

Newsletter

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Nehru
Centre



Discovery of India Building
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HOMAGE

Nehru Centre will pay homage to late Shri Rajni Patel, founder member and former General Secretary of the Centre on his 41st death anniversary.

All are requested to join.

Date: **Wednesday, 3rd May 2023**

Time: **11.00 a.m.**

Venue: **Ground Floor,
Discovery of India Building**

Events At a Glance...

Culture Wing

Kathak Darpan

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

Date: **May 22-26, 2023**

Time: **10.00 am to 7.00 pm**

Grand Finalé: **May 27, 2023, 7.00 pm**

Venue: **Nehru Centre Auditorium**

Library



**Let's Read Together with
Natasha Sharma,
Vaishali Shroff and
Nandita da Cunha**

Date: **May 6 & May 20, 2023**

Venue: **'Who Are We' Hall, 1st Floor
Discovery of India Building**

Constituent Assembly Debates Language for the Union - Part II

The debate was a long one and continued.

S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao
(Mysore)

"Sir, I submit that status quo should be maintained and the question of language should be left to be decided by the future Parliament. My respectful submission is that today Hindi is only a regional language and a provincial language and just because it is being spoken by about ten crores of people out of thirty-two crores, we are raising it to the level of a common language. I would call all languages spoken in India as our national languages - Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Bengali, Gujarati and all the other languages are national languages. But for the purpose of the Union, we want a common language and we are prepared to accept Hindi as our common language. But Hindi has to become such a language that its effect would be seen in all the ramifications of national life, and for this it should develop very much. My submission is that today Hindi has not yet developed to that stage. In fact, I can quote from some of our own South Indian languages to show that they are far more developed than Hindi is today.

If Hindi is going to be the common language of India and meet the needs of a growing nation, it should develop

itself borrowing freely from all the languages. We cannot have any narrow outlook so far as the development of the language is concerned."

Mohd. Hifzur Rahman
(United Provinces)

"Mr. President, I submit that in place of Hindi, Hindustani should be the national language of India and it should be written in both the scripts - Devnagari and Urdu. This Hindustani should be so developed that it may absorb Urdu, Hindi and all other languages of India and thus it may get an opportunity of full development."

Referring to Gandhiji, he said, "In the beginning when the language problem came before the country, he was enrolled as a member of the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan and he tried to advance the cause of Hindi. But slowly and gradually he realized that it was not the Hindi of his liking. It was a separate language which was Sanskritized and its protagonists were trying to make it more and more Sanskritized and call it Hindi. He differed and proclaimed that to him 'Hindi' meant 'Hindustani'. He resigned his membership of the Sammelan and espoused the cause of Hindustani and said that only this plain and simple language could be the national language. Therefore, I appeal to the House to accept Hindustani as the language of the

Union and the country because in comparison to other languages, it is simpler and more appropriate to be the *lingua franca* of India.”

The House was adjourned and met the next day to continue the debate.

R.V. Dhulekar (United Provinces)

“Mr. President, Sir, nobody can be more happy than myself that Hindi has become the official language of the country. I may remind the House that, on the very first day I spoke in Hindi and there was an opposition that I should not speak in the language which I called the national language of the country. On that day, in spite of the fact that the then President tried to rule me out of order, I claimed that as a Member of the Constituent Assembly and as a son of this country, I had a right to speak in the language which I feel is the national language of the country.

had enough of it? We have had it for the past two hundred years; we have had this slavery of a foreign language. This English language has produced no great men. Even in our slavery we produced great men. Some people may say that on account of the English language we got our freedom. I say no. Only those people joined the freedom's fight who forgot the English language and who had extreme hatred for the English language and who knew that the English language was a poison and that it will kill our country. I would, with all humility say to Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar, I do not understand your language and you do not understand my language. You did not know the language of the country for the last forty years, and so you will not understand my language today.

With these words I move my amendments and support the

languages in the world. The biggest orientalist like Professor Max Muller, Sir William Hunter etc. have accorded to Sanskrit the highest place calling it 'the mother of all languages of the world.'

