

# Newsletter

Vol. 20 Issue 5 MAY 2019

Price Rs. 10/- Per Copy

**Nehru  
Centre**



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**Annual Subscription Rs. 100**

## Events At a Glance...

### Library

Explore the world of poems with Ketaki Mazumdar as she reads from her books and join in some fun activities.

Date: Saturday, 4th May 2019  
Venue: Nehru Centre Library  
Time: 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Age Group: 6+ years  
Limited seats: 20 only

### Cultural Wing

#### Summer Workshops

**Kathak Darpan**  
Workshop conducted by  
Pandit Birju Maharaj

Date: 20th to 24th May 2019  
Venue: Nehru Centre Auditorium  
Time: 10.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.

**Theatre Appreciation**  
Workshop conducted by  
Smt. Nadira Zaheer Babbar

Date: 20th to 24th May 2019  
Venue: Hall of Knowledge, Ground Floor, Discovery of India Building,  
Time: 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

### Dear Subscribers

You are requested to renew your subscription for the year 2019-2020 (April to March) so that the Newsletter can be sent to you without any break.

Please send cheque drawn in favour of 'Nehru Centre' only.

## Rowlatt Bills and the Emergence of Gandhi



When the First World War ended, the people of India had hoped that the much hated Defence of India Act, which had been used by the British authorities to suppress Indians, would be repealed and the assurance given in 1917 by the British Parliament moving towards responsible government would be fulfilled. Nothing of the sort happened. Instead the Rowlatt Bills were sprung upon the people of India.

The Government of India had appointed a committee known as 'The Sedition Committee' in December 1917 with Mr. Justice Sydney Rowlatt as President to report on what were termed as "criminal conspiracies connected with revolutionary movements in India" and advise about legislation to deal with them. The Committee was required to sit in camera. Its report was presented on April 15, 1918. The Rowlatt bills take their name from the author of the report.

The Committee recommended special legislation which sought to contain the liberty and legal rights of the people in a manner very drastic in nature. The special law was called 'The Anarchical and Revolutionary

Crimes Act' having provision for a special court for speedy trial whose decisions could not be challenged through an appeal. The relevant provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code and the Evidence Act were suspended for the purpose of this law.

Gandhiji happened to read the recommendations of Rowlatt Committee's report and was alarmed. Even though he was unwell, he held a small conference consisting of

*contd. on page 2*

## HOMAGE

Nehru Centre will pay homage to the memory of late Shri Rajni Patel, founder member and former general secretary of the Centre, on his 37th death anniversary on Friday, 3rd May 2019.

### PROGRAMME

10.30 a.m. - Tree plantation at Rajni Patel Memorial Garden.

11.00 a.m. - Floral tribute at Nehru Centre, Discovery of India Building, Ground Floor.

Vallabhbhai Patel, Sarojini Naidu, B. G. Horniman, Umar Sobani, Shankarlal Banker and Anusuyabehn at Satyagraha Ashram. A satyagraha pledge was drafted by Gandhi and was signed by all present. The pledge said:

“Being conscientiously of opinion that the Rowlatt Bills are unjust, subversive of the principles of liberty and justice and destructive of the elementary rights of individuals on which the safety of the community as a whole and the state itself is based, we solemnly affirm that in the event of these bills becoming law and until they are withdrawn, we shall refuse civilly to obey these laws and such other laws as a committee, to be hereafter appointed, may think fit, and we further affirm that in this struggle, we will faithfully follow truth and refrain from violence to life, person or property.”

When the Bill was introduced in the Imperial Legislative Council, Sir Srinivas Sastri made his memorable speech opposing it. He was at his eloquent best. He said, “I have known governments lose their heads; I have known a reign of terror being brought about; I have known the best, the noblest Indians, the highest characters amongst us brought under suspicion, standing in hourly dread of the visitations of the C.I.D. When government undertakes a repressive policy, the innocent are not safe.” Sir Sastri went on to say, “You cannot place on the statute book such drastic legislation without putting into the hands of over-enthusiastic executive officers what I consider short cuts to administrative peace.” He warned the Council, “There will be such lowering of public spirit, there will be such lowering of the political tone in the country that all your talk of responsible government will be mere mockery.” Spelling out the widespread opposition to the bill, he asked, “Whom have you behind now amongst Indians? The tragic story of



Justice Sydney Rowlatt

India may be summed up in these words that you have governed all these centuries in India in isolation without having any responsible section of the public opinion behind you.”

