

Newsletter

Vol. 24 Issue 2 FEBRUARY 2023

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Nehru
Centre



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Events At a Glance...

Culture Wing

मराठी भाषा दिन - **A tribute to Shri Vidyadhar Gokhale** to mark the birth centenary of the noted literary figure, veteran journalist-editor and Marathi dramatist.

Scripted by **Shri Pramod Bapat**
Directed by **Shri Dnyanesh Pendharkar**

Monday,
27th February 2023
6.30 p.m.
Nehru Centre Auditorium

Library

MEET-THE-AUTHOR
- **Ms Katie Bagli**
on
A Tryst with our Glorious Trees

Saturday,
4th February 2023
10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
'Who Are We' Hall,
1st Floor, DOI Building

For: **Stds. III to V**

Constituent Assembly Debates Adult Franchise and Elections – Part I

The first general elections in independent India were held on the basis of adult franchise in 1952. Prior to that, the legislatures in India were elected on a very restricted franchise, only 3% of the population. The reason for keeping the franchise so unrepresentative, as reasoned by the British rulers, was lack of literacy among the masses and absence of efficient Returning Officers required in case the franchise was to be extended to cover even 10% of the population. Indian opinion, however, had for a long time been in favour of complete democracy and adult franchise. In 1928, the Motilal Nehru Report had recommended adult franchise for the Lower House of the Central Legislature as well as the Provincial Legislatures. The British Cabinet Mission which came to India in 1946 understood how Indians felt. It observed that the most satisfactory method of forming a Constituent Assembly would be by election, based on adult franchise. But they decided against their own better judgement on account of the 'unacceptable delay' it would involve in the formation of the new Constitution-making body.

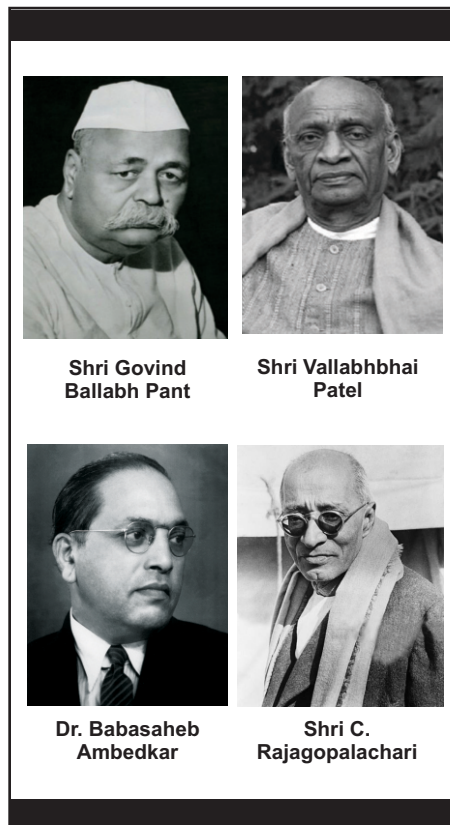
The Constituent Assembly of India had appointed an Advisory

Committee on Fundamental Rights and on the Rights of Minorities under the Chairmanship of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The Sub-Committee on the Fundamental Rights and the Minorities Sub-Committee were unanimous on adult franchise but there was a difference of opinion on whether adult suffrage be included in the chapter on fundamental rights or in the chapter on elections. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was of the opinion that adult franchise and all provisions for its free and fair exercise should be recognized as in the nature of fundamental rights. In the meetings of the Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas held on April 20 and 21, 1947, he said, "So far as this committee is concerned my point is that we should support the proposition that the committee is in favour of adult suffrage. The second thing we have guaranteed in this fundamental right is that the elections shall be free and the elections shall be by secret voting. The third proposition which this fundamental clause enunciates is that in order that elections may be free in the real sense of the word, they shall be taken out of the hands of the government of the day, and that

they should be conducted by an independent body which we may here call an Election Commission.”

Shri C. Rajagopalachari had a different view. He said, “What Dr. Ambedkar said would be agreed to by every one. My only point is whether it is proper to deal with this as a fundamental right or whether we should leave it, or a greater part of it, for the consideration of the whole Assembly. I submit we cannot take it for granted that the Union Legislature shall be elected by the direct vote from all citizens from all India. It may be a Federation Constitution. It may be indirectly elected. The Government of the Union may be formed indirectly, so we cannot assume that every adult or anyone whatever the description may be, shall have a direct vote to Legislature. We cannot therefore deal with the subject at all now. Whether there is going to be direct election or indirect election, that must be settled first... without committing ourselves one way or the other, we should deal with the question when it arises in connection with the Constitution and not prejudice it as a fundamental right.”

