

***JEEVANCHAKRA: Talks, performances, book launch,
poetry workshop, writing competition***

Jeevanchakra, the cycle of life and death, has been elaborated into philosophical and cultural systems across all human societies. While birth and death are universal phenomena, they are interpreted in ways that are deeply influenced by historic, economic and socio-political conditions of particular places and cultures. Jeevanchakra presents the experiences of those involved in the transit of the body into or out of the tangible world: healers, midwives, surgeons or family caregivers. It speaks of conceptions of the body informed by gender, class privilege, religious beliefs and the cultural precepts of different communities across India.

Jeevanchakra is a part of Medicine Corner, a programme of cultural activity in India from Wellcome Collection, the public cultural venue in London of Wellcome Trust, a global health organisation. In Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata, the programme explores India's rich plurality of cultures of medicine, healing and well-being.

*A set of exciting events have been planned around the central themes of the exhibition that bring together leading journalists, writers, art historians, poets and artists. **

***Jeevanchakra Writing Competition : Where do we go after death?
21 January to 10 February***

Calling all writers, 16 years or older to visit the exhibition and submit their responses on the above theme in any format (essay, poetry, prose). The piece must be limited to 400 words and submitted on worksheets available at the Akar Prakar Gallery / British Council office / British Council pavilion at the Book Fair. Chosen entries will be published online and the best five entries will receive book hampers. All participants will get certificates.

***Sohini Chattopadhyay in conversation with Latika Gupta
followed by***

***Illustrated Talk : Dai Dolls
Saturday, 23 January, 11:30am
Akar Prakar, P 238 Hindustan Park***

Latika Gupta, curator, Jeevanchakra talks to journalist Sohini Chattopadhyay about her investigation of labour rooms in public hospitals in Kolkata, issues of systemic problems in public healthcare, the role of the *dai*, and questions of privileging modern medicine over traditional ones. The discussion will focus on Sohini's writing in dialogue with art works in the exhibition.

Sohini Chattopadhyay is a journalist, who enjoys long-form reportage. She won the 2014 Ramnath Goenka award for feature writing and the 2014 International Red Cross and Press Institute of India prize for humanitarian reporting. She also won certificates for outstanding reporting at the national RedInk journalism prizes for 2015 and 2014. She was awarded a Chevening journalism fellowship for 2015.

Soma Mukhopadhyay, author of several articles on the historical and contemporary folk art, will share her research on the tradition of making 'dai' dolls, figures of traditional midwives made by women potters in Murshidabad and other districts of Bengal. Her talk will be richly illustrated with visuals of a comparatively unknown tradition of hand-made objects that are used both for play as well as believed to have protective and healing properties.

Poetry workshop by British poet Melissa Lee-Houghton for young poets

Friday, 29 January, 11am – 1pm

Akar Prakar, P 238 Hindustan Park

Melissa Lee-Houghton's first collection *A Body Made of You* was written in and out of psychiatric hospitals – but through craft, compassion and wit, she transmutes difficult individual experience into something universally resonant.

Participants above 18 years of age, with some writing experience, may register by sending an email to arnab.banerjee@britishcouncil.org. The workshop is free but limited to only 20 participants.

Illustrated Artist's talk: Dr. Paula Sengupta

Wednesday, 3 February, 6 pm

Akar Prakar, P 238 Hindustan Park

Paula Sengupta will discuss her practice as an artist, curator and academic, detailing the themes, processes and evolution of her work across different media.

Dr. Paula Sengupta is an artist, academic, curator, and art writer. She is currently Assistant Professor in Printmaking at the Faculty of Visual Arts, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata and Secretary of the artist's initiative, Khoj Kolkata. She is author of *The Printed Picture: Four Centuries of Indian Printmaking* published by the Delhi Art Gallery, New Delhi in 2012 and *Foreign & Indigenous Influences in Indian Printmaking* published by LAP Lambert Academic Publishing, Saarbrücken, Germany in 2013. Her recent projects focus on enforced migration and resultant physical and psychological displacement in the Subcontinent and its immediate environs.

Illustrated talk : Unseen Enemy- The English, Disease, and Medicine in Colonial Bengal, 1617 – 1847

Saturday, 6 February, 11:30am

Akar Prakar, P 238 Hindustan Park

Author Sudip Bhattacharya talks about his book on the subject of *The English, Disease, and Medicine in Colonial Bengal* between 1617-1847 and facts that he excavated during his research at the cemeteries in Kolkata. The talk will provide an unusual perspective on the development of the city and its relationship with disease during colonial times.

Sudip Bhattacharya lives and works in Calcutta, and this book, like his first (The Strange Case of Lord Pigot, 2013, also published by Cambridge Scholars), focuses on colonial history. An Associate Professor in English, Sudip is deeply interested in his city's rich colonial heritage.

'Jeevanchakra' - the circle of life
Sunday, 7 February, 5pm

A unique *patachitra*, a traditional scroll painting has been specially made on the theme of Jeevanchakra, narrating the journey from birth to death. The story will be narrated and performed by the artist *patua*, Mairul Chitrakar and his group.

Book Launch and discussion
Monday, 8 February, 7pm

Akar Prakar, P 238 Hindustan Park

Sujata Sen, Director British Council East India, will launch Dr Arunabha Sengupta's book, '*I Won't Give You A Leg Up – Mr Death*', followed by a conversation with the author.

Writing Competition Awards Ceremony & Closing of Exhibition
Wednesday, 17 February, 5pm

Akar Prakar, P 238 Hindustan Park

The winners and participants of the Jeevanchakra Writing Competition will meet for the awards ceremony which will include readings from the winning pieces, followed by the closing of the Exhibition.

* Limited seating available on first-come, first-served basis.

**For further information, please call +91-98312 56730 / +91 -98301 86400 or send an email to ruchirad@gmail.com or Puja.Grover@britishcouncil.org