

# Newsletter

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**Nehru  
Centre**



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## Events At a Glance...

### ART GALLERY

#### INDIAN MASTERS' RETROSPECTIVE

Indian Master Painter  
Shri Govind M. Solegaonkar

Till Sunday, 5th January 2020  
Venue: Nehru Centre Art Gallery

### LECTURE

'Origins of an Indian multiculturalism'  
by Prof. Vikram Uberoi

Date: 10th January 2020  
Time: 5.00 p.m.  
Venue: Who Are We Hall

### CULTURAL WING

ANNUAL MUSHAIRA  
(Recitation of Urdu Poetry)

Date: 25th January 2020  
Time: 8.00 p.m.  
Venue: Nehru Centre Auditorium

### PLANETARIUM

S. N. Bose Lecture series (Final Lecture)

Prof. Partha Ghose will speak on  
'S. N. Bose: The Ignored Genius.'

Date: 4th January, 2020  
Time: 5:00 p.m.  
Venue: Hall of Culture

### Astronomy Lecture

Prof. S. R. Kulkarni will speak on  
**The Restless Universe** (How the Periodic  
Table Got Built Up)

Date: 25th January, 2020  
Time: 6:15 p.m.  
Venue: Sky Theatre, Nehru Planetarium

## Nation Building after Independence The Making of the Constitution

A Constitution is the cornerstone of a nation. From the early 1930s Indian leaders were emphatic in expressing that the Constitution of India must be framed by an elected Constituent Assembly of the Indian people.

As early as 1922, Gandhiji had said, "Swaraj will not be a free gift of the British Parliament; it will be a declaration of India's full self-expression. That it will be expressed through an Act of Parliament is true but it will be merely a courteous ratification of the declared wish of the people of India."

The Constituent Assembly was formed on 9th December 1946. Its members were elected by the provincial assemblies. The 389-member assembly included 93 from princely states. It was made sure that all shades of public opinion were represented in the Assembly.

The Objectives Resolution, which inspired the shaping of the Constitution, was moved on 13th December 1946 and was unanimously adopted on 22nd January 1947. It proclaimed India as an "independent sovereign republic", guaranteeing to "all the people of India justice – social, economic and political; equality of status, of opportunity, and before the law; freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship, vocation, association and action, subject to law

and public morality". The Resolution also assured that "adequate safeguards shall be provided for minorities, backward and tribal areas and depressed and other backward classes." The Preamble to the Constitution reflects the ideals embodied in the Objectives Resolution.

Though every member of the Constituent Assembly made a significant contribution to its deliberations, there were some who were most influential. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the president of the Assembly conducted its proceedings with great dignity, kept peace between the argumentative and quarrelsome members and kept them focused on the task at hand. Jawaharlal Nehru and Vallabhbhai Patel did the bulk of the back room work, headed several committees, drafted reports and mediated between groups with different opinions. The most crucial member of the Assembly was Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution. With him were two brilliant lawyers K. M. Munshi and Alladi Krishnaswami Aiyer. To the above six must be added the name of B. N. Rau, the Constitutional adviser to the Constituent Assembly. He was not its member but his enormous knowledge of the Western democracies was of great

contd. on page 2

value to the Drafting Committee. The chief draughtsman of the Constitution was S. N. Mukherjee about whom it was said that his ability to put the most intricate proposals in the simplest and clearest legal form could rarely be equalled.

A great deal of wisdom, legal knowledge and political skill came into play in the framing of the Indian Constitution which was drafted in the full view of the public and the press. During the Assembly debates, the visitors gallery used to be full with visitors. Records show that 55000 people witnessed the proceedings which were eventually printed in eleven bulky volumes.

It took two years, eleven months and eighteen days to make the Constitution. During the period, assembly members gave notice of as many as 7635 amendments, of which 2473 amendments were actually moved and deliberated upon over one hundred and sixty five days. The result was the longest written Constitution with 395 articles and 8 schedules.

Granville Austin, historian of the Indian Constitution, said that framing of the Constitution of India was like the coming together of 'national' and 'social' revolutions. The national revolution focused on democracy and liberty which the colonial rule had denied to all Indians. The social revolution focused on emancipation and



Jawaharlal Nehru addressing the Constituent Assembly in 1946

equality which were withheld from the people of India, particularly women, by tradition and the rigid caste system.

The Constitution provided for a parliamentary form of government, universal adult franchise, and guaranteed fundamental rights which were enforceable in a court of law, directive principles of state policy, an independent judiciary, well defined role of the legislature and the executive, an independent Election Commission, an independent Union Public Service Commission and an independent Auditor and Comptroller General of Accounts.

