

Newsletter

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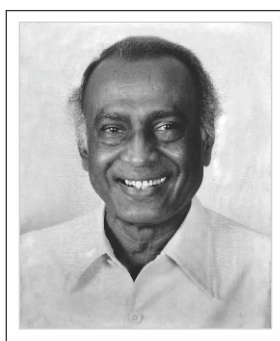
Nehru Centre



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40th Death Anniversary 3rd May 2022



Shri Rajni Patel
(9.1.1915 - 3.5.1982)

Founder Member and Former
General Secretary, Nehru Centre

Constituent Assembly Debates: Uniform Civil Code

The Constituent Assembly took up Article 35 of the Draft Constitution on November 23, 1948. The article read: *The state shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territory of India.*

Mr. Muhammad Ismail Sahib, a Muslim member of the Constituent Assembly from Madras, moved that the following proviso be added to Article 35: *Provided that any group, section or community of people shall not be obliged to give up its own personal laws in case it has such a law.*

He said, "The right of a group or a community of people to follow and adhere to its own personal law is among the fundamental rights and this provision should really be made among the statutory and justiciable fundamental rights."

He further said, "The right to follow personal law is part of the way of life of those people who are following such laws; it is part of their religion and part of their culture. If anything is done affecting the personal laws, it will be tantamount to interference with the way of life of those people who have been observing these laws for generations and ages. This secular state which we are trying to create should not do anything to interfere with the way of life and religion of the people."

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad, a member of the Constituent Assembly representing Bengal, stated that a proviso be added to the draft Article 35. The proviso was: *Provided that the personal law of any community which has been guaranteed by the statute shall not be changed except with the previous approval of the community ascertained in such manner as the Union Legislature may determine by law.* He argued that the proposed draft article runs contrary to the freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practice and propagate religion guaranteed under an earlier article adopted by the House.

He also added, "The goal should be towards a uniform civil code but it should be gradual and with the consent of the people concerned. I have, therefore, in my amendment suggested that religious laws relating to particular communities should not be affected except with their consent to be ascertained in such manner as Parliament may decide by law. Parliament may well decide to ascertain the consent of the community through their representatives, and this could be secured by the representatives by their election speeches and pledges."

Another proviso was moved by Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur of Madras which was: *Provided that*

contd. on page 2

Events At a Glance...

Culture Wing

Summer Workshop

Kathak Darpan

Ms. Saswati Sen, senior disciple of late Pt. Birju Maharaj will conduct the workshop.

Date: May 23-27, 2022

Time: 10.00 am to 7.00 pm

Venue: Nehru Centre Auditorium

Library

Let's Read Together

Date: May 1-31, 2022

Time: 11.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Venue: Nehru Centre Library

nothing in this article shall affect the personal law of the citizen. He stated, "Though the words 'civil code' do not strictly cover personal law of a citizen, the civil code primarily deals with laws of property, laws of inheritance and adoption etc. However, as far as the Mussalmans are concerned, their laws of succession, inheritance, marriage and divorce are completely dependent upon their religion. Therefore, I move that by this proviso it would be clear that the words 'civil code' will never be interpreted to include personal law of any community."

He further said, "People seem to think that under a secular State, there must be a common law observed by its citizens in all matters, including matters of their daily life, their language, their culture, their personal laws. That is not the correct way to look at this secular State. In a secular State, citizens belonging to different communities must have the freedom to practice their own religion, observe their own life, and their personal laws should be applied to them. Therefore, I hope the framers of this Article have not in their minds the personal law of the people to cover the words 'civil code'."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur, another Muslim member of the Constituent Assembly from Madras, spoke in support of the proviso moved by Mr. Muhammad Ismail Sahib at the beginning of the debate.

Shri K. M. Munshi, a member of the Constituent Assembly from Bombay, said that the whole object of the article was that as and when the Parliament thinks proper or rather when the majority in the Parliament thinks proper, an attempt may be

made to unify the personal law of the country. He further elaborated, "When you want to consolidate a community, you have to take into consideration the benefit which may accrue to the whole community and not to the customs of a part of it. If you will look at the countries in Europe which have a civil code, everyone who goes there from any part of the world and every minority has to submit to the civil code." He referred to Turkey and Egypt, both Muslim countries, and said, "No minority in these countries is permitted to have rights under any personal law." He went on to say that when the Shariat Act was passed in the Central Legislature in the old regime, the Khojas and the Cutchi Memons were highly dissatisfied. They then followed certain Hindu customs; for generations since they became converts they had done so. They did not want to conform to the Shariat; and yet they were made to do so by a legislation. He continued, "If one looks at Manu and Yagnavalkya and the rest of it, I think most of the provisions of the new Bill will run counter to their injunctions. The main point is whether we are going to consolidate and unify our personal law in such a way that the way of life of the whole country may, in course of time, be unified and secular. We want to divorce religion from personal law... I know there are many among Hindus, who do not like a Uniform Civil Code, because they take the same view as the honourable Muslim members who spoke last. They feel that the personal law of inheritance, succession etc. is really a part of their religion. If that were so, you can never give, for instance, equality to women. But you have already passed a Fundamental Right to that effect and you have an Article here which lays