Sir, we are proud of the great provincial languages of this country—Bengali, Marathi, Gujarati, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada and others. Of all languages, why should Hindi be set up as the national language? Certainly from the point of view of the largest number of people speaking or understanding it, probably Hindi may have the strongest claim. It, however, does not necessarily mean that it is the language of the majority. Now, Sir, it is my firm conviction that if we want to avoid the provincial jealousies and acrimonious feelings which are bound to follow the enforcement of a provincial language by raising it to the status of a national language, we must adopt Sanskrit which is the mother of all languages and which can be learnt, in my humble opinion, in fifteen years by intensified effort for which necessary facilities are already in existence in the country.

Meanwhile, I do not want to bring in inefficiency in the administration of the country. Therefore, I want that for these fifteen years, English should continue as the official language of the country.”

... to be continued



The amendment I have moved is that Parliament should decide how long this present official language, English, should last in the country. I am going to oppose that the official language of the country should continue for fifteen years. I feel that the lease of another fifteen years will not be in the national interest.

When I entered the Congress at the age of eighteen, I had a clear vision that *swaraj* will come. I had the notion that my country will have my own language. But today, I hear people asking another fifteen years for English in this country. Have we not

unqualified adoption of Hindi in Devnagari script and Hindi numerals, for no other language can be the official language of India, not even for a minute.”

Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal)

“Mr. President, I am convinced that if on the attainment of freedom, this country is to have at all anything like an official language which is also to be the national language of the country, it is undoubtedly Sanskrit. Sir, Sanskrit has the oldest and the most respectable pedigree of all the

Dear Subscribers

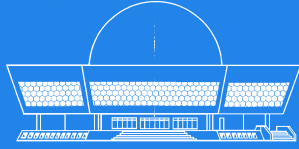
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What Nehru said....

The burden of the past, the burden of both good and ill, is overpowering, and sometimes suffocating, more especially for those of us who belong to very ancient civilisations like those of India and China. As Nietzsche says: 'Not only the wisdom of centuries – also their madness breaketh out in us. Dangerous it is to be an heir.'

... From Chapter I, Ahmadnagar Fort, The Discovery of India



NEHRU PLANETARIUM

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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

Earth

Earth is the third planet from the Sun and the only known planet where there is life. The study of Earth is easier than any other celestial object. Therefore, detailed information about Planet Earth is available. Many of its physical parameters are often used as units of comparative measurement. For example, it is customary to say that a planet is 10 times bigger than the Earth etc.

Earth is the largest among the terrestrial planets - Mercury, Venus and Mars. Its shape is not exactly spherical and is slightly flattened in the polar regions. Such a shape is called an oblate spheroid.

The diameter of the Earth at the equator is 12,756 kilometres whereas its polar diameter is 12,713 kilometres, which is less than by about 0.34%. Though this is a very small value, it is measurable. The total mass of the Earth is estimated to be 5.974×10^{24} kg and its average density is 5516 g/m^3 . The temperature on the Earth varies from a maximum of 60°C to a minimum of -90°C . The average temperature is about 14°C . It is composed mostly of iron (32.1 %), oxygen (30.1%), silicon (15.1%), magnesium (13.9%), sulphur (2.9%), nickel

(1.8%), calcium (1.5%), and aluminium (1.4%), with the remaining 1.2% consisting of trace amounts of other elements.

Like other planets, Earth orbits in an elliptical orbit and its distance from the Sun keeps changing. At the farthest, it is 152.1 million kilometres from the Sun. This point is called aphelion. At its closest distance, it is 147.1 million kilometres from the Sun and this point is called perihelion. The average distance between the Earth and the Sun is 149.6 million km. This distance is taken to be a unit of distance measurement and is called the Astronomical Unit (or AU).



Earth

The Earth completes one revolution around the Sun in 365.242199 days (365 days, 5 hours and 48.76 minutes), at an average speed of 29.79 km/s. It rotates on its axis in about 23 hours and 56 minutes.

Earth's axis of rotation is tilted by 23.5° to the perpendicular to its plane of rotation around the Sun. This tilt causes the changing of seasons on the Earth.

The Earth formed about 4.5 billion years ago along with other planets of the solar system. At that time, it was in a molten state. As it cooled over the next one billion years, oceans began to form. Nearly 71% of the Earth's surface is covered with water, the total volume of water being 1.4 billion cubic kilometres.

