

Newsletter

Vol. 18 Issue 8 AUGUST 2017

Price Rs. 10/- Per Copy

Nehru
Centre



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Events At a Glance...

Cultural Wing

मराठी संगीत नाटक महोत्सव

Nehru Centre is organizing this event for the last three decades. This year is the 25th Silver Jubilee edition of Nehru Centre's मराठी संगीत नाटक महोत्सव

1st to 4th August 2017, 6.00 pm
Nehru Centre Auditorium

LIBRARY

BOOK EVENTS

Cheers to Cleo
Written by Katie Bagli

Date: Saturday, 12th August 2017
Time: 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Venue: Hall of Harmony
Only for 9-11 year olds

Reporting Pakistan
Written by Meena Menon

Date: Thursday, 24th August 2017
Time: 4.30 p.m.
Venue: 'Who Are We' Hall
Open to all

REMEMBERING AMRITA PRITAM



On 29th June, 2017, Nehru Centre had organized a discussion on the life and works of the famous poet and writer, Amrita Pritam. A prolific writer she had published over hundred books including poetry collections, fiction, biographies and essays.

Dr. Binita Sahay who teaches Hindi at the Department of Hindi, University of Mumbai, and Dr. Gita Chadha who teaches sociology at the University of Mumbai, were the invited speakers. Dr. Sahay spoke about the life and works of Amrita Pritam. Dr. Chadha's talk, which is summarized here, not only evaluated Amrita Pritam's writings from a sociological point of view but also explained their historical context. There were also readings from Amrita Pritam's works and her own recital of her poem *Ajj Akhaan Waris Shah Nu* was screened.

Amrita Pritam was born in 1919 in Gujranwala, now in Pakistan. She was the only child of her parents and was sensitive, intelligent and a critical thinker from the very

beginning. Her mother died when she was only eleven. Little Amrita had prayed to God to save her mother. But after her mother's death she never prayed and to cope up with the personal loss she took to writing. Amrita, with her father, had moved to Lahore after her mother's death and lived there till the partition of India. Her first anthology of poems was published when she was sixteen and around that time she was married to Pritam Singh. They had two children but it was an unhappy marriage which ended in divorce. She witnessed the horrors of partition which are poignantly reflected in her writings.

Dr. Gita Chadha has a special affinity with Amrita Pritam because of a somewhat similar background. Dr. Chadha's parents were also displaced during the partition. Her father was eighteen and her mother was thirteen when they came to partitioned India. They had seen such violence that they never liked to talk about it with their children. Dr. Chadha found the socio-historical account of that era in Amrita Pritam's writings.

contd. on page 2

Language was another issue faced by Dr. Chadha. She spoke Punjabi at home but the spoken language of the place she lived in was Hindi. Thus her familiarity with Punjabi language was becoming lesser and lesser. However, when she was in her twenties, she became aware of the Punjabi ethos and Punjabi literature and discovered Amrita Pritam's *Ajj Akhaan Waris Shah Nu*. It was Amrita Pritam's poem which not only acquainted Dr. Chadha with the history of partition but also with the literary tradition of the Punjabis.

Commenting on *Ajj Akhaan Waris Shah Nu*, Dr. Chadha explained that Amrita Pritam chose Waris Shah for a dialogue on the tragedy of partition for two reasons: firstly, because she was not a religious person (she had given up praying to God after her mother's death), she wanted an interlocutor who belonged to the syncretic sufi culture of the Punjab; and, secondly, she wanted to evoke the idea of love in the context of conflict and violence. She reminds us of the immortal love story of Heer and Ranjha and laments the demise of love. Amrita Pritam invokes Waris Shah who wrote that beautiful story, and asks him, "When one daughter of Punjab, Heer, cried you wrote an epic for her. But now when thousands of women are crying, why are you silent, Waris Shah?" Through this question, Amrita Pritam is telling the whole world that the men of chivalry are no more.

