

Newsletter

Vol. 21 Issue 3 MARCH 2020

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Nehru
Centre



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Events At a Glance...

CULTURE WING

WORLD THEATRE DAY Celebrations

A two-day festival of plays

27th March 2020
SHATRANJ KE MOHRE (Hindi)

28th March 2020
AAKHRI SHAMA (Urdu)

Time: 6.30 p.m. (each day)
Venue: Nehru Centre Auditorium

LIBRARY

BOOK DISCUSSION

'Digital Minimalism:
On Living Better with
Less Technology'



Panelists:

Ms. Vasumati Sriganesh
CEO & Founder,
Qmed Knowledge Foundation

Ms. Gayatri Aptekar
Parenting Coach, Storyteller, Writer

Ms. Kshitija Sawant
Consultant Clinical Psychologist

Date: 21st March 2020
Time: 5.00 p.m.
Venue: 'Who Are We' Hall

Nation Building after Independence Nurturing Parliamentary Democracy

While introducing the draft constitution in the Constituent Assembly on November 4, 1948, Dr. Ambedkar said, "The draft constitution in recommending parliamentary system of executive has preferred more responsibility to more stability." It was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949 and India became a representative parliamentary democracy with ministerial responsibility to Parliament.

Parliamentary democracy was not something which could be established overnight. It was a plant of slow growth which needed nourishing with a great deal of political education. Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister, played the most significant role in laying the foundation of parliamentary democracy and in building the institution of Parliament. He regarded Parliament as the supreme representative institution of the people and nurtured its prestige and vitality. In the words of Dr. Sarvepalli Gopal, Nehru's biographer, "He took seriously his duties as leader of the Lok Sabha and of the Congress Party in Parliament, sat regularly through the question hour and all important debates, treated the presiding officers of the two houses with extreme deference, sustained the excitement of debate with a skillful use of irony and repartee, and built up parliamentary activity as an important sector in the public life of the country. The tone of his own speeches in

Parliament was very different from that which he adopted while addressing public meetings. There was no suggestion of loose-lipped demagoguery. He still sometimes rambled, but sought to argue rather than teach, to deal with points raised by critics, to associate the highest legislature in the country with deliberation on policy and to destroy any tendency to reduce it, in Max Weber's phrase, to 'routinized impotence'."

Nehru laid down some conventions of lasting value by upholding the speaker's position in the House.

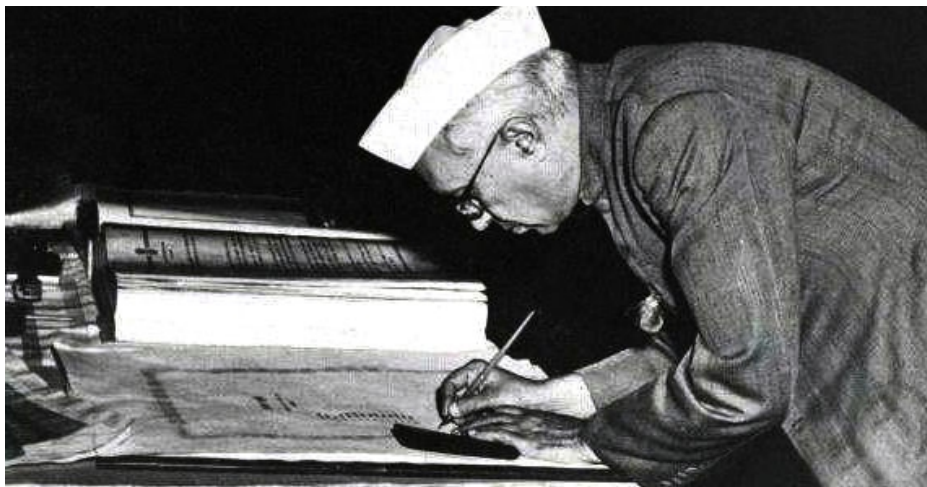
Shri S. L. Shakdher, the Secretary General of the Lok Sabha in the fifties, describes this aspect succinctly, "Preserving the dignity of the House and enhancing its authority was the wont of Prime Minister Nehru. He showed it in little actions that form today permanent precedents for others to follow and thereby strengthen the foundation of all eternal system. He was fully conscious that the Speaker, being the spokesman of the House, should be as respected as the House itself. So it was that, whenever he had to discuss anything with the Speaker, he would come to his Chamber after making an appointment, and also when the Speaker expressed a desire to see him, Nehru would come to his Chamber. Even when parliamentary delegations

contd. on page 2

led by the Speaker had to visit countries abroad, he would come to the Speaker's Chamber and address them there. By so doing, he not only respected and enhanced the position of the Speaker, but also enhanced his own dignity and authority."