In spite of all opposition, the bill was finally passed on March 18, 1919 and three important members of the council, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Mr. Mohammed Ali Jinnah and Mr. Mazarul Haque resigned.

That night Gandhiji, who was in Madras staying with C. Rajagopalachari, fell asleep while thinking over the question. When he got up very early in the morning, an idea struck him which he shared with Rajaji, “The idea came to me last night in a dream, that we should call upon the country to observe a general hartal. Satyagraha is a process of self purification and ours is a sacred fight,

and it seems to me to be in the fitness of things that it should be commenced with an act of self-purification. Let all the people of India, therefore, suspend their business on that day and observe the day as one for fasting and prayer....”

The date of the hartal was originally fixed for March 30, but was subsequently changed to April 6. But Delhi observed the hartal on March 30 also. A mammoth procession was taken out. The police tried to disperse the procession and shot at it killing some people. The hartal on April 6, however, was peaceful in Delhi. In Bombay the citizens assembled in thousands at Chowpatty with Gandhiji in their midst and after a dip in the sea, they moved in a procession throughout the city.

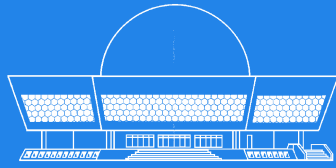
Many appeals were made to Gandhiji to visit Delhi and Punjab. He set out from Bombay for Delhi and Amritsar on April 7. At Palvel he was served with a written order banning his entry into Punjab. He refused to get down from the train, was taken in police custody and then to Mathura. Next morning he was put in a goods train going towards Bombay. At Sawai Madhopur, he was transferred to another train and taken to Bombay.

The news of Gandhiji's arrest sent a wave of indignation throughout India. There was widespread disturbance and unprecedented scenes of mob fury. India was accepting the challenge to her liberty, honour and self respect.

### What Nehru said....

The amazing thing about Gandhi was that he adhered, in all its fullness, to his ideals, his conception of truth, and yet he did succeed in moulding and moving enormous masses of human beings. He was not inflexible. He was very much alive to the necessities of the moment, and he adapted himself to changing circumstances. He moulded a whole generation and more and raised them above themselves.... That was a tremendous achievement.

*Foreword to 'Mahatma: Life of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi'*  
by D. G. Tendulkar



NEHRU PLANETARIUM

## SKY SHOW : 'Stars and Wonders of the Universe'

### Timings

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

(MONDAY CLOSED)

## Do black holes exist?

On April 10, 2019 at 6:30 IST first ever picture of a black hole was released at a press conference held at Brussels, Belgium.

Simply put - a black hole is that region in space in which whatever goes in will not be able to come out, even if that happens to be LIGHT.

It turns out that if an object is given a force that will make it travel with a speed of 11.2 kilometer per second or higher, then that object will overcome the gravity of Earth. Scientists call this speed as escape velocity.

Further we need to understand what light is. Light is a beam of particles called photon which travels with velocity of 3 lakh k.m. per second.

With this background let us go back to our discussion on black holes.

In 1784 John Michell, an English clergyman, came up with a novel idea of 'dark star' which meant a star with a large mass and therefore stronger gravity that even light cannot escape. But the world of science was not ready to pursue this idea. There was no theory or mathematical equation that would support formation of 'dark star'.

More than a century later, in 1915 Albert Einstein developed his famous theory of General Relativity, also known as the general theory of relativity (GTR). It is a geometric theory of gravitation, providing a unified description of gravity as a geometric property of space and time, or spacetime. 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.

These theories indicated that it is possible to have matter compressed to a point. This point was defined as singularity. Around this point, that is singularity, there would be a spherical region. Inside this region the escape velocity would be larger than the speed of light. Matter can fall into it but once inside the region it simply cannot escape. Radius of this region was named Schwarzschild radius.

