

VICTORIA MEMORIAL HALL NEWSLETTER

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Professor Barun De (1932-2013)

Professor Barun De, Tagore National Fellow of the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, worked at the Victoria Memorial Hall till last year. He passed away after a brief illness on 16 July 2013. He had served for many years as a member of the Board of Trustees of the VMH, and as a leading member of several advisory committees. Among the latter committees perhaps the most important was an experts' committee, appointed by the then Minister of Education S. Nurul Hasan, to consider the reorganization of the exhibits at the VMH to extend coverage to include some aspects of the modern period of national history.

Professor De distinguished himself as a historian in three different areas of research: (a) the political history of eighteenth century India, (b) the history of nineteenth century Bengal, (c) the nationalist freedom struggle in India.

It was in the first of these areas where his scholarly contribution was most significant. In the 1950s Sir Lewis Namier's innovation in the methodology of historical studies had an impact and this influenced studies in the English East India Company, most notably in the works of Dame Lucy Sutherland. Colin Davis had also worked on those lines and Barun De's choice of his field of doctoral research at Nuffield College was an important initiative to extend our knowledge of the inner working of the East India Company, the role of Henry Dundas and others as interest groups and policy makers. His doctoral thesis was never published. But he drew upon his vast knowledge of the structure and discourse of eighteenth century Indo-British politics in many of his writings, dispersed in journals and research papers, most notably in his Presidential Address on 18th century India at the Indian History Congress in 1988.

Barun De's location in Calcutta and access to sources on colonial Bengal naturally led to the development of his interest in that area of study. Some of his early publications were on 19th century Bengal: in 1975 a re-evaluation of the role of Raja Rammohun Roy (in a collection edited by V. C. Joshi), in 1976 another on that theme (in essays edited by C.H. Philips and M. Wianwright, 1976), a critical overview of the Bengal Renaissance and its analogues in 1979 (Centre for Social Studies Monograph Series, 1979), and some essays on his grandfather Mr. Brojendranath De, one of the early I.C.S. administrators in Bengal and a notable Persian scholar (Bengal: Past and Present, 1969). As the Editor (Honorary) of the West Bengal District Gazetteers in 1979-83, he produced two volumes.

The third area of research for Barun De was the encounter between colonialism and nationalism in late 19th and 20th century India and in Asia as a whole. He was commissioned to co-author with Bipan Chandra and Amales Tripathi a survey of the Freedom Struggle (1972). The last work in the series of essays on nationalism in Asia was: *Secularism at Bay: Uzbekistan at the Turn of the Century* (New Delhi, 2006).

Professor De will be remembered in Calcutta as an institution builder. He was the Founder Director of Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta, and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies. As a teacher in the universities of Calcutta and Burdwan and the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, he mentored generations of students of history. His last project at the Victoria Memorial was on the British in eighteenth century India in the light of visual material collected in that institution; the text of his lectures and his notes on that subject will be published by the VMH. The Board of Trustees and the Curator of the VMH convey their condolences to Professor Barun De's bereaved family.

Professor Sabyasachi Bhattacharya

Member, Board of Trustees, Victoria Memorial Hall



A Note from the Secretary & Curator

Dear Friends,

On behalf of everybody in the Victoria Memorial Hall community, I am delighted to be able to share with you this issue of the VMH newsletter, which documents what we have been doing in the past year. Some of these are our core or 'routine' activities, like keeping up our permanent displays in easy visibility, putting together special exhibitions both on-site and in other museums of India, organizing public lectures, seminars and cultural performances, assisting research scholars, sharing our skills on conservation and restoration with other institutions and setting up conservation workshops on heritage sites in far-flung corners of Bengal. Some others are new, like setting up an 'Activity Club' for the youth, a focused programme that is unique among museums in India, and has elicited a truly wonderful response from the city's schools. And yet some others are an expansion on previously existing programmes, for instance reaching out to a still wider community through specially-designed educational and cultural activities involving not only schoolchildren but disadvantaged groups like persons with disabilities and prison inmates. Naturally, therefore, we have a lot to share with you in this newsletter, which, hopefully, gives you some indication of how busy we had been recently and how even more proactive we are planning to be in the near future.

This is a wonderful time to make friends, or – if you are already a VMH aficionado – to increase your involvement, with the Victoria Memorial Hall. I am as delighted as all of my colleagues in the VMH to share with you some of the most exciting new directions that beckon ahead. Over the next few years we will be undertaking an extensive programme of building renovation and gallery redesigning that will improve the display of exhibits and make it more visitor-friendly, while keeping intact the heritage character of this monumental building that has aptly earned the epithet of the 'Taj of the Raj.' We will also be completely overhauling our popular Light-and-Sound show to bring it in tune with the technology of the twenty-first century. We will also have an enhanced virtual presence through a revamped website and our Facebook page, as well as through the Google Art project. And we are actively planning new exhibitions and events that will showcase some of the most wonderful aspects of our history and culture.

We would love to have all of you walking with us in exploring these new pathways. So please come, visit the galleries, walk the gardens, read a book by the pond, throng our shows, friend us on Facebook, or simply sit on a bench and marvel at its stately beauty. We need to pull together all your – and our – energies to keep the VMH ticking as our beloved city's heartbeat.

Warmest regards

Dr. Jayanta Sengupta

Victoria Memorial

Lord Curzon, the then Viceroy of British India (1899-1905) conceived the idea of establishing the Victoria Memorial Hall after the death of Queen Victoria in 1901. It was intended to be a period museum in memory of the Queen with particular emphasis on Indo-British History. Built on a 57-acre land and designed by Sir William Emerson (the then President of the Royal Institute of British Architecture), the splendour of the Memorial is evident in its architecture, which is predominantly Italian Renaissance in character, blended with nuances of Orientalism. The Prince of Wales laid the foundation stone of the Victoria Memorial Hall on 4 January 1906 and it was formally opened to public in 1921. It was declared an institution of national importance by the Government of India Act of 1935.

The Collections

The Victoria Memorial Hall is a repository of many works by 18th and 19th century British and Indian artists. It houses the largest number of oil paintings by Thomas and William Daniell in the world, and also includes works by Johann Zoffany, Tilly Kettle, William Hodges, Samuel Davis, Robert Home, Joshua Reynolds, Charles D'Oyly and other Company artists. The water colour collection of Victoria Memorial includes the work of Emily Eden, John Fleming, Samuel Davis and Solvyns etc. Its philatelic collection of Indian postal history is equally large. Among other important items are: the illustrated Persian Manuscripts, handwritten Qu'ran by the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb; Dara Shiko's translation of the Upanishads; Qajar painting of Fatah Ali Shah; Tipu Sultan's personal war diary and a cannon ball from the battle of Plassey. The collection also includes the third largest painting in the world: Vassili Verestchagin's ***The State Procession of the Prince of Wales into Jaipur in 1876***.

The collection has been further enriched with acquisition of the art works of the Bengal School of Art—specially the work of Abanindranath, Gaganendranath, Jamini Roy and others. Apart from these the collection also includes the painting of Atul Bose, Bamapada Banerjee, Hemen Majumdar, Manindra Bhushan Gupta, Gopal Ghose and others.