At this stage, Shri Govind Ballabh Pant suggested that it would be better if the clause was sent to the Constituent Assembly, not as a part of fundamental rights, but included in the letter of the Chairman to the effect that we recommend to the Constituent Assembly, the following principles in regard to the framing of the Constitution, keeping the text as it is. The suggestion was accepted by the Chairman.



Accordingly Shri Vallabhbhai Patel, Chairman, Advisory Committee on Minorities, Fundamental Rights, etc. wrote to the President, Constituent Assembly of India, on August 23, 1947, thus, “The Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee and the Minorities Sub-Committee agreed that the following should be included in the list of Fundamental Rights:-

1) Every citizen not below 21 years of age shall have the right to vote at any election to the legislature of the Union and of any unit thereof, or, where the legislature is bicameral, to the lower chamber of the legislature, subject to such disqualifications on the ground of

mental incapacity, corrupt practice or crime as may be imposed, and subject to such qualifications relating to residence within the appropriate constituency, as may be required, by or under the law.

2) The law shall provide for free and secret voting and for periodical elections to the legislature.

3) The superintendence, direction and control of all elections to the legislature, whether of the Union or of a unit, including the appointment of Election Tribunals, shall be vested in an Election Commission for the Union or the unit, as the case may be, appointed, in all cases in accordance with the law of the Union.

While agreeing in principle with this clause, we recommend that instead of being included in the list of fundamental rights, it should find a place in some other part of the Constitution.”

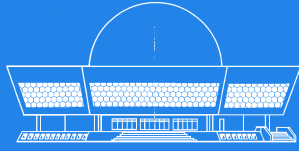
Consequently in the Draft Constitution prepared by the Drafting Committee, Article 149 provided that the election shall be on the basis of adult suffrage and Article 289 provided how it shall be conducted. It lay down that all elections to Parliament and to the offices of President shall be conducted by a Commission appointed by the President. Similarly, all elections to the Legislature of a State and to the office of the Governor shall be conducted by a Commission appointed by the Governor of the State.

... to be continued

What Nehru said....

My seemingly actionless life in prison is tacked on some-how, by some process of thought and feeling, to coming or imagined action, and so it gains for me a certain content without which it would be a vacuum in which existence would become intolerable. When actual action has been denied me I have sought some such approach to the past and to history.

...From Chapter 1, *The Discovery of India*



NEHRU PLANETARIUM
Tel: 02224920510
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)

Uranus

The five planets discussed in the earlier issues of the Newsletter are collectively called classical planets as they were known to astronomers of ancient times. On the other hand, Uranus was the first planet that was discovered with the use of a telescope.

On 13 March 1781, Sir William Herschel, an English astronomer was observing the night sky with a self-made telescope. He saw an object that looked like a very small patch of dim light and recorded it as a 'nebulous star' or 'comet'. Four days later, when he observed the same object again, he noticed that its position had changed slightly. He was happy that he had discovered a new comet.

After six weeks on 26 April 1781, he announced his discovery to the scientific community. Soon, other observers too started observing this 'comet'. When astronomers and mathematicians analyzed the observations, they found that the object moved more like a planet around the Sun, unlike a comet. It was later confirmed that the object discovered by Herschel was, indeed, a new planet.

Herschel wanted to name the planet *Georgium Sidus* (George's Star or Planet) in honour of King George III, his patron. But this name was not accepted outside Britain. Many other names were suggested by different astronomers, including that of Herschel himself. Johann Elert Bode, a German astronomer suggested the name Uranus for the planet. His suggestion was based on Greek and Roman mythological stories in which Uranus is the father of Saturn. Finally, Uranus was accepted as the name of the new planet.

Uranus is the seventh planet from the Sun. It is the third largest planet, after Jupiter and Saturn. It is about four times larger than the Earth and its diameter is 51,118 kilometres. The average distance of Uranus from the Sun is about 2.7 billion kilometres which is about twenty times the distance between the Earth and the Sun. At this distance, the amount of sunlight that reaches Uranus is nearly 400 times less than that received at the Earth and it takes more than two and a half hours to reach Uranus.

