

# Newsletter

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Nehru  
Centre



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## Events At a Glance...

### Library

#### Book Event

Meet Deepak Dalal, the author of 'A Flamingo in my Garden' and 'Talon the Falcon.'

**Saturday, 4th February 2017**

**10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.**

**Venue: Hall of Harmony**

### Art Gallery

#### "KALAVISHKAR"

An exhibition of work done in "Water Colour Study Camp" at Bhuj-Kutch. Selected works from the camp will be displayed at the exhibition.

**Tuesday, 21st February 2017 to**

**Monday, 27th February 2017**

**Venue: (AC & Circular Gallery)**

### Cultural Wing

#### "शतदा प्रेम करावे"

To commemorate the जागतिक मराठी भाषा दिवस, a review of मराठी भाषा through poetic excellence of late Shri Mangesh Padgaonkar featuring the best of Mangesh Padgaonkar's work will be presented.

**Tuesday, 28th February 2017, 6.30 pm**

**Venue: Nehru Centre Auditorium**

## TALKING ABOUT BOOKS

Shashi Tharoor's book "An Era of Darkness: The British Empire in India" was discussed at Nehru Centre on 9th November, 2016.

Professor Mala Pandurang, Vice Principal and Head of the Department of English, Dr. BMN College, Mumbai and Professor Michelle Philip, Vice Principal and Head of the Department of English, Wilson College, Mumbai gave their expert reviews about the book.

Excerpts from the talk by Professor Mala Pandurang were published in the monthly Newsletter of January, 2017. Following are some excerpts from the talk by Professor Michelle Philip.

Prof. Philip said that as she was not a very good student of history she decided to approach it a little differently from that of an academic. She started by reminiscing about her school that was housed in the residence of Robert Clive in Chennai. That was her first connect with the British in Indian history. While reading

the books, she was reminded of a quotation by George Orwell (1984). He had said, "He who controls the past controls the future and he who controls the present controls the past". Prof. Philip remarked that, that was what was happening today with an attempt to re-write all text books.

Prof. Philip stressed on the need to look at the book from the perspective of the inspiration behind the book. She said that we are all familiar with the Oxford Union debate in which Dr. Shashi Tharoor has participated. Generally when anything controversial is said it immediately goes viral on the internet. Our generation accepted everything that was said in the print media as 'gospel truth' and the present generation accepts everything and anything on the internet as 'gospel truth.' So Tharoor himself was pleasantly surprised, rather shocked and a bit perplexed to see the responses to the debate. He said that his speech had perhaps struck a chord because people reacted as if he had opened their eyes to the realities of the British Empire, when, in fact, he was merely

contd. on page 2

reiterating what they had already known. But Dr. Philip said that she differs here and feels that the success of his speech at Oxford Union was because Dr. Tharoor told all of us what we want to hear. Somewhere in the beginning he talks about his political opponents in the debate and points out that the Congress had six decades to rule India but nothing much had changed. Had the British not come to India, we would have had thriving Indian culture and we would have had our own political development. This was one aspect that Prof. Philip wanted to highlight.

In the preface, Dr. Tharoor says that the book, somewhat unusually, began as a speech. In May 2015, Tharoor was invited by the Oxford Union to speak on the proposition 'Britain owes Reparation to her former colonies' to atone for their 200 years of imperial rule and he suggests that a symbolic Pound be paid for every year of colonial rule. Of course, they did the math and found that it would be difficult, the sum would be larger than Britain's entire GDP. But at the end of it all, Tharoor said that a simple 'sorry' would have been enough. Tharoor simply wanted the British to take responsibility for having been in India and for all the atrocities that were committed in the name of bringing culture to a country that they believed to be uncultured. But we know otherwise. Tharoor gives the example of Willy Brandt, Chancellor of Germany. In 1970, Willy Brandt knelt down in front of Warsaw Ghetto, and as Chancellor of Germany, he sought pardon from the Polish Jews for the atrocities during the Nazi rule. At that time in 1970 most of the Polish Jews had already left the country. So who was he apologizing to? That was the question Tharoor raised in his debate, 'Who would they

apologize to even if they wanted to?' The people they had wronged were already dead and gone. But Tharoor felt that what was really needed for the British was to take the moral responsibility for their actions in the country.