The Memorial Hall represents a visual history constructed with:

- Visuals in oil and watercolour
- Sketches and drawings
- Aquatints and lithographs
- Stamps and postal stationery
- Coins and medals
- Arms and armour,
- Books and manuscripts,
- Sculptures
- Costumes
- Personal relics
- Archival documents



Galleries

A large number of artefacts from the invaluable collections of the Memorial are on display. They are suitably placed in various galleries.

The galleries include

- The Royal Gallery (now under repair and renovation)
- Entrance Hall
- Portrait Gallery
- Arms & Armour Gallery
- The Queen's Hall
- The Prince Hall
- Hastings Room
- National Leaders' Gallery
- Calcutta Gallery and
- Durbar Hall



Garden

Apart from the priceless collection displayed in the galleries, the Memorial has a well-maintained picturesque garden with its water-bodies, lawns, gravel pathways, historical busts and a rich collection of around 2200 trees.

The garden itself attracts nearly 2 million visitors annually. It not only offers a visual treat but is also a place that has over the years become a favourite with the young and old for its greenery and vast open space with fresh air.



Glimpses of Past Events

Exhibitions

Paintings by Gaganendranath Tagore

An exhibition with 108 paintings of Gaganendranath Tagore was organized by Victoria Memorial Hall in collaboration with Rabindra Bharati Society and opened on **30 January 2012** at Victoria Memorial Hall. The exhibition was inaugurated by eminent artist **Shri Shuvaprasanna. Dr. Ratan Parimoo**, L.D. Museum & N.C. Mehta Gallery, Ahmedabad introduced the exhibition. The exhibition was on view for the public till 15 March 2012.



The Idea of Space and Rabindranath Tagore

A photographic exhibition on **The Idea of Space and Rabindranath Tagore**, conceived and curated by Delhi-based artist **Shri Samit Das**, 27 February 2012 to 8 April 2012. The exhibition was inaugurated on **27 February 2012** at Victoria Memorial Hall.





Wonder of It All

A retrospective exhibition entitled **The Wonder of It All** featuring works by eminent artist Shri Sakti Burman. The exhibition was inaugurated by His Excellency the Governor of West Bengal **Shri M.K. Narayanan** on **2 April 2012**. The exhibition was on view for the public in the Portrait Gallery and Entrance Hall of Victoria Memorial Hall of till 29 April 2012.



An interactive session in connection with the retrospective exhibition of **Shri Sakti Burman** entitled **A Sense of Wonder** where Professor **B N Goswamy** was in conversation with the artist.



Exhibition of Sculptures

An exhibition of works by the eminent sculptor **Shri Prodosh Dasgupta** (1912-1991) was organized in collaboration with Lalit Kala Akademi to commemorate the artist's birth centenary year. The exhibition was inaugurated on **25 July 2012**. **Shri Sandip Sarkar**, renowned art critic spoke about the artist's life and work. The exhibition was on view for the public till 12 August 2012.



Glimpses of Regal Bengal

Glimpses of Regal Bengal: The Government Houses and Estates- inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, **Smt. Mamata Banerjee** in the presence of H.E. the Governor of West Bengal, **Shri M.K. Narayanan** on **15 August 2012** at Raj Bhavan, Kolkata. The exhibition was subsequently on view in the Queen's Hall of Victoria Memorial Hall from 20 August 2012 to 10 March 2013.



Touring Exhibition

1857 - The First Spark of Independence

Victoria Memorial Hall in collaboration with Government Museum, Jhansi organized an exhibition of digital reproductions from the collection of Victoria Memorial Hall entitled 1857 - **The First Spark of Independence** from **18 December 2012** at Government Museum, Jhansi. The exhibition was on view for the public till **9 January 2013**.

International Exhibition

Art across Asia: Renewed Encounters

Victoria Memorial Hall organized an international exhibition **Art across Asia: Renewed Encounters** in collaboration with Asian Artists' Exchange Planning Committee, which was inaugurated on **24 August, 2012**. The exhibition featured 60 contemporary works by 26 artists from 5 Asian countries including India.

Mr Mitsuo Kawaguchi, Consul General of Japan in Kolkata, **Professor Sangin Kwon**, Professor Kyung Sung University, Busan, South Korea, Professor Kozo Shioe, Director of Kyoto Municipal Art Museum, **Mr Jogen Chowdhury**, eminent artist from India and **Ms Midori Yamamoto**, curator and coordinator of the exhibition addressed the audience on the occasion. The exhibition was on view till **23 September 2012**.



Outreach Activities

35th Sundarban Mela 2012

Victoria Memorial Hall participated in this fair by mounting an exhibition **1857 - First War of Independence** from **3 to 12 January 2012** at Canning Town, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal.

"Fair, Science & Technology Exhibition and Seminars on Communication of Sustainable Development through Human Initiatives"

Victoria Memorial Hall participated in this event by mounting an exhibition of **1857 - First War of Independence** from **17 to 22 January 2012** at Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Narendrapur, Kolkata.

National Integrity Festival & Gandhi Mela

Victoria Memorial Hall participated in the **National Integrity Festival & Gandhi Mela - 2012** held from **7 to 13 April 2012** at Ramlila Maidan, Kolkata - 700014 by mounting an exhibition entitled **Oriental Scenery**.

Lectures & Seminars

Art and the British Empire: Some New Perspectives

Professor Timothy Barringer, Paul Mellon Professor of History of Art and Director of Graduate Studies, University of Yale and **Ms Gillian Forrester**, Curator of Prints and Drawings, Yale Center for British Art jointly delivered a special lecture entitled **Art and the British Empire: Some New Perspectives** on **3 March 2012** at Victoria Memorial Hall. **Professor Barun De**, Tagore National Fellow at Victoria Memorial Hall chaired the lecture session.



Tourism and Sustainable Energy: Powering Sustainable Development

Lecture on the occasion of World Tourism Day, **27 September 2012** (details under **World Tourism Day 2012**).

The Museum of Tomorrow – Developing a New Vision

A special lecture was organized on **The Museum of Tomorrow – Developing a New Vision** and delivered by **Shri Sabyasachi Mukherjee**, Director General, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai on **1 October 2012**. **Professor Swapan K Chakravorty**, Secretary & Curator chaired the lecture session.

Professor Barun De, Professor Tapati Guha Thakurta, Professor Chitta Panda and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.





Tangible and Intangible Heritage

Two brief talks on **19 November 2012** (details under **World Heritage Week 2012**)

From Nawabi to Sahibdom – British Indian Painters of the 1780s, Colonialism and a Turning Point in Early Modern Globalization

The special lecture on this topic was delivered by **Professor Barun De**, Tagore National Fellow, VMH on **17 December 2012**. **Dr. Rudrangshu Mukherjee**, Editor, Editorial Pages, *The Telegraph*, Kolkata chaired the lecture session.



Celebration/Observance of World/International Days/Weeks

International Museum Day 2012

International Museum Day was observed on **18 May 2012** with the following highlights:

- **Free entry to the Museum**
- **Children's Programme**

The Activity Club of Victoria Memorial Hall invited school children (classes 8 to 12) from different schools. They were guided through the museum galleries and informed about the significance of the various exhibits. Thereafter, a moderated interactive session was conducted with and among the children about their impressions of the gallery visit propagating the message 'Make Museum a Habit'.



