

# Newsletter

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**Nehru  
Centre**



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## Events At a Glance...

### Library

Reading and talk by Ms. Vinitha Ramchandani on her new book 'People Called Mumbai'

Saturday, 21st April 2018  
4.30 p.m.

Venue:  
'Who Are We' Hall  
Discovery of India Building

### Cultural Wing

#### "Ghazal Fusion"

Presentation of ghazals by using western music and without disturbing the original form of ghazal.

Sunday, 15th April 2018  
6.30 p.m.

Hall of Culture  
Discovery of India Building

### Dear Subscribers

You are requested to renew your subscription for the year 2018-2019 (April to March) if not already done, so that the Newsletter can be sent to you without any break.

The cheque should be drawn in favour of Nehru Centre only.

Thanks to the subscribers for their continued co-operation and interest in the Nehru Centre activities.



## World Heritage Day

A symposium was organized in Tunisia on April 18, 1982 where it was decided that the day i.e. 18th April be celebrated as the 'International Day for Monuments and Sites'. The idea was approved by the UNESCO General Conference at its 22nd session held in November 1983. It has since been called the World Heritage Day.

The framers of the Constitution of India thought of protecting ancient monuments much before the idea occurred to the international community. Article 49 of the Constitution, which is in the chapter of 'Directive Principles of State Policy', stipulates that 'it shall be the obligation of the state to protect every monument or place or object of artistic or historic interest, declared by or under law made by Parliament to be of national importance, from spoliation, disfigurement, destruction, removable/disposal or export as the case may be'.

Monuments and sites of every age of recorded Indian history abound all over India. Delhi itself is a goldmine

of India's heritage and so is its neighbourhood.

William Dalrymple in his book 'The Last Mughal: The fall of a Dynasty' says:

"Of the great cities of the world, only Rome, Istanbul and Cairo can even begin to rival Delhi for the sheer volume and density of historic remains."

There are twenty eight monuments in India which are included in the World Heritage list. Prominent amongst them are: Rockshelters of Bhimbetka, Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi, Ajanta and Ellora Caves, the Chola temples, group of monuments at Hampi, Rock Cut Architecture of Malabalipuram, Sun Temple at Konarak, Qutb Minar and the pillar of Mehrauli, Fatehpur Sikri, Agra Fort, Elephanta Caves, Taj Mahal, Khajuraho temples, Humayun's tomb and Red Fort at Delhi.

Each of the above monuments has a fascinating story to tell, but a peep into the history of Sanchi, which is

contd. on page 2

located near Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, would meet the objectives of the World Heritage Day which falls this month.

Sanchi was discovered in 1818 by a British officer, General Taylor, and Sir John Marshal, who served as the Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India and he got the restoration of the site done between 1912 and 1919.

It is interesting to note that Sanchi does not figure at all in the Buddhist canonical literature. Buddha never visited Sanchi. Yet it is one of the most important Buddhist sites in India. Emperor Ashoka, after he adopted Buddhism, got several stupas built throughout his realm and Sanchi was one such place where the great Stupa was built in the 3rd century BCE.

According to a legend, Ashoka during the reign of his father Bindusara was the Governor of Vidisha, an important place some miles away from Sanchi. While at Vidisha he married a local lady by name Devi from whom he had two children, a boy named Mahendra and a daughter named Sanghamitra. When Ashoka became king and made Buddhism the state religion and wanted to spread it to Sri Lanka, he chose Mahendra, who had become a Buddhist monk, for the job. Before going to Sri Lanka, Mahendra wanted to visit his mother in Vidisha. Being a monk he could not stay at anyone's home and so for his stay and worship Ashoka got a Vihar and a Stupa built at Sanchi. Like most legends the above story is not authenticated.

Ashoka had built three stupas and seven viharas at Sanchi. The big stupa is the oldest stone structure in India and the height of its hemispherical dome is 540 ft. It is the most famous stupa in India.



The Great Stupa of Sanchi

A new vihara was built at Sanchi in 1952 in which were enshrined the relics of Sariputra and Moggallana. They were the two chief disciples of Gautam Buddha who died within two weeks of one another. In 1851 the British archaeologist Sir Alexander Cunningham found their bodily relics in the third stupa at Sanchi. In all probability these relics must have been interred at Sanchi during the Mauryan period. After discovery the relics were taken to England and kept in the Victoria and Albert Museum at London. On the request of the Mahabodhi Society the relics were returned to India and were placed in the new Chethiyagiri vihara on November 30, 1952.