Uranus makes one orbit around the Sun in approximately 84 years and rotates on its own axis once in 17 hours and 14 minutes. Its axis is almost in the orbital plane around the Sun. In other words, its axis is largely tilted. All other planets have their axis nearly perpendicular (vertical) to their orbital plane. The unusual tilt of Uranus could possibly have been caused by an unknown object hitting the planet.

During one orbit around the Sun, the north and south poles of Uranus alternately face the Sun. One pole gets 42 years of continuous sunlight and goes into complete darkness for the next 42 years. During this period, the other pole gets continuous sunlight.

Though Uranus was discovered with the help of a telescope, many astronomers had already sighted this planet with their naked eyes but had mistaken it for a faint star. Today Uranus can be easily spotted by using a pair of binoculars. Through a small telescope, one can see that it is quite unlike any star and is seen as a small dot of pale greenish-blue colour. This colour is due to the presence of a very small quantity of

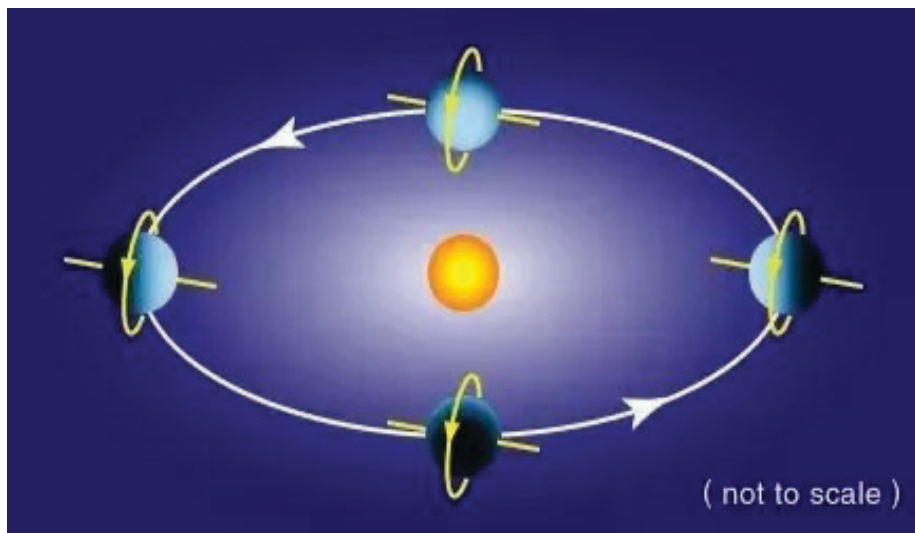
methane gas in the atmosphere of Uranus. Methane gas absorbs the red portion of sunlight and reflects green and blue colours. Hydrogen and helium are the main constituents of the atmosphere of Uranus. In addition to methane, traces of water and ammonia have been noticed but in the solid or frozen form.

The temperatures in the atmosphere are of the order of -224°C . Uranus is often classified as an 'ice giant' because of very low temperatures.

Wind speed on Uranus can be as high as 900 kilometres per hour. The flow of wind on Uranus is peculiar too. Closer to the equator, the wind flows in opposite direction to its rotation on its axis, i.e. the wind flows in retrograde motion. At the poles, though, the wind directions are in prograde i.e. from the west to east direction.

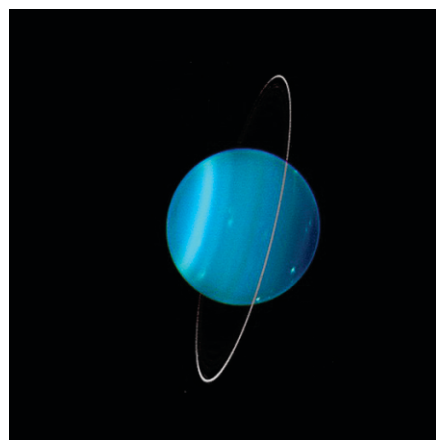
Uranus has 27 known moons or satellites. The first two moons were discovered by Sir William Herschel on 11 January 1787, about six years after he discovered the planet. The moons were not named until 1852. Unlike naming moons of the planets after Greek or Roman mythological figures, Sir William Herschel's son Sir John Herschel, a polymath and renowned astronomer, named two moons discovered by his father after Oberon and Titania, two fairies from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Later, when new moons were discovered, they were named after various characters from the works of William Shakespeare and Alexander Pope.