- **Special interactive session**

As an extension of the celebration of International Museum Day, a special session was organized on **28 May 2012** with museum professionals associated with other museums in and around the city, experts and Friends of the Museum to exchange and pool-in ideas on the year's theme for International Museum Day **The Role of Museums in a Changing World: New Challenges, New Inspirations.**



World Environment Day 2012

World Environment Day was observed and celebrated on **5 June 2012** with the following programmes:

- ❖ Planting of saplings by staff members of VMH
- ❖ A 'Tree Quiz' based on the collection of trees in VMH garden.
- ❖ Cleaning up of VMH premises --- with the members of the Activity Club of VMH



World Tourism Day 2012

Victoria Memorial observed **World Tourism Day** on **27 September 2012** as follows:

- **Free entry to the Museum**
- **Lecture**

A special lecture was organized on **Tourism and Sustainable Energy: Powering Sustainable Development**, the theme for the World Tourism Day 2012 as declared by the United Nations, and was delivered by **Dr Asish K Ghosh**, Director, Centre for Environment and Development.



World Heritage Week 2012

World Heritage Week was celebrated from 19 to 25 November 2012 with the following events.

- Two brief talks on **Tangible and Intangible Heritage** on **19 November 2012** delivered by **Shri G.M. Kapur**, State Convenor, INTACH, West Bengal Chapter and **Dr. Baisakhi Mitra**, Assistant Professor, Department of Museology, Rabindra Bharati University.



- Screening of two documentary films, **Restoring Art: A Training Programme**, directed by **Shri Sandip Ray** and **CHITRAANJALI - Stefan Norblin in India**, directed by Polish director Malgorzata Skiba on **19 November 2012**.
- A heritage art workshop on **Traditional Shola Pith** was conducted by Ms. Nandita Palchoudhuri on **24 November 2012**. Members of the Activity Club of VMH from Modern High School, Apeejay School, Chowringhee High School, Kolkata as well as other school children participated in the workshop.



Human Rights Day 2012

Victoria Memorial Hall observed Human **Rights Day** with the support of the Directorate of Correctional Services, Government of West Bengal and Flight to Harmony Foundation with a two-day Art Camp on **10 & 11 December 2012** on the lawns of the Victoria Memorial Hall with the participation of 18 artists from the Alipore Central Correctional Home and Alipore Women's Correctional Home, along with 15 other mainstream artists.

The First Lady, **Smt. Padmini Narayanan** inaugurated the Art Camp on Monday, 10 December 2012. **Shri Shankar Chakravarti**, Minister-in-Charge, Correctional Administration, Government of West Bengal also graced the occasion. **Shri Ranvir Kumar**, IG of Correctional Services, Govt. of West Bengal visited the art camp on 11 December, 2012.



Film Screenings

A documentary film **Everything Remains** by Amlan Datta was screened on the occasion of Foundation Day of VMH on **4 January 2012** (details under **Other Events**).

A documentary film was screened for members of the Activity Club on **26 March 2012** (details under **Activity Club for Young Friends**).

A documentary film **Jorasanko Thakurbari** by eminent filmmaker **Shri Buddhadeb Dasgupta** was screened on **16 July 2012** with an introduction by the filmmaker and an interactive session after the screening.



Two documentary films, **Restoring Art: A Training Programme**, and **CHITRAANJALI - Stefan Norblin in India** were screened on **19 November 2012** (details under **World Heritage Week**).

Activity Club for Young Friends

Inter-College Debate

The Activity Club of Victoria Memorial Hall organized an **Inter-College Debate Competition** on the topic **Contemporary India is suffering from the hangover of its Colonial Past** on **20 February 2012** involving students from different colleges/universities. The following colleges/universities participated in the debate:-

Academy of Technology; Jadavpur University; National University of Juridical Sciences, New Alipur College; Presidency University; St. Xavier's College.

The competition was judged by **Professor Barun De** and **Shri Ruchir Joshi**. **Shri Ashoke Vishwanathan** was the moderator of the event.



Documentary Film Show

Activity Club, VMH organized a documentary film show on the **Culture and Heritage** for the Activity Club members (members from Loreto Day School, Elliot Road and Ballygunge Shiksha Sadan) on **26 March 2012** in the Portrait Gallery of VMH.

Just-a-Minute competition

The Activity Club of Victoria Memorial Hall organized a **Just-a-Minute competition** on **18 April 2012** on the occasion of **World Heritage Day** involving the Young Friends of Victoria Memorial Hall. The extempore speakers at the competition were judged by **Ms Kanchana Mukhopadhyay** and **Ms Anjana Basu**. **Shri Nondon Bagchi** was the moderator.

World Environment Day 2012

The Activity Club of Victoria Memorial observed and celebrated **World Environment Day** on **5 June 2012** (details under **Celebration/Observation of World /International Days/Weeks**).

T-Shirt Painting Competition

The Activity Club of Victoria Memorial Hall organized a **T-Shirt Painting Competition** with the Young Friends of the Memorial on **30 July 2012**. Around 80 students from nine schools (Delhi Public School, Ruby Park, Sakhawat Memorial Girls School, Akshar School, Hope Foundation, Ballygunge Shiksha Sadan, Sanlaap School, MSB Educational Institute, Chowringhee High School, Indian Cerebral Palsy and Spastic Society) took part in the competition. Eminent artists/curators **Smt. Nandita Pal Choudhuri**, **Smt. Sohini Dhar** and **Shri Subrata Ghosh** were the judges. Prizes were given to the best five efforts. Ten more works received a special mention of the judges.





Children's Day 2012

Children's Day was celebrated on **14 November 2012** as follows:

- **Free entry to the Museum**

On the occasion of **Children's Day**, the entry to the galleries as well as to the garden of the Victoria Memorial Hall was made free for children less than 12 years of age.

- **Children's Programme**

The Activity Club of VMH organized a **Puppet Show** conducted by **Shri Suresh Dutta** of Calcutta Puppet Theatre Group for the members of the VMH Activity Club and other school children.



World Disability Day 2012

Victoria Memorial Hall observed **World Disability Day** on **3 December 2012** with the following events:

- **Sit-and-draw competition**

The Activity Club of VMH organized a sit-and-draw competition involving around 100 differently abled children. The competition was judged by a team from VMH. Prizes were distributed to the best five paintings. Special children along with their parents and teachers had been invited from the following organizations: *Alokdhara, Turning Point, All Bengal Women's Association, Karunamoyee Parental Organization, Manovikas Kendra.*



- **Mime show**

A **Mime show** was also presented for the participants. The show was conducted by **Swarup Mime Academy**. The performing artistes were young trained professionals afflicted by multiple disabilities.



Workshops

A heritage art workshop on **Traditional Shola Pith** was organized on **24 November 2012** (details under **World Heritage Week**).

Foundation Day of VMH 2012

- On the occasion of 107th Foundation Day of the Memorial, the Activity Club of VMH organized a sit and draw competition on **4 January 2012**.
- A documentary film **Everything Remains** by **Shri Amlan Datta**, 1998, (53 mins) was also screened on the occasion. The director introduced his film and interacted with the viewers after the screening.

Republic Day 2012

A commissioned life-size portrait painting of **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** by artist **Shri Isha Mohammad** was unveiled on the occasion of Republic Day on **26 January 2012**.