He goes on to say that the book is not about colonialism but India's experience of colonialism. Then the book, he says, is an attempt to offer arguments in favour of the British raj as well whereas in the debate he had to win the debate, so it was one sided. The book is a kind of balance where he offers arguments for both sides but we know that the sarcasm with which he talks about the British perspective is really not much of a defence in favour of the British. Of course, it is more of a history book rather than a story book. It gives us a lot of details and it makes an argument. Prof. Philip said that she would like to talk about 3 particular things from this book. The first would be 'feast and famine.' There is a section in the chapter 'Myth of Enlightened Despotism' titled "Feast and Famine". As India became increasingly crucial to British prosperity, millions of Indians died completely unnecessary deaths in famines. With a list of major famines that had taken place during the British rule, Tharoor describes the Orissa famine of 1866 and the horror of the millions of people who died. Prof. Philip drew

the attention of the audience to some of the important points that Tharoor made when he said what Amartya Sen said, "There has never been a famine in a democracy with a free press, because public accountability ensures effective response". Then, a little later Tharoor goes on to talk about Dadabhai Naoroji who was so moved by the horror of the Orissa deaths and so disillusioned that he said, "Security of life and property, we have better in these times, no doubt. But the destruction of a million and half lives in one famine is a strange illustration of the worth of the life and property thus secured."

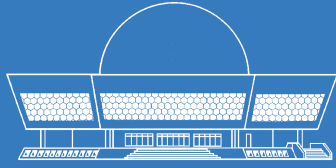
What Prof. Philip particularly found interesting was that Tharoor said that it was striking that the last large-scale famine to take place in India was under British rule. None has taken place since. Indian democracy has been more responsive to the needs of drought affected and poverty-stricken Indians than British rulers. She said that we are all familiar with the farmers' suicides as a result of the drought that led to a famine like situation. As a result, so many of our farmers died and they committed suicide too. Tharoor says that the British refused to act on this famine because they believed in free trade principles and financial prudence.

to be contd...

#### What Nehru said...

Four great religions have influenced India - two emerging from her own thought. Hinduism and Buddhism, and two coming from abroad but establishing themselves firmly in India. Christianity and Islam. Science today challenges the old concept of religion. But if religion deals not with dogmas and ceremonials, but rather with the higher things of life, there should be no conflict with science or inter se between religions. It might be the high privilege of India to help in bringing about this synthesis. That would be in India; sancient tradition inscribed on Ashoka's Edicts.

February 22 and 23, 1959



NEHRU PLANETARIUM

## SKY SHOW : 'Stars & Wonders of the Universe'

### Timings

12 noon (Hindi) 1:30 pm Marathi  
3:00 pm (English) 4:30 pm Hindi

(MONDAY CLOSED)

## In the shadow of a Rock

Between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter we find large number of irregularly shaped bodies. These bodies are called asteroids or minor planets. The region in which these bodies are located is called main asteroid belt or just main belt, as there are other regions in the solar system where such bodies are found.

At one point in time people thought that there was a planet between Mars and Jupiter that for some reason broke into large number of small fragments, creating the asteroid belt. However, subsequent research revealed that the total mass of all the bodies in the belt is about 4% that of the Moon, which is not enough to make one full planet.

By taking spectra of asteroids astronomers could categorize them into three basic groups: carbonaceous (C-type), silicate (S-type), and metal-rich (M-type). But it is a daunting task even to estimate the sizes of these objects.

The largest body in this group named Ceres is about 950 km in diameter. This is now categorized as a dwarf planet. A few other larger ones in the group have diameters of the order of about 600 km but the most members, quite irregular in shape have maximum length smaller than 200 km. To give you a fair idea of their sizes and distances – it is like looking at an object half the width of human hair kept at a distance of one kilometre.

