

Newsletter

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Nehru Centre



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Events At a Glance...

Culture Wing

Yaad Aaye Woh Zamana
(A Musical Journey)

**A Tribute to Shri Khayyam
and Shri Madan Mohan**

Friday, 28th April 2023
7.00 p.m.
Nehru Centre Auditorium

Library

BOOK DISCUSSION

**The Mastery of Hindustan:
Triumphs & Travails of
Madhavrao Peshwa**

Written by
Dr Uday S. Kulkarni

Speakers
Dr Uday S. Kulkarni
Dr Gaurav Gadgil

Moderator
Ms Soniya Khare

Thursday, 27th April 2023
4.30 p.m.
Hall of Harmony
Ground Floor,
DOI Building

Constituent Assembly Debates Language for the Union - Part I

On 12th September 1949, Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar, a member of the Drafting Committee, moved the Draft Article on the official language of the union. It was a lengthy Article in three parts with several sub clauses. The main part of the Article, on which the entire debate remained focused, is reproduced below:

Draft Article 301A (1) The official language of the union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script and the form of numbers to be used for the official purposes of Union shall be the international form of Indian numerals.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in clause (1) of this article, for a period of fifteen years from the commencement of this constitution, the English language shall continue to be used for all the official purposes of the Union, for which it was being used at such commencement:

Provided that the President may, during the period, by order authorize for any of the official purposes of the union the use of Hindi language in addition to the English language and of Devanagari form of numerals in

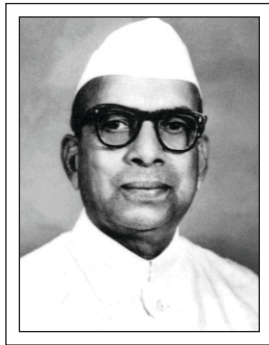
addition to the international form of Indian numerals.

The President said, "I know this is a subject which has been agitating the minds of Members for some time and so I would make an appeal to the speakers who are going to take part in the debate. My appeal is with regard to the nature of the speeches which members may be making. When any member rises to speak on this language question, I would request him most earnestly to remember that he should not let fall a single word or expression which might hurt or cause offence. Whatever has to be said, should be said in moderate language so that it might appeal to reason and there should be no appeal to feelings or passion in a matter like this.

I have found that there are some three hundred or more amendments. Many of these amendments overlap. There are some, of course, which are of a substantial nature. I shall first take the amendments which cover the whole ground and thereafter those which are of substantial nature."

And the debate started.

Seth Govind Das



Seth Govind Das:

“Mr. President, I consider this to be the most important day in my life. On the opening day of this august Assembly I had raised the question of the national language. Thereafter, I have been raising this question here from time to time, which I feel may have caused annoyance to several of my friends in the House. The article moved by Shri Gopaldaswami lays down that Hindi in Devanagari script shall be the official language of India. But if you read the article carefully, you will find therein an attempt to keep the place of English, as far off as possible. Shri Gopaldaswami Ayyangar has told us in his speech today that English may have to be retained for long, even after fifteen years. I must tell him that we do not agree to this. Our definite opinion is that if English is at all to go from this country, it must go at the earliest possible moment. We are accepting an interim period of fifteen years during which English should be replaced by Hindi, but this does not mean that during this period English cannot at all be replaced by Hindi in any sphere. Why should the provinces that have

already adopted Hindi and where Hindi is already in use be forced to use English? Take for instance U.P. There everything is being done in Hindi. But according to the Article moved by Shri Gopaldaswami Ayyangar, English will have to be used there for every purpose for fifteen years. How can we accept a proposal which imposes English in the provinces where Hindi is already in use?

We had, the people of India had, visualised a picture of free India and that picture will remain incomplete until the question of national language is resolved. The people of the country will understand the meaning of swaraj only when this question is completely resolved.”

Concluding his speech Seth Govind Das read from a letter written to him by Pandit Nehru from Colombo on 16th May 1931. It reads thus:

“I am sorry for not being able to come to Madura on this occasion. I wish I could come there and render some service which I possibly can, to my Tamil Nad friends. Particularly I wish I could take part in the deliberations of the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan. Hindi has now completely assumed the role of a national language and most of the work of the Congress is being done in Hindi. It is gratifying to learn that Hindi is increasingly spreading in Tamil Nad. I would have come and gladly offered my co-operation in this pious task, but I am sorry that on account of compelling reasons I am unable to come there. I hope the session of the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan will be a success and will pave the way for the spread of Hindi in Tamil Nad.”