Of the total water on the Earth, about 97.2% is in the oceans, 2.1% of water is found in glaciers and only 0.7 % of water is in rivers and lakes and trapped in rocks. The atmosphere holds only 0.001%.

There are presently three different theories about the source of water on Earth. According to one theory, there were water molecules present in the region where the Earth was formed. The second theory says that during the first billion years after the formation of the Earth, there was a huge shower of ice fragments. The last theory suggests that the Earth got water from the collision of comets, which essentially are made up of water. It is quite likely that the

water on the Earth came from two or even all the three theories.

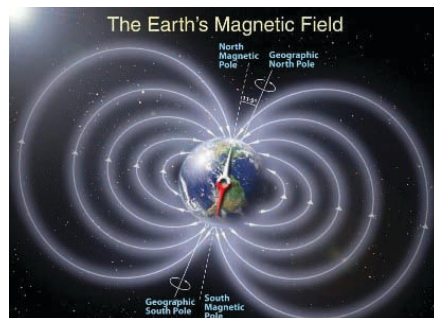
The structure of the Earth consists of an inner core that extends from the centre to about 1280 kilometres and is made up of solid iron. The temperature here is of the order of 5,430°C. The inner core is surrounded by an outer core that stretches about 2200 kilometres above it. This region is in a liquid state and is composed of mostly iron and nickel. Temperatures close to the inner core are in the range of 3,700°C to 7,700°C. The temperature decreases to 2,700°C to 4,200°C at its outer layer.

Above the outer core is Earth's mantle. It is a layer predominantly made up of silicates. The temperature here is about 3,930°C. Above the mantle is a thin layer of the asthenosphere (from Greek *asthenós* meaning 'without strength') is just about a few hundred kilometres thick. The temperature here is about 1,300°C.

The layer above this is the Earth's crust which is the topmost layer. The thickness of the crust varies from about 6 kilometres under the oceans to 30–50 km for the continents. The uppermost layer is the lithosphere (from ancient Greek *lithos* or 'rocky'.) This is what we call land.

The land area is divided into seven major regions, the Pacific, North American, Eurasian, African, Antarctic, Indo-Australian, and South American. These are termed plate tectonics (a large-scale process affecting the structure of the earth's crust). At one time in the history of the Earth, they were together and have slowly drifted into

their current locations. Among other plates is the Indian Plate which is a minor plate that was part of the Australian Plate. It drifted to join the Eurasian plate, giving rise to the present-day Himalayas. This plate is currently moving at a rate of about 5 cm per year in the northeast direction.



Earth's magnetic field

The Earth has a magnetic field, better known as the geomagnetic field. The magnetic field is generated in the core of the Earth and extends to outer space. The poles (north and south) of Earth's magnetic field lie close to its geographical poles but not exactly at the poles. Their positions also keep shifting. Therefore, navigators cannot completely rely on their magnetic compass for directions and the exact locations on the Earth.

The magnetic field plays a very important role in protecting life on Earth from the electrically charged particles emanating from the Sun. If these particles reach the Earth as solar wind, they can strip away the ozone layer which protects life from harmful ultraviolet radiation. These charged particles of solar wind can even cause severe damage to the electric circuits and high-tension electric wires. The magnetic field of the Earth diverts these charged particles to the polar region where they discharge and give out a grand

show of coloured layers in the sky, called the Aurora Borealis and the Aurora Australis.

Geologists have found that the magnetic poles of the Earth reverse, at random intervals. i.e. the north magnetic pole becomes south and vice-versa. The last reversal recently occurred about 780,000 years ago. Scientists are trying to find out the cause of this phenomenon.

NOMENCLATURES OF EARTH

Earth is the only planet that gets its name from the English language and not from Greek or Latin, like other planets. The name 'Earth' derives from the eighth-century Anglo-Saxon word erda, which means ground or soil. However, sometimes in scientific writings, the Latin word, terra is used to denote the personification of the Earth. For example, terra farming is used to describe the cultivation of vegetation on other planets. Terra is the Roman goddess of Earth.