There are some indirect methods of estimating the sizes and shapes of the asteroids but one method that is cheap and yet gives a very reliable size is by observing what is called occultations of stars by asteroids. Occultation is an event in which a distant body is blocked by a nearer body – like in solar eclipse the Sun is blocked by the Moon.

Asteroids being so small in size the width of their shadow path is also narrow. What is even more interesting is that in order to estimate the shape of the asteroid one need not even see it. All one needs to do is to keep looking at the star that would be occulted by the asteroid. As the asteroid comes between the observer and the distant star, the star 'disappears' and then 'reappears' again as the asteroid moves on. The duration over which the star disappeared gives direct estimation on the size of the asteroid. With the help of a fair number of observers in the shadow belt it is possible to get the shape of the asteroid too.

But there are no free lunches in nature. Such events are rather rare. Asteroids being so small in size the width of their shadow path is also narrow.

One such opportunity came on the eve of X-mas – on the night of 24th December 2016. An asteroid named 22 Kalliope (it was 22nd asteroid discovered) was going to come between the earth and rather a faint star designated as TYC 2430-01124-1. The event took place at 3:30 a.m. on 25th Dec. The shadow path was approximately on the line joining Rajkot and Nellore. Width of the path was 168 km.

A team led by Shri Arvind Paranjpye, Director (Planetarium) tried to observe the event from three locations (Asangaon, Nalasopara and Dahanu) north of Mumbai. Unfortunately thick fog settled over Nalasopara and Dahanu but the observer in Asangaon could observe the event. It was indeed heartening to see students and amateur astronomers participating in this observing exercise enthusiastically.

# STAR CHART FOR FEBRUARY 2017

## Use the Chart :

**Early month :** 10 p.m.  
**Middle month :** 9 p.m.  
**Late month :** 8 p.m.

Month of February 2017 begins with Moon, Mars and Venus aligned almost on a straight line. Crescent Moon and Venus would be shining brilliantly with red dot of Mars halfway between them.

On 5th evening the Moon can be seen entering Hyades cluster and as the night progresses one can observe it going closer to Aldebaran (Rohini).

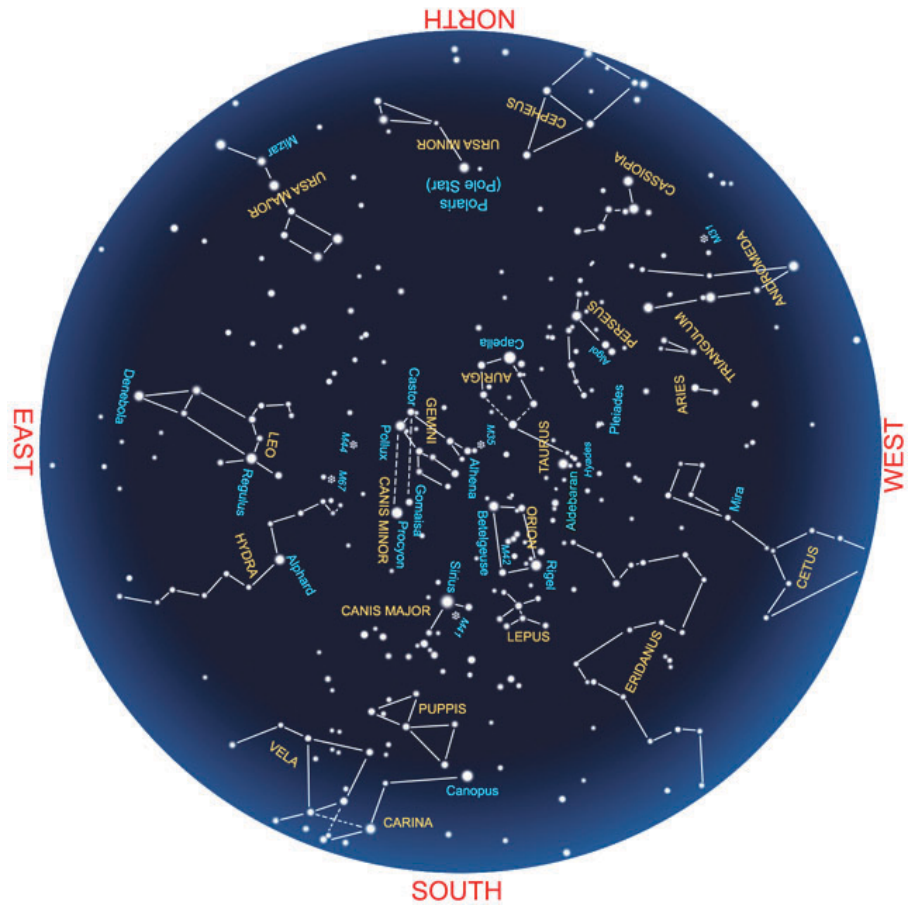
Penumbral Lunar Eclipse will take place on 11th February. A penumbral lunar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes through the Earth's partial shadow, or penumbra. During this type of eclipse the Moon will darken slightly but not completely. The eclipse will be visible throughout most of eastern South America, eastern Canada, the Atlantic Ocean, Europe, Africa, and western Asia.

