

Newsletter

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Nehru Centre



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Events At a Glance...

Culture Wing

Megh Malhar

Two-day festival of vocal classical music based on Malhar and other monsoon ragas

Friday, 14th July 2023

Smt. Saniya Patankar

Accompanists:

Aashay Kulkarni on Tabla
Anant Joshi on Harmonium

Pt. Suresh Bapat

Accompanists:

Pranav Gurav on Tabla
Anant Joshi on Harmonium

Saturday, 15th July 2023

Shri Omkar Dadarkar

Accompanists:

Swapnil Bhise on Tabla
Anant Joshi on Harmonium

Smt. Shruti Sadolikar-Katkar

Accompanists:

Abhay Datar on Tabla
Anant Joshi on Harmonium

Comperes:

Ms. Rani Varma and
Ms. Shruti Ranade

Time: **7.00 pm**

Venue: **Nehru Centre Auditorium**

Constituent Assembly Debates Language for the Union - Part IV

The debate continued on 13th September 1949.

N. V. Gadgil (Bombay)

"The proposition moved by Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar is the best in the circumstances. Certain broad principles or broad facts emerged from this proposition. There is a fair measure of agreement on the fact that Hindi should be the official language of the Union and that the script should be Devanagari. I think that to have one script for the official language throughout the union territory is also an achievement. An interim period of fifteen years is contemplated during which those whose mother tongue is not Hindi will have an opportunity to pick up Hindi and get themselves familiarized with it.

The only difference relates to the numerals. It will be a tragedy if we were to hang the unity and solidarity of this country on the cross of numerals. I, therefore appeal to my Hindi (speaking) friends to leave something to the next generation. Let the future solve the question of numerals. After all, Hindi is a provincial language.

There are languages in which literature is far richer, and yet we have accepted Hindi as the national language. That itself is a great achievement for the Hindi people. If you want to persuade others, the best way is not with the strength of your voting numbers but by

persuasion, by tactfully handling the situation."

T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras)

"Mr. President, Sir, this is a very difficult question for us from the South to solve. We have got languages which are better cultivated and which have greater literature than Hindi. If we are going to accept Hindi, it is not on account of the excellence of the language or not on account of it being, as has been claimed for Sanskrit, the mother of languages. It is merely on account of the existence of a large number of people speaking Hindi. Among the languages which are spoken in India, Hindi claims probably the largest number of people. We have, therefore, agreed to accept Hindi and the Devnagari script.

We asked for time for preparation. It was agreed to by the leaders on the other side. They said that they will allow fifteen years for preparation. What does the draft say? The draft goes back upon it. In the first clause, it says that, for fifteen years, English will continue. In the second clause, it says that there will be appointed a Committee after five years and the Committee will recommend for what purposes Hindi can be introduced and the President may issue orders accordingly. It is only giving the hope in the first portion of the section and taking away that hope and giving us

mere stones in the latter portion of the draft.”

Referring to the numerals, Shri Chettiar said, “The question of numerals is not a question which concerns the South alone. It is a matter of convenience and it is a matter on which people both in India and outside are concerned. Things have to be put in the accounts and sciences in a particular numeral. If you are to study anything from outside, whether science, banking or anything else, everything will be in the international numerals. The whole world is adopting international numerals. Why should you fight shy?

Sir, I appeal to the Hindi speaking people to give up their attitude of domination.”

Satish Chandra Samanta (West Bengal)

“Sir, I move that Bengali should be taken as the official or national language of India.

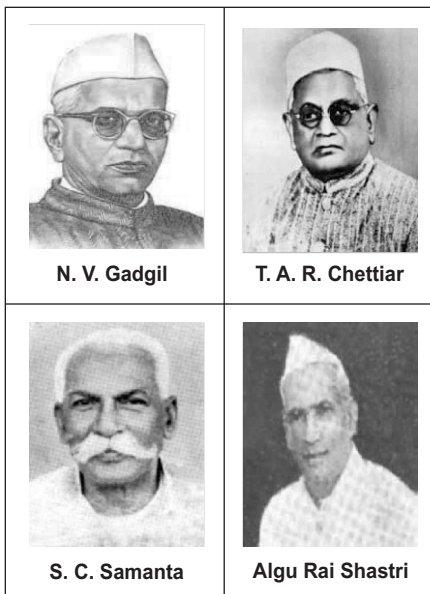
Bengali is a rich language, it has a long history, an ancient and brilliant literature and philosophy. So it will not be out of place to put the case of Bengali for the acceptance of the house.

