

Newsletter

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Nehru
Centre



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Events At a Glance...

Art Gallery

Chatak - 2017
(A Monsoon Show by
Professional Artists)

Thursday, 29th June 2017 to
Saturday, 8th July 2017
(AC & Circular Gallery)

Cultural Wing

MEGH MALHAR - 2017
"Raaga Symphony"

A musical programme with Piano
along with series of Violins and other
instruments recreating the moods of
Malhar.

The programme features Deepak Shah
as the conductor and also as the
Pianist.

14th July 2017, 6.30 pm
Nehru Centre Auditorium

LIBRARY

Remembering Munshi Premchand
Discussion, talk and readings from
Munshi Premchand's life and works.

Saturday, 29th July 2017
4.30 p.m.
"Who Are We" Hall

REMEMBERING CHAMPARAN: AFTER HUNDRED YEARS

A century ago, April 1917, Gandhiji visited Champaran, a district in Bihar, on the insistence of one Rajkumar Shukla. The purpose of his visit was to enquire into the condition of the peasants who were forced to cultivate indigo on a certain portion (*Tinkathia*) of the land on which they were tenants of the British landlords.

Gandhiji did not know anything about Champaran. He did not know the local dialect or the local script. But a number of very knowledgeable men like Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Gorakh Prasad, Brajkishore Babu, Dharnidhar Babu, Acharya J.B. Kripalani and many others came forward to assist him and promised to be with him for as long as required and do whatever task assigned.

Before meeting the peasants Gandhiji wanted to meet the

planters with a view to understanding their point of view. The secretary of the planters association told him that it was none of his business and that he should go away. Gandhiji did not oblige and decided to visit a village from where news of oppression had been received. The district authorities served a notice under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code directing Gandhiji to leave the district. He disregarded the notice and continued with his mission. Such defiance was unprecedented in the history of British India. Gandhiji was prosecuted and put on trial. He pleaded guilty to the charge and made a statement in the court which too was unique. He said "I have disregarded the order served upon me in obedience to the higher law of our being, the voice of conscience". The prosecutor and the Magistrate were nonplussed. The latter did not pronounce the judgement but

contd. on page 2

postponed it. In the meantime the Lt. Governor of Bihar ordered the withdrawal of the case against Gandhiji. Instead he was allowed to conduct his enquiry with a promise of all help from the officials.

During the enquiry thousands of peasants were examined and their statements recorded. It was incumbent on those recording the evidence to thoroughly question the peasant so that no exaggeration or falsehood could creep into his testimony. Another feature of the enquiry was that it was conducted in the presence of police officers deputed by the district authorities. Its psychological effect was that the peasants of Champaran got rid of the fear of the police.

After some time the Government of Bihar felt that the enquiry was taking too long and Gandhiji was advised to conclude it. Gandhiji replied that such an enquiry was bound to take a long time and that unless the whole truth was found he would continue to enquire.

There was a meeting between the Lt. Governor and Gandhiji and the Government of Bihar appointed an enquiry committee to look into the grievances of the peasants. Gandhiji was made a member of the enquiry committee.

The report of the enquiry committee found the grievances of the peasants to be true and recommended the abolition of the forced cultivation (*Tinkathia*) of indigo forever. The result was the Champaran Agrarian Bill 1917 which was ultimately passed and became the Champaran Agrarian Act 1918.

The most outstanding features of the Act were:

1. The abolition of *Tinkathia*.
2. Reduction of *sharahbeshi* by 20 percent in Turkaulia and 26 percent in other factories.
3. The freedom of tenants' holdings from an obligation to grow indigo and liberty to grow

indigo on a voluntary basis only, and

4. Arrangement to prevent litigation in respect of the matters covered by the Act.

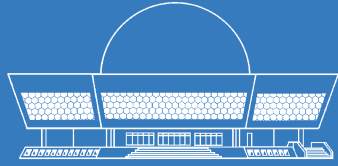
In his autobiography Gandhiji says: "It is no exaggeration, but the literal truth, to say that in this meeting with the peasants I was face to face with God, Ahimsa and Truth. When I come to examine my title to this realization, I find nothing but my love for the people. And this in turn is nothing but an expression of my unshakable faith in *ahimsa*."