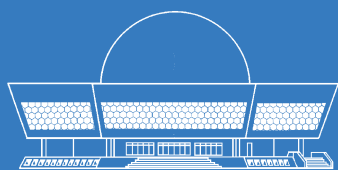
Carved decoration of the Northern Gateway to the Stupa

The Sanchi stupa is a well preserved heritage and a popular pilgrimage place for Buddhists. One can only imagine how magnificent and glorious it must have been in its heydays.

#### What Nehru said....

Over 80 per cent of our people live in the villages. India is poor because the villages of India are poor. India will be rich if the villages of India are rich. Therefore the basic problem of India is to remove the poverty from the Indian villages. Some years ago we abolished the *zamindari* and the *jagirdari* systems in various parts of India, because the villages of India could not prosper under a semi-feudal system of land ownership. This is not enough. We have to go ahead further....

April 15, 1959



**NEHRU PLANETARIUM**

## SKY SHOW : 'Biography of the Universe'

Timings

12 noon (Hindi) 1:30 p.m. Marathi)  
3:00 p.m. (English) 4:30 p.m. Hindi)

(MONDAY CLOSED)

### 41ST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE NEHRU PLANETARIUM

To mark the 41st anniversary of the Nehru Planetarium, various contests were organized. Given below are the results of the contests held from 21st February 2018 to 3 March 2018. The concluding function was held on Friday, 3 March 2018 at 5 p.m. at the Hall of Quest in the Basement of the Nehru Planetarium.

**Shri I. M. Kadri**, General Secretary, Nehru Centre was the Chief Guest. He addressed the winners and gave away the prizes. **Shri Satish Sahney**, Chief Executive, Nehru Centre and **Shri Arvind Paranjpye**, Director, Nehru Planetarium were also present.



Drish Shah (First Prize) - 'Astro-Painting'



Ameya Marakarkandy (First Prize) - 'Astro-Essay'



Aryaman Kaushik (First Prize) - 'Astro-Elocution'



Sambhav Mehta (First Prize) - 'Astro-Poetry'



Siddhant Chetlur (First Prize) - 'Astronomy Quiz'



Sidra Fatma Qazi (First Prize) - 'Science Quiz'

Contest Winner	Astro-Painting 21 Feb. 2018	Astro-Essay 22 Feb. 2018	Astro-Elocution 23 Feb. 2018	Astro-Poetry 24 Feb. 2018	Astronomy Quiz 27 Feb. 2018	Science Quiz 28 Feb. 2018
<b>First</b>	<b>Drish Shah</b> Arya Vidya Mandir, Bandra (W) Mumbai	<b>Ameya Markarkandy</b> Jamnabai Narsee School, Mumbai	<b>Aryaman Kaushik</b> Sharada Mandir High School, Mumbai	<b>Sambhav Mehta</b> Sharada Mandir High School, Mumbai	<b>Siddhant Chetlur</b> Radhakrishnan International School, Mumbai	<b>Sidra Fatma Qazi</b> Alexandra Girl's English Inst., Mumbai
<b>Second</b>	<b>Rutuja R. Bait</b> S.V. M. International School, Mumbai	<b>Karna K. Bhosle</b> S.I.E.S. Ghatkopar, Mumbai	<b>Pragati Tiwari</b> Holy Cross High School, Mumbai	<b>Kanak V. Mina</b> Our Lady of Remedy High School, Mumbai	<b>Pragati Tiwari</b> Holy Cross High School, Mumbai	<b>Jaskeerat Singh Mahal</b> Balmohan Vidya Mandir, Mumbai
<b>Third</b>	<b>Kriva Yogesh Shah</b> Alexandra Girl's English Inst., Mumbai	<b>Omkar M. Patil</b> Dr. Antonio da Silva School Mumbai	<b>Anuska Shelar</b> St. Anthony High School Mumbai	<b>Sarah Amjad Pendhari</b> Radhakrishnan Intl. School, Mumbai	<b>Shravani P. Sawant</b> Convent Girls' High School, Mumbai	<b>Akhil Iyer</b> Arya Vidya Mandir, Mumbai

# This month that year

On 12 April 1961, Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human to travel into space as well as to orbit the earth. He took this flight in a space capsule Vostok 3KA on spacecraft Vostok 1 (Vostok is East or Orient 1 in Russian). It was launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome.

