

# Newsletter

Vol. 23 Issue 10 OCTOBER 2022

Price Rs. 10/- Per Copy

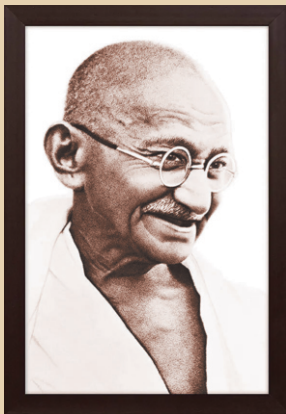
## Nehru Centre



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### Events At a Glance...



## संतवाणी

An evening of  
devotional songs

On the eve of  
Gandhi Jayanti,  
some of Gandhiji's favourite  
bhajans will be presented.

#### Artistes

Shri Bhagvant Kulkarni  
Smt. Anuja Vartak

Saturday, 1st October 2022

6.30 p.m.

Hall of Culture  
Discovery of India Building  
Nehru Centre

Entry: Free to all

### Constituent Assembly Debates Mahatma's Portrait

October 2, 2022 marks Mahatma Gandhi's 153rd birth anniversary. Seventy five years ago, the Constituent Assembly of India paid tribute to the Mahatma through a motion which was in no way connected with constitution making.

On the afternoon of 28th August 1947 when the Constituent Assembly reassembled after lunch, the President invited Shri A. P. Pattani, a representative of Western India states to take the floor. Shri Pattani placed the following motion before the House:

"Resolved that the Constituent Assembly of India do accept the

portrait of Mahatma Gandhi by Sir Oswald Birley, bequeathed to the nation by Sir Prabhashankar Pattani."

Sir Prabhashankar Pattani was the Dewan of the then state of Bhavnagar and was Gandhiji's friend.

Shri A. P. Pattani further said, "It is not possible to express in words the happiness I feel today, standing in this Constituent Assembly of my country, to discharge a trust and fulfil the wishes of my late father.

The portrait was painted by the great portrait painter, Sir Oswald Birley, in England during the Second Round Table Conference.

*contd. on pg 2*



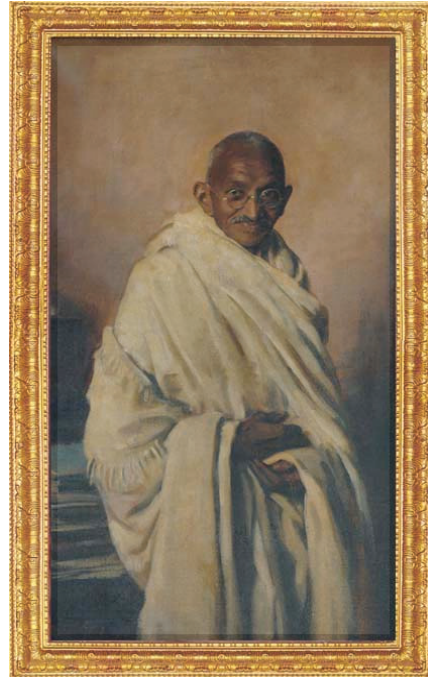
Mahatma Gandhi and other members at the Second Round Table Conference

My father purchased it. I may inform the House that Sir Oswald had painted that portrait for himself. He agreed to part with it because my father wanted it for India. When the portrait arrived in India it remained in its original packing. No one, including family members, was allowed to see it and no one knew what he intended to do with it. Sometime after the Act of 1935 was passed, he told me that he intended to present it to the nation when the new Government under the Act would get inaugurated. Time passed. There was no hope of that Act coming into operation. My father passed away in 1938. When the new government came into being after the Act of 1947, I spoke of the message of my father, and of the portrait, to our Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

It was my father's wish that this picture should be delivered to the nation. His words were, "It is the portrait of the saint who had laboured more than anyone else for peace and who preached non violence which is ultimately the only right way in human affairs." That, sir, is the message I am to deliver, and there (pointed to where the portrait was installed) is the portrait. I have done my duty. I request that the portrait be unveiled."

The President then unveiled the portrait and said, "Honourable Members, I am sure I am expressing the sense of gratefulness of all the members of this House to Mr. Pattani for the present which he has made to this

House." Referring to Sir Prabhashankar Pattani, the President said that it was very thoughtful of him to have preserved this beautiful portrait for so many years to be handed over to the nation only when it was free from foreign rule. Speaking of Gandhiji, the President said that he came to



**Portrait of Mahatma Gandhi,  
painted by Sir Oswald Birley**

us when all our efforts to gain freedom had failed. He gave a new direction to the country through his method of non-violent Satyagraha. His influence was so profound that the whole country was motivated to fight for freedom. Of Gandhiji's influence the President said, "That influence has permeated our life to an extent which probably we do not ourselves quite appreciate and fully realize, and the greatness of the Mahatma lies in this, that as

time passes, as ages pass, the influence which he has exercised not only on our lives but on the current of world history will be more and more appreciated and more and more realized. Such men are not often or easily born. They come once in a way in the history of the world to turn its course, to change its current. We all know how he has made heroes out of clay, how he has moulded men of ordinary calibre into men of great capacity, of great culture and achievements. He has not only done that, he has created in the nation, as a whole, apart from mere individuals, a longing for freedom and also, in a way by his work, fulfilled that longing.