Seth Govind Das, in the end, said: “Panditji wrote this letter eighteen years ago and I am glad to find that we have assembled today to give concrete shape to the prophecy he made eighteen years ago.”

Naziruddin Ahmad:

“Mr. President, Sir.

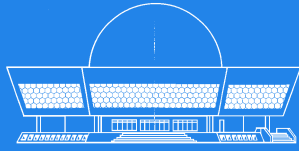
The subject before the House is of very great importance. I think in a matter of this great importance which affects thirty-four crores of people, there should be no quarrel, but at the same time I should say that there should be no unseemly or hasty compromise. I submit, Sir, that we have not been taking into consideration what is compendiously described as the non-Hindi areas. I submit that in a matter like this, we should proceed with caution and from experience. There should be no compulsion; there should be a national language on a free voluntary basis. If Hindi is to be accepted as a national language of India, it should be a free and voluntary choice. I submit, therefore, that we should not all at once try to make Hindi the national language of India. My submission is that English should continue as the official language of India for all purposes for which it was being used till a time when an all India language is evolved which will be capable of expressing the thoughts and ideas on various subjects, scientific, mathematical, literary, historical, philosophical, political etc. The suitability of the language for all India purposes forever should not be a matter left to be decided, without a mandate from the electorate, by 315 members.”

... to be continued

What Nehru said....

As in other prisons, here also in Ahmadnagar Fort, I took to gardening...in digging and preparing beds for flowers. The soil was full of the ruins of ancient monuments. For this is a place of history, of many a battle and palace intrigue in the past...One incident stands out and is still remembered: the courage of a beautiful woman Chand Bibi, who defended this fort and led her forces, sword in hand, against the imperial armies of Akbar.

... from Chapter I, Ahmadnagar Fort, The Discovery of India



NEHRU PLANETARIUM

Tel: 91-22-24920510
Mobile : 9892890510

SKY SHOW : Biography of the Universe

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

(MONDAY CLOSED)

Tickets will be available online and at the Booking Counter.
Visitors are expected to strictly follow Covid-19 norms.

Email: managernpmumbai@gmail.com

Pluto

Soon after the discovery of Neptune in 1846, astronomers started searching for a planet beyond Neptune. But they quickly gave up their search. Unlike in the case of Uranus, no perturbation in the orbit of Neptune was noticed. In 1906, Percival Lowell, a wealthy businessman who owned the Lowell Observatory, started an extensive project in search of a possible ninth planet. Two extensive searches ended with no result. He died in 1916. Eleven years after Lowell's death, Roger Lowell Putnam, Percival's nephew, became the observatory's sole trustee. He hired the 23-year-old Clyde W. Tombaugh, a self-taught amateur astronomer to continue, the search for a planet beyond Neptune. The project was called the 'Search for Planet X'. Tombaugh discovered Planet X on 18 February 1930 and it was classified as the ninth planet in the solar system. The discovery was announced on 13 March 1930 on the 149th anniversary of the discovery of Neptune. The planet was named Pluto, after the Greek god of the underworld.

After the announcement of the discovery of a new planet beyond Neptune, thousands of names were suggested for it. Minerva, Pluto and Cronus topped the list. Minerva was rejected as it was already used for an asteroid. Cronus was not acceptable for some other reasons. The name Pluto was suggested by 150 people. The first one to suggest the name was

an eleven-year-old schoolgirl, Venetia Burney in Oxford, England.

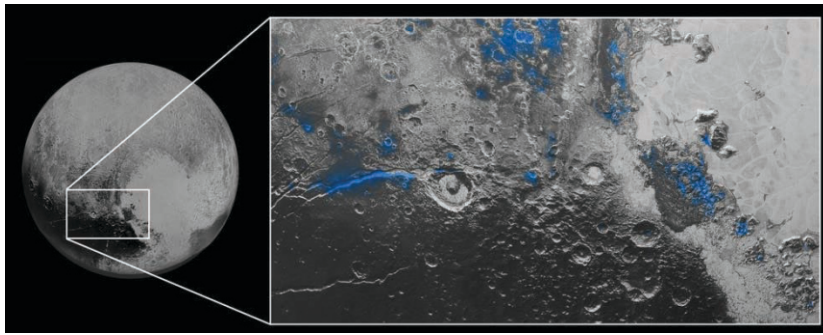
Soon after its discovery, it was found that Pluto was quite unlike the other eight planets. It was found to be much smaller than the other planets, even smaller than the Moon, the natural satellite of Earth. The orbit of Pluto was a long elliptical one. As a result Pluto sometimes gets closer to the Sun than Neptune, as happened between 1979 and 1999.