Thus for the first time India witnessed a successful mass movement in which 2 million peasants participated and which remained wholly non-violent all through. A century old evil was thus completely done away with. In the words of D.G. Tendulkar: "In Champaran, where the sages in ancient days did penance, Gandhi realized the mission of his life and forged a weapon by which India could be made free."

What Nehru said...

... The Government is anxious to give a fair deal to its employees and to confer with and consult them through appropriate machinery. But I think that the proposal of strike in regard to services which are of essential importance to the public is wholly out of date and improper. The Government and its employees are the servants of the public, and none of us has a right to inconvenience or do harm to the great public whom we are supposed to serve. Therefore, we should devise adequate machinery for the quick and satisfactory settlement of any disputes that may arise from time to time, and not rely on these out-of-date methods of strike or lock-out...

July 7, 1960



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)

Astrophysics Lecture by Professor B. S. Sathyaprakash

Professor B. S. Sathyaprakash, a veteran astrophysicist from Penn State University, USA and School of Physics & Astronomy, Cardiff University, UK delivered an exciting talk entitled 'Undreamt by Einstein: Observing Gravitational Waves and a New Era in Astronomy'.

In 1916, Albert Einstein on the basis of his theory of General Relativity, predicted gravitational waves which transport energy as gravitational radiation, similar to electromagnetic radiation. This was a path breaking prediction as gravitational waves cannot exist in Newton's law of universal gravitation. That law was predicted on the assumption that physical interactions propagate at infinite speed whereas as in Einstein's prediction these wave would travel at the speed of light.

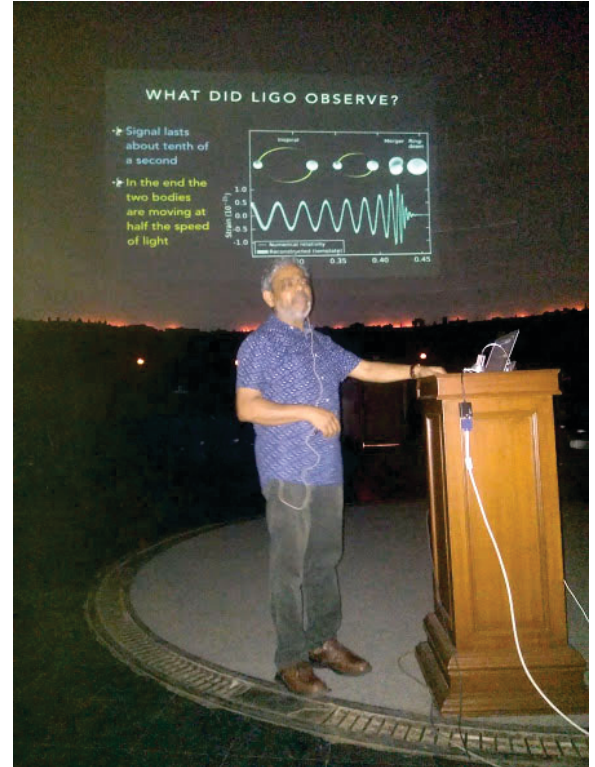
Since then, there have been efforts to detect the gravitational wave, without any success. Gravitational forces are so weak that these waves are extremely difficult to detect. To detect GW, accuracy of measurement of distances much smaller than the size of a proton is required. In other words, it is equivalent to detect changes in the distance to the nearest star outside the Solar System by one hair's width.

Almost exactly 100 years after Einstein's prediction, on 14th September 2015 Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) collaboration (USA) detected gravitational waves. After conformation of the detection, the discovery was announced to the world on 11th February 2016.

It may be pointed out here that there have been some indirect detection of existence of black holes and gravitation waves but it was for the first time that gravitational waves were detected directly.

In the detection of gravitational waves many Indian Astrophysicists made significant contributions and Prof. Sathyaprakash was one of the leading contributors.

In his talk, Prof. Sathyaprakash pointed out that Einstein's theory of gravity and space-time made two phenomenal predictions - black holes and gravitational waves. He further said that Einstein himself was unsure of their reality and therefore, it is remarkable that we are able to confirm the existence of black holes via the gravitational waves they emit. He started his talk by giving introduction to the gravity wave in simple terms and described the early efforts taken to detect the gravity waves. He then described the phenomenal discovery in depth. He ended his talk with a note on how this discovery ushers in a new era in observational astronomy.