I submit that Bengali is taught in foreign universities such as Oxford and Warsaw. Ravindrology is taught in Harvard in the USA. It has also been recognized in language institutions in Paris, Munich and Rome.

Bengali contains Arabic, Turkish and Persian words right from 1200 AD. Later on, it has drawn on from Portuguese, French and English languages. Though originally Bengali was Prakrit and, therefore, it contains a lot of Sanskrit words, it has grown by drawing from other languages also.

I have put before you the case of Bengali and I also say that for my part, I

am ready to accept the language which will be accepted by the overwhelming majority of this House. But it should not be less than three-fourth of the House, because if it is less, then there will be controversy and the people will not accept the language heartily. We should select that language which will be acceptable to all and for which they will be prepared to make a little sacrifice.”



Algu Rai Shastri (United Provinces)

“Mr. President, Sir, in the original Article drafted by the Drafting Committee, it was stated that the language of the Parliament shall be Hindi or English. But the amendment moved by Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar contains many extraneous matters.

Discussion as to what should be our national language implies that English cannot be your national language. Now the question arises as to which one of the languages current in the country can be made the national language of our state. Hindi alone has acquired an inter-provincial status. A majority of the people of the country speak Hindi.

Some non-Hindi speaking friends have claimed that their literature is richer than ours. I may concede that claim, but can they honestly say that the number of people speaking their language is greater than that of those who speak Hindi? If the answer be in the negative, I would like to ask him which course would be more proper - whether to replace English with a language and a script that is spoken and written by the majority of the people or by some other language?

I would like to make it clear that all of us here want the development and promotion of the regional languages for all of them are very dear to Hindi. Several of these regional languages are very sweet and very well developed. Naturally, I cannot and do not lay any claim to the superiority of Hindi as compared to any of the regional languages. But, from the inter-provincial point of view, I can say that Hindi has a better claim for adoption as the national language, because it is not a language of any one province alone.

The script of our national language is Devanagari and the numerals are an integral part of that script. I submit, Sir, that the numerals are even today in use in Devanagari just as they were to be found in the Sanskrit Rigveda and Yajurveda. I therefore, fail to understand the basis of this discussion about numerals here.

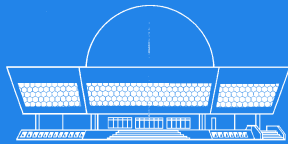
I admit that, in view of the extensive use of English for all official purposes and in all the branches of administration, it would not be possible to replace it at once by Hindi. A specified period has to be provided and I shall submit, Sir, that the period of fifteen years is more than adequate. I believe there would be English in our universities even after the expiry of that period and that our students would be acquiring the knowledge of different languages, but I believe, Sir, that the signatures on our treaties etc. shall be in Hindi.”

... to be continued

What Nehru said....

Traditions have to be accepted to a large extent and adapted and transformed to meet new conditions and ways of thought, and at the same time new traditions have to be built up.

...from Chapter 3, The Quest, The Discovery of India.



NEHRU PLANETARIUM

Tel: 91-22-24920510
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)

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

Email: managernpmumbai@gmail.com

The Moon

The Moon is the first natural satellite known to man. The solar system is supposed to have come into existence 4.51 billion years ago. The moon appeared 50 million years thereafter. It is hypothesised that an object as large as the planet Mars hit the Earth. The collision produced a huge amount of debris which went up from the surface of the earth and got formed into a satellite which started orbiting the earth. It was called the moon. The hypothetical object that hit the Earth is referred to as Theia.

The Moon is the fifth largest satellite in the solar system. It is just about one-fourth the size of the Earth. The Earth and the Moon are sometimes referred to as twin planets. The moon is the only natural satellite in the solar system which does not derive its name from Greek or Latin. It is an English word. The word 'moon' is also used for satellites of other planets, like the moons of Saturn.

The Moon is known by different names across the world. In Latin, the moon is known as *Luna* whereas the Greeks called it *Selene* or *Cynthia*.

In India, *Chandra* or *Chandrama* is the most commonly used name for the Moon. There are also other names like *Nishakar*, *Shashank*, *Shashi*, *Sudhakar*, *Som* etc. Likewise, in Arabic, the Moon is known as *Mah*,

Nur, *Ajmi*, *Cyra*, *Najma* etc. It is interesting to note that in Greek or Latin, names for the Moon are of feminine gender whereas in Indian, Arabic or Chinese, the names can both be feminine or masculine.