Around 1990 a very powerful device called Charged Coupled Device (CCD) was developed for taking images. With the help of this device, astronomers discovered more Pluto-like objects (nine in all) in the solar system. Consequently, astronomers began to wonder about the status of Pluto, whether it was a planet or not. This question led to a new class of objects in the solar system known as 'dwarf planets'. Pluto was classified as 134340 Pluto. There was an uproar in the scientific community at this change in the status of Pluto, but the new designation stuck and a new word 'plutoed' was coined which meant 'to give someone or something a less important position than what was before'. In 2006 the American Dialect Society voted 'plutoed' as the word of the year.

Pluto's distance from the Sun varies between 4.437 billion km when it is closest to the Sun to 7.376 billion km.

when it is farthest from the Sun. It orbits the Sun in 247 years 11 months and 7 days. Pluto is a spherical object. All other planets have an equatorial diameter slightly larger than their polar diameter. Pluto's diameter is measured to be 2376.6 km.

Pluto rotates on its axis once in 6.387 days. Like Uranus, Pluto's axis lies in the plane in which it orbits the Sun and its axis is tilted by 120° . On the other hand, Earth's axis is tilted by 23.50° . Pluto is an icy world and the temperature drops down to -240°C at maximum, it is -218°C . Pluto's surface is made up of 98% nitrogen with traces of methane and carbon monoxide. Pluto has five known natural satellites or moons. Charon was the first to be discovered by astronomer James Christy in 1978. The other four in increasing distance from Pluto are Styx (discovered in 2012), Nix (discovered in 2005), Kerberos (discovered in 2011) and Hydra (discovered in 2005). Considering its size and distance, most of our knowledge about Pluto has come from observations taken using instruments on board the Hubble Space Telescope and the New Horizons spacecraft. New Horizons is a NASA mission to study the dwarf planet Pluto, its moons, and other objects in a region of the solar system that extends from 4.6 billion km to about 7.5 billion km. This distance range from the Sun is also called the Kuiper Belt and



Signs of glacial flows of water ice are shown in blue colour in this image above.

objects in this belt are called Kuiper Belt Objects or KBOs. The Kuiper Belt is a doughnut-shaped ring of icy objects around the Sun, extending just beyond the orbit of Neptune from about 30 to 55 Astronomical Units (AU). There are more than 100,000 KBOs over 100 km in diameter are thought to exist.

On July 14, 2015, New Horizons flew by Pluto and took detailed measurements. One of the most fascinating images of Pluto sent by New Horizons was that of a heart-shaped region on Pluto. This region stretches for about 1600 km. The borders of this region have darker equatorial terrains, and a mottled terrain to the east (right of the picture). At the western lobe of the 'Heart' is a 1000 km wide basin of frozen nitrogen and carbon monoxide. There are obvious signs of glacial flows of water ice, both into the basin and out of it which are shown in blue colour in the image below.

The atmosphere of Pluto is tenuous i.e it is too thin to have complex weather like precipitation. It consists of nitrogen, methane and carbon monoxide, similar to the composition of its surface. According to data received from New Horizons, the surface pressure of its atmosphere is about 1 Pascal (a unit of pressure)*. This is roughly one million less than the Earth's atmospheric pressure on its surface and is just about 4 km. thick.

There is no other mission to Pluto on the anvil. Pluto was discovered in the modern era in which global communication was much too faster than ever before. Hence, it was widely discussed in print and entertainment media.



New Horizons captured this heart-shaped region on Pluto.

In 1941, a new element was created by an American chemist Glen T Seaborg, keeping with the tradition he called the element plutonium. Uranium and neptunium were earlier names given to new elements.

There are still many people who do not want to call Pluto a dwarf planet. However, Mike Brown, the astronomer who discovered Eris (now termed a dwarf planet), said, "It's been a long time coming (that is change of Pluto's status). Science is self-correcting eventually, even when strong emotions are involved."