Gyanesh Kudaisya in his book, *A Republic in the Making* writes: "It was a remarkable achievement that the Constitution was adopted 894 days

after the declaration of independence. Its promulgation on 26th January 1950, the twentieth anniversary of the 1930 Purna Swaraj resolution of the Congress, symbolically affirmed the continuity between the struggle for independence and the formation of the new Republic." Granville Austin's comment that the framing of the Indian Constitution was 'perhaps the greatest political venture since that originated in Philadelphia in 1787' will remain the ultimate tribute to the framers of Indian Constitution.

#### Bibliography

1. *A Republic in the Making* by Gyanesh Kudaisya
2. *Introduction to the Constitution of India* by Durga Das Basu
3. *India after Gandhi* by Ramchandra Guha

#### ERRATA

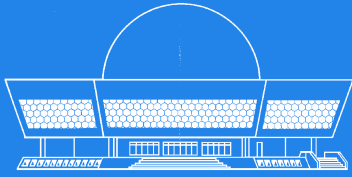
In last month's newsletter, on page 2, please read 'Subsequently, a plebiscite was organized in which only ninety one persons voted against accession to India.' instead of 'Subsequently a plebiscite was organized in which only 91 persons voted for accession to India.'

The error is regretted.

### What Nehru said....

Governments do not come into being by State Papers. Governments are, in fact, the expression of the will of the people. We have met here today because of the strength of the people behind us and we shall go as far as the people not of any party or group but the people as a whole - shall wish us to go.

.... in the Constituent Assembly, 13th December 1946



NEHRU PLANETARIUM

Nehru Planetarium will remain closed for urgent maintenance work from 1 January 2020. Date of reopening of the planetarium will be announced in due course of time.

## Makar Sankranti and the Winter Solstice

Every year Makar Sankranti is celebrated on January 14 or 15 across the entire country. Unlike most other Hindu festivals, it is celebrated only on these dates i.e. January 14 or 15, according to the Gregorian calendar. Dates of all other Hindu festivals change in the calendar every year whereas Makar Sankranti dates are constant.

This year Makar Sankranti will be celebrated on January 15. Sankranti, in Indian astronomy, signifies the transition of the sun from one *rashi* to another. There are 12 *rashis* of the sun and there are 12 *sankrants* and these *sankrants* also take place on different dates as per the Gregorian calendar.

Makar Sankranti marks the transition of the sun from the *Dhanu rashi* (Sagittarius) to the *Makar rashi* (Capricorn). It also celebrates harvesting of the kharif crop (bajra, jowar, maize etc.) and the sowing of the rabi crop (barley, gram, mustard, wheat etc.)

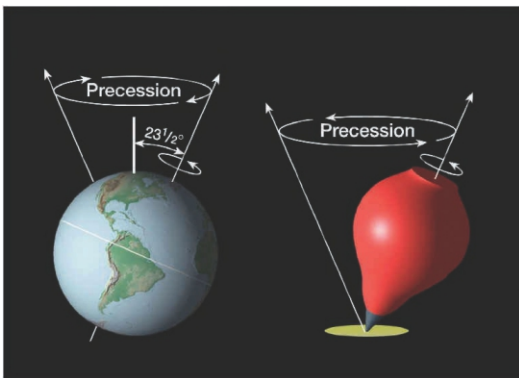
In Punjab, the day preceding Makar Sankranti is celebrated as *Lohri*. People gather around the bonfire and throw *til* (sesame seeds), puffed rice & popcorns into the flames of the bonfire. It is celebrated as *Pongal* in Tamil Nadu, *Pedda Panduga* in Andhra Pradesh or *Poush Sôngkrânti* in West Bengal. Irrespective of their names a common factor of Makar Sankranti across the country is that people give each other sweets made mostly of *til* (sesame seeds) and *gud* (jaggery). The day is celebrated by flying kites, mostly in the north western part of India.

It is also said that this day marks the shortening of nights and the lengthening of days. In Indian astronomy this signifies *Uttarayan* (northwards motion) of the sun.

However, we know that the longest night (in the northern hemisphere) occurs between 21st and 22nd December. This day is identified as the winter solstice.

But the date of Makar Sankranti in the Indian calendar has not been coinciding with that of the winter solstice since a long time.