Hindi workshop

An in-house Hindi workshop was conducted by **Shri G.D. Keswani**, Former Deputy Director (Implementation), Department of Official Language on **5 March 2012** and on **25 June 2012** by **Shri Ram Narayan Saroj**, Deputy Director, Hindi Teaching Scheme Department of Official Language along with **Shri G.D. Keswani**.

The next in-house Hindi workshop was held on **4 February 2013**.

In-house workshop on Conservation

An in-house workshop on **Metal Conservation** was organized on **30 and 31 July 2012**. **Dr. V. Jeyaraj**, Ex-Curator, Chemical Conservation, Government Museum Chennai conducted the workshop.



Hindi Week

Victoria Memorial Hall observed **Hindi Saptah** during the week **14 to 20 September 2012** with the following programmes:

- Hindi workshop – 14 September 2012
- Hindi writing competition – 17 September 2012
- Hindi quiz – 21 September 2012

The officers and staff of the Memorial participated in these programmes.

Vigilance Week 2012

Vigilance Week was observed starting on **29 October 2012** with officials and staff of VNH taking the pledge of transparency, accountability etc.

Knowledge Sharing Training Programme

A **Knowledge Sharing Training Programme** was introduced for the in-house staff of VMH. These sessions are conceived to be held on a periodic basis for further skill development and capacity building of the Victoria Memorial Hall personnel. The first session was held on **5 July 2012**. **Professor Barun De**, Tagore National Fellow at VMH gave an overview of the first 100 years of British Rule in India from the year 1757 to 1856 which is reflected in a major way in the collections and holdings of VMH.

The second session was held on **13 August, 2012**. **Shri Samarjit Guha** of British Council gave his inputs on **Communication and Marketing of Museums**.

In the third session held on **26 November 2012** **Professor Swapan Kumar Chakravorty**, Secretary and Curator, Victoria Memorial Hall delivered a lecture on **Space: Archaeological, Visual, Literary**.

Touring Exhibition

1857 - The First Spark of Indian Independence

The exhibition of digital reproductions from the collection of Victoria Memorial Hall entitled **1857 - The First Spark of Indian Independence** travelled to Jhansi from 9 December 2011 to 27 January 2012



New Display at the Memorial

Unveiling of Queen Victoria's Piano

On the occasion of **World Music Day** on **21 June 2012** the formal unveiling of **Queen Victoria's Piano** for public display was organized at the Queen's Hall of the Museum.

Professor Barun De, Tagore National Fellow, VMH gave a brief historical background of the Queen's Piano and the Queen's musical inclinations. Musician **Shri Jyotishka Dasgupta** provided some supplementary information about the musical preferences of the Royal family during the Victorian era. This was followed by brief piano recitals by six of his students.



Unveiling of the Writing Desk used by Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay

The 174th birth anniversary of **Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay** was celebrated on **30 June 2012** with the formal unveiling of his restored **Writing Desk** from the collection of VMH.

The unveiling ceremony was followed by brief insights into the life and creative work of the author by Professor Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, Tagore National Fellow, and author of the book *Vande Mataram: the biography of a Song*.

Dr Biswajit Ray, Associate Professor of Bengali, Visva-Bharati, delivered a talk titled **Bankim: Kathaa, Lekhaa, Kaaj**.



Opening of the Upper Circular Gallery

The Upper Circular Gallery of the Queen's Hall was opened for visitors by His Excellency the Governor of West Bengal, **Shri M. K. Narayanan** on **11 September 2012**. VMH-Trustees Justice **Shri Chittotosh Mukherjee**, **Dr. P. C. Mahtab** and **Shri Hirak Ghosh**, Former Secretary, Higher Education Department, Govt. of West Bengal and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.



VIP Visits

The Education Unit of Victoria Memorial Hall attended to ninety (90) VIP visits and other delegations during the period January 2012 to March 2013, including guided tours through the galleries.

Visit of Smt. Sangita Gairola, Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Culture and Shri T.S. Randhawa, the Financial Advisor to the Ministry of Culture, Government of India on 27 April 2012.



Visit of Ms. Hillary Clinton, the Secretary of State, U.S.A. on 6 May 2012.



Visit of Mr. Chen Deming, Honourable Minister of Commerce, China on 26 August 2012.



Visit of the then Honourable Union Culture Minister, Smt. Kumari Shelja on 10 October 2012.



January – December 2013

Chronological Overview

Date	Event	Page no.
4 January 2013	108th Foundation Day of Victoria Memorial Hall	XX
9 January 2013	Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival: Keynote address on Hundred Years of Indian Cinema	XX
4 February 2013	Hindi workshop	XX
28 February 2013	Clay Modelling workshop for children	XX
4 & 5 March 2013	Workshop: Paper Conservation Today	XX
11 March 2013	European Classical Music Concert	XX
23 March 2013	Classical Baroque Music Concert	XX
1 April 2013	Lecture: Booming Satire in Colonial India – its Hows and Whys	XX
18 April 2013	World Heritage Day: Two lectures and film shows	XX
22 April 2013	Earth Day: Craft Workshop with waste materials	XX
11 May 2013	Exhibition: Hoppe's Santiniketan, photographs by Emil Otto Hoppe from 1929	XX
18 May 2013	International Museum Day: Treasure Hunt competition	XX
20 May 2013	Hindi workshop	XX
5 June 2013	World Environment Day: Planting of saplings, painting the tree trunks and film show	XX
17 June 2013	Exhibition: English Heritage Monuments	XX
15 July 2013	Essay Writing Competition	XX
29 July 2013	Knowledge Sharing Programme: Session 4	XX

24 August 2013	Exhibition: Calcutta Kolkata – the Last sixty Years	XX
26 August 2013	A concert of classical music by Panos Karan	XX
26 August 2013	Hindi workshop	XX
27 September 2013	World Tourism Day: Film screening and special talk	XX
14 -20 September 2013	Hindi Saptah	XX
8 October 2013	Special Lecture sessions: Utsab-er sekal o ekal [Festivals – then and now]	XX
26 October 2013	Knowledge sharing Programme: Session 5	XX
28 October 2013		
2 November 2013	Vigilance Week	XX
13 November 2013	Exhibition: The Gates of Csoma by the Hungarian textile artist Ms. Anna Kubinyi (till 13 November 2013)	XX
15 November 2013	Talk on Curious Tales from Calcutta's Past by Shri Jawhar Sircar	XX
18 November 2013	Lecture: Jaina Paintings of Gujarat and the Problem of Chaurapanchashika Style by Professor Ratan Parimoo	XX
19 -25 November 2013	World Heritage Week	XX
30 November 2013	An awareness campaign No Plastic Bags: Keep Victoria Memorial Clean and Beautiful	XX
3 December 2013	Observing World Disability Day, with screening of 'Beyond Belief'	XX
2-14 December 2013	Seminar and workshop on Textile Conservation with Ms Janie Lightfoot	
10 December 2013	Inauguration of exhibition of artworks by inmates of Correctional Homes: Freedom through Art	XX
20 December 2013	In-house Hindi workshop	XX
30 December 2013	Knowledge Sharing Programme: Session 6	XX

Exhibitions

Magnificent Heritage of India

An exhibition of aquatints by Thomas & William Daniell titled **Magnificent Heritage of India** was mounted in Portrait Gallery of VMH on **10 October 2012** and remained on view till 31 May 2013.