Almost every ancient culture across the world named the Earth essentially based on ground or soil and many of these names are similar sounding like Aarde (in Dutch), Art (Maltese), Erde (German) and Ard (Arabic). The Persian word zamin is used in Afghanistan, Iran and Tajikistan as well as in Urdu and even in Hindi. Duniya, a word in the Swahili language, is used by the people of Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda for Earth. But in Hindi, it also refers to the universe. Dharti is another word for Earth but is also synonymous with terra (ground or soil). The Sanskrit word Prithvi specifically means the Earth as a planet.

Culture Wing

KATHAK DARPAN: Summer workshop for students

In memory of late Pt. Birju Maharaj

The Culture Wing of Nehru Centre has been conducting a Summer Workshop on Kathak dance since the last twenty one years, under the guidance of Kathak Maestro, Late Pt. Birju Maharaj and then under his senior disciple, Ms. Saswati Sen. In its 22nd edition, we shall again organize Kathak Darpan under Ms. Sen's tutelage. Ms. Sen has taught and performed with Panditji in his institute at Kalashram, New Delhi. She is the recipient of Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2004. She has also received the Sanskriti Award, the Shringar Mani Award and the Critic's Recommendation Award.



Pt. Birju Maharaj



Dates: May 22-26, 2023, 10.00 am to 7.00 pm
Grand Finalé: May 27, 2023, 7.00 p.m.
Venue : Nehru Centre Auditorium

Workshop forms will be available from April 1 to May 15, 2023 from the office of the Culture Wing or can be downloaded from the Nehru Centre's website: www.nehru-centre.org

**KAILASH KALE
PANKAJ GADAKH**



Kailash Kale

Both are award winning artists and will exhibit metal sculptures and abstract paintings in acrylic on canvas.

**Tuesday 2nd May 2023 to
Monday 8th May 2023
(AC Gallery)**

**NEHA KARANE .
SAVITA TATHE .
DARSHANA MANDAVKAR .
YASH TORASKAR .
MADHU SOODANAN**



Neha Karane

This group of young artists from Mumbai will showcase various types of artworks.

**Tuesday 2nd May 2023 to
Monday 8th May 2023
(Circular Gallery)**

**NEELU PATEL . KHYATI PATEL
SHRUTI SONI . DIMPAL TAILOR
BANSU SHAH . DILIP PARMAR
MAHESH VATALIYA**



Neelu Patel

Each artist and sculptor has their own style and medium of artwork in this talented group.

**Tuesday 9th May 2023 to
Monday 15th May 2023
(AC Gallery)**

**SANJAY MHATRE
JYOTI MALIK**



Sanjay Mhatre

Sanjay will display calligraphy and images in acrylic on canvas. Jyoti will showcase works in acrylic on canvas.

**Tuesday 9th May 2023 to
Monday 15th May 2023
(Circular Gallery)**

ULHAS VEDPATHAK



Ulhas Vedpathak

Shri Vedpathak's exhibition 'Rangved' will showcase his poetic works in oils and acrylic on canvas.

**Tuesday 16th May 2023 to
Monday 22nd May 2023
(AC Gallery)**

RABIN BAR

Rabin hails from West Bengal and started his art by working with soft mud. Later, he worked with acrylic on paper and other materials, which will be on display.

**Tuesday 16th May 2023 to
Monday 22nd May 2023
(Circular Gallery)**

**RAJ MAJI
KOYEL MAJI
JAGDISH MOHANTY**

These three artists from Mysore work on figurative and thematic compositions in oil and acrylic on canvas.

**Tuesday 23rd May 2023 to
Monday 29th May 2023
(AC Gallery)**

BHAVINI GOLWALA

Bhavini excels in portraits, calligraphy and murals in oils and acrylic on canvas and she will exhibit the same.

**Tuesday 23rd May 2023 to
Monday 29th May 2023
(Circular Gallery)**

RAMSAR WETLAND SITES IN INDIA

4. Bihar

Kabartal Wetland, also known as Kanwar Jheel, is Asia's largest freshwater oxbow lake, formed due to the meandering of Burhi Gandak River, a tributary of the Ganga, which covers 26.20 sq. km. of the Indo-Gangetic plains. The site is one of 18 wetlands within an extensive floodplain complex; it floods during the monsoon to a depth of 1.5 metres. This absorption of floodwaters is a vital service in Bihar where 70% of the land is vulnerable to inundation. During the dry season, areas of marshland dry out and are used for agriculture.