Such a region is a black hole.



Albert Einstein



Karl Schwarzschild

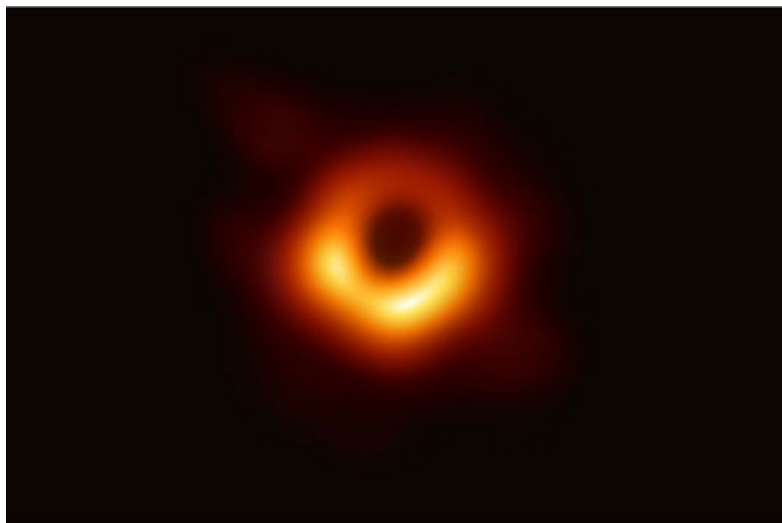
Such a region is a black hole.

For nearly 50 years scientists referred to black holes by their technical name Schwarzschild radius or singularity. In 1964 science journalist Ann Ewing addressed these extraordinary regions in space “ ‘black hole’ in space”. Three years later in 1967 during a conference, John Wheeler a famous physicist himself reportedly used the term ‘black hole’.

First visual proof of existence of black holes was obtained by Suvi Gezari, an astronomer at Johns Hopkins University. She found a strong radiation coming out from an object catalogued as PS1-10jh. Such a strong radiation is possible only in the vicinity of a black hole.

The first ever picture of a black hole was created using supercomputers. In April 2017 a network of 8 observatories were used for observations of region around galaxy M87. The observations were taken simultaneously.

The entire research related to the observations and construction of the image of region around the black hole in the centre of M87 was published in a special issue of scientific journal *Nature*.



First ever picture of a black hole in the galaxy M87. It was created using data taken by Event Horizon Telescope.

The galaxy is about 55 million light years from Earth. The core of the galaxy contains a supermassive black hole with mass of billion times that of the Sun's mass. The red part of this image is a gas rotating around the black hole at a speed of 1000km/s.

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## Public Talks at Nehru Planetarium

Prof Arnab Bhattacharya, of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, delivered a public lecture on 28th Feb 2019 on the occasion of National Science Day, on ‘The Periodic Table of the Universe: What is the world made up of?’

United Nations has declared 2019 as the “International Year of the Periodic Table” commemorating the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements discovered by the Russian scientist, Dmitri Mendeleev.

Prof Bhattacharya started his talk by pointing out some events associated with 28th of February. He pointed out that on this day in 1928, Sir C V Raman discovered an optical phenomenon that earned him the Nobel Prize in Physics. The phenomenon is known as the Raman Effect.

He then listed out some other events and people associated with 28th February, like Nobel Laureates born on this date.

He briefly spoke about how ancient cultures considered earth, water, air, fire etc to be elements. As science progressed, we realized that these are not really elements as, in terms of nuclear physics, an element has protons and neutrons in its nucleus and electrons revolving around it.

He said, “The periodic table of the elements is perhaps the most recognizable icon of chemistry today. Hanging stolidly in almost every science classroom, it reminds us of our desire, from the earliest times, to find patterns and organize these building blocks that make up the world around us.”

Towards the end of his talk he gave interdisciplinary insights of the periodic table from astronomy, chemistry, and nuclear physics that have, over the years, helped scientists understand the elements that the universe is made up of.



Prof. Arnab Bhattacharya

# Cultural Wing

## SUMMER WORKSHOPS

During the summer vacations, the cultural wing of Nehru Centre has been organizing dance and theatre workshops for students who are interested in performing arts.