Use the Chart :

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

STAR CHART FOR JULY 2017

The Earth is at perihelion i.e at its maximum distance for the Sun on 4th July at 01:40 IST in its present path. It will be about 1.0167 AU from the sun or about 152 million km. Light from the rising sun on 4th will take about 8m 27s to reach us.

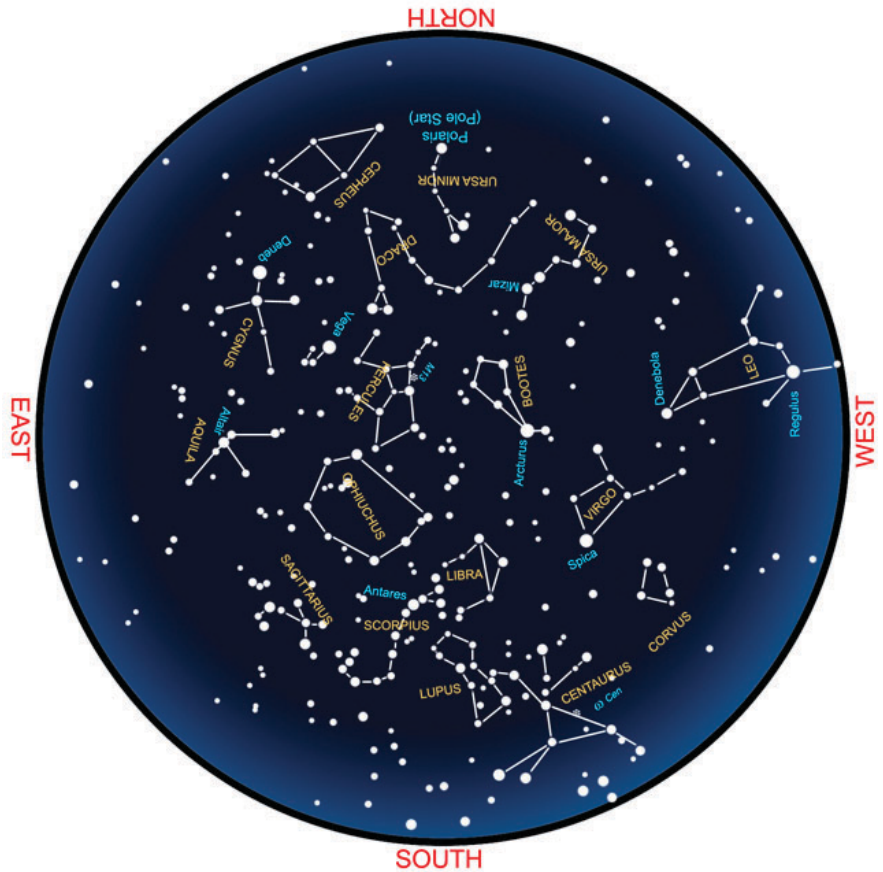
Mercury (Budha) is visible all through this month, if the sky permits, above the western horizon soon after the civil twilight ends. It moves from Gemini, the Twins (*Mithuna*) to Cancer, the Crab (*Karaka*) on 4th of July and then to Leo, the Lion (*Simha*) on 16th. It reaches its maximum eastern elongation on July 30th. However, it reaches highest altitude around 23rd of July. This would be the best time to see the planet.

Venus (Shukra) is in Taurus , the Bull (*Vrushabha*) and crosses over to Orion, The Hunter on 29th and then to Gemini , the Twins (*Mithuna*) on 31st of July. Having reached its maximum western elongation last month, angular separation between Venus and the sun is decreasing. Venus is going away from sun.

Mars (Mangal) will be at superior conjunction (right behind the sun) on 27th of July and is not quite visible this month. Mars moves from Gemini, the Twins (*Mithuna*) to Cancer, the Crab (*Karaka*) on 17th.

Jupiter (Guru, Bruhaspati) is in Virgo, the Virgin (*Kanya*) this month. It is almost overhead at sunset.

Saturn (Shani) is in Ophiuchus, the Serpent Bearer (*Naraturunga*). The most beautiful part of Saturn is its rings. Presently the north side of the rings are continuously tilting towards us. This will continue till October 17 when the maximum inclination would be 27 degrees. After that the rings would start closing till and after that they would start closing in. In 2025 the Earth will be in the plain of Saturn’s rings when those will be seen just as a thin line cutting the planet.



