

Newsletter

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Nehru
Centre



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Events At a Glance...

Library

Meet the Author

Meet Katie Bagli, the author of 'The Less Known Lovables'.

Saturday, 4th March 2017

10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Venue: Hall of Harmony

Cultural Wing

“वारसा संगीत नाटकाचा”

Presentation of Marathi Natya Sangeet

Participants artistes:

Dnyanesh Pendharkar

Nilakshi Pendharkar

Dhananjay Mhaskar

Comperer:

Sanket Mhatre &

Rugvedi Pradhan

Wednesday, 15th March 2017

6.30 pm

Venue: Nehru Centre Auditorium

TALKING ABOUT BOOKS

Shashi Tharoor's book "An Era of Darkness: The British Empire in India" was discussed at Nehru Centre on 9th November, 2016.

Excerpts from the talk by Professor Michelle Philip were published in the February newsletter.

Following are some more excerpts from Prof. Philip's talk.

They didn't take into account that it was they who had created this atmosphere of fear and greed. It was they who had caused the state of the poverty of the people. But he also said that before the British came and ruled India, Indian rulers had supported the people in times of food scarcity by policies of tax relief, fixing green prices, banning food exports from famine affected regions. There was also a strong tradition of personal charity in times of need. Wealthier Indians often took responsibility of helping the poor by offering them help. He suggests that we had no poor in India and because we were already evolved by our own standards in terms of science and learning, we did

have a lot of things before the East India Company came in. Somewhere if we did have a poor man, it meant that the supposed charity of our own wealthy people was not enough to cover his needs. Later on, of course, we do understand that it is the policies that led to such large scale deaths in the famines. Unlike the debate which he intended to win in the book Tharoor is able to look at the issue from both perspectives. Does he truly give us factual information that we can rely on without questioning whether some of it is based on assumption is something that we can think about and probably take up for discussion. Prof. Philip said that we spoke about 'feast and famine' and 'Indian charity.' She said she would like to go on to look at his descriptions of quitting India, creating Pakistan and the repercussions of partition. She said that most of us will be aware of the historical events that led to the partition. But there is one particular section which she found very interesting and that was the way in which the final drawing of boundaries took place. That is something she found very shocking. Tharoor really does justice to describing the partition. He goes into great detail and he

contd. on page 2

outlines the emotions of people who were working with the Congress and those who were part of the Muslim League. He points out very clearly how the British did not really make much of an effort to resolve those differences to ensure that there was no partition. The task of dividing the two nations was assigned to Sir Cyril Radcliffe, a lawyer who had never been to India and knew nothing of its history, society or tradition. He drew up his maps in 40 days dividing provinces, districts, villages, homes and hearts and promptly scuttled home to Britain never to return to India. "The British empire did not decline, it simply fell." Prof. Philip said that Dr. Tharoor very beautifully and in a very succinct manner, takes us through the path of the partition. Of course, we know that the division and the way in which the borders were drawn up is still a cause for confusion and warfare between India and Pakistan.

But Tharoor really does justice to the subject in *The Era of Darkness*.

Prof. Philip said that she wanted to touch upon the free press that we talk about since we give the Empire credit for having introduced it to India. We are all aware that we have a culture of reporting, of questioning the main stream and the governance. In the end of the section on *The Press* Tharoor says that the press, in other words, was free. But some newspapers like the British-owned ones, were freer than others. He talks about free press, about how although the press came into India very quickly within almost two years they began to ask inconvenient questions and at the end of it they introduced the Censorship of the Press Act. Thus, any attempt to question the government was put down. He also points out very interestingly how a Bengali newspaper colourfully described the British Lt. Governor,

Sir George Campbell as 'the baboon Campbell with a hairy body... His eyes flashforth in anger and his tail is all in flames.' But had this anti-colonialism taken on a more explicitly political tone, for instance in questioning the very premises of the British rule calling for its overthrow the authorities would not have been quite as tolerant.