down that there should be no discrimination against sex. Look at Hindu law; you get any amount of discrimination against women; and if that is part of Hindu religion or Hindu religious practice, you cannot pass a single law which would elevate the position of Hindu women to that of men. Therefore, there is no reason why there should not be a civil code throughout the territory of India."

Shri Munshi continued, "Religion must be restricted to spheres which legitimately appertain to religion, and the rest of life must be regulated, unified and modified in such a manner that we may evolve, as early as possible a strong and consolidated nation...the attitude of mind perpetuated under the British rule, that personal law is part of religion, has been fostered by the British and by British courts. We must, therefore, outgrow it."

... to be contd.

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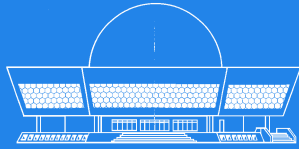
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Published for Nehru Centre
by **Shri Chandrakant M. Rane**
Discovery of India Building,
Dr. A. B. Road, Worli,
Mumbai - 400 018.

What Nehru said....

The freedom that we have got is only political freedom. What we want is a people's raj, in which all people without distinction will be prosperous and contented citizens... Everyone must be equal and have equal opportunity for progress and it is our duty to bring about conditions in the country under which this is possible.

.... 55th Session of the Indian National Congress, Jaipur, December 12, 1948



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.

Sunspots and Solar Winds

If we observe the sun with proper filters, we will notice some dark black patches or spots on its surface. These dark spots are called sunspots and the visible surface of the sun is called the photosphere. Some small sunspots are visible only for a few days whereas the larger ones can be seen for a longer time, sometimes even for a month. At the peak of sunspot activities, one can see as many as 150 sunspots on the photosphere in a year. This period is referred to as *sunspot maxima* year or also a *solar maxima* year. The number of spots starts decreasing after five and a half years' time. This is when there may not be even a single visible sunspot for many days at a stretch. This period is referred to as *sunspot minima* or a *solar minima* year.

Galileo Galilei was one of the first persons to observe the sunspots in a systematic manner. He projected the image of the sun using his telescope and carefully drew the position of the sunspots. He noticed that the position of the sunspots changed everyday and that they moved only in one direction. Based on these observations, he concluded that the sun rotated on its own axis once in about 27 days. Subsequently, it was confirmed by other scientists too. Further to Galileo's discovery, a German amateur astronomer Samuel Heinrich Schwabe also noticed that the number of sunspots increased

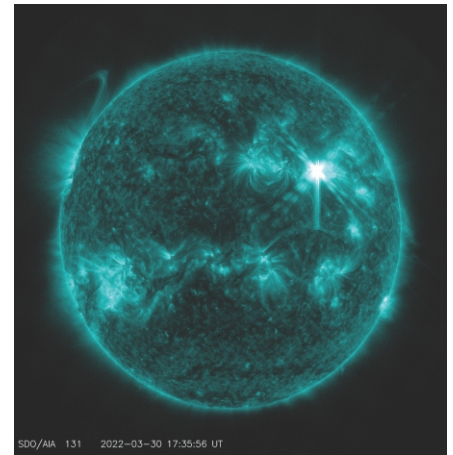
and decreased in a period of eleven years.

Though sunspots appear as dark black patches on the photosphere, their temperature is as high as 3500°C. They appear dark only due to the temperature of the photosphere which is much higher i.e. 5500°C.

The sun comprises approximately 75% hydrogen, 24% helium and 1% of other elements. Above the photosphere is the sun's atmosphere called the chromosphere. Gases are in a dense state below the chromosphere. This is called the plasma state which is the fourth state of matter, where matter is electrically charged. Other three states of matter are the solid, liquid and gaseous states. When a matter in plasma state moves, it generates a magnetic field which, in turn, is responsible for the formation of sunspots.

Sometimes, the magnetic field becomes so strong that plasma is emitted from the sun almost like an explosion. This process is called Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) and the plasma which is thus emitted is known as solar wind. Depending upon the amount and the strength of the explosion, solar wind travels as far as 1.8 billion km from the sun which is about 120 times the distance between the earth and the sun. Sometimes such large

explosions even lead to a solar storm. Solar wind travels at a speed



Solar Explosion Photo Credit: NASA

of 300 to 750 kms per second and takes about 15 to 18 days to reach the Earth.