Elaborating further on Amrita Pritam's literary work, Dr. Chadha said that though fluent in Urdu, Hindi and English, she consistently wrote in her vernacular language, Punjabi and also Hindi. She received several awards and was the first woman to receive the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1956. The Bhartiya Jnanpith Award was given to her in 1982 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2004. The awards were indeed a recognition of her literary genius but there was also an undercurrent of hostility towards her. It was so because she was unconventional and lived life on her own terms. She was supposedly in love with poet Sahir Ludhianvi about whom she has written in her autobiography *Rasidi Ticket (The Revenue Stamp)*. She also had a long term relationship with artist Imroz with whom she lived for the last forty years of her life. She was totally non-conformist in her writings. She wrote about female sexuality and desires and was anything but submissive. She was a part of the Progressive Writers Movement and her writings on the partition are important because in them facts have been documented as they happened. Her work is both literature as well as history.

In her talk, Dr. Chadha specifically referred to Amrita Pritam's book *Pinjar* and also to Urvashi Butalia's *The Other Side of Silence*. These books deal with the helplessness felt by the

women of that era. Many women had killed themselves to save their honour in the midst of insane violence and brutality during the partition. Several others were abducted and violated. A bill called "The Abducted Person (Recovery and Restoration)" Bill was introduced for the recovery of women lost in the mad melee of the great divide. The idea was to get back 'our women' from the enemy country. It was assumed that such 'lost' women desired to return to their families and that they would be welcomed. The reality, however, was different which has been brought out by Amrita Pritam in her novel *Pinjar*. It tells the story of a Hindu girl who was abducted and who managed to escape and return to her family only to be denounced and disowned.

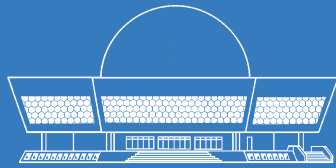
Dr. Chadha concluded by emphasizing that the works of Amrita Pritam are most relevant even today. We became independent at a huge cost in terms of loss of life and the uprooting of the millions on both sides of the divide resulting in such bitterness which affects the relations between the two nations till date. The identity of Pakistan began with being the 'other' of India and vice versa. Amrita Pritam, therefore, must be read in both nations in order to understand the futility of divisiveness and violence as also for developing a respect for and understanding of the intellectual and literary traditions of Punjab.

What Nehru said...

In the ancient days, life was simple and more in contact with nature. Now it becomes more and more complex and more and more hurried, without time for reflection or even for questioning. Scientific developments have produced an enormous surplus of power and energy which are often used for wrong purposes.

The old question still faces us, as it has faced humanity for ages past: what is the meaning of life? The old days of faith do not appear to be adequate, unless they can answer the questions of today. In a changing world, living should be a continuous adjustment to the changes and happenings. It is the lack of this adjustment that creates conflicts.

August 15, 1958



NEHRU PLANETARIUM

SKY SHOW : 'Stars & Wonders of the Universe'

Timings

12 noon (Hindi) 1:30 pm Marathi)
3:00 pm (English) 4:30 pm Hindi)

(MONDAY CLOSED)

A Special Astronomy Lecture by Dr. Henry Throop

Dr. Henry Throop, Senior Scientist, Planetary Science Institute, Tucson, AZ, USA and lecturer at St Xaviers College, Mumbai, delivered a Special Astronomy Lecture on "NASA's New Horizons Mission to Pluto and Beyond" on Saturday, 10 June 2017 at 6.00 pm in the sky theatre of Nehru Planetarium, Nehru Centre, Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai 400018. We bring you the summary of the talk.

Dr. Henry Throop stated that Pluto was discovered in 1930. Although it has been the target of many telescopic investigations, the laws of physics mean that even in the largest telescopes, Pluto remains essentially 'unresolved' — that is, it appears simply as a point of light, with virtually no surface detail visible.

Pluto is the furthest from the Sun of the nine classical 'planets' in our solar system. Nearly 40 times further away from the Sun than the Earth is, this means that the heating from the Sun is so small, that even common gasses on Earth freeze out on Pluto's surface. The air that we breathe — made of nitrogen, oxygen, carbon dioxide, methane, etc. — turns to ice at Pluto's temperature. This makes Pluto not a rocky planet (like the Earth and Mars), not a gas giant (like Jupiter and Saturn), but the first in our solar system's inventory of 'ice planets.' Pluto is the largest of these bodies in the Kuiper belt, which includes thousands of objects, many of which have not yet even been detected. The Kuiper belt is an important part of our solar system, because the bodies there are tracers of the dynamics and history of the planets throughout the solar system. By studying about the Kuiper belt, we learn about our own origins. But even with its importance, Pluto remained unstudied for nearly a century.

