Gandhi at Noakhali

Ever since 1942 Gandhiji had been distressed by the growing signs of violence in the mood of India. As independence moved closer the Hindu-Muslim tension increased. Mr. Jinnah's 'Direct Action' call resulted in an epidemic of communal hatred which spread very quickly to East Bengal. In Noakhali, a district in the maze of waterways in Eastern Bengal, Muslims were in majority but most of the land was owned by Hindus. The brutality of violence perpetrated on the Hindus (later reciprocated by Hindus in Bihar) profoundly shocked Gandhiji and he resolved to go to Noakhali himself, to stay there until sanity returned – and, if necessary, as he added, 'to die there'. From October 1946 to March 1947 he roamed the villages of Noakhali infusing courage among those who had lost hope.

Sudhir Ghosh, a close associate of Gandhiji and popularly known as Gandhi’s emissary, gives a vivid account of Mahatma’s stay in Noakhali when he visited him there.

The journey itself was tedious. From Delhi to Calcutta by air then a day long train journey to reach Goalundo, the railhead on the Padma river. From there another full day on steamer to get to Chandipur, the little river-port and from there thirty miles by a vehicle, cross a river by a country boat and walk seven miles to a village called Chandipur, where Gandhiji was, in the little hut of a village washerman. The narrator of the book says, “Its (Noakhali’s) very remoteness emphasized the solitude of...”

Gandhi speaking to Muslims in Noakhali

Gandhi’s task”. Sudhir Ghosh was struck by that remoteness when he found Gandhiji in the washerman's hut writing letters by the light of a...
kerosene lamp. All the other members of his entourage had been sent away to other distant villages to do their work on their own responsibility. The only person left to look after him was his granddaughter, Manu Gandhi.

Sudhir Ghosh says that Gandhiji walked from village to village everyday. He had discarded even his leather sandals as a sign of atonement for violence and walked bare-footed and did not stop for more than one night in one village. He slept in any hut where the villagers gave him shelter. He ate whatever food they gave him. Only Manu Gandhi and a Bengali interpreter travelled with him.

Gandhiji had asked Sudhir to stay with him for a few days and during those days Sudhir also walked with him. Sudhir’s description is both touching and fascinating. He says, “As I walked with him for those few days I found his meetings with the villagers very moving. The villagers were not like the crowds of the cities who came to see him out of curiosity. The villagers’ response to him reminded one of the Lord Buddha on his pilgrimage, walking from village to village with his stick in his hand, preaching the Gospel of tolerance and compassion.

At one point, as I was walking with him, an old woman was waiting for him by the roadside. She said, ‘My son, I am a blind woman. I cannot see you. I want to touch you.’ Gandhiji touched the old woman’s head and said something to her and she cried. His only concern was to heal the wounds – not to apportion blame.”

Sudhir Ghosh concludes the account of his days spent at Noakhali describing Gandhiji’s loneliness. He writes: “He had a habit, as is well known, of leaning on someone’s shoulder while walking, using the person as his ‘stick’. For those few days he used me as his ‘stick’ and as he walked, leaning on my shoulders, he talked at great length about his loneliness. He explained how even his own colleagues did not fully appreciate what he was trying to do in East Bengal and would be glad to see him back in Delhi or Sevagram. But his heart was in the villages of East Bengal. In a way he was happy because he was doing what he really wanted to do. During these talks, which were more whispers than talks (physically he was very weak), he surveyed the whole Indian scene, his work to free India from foreign rule, the great organization which he had built up and the great men who were his creations. At the end of his long journey he had reached a point where he felt he was alone. None of his life-long colleagues was with him. He saw the division of his beloved India into two states coming. The anticipation of it tormented him. In a voice that broke one’s heart he said, at the end of his long survey, ‘Don’t you see the loneliness of it all?’

In retrospect, it may be said that Gandhiji’s Noakhali stay was his most tenacious effort in upholding the principle of non-violence. He had said that his technique of non-violence was on trial in Noakhali, but worse was to follow. The violence following the partition left the Mahatma disillusioned.

What Nehru said....

I suppose his essential faith carried him through all these things. Many of us don’t possess that faith in that measure.... I would say fearlessness was his greatest gift, and the fact that this weak little bundle of bones was so fearless in every way, physically, mentally - it was a tremendous thing which went to other people too, and made them less afraid.

From ‘Talking of Gandhi’
Observing Clouds

Observing clouds: Cumulus and Cumulonimbus Clouds

From last month’s newsletter, we continue our series by observing Cumulus and Cumulonimbus clouds in this issue. Professional as well as amateur meteorologists who observe the clouds keep a record of the different types of clouds seen in a logbook. They use short names, abbreviations or symbols to record their observations.

Cumulus Clouds

Cumulus are the most common types of clouds. These ‘cotton puff’ or ‘cauliflower shaped’ clouds. These of the atmosphere which is known as the condensation meters above the ground. The life cycle of these clouds 40 minutes.

The rising hot air with the water vapour cools at this to form cloud droplets. The clouds have flat bases and upper part of the cloud appears shiny white and the base. These clouds can completely block the sun behind them the ground.