This can be thus explained. As the earth rotates on its axis, the direction of its axis also shifts, just like the axis of a spinning top changes its direction. This change in the direction of the axis of a freely rotating body is called precession of the axis. One precession of the earth takes place in about 26,000 years. The result of this precession is that the position of the sun changes by about  $1^\circ$  in 71.6 years. Consequently, the day of Makar Sankranti today is 14th or 15th January.



Precession Explained

This is 24 degrees away from the point of winter solstice. Using modern digital almanacs it can be confirmed that about 1718 years ago ( $24 \times 71.6 = 1718.4$ ) years ago, Makar Sankranti and winter solstice actually took place on the same day. In other words Makar Sankranti coincided with the winter solstice around 300 AD ( $2020 - 1718 = 302$  AD to be precise).

As time progresses the date of Makar Sankranti will also shift. By the next century, it will shift to January 15/16 but in another 1700 years from now, Makar Sankranti will possibly be celebrated in February.

It may be noted that unlike Christmas which is celebrated every year on 25th December, the dates of some Christian festivals, like Easter are based on the phases of the moon.

Note: The purpose of this article is to give a mathematical and scientific reasoning for the cause of shifting dates of *Sankrantis*, not to debate on the exact date when Makar Sankranti and winter solstice coincided.

## Public Lectures

### S. N. Bose Lecture series

The 6th and final lecture in this series will be delivered by **Prof. Partha Ghose** (FNASc, and former Professor at the S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences in Kolkata).

Title: **S. N. Bose: The Ignored Genius.**

Date and Time: **January 4, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**

Venue: **Hall of Culture**

### Astronomy Lecture

#### Prof. S. R. Kulkarni

(Principal Investigator, Zwicky Transient Facility,  
George Ellery Hale Professor of Astronomy & Planetary Science,  
California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA)

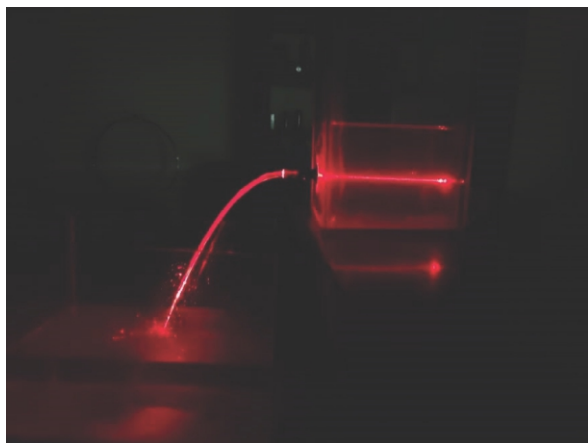
Title: **The Restless Universe (How the Periodic Table Got Built Up)**

Date and Time: **January 25, 2020 at 6:15 p.m.**

Venue: **Sky Theatre, Nehru Planetarium.**

### Demo Lab

In November 2019, the Planetarium introduced science experiment demonstrations for the general public, as a part of our Demo Lab activities. The objective of the Demo Lab is to show simple science demonstrations to visitors to the planetarium and to children, to answer their curiosity about certain scientific facts. We explain how these facts apply to our daily lives. For example, the principle of bending of light in a tube is used in high-speed communication networks or in medical science as a telescope for endoscopy.



**Bending of light in tube**



**Demo Lab in session**

Presently we conduct two sessions on every Thursday and three sessions on every Sunday. So far, 16 sessions have been conducted and around 350 people have enjoyed these demonstrations. Each session lasts for about thirty minutes.

For more information, please contact the Planetarium.

#### **DISCOVERY OF INDIA Elocution Competition for Stds. VIII and IX**

Date: **January 29, 2020**

Time: **2.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.**

Venue: **Who Are We Hall, Discovery of India Exposition**

For details, contact Discovery of India Exposition office.

## Nehru Centre's Annual Mushaira

The annual Mushaira of Nehru Centre is an eagerly awaited event. The 31st annual Mushaira will be held on Saturday, 25th January 2020.

The following poets from across the country will participate in the Mushaira

### Local Poets

Irfan Jafri  
Javed Akhtar  
Obaid Azam Azmi  
Qamar Siddiqui  
Dr. Qasim Imam  
Shahid Latif  
Shamim Tarique

### Outstation Poets

Abhishek Shukla (Lucknow)  
Akhtar Jamal (Bhiwandi)  
Dr. Anjum Barabankvi (Bhopal)  
Aziz Nabeel (Qatar)  
Farooq Engineer (Jaipur)  
Ferhan Dil (Malegaon)  
Kaleem Samar (Aligarh)  
Malka Naseem (Jaipur)  
Muntakhab Ahmed Noor Saqlaini (Badayun)  
Mushtaque Ahmed Mushtaque (Malegaon)  
Prof. Shehpar Rasool (Delhi)

Janaab Prof. Shehpar Rasool will preside and the Mushaira will be compered by Janaab Shamim Tarique.

