

# Newsletter

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## Nehru Centre



Discovery of India Building  
Dr. Annie Besant Road,  
Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.  
Phone : 2496 4676-80  
Fax : 2497 3827

E-Mail: [info@nehru-centre.org](mailto:info@nehru-centre.org)  
Website: [www.nehru-centre.org](http://www.nehru-centre.org)

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## Events At a Glance...

### Library

#### Book Launch

*The Zoo Around You*  
Written by Katie Bagli and  
Medha Rajadhyaksha

Date: Saturday, 2nd February 2019  
Venue: Hall of Harmony  
Time: 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.  
Age Group: 7 to 10 year olds

#### Talk and Discussion

*Gandhi in Bombay: Towards swaraj*

#### Panelists

Dr. Usha Thakkar &  
Smt. Sandhya Mehta

#### Moderator

Shri Yogesh Kamdar

Date: Thursday, 7th February 2019  
Time: 4.30 p.m.  
Venue: 'Who Are We' Hall

### Art Gallery

#### Art Contest for Specially Abled Children

Date: Monday, 11th February 2019  
Time: 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.  
Venue: Hall of Knowledge

### Cultural Wing

*A tribute to Sarod Maestro Ustad Haafiz Ali  
Khan Saheb of Gwalior in a two-day festival*

Date: Wednesday, 27th &  
Thursday, 28th February 2019  
Time: 6.30 p.m.  
Venue: Nehru Centre Auditorium

## Gandhi in England in 1931



In 1931 Gandhiji travelled to England to participate in the second session of the Round Table Conference. In London he stayed at Bow in the East End, in the Kingsley Hall Settlement. He had chosen to stay in the East End because he said he wanted to identify himself with the poor. Gandhiji wrote to a friend, "Of course, I would rather be at Kingsley Hall than anywhere else in London, because there I shall be among the same sort of people as those to whom I have devoted my life."

In Pyarelal Nayyar's words: "The very fact of his stay there struck the imagination of all the East-Enders, and whenever he went out on his early morning walk the windows and balconies of the poor men's houses on either side of the street used to be crowded with eager people who wanted to

have a glimpse of him and bid him good morning."

There was a nursery school in the East-End. All the children were under the age of five. They called him uncle Gandhi and were sad to see he had no socks on.

They used to try to make him wear warmer clothes, and on his birthday they gave him quite a lot of little toys: a woolly lamb, a little doll's cradle and a few other things.

Every day a crowd would assemble at Kingsley Hall to talk to Gandhiji. One day he heard that there was a man down the street, who couldn't come out and talk to him as he was suffering from rheumatism. So Gandhi called on him at his residence. He also visited the local hospital because he had heard there

*contd. on page 2*

was a blind man there who wanted to meet him. Gandhiji also received Charles Chaplin at Bow and had a long talk with him.

Kingsley Hall at Bow was a long way away for the many people who wanted to see Gandhiji, and so he had taken a small Georgian house in Knightsbridge. It was an eighteenth century house and there was an endless and varied stream of visitors. Bernard Shaw saw him at Knightsbridge and Gandhiji's old friend Rev. C. F. Andrews also came calling. He said to Gandhiji: "Don't forget there is a reception by fifteen Anglican bishops, and the Bishop of London is coming specially to meet you. It is at seven o'clock". Gandhiji asked: "Well, what about the seven o'clock prayer?" "Well," Andrews suggested, "Supposing we do it before, or afterwards." Gandhiji thought for a moment and said: "No, we'll do in the car on the way." The narrator of this conversation says: "But the thing uppermost in his mind was evidently the seven-o'clock prayer. He was not in the least impressed by the fifteen Anglican bishops, who were going to wait for him."

Sometimes Gandhiji sought people out elsewhere. Jan Smuts, who was in England to preside over the British Association, was one such person. Pyarelal went along a little ahead of the appointed time so as to ensure that the two should not miss each other. According to Pyarelal, Smuts was in a reminiscent mood and said: "These people do not know I have fought this man for twenty years. I know what's what. Ultimately they have got to settle

with him. He is the only man who can deliver goods." While this conversation was going on, Gandhiji arrived and General Smuts broke out: "This man gave me more trouble than anyone else." Gandhiji said: "Well, I don't know." And then put in: "You gave me more trouble, perhaps, than I gave you." The narrator of the book says: "It became a very cordial meeting. Smuts returned to Gandhi a pair of sandals which Gandhi had given him when he left South Africa seventeen years before, saying that he had worn them ever since. And he also promised to help Gandhi as much as he could in his troubles with the conference even to the length of seeing the King."

