

# Newsletter

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Nehru  
Centre



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## Events At a Glance...

### ART GALLERY

#### CHATAK -2022

Monsoon Show of  
Professional Artists

Date: 30th June 2022 to  
8th July 2022

Venue: AC Gallery

### CULTURE WING

#### Megh Malhar

A Two Day Festival of Monsoon  
Ragas

Date: 20th & 21st July 2022

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Venue: Nehru Centre Auditorium

## Constituent Assembly Debates The National Flag

On 22nd July 1947, when the Constituent Assembly of India met, Jawaharlal Nehru moved the following Resolution:

“Resolved that the National Flag of India shall be a horizontal tricolour of deep saffron (*kesari*), white and dark green in equal proportion. In the centre of the white band there shall be a wheel in navy blue to represent the *charkha*. The design of the wheel shall be that of the wheel which appears on the abacus of the Sarnath Lion Capital of Asoka. The diameter of the wheel shall approximate to the width of the white band, the ratio of the width to the length of the flag shall ordinarily be 2:3.”

Nehru further said, “This Resolution is in simple language, in a slightly technical language and there is no glow or warmth in the words that I have read. Yet I am sure that many in this House will feel that glow and warmth which I feel at the present moment for behind this Resolution and the Flag, which I have the honour to present to this House for adoption, lies history, the concentrated history of a short span in a nation's existence. Nevertheless, sometimes, in a brief period, we pass through the track of centuries and I do venture to claim

that in the past quarter of a century or so India has lived and acted in a concentrated way and the emotions which have filled the people of India represent not merely a brief spell of years but something infinitely more... So, when I move this Resolution, I think of this concentrated history through which all of us have passed during the last quarter of a century. Memories crowd upon me. I remember the ups and downs of the great struggle for freedom of this great nation. I remember and many in this House will remember how we look up to this Flag not only with pride and enthusiasm but with a tingling in our veins; also how, when we were sometimes down and out, then again the sight of this Flag gave us courage to go on. Then, many who are not present here today, many of our comrades, who have passed, held on to this Flag, some amongst them even unto death, and handed it over as they sank, to others to hold it aloft. So, in this simple form of words, there is much more than will be clear on the surface. There is the struggle of the people for freedom with all its ups and downs and trials and disasters and there is, finally today as I move this Resolution, a certain triumph about it, a measure of triumph in the conclusion of that struggle.



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Feedback, comments are welcome.

Published for Nehru Centre  
by **Shri Chandrakant M. Rane**  
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Dr. A. B. Road, Worli,  
Mumbai - 400 018.

Now, I realise fully, as this House must realise, that this triumph of ours has been marred in many ways. There have been, especially in the past few months, many happenings which cause us sorrow which has gripped our hearts. We have seen parts of this dear motherland of ours cut off from the rest. We have seen large numbers of people suffering tremendously, large numbers wandering about like waifs and strays, without a home. We have seen many other things which I need not repeat to this House, but which we cannot forget. All this sorrow has dogged our footsteps. Even when we have achieved victory and triumph, it still dogs us and we have tremendous problems to face in the present and in the future. Nevertheless, it is true that this moment does represent a triumph and a victorious conclusion of all our struggles.”

Referring again to the Flag, Nehru continued, “In a sense this Flag was adopted, not by a formal resolution, but by popular acclaim and usage, adopted much more by the sacrifice that surrounded it in the past few decades. We are, in a sense, only ratifying that popular adoption... It will be seen that there is a slight variation from the one many of us have used during these past years. The colours are the same, a deep saffron, a white and a dark green. In the white, previously there was the *charkha* which symbolised the common man in India, which symbolised the masses of the people, which symbolised their industry and which came to us from

the message which Mahatma Gandhi delivered. This *charkha* symbol has been slightly varied in this Flag. Why has this been varied? Normally speaking, the symbol on one side of the Flag should be exactly the same as on the other side. Otherwise, there is a difficulty which goes against the rules. The *charkha*, as it appeared previously on this Flag, had the wheel on one side and the spindle on the other. If you see the other side of the Flag, the spindle



Charkha Flag



Chakra Flag

comes the other way and the wheel comes this way... The wheel must be towards the pole, not towards the end of the Flag. There was this practical difficulty. Therefore, after considerable thought, we were, of course, convinced that this great symbol which had enthused people should continue but in a slightly different form, that the

wheel should be there, not the rest of the *charkha*, that is the spindle and the string. But what type of wheel should we have? Our minds went back to many wheels but notably one famous wheel which had appeared in many places and which all of us have seen, the one at the top of the Capital of the Asoka column. That wheel is a symbol of India's ancient culture. It is a symbol of the many things that India had stood for through the ages. So we thought that this *chakra* emblem should be there, and that wheel appears.”