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 eyes 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)			
First Quarter (Shukla Paksha Ashtami)	Full Moon (Poornima)	Last Quarter (Krishna Paksha Ashtami)	New Moon (Amavasya)
1 July, 06:21	9 July, 09:37	17 July, 00:56	23 July , 15:16

(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

Megh Malhar 2017



This programme is dedicated to the memory of Late Kishori Tai Amonkar, doyen of Agra-Atrauli Gharana of Indian Music

Nehru Centre is presenting this annual programme for more than two decades.

In the first year we had classical music intermixed with dance and bandishes of gurus depicting the various forms of Malhar. In the second year we had the honour of adding the Carnatic and Sopanam style of Indian music.

Now in the third episode, we have embarked on the world music adding the Symphony pattern of music which emphasises only on Malhar and its various moods. We present Piano alongwith series of violins and other musical instruments to recreate the symphony pattern of Malhar moods. We also have vocal which will add scintillating moods of Malhar in a two hour orchestration of 'Raaga Symphony'. The programme features Shri Deepak Shah as the conductor and also as the Pianist.

14th July 2017, 6.30 pm
Nehru Centre Auditorium

Entry: Entrance Cards will be available on 11th July 2017 from 10.30 am until availability of entrance cards from the Booking Counter of Nehru Centre Auditorium.

Review: Summer Camps (Nritya & Abhinaya)

Nehru Centre during its Summer Camps had organized the following workshops from 5th to 9th June 2017.

Kathak Darpan

A Workshop on Kathak Dance conducted by Pt. Birju Maharaj



Appreciation of Theatre

A Workshop conducted by Shri Vijay Kumar



550 Students of Kathak Dance from across the country attended the Kathak Workshop and 25 Theatre enthusiasts attended the Abhinaya Workshop.

Programmes for July 2017

'CHATAK' - 2017 (A MONSOON SHOW BY PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS)



Painting by Vijay Dhore



Painting by Jitendra Thorat



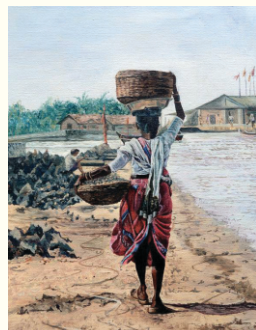
Painting by Ritesh Chopda



Painting by Ashok Mistry



Painting by Trupti Patel



Painting by Nilesh Patil

RABIN BAR



Painting by Rabin Bar

Rabin hails from Assam. He is a much sought after artist for print and electronic media. He has demonstrated Sand paintings and Fire paintings on canvas. Apart from paintings he does relief work on walls and big sculptures also. He has won many awards. His paintings are acrylic on canvas with glimpses of Assam.

Tuesday 25th July to
Monday 31st July 2017
(AC Gallery)

KAPIL KANHERE



Painting by Kapil Kanhere

Kapil received B.F.A, and A.T.D. in Painting from Jalgaon. He has had exhibitions in Jalgaon and nearby cities. His figurative and landscapes are in water colours.

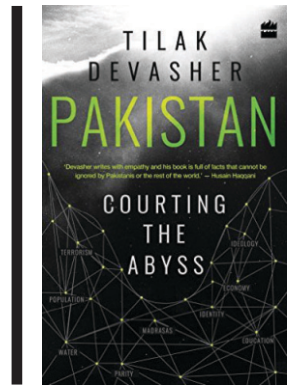
Tuesday 25th July to
Monday 31st July 2017
(Circular Gallery)

The 25th year of 'CHATAK' - A Monsoon show by Professional artists will be on display. Their works are in various styles and mediums. The art lovers can view different styles of paintings and sculptures under one roof.

Thursday 29th June to Saturday 8th July 2017 (AC & Circular Gallery)

Book Discussion

'Pakistan: Courting the Abyss'



A new book on Pakistan by Tilak Devasher was discussed at Nehru Centre on 20th April, 2017. The author, a former Special Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat was present. He first gave a gist of the book and was later engaged in a dialogue by Shri V. Balachandran, former Special Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat and an expert on security.

The first instalment of the discussion was published in the June 2017 newsletter. Following are more excerpts from the discussion.

