

Press Release

Kolkata Centre for Creativity hosts Sunehri Rait: Gold Dust of Begum Sultans

**- An Exhibition that evokes the cultural zenith of a princely
State of Rampur that existed more than a 100 years ago -**

Kolkata, 19th January, 2019: Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC), a one of its kind multi-disciplinary art space, is organising an exhibition, **Sunehri Rait: Gold Dust of Begum Sultans**. The exhibition traverses through a narrative that began over a 100 years ago in Mohammadpur, a *riyasat* adjacent to Rampur, Uttar Pradesh. It captures the feudal life and cultural heritage of the **Nawabs of Rampur State** showcasing their grand lifestyle and the fascinating narratives of the powerful women of the zenana.

The story is narrated through 77 banners and audio-visual clips and collections of the Royal Family's household objects. Display cases will have a Doll's Wedding, *Farshi Ghararas* and *Karchob Dupatta* for weddings as well as furniture made of wood and silver utensils for Dolls. It also includes clothes, jewels, tray cover, wedding finery, mourning rights and rituals of Rampur.

Mr. Juergen Thomas Schrod, Dy. Consul General Germany, Kolkata did the honours of inaugurating the exhibition.

The exhibition was attended by **Zakia Zaheer**, Educationist and Urdu Litterateur and **Syeda Saiyidain Hameed**, Writer and a Former Member of the Planning Commission. The two Delhi-based sisters are the descendants of the royal legacy of Rampur who translated and co-authored **Gold Dust of Begum Sultans** from '**Sunehri Rait**', an Urdu work of fiction based on historical facts and people. Set in the post-1857 era in the north-western region of Uttar Pradesh, the original Urdu version was written by **Zubeida Sultan**, a royal lineage from the author duo's maternal side. Excerpts from the novel are on display together with audio/visuals and royal exhibits that highlight transforming values and vanishing cultures of a traditional family linked with the Nawabs of Rampur.

A performance of *Dastangoi* (Urdu story telling art form), poetry, music and dance by Begum Zakia Zaheer, Begum Salima Raza and Ms. Rene Singh culminated the evening. The exhibition has been curated by **Ranesh Ray** while the audio-visual part of the show has been designed by **Iffat Fatima**, a documentary filmmaker.

“The exhibition ‘Gold Dust of Begum Sultans’ highlights the heritage and grand lifestyle of the Nawabs of Rampur. The range of exhibits showcased here take the visitors to a completely different princely world of the Nawabs of yesteryears that existed in the State of Rampur. It also showcases the powerful matriarchs of the Zenana with characters like Qamar Zamani Begum and Sultan Jahan Begum, along with the royal patriarchs and their rich heritage. The exhibition promises to take one back to the golden era of Indian royalty and leave a long lasting impression on the minds of the visitors”, said **Ms Richa Agarwal, Executive Director, KCC and CEO, Emami Art.**

The Exhibition ‘Gold Dust of Begum Sultans’ has been organised by Kolkata Centre for Creativity in association with Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival and **will be on till 27th January, 2019 from 11 am to 7 pm, except Mondays.**

Through these kind of exhibitions, Kolkata Centre for Creativity will target to build new networks and capabilities within the local, regional, national and international cultural scene.

About Kolkata Centre for Creativity

Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC) is a new multi-disciplinary interactive art and creativity centre located in Kolkata, West Bengal. The 70,000 sq. ft Centre champions the art and cultural landscape of contemporary India and is designed by architect Pinakin Patel, who is also its Creative Director.

KCC anchors on Emami Art, a 10,000 sq ft art gallery, spearheaded by Emami Group Director Richa Agarwal who is also the Executive Director of the Centre. Alongside Emami Art, which hosts a regular programme of art exhibitions by artists of national and international repute, KCC also encompasses distinct exhibition spaces that showcase art, craft, antiquity and product design from contemporary culture as well as traditional Indian handicrafts. KCC also includes a classical amphitheatre for performances and creative contemplation; a children’s creativity corner; modular spaces for events; and an art conservation studio. Additionally, KCC houses a book and materials library, dance studio for workshops, a skills development and a maker section to create prototypes using the latest digital technologies, an art shop offering specially commissioned products and a vegetarian café.

Showcasing several expressions of art and design to highlight their common creative core — Kolkata Centre for Creativity encourages visitors to explore, interact and design ideas on various art forms within its spaces. KCC is thus envisaged as a space of collocations, not only in the visual arts, but also in craft, design, music, textiles, architecture, photography, film, poetry & literature, independent publishing, graphic design, conservation, urbanism, ecology, technology and the culinary arts in a symbiotic and fluid structure.

Kolkata Centre for Creativity and Emami Art offers free entry to the public and is open between 11am to 6pm from Tuesday to Sunday.

For more information about the exhibition and the conference, please visit:

www.kolkatacentreforcreativity.com

www.emamiart.com

For further information, please contact:

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