharmacist and amateur meteorologist by the name of Luke Howard (1772–1864) published an essay titled ‘Modification of Clouds’. Unaware of Lamarck’s work, Howard proposed three main types of clouds:

- Cumulus (heaped)
- Stratus (layered)
- Cirrus (curled)

Howard used Latin names. Latin was then the language of science. Hence his classification was readily accepted by the scientific community.

In his essay, Howard explained that clouds can change form, i.e. they are mutable. Weather can be predicted by observing the changes in the clouds and their transitions from one type to another. He further defined intermediate cloud types, taking the list of cloud types to 10. For example, stratocumulus clouds are a lumpy mass covering the entire sky. Rain-bearing clouds are called nimbus clouds. Cumulonimbus clouds are dense, towering vertical cloud forms that bring rain.

Luke Howard’s classification is used even today. He is known as the father of modern meteorology.

**Main cloud types**

- Cumulus means ‘heap’ in Latin. These clouds are also called ‘wool bag’ clouds. They resemble cauliflower heads. They are low level clouds, reaching a height up to 2000 metres above mean sea level.

- Stratus means ‘layer’ in Latin. Stratus clouds form a widely extended horizontal sheet. They are low-lying, formless clouds. Fog, when on the ground, is a form of this cloud. They can reach a height of up to 2400 metres above mean sea level.

- Cirrus in Latin means ‘curl of hair’. The clouds appear like parallel, flexuous fibres that extend in all directions. They may resemble the smoke thread of an ‘aggarbatti’. They are usually above 7600 metres and are ice crystal clouds having filaments of ice crystals.

As the science of meteorology advanced, more cloud types were added to the existing list. Virga (Meaning ‘rod’ in Latin) is a narrow column of cloud which brings rain; but the rain water evaporates before it reaches the ground.

Cloud types are further grouped into their height above the ground.

- ‘Low’ clouds are generally below 2000 metres.
- ‘Middle’ clouds lie between 2000 and 6000 metres.
- ‘High’ clouds range between 6000 and 12000 metres.

In forthcoming issues, we will discuss in detail the different types of clouds and their properties. With a little practice, it will be possible to identify the different types of clouds; and one can even become an amateur meteorologist.

ERRATA: In last month’s newsletter, please read the sentence ‘A few months later using GTR Karl Schwarzschild, a German astronomer, developed a theory that predicted the possibility of a region in space and that as such a high gravity that even light cannot come out of it’ as ‘A few months later using GTR Karl Schwarzschild, a German astronomer, developed a theory that predicted the possibility of a region in space that has such a high gravity that even light cannot come out of it.’
The Marathi language has a rich heritage of poetical compositions, the earliest being the religious poetry recited by saints of Maharashtra from the 13th to 18th centuries. Early 19th century Marathi poetry portrayed popular folk culture. The 20th century saw the rise of poetic satire and lyrical poetry influenced by Romantic and Victorian English poets and also non-conformist and radical poetry.

Thus, the recital of Marathi poetry has a tradition that goes back to earlier centuries. Nehru Centre is pleased to announce an evening of recital of Marathi poetry as part of a ‘मराठी कवि संगम’. Marathi geet, nazms and ghazals will be recited by eminent Marathi poets, Sadanand Dabeer, Kiran Yele, Prof. Pratibha Saraf, Milind Joshi and Ratnamala Shinde.

**Date:** Friday, 14th June 2019  
**Time:** 6.30 p.m.  
**Venue:** Hall of Culture  
**Entry:** Free for all Marathi poetry lovers

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**Review: गौरव महाराष्ट्राचा**

On the eve of Maharashtra Day, Nehru Centre presented ‘गौरव महाराष्ट्राचा’ on 30th April 2019. This programme consisted of a performance of the folk art of Maharashtra.

The evening began with the ‘गण’ - songs of devotion in praise of Lord Ganesha. Next, ‘गीतभंग’, a form of poetic songs and dance evoking the Krishna cult was presented. This was followed by ‘तुम्ही’ a musical symbolic language used as a means of communication during the reign of Shivaji. The song ‘लग्नाला चला आला लग्नाला चला’ is actually a call to the people to join in the fight against the Mughals.

The programme ended with Bharud, Lavani and other forms of Marathi folk art. Lovers of Marathi folk dance and music attended and applauded the performances.
Programmes for June 2019

PRAFULL BHANDGE
PRITESH THORAT
ANKUR BHATT
PRASHANT SOMVANSHI

Prafull completed B.F.A. in painting from Nashik. He has participated in many group shows. His paintings are compositions in acrylic on canvas.

Pritesh obtained B.F.A. from Nashik and M.F.A. from Aurangabad. He has had many group shows in Nashik. His works are compositions in abstracts.