Dr. Subhash Kashyap, who too is a former Secretary General of the Lok Sabha, mentions in his contributed chapter on Nehru and Parliament in the book *Nehru Revisited* edited by late Shri M. V. Kamath that once when a motion of no-confidence was brought against the Speaker, Nehru was deeply disturbed and anguished and he said, "There is some element of tragedy in this. This matter affects the Speaker of course, but it affects the high dignity of this House as Parliament." Nehru further said, "We are concerned with our honour, we are concerned with the honour of the person who holds up the dignity and prestige of the Parliament. I do not say that it is not possible at all to raise a motion against the Speaker. Of course, the Constitution has provided it. The point is not the legal right but the propriety, the desirability of doing it."

In building the institution of Parliament the leaders in the opposition too played a vital role. Though weak in numbers, they spoke fearlessly in Parliament and ensured that the standards of debate remained high. The leading lights of the opposition included Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, Acharya Kripalani, Minoo Masani, Professor Hiren Mukherjee, Nath Babu Pai, E M S Namboodiripad, Jayaprakash Narayan, Asoka Mehta, S M Joshi and the redoubtable Ram Manohar Lohia. Nehru accorded considerable importance to opposition. He met the opposition leaders quite often to exchange ideas on crucial issues.



At the final session of the Constituent Assembly, the members signed three copies of the Constitution. Here we see Jawaharlal Nehru signing a copy.

Nehru always welcomed criticism and said, "I believe completely in any government having stout critics and having opposition to face, because without criticism people become complacent, the government becomes complacent. The whole parliamentary system is based on criticism."

Nehru's innate respect for Parliament as the symbol of people's power laid firm foundations of parliamentary government in India. The best tribute to the Parliament after the first general elections in 1952 was paid by the Manchester Guardian which wrote, "Parliamentary institutions have not had a very good time in Asia... All that is happening in Asia throws a spotlight on Parliament in Delhi as the one institution of the kind which is working in an exemplary way... Pericles said that Athens was the school of Hellas. Mr. Nehru without boasting may say that Delhi is the school of Asia."

Nayantara Sahgal lauded the success of Indian parliamentary democracy very succinctly thus, "In 1952, 173 million largely illiterate voters took part in an orderly election that brought the Congress to power and twice again

in the elections that followed in Nehru's lifetime. If parliamentary democracy became a settled fact, it was because an old idea had been lit by the passion of a living commitment and had worked in circumstances where no such thing had been deemed possible."

In the words of Subhash Kashyap, "The parliamentary system and its institutions that we have today evolving through the changing times are indeed an integral part of the great legacy left behind by Nehru. Once, when he was asked as to what his legacy to India would be, Nehru replied, 'Hopefully, it is four hundred million people capable of governing themselves'."

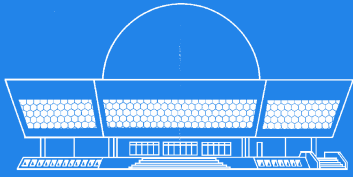
Further reading:

1. 'Nehru and Parliament' by Subhash Kashyap, in *Nehru Revisited*, edited by M. V. Kamath
2. Jawaharlal Nehru: A biography by Sarvepalli Gopal
3. India in the 1950s by Gyanesh Kudaisya
4. Jawaharlal Nehru: Civilizing a savage world by Nayantara Sahgal

What Nehru said....

Parliamentary democracy demands many virtues. It demands, of course, ability. It demands a certain devotion to work. But it demands also a large measure of co-operation, of self-discipline, of restraint. It is obvious that a House like this cannot perform any functions without a spirit of co-operation, without a large measure of restraint, and self-discipline in each group.

