

Newsletter

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Nehru Centre



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Events At a Glance...

Cultural Wing

In Harmony with the Mahatma

A musical rendition of poetry inspired by the life and principles of the Mahatma.

Vocal: **Shubha Mudgal**
Tabla: **Aneesh Pradhan**
Harmonium: **Sudhir Nayak**
Dholak: **Vighnesh Kamath**

Date: **Tuesday, 2nd October 2018**
Time: **6.30 pm**
Venue: **Nehru Centre Auditorium**

Sufism

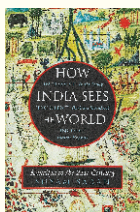
An evening of mystic Sufi music

Performing Artistes:
Ms Indira Naik, Mumbai
& **Mr. Pavan Naik**, Ahmednagar

Date: **Friday, 26th October 2018**
Time: **6.30 pm**
Venue: **Hall of Culture**

Book Talk

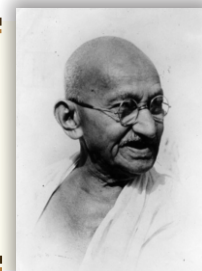
How India Sees the World: Kautilya to the 21st Century



Speaker: **Dr Paul Rozario**
Head, Department of
Political Science,
Sophia College for Women

Date: **Thursday, 25th October, 2018**
Time: **4.30 p.m**
Venue: **Who Are We Hall**

Birth of a Mahatma: 150 years ago



In 1955 Mr. Francis Watson, a writer and a broadcaster recorded the views and impressions of several people who had worked with Gandhiji, had been his close associates, and some who had even been his critics. These recordings were published in the form of a book titled *Talking of Gandhi*. Some material was provided by Hallam Tennyson, also a writer who had served with the Friends' Ambulance unit in India during World War II. Though there are several biographies of Gandhiji providing detailed accounts of his life, his character, his politics and his philosophy, the impressions recorded in this book are very unique because they are of those who were in touch with him on a day-to-day basis and what they said was spontaneous. On the occasion of the beginning of the 150th birth anniversary year of the

Mahatma, the best way of remembering him would be to go through the recordings made 63 years ago.

The book begins with the author saying that in an age of stentorian dictatorships, Gandhi's voice was not the voice of an orator and Jawaharlal Nehru says, "His voice never rose above a certain timbre. He never raised his voice, but it was a penetrating voice."

Describing what Gandhiji looked like, Padmaja Naidu, daughter of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, said, "My mother had named him Mickey Mouse and he loved the name, but it took a long time for her to explain to him why she called him Mickey Mouse. The reason was the way his ears stuck out like the cartoon character 'Mickey Mouse'. " Mrs. Naidu tried her best to make Gandhiji see the film but in vain. According to Padmaja Naidu, one got the

contd. on page 2

feeling that all his bones were a little crooked, but after the first shock you never remembered about it, because of the tremendous magnetism of his eyes, and in repose, "I think it was the saddest face I have ever seen in my life."

One day, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu and Padmaja Naidu visited Gandhiji on his silence day and informed him that they had met someone who in their opinion was the ugliest man in Delhi. Gandhiji wrote on a piece of paper, "You call him the ugliest man in Delhi? Where do I come into it?" Padmaja Naidu apologized and said that they had met the second ugliest man in Delhi and Gandhiji was very pleased about it.

Verrier Elwin and Louis Fischer admired his eyes and skin. "His back was a most graceful and beautiful thing and he had a wonderfully powerful barrel chest and straight legs." Gandhiji could joke about his appearance. Louis Fischer gives an example, "And as he came he looked at me and he said - 'Oh there you are, Fischer!' This was after four years. He said, 'Well, I haven't grown better looking in these four years, have I?' And I said - 'Well, I wouldn't dare to differ with you'. And he threw back his head and laughed. I might say incidentally, that with the exception of his eyes, all of his individual - the individual features of his face - were ugly. But together his face was beautiful because there was a light in it."

Author Glorney Bolden describes Gandhiji, "What an extraordinary plain looking old man. And yet, within a few seconds all that had completely

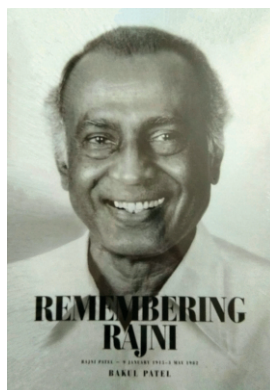
disappeared, you were completely at ease, you found a man who spoke English beautifully, had a wonderful sense of humour, laughing all the time, talking about people in a deep human, personal sort of way."