### Kathak Darpan Workshop conducted by Pandit Birju Maharaj

This workshop on Kathak dance will be conducted by the maestro of Kathak, the doyen of Lucknow gharana, Padma Vibhushan Pandit Birju Maharaj. This workshop is attended by nearly 600 students every year. Maharaj ji gives personal attention to train each and every student and the classes continue for nearly 9 hours every day.



Pandit Birju Maharaj

**Date:** 20th to 24th May 2019  
**Time:** 10.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.  
**Venue:** Nehru Centre Auditorium  
*Who can attend:* Students of Kathak dance

### Theatre Appreciation Workshop conducted by Smt. Nadira Zaheer Babbar



Smt. Nadira Zaheer Babbar

This workshop trains students in Voice & Speech Delivery Body movements, Improvisation and Characterization. The workshop is restricted to only 40 students per batch. Smt. Nadira Zaheer Babbar who will conduct the workshop is a Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee and a theatre personality involved in theatre activities since the last four decades.

**Date:** 20th to 24th May 2019  
**Time:** 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.  
**Venue:** Hall of Knowledge, Ground Floor,  
Discovery of India Building  
*Who can attend:* Students of dramatic arts

## Review: Shaam-e-Afsaana

Afsaana Nigari is the reading of short stories from Urdu literature. On 16th March 2019, Nehru Centre presented an evening 'Shaam-e-Afsaana' in which 3 Urdu short stories were read out.

The opening story, 'Madaawa' (Sorrow) was narrated by Siddi Sajida Jamal Ahmed, a new name in the field of story writing. The story, narrated in flashback, is a triangular love story of a businessman, his wife and her lover.

The second story, 'Satwaasa' (Child born in 7th month) was written and read by Dr. Sadiqua Nawab 'Shaher'. It narrated problems faced by a ragpicker couple and their futile search to get medicine help for their prematurely born new born baby.

The third and final story, 'Bhai-Das-Kayaas' was written and narrated by Ishtiyag Saeed. The story is of two neighbours, Ilyas Safi and Tasqin Siddiqui, in her forties who has 2 daughters.



Siddi Sajida Jamal Ahmed narrating her story



Dr. Sadiqua Nawab 'Shaher' narrating her story



Ishtiyag Saeed narrating his story

## Programmes for May 2019

### OMKAR DAWARE

Omkar completed B.F.A. in painting from Sir J. J. School of Art. He has participated in many shows and won awards. His figurative portraits are realistic in acrylic on canvas. He also has wide experience in 2 D and 3 D animation.

Tuesday 30th April to  
Monday 6th May 2019  
( AC Gallery )

### ELLORA ART & CRAFT SOCIETY

A group of artists from Assam and West Bengal will showcase their paintings. Each one has a different style and subjects of their artwork and mediums.

Tuesday 30th April to  
Monday 6th May 2019  
( Circular Gallery )

### REVATI GANGAL



Painting by Revati Gangal

Revati obtained B.F.A. and M.F.A. in painting with specialization in portraiture from Sir J. J. School of Art.

She has many solo and group shows to her credit. She has won many prestigious awards. Her figurative and subjective paintings are in acrylic on canvas.

Tuesday 7th May to  
Monday 13th May 2019  
( AC Gallery )

### DIPTI THAKARE

Dipti has received B.V.A. and G.D.A. from Thane School of Art. She is inspired by beautiful landscapes and animals. Her mediums are charcoal, tempera and acrylic on canvas.

Tuesday 7th May to  
Monday 13th May 2019  
( Circular Gallery )

### RAJ MAJI PARAN BANTI DEVI JAGDISH MOHANTY USHA M.G.

### KOYEL DAS MAJI RAVINDRA ARALAGUPPI

Raj obtained B.F.A. and Diploma in Digital Art from Mysore. In his paintings, he tries to express his emotions towards life and a subtle understanding of spiritualism. His thematic figurative paintings are in oils and acrylics on canvas.

Paran Banti Devi secured B.F.A. in painting from Karnataka. She has many shows to her credit and won awards. She has exhibited her thematic figurative paintings in acrylic on canvas in all over India.