English Heritage Monuments

An exhibition of paintings **English Heritage Monuments** by the noted artist **Swaroop Mukerji**. The exhibition was inaugurated on **17 June 2013** at VMH. **Shri Partha Ranjan Das**, Conservation Architect and Member, West Bengal Heritage Commission spoke on the occasion.

The exhibition was on view for the public in the Queen's Hall of Victoria Memorial Hall till 14 July 2013.



Touring Exhibition

1857 - The First Spark of Indian Independence

The exhibition of digital reproductions from the collection of Victoria Memorial Hall entitled **1857 - The First Spark of Indian Independence** travelled to Bhopal, Meerut and Lucknow. The details are as follow:

BHOPAL - From 14 April to 21 May 2013

Inaugurated by **Shri Laxmikant Sharma**, Minister, Culture, Public Relation, Higher Education, Technical Education departments of Madhya Pradesh in presence of Shri Pankaj Rag, Director, Archaeology, Archives and Museum, Bhopal, **Shri Shakil Ahmed**, Administrative Officer, VMH and **Shri Gholam Nabi**, Head Documentation Unit, VMH



MEERUT - From 28 May to 18 June 2013

Inaugurated by **Shri Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan**, Collector, Meerut in presence of **Shri Nawadeep Rinwa**, District Magistrate, Meerut and **Mr. Gholam Nabi**, Head Documentation Unit, VMH.



LUCKNOW - From 1 September to 22 September 2013

Inaugurated by **Dr. Jayanta Sengupta**, Secretary & Curator, Victoria Memorial Hall on 31 August, 2013. The exhibition went on view for the public on 1 September, 2013 and remained on display till 22 September, 2013.



E.O. Hoppe's Santiniketan photographs from 1929

An exhibition of Black and White Photographs

Victoria Memorial Hall in collaboration with Kala Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan organized an exhibition on **Hoppe's Santiniketan**, photographs by **Emil Otto Hoppe** from 1929 at Nandan Gallery, Kala Bhavana, Santiniketan. The exhibition was inaugurated by **Professor Sushanta Dattagupta**, Vice-Chancellor, Visva-Bharati on **11 May 2013**. The exhibition was on view till 18 June, 2013. A brochure was also brought out on the occasion for the public.



Calcutta Kolkata – The Last Sixty Years

Victoria Memorial Hall (VMH) in collaboration with Modern High School for Girls organized an exhibition **Calcutta Kolkata – The Last Sixty Years**, inaugurated on **24 August 2013** at VMH. **Professor Swapan K Chakravorty** and **Sri Amit Chaudhuri** were present as Guests of Honour who spoke on the occasion. The exhibition was on view for the public in the Entrance Hall and Portrait Gallery of VMH till 8 September 2013. A brochure was also brought out on the occasion.



International Exhibition

The Gates of Csoma

Victoria Memorial Hall and Embassy of Hungary in India organized an exhibition **The Gates of Csoma** by the Hungarian textile artist Ms. Anna Kubinyi. (This exhibition is dedicated to the memory of eminent Hungarian Indologist **Alexander Csoma de Körös** (1784-1842) who lived in Calcutta and worked in the Asiatic Society during the last ten years of his life and compiled the world's first Tibetan-English dictionary. It also pays tribute to **Rabindranath Tagore**, who visited Hungary in 1926 and believed that Hungarians and Indians shared a deep cultural bond).

The exhibition was inaugurated on **13 November 2013** by **Dr. Janos Martonyi**, Honourable Foreign Minister of Hungary in the presence of **Mr. Janos Terenyi**, Ambassador of Hungary in India. **Smt Bandana Mukherjee**, Research Officer, Asiatic Society, Kolkata spoke on the life and work of Alexander Csoma. This was on view till 8 December 2013.



Lectures & Seminars

Archival Vision and Historical Imagination: Indian Experiences

Lecture on the occasion of 108th **Foundation Day** VMH, **4 January 2013** (details under **Other Events**).

Booming Satire in Colonial India – its Hows and Whys

A special lecture delivered by **Professor Hans Harder**, Director and Professor of Modern South-Asian Studies, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University, Germany on **1 April, 2013**.

Two lectures on the occasion of World Heritage Day, 18 April 2013 (details under **World Heritage Day 2013**).



Special Lecture sessions

A Special Lecture session on ***Utsab-er sekalo ekal*** [Festivals – then and now] by eminent authors **Shri Sankarlal Bhattacharya** and **Shri Tajuddin Ahmed** on **8 October 2013**.



Curious Tales from Calcutta's Past

On 15 November 2013 **Shri Jawhar Sircar**, CEO, Prasar Bharati enthralled a packed audience in the western quadrangle with his talk.



Jaina Paintings of Gujarat and the problem of Chaurapanchashika style

An illustrated and informative lecture held on **18 November 2013** by **Professor Ratan Parimoo**, Director, Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Museum and N.C. Mehta Gallery, Ahmedabad.



Idioms of Kolkata's "Heritage Movement": Some Random Thoughts

(Details under World Heritage Week 2013).

Celebration/Observance of World/International Days/Weeks

World Heritage Day 2013

VMH in collaboration with INTACH, West Bengal Chapter, observed **World Heritage Day 2013** on **18 April, 2013** on the theme **Heritage of Education** with the following events:

- Lectures delivered by **Professor Amlan Dasgupta**, Department of English and Director, Centre for Cultural Texts and Records, Jadavpur University and **Ms. Devi Kar**, Director, Modern High School for Girls. The session was chaired by **Professor Swapan K Chakravorty**, Department of English, Jadavpur University.
- Selected films were screened by school children from the FILMIT programme followed by a brief interaction.



International Museum Day 2013

To commemorate the **International Museum Day** on **18 May, 2013** organized the following events:

- **Free entry** to the Galleries as well as to the Garden of Victoria Memorial Hall for the visitors on the day.
- **Treasure Hunt Competition** for the general visitors / children.

The questions were prepared in **Bengali, Hindi and English** on the master pieces on view in the galleries of Victoria Memorial. The visitors got an opportunity to know interesting facts about each objects / paintings in each gallery. The winners got attractive prizes on spot. This was an initiative by the Memorial to engage the general visitors directly in the Museum on the occasion.





World Environment Day 2013

Victoria Memorial Hall observed **World Environment Day** on **5 June 2013** with the following events:

- Planting of saplings by staff members of VMH
- **Children's programme**

VMH organized a programme of painting the tree trunks in the garden of VMH

by involving the young friends of its' Activity Club. Around seventy members participated from Hope Foundation, Tomorrows Foundation, Anando Kolkata, Calcutta Samaritan Society and All Bengal Women's Association.

- **Film screening**

A documentary film was also screened entitled *Johar: Welcome to our World* directed by **Shri Nilanjan Bhattacharya** followed by a brief interaction with the audiences.



World Tourism Day 2013

Victoria Memorial Hall celebrated **World Tourism Day** on Friday **27 September 2013** with the following events:

- Free entry to the Galleries and Garden on this day.
- Special talk on this year's UNWTO theme: **Tourism and Water: Protecting our Common Future** delivered by Smt. Joya Mitra, eminent author and social activist.