Gandhiji attracted people of different kinds, from the poorest peasant to princes and rich industrialists. They were all attracted in their own way and influenced by him. Lord Halifax, who as Lord Irwin was Viceroy of India from 1920 to 1931, said, "Gandhi had an immense hold over the people of India for his other quite different qualities, a s c e t i c i s m , his other-worldliness that they attributed to him and so on, which gave him a very unique position among the masses of India and also gave him great power. A very strange man!" When asked what it was that created such a tremendous following, Gandhiji replied, "It's the man of our country who realizes when he sees me that I am living as he does and I am a

part of his own self." Even when he went to call on the king at the Buckingham Palace, he was dressed in a poor man's dress with half his legs visible. When the king reportedly asked, "Mr. Gandhi, how is India doing?" his reply, according to reports, was, "Look at me, you will know from me what India is like." Sir Robert Broomfield, who had conducted the trial of Gandhiji in 1922, said, "It is quite true that ever since he began his political life he identified himself with the people of the country. He liked to be treated as one of them. That was the main ground of his asceticism. And that is what he meant, I imagine, by describing his profession as that of a farmer and weaver."

Gandhiji was very fond of fruits and his meal consisted of some fruit. Though the meal of fruit was doubtless simple, it didn't always look like renunciation to a young critic who asked Gandhiji, "Does that represent the ideal of a *kisan*?" Gandhiji replied with a sweet smile, "No, but after all, God is all forgiving and he forgiveth."

Remembering Rajni



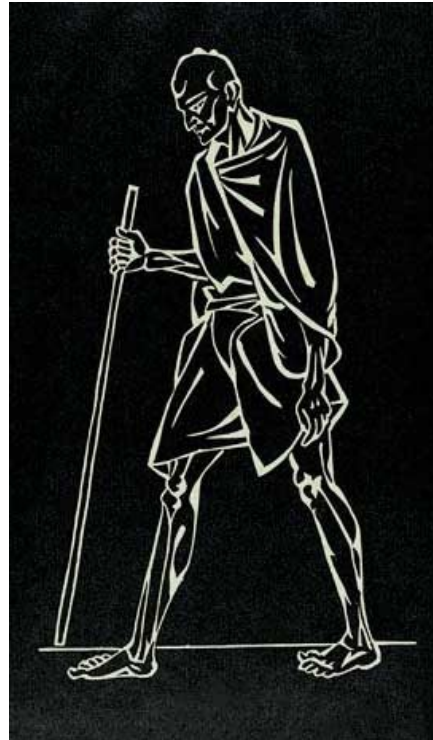
'Remembering Rajni' a book paying tribute to the life and work of late Shri Rajni Patel was released on Friday, 14th September 2018 at the hands of Honourable Former President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee. Shri Sharad Pawar, M.P. (Rajya Sabha) and Chairman, Nehru Centre, presided over the function. Guests of honour were Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde. Well-known theatre personalities Smt. Sai Paranjpe and Shri Dalip Tahil read extracts from the book.

Smt. Bakul Patel welcomed all the guests.

According to Shri G. D. Birla, the great businessman, whom Gandhiji looked upon as his son, "Consistency was not a great virtue of Gandhiji. He was never consistent. You see he changed his attitude and methods as he saw fit from time to time, and as he said that honesty demands that you should do what you think to be right at a given time, it doesn't matter if you are inconsistent." There is a well-known story of the sick calf which after much earnest thought was put out of its misery at the Sabarmati Ashram. There was quite an uproar and Gandhiji received some threats thereafter. According to Mira Behn, Gandhiji's adopted daughter, "Gandhiji did accept the virtue of mercy killing. I am quite clear in my mind that that was the sum total of his belief in these matters: that cattle which can't be helped, and have reached the stage of extreme suffering, must be given relief, if we want to be non violent."

