

**Programmes organized by Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata
(January 2011 – June 2011)**

January 2011

1. On the occasion of 106th Foundation Day

- A special talk on “**Bauls and Fakirs of Bengal**” delivered by a member of Baul Fakir Sangha. Shri Goutam Ghose, renowned filmmaker remained present and shared his thoughts on the Bauls and live demonstration / performance by members of the Baul Fakir Sangha on 3rd January, 2011 at VMH

- A special lecture on “**The British Presence and Social Change in 19th Century Bengal: Causal Links**” delivered by Professor Tapan Raychaudhuri on 4 January, 2011. Professor Suranjan Das and Dr. Rudrangshu Mukherjee conversed with Professor Raychaudhuri. Shri Goutam Ghose remained present his documentary film on Raja Rammohan Roy titled “**In Search of the Raja**” (2009, 40 minutes).

2. The day two session of the International Workshop on” Commodities and Culture, 1851-1914” in collaboration with Centre for Advance Study in

English, Jadavpur University, Kolkata on 13 January, 2011 at VMH.

The workshop was addressed by the following scholars among others:

John Plunkett, Exeter University

Isabel Hofmeyr, Witwatersrand University

Tapati Guha-Thakurta, CSSS

Devleena Ghosh, University of Technology, Sydney

Clare Pettitt, Kings College, London

Josephine McDonagh, Kings College, London

Mark Turner, Kings College, London

Supriya Chaudhuri, Jadavpur University

Chandreyee Niyogi, Jadavpur University

Nilanjana Deb, Jadavpur University

3. A special lecture entitled “**Writer’s Cramp**” by **Shri Gopal Krishna Gandhi** on 13 January, 2011 at VMH in collaboration with Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2011, Centre for Advance Studies in English, Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

Shri M. K. Narayanan, His Excellency the Governor of West Bengal presides over the lecture session.

February 2011

1. In-house seminar cum interaction held on 02 February 2011 with Dr V. Jeyaraj Retired Curator, Govt. Museum, Chennai as resource person.
2. 43rd Annual General Conference of IASC held on 3-5 February 2011 in collaboration with VMH. The event was inaugurated by H.E. Governor of West-Bengal, Shri M. K. Narayanan. Secretary, Culture, Govt. of India, Shri Jawhar Sircar spoke on the occasion.
3. A special lecture on “**Lila**” – **the Aesthetics of Olympics** delivered by Dr. Jayanta Chowdhuri on 7 February, 2011 at VMH.

Sri Manasij Majumdar, Noted art critic chaired the lecture session.

4. The exhibition of paintings on **Mother Teresa** by **M. F. Husain and Sunita Kumar** held on 28 February 2011, 6 pm at VMH inaugurated by **Shri M. K. Narayanan, His Excellency the Governor of West Bengal** in presence of Chief Guest, **Sister Nirmala**, Missionaries of Charity.
The exhibition was on display for the public from 01 March to 31 March, 2011, daily 10 am. to 5 pm (except Mondays and national holiday) at VMH.

March 2011

1. Celebrated International Women's Day with a panel discussion on **Empowerment of Women in India in the 19th and 20th Centuries** on Tuesday, 08 March, 2011, 5.00 pm at VMH.

The panelists are:

Professor Bharati Ray, Former Member of Parliament and presently Vice-President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

Dr. Krishna Bose, Former Member of Parliament and presently Chairperson, Netaji Research Bureau.

Professor Miratun Nahar, Retired Associate Professor of Philosophy, Victoria College and Former Member, State Women's Commission, West Bengal.

The session will be moderated by **Professor Suparna Gooptu**, Department of History, Calcutta University.

2. In-house lecture on **Documenting Art Objects** by **Mr. Anupam Sah**, Chief Conservator and Documentation Advisor of CSMVS, Mumbai on Wednesday, 09 March 2011, 3 pm at VMH.

3. The exhibition of photographs on **Mother Teresa** by **Shri Sunil K. Dutt** held on 14 March 2011, 6 pm at VMH inaugurated by eminent filmmaker **Shri Buddhadeb Dasgupta**.

The exhibition was on display for the public till 31 March, 2011 daily 10 am. to 5 pm (except Mondays and national holidays) in the Central Hall of the VMH.

4. The exhibition on **Oriental Scenery – Yesterday and Today**, 18th century aquatints by **Thomas & William Daniell** and contemporary photographs by **Antonio Martinelli** inaugurated on 31 March 2011, 6.30 pm at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi in collaboration with Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata and Italian Embassy Cultural Centre.

The exhibition was on display for the public till Thursday, 30 June, 2011 daily 10 am to 5.30 pm (except Mondays and national holidays) at IGNCA, New Delhi.

The dignitaries remained present at the preview programme:

Shri Chinmaya R. Gharekhan, President, IGNCA Trust;

Shri V.B. Pyarelal, Joint Secretary, IGNCA;

H.E. Giacomo Sanfelice di Monteforte, Ambassador of Italy;

Mr. Antonio Martinelli, Curator.

April 2011

1. In collaboration with the Marg Foundation, Mumbai, organized an exhibition of photographs from 1929 by **Emil Otto Hoppe** and the release of the book **Something Old, Something New - Rabindranath Tagore 150th Birth Anniversary Volume** edited by **Dr. Pratapaditya Pal, General Editor, Marg Foundation**. The exhibition was previewed on 16 April 2011, 6.30 pm at VMH.