Cumulus clouds are also called Fair Weather Clouds, indicating that the weather would be good for outdoor activities. In books for children, these are the clouds which are often drawn, sometimes with fairies and children jumping and enjoying on woolly cloud cushions. But a cumulus cloud is hardly a place that one would like to enter into. These clouds have very strong convection, i.e. rising air current inside them. Pilots of small aircrafts generally try to avoid going through cumulus clouds.

Cumulonimbus Clouds

As the name suggests, these clouds can produce rain. Cumulonimbus clouds are much larger and more vertically developed than cumulus clouds. They can exist as individual towering clouds or form a line of such towering clouds called a squall line. These clouds have vigorous convective updrafts sometimes in excess of 50 knots, (1 knot = 1.852 km/hr) pushing the tops of cumulonimbus clouds up to 39,000 feet (12,000 meters) or higher. A well-developed cumulonimbus would have a flat upper part that can spread over many kilometers.

Lower levels of cumulonimbus clouds consist mostly of water droplets whereas at higher levels where temperatures are well below 0° celsius, ice crystals can be seen. Under favourable atmospheric conditions, harmless fair weather cumulus clouds can quickly develop into large cumulonimbus clouds associated with powerful rotating thunderstorms known as supercells.
News from the Planetarium

Summer workshops

Forty students from Std VIII to X participated in the summer workshops. Experts were invited to speak on interesting topics like Wonders of Biodiversity, Concept Development in Sciences, Joy with Chemistry, Astronomy, Wonders of Marine Life, Environmental Awareness, Fun with Physics, Joy of Experimentation, Micro-Biology and Science Experimentation.

Science Lab Sessions

A 5-day lab-session was started on 16th April, 2019. Interactive sessions on Astronomy (two sessions), Electricity and Magnetism (two sessions), Botany and Optics were conducted. A workshop on Mechanics was a new addition this year. Debates on science subjects, a puzzle and question-answer session with the Director (Planetarium) were organised. These activities were held on the last two days of the lab-sessions.

Scientific Paper submitted

A scientific paper titled *Low Cost and Portable DC Regulated Power Supply for Experiments in Physics in School and College Laboratory*, authored by Rohan Lahne and Arvind Paranjpye has been accepted for publication in peer-reviews and referred journal International Journal of Research and Innovation in Applied Science. It has been published in Vol. IV Issue No. 5 of the journal.

The paper discusses construction of Low cost and Portable DC Regulated Power Supply that can be easily made even by school students.

Public Lectures

On Tuesday, May 7, 2019 Professor A N Ramaprakash, from Inter-University Centre of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune, spoke on ‘Our Enigmatic Universe’

The talk was based on how scientists in general and astronomers in particular made use of every technological development for scientific advancement. Prof. Ramaprakash began by citing an example of how the invention of the telescope completely revolutionised scientific thought regarding the universe. The belief that the earth was the centre of the universe changed to the sun taking centre stage.

He spoke about astronomical observations beyond the scope of visible light. He also mentioned the technological advancement in detecting gravitational waves.

His talk was highly interactive and the question-answer session helped the audience to gain more information about the subject.

On Sunday, May 19, 2019, Professor Puragra Guha Thakurta, from UCO/Lick Observatory, Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA, spoke on Galaxies: Dark Matter, Cannibalism, Black Holes, Gravity Waves, and the Periodic Table of Elements.

Prof Guha Thakurta began by saying that the material that human beings and other life forms are made of was once synthesized inside the Sun’s ancestral stars. Dark matter formed a large part of the Milky Way galaxy. He talked about the periodic table of elements which was first created in the 18th century with just 33 elements and which has 118 elements today. He then talked about the evolution of galaxies, mergers of galaxies and galaxy cannibalism. He also discussed black holes and gravitational waves. During his talk he presented some very high-quality astronomical images and animations.
Review: Summer Camps (Nritya & Abhinaya)
Nehru Centre had organized summer camps on dance and theatre from 20th to 24th May 2019.

Kathak Darpan: A Workshop on Kathak Dance
Conducted by Pt. Birju Maharaj.
700 students and dancers from across the country attended.

Appreciation of Theatre: A Workshop on Theatre
Conducted by Smt. Nadira Zaheer Babbar
Voice and speech delivery, body movements, improvisation and characterisation were the features of the workshop.

This programme is dedicated to the memory of the doyen of Indian music, late Shri Vasant Desai

The rendition of the Raag Malhar is associated with the arrival of the monsoons that bring relief to the parched earth. Nehru Centre has been celebrating the rains with the annual Megh Malhar festival dedicated to the Raag.

This year too, we are pleased to present the 31st edition of ‘Megh Malhar’ in an evening of bandish and semi-classical forms of Malhar Ragas. Dedicated to the memory of the doyen of Indian music, late Shri Vasant Desai, a team of musicians from his family will be presenting lilting tunes based on the different forms of Malhar Raag.