In Lok Sabha, 28 March 1957



NEHRU PLANETARIUM

SKY SHOW : 'Cosmic Life'

Timings

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

(MONDAY CLOSED)

Vernal Equinoxes

Equinox – March 20, 2020

If one observes the sunrise or sunset regularly, one would notice that the sun does not rise at the same point on the horizon every day. Day by day, it appears to shift towards the north or south. Around June 20 every year, the sun appears to reach the northernmost point after which it traverses its direction southwards. It reaches the southernmost limit around December 21. On these days, either the north or south poles are tilted maximum in the direction of the sun. *These days are called solstices – June solstice and December solstice.* This solar cycle repeats every year. About half-way between these two points, the sunrays fall perpendicular to the axis of the earth. These days are called equinoxes and occur on March 21 and September 23.

The earth orbits around the sun at an incline of 66.5° . This inclination is also responsible for the seasons on the earth. Figure 1 shows these four cardinal positions of the earth along with seasons in India. In the northern hemisphere, the March equinox is called Vernal (from Latin *vernālis*, from *vēr* spring) equinox and the one that takes place in September is called Autumnal equinox. The word equinox is derived from the Latin *aequus* (equal) and *nox* (night). The popular belief is that on these days daytime and nighttime are of approximately equal duration all over the planet.

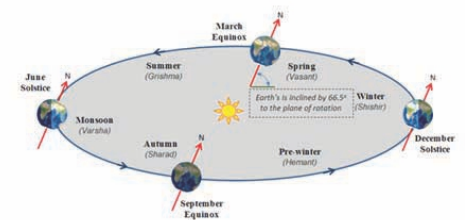


Figure 1

But actually on equinox day, the duration of day and night hours are not equal all over the planet for the following three reasons.

Firstly, the earth is a spherical body. Therefore, the sun's rays fall perpendicular to the axis of the earth at the equator. However at other places on the earth, they fall at slanting angles. The time of sunrise and sunset too differs at different latitudes. On the day of the equinox, the sun's rays pass right overhead at the equator, but at the tropics, they are tilted by 23.5° (see fig. 2)

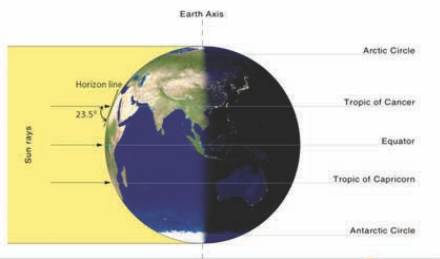


Figure 2

Secondly, the time of sunrise is calculated when the sun's upper edge (or limb, as one would say in astronomy) is seen above the horizon and the end of the day is defined as the moment when the last rays of the sun disappear. It takes about two minutes for the sun to rise and two minutes to set. This adds up to two minutes of 'extra' sunlight.

Thirdly, atmospheric refraction also plays its part. Refraction is an optical phenomenon in which the light bends as it passes from one medium to another. Hence, the first sun-rays are seen a few minutes before the actual sunrise and linger on the horizon a few minutes after sunset.

The cumulative effect of these factors is that, on an equinox day, the day is about 7 minutes longer than the night. One can confirm these facts easily by checking the time of the sunset and sunrise published in the newspapers and almanacs, or by downloading almanac generating apps.

This year, the Vernal equinox will take place on 20 March at 9:20 a.m. On this day, in Mumbai the sun will rise at 6:43 a.m. and set at 6:50 p.m. The day time will be longer than night time by seven minutes.

Demonstration of magnetic field range

In the February issue of the Newsletter, magnetic field was discussed. Strength of a magnetic field is measured using a device called “Gauss meter”. This device is rather expensive for school laboratory use. However, by doing a simple setup one can demonstrate and estimate the range of magnetic field of magnets made up of different composition.