Saturday, 25th January 2020, 8.00 p.m.  
Nehru Centre Auditorium

Entry: Entrance Cards will be available on Monday, 20th January 2020 from 10.30 a.m. onwards until availability from the Booking Counter of Nehru Centre Auditorium and also from bookmyshow.com

## Review: Qawwali

Qawwali is a form of Sufi devotional music which has been popular throughout India. Nehru Centre had organized an evening of qawwalis on Friday, 15th November.

The performers were Ms Parveen Saba, a trained classical singer and a qawwal, alongwith Mujtaba Naza, son of late qawwal Janab Aziz Naza.

A packed house applauded the evergreen qawwalis rendered by these two stalwarts which made the evening a grand success.



◀ Parveen Saba



Mujtaba Naza ▶



### INDIAN MASTERS' RETROSPECTIVE: WORKS OF SHRI GOVIND MADHAV SOLEGAONKAR

Nehru Centre's 27th Indian Masters' show was inaugurated on 20th December 2019 and is continuing till 5th January 2020. Shri G. M. Solegoankar born in 1912 at Sehore in Madhya Pradesh, studied in Indore and Bombay. He won innumerable awards for his paintings and murals. The catalogue of the artist and his artworks are available in Nehru Centre.

**Tuesday 31st December 2019 to  
Sunday 5th January 2020  
(AC Gallery)**

### S.N.D.T. COLLEGE OF ARTS FOR WOMEN STUDENTS



Annual exhibition of the works of the students from the Department of Drawing & Painting section of S.N.D.T. College will be on view. Around 80 students will display their artworks.

**Tuesday 31st December 2019 to  
Monday 6th January 2020  
(Circular Gallery)**

### APURBA BISWAS CHINMOY KARMAKAR CHANDAN ROY PRADYUT ROY GOURANGA BESHAI PRABITRA SAHA SOVAN DAS

This group show will display paintings in mixed media and acrylic

on canvas. Sculptures in bronze, wood and stone will also be on display.

**Tuesday 7th January 2020 to  
Monday 13th January 2020  
(AC Gallery)**

### NEHRU CENTRE ART GALLERY STUDY CAMPS

Selected works from our study camps will be on display in this exhibition.

**Tuesday 7th January 2020 to  
Monday 13th January 2020  
(Circular Gallery)**

### PRADEEP CHANDRA S. M. M. AUSAJA



Celebrating the 75th birthday of poet Shri Javed Akhtar some posters, photographs, his writings and images curated by Pradeep Chandra and S. M. M. Ausaja will be on display.

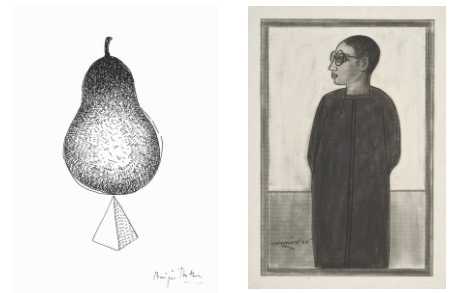
**Tuesday 14th January 2020 to  
Monday 20th January 2020  
(AC Gallery)**

### USHA SINGH ANJANA CHEVLI AMEE GODIWALA

The group show will display paintings in mixed media, acrylic and water colours.

**Tuesday 14th January 2020 to  
Monday 20th January 2020  
(Circular Gallery)**

### CIMA ART MELA



CIMA Art Gallery, Kolkata will showcase the works of over eighty well-known Indian artists.

**Tuesday 21st January 2020 to  
Monday 27th January 2020  
(AC Gallery)**

### PAUL D'MELLO

The artist will display his water colour landscapes.

**Tuesday 21st January 2020 to  
Monday 27th January 2020  
(Circular Gallery)**

### NILESH PALAV



Abstract compositions in oils will be displayed.

**Tuesday 28th January 2020 to  
Monday 3rd February 2020  
(AC Gallery)**

### MADHAVI JOSHI

The artist will display abstract compositions in acrylic on canvas.