Nehru concluded by saying,

“Now because I have mentioned the name of Asoka I should like you to think that the Asokan period in Indian history was essentially an international period of Indian history. It was a period when India's ambassadors went abroad to far countries and went abroad not in the way of an Empire and imperialism but as ambassadors of peace and culture and goodwill. Therefore this Flag that I have the honour to present to you is not, I hope and trust, a Flag of Empire, a Flag of Imperialism, a Flag of domination over anybody, but a Flag of freedom not only for ourselves but a symbol of freedom to all people who may see it.

So, Sir, now I would present to you not only the Resolution but the Flag itself.

There are two of these National Flags before you. One is on silk – the one I am holding – and the other on the other side is of cotton khadi.

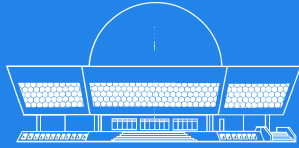
I beg to move this Resolution.”

... to be contd.

## What Nehru said....

As the years roll by and free India grows up, we have to grow in strength along with it and never permit ourselves to become complacent. We may have two, three or even a thousand different views, but so far as the unity of India and its security and prosperity are concerned, we have to speak with one voice. There is no scope for differences of opinion in this matter. We can argue about the approaches and methods, but whenever we take any action we should ask ourselves whether by that step we are serving India, strengthening its unity, helping in the defence of the country or weakening it.

*Speech delivered from the Red Fort on Independence Day,  
New Delhi, August 15 1963.*



## NEHRU PLANETARIUM

### 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)

Tickets will be available only at the Booking Counter.  
Visitors are expected to strictly follow Covid-19 norms.

## Venus

Venus is the hottest planet in the solar system. In brightness, it ranks after the Sun and Earth. Venus is so bright that it can be seen in the daytime if one knows where to look for it. The name Venus comes from the Roman goddess of love and beauty. In India, this planet is known as *Shukra* (one of the *navgrahas*) after Shukracharya who was the guru of the *daityas* and *asuras*. *Shukra* also means clear and pure. In oriental culture, the planet is considered to be a 'metal star', based on one of the five elements.

Venus appears so stunningly beautiful against the backdrop of a dark purple sky either before dawn or after dusk that it has inspired numerous lines in praise of its beauty. Classical poets Homer, Sappho, Ovid, Lucretius and Virgil spoke of the star and its bright light. Later renowned poets Percy Bysshe Shelley, William Blake, Robert Frost, Alfred Lord Tennyson and William Wordsworth also wrote odes to Venus. Closer home, famous Marathi lyricist Mangesh Padgaonkar wrote a song titled *Shukratara Mand Vara* that has become an all-time favourite. Just like Mercury, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn, Venus is known to have been observed since ancient times even before the invention

of advanced astronomical instruments.

Venus can either be observed above the eastern horizon before sunrise or above the western horizon after sunset. Therefore, like Mercury, Venus too was mistakenly considered to be two different celestial bodies. However, there is evidence which indicates that ancient Sumerians (c. 4500 BC – c. 1900 BC) knew that it was a single celestial object. By the Hellenistic period (between 323 BC and 31 BC), the Greeks too discovered that Venus was indeed a single celestial body.

Galileo Galilei observed Venus regularly from the second week of December 1610 onwards for a few months. He saw that the planet had phases similar to that of the Moon. After carefully analysing what he saw, Galileo concluded that the Copernican theory that the planets orbited the Sun was, indeed, correct.

Sometimes, Venus can be seen for a few days both before sunrise as well as after sunset on the same day. The last time this happened was in the third week of March 2017 when it was seen in the northern hemisphere. Before that, observers in the southern hemisphere saw the planet both

before sunrise and after sunset in mid-August 2015.

Being an inner planet like those planets which revolve closest to the Sun, Venus too comes directly between the Earth and the Sun. When this occurs, the events are called 'transits'. Edmond Halley, famous for his study of comets, suggested that one could estimate the distance between the Sun and the Earth by observing a transit of Venus from two different latitudes. The transit of Venus takes place in pairs during an approximate period of 243 years and in three cycles. In the first cycle, the pair of transits is separated by eight years. After a gap of 121.5 years, in the second cycle, another pair of transits of Venus takes place. In the third cycle, the final pair of transits takes place after 105.5 years. The last pair of transits of Venus took place on 8 June 2004 and 6 June 2012. The next pair will take place on 11 December 2117 and 8 December 2125.