This was the conundrum astronomers were facing in the 1990s. Pluto and the Kuiper belt were rising in scientific interest, but they had not been studied up close to explore their history, physics, or geology. After years of advocacy from scientists and the public, in 2001 NASA selected the New Horizons mission to be the first spacecraft to travel to Pluto. It was launched in 2006, and made its historic flyby of Pluto on July 14, 2015.

As a member of the science team, he was involved with the mission from soon after its selection. Although its encounter with Pluto, they are now planning its encounter with a second body in the Kuiper belt: a small icy world named 'MU69', which it will fly past on 1 January 2019.

The Total Solar Eclipse - 2017

On Monday, August 21, 2017, there will be a total solar eclipse. The totality path of the eclipse is passing over United States of America starting from Oregon in the west to South Carolina.

It is estimated that about 12 million people live within the path of totality – they can watch the eclipse from their homes and about 200 million people can reach the totality path in a day's drive. Added to this, live coverage and people from other countries reaching the totality path would make this eclipse viewed by the highest number of people ever – directly or otherwise.

The total solar eclipse is possibly the most awaited natural phenomenon. On its own right, it is a marvelous spectacle and a rare event.

The total solar eclipse begins with the advancing limb of the Moon touching the Solar limb and then covering the Sun as time marches on. At this stage nothing is noticeable on Earth. But if one cares to look directly at the Sun which no one should do anyway, one can make out the silhouetted disk of the Moon. But as the Moon covers more than 80 per cent of the Sun, appreciable drop in sunlight can be felt. After about 95 % of the Sun is covered by the Moon, one sees dramatic changes. The sky becomes dark but it is not like the evening sky. The Sun is brilliantly shining-thin crescent, decreasing steadily.

Just before the total phase, for a second or so, we see large number of shadow bands on the ground, dancing rapidly. Now the sun is nearly covered by the Moon – some last rays now percolate from the gorges and valleys of the moon. It looks like a string of pearls. This phenomenon is called Baily's beads, named after Francis Baily who first gave the explanation of this phenomenon. Just about this time we also start seeing the outer atmosphere of the sun called corona, and then we see the last direct rays from the sun coming from the deepest valley – it looks like a heavenly ring studded with a brilliant diamond. This is aptly called the Diamond Ring phenomenon. As the diamond ring goes away, we see a very narrow red ring of light. This is the chromosphere, the Sun's atmosphere roughly extending 3,000 to 5,000 kilometers above its surface, and then the beautiful solar corona stretches out.

This entire sequence from shadow bands to corona takes place within a just a couple of seconds. For some minutes we see the corona. Sometimes it is uniformly circular; at times it is stretched on either sides. There are twists in the coronal streams. It is a magnificent sight.

The light of corona is so feeble that sky would become very dark. We see the stars and planets in the sky.

One feels that this experience should never end. But time stops for no one. Once again in reverse order with see chromosphere, diamond ring, Baily's beads and finally the shadow bands.

And the event is over. From the same location the next event is about a century away. As mesmerizing the event is, astronomers have extracted good science from observing such events.

One simple inference that our ancient sky watchers derived correctly was that the Moon is closer to us than the sun is.

We shall discuss this some other time.

Cultural Wing

मराठी संगीत नाटक महोत्सव

Nehru Centre is organizing this event for the last three decades. This year is the 25th Silver Jubilee edition of Nehru Centre's मराठी संगीत नाटक महोत्सव .

This year we are presenting two new Sangeet Natak alongwith the traditional natak of Kakasaheb Khadilkar and Govind Ballal Deval 'Sangeet Swayamwar and 'Sangeet Sharada'. The following is the schedule of the Mahotsava.