Material Required:

- Magnets of different types and shapes.
- Paper clip (U-pin) (check that it is attracted by magnet)
- Wooden ruler (30 cm)
- Foam cup
- Thread
- Cello-tape

Experiment: Tie a paper clip (U-pin) to a thread. Attach the other end of the thread at the top of the foam glass using a paper/cello-tape as shown in figure 1. Keep the wooden ruler near the base rim of the foam cup, such that the “0 cm” position of the ruler is touching the base rim of the foam cup. Take the magnet and bring it close enough to attract the paper clip to it. Draw the magnet backward (away from the cup) on the ruler and observe. Note down the reading on the ruler, when the magnet and the paper clip just begin to separate as shown in figure 2a. Continue to pull the magnet backwards along the ruler as shown in figure 2b. At some point the paper clip will be no longer under influence of the magnet. It will go to its original position. Record the reading on the ruler. Repeat the experiment 3 to 5 times and take average.

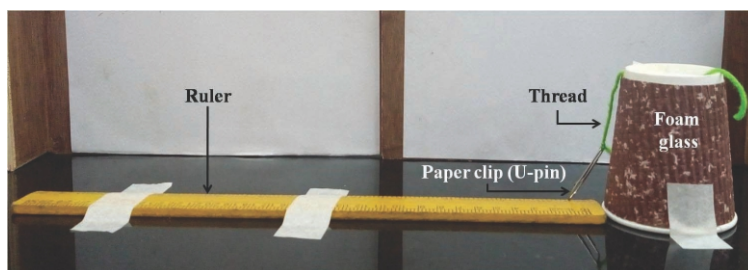


Figure 1: Experimental set-up

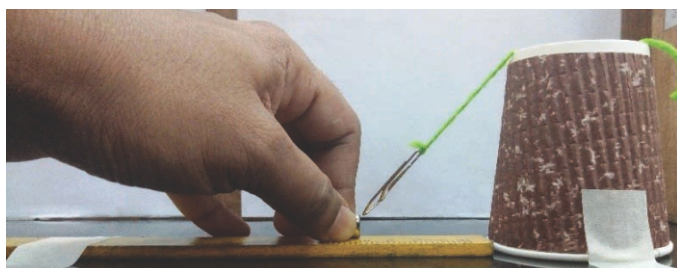


Figure 2a: Magnet and paper clip begins to separate

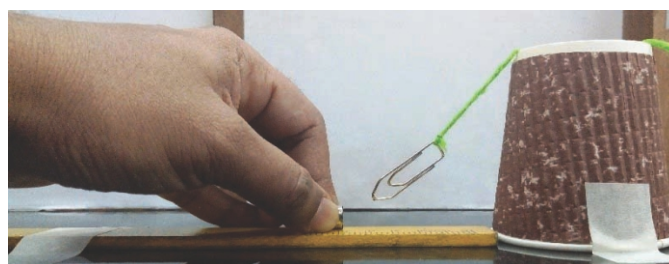


Figure 2b: Magnet pulled away from the paper clip

Tabulate your observations as shown in the table.

Magnet type	Magnet	Wooden scale reading when magnet and paper clip begin to separate (A) (cm)	Wooden scale reading when the paper clip is not under influence of the magnet (B) (cm)	Magnetic field range B - A (cm)
Neodymium	Cylindrical shape	4.2	5.6	1.4
AlNiCo	Bar shape	3.8	4.4	0.6
	Ring shape	2.8	3.0	0.2
	Square shape	4.6	5.4	0.8

Observations: From the table at left, we observe that, the magnets of different shape i.e. bar shape, ring shape and square shape have different magnetic field range, but their ranges are close to each other. The neodymium magnets have larger magnetic field range as compared to other magnets. This shows that these magnets are stronger and have larger magnetic field ranges than the AlNiCo magnets.

Culture Wing



Since 1961, 27th March is celebrated worldwide as World Theatre Day. The International Theatre Institute (ITI) initiated this celebration in commemoration of the opening of the Theatre of Nations in Paris.

Nehru Centre is pleased to present a two-day festival of plays.

Friday 27th March 2020, 6.30 p.m.

shatranj ke mohre (Hindi)

Writer: P. L. Deshpande
Director: Ramesh Talwar



Cast: Aanjjan Srivastav, Rakesh Bedi, Bharat Kapoor/
Avtar Gill, Ramesh Talwar, Rashmi Sharma, Bansi Thapar,
Javed Khan, Saumya Srivastav/Nupoor Srivastav
Duration: 2 hrs. 30 minutes with interval

Saturday 28th March 2020, 6.30 p.m.