Solar wind is hazardous to spacecraft and artificial satellites as it causes a disturbance in the functioning of electronic and electrical equipment. It has, therefore, become necessary to monitor the sun to see when and in which direction the solar wind is travelling. If it is noticed that the solar wind is approaching a spacecraft, then most of the electrical and electronic circuits have to be switched off and kept in safe mode until the wind passes by.

Solar wind is also likely to cause short circuits in satellites orbiting the earth. Currently, about 6000 satellites are in orbit around the

earth. Many of these satellites are useful in communication and navigational network and for weather forecasting. Failure of these satellites may cause disturbance in satellite communication, GPS navigation and weather predictions. Other satellites include those sent by various countries for scientific observations in laboratories like the International Space Station.

Solar wind heats the upper atmosphere of the earth resulting in its expansion. The expanded atmosphere causes resistance to orbiting satellites, thus resulting in reduction in their speeds thus causing the satellites to fall back on the earth.

This year on 3 February, forty nine satellites were launched as part of the Starlink operation and placed in the upper atmosphere. Unfortunately, forty of these satellites re-entered the lower atmosphere and burnt out completely. This was because of the high speed of the satellites and their friction with the particles in the atmosphere which generated a high temperature.

Closer to the surface of the earth, solar storms have been known to disturb electrical power grids. One such storm took place on 2 September 1859. It was so strong that telegraph machines reportedly electrocuted telephone operators and even caused small fires. Prior to this event, two British astronomers, Richard Carrington and Richard Hodgson recorded a huge solar flare. The event is now known as the Carrington Event.

On 13 March 1989, there was a short circuit in the power station supplying electricity to the province of Quebec in Canada. This power breakdown was also due to a solar storm.

The magnetic field of the earth protects life on earth from the influence of solar wind. When solar wind comes close to the earth, it follows this magnetic field. As it nears the earth, the wind moves towards its north and south geomagnetic poles. At about 97-1,000 kms above the surface of the earth, the solar wind collides with atoms of oxygen and nitrogen in the earth's atmosphere and releases energy in the form of a colourful glow called the *Aurora Borealis* (northern hemisphere) and *Aurora Australis* (southern hemisphere).



Aurora Borealis

Photo Credit: Gunjan Sinha

A team of scientists and students led by Prof. Dibyendu Nandi, of the Centre of Excellence in Space Sciences India (CESSI) at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Kolkata, has been developing capabilities to predict space weather. They are one of the few international groups (and the only group in India) that have the technological capability to accurately forecast the possibility of severe solar flares. They use different approaches such as machine learning algorithms, computational modelling of solar atmospheric magnetic fields and satellite data analysis etc.



Prof. Dibyendu Nandi and his team

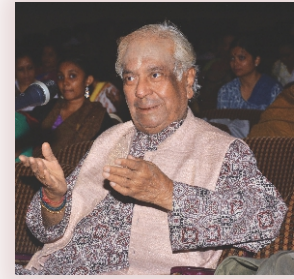
The team has been making accurate predictions about space weather. On 31 March this year, they predicted the solar wind that affected high-frequency radio communication which proved to be highly accurate.

Kudos to the Indian team.

Culture Wing

Summer Workshop **KATHAK DARPAN** In memory of Pt. Birju Maharaj

For the last twenty years, the Culture Wing of Nehru Centre has been organizing summer workshop 'Kathak Darpan' for students of this classical dance form.



Pt. Birju Maharaj

The great maestro of Kathak, Padma Vibhushan Pandit Birju Maharaj personally conducted these workshops which were attended by hundreds of aspirants.

Covid-19 had put a halt to these workshops which could not be held for two years. We were looking forward to restart Kathak Darpan in Panditji's august presence. But fate had other plans. Panditji passed away on January 16 this year.

Ms. Saswati Sen, senior disciple of Pandit Birju Maharaj will conduct Kathak Darpan this year. Ms. Sen, an exponent of Kathak has performed and taught with her Guru in his institute at Kalashram, New Delhi. She is the recipient of Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Sanskrit Award, Shringar Mani Award and Critic's Recommendation Award.



Date: May 23-27, 2022 Time: 10.00 am to 7.00 pm Venue : Nehru Centre Auditorium

Workshop forms will be available from 15 April to 15 May 2022 from the office of Culture Wing or can be downloaded from the website of the Centre.

**RAJ MAJI
KOYEL MAJI
JAGDISH MOHANTY**



Raj Maji

The artists will display thematic paintings in acrylic on paper and other mixed media.

**Tuesday 3rd May 2022 to
Monday 9th May 2022
(AC Gallery)**

**SARBABHARATIYA SANGEET-O-
SANSKRITI PARISHAD**

The exhibition will showcase visual art in different forms.