There is another interesting example of Gandhiji's inconsistency. When Gandhiji was in England for the Round Table Conference, two English detectives had been assigned to protect him and of whom he had grown quite fond. On his return to India in 1932 he wanted to send a gift to each of them. He instructed his secretary Pyarelal to select some good English watches to be sent to those detectives. He knew at that time that a resolution had been drafted for the boycott of British goods. Pyarelal collected nearly a hundred watches but none of them was an English watch, they were all Swiss watches. Gandhi said, "No, this won't do. I must

send them English watches. In the first place because I promised them, and secondly to show that I have no animosity against the English people as such and I do not want to boycott their goods merely because they are English." Pyarelal pointed out, "Here is the resolution



before you which is going to be adopted tomorrow, so why go in for English watches when within twenty-four hours you are going to advocate the boycott of British goods?"

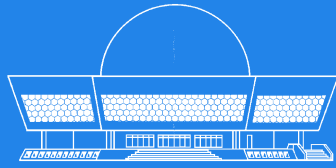
Gandhiji replied, "Well, when that moment comes I shall see what my duty is but for the time being my duty is to give English watches preference to any other."

The author says that, "Inconsistency was also, sometimes, a matter of tolerance, of relaxing rules to meet a situation." Apa Pant, an Indian prince, a freedom fighter, a diplomat and a Gandhian, was once asked by Gandhiji to live exactly like a villager. He did so for three years but his health deteriorated sharply and he almost collapsed. He was advised by none else but Gandhiji's own doctor that unless he took animal protein he wouldn't be strong enough to work. Apa Pant wrote to Gandhiji who immediately replied saying, "Your first duty is to keep your body well, so as to be able to serve the people. Every worker has his duty towards his body. Therefore, you must eat meat. If you can't digest vegetable protein you must take animal protein." Coming from the apostle of *ahimsa*, this, of course, shocked quite a few people. But the Mahatma always enjoyed shocking people.

What Nehru said....

Great men and eminent men have monuments in bronze and marble set up for them, but this man of divine fire managed in his lifetime to become enmeshed in millions and millions of hearts so that all of us have become somewhat of the stuff that he was made of, though to an infinitely lesser degree. He spread out over India, not in palaces only or in select places or in assemblies, but in every hamlet and hut of the lowly and those who suffer. He lives in the hearts of millions and he will live for immemorial ages.

Speech to the Constituent Assembly, February 2, 1948



NEHRU PLANETARIUM

SKY SHOW : 'Awesome Universe'

Timings

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

(MONDAY CLOSED)

This month that year

World Space Week: Sputnik 1

Sixty one years ago, on 4 October 1957, the Soviet Union successfully launched the world's first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1, into orbit. That date marked the beginning of the Space Age for all mankind.

'Sputnik' in Russian means 'fellow traveller'. But this word has now become synonymous with the artificial satellite. Externally, the satellite was a metal sphere with a diameter of 58.5 cm, which is just about twice the length of this page. The sphere had two pairs of antennae for transmitting radio signals. Weighing 83.6 kg on Earth, it was covered with a highly polished heat shield of 1 mm thickness.

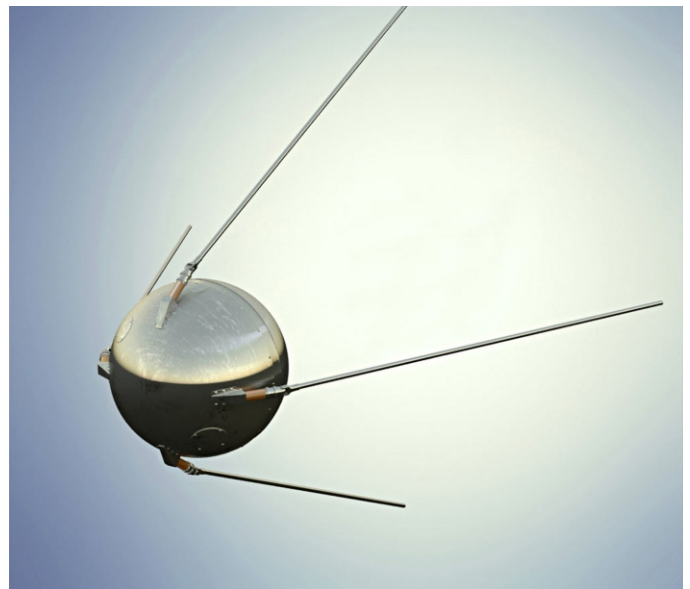
Sputnik 1 travelled around the Earth in an elliptical orbit, inclined to the equator by 65.1° , and completed one orbit in 96.2 minutes. At the farthest point (apogee) it was 939 km from the Earth; and at the closest (perigee), 215 km. Its orbital speed was about 29,000 km per hour.