Jagdish completed B.F.A. in painting from Mysore. His figurative



Painting by Raj Maji

paintings are based on Spirituality and are in acrylic on canvas.

Usha secured B.F.A. in fine art from Kumpu University and M.V.A. from Davangere University. She has received many awards for her figurative paintings in acrylic on canvas.

Koyel has B.F.A. degree in painting and diploma in digital art from Mysore. She has been a designer and animator working at California. She also has written illustrated books for children. Her compositions are in charcoal.

Ravindra received B.F.A. from Kumpu and M.F.A. from Gulbarga University. Presently apart from painting, he also acts and directs films in Bangalore. His paintings are thematic in acrylic on canvas.

Tuesday 14th May to  
Monday 20th May 2019  
( AC Gallery )

## SHUBHAM KESUR



Painting by Shubham Kesur

**Shubham** completed his art education from L. S. Raheja School of Art, Mumbai. His paintings are landscapes and seascapes in oil on canvas.

**Tuesday 14th May to  
Monday 20th May 2019  
( Circular Gallery )**

## RAHUL INAMDAR

**Rahul** is an Engineer by profession. He has developed his art on his own by a deep study on the subject. He has been giving Talks on Art in India and Dubai. He has had many solo shows to his credit in India and abroad. His series of canvases painted with sparse pigments of oil paints, attempts to feel the space, visually.

**Tuesday 21st May to  
Monday 27th May 2019  
( AC Gallery )**

## MANISHA TAVATE ANURADHA BHANDARI

**Manisha** is learning art from Rishikesh Kala Mahavidyalaya, Panvel. She has had many shows in Mumbai. Her landscapes and figurative paintings are in oils.

Anuradha secured B.F.A. in painting from Visakhapatnam. She has

exhibited her works in India and abroad. Her thematic paintings are in acrylic on canvases.

**Tuesday 21st May to  
Monday 27th May 2019  
( Circular Gallery )**

## 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 a Principal of art colleges in Nashik. His paintings are in oils and mix media on canvas.

**Prashant** secured Dip.A.Ed., G.D.A. and A.T.D. from Pune. His figurative paintings are in acrylic on canvas.

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

## 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 )**

## TALENT DEFIES HANDICAP

Physical or mental handicap is no bar to express one's talent. This was proved by the children who participated in the 'On-the-Spot Art Contest' for physically challenged children organised on 11th February 2019. This is Nehru Centre Art Gallery's annual feature.

Eminent artists Ms. Rupali Madan and Mr. Sumeet Patil judged the works of participating children and prizes were distributed to the winners.

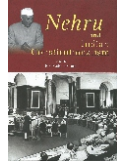


Physically challenged children at work at the 'On The Spot Art Contest'

For Private Circulation Only | Posted at Worli, MDG, Mumbai - 400 018. on 24/25th of previous month

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Book of the Month**



Edited by:  
N. R. Madhava Menon

Price : Rs. 650/-

Publisher:  
Indus Source Books

Contributors:  
P. Ishwara Bhat  
Janaki Ballav Patnaik  
Ashok Chousalkar  
B. G. Verghese  
Inder Malhotra  
Benjamin Zachariah



**New Arrivals - Children's books in the library**

**Books on Sale**  
INDIA'S DEFENCE PREPAREDNESS  
NEHRU AND INDIAN CONSTITUTIONALISM  
INTERNAL SECURITY IN INDIA  
CONSTITUTIONALISM AND DEMOCRACY IN SOUTH ASIA  
मुंबई 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