The Moon orbits the Earth precisely in 27 days, 7 hours, 43 minutes and 11.5 seconds. This is called the sidereal period. Arabic, Indian and Chinese astronomers divided the sky into 27/28 sections called lunar mansions. Arabians called these *manzils*, Indians called them *nakshatras* and for the Chinese they are known as *xiu* or *hsiu*.



Collision of Theia with Earth

The time difference between two similar phases of the Moon (i.e. from one full moon to the next full moon) is 29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes and 2.9 seconds. This is called the synodic period.

The first unit of keeping time that was used by ancient astronomers is a 'Day'. The synodic period of the

Moon, which is about twenty-nine and a half days became the second unit of keeping time that we call the 'Month'. The 'Year' is the third unit of time.

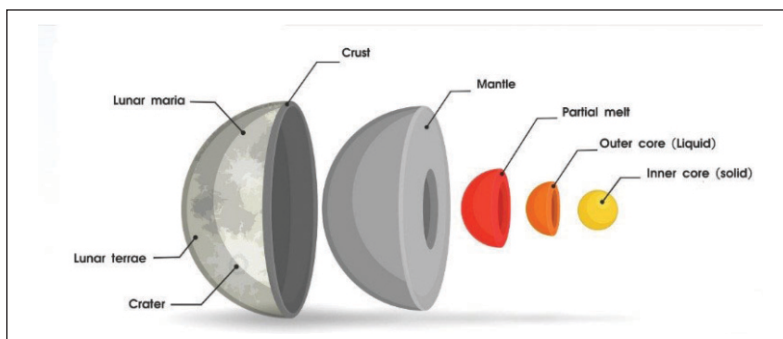
On any day or night, we see only one side of the Moon. This is because the rotation period of the Moon is the same as that of its orbital period. In technical terms, it is said that the Moon is tidally locked to the Earth. The Moon's axis is thus tilted by 5° to the plane in which it orbits the Earth. Hence, we can see about 59% of the lunar surface from the Earth.

As the orbit of the Moon is elliptical, its distance from the Earth keeps increasing and decreasing. At its closest distance from the Earth, the Moon is at 3,62,600 km. This point is called the perigee. The farthest point is called the apogee which is 4,04,000 km from the Earth. The average distance of the Moon from the Earth is approximately 38,499 km. The average diameter of the Moon is 3,475 km. Its equatorial diameter is 3,476 km and its polar diameter is 3,472 km. These figures show that the Moon is a nearly spherical object.

The mass of the moon is 7.342×10^{22} kg and its average density is 3.344 g/cm^3 . Gravitational force on the Moon is one-sixth that of the Earth. Hence, if a

person can jump to a height of one metre with some force on the Earth, then with the same force the person will be able to jump six metres high on the Moon.

The Moon has a solid inner core rich in iron with a diameter of about 700 km. This core is surrounded by liquid iron with a diameter of about 2000 km. On top of this is the hardened mantle which is about 600 km thick. The crust of the Moon is 60 km thick. The crust at the side facing the Earth is slightly thinner than the side that is facing away from the Earth. The Moon has no atmosphere and its temperature varies from 130° C during its daytime to -180° C when no sunrays fall.



The Moon's interior

In 1610, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei and English astronomer Thomas Harriot were one of the first astronomers to observe the Moon through a telescope and draw sketches of what they observed. They observed craters, mountains, and valleys on the Moon. They also saw many large flat areas on the Moon, which they then thought of as the sea on the Moon. These are called Lunar *Maria* or *Mare*. Another Italian astronomer Giovanni Battista Riccioli named craters after philosophers and astronomers and these names are in use even today. Using a modern high-quality

telescope, one can count as many as 30,000 craters on the Moon.

Space Explorations

Soviet Expeditions

Manmade objects were first sent to explore the Moon in 1959 when the Soviet Union sent the unmanned spacecraft Luna 2 on 12 September 1959. It impacted the Moon's surface on 13 September 1959. Luna 2 did not detect any radiation or magnetic belts around the Moon.

On 7 October 1959, Luna 3 took the first photograph of the far side of the Moon. It showed that this side is

completely covered with craters and there was no 'Lunar Maria' on this side. Luna 9 mission was the first successful soft landing on the Moon.

On 17 November 1970, the Soviet Lunokhod 1 became the first rover to travel on the surface of another celestial body, thus making it the first robot to land on the Moon.

Russians never sent any human crew to the Moon, only robotic or remotely controlled missions.