मंगळवार, १ ऑगस्ट २०१७
संगीत भागमती

Produced by Nehru Centre, Mumbai
Concept by Shri L. A. Kazi
Director, Culture, Nehru Centre
Written by Shri Pradeep Oke
Directed by : Shri Pramod Pawar
Lyrics: Shri Sadanand Dabeer
Music by Dr. Ram Pandit

बुधवार, २ ऑगस्ट २०१७
संगीत स्वयंवर

Produced by Kaladwayi, Pune
Written by Shri Kakasaheb Khadilkar
Directed by : Smt. Kirti Shiledar
Music by Pt. Bhaskarbuva Bakhale
Presented by : Balgandharva-Sangeet
Rasik Mandal, Pune

गुरुवार, ३ ऑगस्ट २०१७
संगीत शारदा

Produced by Bharat Natya Samshodhan
Mandir, Pune
Written by Shri Govind Ballal Deval
Directed by : Shri Ravindra Khare

शुक्रवार, ४ ऑगस्ट २०१७
संगीत बैजू-लीला

Produced by Nehru Centre, Mumbai
Concept by Shri L. A. Kazi
Director, Culture, Nehru Centre
Written by Shri Pradeep Oke
Directed by : Shri Pramod Pawar
Lyrics: Shri Sadanand Dabeer
Music by Shri Dnyanesh Pendharkar

1st to 4th August 2017, 6.00 pm each day
Nehru Centre Auditorium

Entry: Entrance Cards will be available on 28th July 2017 from 10.30 am until availability of entrance cards from the Ticket Counter of Nehru Centre Auditorium

Review:

Megh Malhar 2017

We are happy to state that our experiment of presenting the classical traditional Malhar series festival, 'Megh Malhar', blended with the Symphony pattern of music without disturbing the texture of the ragas went off very well. The programme held on 14th July 2017 was dedicated to the memory of Late Kishori Tai Amonkar, doyen of Agra-Atrauli gharana of Indian music.

This year's event 'Raaga Symphony' was appreciated by connoisseur of music and art. We moved from the popular raga of Miya Tansen's 'Miya ki Malhar' to the complex pattern in 'Gaud Malhar'. This has given us boost to re-cast and enhance further new techniques for the years to come.



The programme featured Deepak Shah as the conductor and also as the Pianist alongwith his team, co-ordinated by Kishor Merchant and compered by Sarosh Tungekar.

Programmes for August 2017

VINAY MUKADAM .
RAVINDRA JADHAV .
PRADIP MAHADIK



Painting by Vinay Mukadam

Vinay secured A.T.D.; G.D.A. and A.M. from Mumbai. He has exhibited his works in Mumbai. His landscapes and seascapes are in oil on canvas.



Painting by Ravindra Jadhav

Ravindra obtained G.D.A.; Dip.A.Ed and A.M. in Painting from Sir J. J. School of Art, Mumbai. He has had his exhibition in Mumbai.

Pradip completed G.D.A. and A.T.D. in Paintings from Sir J. J. School of Art. He has exhibited his water colours and pencil works in Mumbai.

**Tuesday 1st August to
Monday 7th August 2017
(AC Gallery)**

MANISH CHAUDHARY



Painting by Manish Chaudhary

Manish obtained B.F.A. in Print Making from College of Art, New Delhi. He does etching, Lithography and Linocut. His works are thematic.

**Tuesday 1st August to
Monday 7th August 2017
(Circular Gallery)**

PURVII PAREKH



Painting by Purvii Parekh

Purvii completed her G.D.A. in Painting from L. S. Raheja School of Art, Mumbai. She has done oil paintings on various forms of Lord Krishna.

**Tuesday 8th August to
Monday 14th August 2017
(AC Gallery)**

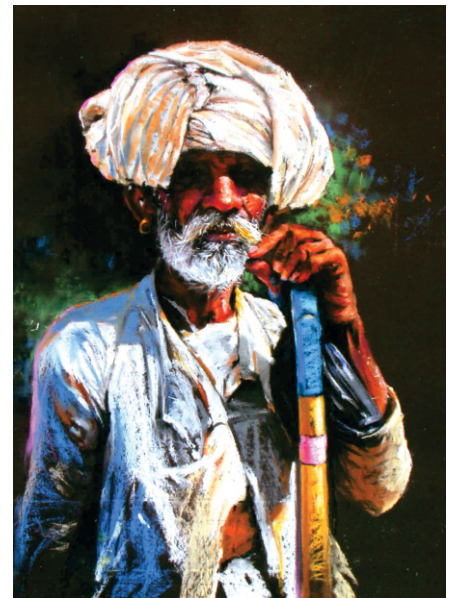
JAYANTILAL SAPARIYA

Jayantilal has received D.M. from Surat. He has had many solo and

group shows. His paintings are realistic in water colours and acrylic.