Ankur completed Dip.A.Ed. from Pune and G.D.A. and A.T.D. from Nashik. He was the principal of art colleges in Nashik. His paintings are in oils and mix media on canvas.


PROMILA KAUL

Promila hails from Kashmir. She is a self-taught artist and a lover of nature. Being from Kashmir, her acrylic paintings are also on the beautiful landscapes of Kashmir.

Tuesday 28th May to Monday 3rd June 2019
( Circular Gallery )

VIJAY ADAGALE

Vijay obtained Diploma in Applied Art and A.T.D. from Abhinav Kala Mahavidyalaya, Pune. He has many shows to his credit. His paintings are figurative in oil on canvas.

Tuesday 4th June to Monday 10th June 2019
( Circular Gallery )

KIRAN SHIGVAN
KARUNA TANK
DHANAJI KHADE

‘Bull’ - sculpture in bronze by Kiran Shigvan

Kiran received Diploma in Sculpture & Modelling from Mumbai. His thematic figurative sculptures are in bronze and wood.

Karuna secured B.F.A. and M.F.A. in sculpture from University of Rajasthan, Jaipur. She worked as the Head of the Ceramic Dept. in Sukriti Studio, Rajasthan.

Her works are in various mediums and are exhibited widely in North India. Her sculptures are mainly in terracotta and bronze.

Dhanaji completed A.T.D. and A.M. from Mumbai. His paintings are landscapes in water colours.

Tuesday 28th May to Monday 3rd June 2019
( AC Gallery )

SWATI JADHAV

Swati secured B.A. and M.A. in fine arts from S.N.D.T. University. She has had many shows to her credit and won many awards. Her figurative and landscape paintings are mainly on Rajasthan in oils.

Tuesday 4th June to Monday 10th June 2019
( AC Gallery )

Tuesday 11th June to Monday 17th June 2019
( AC Gallery )
SANGEETA GULEKAR

Painting by Sangeeta Gulekar

Sangeeta has completed A.T.D. in painting. Presently teaching art to deaf and mute children, her works are in paper quilling.

Tuesday 11th June to Monday 17th June 2019
(Circular Gallery)

VINAY SANE
NIRMAL PATHARE
PRADIP SARKAR

Vinay is a self taught artist, who is also M. Tech. from IIT, Mumbai. He has had shows in India and abroad. His abstract paintings are in vibrant colours in acrylic on canvas.

Nirmal is a medical microbiologist and works in oils, acrylics and charcoal. She has exhibited her works in India and abroad and won many prizes. Her paintings are in oil on canvas.

Pradip is a contemporary artist. He has worked at national and international institutes. His paintings are figurative compositions in acrylic on canvas.

Tuesday 18th June to Monday 24th June 2019
(AC Gallery)

SNEHA SHINDE
VIJAY AMBRE

Sneha received A.M. and A.T.D from Sir J. J. School of Arts. She was a teacher in the school. Her abstract paintings are in oil.

Vijay obtained G.D.A./A.T.D. and A.M. from Mumbai. He has been regularly receiving the Teacher's Awards. His figurative paintings are in colour pencils.

Tuesday 18th June to Monday 24th June 2019
(Circular Gallery)

SUMIT MISHRA

Sumit completed B.F.A. in applied art from Varanasi. He has many solo and group shows to his credit. He has been an art director for several feature films and advertisements. His paintings are in mix media and acrylic on canvas.

Tuesday 25th June to Monday 1st July 2019
(AC Gallery)

BOSKI KUBADIA

Painting by Boski Kubadia

Boski received A.T.D. from Thane School of Arts. She has participated in many shows. Her paintings are on various subjects in acrylic on canvas.

Tuesday 25th June to Monday 1st July 2019
(Circular Gallery)
Books on Sale

INDIA'S DEFENCE PREPAREDNESS
NEHRU AND INDIAN CONSTITUTIONALISM
INTERNAL SECURITY IN INDIA
CONSTITUTIONALISM AND DEMOCRACY IN SOUTH ASIA
पूर्वी काल आणि आज
MUMBAI PAST AND PRESENT
INDIA AND CENTRAL ASIA
WITNESS TO HISTORY
INDIA-RUSSIA RELATIONS
INDIA-CHINA RELATIONS
REMEMBERING EINSTEIN
CHALLENGES TO DEMOCRACY IN INDIA
RULE OF LAW IN A FREE SOCIETY
SCIENCE IN INDIA
EXPLORING THE UNIVERSE

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5. BALAJI & HARISH TALIM (1999)
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Website: www.nehru-centre.org
Email: editor@nehru-centre.org
Feedback, comments are welcome.

Editor: Arati N. Desai
Design & Layout: Imtiaz Kalu