The Kabartal Wetland has significant biodiversity with 165 plant species and 394 animal species including 221 bird species. The Wetland is an important stopover along the Central Asian Flyway, with 58 migratory waterbirds using it to rest and refuel. Five critically endangered bird species inhabit the site, including three vultures – the red-headed vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*), white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) and Indian vulture (*Gyps indicus*) – and two waterbirds, the sociable lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*) and Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*). It is also a valuable site for fish biodiversity with over 50 species documented.

With over 80 – 90% of the river runoff confined to only four monsoon months, the ability of the wetland to store water and regulate overall hydrological storage is important for securing water availability in the region. Hydrological connectivity has a great influence on wetland biodiversity. Nutrient enrichment and connectivity with riverine environments make this ecosystem an important breeding and nursing ground of many species.

The rich fisheries and agriculture are the main source of livelihood of 15,000 households of 17 villages in and around the area who are engaged in harvesting fish, aquatic molluscs and aquatic plants for use as food, fodder and fuelwood. It is also a source of wild rice (*Desaria* – a variety of deepwater rice), makhana (*Euryale ferox*), singada (*Trapa natans*), kamal (*Nelumbo nucifera*), crab (*Paratelphusa spinigera*) and edible mollusc (*Pila globosa*).

With the onset of monsoon, high inundation with a nutrient flux favours the growth of submerged and floating vegetation. The dominance shifts in favour of floating vegetation as water recedes and lotic pockets created by the flowing waters emerge in the wetland. The vegetation includes hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*), taro (*Colocasia Esculent*), water thyme (*Hydrilla verticillata*), common duckweed (*Lemna minor*), sacred lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*), water lily (*Nymphaea nouchali*) and water chestnut (*Trapa natans*).

The Jaimangal temple and the Jaimangal fort on the bank of the Kabartal are known for their historical, cultural, and significance importance.

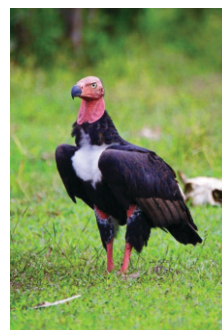
Kabartal in Bihar was declared a Ramsar Wetland Site on 21st July 2020.



Kabartal



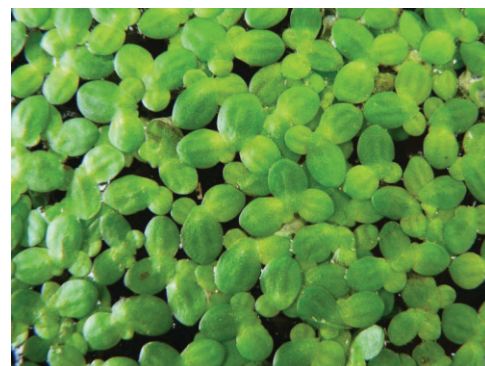
Fishermen in Kabartal



Red-headed vulture



Hornwort



Common duckweed

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Let's Read Together



6th May 2023

Natasha Sharma



She will read from her early chapter books and do an activity.

Age: 5-10 years

Time: 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

6th May 2023

Vaishali Shroff



The book is a fascinating journey amongst the what, why and how of the languages that make our nation, towards a future where this discovery must be preserved.

Age: 10+ years

Time: 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

20th May 2023

Nandita da Cunha



This is a picture book with a story about the power of nature in our lives, the power of community, and about the transformation of a girl and her garden, that will touch the hearts of its readers.

Age: 8+ years

Time: 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

20th May 2023

Vaishali Shroff



On World Dinosaur Day, we will discover curious facts about the dinosaurs in India. So get ready for a fantastic journey of little Padma and her blue dinosaur.

Age: 7+ years

Time: 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Venue : 'Who Are We' Hall, 1st Floor, Discovery of India Building

Register: nehrucenrelibrary@gmail.com



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