**Tuesday 8th August to
Monday 14th August 2017
(Circular Gallery)**

SUNIL PARDESHI



Painting by Sunil Pardeshi

Sunil obtained G.D.A. in Applied Art from Raheja School of Art, Mumbai. He has had many exhibitions to his credit. His realistic paintings are in acrylic and oil on canvas.

**Tuesday 15th August to
Monday 21st August 2017
(AC Gallery)**

PANKAJ TULASKAR

Pankaj secured G.D.A. and B.F.A. from Mumbai. He will be exhibiting his figurative compositions in acrylic on canvas.

**Tuesday 15th August to
Monday 21st August 2017
(Circular Gallery)**

RAMDAS LOBHI



Painting by Ramdas Lobhi

Ramdas completed G.D.A. and A.T.D. in Painting from Mumbai. He has had many group and solo shows and won awards. His paintings are realistic figurative compositions and portraits of rural people in acrylic and oil on canvas.

**Tuesday 22nd August to
Monday 28th August 2017
(AC Gallery)**

**RAJESH KAMBLE .
BHAUSO PATIL**



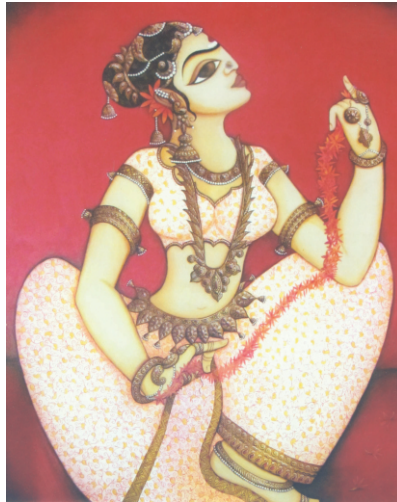
Painting by Rajesh Kamble

Rajesh received B.F.A. in Painting from Sir J. J. School of Art, Mumbai. He has had shows in Maharashtra. His landscapes are in acrylic and water colours.

Bhauso secured G.D.A. in Painting and Diploma in Portrait & Landscape. He has had solo and group shows and won awards. His paintings are landscapes and portraits in acrylic and water colours.

**Tuesday 22nd August to
Monday 28th August 2017
(Circular Gallery)**

RAHUL PHULKAR



Painting by Rahul Phulkar

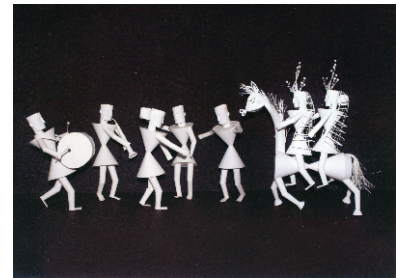
Rahul obtained G.D.A. in Applied Art from Abhinav Kala Mahavidyalaya, Pune. He has extensively exhibited his works in various exhibitions in India. His figurative paintings are in distinctive style in various mediums.

**Tuesday 29th August to
Monday 4th September 2017
(AC Gallery)**

**UTTAM YAMGAR .
MAHESH JAGTAP .
PARSHURAM GUDALWAR**

Uttam received A.M. and A.T.D. from Sir J. J. School of Art, Mumbai. His paintings are figurative compositions in acrylic and oil.

Mahesh completed A.T.D. from Nandurbar. His works are figurative compositions in acrylic on canvas.



Painting by Parshuram Gudalwar

Parshuram secured A.T.D. from Bhiwandi. His works are figurative compositions on paper in tribal style.