The radio communication between the launch control room and Gagarin included the following dialogue at the moment of rocket launch: Launch control "..... We wish you a good flight. Everything is all right." Gagarin: "Поехали!" (Poyekhali!—Let's go!) The words became famous.

It was a single orbit around earth. From launch to landing it lasted for just about 108 minutes. His spaceflight skimmed the upper atmosphere at its lowest point at 169 kilometers above the ground. At the end of the mission when Vostok 1 was at an altitude of 7 km, the hatch of the spacecraft was released and Gagarin was ejected. At about 2.5 km above the ground, the main parachute was deployed from the Vostok spacecraft and soon after that Gagarin's parachute too opened. About 10 minutes later he and the spacecraft landed safely on *Terra Firma*.



Yuri Gagarin

Gagarin was one of the 20 pilots selected for the Soviet space programme. These men had to undergo various experiments testing their ability of physical and psychological endurance. After further tests and a selection procedure, Gagarin became the member of what was then called Sochi Six, the elite group of would be cosmonauts.

For the final selection, all 20 pilots were asked to vote a pilot who they would like to see as the first one to fly. This vote was anonymous and 16 voted for Gagarin. But, of course, Gagarin's personality evaluation was exceptionally good.

Soviet Air Force doctors evaluated his personality as follows:

*'Modest; embarrasses when his humour gets a little too racy; high degree of intellectual development evident in Yuri; fantastic memory; distinguishes himself from his colleagues by his sharp and far-ranging sense of attention to his surroundings; a well-developed imagination; quick reactions; persevering, prepares himself painstakingly for his activities and training exercises, handles celestial mechanics and mathematical formulae with ease as well as excels in higher mathematics; does not feel constrained when he has to defend his point of view if he considers himself right; appears that he understands life better than a lot of his friends.'*

Seven years later after his historic flight Yuri Gagarin and flight instructor Vladimir Seryougin died on 27 March 1968 in a mishap during a routine training flight.

Yuri Gagarin not only left behind a legacy but also some rituals. Russian cosmonauts leave a red carnation at his memorial wall, visit his old office and ask permission from his ghost before they embark on a mission.

Gagarin kept physically fit throughout his life, and was a keen sportsman. He was fond of ice hockey and liked to play goalkeeper.

Source: Wikipedia and Russian Centre of Science and Culture in Chennai

# Cultural Wing

## गझल Ghazal FUSION संयोग

Ghazal, the most popular form of poetry reached Maharashtra when poets like Suresh Bhat, Sadanand Dabeer, Manohar Ranpise, Anil Kamble, Raman Randive and Dilip Pandharpatte started writing ghazals in Marathi.

Ghazal Fusion will be held on 15th April 2018 termed as Marathi Ghazal Day, the birthday of its founder and Ghazal Samrat, late Shri Suresh Bhat.

In this presentation, an effort has been made to adopt new techniques of the presentation of ghazals by using western music and without disturbing the original form of ghazal.

**Shri Madhav Bhagwat and Smt. Suchitra Bhagwat will sing renowned ghazals in Marathi.**

*Accompanists:*

Keyboard: Shri Prashant Lalit

Violin: Shri Rashid Khan

Drum: Shri Sanchit Mhatre

Rhythm: Shri Wajid Ahmed Khan

**Sunday, 15th April 2018**

**6.30 p.m.**

**Hall of Culture**

**Discovery of India Building**

Entry: Free to all music lovers on first come, first served basis.

## Review: “जरतारी कशिद्याची किमया . . . विंदा!



As part of the birth centenary of Kavivarya Vinda Karandikar and on the occasion of Marathi Bhasha Din, Nehru Centre presented a programme on Karandikar's literary work comprising of short essays and poems through music on 28th February 2018.

The programme was presented by noted film and theatre personalities Sanjay Mone, Sunil Barve and Aishwarya Narkar. Smt. Madhuri Karmarkar sang the songs. Guru Korgaonkar presented dance on children's poems written by Vinda Karandikar.

Clips and interviews on Vinda were also screened during the programme. The programme was well attended by lovers of Marathi literature.