Venus is a terrestrial planet which means that it has a solid surface like that of Earth, Mercury and Mars. It is often called the sister planet of the Earth because of its similarity in size and mass. It has the thickest atmosphere of all the four terrestrial planets. Carbon dioxide is the main constituent of its atmosphere, which is nearly

96% and nitrogen is 3.5%. Other compounds like sulphur dioxide, argon, water vapour, carbon monoxide etc. are also found in very small quantities.

The presence of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere of Venus creates a very strong greenhouse effect. The normal temperature on Venus varies from a maximum of 482° C to a minimum of 438° C in which a metal like lead also melts.

The surface of Venus cannot be observed with ground-based telescopes because of its thick atmosphere. The first indication of the surface feature of Venus came from radar observations in 1961 which revealed that its diameter is 12104 kilometres. Most of our information about the geographic and atmospheric conditions of Venus came from many space missions like landers, orbitals and flybys to Venus. American probe Mariner 2 flew past Venus in 1962 at a distance of 35000 kilometres establishing that Venus has practically no magnetic field. Mariner 10 also studied Venus while using the planet's gravity to modify its speed and trajectory.



**Venus as photographed by Mariner 10**

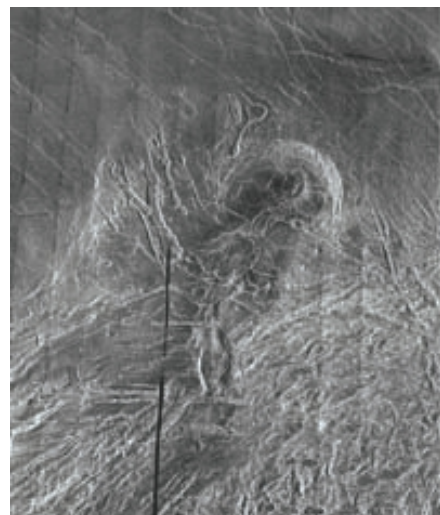
Later, on 18 October 1967, the Soviet space probe Venera 5 entered Venus's atmosphere and sent direct measurements of temperature, pressure and density.



**Surface of Venus as captured by Venera 13**

The first successful landing on Venus was by Venera 7 on 15 December 1970. It sent data for nearly 23 minutes before its instruments gave way to the hostile conditions on the Venusian surface. A subsequent Soviet mission Venera 9 on 22 October 1975 became the first artificial satellite of Venus as it sent a lander to Venus which transmitted the first image of the surface of Venus.

About 80% of the Venusian surface is covered by smooth volcanic plains while the rest of the surface has some mountains and plateaus. The highest mountain peak in the entire solar system is about 11 km above its surface. The surface features of Venus are named after women. Anuket Vallis is named after an Egyptian river goddess Anuket. Ganga Valles is named after the Hindu goddess of the sacred river Ganges, and Fortuna Tessera after the Roman goddess of fortune and luck. A tessera is a region of heavily deformed terrain on Venus. Diana Chasma, a deep elongated and steep depression on the surface of Venus is likewise named after the Roman goddess of hunting. Payne-Gaposchkin Patera an irregular crater is named after Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin,



**Radar image of Lakshmi Planum**

an American astronomer. A plateau, which is ringed by rugged mountains, in about 2 million square kilometres is named Lakshmi Planum after Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth.

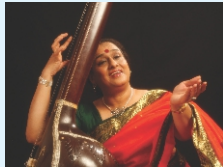
Many new missions to Venus have been planned including some by India's ISRO. Shukrayaan - 1 which was envisaged in 2018, is likely to be an orbiter mission and will probably be launched in December 2024. It is configured to study the surface and atmosphere of Venus. The weight of the instruments that it will carry will be about 100 kilograms.

## Megh Malhar

With the onset of rains, Nehru Centre is pleased to present a two-day festival of vocal classical music based on the Malhar and other monsoon ragas.

20.7.2022

**Smt. Madhumita Ray** has received khayal training under legendary gurus of the Gwalior-Rampur gharana. She is well-versed in the semi-classical forms like *thumri*, *dadra* and *chaiti*.