The following dignitaries were present and addressed the gathering at the preview programme:

Dr. Pratapaditya Pal, General Editor, Marg Foundation introduced the content of the exhibition and book to the audience.

Professor Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, Chairman, ICHR, New Delhi and Trustee of Victoria Memorial Hall addressed the audience on the perspective of the exhibition and released the catalogue of *Hoppe's Santiniketan*.

Hon'ble Justice (Retired) Shri Chittotosh Mukherji, Trustee of Victoria Memorial Hall released the book *Something Old Something New: Rabindranath Tagore's 150th Birth Anniversary Volume*

The exhibition was on display for the public till 30 May, 2011 daily 10 am to 5 pm (except Mondays and national holidays) in the Portrait Gallery of VMH.

2. Celebrated **World Heritage Day** on Monday 18 April 2011, 5.00 pm in collaboration with Inner Wheel District 329 with the following programme at VMH.

A. Special viewing of exhibiton Hoppe's Shantiniketan:

VMH organized a special viewing of the exhibition Hoppe's Santinikatan 1929 on the occasion. Shri M.K. Narayanan, H.E. the Governor of West Bengal accompanied by Professor Chitta Panda and Smt Sumita Roy of Inner Wheel District 329 viewed the exhibition Hoppe's Santinikatan 1929.

B. Symposium on World Heritage Day

A symposium was organized on the theme of World Heritage Day

Participants: Dr Bhabani Dhar, Advisor to Inter City Meet Committee

Past Association Secretary and Past District Chairman

Smt Shanu Lahiri, noted artist and sculptor

Smt Kasturi Gupta Menon, DG, ASI, Govt. of India, Secretary to the Govt. of India

Shri G M Kapur, State Convenor, INTACH

H.E. the Governor of West Bengal addressed the audience on the significance of the year's theme, "Cultural Heritage of Water" highlighting the themes of the past few years and their relevance.

C. Special viewing of Son- et - Lumiere (Sound-and Light) show, *Pride and Glory- the story of Calcutta* at VMH on the occasion.

May 2011

1. Celebrated **International Museums Day** on Wednesday 18 May 2011, 6.00 pm with the following events at VMH.
 - A special talk on "**International Museums Day**" by Professor Ashok Kumar Das, presently Tagore National Fellow, Indian Museum, and a power-point presentation on "**Museum of Letters and Manuscripts**" (Paris) by Smt. Kanchana Mukhopadhyay, President, Alliance Francaise du Bengale and Co-Convenor, INTACH, West Bengal Chapter.

- A panel discussion on “**Museums and Memory**” on Monday 23 May 2011, 6.00 pm at VMH.

The panelists were:

Professor Ashok Kumar Das, Professor Tapati Guha Thakurta. The session was moderated by Professor Swapan Chakravorty.

June 2011

1. Celebrated **World Environment Day** on Sunday, 05 June 2011 with the following events at VMH in collaboration with American Center.

A) With a short interaction on the relevance of the day, (Morning programme: 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.) with 350 school children:

- release of a bookmark,
- green walk,
- gallery visit,
- sapling planting,
- lime painting on tree trunks,
- cleaning of premises,
- recycling.

B) A symposium on “**Environment and Development**” (afternoon programme: 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.) on 05 June, 2011 in collaboration with West Bengal Federation of United Nations Associations (WEBFUNA) and Friends of Victoria Memorial Hall at VMH.

Participants:

Professor Saugata Roy, Hon’ble Union Minister of State for Urban Development, Govt. of India; Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Hon’ble MP, Lok Sabha;

Shri Debashish Kumar, Hon’ble Member, Mayor-in-Council, Parks, Gardens & Sports; Mr. Sitaram Sharma, Honorary Consul of Republic of Belarus & Chairman, Shri Prabodh Chandra Sinha, Hon’ble MLA, President of WEBFUNA; Shri H.P. Budhia, eminent industrialist and President, Friends of Victoria Memorial

2. VMH in association with British Council, Kolkata organized a special talk on **“River of Smoke”** by Shri Amitav Ghosh from his latest work on Sunday, 19 June 2011, 6.30 p.m. at VMH.

Professor Sabyasachi Bhattacharya chaired the lecture session. Professor Supriya Chaudhuri and Rimi B. Chatterjee conversed with the author Shri Amitav Ghosh.

3. Organized a special talk and discussion on **“Does our Government value our precious Heritage?”** by Shri Jawhar Sircar, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India in collaboration with Ladies Study Group on Saturday, 25 June 2011, 6.15 p.m. at VMH.

4. The exhibition on **“Views of Calcutta and its Environs”** by Charles D’oyly on Saturday, 25 June 2011, 6.05 p.m. at VMH inaugurated by Shri Jawhar Sircar, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India.

The exhibition will remain on display for the public till 31 July 2011, daily 10 am. to 5 pm (except Mondays and national holiday) at VMH.

5. In house Hindi workshop conducted by Shri G.D. Keswani, on Wednesday, 29 June 2011, 11.00 a.m. at VMH.

16th July 2011

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