FELICITATION

Shri Arvind Paranjpye, director of Nehru Planetarium was awarded the Zubin Kembhavi award, instituted by the Astronomical Society of India, for his contributions towards the development of low-cost instrumentation and organization of outreach events in several regions including rural areas.

The award is funded by Ajit Kembhavi, former Director of Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA). The object is to promote (1) Observational and Instrumentation work in Astronomy and allied fields (2) Public Outreach and Education in Astronomy and allied fields.

The award carries a cash prize and a plaque awarded annually for notable and important contributions to the areas it addresses. In alternate years, the award is directed to work done in areas (1) and (2) mentioned above. There is no age limit. The award is given to individuals or groups on the basis of the work done primarily in India.

Shri Paranjpye received the award from Padma Shri awardee Shri Kiran Kumar, former chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation.

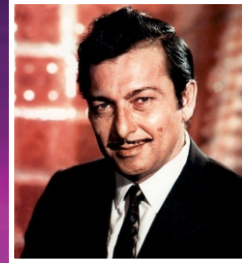
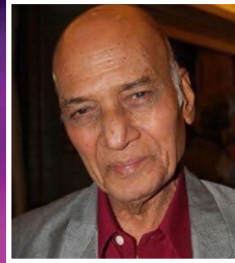


Shri Kiran Kumar, former ISRO Chairman handing over the award to Shri Arvind Paranjpye



The ASI Zubin Kembhavi award

Yaad Aaye Woh Zamana (A Musical Journey)



(A Tribute to Shri Khayyam
& Shri Madan Mohan)

KHAYYAM

Mohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi (18 February 1927 - 19 August 2019) or Khayyam as he was popularly known was an Indian music director and background score composer whose career spanned four decades.

He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2011. He was also a three time winner of the Filmfare Award, including a Lifetime Achievement Award and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

MADAN MOHAN

Madan Mohan Kohli (25 June 1924 - 14 July 1975) or Madan Mohan as he was fondly addressed was an Indian music director of the 1950s, '60s and '70s. One of the most melodious and skilled music directors of the Hindi film industry, he is particularly remembered for the ghazals he composed for Hindi films. Some of his best compositions are sung by Lata Mangeshkar, Mohammed Rafi and Talat Mehmood. In fact, Lata Mangeshkar called him *Ghazal ka Shehzada*, or the Prince of Ghazals.

Music arranged by **Ajay Madan.**

Singers:

**Mishtu Bardhan
Anil Bajpai
Rana Chaterjee
and Ananya Bhowmick**

Sandeep Panchwatkar will comper the programme.

Date: **Friday, 28th April 2023**

Time: **7.00 p.m.**

Venue: **Nehru Centre Auditorium**

Entry: Free Entrance cards will be available on Monday, 24th April 2023 from 10.30 a.m. onwards until availability from the ticket counter of Nehru Centre Auditorium

ANNOUNCEMENT

KATHAK DARPAN

A Workshop on Kathak conducted by Ms. Saswati Sen, senior disciple of late Pt. Birju Maharaj will be held from Monday, 22nd May 2023 to Friday, 26th May 2023 with a finale on Saturday, 27th May 2023. The forms for registration for workshop will be available from 1st April 2023 through our website: www.nehru-centre.org

HINA BHATT

Hina, a textile designer, paints in oils, acrylic, pastels and ink on religious concepts and nature.

**Tuesday 4th April 2023 to
Monday 10th April 2023
(AC Gallery)**

HEMANT BANDHU

Hemant is a senior corporate executive. His paintings are based on emotions through figures.

**Tuesday 4th April 2023 to
Monday 10th April 2023
(Circular Gallery)**

**DEBANJAN SIL . MILAN KUILA
TARUN RIT . ARPAN NATH
PARTHA TALUKDAR
SUMAR KUMAR PAL
PARTHA SARATHI
BHATTACHARJEE**



Debanjan Sil

This group of artists from West Bengal will display paintings and sculptures on various themes.

**Tuesday 11th April 2023 to
Monday 17th April 2023
(AC Gallery)**

**LAXMI NARAYAN SHARMA
MAMTA SHARMA**

The two artists will showcase landscapes and figurative paintings in oil on canvas on tribal women and Mandu.

**Tuesday 11th April 2023 to
Monday 17th April 2023
(Circular Gallery)**

**KISHORE PRATIM BISWAS
MITHU BISWAS
SUNIL DEORE**

The three artists will display art in charcoal, mixed media and acrylic on canvas. Sculptures on various subjects will also be on display.