So we see from this particular quotation that they did not mind the press calling people names. Quite differently, today we have the Rule of Sedition by which one can go into jail for just a comment that one make on the internet. Although these have been removed from Britain and British Press and their reporting, we see it still in India, in that they gave us a free press, they gave us a censorship in the form of various legislations but they seem to have left behind the act of sedition. Today we have still not taken stock of it. In a way we are still hung up on the colonial legacy. This attempt to lay blame at the feet of the British alone, Prof. Philip thinks needs total introspection. She said that Robert Clive had declared, "I walked into an opulent city which lay at my mercy. Its richest bankers bid against each other for my smiles." She thinks that we ourselves are to blame for having freely opened our coffers and given to them the riches that we as the Indians already had. So, in a way it was as if we were bending over backwards to welcome them and to please them and she thinks our civil

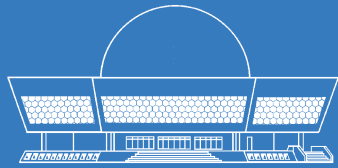
service and the whole team of the government babus remains with us today, as a legacy of British colonialism. She said that these were the things that fascinated her about the book.

While concluding her talk, she wanted to go back to the days of famine. Tharoor says that the British in their official reports and reviews of famine took care to blame everything but themselves. They blamed the burgeoning population, the declining rice production, the role of climate and other uncontrollable factors, lack of transportation, even indigenous culture. All these were emphasized as causes that thwarted the noble attempts by good British administrators to prevent food shortages with very little consideration given to the role that colonial policies and practices played in shaping the events that led to those shortages. We need to question as Tharoor says, that had the British not come to India, we would have evolved slowly and steadily. Our education system from the Guru-Shishya system would have evolved into a system which was inclusive we would have evolved into a democracy. Prof Philip said that what is great about India is that it welcomes outsiders and takes their culture, their ideas and makes it its own. She concluded by saying that Tharoor has really done justice to the subject of the book and readers need to give him credit for it. ■

What Nehru said...

Architecture to a large extent is a product of the age. It cannot isolate itself from the social conditions, the thinking and the objectives and the ideals of the age to which it belongs.... It depends on the type of functions which the people living in the buildings have to perform. It depends on the state of technological growth, and on the material used.

March 17, 1959



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 Xavier College, Mumbai, delivered a Special Astronomy Lecture on Astrobiology: Are We Alone in the Universe? on Saturday, 14 January 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.

"Are we alone in the Universe?" This question has been at the forefront of human consciousness for thousands of years. Maybe it has been asked in different words, and on different scales, but people have always been curious what is to be found beyond: beyond their river or their ocean shores, or their planet, or their galaxy. This is one of the drives that keep humans exploring.

Dr. Throop in his presentation highlighted the history of life on Earth and our searches for life elsewhere in the solar system, and concluded his talk with an energetic question and answer session.

For most of the course of humanity, we have been unable to answer the question of whether there is life beyond the Earth. Even today, we still have never found life anywhere: not on any other planet, not on any comet, not even on Mars. We have found no transmissions tied to extra-terrestrial life when listening to radio signals traveling through space. And we still have many mysteries about how life formed and evolved.

But in recent decades, astronomers have made remarkable progress toward answering this question. Three discoveries showcase this:

First, we now know that life on Earth is resilient, and flexible. Life erupted quickly on Earth: soon after the Earth was habitable some 4 billion years ago, life started to take over. If it took over Earth so quickly, it's reasonable to assume it might populate other planets rapidly too, if given the change.

Second, we also know that Earth's life adapts itself to a diverse variety of conditions. Scientists keep finding examples of life thriving in places we used to think would be toxic: at the bottom of the ocean, or frozen into Antarctic ice, or buried kilometers below the Earth's surface, or living in acidic and radioactive waste. If life on Earth can adapt to these conditions, maybe it is far more robust than we have thought.

Finally, we have discovered that planets are common throughout the universe. Astronomers have detected thousands of planets around thousands of stars — each having its own solar system. Some of those planets probably have water, and are at the same temperature as ours — in the 'habitable zone' to support life like we know it, and perhaps other forms as well.

Use the Chart :

Early month : 10 p.m.
Middle month: 9 p.m.
Late month: 8 p.m.

Month of March begins with beautiful Mars and Venus above the western horizon soon after the sunset, with thin lunar crescent joining them on the 1st of March. The Moon will just be about a degrees west of Mars.

On 4th of March, Moon will be at less than 1°N of Aldebaran (Rohini) before midnight in western sky.

On 10th of March near full moon will be seen rising just above Regulus and by the morning of 11th the duo can be seen above the western horizon less than a degree from each other.

Early morning of 15th March Moon will be within 3° of Jupiter. Spica (Chitra) will be there to complete sequence below both these solar system objects.