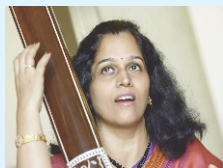


**Dr. Ram Deshpande** trained under noted vocalists Pt. Yashwantbua Joshi and Ulhas Kashalkar, as also senior vocalist Babanrao Haldankar. Thus, his renditions are marked by influences of the Gwalior, Jaipur and Agra gharana,.



21.7.2022

**Smt. Aditi Joshi** has trained under Smt. Neela Ghanekar and then under Pt. Yashwantbua Joshi, the doyen of Agra and Gwalior gharana. She is also a disciple of Smt. Veena Sahasrabuddhe.



**Shri Anand Bhate** is the disciple of Bharat Ratna Pt. Bhimsen Joshi, doyen of the Kirana gharana and a legend in his lifetime.



20th & 21st July 2022, 6.30 p.m., Nehru Centre Auditorium

Entry: Entrance Cards will be available on 15th July 2022  
from 10.30 am until availability of entrance cards  
from Booking Counter of the Auditorium

## Review: Kathak Darpan

Kathak Darpan the annual summer workshop for dance students and their gurus was held from 23rd to 27th May 2022. 174 students and gurus participated in the five-day workshop which was held in the Centre's auditorium. It began with a homage to late Pt. Birju Maharaj who had guided the participating dancers for the last two decades. His senior disciple *vidushi* Ms. Saswati Sen gracefully continued this tradition.

Kathak Darpan concluded with a classical repertoire presented by Ms. Saswati Sen and all participants.

Below are some glimpses of the workshop.



**KANAN KHANT**



Kanan will showcase her paintings in mix media on folk art.

**Tuesday 28th June 2022 to  
Monday 4th July 2022  
(Circular Gallery)**

**KARMADITYA BALDOTA**



Karmaditya is a young artist who explores multiple mediums. His works are in oils and x-ray art and he creates sculptures in metal.

**Tuesday 26th July 2022 to  
Monday 1st August 2022  
(AC Gallery)**

**INCREDIBLE TALENTS**

This show is organized by a non-profitable charitable organization, registered under Ministry of Social Development. They provide a platform to the artists from different countries to showcase their art.

**Tuesday 26th July 2022 to  
Monday 1st August 2022  
(Circular Gallery)**

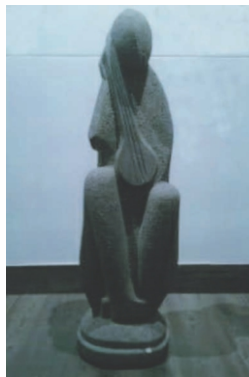
**'CHATAK' - 2022**



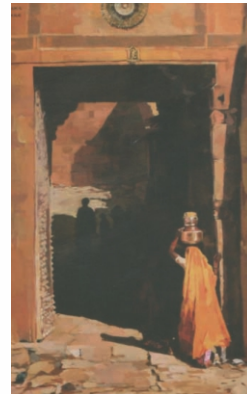
... and the first drop of rain arrived to quench the thirst of the Chatak (a legendary bird)

**A Monsoon Show of Professional Artists**

Since the last 28 years, the Art Gallery has been organizing the Chatak Show which displays works of professional artists from Maharashtra. This year, forty artists will display paintings and sculptures in various styles and mediums.



Hariram Phad



Anushka Varekar



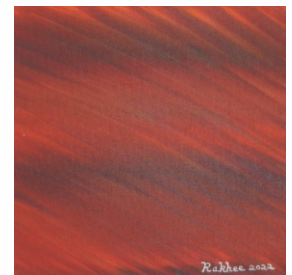
Nandkumar Kulaye



Harshada Tanna



Priya Patil



Rakhee Shah



Ganesh Mhatre



Sunil Patil

**Thursday 30th June 2022 to Friday 8th July 2022  
AC Gallery**

## UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India

### 33. Keoladeo National Park

Keoladeo National Park, located in Rajasthan, is an important bird sanctuary with a plethora of migratory visitors. Around 250 years ago, when the Ajan Bund was constructed by Maharaja Surajmal of the princely state of Bharatpur, this area was a depression that started getting flooded. Soon, a thick forest developed around the wetlands and attracted water birds in large numbers. It came to be known as the *ghana* or the dense forest.