American Expeditions

American efforts to reach the Moon were not as successful as those of

the Soviet Union. The first success came on 24 December 1968. America's Apollo 8 mission with a human crew became the first to enter the orbit of the Moon and fly around it. After that, in less than seven months Neil Armstrong, Commander of the U.S. mission Apollo 11 became the first man to set foot on another celestial body.

Space exploration of the Moon stopped after 1972 as the interest of the American and Russian space scientists shifted to the exploration of other planets.

American astronauts brought back 2415 samples of lunar rock and soil from six different locations on the Moon. Soviet spacecrafts Luna 16, 20 and 25 returned with 300 kg of samples of rock and soil which showed erosion even in the absence of an atmosphere or ocean. The erosion of the rocks was due to the relentless bombardment of meteorites for billions of years. All the samples showed that they are igneous, i.e. there is solidification of hot fluid or magma.

In 2024, NASA is planning a very ambitious mission to the Moon. This mission called Artemis proposes to land the first woman astronaut on the Moon. As of today, American astronaut Eugene Cernan, who was part of the Apollo 17 mission is the last person who walked on the Moon in December 1972.

India's Chandrayaan-2 mission to soft-land a rover on the Moon failed during its last approach. Plans for Chandrayaan-3 are in progress and it is scheduled to be launched in the second half of this month.

Culture Wing

Megh Malhar

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

Friday, 14th July 2023

Smt. Saniya Patankar & Pt. Suresh Bapat

Saturday, 15th July 2023

Shri Omkar Dadarkar & Smt. Shruti Sadolikar-Katkar



Saniya Patankar

Smt. Saniya Patankar, a Sangeet Visharad, received training of Daipur Atrauli Gharana from eminent guru Dr. Ashwini Bhide-Deshpande. She has performed in the renowned Sawai Gandharva Mahotsava this year.

Accompanists:

**Aashay Kulkarni on
Tabla**

**Anant Joshi on
Harmonium**



Pt. Suresh Bapat

Pt. Suresh Bapat honed his musical skills under gurus Pandit Prabhakar Karekar, Dr. Ashok Ranade and Pandit Babanrao Haldankar. Under their tutelage, he had the opportunity to excel in three distinct Gharanas - Gwalior, Agra and Jaipur.

Accompanists:

**Pranav Gurav on
Tabla**

**Anant Joshi on
Harmonium**



Omkar Dadarkar

Shri Omkar Dadarkar is one of the leading vocalists in the field of Hindustani Classical Music. He learnt music from his parents, Shri Shrikant Dadarkar and Smt. Shubhada Dadarkar, both being reputed Marathi Natya Sangeet performers.

Accompanists:

**Swapnil Bhise on
Tabla**

**Anant Joshi on
Harmonium**



Shruti Sadolikar-Katkar

Smt. Shruti Sadolikar-Katkar was trained by her father and guru, Pt. Wamanrao Sadolikar. Shrutiji is a Sangeet Visharad of Akhil Bhartiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal. A most-sought after concert artist worldwide, she has many memorable performances to her credit.

Accompanists:

**Abhay Datar on
Tabla**

**Anant Joshi on
Harmonium**

This two-day festival will be compered by Ms. Rani Varma and Ms. Shruti Ranade respectively.

14th-15th July 2023, 7.00 p.m.
Nehru Centre Auditorium

Entry: Entrance Cards will be available on 10th July 2023 from 10.30 a.m. until availability of entrance cards from the ticket counter of the Nehru Centre Auditorium

GROUP SHOW

Organised by Rekha Shivdasani



Rekha Shivdasani

23 creative artists from Maharashtra will exhibit their art works in mix media.

**Tuesday 25th July 2023 to
Monday 31st July 2023
(AC Gallery)**

**DEEPALI SEN
SOMA DASGUPTA
SANJAY NAIKDHURE**



Deepali Sen



Sanjay Naikdhure

Deepali's works have a spiritual message. Her paintings have unusual backgrounds in vibrant colours.

Soma started creating art just eighteen months back. She works in various mediums like clay, mirror and colour pencils.

Sanjay believes that paintings can be one of the most effective mediums of expression in connecting with the audience.

**Tuesday 25th July 2023 to
Monday 31st July 2023
(Circular Gallery)**

CHATAK



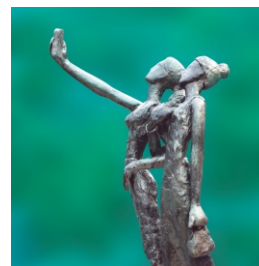
... and the first drop of rain arrived to quench the thirst of the Chatak (a legendary bird)

Down Memory Lane

CHATAK is a monsoon art show organized by the Art Gallery to herald the arrival of the rains. It is held in two parts. In the first part the works of students of various colleges are put on display, and in the second, professional artists display their works.