Sputnik 1 did not carry any scientific instruments; it only transmitted simple radio signals on 20.005 and 40.002 MHz frequencies. The signals were nothing but simple beeps transmitted continuously. The radio signals were received by a large number of monitoring stations including amateur wireless operators. They provided data about the ionosphere, which is at a height of 60–1,000 km above mean sea level and affects the propagation of radio signals. Ground stations tracking the satellite were able to obtain valuable information about the density of the Earth's upper atmosphere.

Sputnik 1 remained operational for three weeks before its batteries ran out on 26 October. It continued to orbit the Earth and then re-entered the atmosphere on 4 January 1958 after burning up due to the heat created by friction with the upper atmosphere. It had completed 1,440 orbits around the Earth by then.

The successful launch of Sputnik 1 triggered the Space Race which went on to become a significant part of the Cold War. Ten years later, on 10 October 1967, the Outer Space Treaty, which forms the basic legal framework of international space law, came into force. The Treaty bars states that are signatory to it from placing weapons of mass destruction into the earth's orbit, on the Moon or any other celestial body, or stationing them in outer space.

The United Nations General Assembly declared in 1999 that World Space Week will be observed each year from October 4-10 to commemorate these two important events in space history. They are the launch of Sputnik 1, the first human-made Earth satellite on October 4, 1957 and the signing of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies on October 10, 1967. The theme for World Space Week 2018 is 'Space Unites the World.'



Model of Sputnik 1 in the gallery of Nehru Planetarium

Planetarium Events

The 8th Dr. H. N. Sethna Memorial Lecture was delivered on September 1, 2018, by Col. Gopal T. Kaushik, VSM (Retd.). He spoke on Nuclear Empowerment of India - Pokhran II.

Col. Kaushik was the Core member of the Shakti Mission (that conducted the nuclear tests). He was, at that time, the Commanding Officer of 58 Engineer Regiment of the Indian Army.

The Pokhran-II nuclear test conducted in the first half of May 1998, made India a 'Nuclear Weapons Power' (the sixth in the world) and changed the perception and attitude of the rest of the world towards India.

Col. Kaushik spoke about the synergy as well as immaculate planning and coordination between the organisations involved in this exercise.

His presentation gave an overview of the different agencies which played a significant role - the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Corps of Engineers, Indian Army. His presentation detailed the role of the military unit of 58 Engineer Regiment of the Bengal Engineer Group (Indian Army), of which he was the commanding officer.

The unit was responsible for:

- Complete engineering works at the test sites.
- Transportation and communication.
- Safety and security of the area, material and personnel including scientists.
- Secrecy behind all the activities, which was very successful.

Col. Kaushik's presentation very clearly showed the general layout of the area and the immense effort put in by the team under extreme climatic and other conditions. Col. Kaushik spoke about the failures that occurred in 1995 and 1996 and the lessons learnt from them. He spoke about the human aspects of 'Op Shakti' and the measures adopted to outwit the spy satellites, the 'Eye in the Sky' in 1997 and 1998.



Col. Gopal T. Kaushik

He ended the presentation by showing a short video of the first press release of the event.

The lecture was well attended by people from different walks of life. It was indeed an honour to have in the audience Dr R. Chidambaram, who coordinated the test preparation for the Pokhran-I (1975) and Pokhran-II (1998). Dr Chidambaram, who is known for his integral role in India's nuclear weapons programme had delivered the 2nd Dr H. N. Sethna Memorial lecture in 2012.

Cultural Wing

IN HARMONY WITH THE MAHATMA

To celebrate the beginning of the 150th birth anniversary year of Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru Centre, Mani Bhavan Gandhi Sangrahalaya & Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Mumbai jointly present a musical rendition of poetry inspired by the life and principles of the Mahatma.



Conceptualized by vocalist **Shubha Mudgal** and tabla player **Aneesh Pradhan**, this programme will include poetry in dialects of Hindi, composed by Mudgal and Pradhan, as well as compositions that have for long been associated with the Mahatma.