**Tuesday 28th January 2020 to  
Monday 3rd February 2020  
(Circular Gallery)**

## UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India

### 6. Khajuraho Group of Monuments

The Khajuraho Group of Monuments is a World Heritage Site in Madhya Pradesh, located in Chhatarpur District, about 620 kilometres southeast of New Delhi. Built between 950-1050 CE by the Chandela dynasty, Khajuraho has the largest group of medieval Hindu and Jain temples. Khajuraho temples were destroyed by the Mughals after the fall of the Chandela rulers. The Mughals were against idol worship. From the 13th to 18th century, the temples remained hidden from public view. In 1830, the British surveyor, T. S. Burt rediscovered them and efforts were made towards their complete excavation and restoration. It is said that there were as many as 85 temples constructed in the city during the reign of the Chandela dynasty, but after the Mughal destruction, their number has come down to 25.

The temples are grouped into three categories depending on their orientation. The western group of temples comprises of the Lakshmana Temple, Kandariya Mahadeo Temple, Devi Jagadambi Temple, Chausat Yogini Temple, Chitragupta Temple, Matangeshwara Temple, Varaha Temple and Vishwanath Temple. The eastern group of temples include the Parasvanath Temple, Ghantai Temple, Adinath Temple, Hanuman Temple, Brahma Temple, Vamana Temple and Javari Temple. The southern temples group includes the Dulhadev Temple, Beejamandal Temple and Chaturbhuj or Jatkari Temple.

The largest of the temples is the Kandariya Mahadeo Temple that is dedicated to the glory of Lord Shiva. It makes Khajuraho one of the important holy sites dedicated to Lord Shiva.

The temples are known for their nagara-style architectural symbolism and their erotic sculptures and intricate carvings.

In 1986, UNESCO declared the Khajuraho Group of Monuments a World Heritage Site.



Kandariya Mahadev Temple, Khajuraho



Parasvanath Jain Temple, Khajuraho



Sculptures on the walls of the temples at Khajuraho

*Further reading at Nehru Centre Library:*

- Khajuraho: Zannas, Eliky; Mouton & Co. Publishers, 1960. Call No. R722.4/Zan, Barcode- 3749
- Khajuraho, Orchha: Shankar, Archana; Roli & Jansee BV, 1997. Call No. 709.543/Shan, Barcode- 13613
- Jain Monuments at Khajuraho: Jain, Niraj; Sushma Prakashan, 2000. Call No. 726.144/Jai, Barcode- 3991

## 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. SABANAVAR (2004)  
(9) SAMAKALEEN (2005) (10) VINAYAK S. MASOJI (2006)  
(11) K. B. KULKARNI (2007)  
(12) P. A. DHOND (2008) (13) HAREN DAS (2009)  
(14) ART HERITAGE OF MAHARASHTRA (2010)  
(15) G. N. JADHAV (2011) (16) J. B. DIKSHIT (2014)  
(17) DEENANATH DALAL (2015) (18) A. A. RAIBA (2016)  
(19) RAJA RAVI VARMA (2017) (20) SHIYAVAX CHAVDA (2018)

## 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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## New Arrivals: Books

Sr. No.	Title	Author/s
1.	Kashmir's untold story: Declassified	Iqbal Chand Malhotra and Maroof Raza
2.	The anarchy; The East India Company, corporate violence, and the pillage of an empire	William Dalrymple
3.	The Hindu way: An introduction to Hinduism	Shashi Tharoor
4.	The costliest pearl: China's struggle for India's ocean	Bertil Lintner
5.	The diary of Manu Gandhi: 1943-1944	Tridip Suhrud
6.	How I almost blew it	Siddharth Rao
7.	Kashmir: Land of regrets	Moosa Raza
8.	The promise of India: How Prime Minister Nehru to Modi shaped the nation (1947-2019)	Jaimini Bhagwati
9.	Article 370: A constitutional history of Jammu and Kashmir	A. G. Noorani
10.	The RSS: A menace to India	A. G. Noorani

## Lecture

## 'Origins of an Indian multiculturalism'

by Prof. Vikram Uberoi

(Reader in political theory and public policy, Department of social and political sciences, Brunel University, London)

Dr. Uberoi's research combines normative political theory and public policy. In his theoretical work, he has published extensively about the concept of multiculturalism, national identity and unity among culturally diverse citizens. Dr. Uberoi is on the editorial board of the journal *Nations and Nationalism*.

Date: Friday, 10th January 2020

Time: 5.00 p.m.

Venue: Who Are We Hall

Registration required: editor@nehru-centre.org



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



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



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



: [www.facebook.com/NehruCentreLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/NehruCentreLibrary)



: [www.twitter.com/nehrucenlib](http://www.twitter.com/nehrucenlib)

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