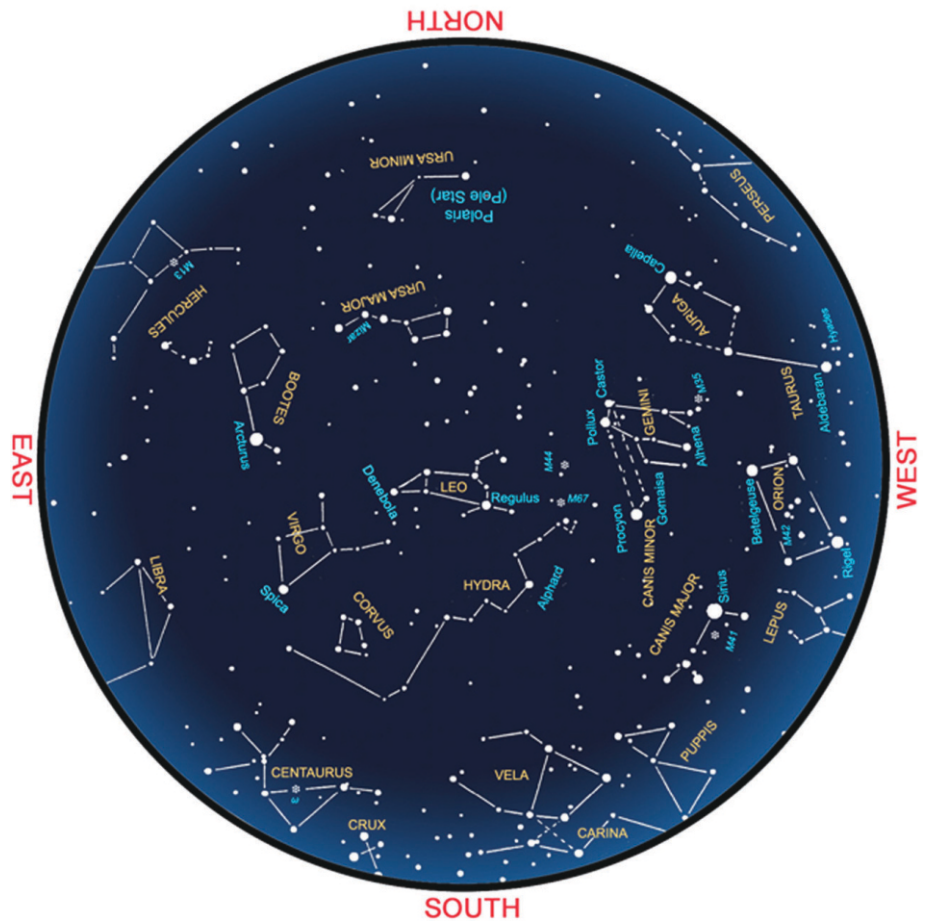
Finally on 20th March we will have Vernal Equinox. The Sun will shine directly on the equator and there will be nearly equal amounts of day and night throughout the world. This is also the first day of spring (vernal equinox) in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of fall (autumnal equinox) in the Southern Hemisphere.

Early morning of 20 March, we will see Moon and Saturn together, separated by just less than 4°.

On March 30th, Mars will be separated just below 6° from Moon in western sky after sunset.

As far as planets are concerned, Venus will be visible from 1st March to 10th after sunset in western sky. Mars will be visible throughout the month in western sky after sunset. Jupiter will be visible throughout the month after 10PM in eastern sky with Spica (Chitra). Saturn will be seen in early morning sky in month of March as a cream colored object. If taken a chance Mercury could be visible in last week of March after sunset – provided – should be observed from a location which has clear western horizon.

STAR CHART FOR MARCH 2017



The map shows slightly more sky than that will be visible from a given location. Thus the map can be used elsewhere in India at 21:00 hrs Indian Time. Hold the chart vertically before your eye and turn it until the geographical direction you are facing shows at the bottom of the chart.

Phases of the Moon (timings in IST hh:mm)			
First Quarter (Shukla Paksha Ashtami)	Full Moon (Poornima)	Last Quarter (Krishna Paksha Ashtami)	New Moon (Amavasya)
5 Mar., 17:02	12 Mar., 20:24	20 Mar., 21:28	28 Mar., 08:27

(Disclaimer: The Indian names of the stars and planet, given in parenthesis for the purpose to remind the reader that India has a rich astronomical tradition. We do not subscribe to astrology.)