AAKHRI SHAMA

(Urdu)

Written by: Farhatullah Baig
Director: M. S. Sathya



Cast: Bharat Kapoor, Ramesh Talwar, Rakesh Bedi, Aasif
Shaikh, Aanjjan Srivastav, Javed Khan, Masood Akhtar,
Ram Swaroop Mago and others.
Duration: 2 hrs. without interval

Entry: Entrance Cards will be available on Tuesday,
24th March 2020 from 10.30 a.m. onwards until availability
from the Ticket Counter of Nehru Centre Auditorium

Annual Mushaira (some glimpses)



'CHITRANGANA'
Exhibition by women artists

To celebrate 'International Women's Day', forty upcoming women artists from all over India will exhibit their works.

**Tuesday 3rd March to
Monday 9th March 2020
(AC & Circular Gallery)**

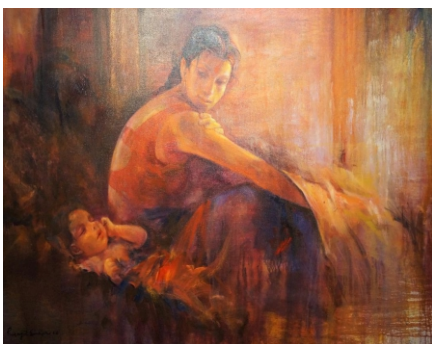
ASHOK ROY



A unique art form which is a tribute to abstract photography will be on display.

**Tuesday 10th March to
Monday 16th March 2020
(AC Gallery)**

RANJIT SARKAR



The exhibition will display figurative paintings inspired by the Bengal School of Art.

**Tuesday 17th March to
Monday 23rd March 2020
(AC Gallery)**

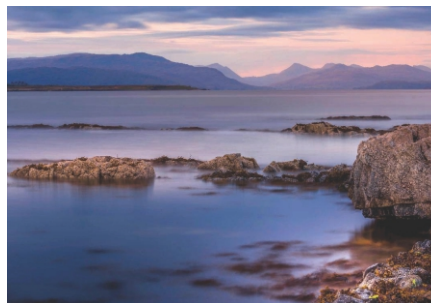
RAJAN PAWAR



Rajan who is an art teacher from Dhule will display figurative art in water colours and acrylic.

**Tuesday 17th March to
Monday 23rd March 2020
(Circular Gallery)**

GROUP SHOW



Painting by Dr. Jatin Shah

35 practising and well-known doctors will display their artworks along with young artists.

**Tuesday 24th March to
Monday 30th March 2020
(AC Gallery)**

**NANDLAL SHARMA
BHARADWAJ**

Late Nandlal Sharma belonged to the Indore School of Arts. He established some new dimensions and concepts in water and oil colours which were followed by many other artists.

**Tuesday 24th March to
Monday 30th March 2020
(Circular Gallery)**

*Glimpses from the water colour
study camp at Vengurla/Ratnagiri*



Artist Jitendra Gaikwad giving live demonstration to the participating students at Vengurla Beach.



Nehru Centre has been annually hosting the 'Water Colour Study Camp' to various places in India for the past 26 years. This year the Study Camp was taken to Vengurla and Ratnagiri. Students of art colleges of Mumbai, Pune, Sangli, Devrukh and Savarde participated. The paintings were done on the spot at various locations.

UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India

8. Group of Monuments at Hampi

The Group of Monuments at Hampi, is located in east-central Karnataka, India. The site served as the capital of Vijayanagara Empire in the 14th century. The Vijayanagara Empire was defeated by a coalition of Muslim sultanates; its capital was conquered, pillaged and destroyed in 1565, after which Hampi remained in ruins. Hampi's ruins are spread over 4,100 hectares (16 sq. mi) and has more than 1,600 surviving monuments that include forts, riverside features, royal and sacred complexes, temples, shrines, pillared halls, mandapas, memorial structures and water storage.