Accompanists:

Sudhir Nayak on Harmonium
Vighnesh Kamath on Dholak

Tuesday, 2nd October 2018, 6.30 p.m.
Nehru Centre Auditorium

Entry: Passes will be available On 28th September from 10.30 a.m. onwards until availability after which the booking window will be closed.



Inspired by the works of mystic Sufi poets like Rumi, Bulleh Shah and others, Sufi music has a popular appeal because of its entrancing rhythm and pure lyrics. It is performed as qawwali, ghazals or kafi.

Nehru Centre invites you to an evening of melodious Sufi music. Performing artistes will be **Ms. Indira Naik**, Mumbai and **Mr. Pavan Naik**, Ahmednagar.

Friday, 26th October 2018, 6.30 p.m. | **Free to all music lovers**
Hall of Culture

Review: **22nd Theatre Festival** | 3rd Sept. to 10th Sept. 2018



Scene enacted from "Dear Aajo" ▶

◀ Scene enacted from "Aurat!, Aurat!!, Aurat!!! - Ismat Aapa Ke Naam-3"



Scene enacted from "Ananya" ▶

◀ Scene enacted from "Ek Chatur Naar Bhaare Hoshiyar"



The 22nd edition of the theatre festival was held from 3rd to 10th September 2018. This festival comprised of eight plays in English, Hindi, Marathi, Urdu and Gujarati.

The festival opened with the renowned Urdu writer Ismat Chughtai's narration of women's plight in India - "AURAT!, AURAT!! AURAT!!! - ISMAT APA KE NAAM-3". This play was directed by Naseeruddin Shah and enacted by the artists of Motley Productions.

The festival moved from Urdu to Marathi to a play titled "DEAR AAJO" directed by Ajit Bhure and written and enacted by Mayuri Deshmukh, a young playwright who has very beautifully depicted how a generation gap can be bridged with reason and understanding.

The festival also included a comedy in Gujarati "EK CHATUR NAAR BHAARE HOSHIYAR", directed by Arvind Vaidya and enacted by Nimesh Shah, Mallika Shah Awate and others.

Nadira Babbar presented a play "CHALONA AA JAO" in Hindi reflecting the bane of the dowry system in our society.

The festival ended with "ANANYA" a popular play in Marathi which received standing ovation by audience in a fully packed auditorium.

Programmes for October 2018

SHUBHANGI GADE

Shubhangi secured Diploma in Applied Art from Sophia Polytechnic. She will display calligraphy in Pali Script on canvases. She has had many exhibitions in India and won awards.

**Tuesday 2nd October to
Monday 8th October 2018
(AC Gallery)**

JAYASHRI GORADIA

Jayashri received G. D. A. in Painting from L.S. Raheja School of Art, Mumbai. She has exhibited her works in India and participated in many art activities and camps. Her paintings are on human figures in black & white with homemade medium.

**Tuesday 2nd October to
Monday 8th October 2018
(Circular Gallery)**

ARJUN MACHIVALE
RIYAZ KAZI
MAHESH KADAM
SANJAY PURANIK
KAVITA PUNEKAR
JAVED MULLA
SATISH SAKPALE
RUPESH BAIT

Arjun obtained A.T.D. and A.M. from J. J. School of Art. His landscapes are in acrylic of canvas.

Riyaz has received A.T.D. & A.M. from J. J. School of Art. His landscapes are in opaque colours on paper.

Mahesh secured M.A.; G.D.A.; A.T.D.; A.M. and Dip. A.Ed. from

Mumbai. His landscapes are in water colour.

Sanjay completed G.D.A. from J. J. School of Art and B.A. from Mumbai. His figurative paintings are thematic in oils on canvas.

Kavita obtained M.A. in Fine Art from Bhopal and A.M. from J. J. School of Art. Her figurative paintings are in oils & acrylic on canvas.

Javed is a self-taught artist. His landscapes are in oil on canvas.

Satish received A.M. in Painting from J. J. School of Art. He has had many shows in Mumbai and won awards. His abstract paintings are based on 'Space'.

Rupesh has completed Foundation in Applied Art. His landscapes are in oil on canvas.

**Tuesday 9th October to
Monday 15th October 2018
(AC Gallery)**

SANJAY SHELAR

Sanjay completed G.D.Art from Kalaniketan Mahavidyalaya, Kolhapur. His realistic and figurative paintings are in acrylic, oils and water colours. He has given over hundred demonstrations and conducted workshops in art institutions. He has won many awards and published books on art.