Cultural Wing

Sangeet Natak in Marathi language literally means Musical Drama. As the name suggests, this form of drama combines prose as well as poetry in form of songs to convey the story. In a manner, they are very much similar to Musicals. Sangeet Natakas played a vital role in the development of Marathi theatre, the Marathi cinema as well as Indian film industry.

The Sangeet Natak originated in Sangli by Vishnudas Bhave. The Marathi theater dates back to 1840s. The first public performance on Marathi stage was of the play Seeta Swayamvar (सीता स्वयंवर) by Vishnudas Bhave in 1843. But the integration of music in the dramas took place quite late in 1879 when play writer and producer Trilokekar presented his musical play Nal-Damayanti (नल दमयंती). It was the first musical play on Marathi stage.

But only when Balwant Pandurang Kirloskar (popularly known as Annasaheb Kirloskar) staged his first musical play शाकुंतल on October 31, 1880 in Pune, did the trend of Sangeet Natak really start. Kirloskar included 209 musical pieces in his शाकुंतल of seven acts. They consisted of a mix of Hindustani and Carnatic classical music, and lighter music.

The new trend of Sangeet Natak caught up with the popularity quite quickly. Sangeet Natak were compared with the Operas and thus local Marathi Indians found synonymous recreation.

With popularity & success, experimentation started on stage with abandoning mythological themes and bringing social issues to audiences.



Natak or Natya as presented by Bharata in his Natyashastra is an ensemble art. It comprises of prose, poetry and music. Marathi Sangeet Natak has played a key role in patronizing classical music in the region of Maharashtra.

Nehru Centre having a mission of preserving this art form will present “वारसा संगीत नाटकाचा”

Participant artistes:

**Dnyanesh Pendharkar
Nilakshi Pendharkar
Dhananjay Mhaskar**

Comperere:

**Sanket Mhatre &
Rugvedi Pradhan**

Accompanists :

**Makrand Kundale on Organ
Kedar Bhagwat, Harmonium
Dhananjay Puranik on Tabla**

**Wednesday, 15th March 2017, 6.30 pm
Nehru Centre Auditorium**

Entry: Entrance Cards will be available on Friday, 10th March 2017 from 10.30 am onwards until availability of entrance cards from the Ticket Counter of the Nehru Centre Auditorium.

Programmes for March 2017

NITIN KHILARE



Painting by Nitin Khilare

Nitin secured A.M. and G.D.A. in painting from Solapur. He has had many shows in India and also won many prestigious awards. He has been giving demonstrations of realistic paintings and portraits in oil on canvas in various cities.

**Tuesday 28th February to
Monday 6th March 2017
(AC Gallery)**

**VAIBHAV NAIK .
SIDDHESH SHIRSEKAR**



Painting by Siddhesh Shirsekar

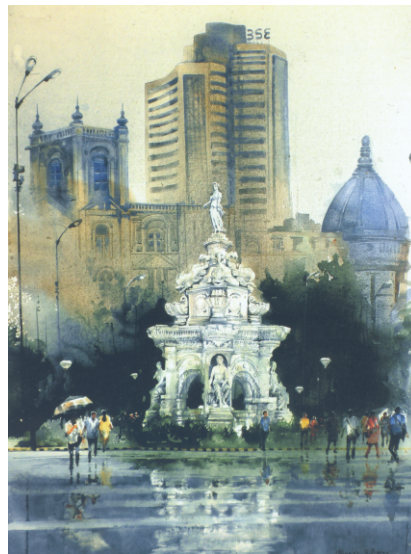
Vaibhav has obtained B.F.A. from Sir J. J. Institute of Applied Art, Mumbai.

He has won many awards for his landscapes and 2D designs. His paintings are portraits and landscapes in water colours.

Siddhesh completed B.F.A. from Sir J. J. Institute of Applied Art, Mumbai. He has participated in many shows and won awards. His paintings give a feel of miniature and tribal art.

**Tuesday 28th February to
Monday 6th March 2017
(Circular Gallery)**

BHUWAN SILHARE



Painting by Bhuvan Silhare

Bhuvan received M.S.W. from Nagpur University. His realistic landscapes are in acrylic on canvas. He has many shows to his credit and has also won awards.

**Tuesday 7th March to
Monday 13th March 2017
(AC Gallery)**

ASHOK HINGE

Ashok obtained B.F.A. in Fine Art from Aurangabad and A.T.D. from Ahmednagar. He has had many shows in Mumbai and participated in



'Vithal Rukmini' by Ashok Hinge

Art Festivals. His paintings are symbols of letters depicting various subjects.