Concept:
L. A. Kazi

Musical Score: Nachiket Desai (Grandson of late music director, Padmashri Vasant Desai) and his team of Swaravanti Creations

Singers: Nachiket Desai, Madhuri Karmarkar & Dhanashri Deshpande

Musicians: Prashant Lalit, Zankar Kanade, Digambar Mankar & Prabhakar Mosamkar

Anchor: Mangala Khadilkar

26th July 2019, 6.30 pm
Nehru Centre Auditorium

Entry: Passes will be available on 19th July 2019 from 10.30 a.m. onwards until availability from the ticket counter of Nehru Centre Auditorium and also on bookmyshow.com
Programmes for July 2019

‘CHATAK’- 2019

A Monsoon Show by Art Students

In its 27th year, ‘Chatak’, will show the works of student artists from various art colleges of Maharashtra. Around twenty students will participate in the show.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

Bharati Vidyapeeth’s School of Photography, Pune will showcase the works of students in their annual show.

This school of photography creates a platform to merge the newest infrastructure with the finest faculty, helping students to thrive in the ever evolving world of media.

Tuesday 23rd July to Monday 29th July 2019
(AC & Circular Gallery)

Wednesday 3rd July 2019 to Monday 8th July 2019
AC & Circular Gallery

A Monsoon Show by Professional Artists

In its 27th year, ‘Chatak’, will show the works of professional artists. There are thirty seven artists participating in this show.

RANGOLI GARG

Rangoli is from Hyderabad. She is a post-graduate in Business Management. The treatment of the girl child in India moved her to paint on this subject. She has done many shows in Hyderabad, Chandigarh and Dubai. She works in acrylic on canvas, on the subject of the ‘Girl Child’.

Tuesday 30th July to Monday 5th August 2019
(AC Gallery)

Wednesday 10th July 2019 to Monday 15th July 2019
AC & Circular Gallery
Raj has completed G.D.A. from Aurangabad. He has had many shows in Mumbai. His paintings are based on Buddha and meditation in acrylic on canvas.

Rachana has done A.T.D. Her paintings are in acrylic, oils on canvas and in pencil. She has exhibited her works in Mumbai.

Harsha is a self-taught artist. Her paintings are on Lord Krishna in acrylic on canvas.

Tuesday 30th July to Monday 5th August 2019
(Circular Gallery)
### Books on Sale

- **India's Defence Preparedness**
- **Nehru and Indian Constitutionalism**
- **Internal Security in India**
- **Constitutionalism and Democracy in South Asia**
- **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**

**Colourful art catalogues for sale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author/s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>The brand custodian: My years with the Tatas</td>
<td>Mukund Rajan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>India after Gandhi: The history of the world’s largest democracy</td>
<td>Ramchandra Guha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Jallianwala Bagh: An empire of fear and the making of the Amritsar massacre</td>
<td>Kim A. Wagner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Mind without fear</td>
<td>Rajat Gupta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>The Tatas: How a family built a business and a nation</td>
<td>Girish Kuber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Why Gandhi still matters: An appraisal of the Mahatma’s legacy</td>
<td>Rajmohan Gandhi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ART FUSION catalogues**


Set of five assorted gift cards
Designed by differently abled children

**SANSKRUTI - CD ROM**
An aesthetics of Indian culture

**DISCOVERY OF INDIA**

**Set of ten greeting cards**
Based on Discovery of India Exposition

Available at:
Book Stall, Ground floor, Discovery of India Building, Nehru Centre, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.

### New Arrivals: Books

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author/s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>The brand custodian: My years with the Tatas</td>
<td>Mukund Rajan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>India after Gandhi: The history of the world’s largest democracy</td>
<td>Ramchandra Guha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Jallianwala Bagh: An empire of fear and the making of the Amritsar massacre</td>
<td>Kim A. Wagner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Mind without fear</td>
<td>Rajat Gupta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>The Tatas: How a family built a business and a nation</td>
<td>Girish Kuber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Why Gandhi still matters: An appraisal of the Mahatma’s legacy</td>
<td>Rajmohan Gandhi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Writing for Therapy Workshop

Conducted by Sakshi Singh, writer and poet

Learn writing exercises and techniques to enhance your mental health and well being, in a therapeutic writing workshop

**Date:** Saturday, 13th July 2019  
**Venue:** Nehru Centre Library  
**Time:** 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.  
**Age Group:** 18 years and above  
**Limited seats:** Only 10 persons

### Book Discussion

**Once Upon A Story: Divaswapp and the Gijubhai Method**

**Written by Dr. Swati Popat Vats and Vinitha**

The authors Dr. Swati Popat Vats and Vinitha will be in conversation with Dr. Yamini A. S.

This book tells the story of Gijubhai Badheka who advocated child-centred education, specially in the primary stage.

**Date:** Thursday, 18th July 2019  
**Venue:** ‘Who Are We’ Hall  
**Time:** 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.  
**Open to all**

Contact: 24964676-80 Extn: 5

---

Published by Nehru Centre,  
Discovery of India Building, Dr. A. B. Road, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.  
Printed at M/s PRINTCOM, Shop No. 3, Pandurang Bhuskar Marg, Gopal Nagar, Worli, Mumbai - 400 050.

Website: www.nehrucentre.org  
Email: editor@nehrucentre.org  
Feedback, comments are welcome.

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