**Tuesday 16th October to
Monday 22nd October 2018
(AC Gallery)**

PAINTINGS BY THE STUDENTS FROM THE STUDY CAMPS

Nehru Centre Art Gallery's collection of paintings of the students from the

study camps taken to various places in India will be on display.

**Tuesday 16th October to
Monday 22nd October 2018
(Circular Gallery)**

SPECTRUM ARTISTS' CIRCLE, KOLKATA

Over thirty five years ago, Spectrum Artists' Circle began its journey. Some upcoming artists from Bengal got together to achieve something new in the sphere of Indian art. This group will display their paintings and sculptures.

**Tuesday 23rd October to
Monday 29th October 2018
(AC Gallery)**

RASHIDA K. (BADANI)

Rashida completed A.T.D. and Diploma in Textile Designing. Her abstract paintings are in acrylic and mixed media on canvas.

**Tuesday 23rd October to
Monday 29th October 2018
(Circular Gallery)**

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

Bharati Vidyapeeth's School of Photography, Pune will showcase the works of students in their Annual show - "Albus Atrum 2018".

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

**Tuesday 30th October to
Monday 5th November 2018
(AC & Circular Gallery)**

PUBLICATIONS

BOOK OF THE MONTH



**Raja Ravi Varma:
A retrospective exhibition
(Art Catalogue)
Year: 2017
Rs. 350/-**

Books on Sale

- MUMBAI PAST & PRESENT
- WITNESS TO HISTORY
- REMEMBERING EINSTEIN
- EXPLORING THE UNIVERSE: The Planetarium Way
- SCIENCE IN INDIA: Past and Present
- DISCOVERY OF INDIA (Abridged and illustrated)
- NEHRU REVISITED
- RULE OF LAW IN A FREE SOCIETY
- CHALLENGES TO DEMOCRACY IN INDIA

Colourful art catalogues for sale

- 1. RAJA RAVI VARMA / 2. A. A. RAIBA
 - 3. DEENANATH DALAL / 4. J. B. DIKSHIT
 - 5. R. K. LAXMAN / 6. MARIO DE MIRANDA
 - 7. G. N. JADHAV / 8. ART HERITAGE OF MAHARASHTRA
 - 9. HAREN DAS / 10. PROF. P. A. DHOND
 - 11. COLLECTOR'S PRIDE / 12. K. B. KULKARNI
 - 13. VINAYAK S. MASOJI
 - 14. SAMAKALEEN (Contemporary Five Artists)
VINAYAKRAO WAGH * RAJARAM PANVALKAR
KRISHNAJI KETKAR * DATTAJIRAO DALVI * GOVIND MALADKAR
 - 15. NAGESH B. SABANNAVAR
 - 16. NARAYAN L. SONAVADEKAR
 - 17. "GURU-SHISHYA"
- BABA GAJBAR & GANPATRAO WADANGEKAR
and many more colourful catalogues**

ART FUSION Catalogues

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

SANSKRUTI - CD ROM : An aesthetics of Indian culture

DISCOVERY OF INDIA (VCD Version)

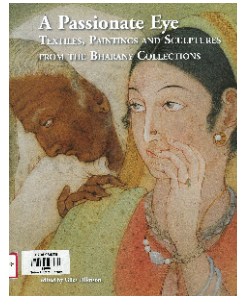
Set of ten greeting cards
Based on Discovery of India Exposition
Set of five assorted gift cards
Designed by Handicapped children

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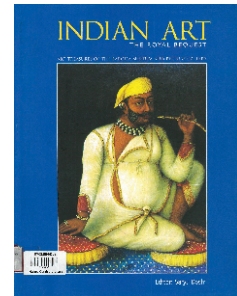
Book Stall, Ground floor, Discovery of India Building,
NEHRU CENTRE, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.



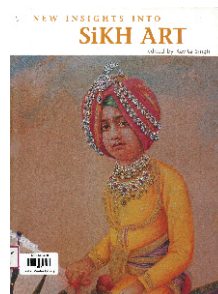
BOOKS ON INDIAN ART



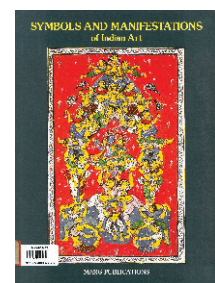
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Indian art
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