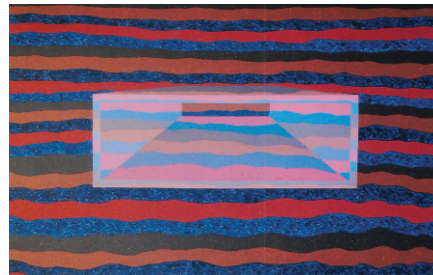
**Tuesday 18th April 2023 to
Monday 24th April 2023
(AC Gallery)**

**SACHIN PEDNEKAR
NILESH PAWASKAR
NIKHIL KAMBLE
MONALI KHATALE**

This group from Maharashtra will exhibit water colours and acrylic artworks.

**Tuesday 18th April 2023 to
Monday 24th April 2023
(Circular Gallery)**

SRUSHTI RAO



Srushti's paintings are in acrylic on canvas and based on geometry with different compositions.

**Tuesday 25th April 2023 to
Monday 1st May 2023
(AC Gallery)**

**PRAKASHCHANRA
VISHWAKARMA**

Prakashchandra is an artist from Uttar Pradesh. His paintings are compositions of human figures.

**Tuesday 25th April 2023 to
Monday 1st May 2023
(Circular Gallery)**

**TALENT DEFIES
HANDICAP**

An Physically Challenged "On the Spot Art Contest" for Children was organized on 9th March 2023, as Nehru Centre Art Gallery's annual event since last 28 years.

Eminent artists Smt. Supriya Sawant and Smt. Vaishali Kale judged the artworks and were very highly impressed with the paintings and sculptures created by the blind children. Prizes were distributed to the best works.



RAMSAR WETLAND SITES IN INDIA

3. Assam

The Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary, in the Kamrup district of the lower Brahmaputra valley in Assam, is a perennial freshwater lake 10 km south west of Guwahati. It is the state's only Ramsar site. The Deepor Beel is also the only central storm-water storage basin for Guwahati city. The beel, or lake, is home to resident and migratory birds and a site to spot herds of Asiatic wild elephants who are attracted to the lake's aquatic vegetation. They come to the beel from the four elephant corridors of the region, in the Rani-Garbhanga Reserve Forests in Kamrup east to the lake for food.

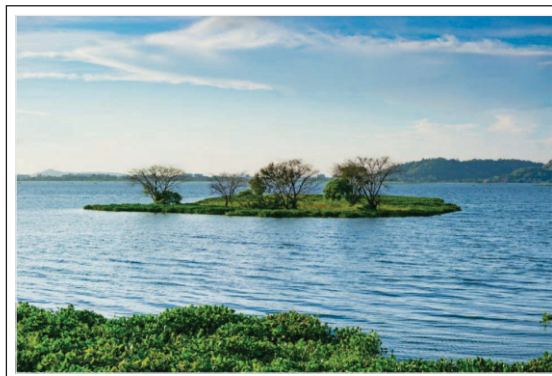
Deepor Beel supports some globally threatened species of birds like Spotbilled Pelican (*Pelicanus philippensis*), Lesser Adjutant Stork (*Leptoptilos javanicus*), Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*), Palas Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) and the Greater Adjutant Stork (*Leptoptilos javanicus* and *dubius*). The Beel is a site on migratory flyways where some of the largest concentrations of migratory aquatic birds can be seen, especially in winter. It also has thirty more waterfowl species than the total counted in 2022. A total of 26,747 birds belonging to 96 species were recorded during the count at the wetland on the southwestern edge of Guwahati. The lake also has around fifty fish species, some of which the locals harvest, along with nymphaea nuts and flowers, some ornamental fish, medicinal plants, and seeds of the Giant water lily which have good sale value.

The lake shore vegetation includes giant water lilies (*Euryale ferox*) which are of considerable botanical interest and economic importance. Dominant tree species in the deciduous forests in the beel basin are species of *Tectona grandis* or common teak, *Ficus benghalensis* or the common ficus, *Shorea robusta* or the sal tree and *Bombax malabaricum* or the silk cotton tree. In the surrounding forest area, aquarium plants, medicinal plants and orchids of commercial value are reported.