A green wildlife oasis situated within a human-dominated landscape, some 375 bird species and a diverse array of other life forms have been recorded in this mosaic of grasslands, woodlands, woodland swamps and wetlands of just 2,873 hectares. This 'Bird Paradise' was developed as a duck shooting reserve at the end of the 19th century. While hunting has ceased and the area declared a national park in 1982, its continued existence is dependent on a regulated water supply from a reservoir outside the park boundary. The park's well-designed system of dykes and sluices provides areas of varying water depths which are used by various bird species.

Due to its strategic location in the middle of the Central Asian path for migratory birds and presence of water, large congregations of ducks, geese, coots, pelicans and waders arrive in the winter. The park was the only known wintering site of the central population of the critically endangered Siberian crane, and also serves as a wintering area for other globally threatened species such as the Greater Spotted eagle and Imperial eagle. During the breeding season, the most spectacular colony of herons is formed by fifteen species of herons: ibis, cormorants, spoonbills and storks.

Some of the easily spotted ducks here include gadwall, shoveler, pin tail, common teal, cotton teal and pochard. The courtship ritual of the Saras crane, complete with loud trumpeting calls, is a spectacle in itself. Short-toed eagles, imperial eagles, tawny eagles, spotted eagles, soaring in the skies or even perched on an outstretched branch can take one's breath away. Then there is the black necked stork standing tall in its black and white attire amongst the unending greens. The image of this bird stabbing and killing a purple moorhen with its long spear-like beak is one that is not forgotten easily. Apart from the birds, there are many reptiles and mammals that can catch one's attention. Nothing can match the sight of huge pythons basking in the mid-day sun. The tall sambar deer is another handsome animal that can be sighted in the reeds here.

In an area characterized by sparse vegetation, the park is the only spot which has dense vegetation and trees. The principal vegetation types are tropical dry deciduous forests intermixed with dry grasslands. Where the forest has degraded, the greater part of the area is covered with shrubs and medium-sized trees. The park is a freshwater swamp and is flooded during the monsoon. The rest of the area remains dry. Forests, mostly in the north-east of the park, are dominated by *kalam* or *kadam* (*Mitragyna parvifolia*), *jamun* (*Syzygium cumini*) and *babul* (*Acacia nilotica*). The open woodland is mostly *babul* with a small amount of *kandi* (*Prosopis cineraria*) and *ber* (*Zizyphus*).

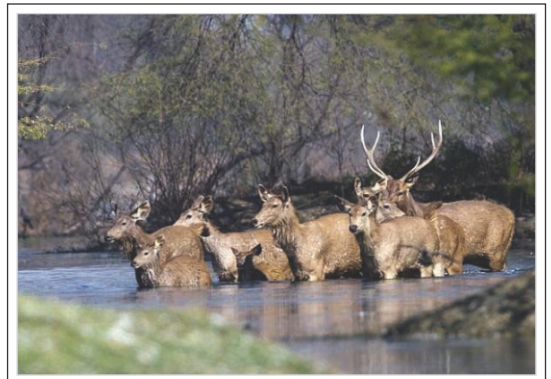
Keoladeo National Park was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985.



Siberian crane



Black necked stork



Sambar deer

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- (1) GOPALRAO DEUSKAR (1995)
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  - (3) MITTER BEDI (1997)
  - (4) S. L. & G. S. HALDANKAR (1998)
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  - (7) NARAYAN L. SONAVADEKAR (2003)
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**New Arrivals: Books**

Sr. No.	Title	Author/s
1.	The struggle for police reforms in India: Ruler's police to people's police	<b>Prakash Singh</b>
2.	Mountain tales: Love and loss in the municipality of castaway belongings	<b>Saumya Roy</b>
3.	Rahul Bajaj: An extraordinary life	<b>Gita Piramal</b>
4.	Rumi: Selected poems	<b>Coleman Barks</b>
5.	Songs of Draupadi: A novel	<b>Ira Mukhoty</b>
6.	The murderer, the monarch and the fakir: A new investigation of Mahatma Gandhi's assassination	<b>Appu Esthose Suresh and Priyanka Kotamraju</b>
7.	The communication book: 44 ideas for better conversations every day	<b>Mikael Krogerus and Roman Tschappeler</b>
8.	A handbook of puppetry	<b>Meena Naik</b>
9.	कलसूत्री बाहुल्या मार्गदर्शिका (मराठी)	मीना नाईक
10.	नेहरू : मिथक और सत्य (हिंदी)	पीयूष बबेले

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**10.00 a.m. to 5.45 p.m.**  
**On all working days**