**Tuesday 3rd May 2022 to
Monday 9th May 2022
(Circular Gallery)**

RUPESH PATIL



Rupesh will display landscape paintings in water colours.

**Tuesday 10th May 2022 to
Monday 16th May 2022
(AC Gallery)**

NEELU PATEL

Neelu runs "Mukhote" a creative art foundation in Gujarat. She will display her works.

**Tuesday 10th May 2022 to
Monday 16th May 2022
(Circular Gallery)**

**SABYASACHI KUILA
UMESH CHANDRA BERA
PHALGUNI ROY
SHUVAYU NANDI
GOURAB GHOSAL
ABHAY SAWANT**

This group show will display varied art forms like oil and mixed media on canvas, paper pulp artworks and abstract art.

**Tuesday 17th May 2022 to
Monday 23rd May 2022
(AC Gallery)**

**ABA SAYKAR
JYOTI ADAV
NITIN MAHAVAN**



Aba Saykar

Figurative paintings, landscapes and seascapes in acrylic on canvas will be on show.

**Tuesday 17th May 2022 to
Monday 23rd May 2022
(Circular Gallery)**

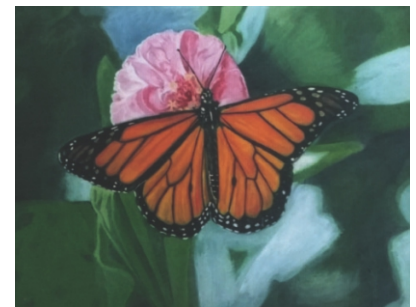
K. K. BAVISKAR



K. K. Baviskar has over 33 years of service with Weavers Service Centre, as Director. He has designed *Tree of Life*, traditional Bhirograph and Bhag printing of birds and paisleys and is now developing textile design in handloom and allied crafts.

**Tuesday 24th May 2022 to
Monday 30th May 2022
(AC Gallery)**

**MAHESH THIGALE
ANIL TAYADE
APARNA THIGALE
NATRAJ CHETTY**



Mahesh Thigale

The show will display geometrical and figurative compositions in acrylic on canvas.

**Tuesday 24th May 2022 to
Monday 30th May 2022
(Circular Gallery)**

UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India

32. Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Telangana

Rudreshwara temple, popularly known as Ramappa Temple, is located in the village of Palampet approximately 200 km north-east of Hyderabad in Telangana. It was built during the Kakatiyan period (1123–1323 CE) under rulers Rudradeva and Recharla Rudra. Construction of the sandstone temple began in 1213 CE and is believed to have continued over some 40 years. It features decorated beams and pillars of carved granite and dolerite with a distinctive and pyramidal Vimana (horizontally stepped tower) made of lightweight porous bricks, so-called 'floating bricks', which reduced the weight of the roof structures. The temple's sculptures of high artistic quality illustrate regional dance customs and Kakatiyan culture. The main structure is in reddish sandstone, and the columns around the outside have large brackets of black basalt which is rich in iron, magnesium and silica. These are carved as mythical animals or female dancers or musicians, and are the masterpieces of Kakatiyan art, notable for their delicate carving, sensuous postures and elongated bodies and heads. There are two small Shiva shrines on either side of the main temple. The enormous Nandi Mandapa, facing the shrine of Shiva, remains in good condition.

The temple is a Shivalayam, where Lord Ramalingeshwara is worshipped. Ramappa Temple stands majestically on a 6-foot (1.8 m) high star-shaped platform. The hall in front of the sanctum has numerous carved pillars that have been positioned to create an effect that combines light and space wonderfully. The temple is named after the sculptor Ramappa who built it, and is perhaps the only temple in India to be named after its craftsman.

Marco Polo, the Venetian merchant, explorer, and writer who travelled through Asia along the Silk Road between 1271 and 1295, during his visit to the Kakatiya Empire, called the temple 'the brightest star in the galaxy of temples'.

Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site on 25 July 2021.

Further reading at Nehru Centre Library:

- Encyclopedia of Indian Temple Architecture: North India by Michael W. Meister; Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 1991. Call No. R726.145/Mei/Dha. Barcode – 10936
- Temples of South India by K. R. Srinivasan; National Book Trust, New Delhi, 1972. Call No. 726.1(548)/Sri. Barcode – 12022



Main Temple



Female Dancer



Carved Pillars



Nandi Mandapa

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Colourful art catalogues for sale

- (1) GOPALRAO DEUSKAR (1995)
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- (10) VINAYAK S. MASOJI (2006)
- and many more...

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LET'S READ TOGETHER  

ALL OF MAY 2022

Parents, bring your children and their friends and read to them from their books or the books from the library. Refer to the library catalogue for details about children's books. OPAC URL: <http://nehrucen-koha.informindia.co.in/>

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