## Announcement

### Kathak Darpan

A workshop on Kathak dance will be conducted by Pt. Birju Maharaj from **Monday, 14th to Friday 18th May 2018, 10.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.** each day at the **Nehru Centre Auditorium.**

The admission forms for the workshop will be available from **1st April to 30th April 2018** from the office of the Cultural Wing, Nehru Centre. The form can also be downloaded from the Nehru Centre website: [www.nehru-centre.org](http://www.nehru-centre.org) from the Culture Wing page.

Contact: **Shri Prakash Pawar on 24964676-80 Ext. 119 or 169**

## Programmes for April 2018

**TUKARAM KARVE  
HARIRAM PHAD**



'Girls with Mirror' by Tukaram Karve

**Tukaram** received B.F.A. in Fine Arts from Aurangabad. He is a photographer. He has extensively exhibited in India and won awards.

**Hariram** obtained A.T.D.; Dip.A.Ed. and G.D.A. in Sculpture from Mumbai. He has won many awards for his sculptures in stone in various sizes.

**Tuesday 3rd April to  
Monday 9th April 2018  
( AC Gallery )**

**SHANTANU KIRANE**



Painting by Shantanu Kirane

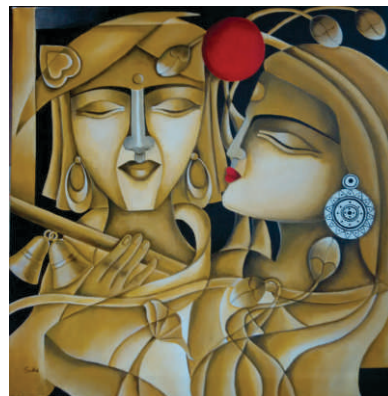
**Shantanu** has learnt in J. J. School of Art as a hobby painter. His paintings are paper collage in mix media.

**Tuesday 3rd April to  
Monday 9th April 2018  
( Circular Gallery )**

**MEENA RAGHAVAN  
DINKAR KUMBHAR  
SUDHA MOHAN  
DEEPAK GUPTA  
MITALI DOSHI  
SHASHIKANT CHABRE  
PRIYA YABALURI**

**Meena** is a self taught artist. Her works are 'Kirie', a Japanese art of paper cuttings.

**Dinkar** is from Kolhapur, has secured G.D.A. in Painting. He will display Cubism paintings.



'Song of the Divine' - Painting by Sudha Mohan

**Sudha** is a self taught artist. Her paintings are of human figures in geometrical forms in oils and acrylic.

**Deepak** is a Master Mariner. His art works are in collage on paper. He has had many shows in Mumbai.

**Mitali** is a Interior Designing. She will display her paintings on Buddha in various mediums and techniques.

**Shashikant** has participated in many shows and had solo exhibitions in India. His works are in ceramic on board.

**Priya** has Interior Designing Diploma. Her paintings reflect the impression of mind and are in oil, acrylic and mix media.

**Tuesday 10th April to  
Monday 16th April 2018  
( AC Gallery )**

**SHHUBRA CHATURVEDI**

**Shhubra** is trained at Sangeet Shyamala Academy and has attended landscape & photography workshops in Delhi. Her paintings are in water colours inks and acrylic on canvas.

**Tuesday 10th April to  
Monday 16th April 2018  
( Circular Gallery )**

**LALLAN SINGH  
RAGINI SINHA  
SANGEETA MURTHY**



'Mother & Child' - Sculpture by Lallan Singh

**Lallan** is a sculptor from Udaipur. His sculptures are in white and black Marble of various sizes and subjects. He has extensively exhibited in India and won many awards.

**Ragini** secured B.F.A. from Patna. She involves her mind through a flight as a kite to the spiritual space in her creation. 'Kite' is the symbol of freedom and ambition as she sees through her paintings in mix media.

**Sangeeta** graduated in Arts from Delhi University. She has participated in many group shows in India and abroad and also won prestigious awards. Her paintings are in oil on canvas.

**Tuesday 17th April to  
Monday 23rd April 2018  
( AC Gallery )**

**SUJATA SAHAY  
SIMRIT LUTHRA**

**Sujata** has had solo and group shows in India. Her geometrical paintings are in acrylic on canvas.

**Simrit** also has many solo and group shows to her credit. Her paintings are floral in acrylic on canvas.

**Tuesday 17th April to  
Monday 23rd April 2018  
( Circular Gallery )**

**NAVIN SONI . JIGAR SONI**



Painting by Navin Soni

**Navin** obtained A.T.D. in Fine Art from Ahmedabad. He has Mastery in religious paintings done with Gold-leaf.

**Jigar** has learnt painting from his father Navin Soni. He paints rural life and nature in his oil paintings. He also has won awards.