- Following three documentary films were screened
 - The Tales of Teesta* directed by Shri Ajoy Ray, 2013 (Courtesy: Association for Conservation and Tourism). The presence of the director Shri Ajoy Ray made the occasion even more meaningful.
 - Chilika- The Wonder Lagoon* directed by R Krishna Menon and
 - Loktak Lake - Our Soul* directed by H Maipaksana Singh (Courtesy: Films Division, Kolkata, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India)



World Heritage Week 2013

World Heritage Week was celebrated from 19 to 25 November 2013 with the following events.

• Candle making and punch greeting card workshop

Candle making and punch greeting card workshop with the members of the Activity Club of VMH and other participating school students held on **19 November 2013**. The workshop was conducted by **Ms Sharmishtha Ghosh** and **Ms Soma Koyal**.

Members from the following school participated in the workshop:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ◆ All Bengal Women's Unions | ◆ Chowringhee High school | ◆ Delhi Public School , New Town |
| ◆ Hope Foundation, Kolkata | ◆ Modern High School for Girls | ◆ Silver Point School |
| ◆ Tomorrows Foundation | | |



● Idioms of Kolkata's "Heritage Movement": Some Random Thoughts

A talk in collaboration with INTACH, West Bengal Chapter on **Idioms of Kolkata's 'Heritage Movement': Some Random Thoughts** was delivered on **22 November 2013** by **Shri Alapan Bandopadhyay**, Principal Secretary, Departments of Transport and Housing, Government of West Bengal.



● **Baul and Sufi Music: Our Folk Heritage:** live demonstrations with introduction by **Shri Ashadullah Gayen** on **25 November 2013** in collaboration with Folk Foundation.



Film Screenings

Selected films were screened on 18 April 2013. (details under **World Heritage Day 2013**)

A documentary film was screened entitled on 5 June 2013. (details under **World Environment Day 2013**)

A short documentary film **Europe on Ganges** was screened for the participants of Essay Writing Competition on 15 July 2013. (details under **Activity Club for Young Friends**).

Three documentary films were screened on 27 September, 2013 (details under **World Tourism Day 2013**).

Activity Club for Young Friends

Earth Day 2013

Victoria Memorial Hall observed **Earth Day** with a special **craft workshop** with waste materials involving the Young Friends of the Memorial on **22 April, 2013**.

Smt. Piyasi Bharasa, Education Officer, VMH made a presentation and addressed the students on the significance of the day with a special mention of the VMH's vision for the Activity Club. A bookmark was brought out on the occasion and presented to the students to familiarize and sensitize them about the significance of the day.

Noted craftsmen **Shri Saibal Mukherjee** and **Shri Tanmoy Biswas** from Uttarpara, Dist., Hooghly conducted the **craft workshop** with waste materials.



World Environment Day 2013

The Activity Club of Victoria Memorial observed and celebrated World Environment Day on 5 June 2013 (details under Celebration/Observation of World /International Days/Weeks).



Workshops

Clay Modelling Workshop

A workshop on **clay modelling** was organized with members and other school children on **28 February 2013**. The workshop was conducted by **Shri Dilip Kumar Patra** and **Shri Jayanta Pal** of *Kumartuli*, Kolkata.



Craft workshop with waste materials was organized on 22 April 2013. (details under **Earth Day 2013**)

Candle making and punch greeting card workshop (details under **World Heritage Week 2013**)

Essay Writing Competition

The Activity Club of VMH organized an Essay Writing Competition on the theme **Cultural Heritage of Bengal** on **15 July 2013**.

The members of the Activity Club from the following schools participated in the competition:

Apeejay, Park Street, Apeejay, Salt Lake, Ballygunge Shiksha Sadan, Chowringhee High School, Delhi Public School, New Town, Delhi Public School, Ruby Park, Heritage School, Modern High School for Girls, Silver Point School

The competition was judged by **Dr. Jayanta Sengupta**, Secretary & Curator, VMH, **Ms. Piali Ray**, Teacher, Calcutta International School, Kolkata and **Ms. Nayantara Palchoudhuri**, Honorary Consul for Norway in Kolkata and Former President, Bengal National Chamber of Commerce. Prizes were given to the best three essays and one essay received a special mention of the judges. A short documentary film **Europe on Ganges** was also screened for the participants.



An awareness campaign

An awareness campaign **No Plastic Bags: Keep Victoria Memorial Clean and Beautiful** was organized with the members of the Activity Club of Victoria Memorial Hall on **30 November 2013**. **Ms Rituparna Sengupta**, eminent actress launched the campaign.

Members from the following schools participated in the campaign:

Apeejay School, Park Street, Kolkata, All Bengal Women's Unions, Ballygunge Shiksha Sadan, Chowringhee High School, Silver Point School, The Heritage School, Tomorrows Foundation





Music Events

European Classical Music Concert

Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata in collaboration with the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Kolkata organized a European Classical Music Concert featuring well known German trumpeter **Mr Udo Koehne** along with string musicians of the Kolkata Music Academy Chamber Orchestra to perform Johannes Sebastian Bach's **2nd Brandenburg Concerto** on **11 March 2013**. The performance was greatly appreciated by the audience.



Classical Baroque Music Concert

Victoria Memorial Hall in collaboration with the Alliance française du Bengale in Kolkata organized a Classical Baroque Music Concert featuring the Ensemble **AMARILLIS** from France comprising five musicians on **23 March 2013**.

A concert of Classical Music

A concert of **classical music** by **Panos Karon**, noted pianist accompanied by **Zach Tarpagos** and **Ana Chifu** on the flute featuring works by Handel, Chopin, Doppler, Clarke and Frank was organized on **26 August 2013**.



Other Events

108th Foundation Day of Victoria Memorial Hall

On the occasion of 108th **Foundation Day** VMH organized a lecture on **Archival Vision and Historical Imagination: Indian Experiences** delivered by **Professor Gautam Bhadra**, Former Tagore National Fellow at National Library, Kolkata and Former Professor Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata on **4 January 2013**.



Inaugural Event of Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2013

Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata in collaboration with Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival jointly organized the inaugural event of the Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival on **9 January 2013**. The festival was inaugurated by H.E. The Governor of West Bengal, **Shri M.K. Narayanan**. Eminent filmmaker **Shri Shyam Benegal** delivered the keynote address on the theme of the festival: **A Century of Indian Cinema**.



Workshop on Paper Conservation Today

An in-house workshop on **Paper Conservation Today** was held on **4 and 5 March 2013** with **Ms. Joanna M Kosek**, Head of Pictorial Art Conservation, Conservation, Documentation and Science Section, The British Museum as the facilitator.



Hindi workshop

An in-house Hindi workshop was conducted by **Shri Ram Narayan Saroj**, Deputy Director (East), Hindi Teaching Scheme, Department of Official Language and **Shri G.D. Keswani**, former Deputy Director (Implementation), Department of Official Language and on **20 May, 2013**.

An in-house **Hindi workshop** was organized, conducted by **Shri Ram Narayan Saroj**, Deputy Director, Hindi Teaching Scheme Department of Official Language on **26 August 2013** at VMH. The officers and staff of the Memorial participated in this programme.

Hindi Week

Victoria Memorial Hall observed **Hindi Saptah** during the week **14 to 20 September 2013** with the following programmes:

- Hindi writing competition – **16 September 2013**
- Hindi quiz – **21 September 2013**

The officers and staff of the Memorial participated in these programmes.

Vigilance Week 2013

VMH observed **Vigilance Week** from 28 October till 02 November, 2013. The officers and staff of VMH took the pledge of honesty and transparency in their work on **28 October 2013**.