On 10 March 1977, rings around Uranus were discovered by the Kuiper Airborne Observatory and



Orbit of Uranus around the Sun

Kavalur Observatory of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics at Bengaluru. On that night it was predicted that Uranus would come directly between a distant star and the Earth. Astronomers wanted to study the change in the light of the star as Uranus passed in front of it



Uranus and its ring system

almost like an eclipse of the star called an occultation. This would have given them some additional information about the atmosphere of Uranus. However, well before the occultation by Uranus, the star dimmed a few times. A similar effect was observed after Uranus occulted the star. When the pre and post-occultation data were analysed, it

was concluded that this dimming of the star must have been due to a system of rings around Uranus through which starlight had passed.

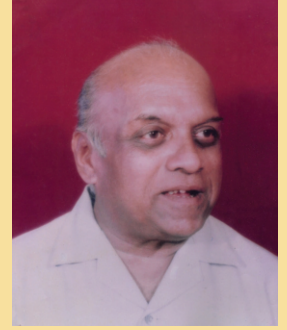
Till date, Voyager 2 is the only spacecraft that visited Uranus on 24 January 1986. It was a fly-by visit. Voyager 2 sent back thousands of images and voluminous amounts of other scientific data on the planet, its moons, rings, atmosphere, interior and its magnetic environment. Images of the five largest moons of Uranus show complex surface features. This indicates that these moons had been through different geological events in the past. Voyager 2 cameras also detected 11 new moons of Uranus. The ring system of Uranus was also studied in detail by the spacecraft which discovered two new rings.

In April last year, NASA started planning a new mission to Uranus to study the planet. It is expected to be launched in early 2031. This mission will tell us more about this icy giant planet. However, it is expected to take more than a decade to reach Uranus.

Culture Wing

मराठी भाषा दिन

२७ फेब्रुवारी



A tribute to
Shri Vidyadhar Gokhale

मराठी भाषा दिन

Vishnu Vaman Shirwadkar (27 February 1912 - 10 March 1999), who was popular by his pet name 'Kusumagraj' was a prolific Marathi poet, playwright, novelist and short story writer. His works inspired many to join the freedom movement. He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1974, Jnanpith Award in 1987 and the Padma Bhushan in 1991. In honour of his great contribution to Marathi literature, 27 February is celebrated as Marathi Bhasha Din.

This year marks the birth centenary of noted literary figure, veteran journalist-editor and Marathi dramatist, late Shri Vidyadhar Gokhale. Shri Gokhale was a renowned playwright who introduced Hindi thumris and ghazals in Marathi Sangeet Nataks. Therefore, this year, Nehru Centre is pleased to organize a special programme on his writings, plays and theatrical works.

Late Shri Vidyadhar Gokhale's daughter Smt. Shubhada Dadarkar and son-in-law, Shri Shrikant Dadarkar will also participate in the event.

Shri Pramod Bapat will script the programme and Shri Dnyanesh Pendharkar will direct the show.

Monday, 27th February 2023, 6.30 p.m.

Entry: Entrance cards will be available on Wednesday, 22nd February 2023 from 10.30 a.m. onwards until availability from the ticket counter of Nehru Centre Auditorium

**TUKARAM KARVE
HARIRAM PHAD**

Both artists will display their artworks in photography and stone sculpture.

**Tuesday 31st January 2023 to
Monday 6th February 2023
(AC Gallery)**

MRUGENDRA KESKAR

Mrugendra works in water colours as well as in acrylic, pastels and in mix media.

**Tuesday 31st January 2023 to
Monday 6th February 2023
(Circular Gallery)**

BHASKAR SAGAR

Bhaskar has around fifty shows to his credit from 1990 till date and will showcase his paintings in water colours on architectural visuals.

**Tuesday 7th February 2023 to
Monday 13th February 2023
(AC Gallery)**

SHRAVAN GURAV

In a career of fifty years, Shraavan has developed an innate, unique style through his paintings. His palette consists of bright and mixed colours.

**Tuesday 7th February 2023 to
Monday 13th February 2023
(Circular Gallery)**

**MRITYUNJOY DAS
SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY**

Both artists will exhibit their artworks in water colours.

**Tuesday 14th February 2023 to
Monday 20th February 2023
(AC Gallery)**

**DAVID PEZARKAR &
ARMY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S
GROUP**

This group from Army School, Pune will exhibit their artworks of child artists in mix media.