Gandhiji's interview with King George V has become almost legendary. In the words of Sir Samuel Hoare (who later became Lord Templewood and who was at that time Secretary of State for India): "King George V regarded India with a very special interest. And I had really some difficulty in persuading him to see Gandhi." Another problem was: 'Supposing Gandhi were asked to go to the Palace, would he go there?' The narrator says: "He would go there, but what would he wear?"

Sir Samuel Hoare describes the event beautifully: "Those were the

days in which people only went to the Palace in tail-coats and so on. And King George started by saying: 'Well, anyhow, how can you expect me to have Gandhi with his naked knees, in sack cloth?' Anyhow he got over that, and I stood by, rather wondering what would happen, putting in a word or two at the right time, and with all the rest – all other members of the Round-Table Conference, they were all there as well, all watching us, like anything. And it did go well. But then at the end King George V, who was a terribly conscientious person, wondered whether he had gone a bit too far and he said: 'Well, anyhow, Mr. Gandhi, you remember I can't have any attacks upon my Indian Empire.' Gandhi, who was a wonderfully good diplomat – apart from that he had wonderfully good manners – turned it away by saying: 'Well, your Majesty, I mustn't enter into a political argument with you when I have received your Majesty's hospitality.' And it all ended very well."

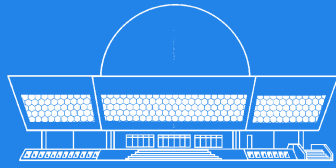
In his autobiography Lord Templewood has recorded: "A very honest King and a great diplomat, I thought to myself, and what exquisite manners the unworldly possess."

Source: *Talking of Gandhi* by Francis Watson & Hallam Tennyson

### What Nehru said....

Not many of us can rise to such heights but it sometimes happens that a whole nation, under some great leader or a mighty urge, raises itself, moulds events and makes the history of its choice. This is what happened when Mahatma Gandhi burst upon the consciousness of India and moved her people to great deeds by the magic of his personality and his message.

..... from *Freedom from Fear: Reflections on the Personality and Teachings of Gandhi*.



NEHRU PLANETARIUM

## SKY SHOW : 'Awesome Universe'

### Timings

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

(MONDAY CLOSED)

### Titius-Bode Law: Further explained\*

The Titius-Bode Law is an empirical rule that calculates the distance of planets from the Sun. As it stands today, this law does not have any theoretical standing and is therefore referred to as a rule. To understand the importance and popularity that the Titius-Bode Law received in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, we need to go further back in time.

Till about the 17th century, it was a generally accepted fact that the Earth is at the centre of the Universe. The model of the Universe that was accepted was as follows: All stars, planets, the Sun and Moon revolve around the Earth. The stars are stuck to a very large sphere from the inside. This sphere rotates around the Earth once in about 24 hours. The sphere is called the celestial sphere and this model of the Universe is known as 'geocentric' {Note: This geocentric model was formalized by Aristotle (385-322 BCE) and later by Ptolemy (100-170 CE) proposing mathematical solutions.}

It was also accepted that, in addition to the stars there are the Sun, the Moon and five planets which appear to orbit the earth in different time periods: the Sun takes 24 hours and the Moon takes about 28 days to go around the Earth once and so on. Hence, an explanation was sought for the different time periods of the seven bodies.

Astronomers hypothesised the existence of crystal spheres too. It was suggested that inside the celestial sphere there are seven separate spheres – one sphere each for the five planets, namely Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. The Sun and Moon too were assumed to have their own spheres. Like the stars, these celestial bodies were supposedly stuck to their spheres which were made of pure and absolutely transparent crystal. Thus the spheres themselves were invisible. These spheres rotated around the Earth at different speeds. This was a satisfactory explanation for the different time spans taken by different planets to complete one rotation around the Earth.

However, there was one more complication. As a planet rotated around the Earth, it periodically stopped its motion, travelled backwards for some days and then resumed its regular motion again. Astronomers and mathematicians made unsuccessful attempts to develop theories to explain this phenomenon which was called retrograde motion of the planets.

There were also suggestions by some astronomers that all the planets actually revolved around the Sun (a heliocentric model). This, however, was not acceptable to the Church.

Thus, any attempt by any scientist even to suggest that the Sun could be at the centre of the Universe was rejected.

Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543), a Polish Renaissance – era mathematician and astronomer, worked out a mathematical model of a heliocentric system that he wrote about in a book *De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium* (On the Revolution of the Heavenly Spheres). He was a Catholic cleric and was well aware of the Church's view on heliocentricity. He refrained from publishing his book but circulated it amongst his close friends. The book was published by his friends when Copernicus was on his deathbed. Legend has it that Copernicus was in coma when the



JOHANN DANIEL TITIVS

printed copy of the book was brought to him. He opened his eyes just to see the book – and then closed them forever.

Then, in 1610 the telescope was discovered and used by Galileo Galilei for extensive scientific research. He provided observational proof that the planets, the Moon and the Earth indeed orbit the Sun. Though it took a good amount of time for the Church to accept heliocentricity, the idea was gaining popularity and the scientific community was beginning to embrace it. It may be noted that Galileo too was punished by the Church.

With the heliocentric model, actual observations of the positions of planets could be used for calculating the distances of planets with the Earth-Sun distance as a unit (see the table). This unit is now referred to as an Astronomical Unit or AU. In 1766 Johann Daniel Titius, a German astronomer, worked out a mathematical formula that would give the distances of planets from the Sun. This formula was later popularised by his own countryman, Johann Elert Bode in 1772.



JOHANN ELERT BODE

Planet	Distance from the Sun in AU
Mercury	0.4
Venus	0.7
Earth	1.0
Mars	1.6
Jupiter	5.2
Saturn	10.0

The formula is as follows:  $a = (4+x)/10$ , where 'a' is the distance of the planet and 'x' takes the following values 0,3,6,12,24,48,96...etc. (note: after 0 and 3 the next number is twice that of the previous one).

Solving this equation for different values of 'x' we get the following numbers: for Mercury (x=0), a=0.4; Venus (x=3), a=0.7; Earth (x=6), a=1.0; Mars (x=12), a=1.6; Jupiter (x=48), a=5.2 and Saturn (x=96), a=10.0. These numbers match exactly with numbers given in the table. The gap at x=24 giving the value of 'a' as 3.8 was given no great attention.

A new planet was discovered on 13 March, 1781 by Sir William Herschel. It was named Uranus and it was at 19.2 AU from the Sun.

Now according to the Titius-Bode Law, if x=192, then a=19.6. This value is within 97.95% of the distance of Uranus that was actually measured. This fact brought the law into the limelight again. We read about the law and discovery of Ceres in the January 2019 issue of the Newsletter.

Neptune was discovered in September 1846 at a distance of 30.11 AU from the Sun. According to the Titius-Bode Law, the planet should be at 38.8 AU. Hence there was an error of 22.4%.

The law is now considered to be a mathematical coincidence. However, some astronomers and mathematicians have been trying to find ways to modify it and apply it to the planetary systems of other stars.

*\* In response to our reader, Ms. Anjane Rao, who requested an article detailing the Titius-Bode Law.*

# Cultural Wing

## *Nehru Centre's tribute to Sarod Maestro Ustad Haafiz Ali Khan Saheb of Gwalior in a two-day festival*

27th February 2019

*Vocal Recital by*  
**Kaivalya Kumar Gurav**  
**Mahesh Kale**



USTAD HAAFIZ ALI KHAN

**Kaivalya Kumar Gurav** is the illustrious inheritor of a unique legacy of classical music which was passed down by the legendary Ustad Abdul Karim Khan Saheb to his grandfather - Pt. Ganpatrao Gurav, and then further to his father Pt. Sangameshwar Gurav. Recipient of various awards, he has performed in many musical festivals in India and abroad.

**Mahesh Kale** is an accomplished vocalist of the new generation with a captivating stage presence. A disciple of Pandit Jitendra Abhisheki, he is proficient at Thumri, Dadra, Tappa, Bhajans, Bhavgeet, and Natyasangeet. He was initiated into music by his mother Smt. Meenal Kale (disciple of Smt. Veena Sahasrabuddhe) and presently continues to receive guidance from Shri Shounak Abhisheki.

28th February 2019

*Vocal Recital by*  
**Devaki Pandit Nambeesan**

*Sarod Recital by*  
**Amaan Ali Bangash & Ayaan Ali Bangash**

**Smt. Devaki Pandit Nambeesan** is an acclaimed vocalist of classical, semi-classical, light, and devotional music. She received her initial training in music from her mother Smt. Usha Pandit. She then trained under Vasant Rao Kulkarni, Kishori Amonkar, and Jitendra Abhisheki. She is currently receiving instruction from Baban Rao Haldankar.

**Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash** represent the seventh generation of the Senia Bangash Gharana. Disciples of their father, the great sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan, both were initiated into the fine art of sarod playing from an early age, each giving his first public performance at the age of eight.

They have performed across the globe at venues like Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center in the USA, Royal Festival Hall, Symphony Hall and Barbican Centre in the UK, Konzerthaus Vienna, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Esplanade Singapore and the Sydney Opera House. They have also performed at festivals including World of Music, Arts & Dance (WOMAD), Edinburgh International Festival and World Beat in Brisbane.

Wednesday, 27th & Thursday, 28th February 2019, 6.30 p.m.  
Nehru Centre Auditorium

Entry: Passes will be available on Friday, 22nd February 2019 from 10.30 a.m. onwards until availability from the ticket counter of Nehru Centre Auditorium and also on [bookmyshow.com](http://bookmyshow.com)

## Programmes for February 2019

### HEMA JOSHI



Painting by Hema Joshi

**Hema** is a senior and highly acclaimed artist. She has completed B.A. from Elphinstone College and G.D.A. in painting from Sir J. J. School of Art. She was on the committees of various art societies. She has exhibited extensively in India as well as abroad.

Hema is the grand-daughter of Indian Master artist, Shri S.L. Haldankar. Although she is recognised as an abstract artist, she is equally proficient with figurative compositions and has done sculptures as well.

**Tuesday 5th February to  
Monday 11th February 2019  
( AC Gallery )**

### SANJAY DHAWALE

**Sanjay** secured B.F.A in applied art with a 1st class. He worked as an illustrator with the Lokmat daily and later as a senior visualizer with Percept Advertising. He has won many awards for his landscapes in water colours. He has many shows



Painting by Sanjay Dhawale

to his credit and attended camps. He will display his landscapes in water colours.

**Tuesday 5th February to  
Monday 11th February 2019  
( Circular Gallery )**

### PRAMOD THAKUR



Painting by Pramod Thakur

**Pramod** received B.F.A. in applied art from Sir J. J. School of Art. His paintings on canvas express moods and feelings with body movements. Hence he feels there is no need to paint faces in detail. The viewers have the liberty to incorporate any

moods on the faces that they wish to. His paintings are in wash on canvas.

**Tuesday 12th February to  
Monday 18th February 2019  
( AC Gallery )**

### SHELI GUPTA



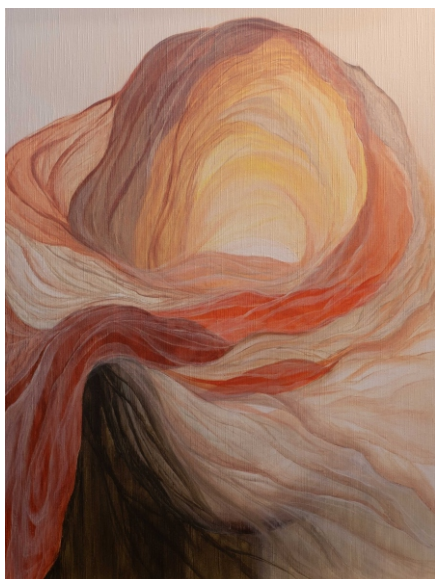
Painting by Sheli Gupta

**Sheli** completed B.F.A. in painting from New Delhi. Her paintings are in abstract forms in oils and acrylic on canvas. She specializes in tempera and mural techniques. She has exhibited in India.

**Tuesday 12th February to  
Monday 18th February 2019  
( Circular Gallery )**

### RASHMIE TYAGI

**Rashmie** is a self-taught artist and is reputed as a new age impressionist whose unique style makes an impact on viewers. Her abstract paintings are a series of straight lines. She has had shows in India and Dubai. She graduated in psychology and English literature from Lucknow University.



Painting by Rashmie Tyagi

**Tuesday 19th February to  
Monday 25th February 2019  
( AC Gallery )**

### PRAMOD KAPURE



Painting by Pramod Kapure

**Pramod** has completed B.F.A. and A.T.D. from Mumbai. He has exhibited his landscapes in Mumbai and Delhi. His paintings are in water colours.