**Tuesday 7th March to
Monday 13th March 2017
(Circular Gallery)**

PRIYA PATIL



'Bodhi' by Priya Patil

Priya is a self-taught artist. She has participated in many shows won awards. Her landscapes are in water colours on rural areas and nature. Her compositions are in acrylic and oil.

**Tuesday 14th March to
Monday 20th March 2017
(AC Gallery)**

**AVINASH DESHMUKH .
ISHAQUE ALI SAYYED**



Painting by Avinash Deshmukh

Avinash has secured A.T.D. from Patoda and G.D.A. in Painting from Abhinav Kala Vidyalaya, Pune. He has many shows to his credit and has won awards. His paintings are figurative compositions in acrylic and oil on canvas.



Painting by Ishaque Ali Sayyed

Ishaque Ali completed B.A., A.T.D., A.M. and C.T.C. in painting from Sir J. J. School of Art, Mumbai. He has had many shows and has won many awards. He will display his abstract paintings which are in bold and vibrant colours.

**Tuesday 14th March to
Monday 20th March 2017
(Circular Gallery)**

**SAYARAM WAGHMARE .
VIDYA BANKAR**



Painting by Sayaram Waghmare

Sayaram obtained G.D.A. in Painting and Post Diploma in Art Education from Sir J. J. School of Art, Mumbai. He has had many shows in India and has won awards. His landscapes are in oil on canvas.

Vidya secured A.M. Diploma from Karnataka. Her landscapes are in oil on canvas.

**Tuesday 21st March to
Monday 27th March 2017
(AC Gallery)**

UPASANA TRIPATHI



Painting by Upasana Tripathi

Upasana completed B.F.A. and M.F.A. in Painting from Lucknow. She has participated in many shows and has won awards. 'Life' is the subject of her paintings. The paintings displayed at the exhibition

are figurative in acrylic, mix media and pen & ink.

**Tuesday 21st March to
Monday 27th March 2017
(Circular Gallery)**

UDAYRAJ GADNIS



'The Sun - In Civilizations' by Udayraj Gadnis

Udayraj has done his M.A. from Bombay University with majors in Psychology. He has had over fifty solo and over twenty five group shows. He has many State as well as National awards. He paints on spiritual subjects. He is presently teaching in the University of London.

**Tuesday 28th March to
Monday 3rd April 2017
(AC Gallery)**

**PRAFULLA DAHANUKAR
FOUNDATION**



Painting by Ramesh Tekam

The Foundation will have "Kalanand" exhibition showing Gond Art of award winning tribal artists. A well known Gond artist Ramesh Tekam has created the paintings.

**Tuesday 28th March to
Monday 3rd April 2017
(AC Gallery)**

NEHRU CENTRE PUBLICATIONS

MUMBAI PAST & PRESENT * WITNESS TO HISTORY

* REMEMBERING EINSTEIN *

INDIAN ASTRONOMY A Source Book

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SCIENCE IN INDIA: PAST & PRESENT

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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

Sr. No.	Title	Author/s
1	A flamingo in my garden (Children's Section)	Deepak Dalal
2	Talon the falcon (Children's Section)	Deepak Dalal
3	Charles Freer Andrews: A crusader for human rights	Mary Thomas
4	An era of darkness: The British empire in India	Shashi Tharoor
5	The great derangement: Climate change and the unthinkable	Amitav Ghosh
6	Marine pollution: What everyone needs to know	Judith S. Weis
7	The eat right prescription: From India's leading weight-loss surgeon	Muffazal Lakdawala
8	1991: How P. V. Narasimha Rao made history	Sanjaya Baru
9	The way things were	Aatish Taseer
10	Who stole my calories?	Madhuri Ruia

Meet the Author

The Less Known Lovables Written by Katie Bagli

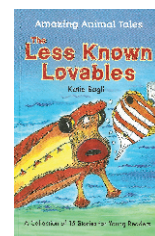
Date: Saturday, 4th March 2017

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

Venue: Hall of Harmony

About the book: This book takes a peek into the lives of those animals that are not so well known to most of us and endeavours through its stories, to bring before the reader their bizarre images and their strange ways. So do read about these amazing creatures, before they too vanish from the face of our earth.

(Age group: 8 to 12 years)



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from 10 am to 6 pm
2nd & 4th Saturday
from 10 am to 2 pm

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public holidays**

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