Knowledge Sharing Training Programme

A **Knowledge Sharing Training Programme** was introduced for the in-house staff of VMH. These sessions are conceived to be held on a periodic basis for further skill development and capacity building of the Victoria Memorial Hall personnel.

The fourth session of the **Knowledge Sharing Programme** for VMH staff was held on **29 July 2013**. **Shri Prafulla Sarkar**, Accounts officer, Victoria Memorial Hall shared his knowledge and experience about the rules and procedures of governing financial and accounting operations relevant for VMH and compliance with government regulations.



The fifth session of the **Knowledge Sharing programme** for the staff of VMH was held on **26 October 2013**. **Smt Piyasi Bharasa**, Education Officer, VMH, shared her knowledge and experiences gathered from various training programmes in India and abroad during the last couple of years within the framework of information dissemination and interaction.

Conservation and Restoration of Artifacts

The Conservation Section carried out both preventive and curative conservation of several art objects. Some of the works done recently are shown below:

From the Victoria Memorial Collection



Half cleaned



Cleaned

Lord Clive



Half cleaned



Cleaned

Queen Victoria



During



During



After

Acc. No. R 2982, Title- the Earl of Wellington, Artist - J. A. Lakaha, Medium – oil on canvas



Before



After

Acc. No. R 3155, Title – Queen Elizabeth II, Artist – Leonard Boden, Medium – oil on canvas (please check with S.R.)



Before



After

Acc.No. R – 2133, Title – East India Company's vessel "water witch". Artist – G. Chinnery, Medium – oil on Canvas

From the Raj Bhavan Collection



During



During



After

Title – 'Man in Liveries', Artist – Saroj Maity

Physical counting of oil paintings in the stores and galleries of Victoria Memorial Hall



In view of the Supreme court of India's directive, the physical checking and counting of VMH oil paintings collection was undertaken

Preventive Conservation



Preventive Conservation in the galleries and stores of oil paintings

VIP Visits

The Education Unit of Victoria Memorial Hall attended One hundred ten (110) VIP visits and other delegations during the period January 2012 to August 2013, including guided tours through the galleries.

Visit of Ms Sunita Williams, NASA Astronaut, U.S.A Navy officer, at VMH on 2 April, 2013.



Visit of the Hon'ble Union Culture Minister, Govt. of India, Smt. Chandresh Kumari Katoch on 10 August, 2013



Visit of Shri Ravindra Singh, IAS, Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Culture on 22 November, 2013



Visits by Schools

The Education Unit of Victoria Memorial Hall regularly receives and arranges guided tours for school groups from West Bengal and other parts of India.



Did you know?

Banyan Tree by Thomas Daniell, on view in the Durbar Hall, Victoria Memorial Hall, circa 1833, oil on canvas (R-2181).



© Victoria Memorial Hall

The Great Banyan Tree (scientific name: *Ficus benghalensis*) is located in the Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Indian Botanic Garden, Shibpur, Howrah and can be seen in an oil painting drawn by Thomas Daniell, on view at Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata. The name Banyan comes from the word 'Banians' meaning merchants who had their markets under the trees. It is a delight for the visitors to view this painting, which captures the form and spirit of the same tree, with groups of people and animals resting in the shades of its protective canopy in an 18th century Indian village. This painting was executed at the Royal Academy of London in 1833. The painter, Thomas Daniell, was born in 1749 at the Chertsey, London. He was apprenticed to become a heraldic painter. Thomas along with his nephew William made an extensive tour of India and produced several drawings, sketches, aquatints and oil paintings. Thomas was elected as a member of the Royal Academy in 1790, Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts about the same time, and was a member of several other societies in London at different times.

The tree is now over 250 years old and in its spread is the largest in India and Asia. The tree was damaged by two great cyclones in the years 1884 and 1886. As a consequence, some of its main branches were breached and exposed to the attack of fungus. The tree now survives without its main trunk, which was removed in 1925. It is interesting to see the original trunk of the tree visible in this painting. The present area occupied by the tree in the Botanic Garden is about 4 acres which looks more like a forest than an individual tree. Even today the tree continues to spread beyond its area with its 3300 aerial roots reaching down to the ground.

Training programmes

■ The Ministry of Culture, Government of India has taken up museum reforms programmes through various training programmes / workshops for the in-service museum professionals in India. One of such training programme entitled **Vivekananda Memorial Program for Museum Excellence** has been scheduled to be held in the Art Institute of Chicago during 14-30 October 2013. **Smt Santi Majee**, Restoration Assistant, VMH has been selected for participating in the programme. An orientation seminar, **Museum Collections: Best Practices**, was organized during 25-27 July 2013 at the National Museum, New Delhi. Ms Santi Majee, Restoration Assistant, VMH attended the training programme. **Dr. Jayanta Sengupta**, Secretary & Curator, VMH was also invited on the occasion to share his insights.



■ **Smt Joyee Roy**, Senior Technical Assistant, Documentation Unit, attended Nehru UK Visiting Fellowship, 2013-14' for six weeks from 15 July - 23 August 2013 to research at U.K. on **A comparative study on styles, techniques, themes of the art works of British Artists, who worked in India during 18th & 19th centuries with those, who never visited India during that period but worked simultaneously at Great Britain on Indian subjects**. She has also attended a course **The Art of Light & Atmosphere: Water Colour Painting in England & Beyond** at Courtauld Institute of Art, London, U.K. from 15 - 19 July 2013.



■ **Shri R.P. Gautam**, Electrician, VMH attended a Technical Workshop on **Roster writing and reservation in services Govt. policy for SCs, STs and OBCs and physically handicapped & Recruitment Rules**, organized by Centre for Training & Social Research, New Delhi from 23 October to 25 October, 2013.

■ **Ms Shumyyah Sahariar**, Coordinator, Activity Club attended a workshop on **Volunteer Guide Programme** at the National Museum, New Delhi on 28 October, 2013. **Dr Jayanta Sengupta**, Secretary & Curator, VMH was also invited in the workshop to contribute and share his views and thoughts on the subject.



■ The team from C-DAC Pune visited VMH to install updated JATAN : Virtual Museum Builder software and carried out training activities for the staff of VMH on 29 and 30 November, 2013.

■ **Shri Dibakar Karmakar**, Restoration Assistant has been selected for a fellowship from January – June 2015 (6 months) at Stitching Restauratie Atelier Limburg Maastricht (SRAL), The Netherlands.

Lectures delivered by VMH Staff

Smt Piyasi Bharasa, Education Officer delivered a lecture on **Colonial Architecture** on 5 July 2013 at Indian Museum, Kolkata in connection with the course Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies from 16th April 2013 initiated by Indian Museum.

Dr. Jayanta Sengupta, Secretary & Curator, VMH delivered the Chief Guest's lecture on **The Victoria Memorial Hall: What People Don't Get to See** on 14 August, 2013 at the monthly luncheon meeting of the Consular Corps of Kolkata at the Taj Bengal.

Shri R.P. Savita, Senior Restorer, VMH delivered a lecture on **Painting techniques and materials and care of paintings** on 14 August 2013 at Indian Statistical Research Institute, Kolkata.