The eclipse begins at 04:02 IST. The Moon will be above the western horizon for Indian observers. On this day the Moon will first set at 07:11 IST and then 11 hours and 53 minutes later it will rise above the eastern horizon, at 19:04, with Regulus (Magha).

Then on 15th, Jupiter and Moon will be seen together after 10 PM above the eastern horizon.

In the pre-dawn sky of 21st Feb, Saturn and crescent Moon can be together, separated by just less than 3°.

As far as planets are concerned, Jupiter will be visible throughout the month after 11 PM above the eastern horizon. Saturn will be visible whole month after 4:30 AM till sunrise, below Antares (Jayeshtha). Venus and Mars will decorate our February evening sky (both will be seen in Pisces).



The map shows slightly more sky than that will be visible from a given location. Thus the map can be used elsewhere in India at 21:00 hrs Indian Time. Hold the chart vertically before your eye and turn it until the geographical direction you are facing shows at the bottom of the chart.

Phases of the Moon (timings in IST hh:mm)			
<b>First Quarter</b> (Shukla Paksha Ashtami)	<b>Full Moon</b> (Poornima)	<b>Last Quarter</b> (Krishna Paksha Ashtami)	<b>New Moon</b> (Amavasya)
4 Feb., 09:49	11 Feb., 06:03	19 Feb., 01:03	26 Feb., 20:28

*(Disclaimer: The Indian names of the stars and planet, given in parenthesis for the purpose to remind the reader that India has a rich astronomical tradition. We do not subscribe to astrology.)*



# Cultural Wing

## Celebration of मराठी भाषा दिवस

## शतदा प्रेम करावे

To commemorate the जागतिक मराठी भाषा दिवस, a review of मराठी भाषा through poetic excellence of late Shri Mangesh Padgaonkar featuring the best of Mangesh Padgaonkar's work under the title "शतदा प्रेम करावे" will be presented.

*Concept & Design:*

**Shri L. A. Kazi**  
Director, Culture  
Nehru Centre

*Music:* Prashant Lalit

*Vocal:*

**Shri Shrirang Bhawe**  
**Shri Bhagawant Kulkarni**  
**Smt. Madhuri Karmarkar**

*Co-ordinator & Compere:*

**Smt. Uttara Mone**

**28th February, 2017, 6.30 pm**  
**Nehru Centre Auditorium**

*Entry: Entrance Cards will be available on Thursday, 23rd February 2017 from 10.30 am until availability of entrance cards from the Booking Counter of the Nehru Centre Auditorium.*

## Review | **Discovery of India** *Insaaniyat ka Zakheera (A Dance Ballet)*

The third episode of Discovery of India under the title "Insaaniyat ka Zakheera" was held on 10th January 2017. An overall review of the humanitarian aspects of Indian soil through ages as reflected by the scholars through their literature, the works of Shankaracharya, Subramaniam Bharati, Mirabai, Tukaram, Kabir and Guru Nanak Dev, in the dance style of Bharatnatyam & Kathak tuned to the music by Shri Narayan Mani.