The much awaited art show has paintings, sculptures and various other mediums that are exhibited.

Below are some of the outstanding works of the past Chatak shows.



RAMSAR WETLAND SITES IN INDIA

5. Gujarat

Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary: This freshwater wetland near the coast of the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat was formed with a bund (dike) in 1920 to protect farmland from saltwater entering into it. Being an important waterbird habitat, the Site provides breeding, feeding and roosting grounds for a wide range of resident aquatic and also land-based birds. These include the endangered Fish-eagle, Indian Skimmer, the vulnerable Common Pochard and the Dalmatian Pelican.

Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary: A natural freshwater lake that is the largest natural wetland in the Thar Desert region, it represents a dynamic environment with salinity and depth varying depending on rainfall. The area is home to 210 species of birds and is an important stopover site within the Central Asia Flyway with globally threatened species such as the critically endangered Sociable Lapwing and the vulnerable Marbled Teal stopping over at the site during migration, while the vulnerable Sarus Crane takes refuge there during summer when other water bodies are dry. The wetland is also a lifeline for a satellite population of the endangered Indian Wild Ass which uses this area in the dry season. Local communities heavily rely on the lake as it provides them with a source of drinking water and water for irrigation, as well as an important source of income from fishing for Catla and Rohu fish.

Thol Lake: This shallow reservoir dominated by open water areas was originally constructed for irrigation in 1912. In 1988, it was declared as a wildlife sanctuary to protect the birdlife found there. Also on the Central Asian Flyway with more than 320 bird species, it makes up about 57% of all the bird species of Gujarat. More than 110 waterbird species have been recorded here with almost 30% of those species being migratory waterbirds. This wetland regularly hosts more than 1% of the population of species including the Glossy Ibis. During the dry season, blackbuck and other animals visit the region. The Thol Lake provides water for drinking and irrigation and enables groundwater recharge, and is also used for recreation and tourism. The vegetation provides excellent thatching material and is also used as fodder for domestic animals.

Wadhvana Wetland: This reservoir was created in 1910 in former Baroda State. It is located in a semi-arid agricultural landscape and is surrounded by wheat and paddy fields and villages. The wetland is important for its birdlife as it provides wintering ground for migratory waterbirds on the Central Asian Flyway. The Red-crested Pochard, a duck which is otherwise rare in western India is regularly seen here during winter. Resident birds include the vulnerable River Tern and Sarus Crane and the near-threatened Black-necked Stork. The site provides a global example of how a wetland originally created for irrigation has come to serve as an important waterbird habitat and hub for ecotourism and nature education.

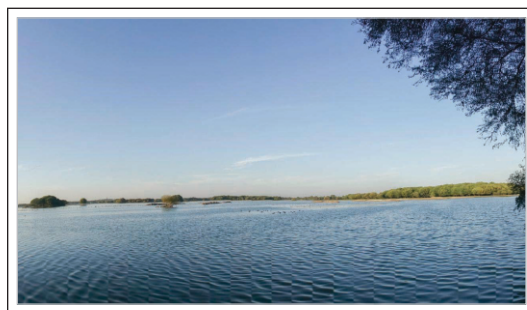
Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary, Thol Lake and Wadhvana Wetlands of Gujarat were collectively declared as Ramsar Wetland Sites in the year 2021.



Dalmatian pelicans at Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary



Sarus Cranes at Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary



Thol Lake

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 KARMAKAR (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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An aesthetics of Indian culture

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New Arrivals: Books

Sr. No.	Title	Author/s
1.	Against all odds: The IT story of India	Kris Gopalakrishnan, N. Dayasindhu and Krishna Narayanan
2.	Ambedkar: A life	Shashi Tharoor
3.	Intelligence over centuries	Vappala Balachandran
4.	Mentormorphosis: Stories for mentoring the leader in you	Akash Khurana
5.	Putin's wars: From Chechnya to Ukraine	Mark Galeotti
6.	The light we carry: Overcoming in uncertain times	Michelle Obama
7.	Reform nation: From the constraints of P. V. Narasimha Rao to the convictions of Narendra Modi	Gautam Chikermane
8.	Second star: Poetry of the conscious state	Puranjay Khanna
9.	Who clicked that pic?	Nandita da Cunha
10.	The miracle on Sunderbaag Street	Nandita da Cunha



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