**Colourful art catalogues for sale**

- (1) GOPALRAO DEUKSAR (1995)
- (2) VINAYAKRAO KARMARKAR (1996)
- (3) MITTER BEDI (1997) . (4) S. L. & G. S. HALDANKAR (1998)
- (5) BALAJI & HARISH TALIM (1999)
- (6) D. G. KULKARNI (DIZI) (2001)
- (7) NARAYAN L. SONAVADEKAR (2003)
- (8) NAGESH B. SABANNAVAR (2004)
- (9) SAMAKALEEN (2005) . (10) VINAYAK S. MASOJI (2006)
- (11) K. B. KULKARNI (2007)
- (12) P. A. DHOND (2008) . (13) HAREN DAS (2009)
- (14) ART HERITAGE OF MAHARASHTRA (2010)
- (15) G. N. JADHAV (2011) . (16) J. B. DIKSHIT (2014)
- (17) DINANATH DALAL (2015) . (18) A. A. RAIBA (2016)
- (19) RAJA RAVI VARMA (2017) . (20) SHIAVAX CHAVDA (2018)

**Catalogues not available**

- (1) RAVINDRA MESTRY (1997) . (2) MILLENNIUM SHOW (2000)
- (3) GURU SHISHYA (2002) . (4) COLLECTOR'S PRIDE (2007)
- (5) MARIO MIRANDA (2012) . (6) R. K. LAXMAN (2013)

**ART FUSION Catalogues**

2007 / 2008 / 2009 / 2010 / 2011 / 2012 / 2013 / 2014

**Set of five assorted gift cards**

Designed by differently abled children

SANSKRUTI - CD ROM : An aesthetics of Indian culture

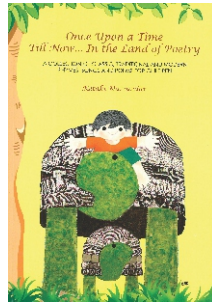
DISCOVERY OF INDIA (VCD Version)

**Set of ten greeting cards**

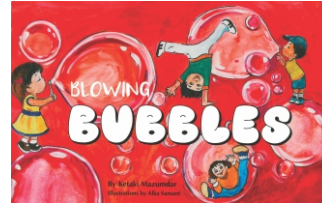
Based on Discovery of India Exposition

**Available at:**

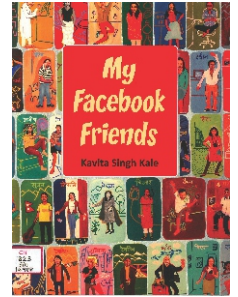
Book Stall, Ground floor, Discovery of India Building,  
NEHRU CENTRE, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.



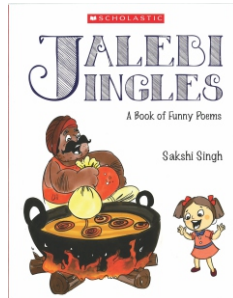
Once upon a time till now...  
In the land of poetry  
Call No: Ch823 / Maz  
Barcode: 17680



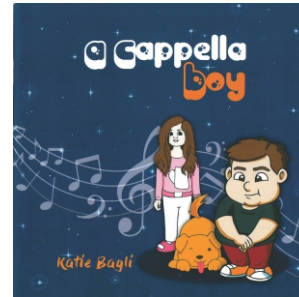
Blowing bubbles  
Call No: Ch823 / Maz  
Barcode: 17679



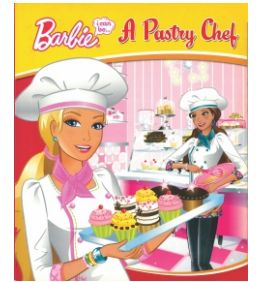
My facebook friends  
Call No: Ch823 / Sin  
Barcode: 16988



Jalebi Jingles  
Call No: Ch823 / Sin  
Barcode: 17650



A cappella boy  
Call No: Ch823 / Bag  
Barcode: 17607



Barbie story I can be  
pastry chef  
Call No: Ch823 / Woo  
Barcode: 17213



Explore the world of poems with **Ketaki Mazumdar** as she reads from her books

- 1. Once upon a time till now... In the land of poetry
- 2. Blowing bubbles

and join in some fun activities

Venue : Nehru Centre Library  
Time: 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.  
Date: 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
Age: 6+  
Entry free, limited seats 20 Only.  
Parents, children are welcome.



Please register@ [aratisdesai@nehru-centre.org](mailto:aratisdesai@nehru-centre.org) only if you plan to attend.

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public holidays

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 Budhkar Marg,  
Gopal Nagar, Worli, Mumbai - 400 030.

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