It was scripted by Shri L. A. Kazi and choreographed by Dr. Sandhya Purecha.

The programme received warm appreciation from the audience present.





## Programmes for February 2017

MEENA DUBEY

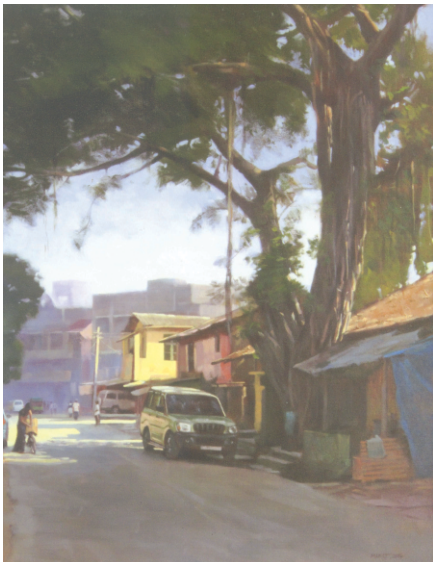


Painting by Meena Dubey

**Meena** is a self-taught artist. Her semi -abstract paintings are landscapes and on the beauty of nature in acrylic and oils on canvas. She has exhibited her works in Bhopal.

**Tuesday 31st January to  
Monday 6th February 2017  
( AC Gallery )**

MANOJ DESHMUKH



Painting by Manoj Deshmukh

**Manoj** completed G.D.A. in Painting from Abhinav Kala Mahavidyalaya, Pune and A.T.D. from Khopoli. He has had many solo and group shows and has won awards. His paintings

are landscapes of rural areas in acrylic and oil on canvas.

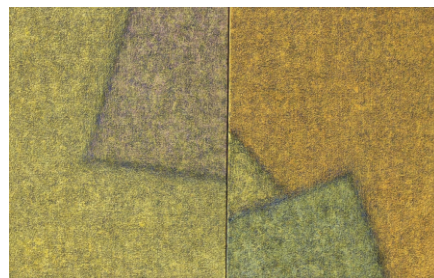
**Tuesday 31st January to  
Monday 6th February 2017  
( Circular Gallery )**

ROHAN PAWAR .  
GANESH CHAVAN



Sculpture by Rohan Pawar

**Rohan** obtained G.D.A in Sculpture and Modelling from Sahyadri School of Art, Ratnagiri. He has participated in many exhibitions and won many awards at State levels. His sculptures are in Brass.



Painting by Ganesh Chavan

**Ganesh** completed B.F.A. and M.F.A. in Painting from Sir J. J. School of Art, Mumbai. His paintings are abstract in oil on canvas. He has had many shows and won awards for his work.

**Tuesday 7th February to  
Monday 13th February 2017  
( AC Gallery )**

AMOL GAWALI



Painting by Amol Gawali

**Amol** completed G.D.A. in Painting from Kalavishva Mahavidyalaya, Sangli. He has won prizes for his landscapes in the competitions. His landscapes and compositions are in water colours.

**Tuesday 7th February to  
Monday 13th February 2017  
( Circular Gallery )**

UMAKANT KANADE .  
MADHAVI JOSHI .  
JITENDRA THORAT



Painting by Umakant Kanade

**Umakant** obtained G.D.A. in Painting from Pune. His black & white paintings are inspired from nature and its eternal beauty. Though his entire paintings are in black & white, he gives dash of colour for birds.





Painting by Madhavi Joshi

**Madhavi** is an engineer by profession. Her paintings are compositions in acrylic colours on canvas.

**Jitendra** secured B.F.A. & G.D.A. in Painting with 1st Division. He has had many shows and won awards. He has also attended many workshops. His paintings are in mix media on canvas and paper.