**Tuesday 29th August to
Monday 4th September 2017
(Circular Gallery)**

Review: Chatak 2017 (A Monsoon Show of Professional Artists)

The inauguration of "Chatak - 2017" (A Monsoon Show of Professional Artists) was held on 29th June 2017 at the Nehru Centre Art Gallery. It was inaugurated by Shri S. K. Kulkarni, Director (Finance & Administration), Nehru Centre along with the participating artists. The exhibition had a superb response and was appreciated by art lovers.



NEHRU CENTRE PUBLICATIONS

MUMBAI PAST & PRESENT * WITNESS TO HISTORY

* REMEMBERING EINSTEIN *

INDIAN ASTRONOMY A Source Book

EXPLORING THE UNIVERSE: The Planetarium Way

SCIENCE IN INDIA: PAST & PRESENT

DISCOVERY OF INDIA Abridged and illustrated

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7. ART HERITAGE OF MAHARASHTRA

8. HAREN DAS / 9. PROF. P. A. DHOND

10. COLLECTOR'S PRIDE / 11. K. B. KULKARNI

12. VINAYAK S. MASOJI

13. SAMAKALEEN (Contemporary Five Artists)

VINAYAKRAO WAGH * RAJARAM PANVALKAR

KRISHNAJI KETKAR * DATTAJIRAO DALVI

* GOVIND MALADKAR

14. NAGESH B. SABANNAVAR

15. NARAYAN L. SONAVADEKAR

16. "GURU-SHISHYA"

BABA GAJBAR & GANPATRAO WADANGEKAR

17. D. G. KULKARNI (DIZI)

18. MILLENNIUM SHOW

(A Century of Art from Maharashtra)

19. BALAJI TALIM & HARISH TALIM

20. S. L. HALDANKAR & G. S. HALDANKAR

21. VINAYAKRAO P. KARMARKAR

22. GOPALRAO DEUSKAR

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New Arrivals: Books on Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru

Sr. No.	Title	Author/s
1	Gandhi: An illustrated biography	Pramod Kapoor
2	Gandhi on personal leadership	Anand Kumaraswamy
3	Mahatma Gandhi: His life and ideas	Charles F Andrews
4	Gandhi: A spiritual biography	Arvind Sharma
5	Gandhi in Bombay: Towards Swaraj	Usha Thakkar & Sandhya Mehta
6	Nehru and Bose: Parallel lives	Rudrangshu Mukherjee
7	Nehru: A troubled legacy: With rare letters by Gandhi, Nehru & Patel	R N P Singh
8	Nehru and Indian constitutionalism	N R Madhava Menon
9	Nehru's India: Essays on the maker of a nation	Nayantara Sahgal
10	The God who failed: An assessment of Jawaharlal Nehru's leadership	Madhav Godbole

BOOK EVENTS

Cheers to Cleo

Written by Katie Bagli

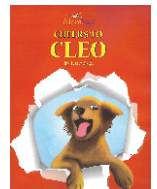
Listen to the story of Cleo an adorable puppy who lived with Sherry and her family

Date: Saturday, 12th August 2017

Time: 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Venue: Hall of Harmony

Only for 9-11 year olds



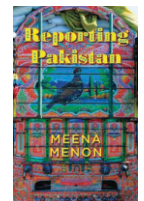
Reporting Pakistan

Written by Meena Menon

'Reporting Pakistan' is a probing, incisive portrait of a conflicted society; it is both nuanced and wide-ranging, and tries to look not just at politics-but also at the human realities beneath.

Date: Thursday, 24th August 2017 Time: 4.30 p.m.

Venue: 'Who Are We' Hall



Open to all

RSVP for both events required: aratidesai@nehru-centre.org

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Open: Monday to Friday,
1st, 3rd & 5th Saturdays
from 10 am to 6 pm
2nd & 4th Saturday
from 10 am to 2 pm

Closed on Sundays and
public holidays

Published for Nehru Centre by Srinivas Krishna Kulkarni at Discovery of India Building,
Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018. Tel : 2496 4676 Fax : 2497 3827

Editor : Srinivas Krishna Kulkarni

Printed at M/s PRINTCOM, Shop No. 3, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Gopal Nagar
Worli, Mumbai - 400 030. Phone : 24920096, 8425848486

Design & Layout : Imtiaz Kalu