The book describes at length the Islamization of Pakistan and how Jinnah's celebrated address of 11th August 1947 to the Constituent Assembly became a dead letter particularly with reference to the minorities viz. Ahmadiyas, Shias and non-Muslims.

The book reveals that Pakistan's education system is abysmal. Madrasas and schools teach bigotry violence

and hatred. Consequently students with such indoctrination gravitate towards terrorist groups. In the last 15 years, Pakistan has invested very little in school education. Around 50 percent of its children are school dropouts, with 63 percent boys and 77 percent girls leaving school before Class V.

Pakistan has been using non-state actors (Jihadi terrorists) as a matter of state policy. There are several terrorist organizations in Pakistan and there is no political will to eliminate them. Lashkar-e-Taiba, a jihadi terrorist organization, seeks the creation of a Muslim caliphate over the entire sub-continent.

A very important point raised in the book pertains to Pakistan's water crisis. Under the Indus Waters Treaty, Pakistan got 80 percent of the water. India also paid substantial amount for the construction of dams in Pakistan so that water could be stored. Yet Pakistan blames India for its water woes. The fact

is that except Indus waters, Pakistan does not have any other source and dependence on a single river system is bound to create a water crisis.

In the end, the author highlights what Pakistan desires. It desires complete parity with India in all respects. It wants to dominate Afghanistan. It seeks very close ties with China so that it keeps getting aid and help whenever needed and finally Pakistan would forever like to have US funding and for that reason would never alienate the West.

The author's conclusion is that Pakistan needs to ask where it wants to go. Shri Devasher said that development expenditure in Pakistan has come down to 3 percent and that the only way forward for the country is through a leadership with vision that can comprehend the multifarious problems.

NEHRU CENTRE PUBLICATIONS

MUMBAI PAST & PRESENT * WITNESS TO HISTORY

* REMEMBERING EINSTEIN *

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8. HAREN DAS / 9. PROF. P. A. DHOND

10. COLLECTOR'S PRIDE / 11. K. B. KULKARNI

12. VINAYAK S. MASOJI

13. SAMAKALEEN (Contemporary Five Artists)

VINAYAKRAO WAGH * RAJARAM PANVALKAR

KRISHNAJI KETKAR * DATTAJIRAO DALVI

* GOVIND MALADKAR

14. NAGESH B. SABANNAVAR

15. NARAYAN L. SONAVADEKAR

16. "GURU-SHISHYA"

BABA GAJBAR & GANPATRAO WADANGKAR

17. D. G. KULKARNI (DIZI)

18. MILLENNIUM SHOW

(A Century of Art from Maharashtra)

19. BALAJI TALIM & HARISH TALIM

20. S. L. HALDANKAR & G. S. HALDANKAR

21. VINAYAKRAO P. KARMARKAR

22. GOPALRAO DEUSKAR

ART FUSION

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New Arrivals

Sr. No.	Title	Author/s
1	Durbar 320.954/Sin/15483	Tavleen Singh
2	Anticipating India: The best of national interest 080/Gup/16106	Shekhar Gupta
3	20th century compulsions: Modern Indian architecture from the Marg archives 724.9/Dal/17166	Mustansir Dalvi
4	Being the other: The Muslim in India 305.697(54)/Naq/17151	Saeed Naqvi
5	The Oxford handbook of the India constitution 342.02(54)/Cho/17143	Sujit Choudhary & others
6	The future of India: Politics, economics and governance 320.954/Jal/17149	Bimal Jalan
7	Democrats and dissenters 820/Guh/17116	Ramchandra Guha
8	Discovery: Unearthing the new treasures of archaeology R930.1/Fag/16273	Brian M. Fagan
9	Lives of the ancient Egyptians R932/Wil/16277	Toby Wilkinson
10	Exile 928(5492)/Nas/17156	Taslima Nasrin

Remembering Munshi Premchand

Discussion, talk and readings from
Munshi Premchand's life and works
Experts: 1. Dr. Naghma Malik 2. Dr. Sumanika Sethi

Date: Saturday, 29th July 2017 Time: 4.30 p.m.

Venue: "Who Are We" Hall, First Floor,
Discovery of India Building, Nehru Centre

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: nehru-centre.org/library.html: nehrucenrelibrary.blogspot.in: nehrucen-koha.informindia.co.in: www.facebook.com/NehruCentreLibrary: www.twitter.com/nehrucenlib

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