**Tuesday 14th February to  
Monday 20th February 2017  
( AC Gallery )**

### ASHOK SHATKAR



Painting by Ashok Shatkar

**Ashok** completed B.F.A.; M.F.A. and Ph.D in Painting from Gulbarga. He has had many shows in India and won many awards. His paintings are figurative compositions in oils on canvas.

**Tuesday 14th February to  
Monday 20th February 2017  
( Circular Gallery )**

## "KALAVISHKAR"

### Works done in "Water Colour Study Camp" at 'BHUJ-KUTCH'

**Nehru Centre** annually hosts the 'Water Colour Study Camp' to various places in India for the past 23 years. This year's the Study Camp was taken to Bhuj-Kutch. The students were selected from the art colleges of Pune, Kolhapur, Aurangabad and Mumbai. Shri Kishor Nadavadekar accompanied as guide to the students during the camp. Everyone did the paintings on various locations at Bhuj.

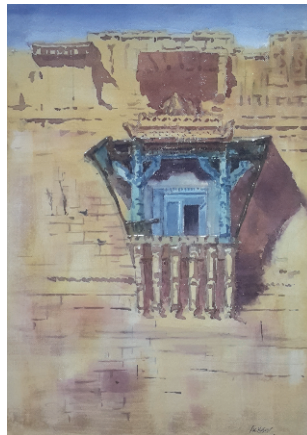
Selected works will be displayed in the exhibition.



Shri Kishor Nadavdekar, guide, giving demonstration at the camp



The painting done at the demonstration by Shri Kishor Nadavdekar



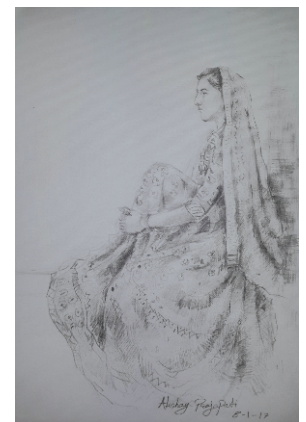
Painting by Shubham Kesur



Painting by Vaibhav Jagtap



Painting by Aniket Muley



Sketch by Akshay Prajapati

**Tuesday 21st February to Monday 27th February 2017  
( AC & Circular Gallery )**

## NEHRU CENTRE PUBLICATIONS

MUMBAI PAST &amp; PRESENT \* WITNESS TO HISTORY

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KRISHNAJI KETKAR \* DATTAJIRAO DALVI

\* GOVIND MALADKAR

14. NAGESH B. SABANNAVAR

15. NARAYAN L. SONAVADEKAR

16. "GURU-SHISHYA"

BABA GAJBAR &amp; GANPATRAO WADANGEKAR

17. D. G. KULKARNI (DIZI)

18. MILLENNIUM SHOW

(A Century of Art from Maharashtra)

19. BALAJI TALIM &amp; HARISH TALIM

20. S. L. HALDANKAR &amp; G. S. HALDANKAR

21. VINAYAKRAO P. KARMARKAR

22. GOPALRAO DEUSKAR

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## New Arrivals - Children's books on Birds and Animals

Sr. No.	Title	Author/s
1	The family encyclopedia of animal life	Philip Steele
2	Don't let the pigeon drive the bus	Mo Willems
3	Birds	Malcolm Penny
4	The newspaper dog	Enid Blyton
5	Mammals: Mighty and meek	Katie Bagli
6	Fantastic Mr. Fox	Roald Dahl
7	Discover sharks	Scan Kennelly
8	Jungle animals	Anita Ganeri
9	Animals of the world	Mark Carvadine
10	Venomous snakes of the world	Mark O'Shea

## Book Event



Meet Deepak Dalal, the author of several adventure stories for children. Watch videos and slides on colourful birds and know about his two new books, 'A Flamingo in my Garden' and 'Talon the Falcon.'



Date: Saturday, 4th February 2017  
Time: 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.  
Venue: Hall of Harmony

RSVP required: [aratidesai@nehru-centre.org](mailto:aratidesai@nehru-centre.org)

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