**Tuesday 19th February to  
Monday 25th February 2019  
( Circular Gallery )**

### “GOA” - STUDY CAMP WORKS FROM GOA BY STUDENTS

The 26th year of the Study Camp for art students organised by Nehru Centre Art Gallery was held in Goa. Students from art colleges of Mumbai, Pune, Devrukh (Ratnagiri), Sangli, Nashik and Kolhapur participated.

The paintings were created on the spot at various locations in Goa. Amit Dhane, a well-known painter was the guide who also painted with the students. These water colour paintings on Goa will be displayed in the show.

**Tuesday 26th February to  
Monday 4th March 2019  
( AC & Circular Gallery )**

### ART CONTEST FOR SPECIALLY ABLED CHILDREN



The Nehru Centre Art Gallery has been conducting the annual ‘On the Spot Art Contest’ for Specially Abled Children since the last 25 years. In the 26th year, 180 children from thirty six schools have been invited to participate.

These physically, mentally and visually challenged children always participate in large numbers and look forward to come every year to showcase their talent. After evaluation of their art works by eminent judges Sumeet Patil and Rupali Madan, both of whom are artists and working in the field of art for physically challenged children, prizes will be given to the winners. Entire art material will be provided by Nehru Centre.

By organizing this contest we want to emphasise that physical handicap does not bar anyone from expressing one’s thoughts through art.

**Monday, 11th February 2019  
10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.  
Hall of Knowledge**

#### Glimpses from earlier contests



**BOOK OF THE MONTH**



**DEENANATH DALAL**  
**Centenary Catalogue**  
**(Art Catalogue)**  
**Year 2015**  
**Rs. 300/-**

**MORE PUBLICATIONS**

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**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**  
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  8. G. N. JADHAV
  9. ART HERITAGE OF MAHARASHTRA
  10. HAREN DAS / 11. PROF. P. A. DHOND
  12. COLLECTOR'S PRIDE / 13. K. B. KULKARNI
  14. VINAYAK S. MASOJI
  15. SAMAKALEEN (Contemporary Five Artists)  
 VINAYAKRAO WAGH \* RAJARAM PANVALKAR  
 KRISHNAJI KETKAR \* DATTAJIRAO DALVI \* GOVIND  
 MALADKAR
  16. NAGESH B. SABANNAVAR
  17. NARAYAN L. SONAVADEKAR
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 NEHRU CENTRE, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.



**LIBRARY EVENTS**

**Talk and Discussion**

*Gandhi in Bombay: Towards swaraj*

**Panelists**

**Dr. Usha Thakkar**

President of the Mani Bhavan Gandhi Sangrahalaya

**Smt. Sandhya Mehta**

Researcher at the Mani Bhavan Gandhi Sangrahalaya

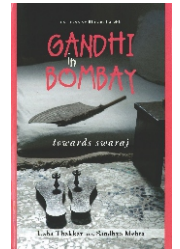
**Moderator: Shri Yogesh Kamdar**

Date: Thursday, 7th February 2019

Time: 4.30 p.m.

Venue: 'Who Are We' Hall

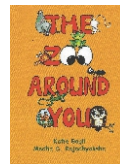
Open to all.



**Book Launch**

*The Zoo Around You*

Written by  
**Katie Bagli and**  
**Medha**  
**Rajadhyaksha**



The Zoo Around You is a delightful book of poems which should be a part of every school library and even home.

Date: Saturday, 2nd February 2019

Venue: Hall of Harmony

Time: 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Age Group: 7 to 10 year olds

Kindly register by

Friday, 1st February

**Creative Writing Workshop**

*Words For Your Wellness*

Conducted by  
**Sakshi Singh,**  
**Writer and poet**



Learn writing exercises and techniques to enhance your mental health and well being, in a therapeutic writing workshop.

Date: Saturday, 23rd February 2019

Venue: Nehru Centre Library

Time: 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Age Group: 18 years and above

Limited seats: Only 10 persons

Registration for all events required: [aratidesai@nehru-centre.org](mailto:aratidesai@nehru-centre.org)



: [nehru-centre.org/library.html](http://nehru-centre.org/library.html)



: [nehrucenlibrary.blogspot.in](http://nehrucenlibrary.blogspot.in)



: [nehrucen-koha.informindia.co.in](http://nehrucen-koha.informindia.co.in)



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 Email: [editor@nehru-centre.org](mailto:editor@nehru-centre.org)

Editor: Arati N. Desai  
 Design & Layout : Imtiaz Kalu