**Tuesday 24th April to  
Monday 30th April 2018  
( AC Gallery )**

**RAMESH DARKUNDE  
SANDESH NAKTE**

**Ramesh** secured B.A.; A.T.D. and A.M. in Fine Art from Mumbai. His paintings are in oil on canvas.

**Sandesh** received B.A. in Fine Art from Mumbai. His paintings are in oil on canvas.

**Tuesday 24th April to  
Monday 30th April 2018  
( Circular Gallery )**

## "KALAVISHKAR" An Exhibition of Study Camp 2018



'Kalavishkar' - An exhibition of the paintings created during the 25th Study Camp at Himachal Pradesh, was inaugurated by Shri I. M. Kadri, General Secretary, Nehru Centre; Shri Satish Sahney, Chief Executive, Nehru Centre and Shri S. K. Kulkarni, Director, Finance & Administration, Nehru Centre on 20th February 2018, in the presence of all participating artists and art lovers. The exhibition was a huge success and received overwhelming response.

## TALENT DEFIES HANDICAP

Physical handicap is no bar to expression as was proved by the children participating in the 'On the Spot Art Contest' for Handicapped Children organized on 23rd February 2018, a Nehru Centre Art Gallery's annual feature.

Eminent artists Shri Rakesh Suryavanshi and Shri Hemant Magarde judged the artworks and were highly impressed with the paintings and sculptures created by the handicapped children. Prizes were distributed to the winning children.



Handicapped and blind children at work at the 'On The Spot Art Contest'

## NEHRU CENTRE PUBLICATIONS

MUMBAI PAST &amp; PRESENT \* WITNESS TO HISTORY

\* REMEMBERING EINSTEIN \*

INDIAN ASTRONOMY A Source Book

EXPLORING THE UNIVERSE: The Planetarium Way

SCIENCE IN INDIA: PAST &amp; PRESENT

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14. SAMAKALEEN (Contemporary Five Artists)

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KRISHNAJI KETKAR \* DATTAJIRAO DALVI

\* GOVIND MALADKAR

15. NAGESH B. SABANNAVAR

16. NARAYAN L. SONAVADEKAR

17. "GURU-SHISHYA"

BABA GAJBAR &amp; GANPATRAO WADANGKAR

18. D. G. KULKARNI (DIZI)

19. MILLENNIUM SHOW

(A Century of Art from Maharashtra)

20. BALAJI TALIM &amp; HARISH TALIM

21. S. L. HALDANKAR &amp; G. S. HALDANKAR

22. VINAYAKRAO P. KARMARKAR

23. GOPALRAO DEUSKAR

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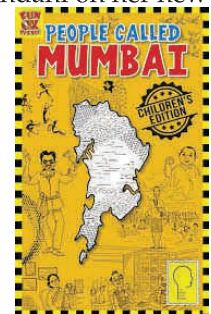
Earth Day is on Sunday 22nd April 2018.

Here are some suggested titles to read on Environment.

Sr. No.	Title	Author /s
1.	Environment: An illustrated journey	R. Rajagopalan
2.	The green pen: Environmental journalism in India and South Asia	Keya Acharya
3.	The world according to Monsanto: Pollution, corruption, and the control of the world's food supply	Marie-Monique Robin
4.	The atlas of the real world: Mapping the way we live	Daniel Dorling and others
5.	Handbook of environmental law	P. B. Sahasranaman
6.	Mahatma Gandhi and the environment	T. N. Khoshoo
7.	Hot, flat and crowded: Why we need a green revolution and how it can renew America	Thomas L. Friedman
8.	50 simple things you can do to save the earth	John Javna
9.	E-waste: Implications, regulations and management in India and current global best practices	Rakesh Johri
10.	Yours eco-friendly home: Buying, building or remodelling green	Sid Davis

**Event**

Reading and talk by Ms. Vinitha Ramchandani on her new book 'People Called Mumbai'

Date: **Saturday, 21st April 2018**Time: **4.30 p.m.**Venue: 'Who Are We' Hall,  
First Floor, Discovery of India Building,  
Nehru Centre, Dr. Annie Besant Road,  
Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.

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