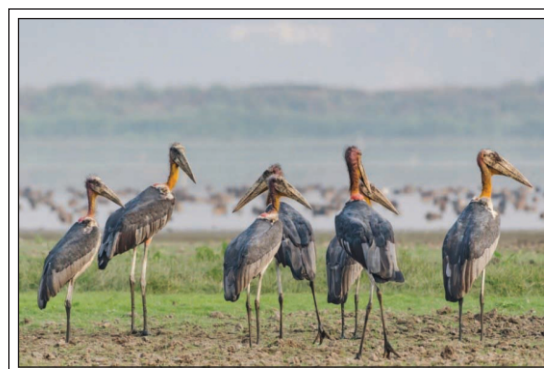
The lake, a Ramsar site, is also on various protected lists. Birdlife International declared Deepor Beel as an Important Bird Area (IBA) site. Deepor Beel was notified under the Guwahati Water Bodies (Preservation and Conservation) Act, 2008. The lake's outflow is the Khandajan rivulet, which joins the Brahmaputra.

There are plans in the offing that will shift the waste dumping in the lake away from the beel, and the railway lines will be realigned away from the elephant corridors, which the beel is an important part of. Also, quite a few pro-conservation organisations are working to keep Deepor Beel from deteriorating further, as it is not only an important biodiversity area but also supports the livelihoods of the locals.

Deepor Beel in Assam declared as a Ramsar Wetland Site in 19th August 2002.



Deepor Beel



Greater Adjutant Stork



Giant water lily

NEHRU CENTRE PUBLICATIONS

Books for Sale

Nehru Revisited
India's Defence Preparedness
Nehru and Indian Constitutionalism
Internal Security in India
Constitutionalism and Democracy
in South Asia
मुंबई: काल आणि आज
Mumbai: Past and Present
India and Central Asia
Witness to History
India-Russia Relations
India-China Relations
Remembering Einstein
Challenges to Democracy in India
Rule of Law in a Free Society
Science in India
Exploring The Universe

Colourful art catalogues for sale

- (1) GOPALRAO DEUSKAR (1995)
 - (2) VINAYAKRAO KARMARKAR (1996)
 - (3) MITTER BEDI (1997)
 - (4) S. L. & G. S. HALDANKAR (1998)
 - (5) BALAJI & HARISH TALIM (1999)
 - (6) D. G. KULKARNI (DIZI) (2001)
 - (7) NARAYAN L. SONAVADEKAR (2003)
 - (8) NAGESH B. SABANNAVAR (2004)
 - (9) SAMAKALEEN (2005)
 - (10) VINAYAK S. MASOJI (2006)
- and many more...

ART FUSION catalogues

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

Set of five assorted gift cards
Designed by differently abled children

SANSKRUTI - CD ROM :
An aesthetics of Indian culture

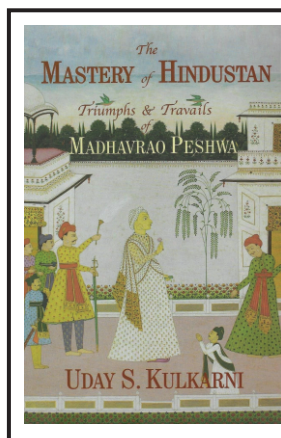
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Set of ten greeting cards
Based on Discovery of India Exposition

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Discovery of India Building,
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BOOK DISCUSSION



The Mastery of Hindustan: Triumphs & Travails of Madhavrao Peshwa

Written by
Dr Uday S. Kulkarni

Speakers
Dr Uday S. Kulkarni
Dr Gaurav Gadgil

Moderator
Ms Soniya Khare

The Peshwa trilogy is a series of three carefully researched and brilliantly written books on the Maratha confederacy. Replete with meticulously researched historical documents, maps, illustrations and references, *The Mastery of Hindustan: Triumphs & Travails of Madhavrao Peshwa* written by Dr. Uday S Kulkarni is the third in the three-part series.

In this book, the journey that Indian history took over the next twelve years has been meticulously constructed from original contemporary sources, creating a coherent narrative of a turbulent time when the nation threatened to fall apart. Richly illustrated and copiously annotated, the book can justifiably claim to be the authentic chronicle of the decade after 1761.

Date : **Thursday, 27th April 2023**

Time : **4.30 p.m.**

Venue : **Hall of Harmony, Ground Floor, Discovery of India Building**

RSVP: nehrucentrelibrary@gmail.com



nehru-centre.org/library.html



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10.00 a.m. to 5.45 p.m.

On all working days



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