**Tuesday 14th February 2023 to
Monday 20th February 2023
(Circular Gallery)**

FIRST WISH ART GALLERY

A group show of paintings and sculptures from Georgia will be presented.

**Tuesday 21st February 2023 to
Monday 27th February 2023
(AC Gallery)**

**GIRIDHAR ARASAVALLI
T. SOMA S. RAO . K. SRINIVAS
U. VENUGOPALA RAO
SUBRAHMANYA KOLUSU**



Giridhar Arasavalli

A group show of five artists from Andhra Pradesh will exhibit their artworks in various styles.

**Tuesday 21st February 2023 to
Monday 27th February 2023
(Circular Gallery)**

**Indian Masters' Retrospective
(A Review)**

आठवर्णात्म्या
हास्यरेषा

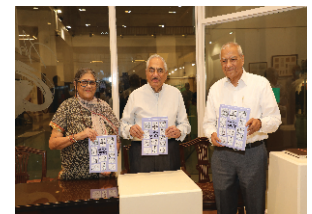
An exhibition
of twelve
eminent
cartoonists

Covid-19 impacted the entire world in many ways. There was an air of uncertainty and the sorrow of losing loved ones to the dreaded virus. We were all going through tough times. In such a scenario, as things slowly limped back to normal, the Art Gallery thought it necessary to bring the smiles back to people's faces.

Hence, in the Gallery's 28th year, it was decided to showcase the works of fourteen Master Cartoonists. It was heartening to see art students, artists and other visitors enjoying the wit and humour of the cartoons on display and momentarily forgetting their Covid-related problems.

Some glimpses of the inaugural function are displayed.

A print catalogue is available on sale at the Book Store. Do contact the Art Gallery for more details.



RAMSAR WETLAND SITES

1. Introduction

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands, recognizing the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value. Signed in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran, it is the only global treaty that focuses specifically on wetlands. Today 170 nations are signatories to the Ramsar Convention. By August 6, 2018, over 2323 wetland areas were inscribed on the Ramsar List, comprising over 248 million hectares (Ramsar Convention Secretariat, 2018).

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands defines wetlands as 'areas of marsh, fen, peat land or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters'. The Convention also mandates contracting parties to adopt National Wetland Policies, produce wetland inventories, conduct wetland monitoring and research, raise public awareness of wetlands, and develop integrated management plans for wetland sites.

India currently has 75 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) with a surface area of 1,326,677 hectares. However, the Indian government's definition of wetland excludes river channels, paddy fields and other areas where commercial activity takes place. Thus, the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 notified by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change have customized the definition of wetlands as 'areas of marsh, fen, peat land or water; whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters, but does not include river channels, paddy fields, human-made water bodies/tanks specifically constructed for drinking water purposes and structures specifically constructed for aquaculture, salt production, recreation and irrigation purposes'.

The purpose of declaring Ramsar Sites under the Ramsar Convention is to stop the worldwide loss of wetlands and conserve them through wise use and management. This aim requires international cooperation, policymaking, capacity building, and technology transfer. Wetlands International or the Ramsar Wetlands are selected because of their ecological, botanical, zoological, limnological, or hydrological importance.

Wetlands provide many benefits to people and nature, including flood control, water purification, erosion control, climate regulation, and habitat for plants and animals. Unfortunately, wetlands are being lost at an alarming rate due to various factors, including development, agriculture, pollution, and climate change.

From next month, the newsletter will cover Ramsar Wetland Sites in each Indian state.



Lonar lake, Maharashtra



Loktak lake, Manipur



Deepor Beel freshwater lake, Assam

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

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MEET-THE-AUTHOR - Ms Katie Bagli
A Tryst with our Glorious Trees



Ms. Katie Bagli has written three books on Trees. **Stories of Trees from India** has stories about the trees that surround us but often go unnoticed and has descriptions to help you identify them. **Gods, Greens and Gripping Tales** has stories on some of the leaves that are offered to Lord Ganesh. **Strange Trees** is a story book for children and has won the second prize in a Creative Writing contest organized by Childrens Book Trust.



Ms Katie Bagli is an award winning children's author and nature lover. She gives expression to her passion by writing for children. She writes a monthly column on Nature in "RobinAge", a children's magazine.

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Time : **10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.**
Venue : **'Who Are We' Hall, 1st Floor, DOI Building**
For : **Stds. III to V**
Register on: nehrucenrelibrary@gmail.com

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www.twitter.com/nehrucenlib		

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