Ms. Piyasi Bharasa, Education Officer, VMH conducted two sessions of Leadership Training Programme (LTP) and delivered lectures on 19 and 20 September 2013 at Allahabad Museum on the following topics for the Museum Professionals from Madhya Pradesh (MP):

- **Motivational Leadership**
- **Audience Engagement**
- **Visitor Experience**

Mr. R.P. Savita, Senior Restorer, VMH conducted two sessions of Leadership Training Programme and delivered two lectures on 21 and 22 September, 2013 at Allahabad Museum on the following two topics for the Museum Professionals from MP.

- **Preventive Conservation of museum artifacts**
- **Curative Conservation of museum artifacts**



Memorial Library

The Library of the Memorial is a special reference library for Indo-British history, history of Calcutta, history of art and conservation, museum studies and management of cultural institutions. The library has a sizeable collection of rare books, which include some important private collections e.g., George Lyell, B.C. Law and others.

Some of the important new arrivals in the library are:

- R. Parry: Museums in a digital age, 2010
- J. Watt: The Effects of air pollution on cultural heritage, 2009
- V. Sundaram: Amrita Sher-Gil - A self portrait in letters and writings, 2010
- B. Lavedrine: Photographs of the past : process and preservation, 2009
- David J. Mccutchion and Suhrid K. Bhowmick: Patuas and Patua art in Bengal, 1999
- Reesa Greenbery, ed.,: Thinking about exhibitions, 1996
- Jyotindra Jain: Kalighat painting: Images from changing world, 1999
- Leena Kejriwal: Calcutta repossessing the city, 2007
- Sumanta Banerjee: The wicked city: crime and punishment in colonial Calcutta, 2009
- R. Siva Kumar: Paintings of Abanindranath Tagore, 2013
- M. Majumdar: Close to events: Works of Bikash Bhattacharjee, 2007
- Ananda Amaladass and Gudrun Lowner: Christian themes in Indian art, 2012
- Somendranath Bandyopadhyay: My days with Ramkinkar Baij, 2012
- Neelima Vashishtha: Tradition and modernity in Indian arts during the twentieth century, 2010
- John Falconer, ed.: The Waterhouse albums: Central Indian Provinces, 2009
- Molly Emma Aitken: The intelligence of tradition in Rajput Court painting, 2010
- Paula Murphy: Nineteenth-Century Irish sculpture: Native Genius reaffirmed, 2010
- S.P. Verma: Crossing cultural frontiers Biblical themes in Mughal painting, 2011
- Kathleen Kuiper, ed.: The 100 most influential painters and sculptures of the renaissance, 2010
- Stephen J. Rockwell: Indian affairs and the administrative state in the nineteenth century, 2010
- Haimabati Sen: "Because I am a woman": A child widow's memories from colonial India, 2011
- Howard Colvin: A Biographical dictionary of British architects 1600 – 1840. 3rd ed., 1995

Son-et-lumière

The *Son-et-lumière* (Sound and Light) shows are held for visitors from October to June, with two shows, every evening, except on Mondays.

Show Timings:

October to January: 6.15 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. (Bengali)
7.15 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. (English)

March to June: 6.45 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. (Bengali)
7.45 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. (English)

Entry tickets: Rs. 10.00 and Rs. 20.00



Museum information for visitors

Location

Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata is located at 1, Queens Way, Kolkata – 700071. It is on the western side opposite Birla Planetarium, St. Pauls Cathedral and Academy of Fine Arts (on Cathedral Road), with S.S.K.M. Hospital (on A.J.C. Bose Road) to its south, the Maidan to its north and the Race Course to its west. Tickets counters are situated at the north and south gates.



Transport

The Museum is well connected to the nearest bus terminus at Esplanade and Railway Stations at Howrah (on the west bank of river Hooghly) and Sealdah (in central Kolkata). Both are at a distance of about 7 (seven) Km. The nearest metro stations are Rabindra Sadan and Maidan – within a walking distance of 7(seven) minutes to both. The distance from the airport (Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport) is about 30 Km.

Visiting Hours

Museum Galleries: Tuesday to Sunday from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
(ticket counters close at 4.30 pm)

Museum Garden: Open on all days round the year.

Garden timings:

March – June	5.30 a.m. to 6.15 p.m.
July – September	5.30 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.
October – February	5.45 a.m. to 5.45 p.m.

The Museum Galleries remain closed on the following national holidays:

- Republic Day
- Holi
- Independence Day
- Id-ul-Fitr
- Gandhiji's Birthday
- Dusserah
- Christmas Day

Entry fees

For Garden only: Rs. 4.00

For Garden & Museum: Rs. 10.00 (Indian nationals) : Rs 150.00 (Foreign nationals)

Free for challenged visitors, school children in uniform and military personnel in uniform

Rabindra Bharati Society collection

In 2011 Victoria Memorial Hall (VMH), with the support of Ministry of Culture, Government of India, acquired a unique collection of paintings from Rabindra Bharati Society (RBS), Kolkata. This treasure trove of more than 5,000 paintings includes the paintings of Abanindranath and Gaganendranath Tagore, sketches by Jyotirindranath Tagore, as well as many paintings of several luminaries of the Bengal School of Art, like Nandalal Bose, Mukul Dey, Bratinindanath Tagore, Kalipada Ghosh, Surendranath Ganguly, etc. Victoria Memorial Hall has already started restoring these priceless works of art.

The paintings - given by RBS to VMH on an enduring loan - are currently being inventoried and authenticated several times a week inside a high-secure zone of the Victoria Memorial Hall, in the presence of RBS representatives and VMH staff members. The authentication is being followed by preservation against fungus and digitization. Efforts are also being made to prevent these works of art from further deterioration, because some of them are too delicate to undergo comprehensive restoration.

An exhibition of around 100 paintings of Gaganendranath Tagore, curated by the eminent art historian Professor Ratan Parimoo, was held in the Portrait Gallery of VMH in January 2012 and again in June 2012. VMH is planning another major exhibition of Abanindranath Tagore's paintings from the collections of VMH and RBS in April 2014, again curated by Professor Ratan Parimoo and featuring such iconic works as *Bharat Mata*, the *Krishnaleela* series, and *Shahjahan*.



Museum Shop

List of available items

Prints

1. India as seen by Simpson (set of 5 prints)
2. India in the Eyes of the Daniells (set of 6 prints)
3. Select Views of India (set of 5 prints)
4. Charles Doy'ly's Calcutta - Album one (set of 4 prints)
5. Charles Doy'ly's Calcutta - Album two (set of 4 prints)
6. Natural History Paintings: series – 1 (set of 4 prints)
7. Natural History Paintings : series – 2 (set of 4 prints)
8. Natural History Paintings : series – 3 (set of 4 prints)
9. Picture Folio No. - 1 (one large print)
10. Picture Folio No. - 2 (one large print)
11. Picture Folio No. - 3 (one large print)

Publications

1. Modern Masters
2. India : Land and People
3. Catalogue of exhibition on Mother Teresa.

Souvenir items

1. A set of 10 picture post cards on Mughal Miniatures
2. 3 different key chains with motifs from the Victoria Memorial collection
3. 3 different coffee mugs with motifs from the Victoria Memorial collection
4. The Picturesque Ganga (set of 10 pictures)
5. Spiral note pads with motifs of Kalighat Paintings
6. 2 sets of picture post cards with paintings of Jamini Roy



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