The Vitthala temple, Krishna temple, Pattabhirama temple, Hazara Ramachandra (1000 Ramas) and Chandrasekhara temple and also the Jain temples of Hampi are excellent examples of the Vijayanagar style of architecture. Most of the temples in Hampi had widespread bazaars flanked on either side by mandapas. The monolithic statues of Lakshmi Narasimha represents the man-lion form of Vishnu. The Kadalekalu Ganesha, named after Ganesha's gram-shaped belly, is 15 feet high and was carved from rock. The Sasivekalu Ganesha, named after Ganesha's mustard seed-shaped belly, is near the Krishna temple. It is a 7.9 feet high monolith that was also carved from rock. These idols are the biggest statues in Hampi.

Among the secular edifices in Hampi a lotus-like two-storied symmetric structure also referred to as the 'Lotus Mahal' is located in the 'Zanana Enclosure', which was reserved for the Queen and other royal ladies and included private temples and servant quarters. The corner towers of arresting elevation, the Dhananayaka's enclosure (treasury), the Mahanavami Dibba carrying beautifully sculptured panels, a variety of ponds and tanks, mandapas, the elephant's stables and the row of pillared mandapas are some of the important architectural remains of Hampi.

Recent excavations at Hampi have brought to light a large number of palatial complexes and basements of several platforms which include a large number of stone images, beautiful terracotta objects and stucco figures that once embellished the palaces at Hampi.

In addition, many gold and copper coins, household utensils, a square stepped-tank (Sarovar) at the south-west of Mahanavami Dibba, and a large number of ceramics, including some priceless porcelain and some Buddhist sculptures of 2nd-3rd century A.D. have also been unearthed.

The Group of Monuments at Hampi was declared UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986.



Narasimha Statue, Hampi



Lotus Mahal, Hampi



Square Stepped Tank, Hampi

Further reading at Nehru Centre Library:

- New light on Hampi: Recent research at Vijayanagara by Fritz, John M. and Michell, George: Marg Publications, Mumbai, 2001. Call No. R726.145/Fri/Mis, Barcode - 15204
- Hampi: Monumental Legacy by Verghese, Anila; Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2002. Call No. 915.403/Ver, Barcode - 12462
- Hampi Vijayanagara by Fritz, John M. and Michell, George; Jaico Publishing House, Mumbai, 2014. Call No. 915.403/Fri/Mic, Barcode: 16229.

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)
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- (19) RAJA RAVI VARMA (2017) (20) SHIAVAX CHAVDA (2018)
- (21) GOVIND M. SOLEGAONKAR (2019)

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Designed by differently abled children

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DISCOVERY OF INDIA (VCD)

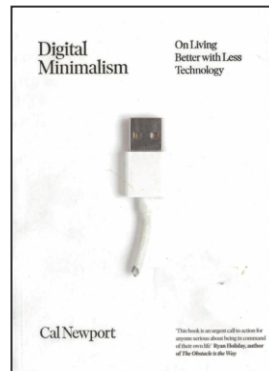
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Book Stall, Ground floor, Discovery of India Building,
Nehru Centre, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.



New Arrivals: Books

Sr. No.	Title	Author/s
1.	The new world disorder and the Indian imperative	Shashi Tharoor and Samir Saran
2.	Good economics for hard times: Better answers to our biggest problems	Esther Duflo and Abhijit Banerjee
3.	Gandhi: A very short introduction	Bhikhu Parekh
4.	Poor economics: Rethinking poverty & the ways to end it	Esther Duflo and Abhijit Banerjee
5.	Bombay before Mumbai: Essays in honour of Jim Masselos	Prashant Kidambi, Manjiri Kamat and Rachel Dwyer
6.	A chequered brilliance: The many lives of V. K. Krishna Menon	Jairam Ramesh



Book Discussion

'Digital Minimalism: On Living Better with Less Technology'

In this timely and enlightening book, the author introduces a philosophy for technology use that has already improved countless lives.

Panelists:

Ms. Vasumati Sriganesh
CEO & Founder,
Qmed Knowledge Foundation

Ms. Gayatri Aptekar
Parenting Coach, Storyteller, Writer

Ms. Kshitija Sawant
Consultant Clinical Psychologist

Date:
Saturday, 21st March 2020
Time: 5.00 p.m.
Venue: **'Who Are We' Hall**

Registration required:
editor@nehru-centre.org

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