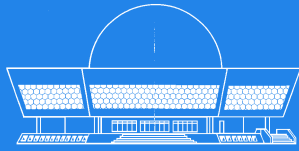
So, we stand here today to pay homage to him. This picture which has been presented to us will be in this House, reminding every member who sits on these benches, of the great part he had played in our history and the world's history at a most critical and momentous time. It will remind members of the great duty which they owe to this country. It will remind all of us of the great heritage which he represents and which we, all of us, have got from our forefathers and above all, it will remind us how the freedom that we have won has to be utilized for the good of all. Let us hope that this picture will serve that purpose and we shall prove worthy of the Great Mahatma who had led us to this goal. On behalf of the House, I formally accept this portrait."

The portrait now occupies its pride of place in the Central Hall of Parliament.

### What Nehru said....

And then Gandhi came. He was like a powerful current of fresh air that made us stretch ourselves and take deep breaths; like a beam of light that pierced the darkness and removed the scales from our eyes; like a whirlwind that upset many things, but most of all the working of people's minds. He did not descend from the top; he seemed to emerge from the millions of India.

*...From Chapter 8, The Discovery of India*



## 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.

## Jupiter

Jupiter is the fifth planet from the Sun, the second outermost planet after Mars and the fourth brightest celestial object visible to the naked eyes after the Sun, the Moon and Venus. Jupiter is called a gas giant planet. Gas giant planets are those planets that have a mass more than ten times that of the Earth and comprise mostly of hydrogen (75%) and helium (24%). The mass of Jupiter is about 318 times more than that of Earth. The Earth comes between the Sun and Jupiter after every 398.88 days (or 1 year and 33.7 days). At that time, the distance between the Earth and Jupiter is the shortest and Jupiter is seen at its brightest. Occasionally, it has been sighted in the daytime too.

The positions of Jupiter in the sky were recorded by Babylonian astronomers and they date back to the 7th or 8th century B.C. These were written in cuneiform script on wet clay, then baked and preserved. The planet was their patron deity known as Marduk. In ancient Greek mythology, Jupiter is known as Zeus, the god of the sky. Jupiter is also the Roman god of thunder, lightning and storm.

In Hinduism, the planet is named after the deity Brihaspati. Often it is

simply called Guru. The Chinese called it the "wood star". Wood is one of the five elements in Chinese civilisation, the other four being fire, water, metal and earth. The same name is used in Vietnamese, Korean and Japanese. Later in China, Jupiter was called "Year-star" (Sui-sing) because it crosses from one zodiacal constellation<sup>1</sup> to the next after approximately one year. Jupiter's orbital period is 11.86 years which is 51 days less than 12 years.

Jupiter orbits the Sun at a distance of 778.38 million kilometres, which is more than five times the distance from which Earth orbits the Sun. At that distance, the intensity of sunlight is one twenty-fifth of what is received at the Earth.

Galileo Galilei was the first astronomer to study Jupiter through an optical telescope, invented in late 1608. In January 1610, Galileo observed that Jupiter had four 'stars', which were later confirmed to be its moons or satellites. These are called Galilean moons or satellites. Today astronomers have catalogued eighty satellites of Jupiter, most of which were discovered by various spacecrafts making flyby visits to the planet.

Through an optical telescope, the planet appears like a colourful orb with bands of red, orange, brown, yellow and blue. The dark reddish bands are called belts, and other bands which are light in colour are called zones.

Jupiter is an oblate spheroid that is flattened at the poles. Its diameter measured along its equator is longer than along its poles. Jupiter's equatorial diameter is 1,43,800 km and its polar diameter is 1,35,200 km which is about 6.4% less than its equatorial diameter. The oblateness of Jupiter is due to its fast rotation on its axis. It makes one rotation in about ten hours, the fastest among all planets. This rapid rotational speed of Jupiter greatly affects its shape. Gases near the equator of Jupiter experience strong centrifugal or outward force, because of which the equatorial region bulges out, giving it an oblate shape.

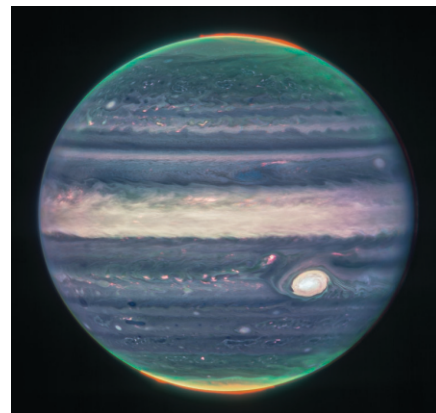
In 1664, British astronomer Robert Hook observed an oval patch, red in colour, on Jupiter. This patch, now called the Great Red Spot (GRS), has been observed since then. The Great Red Spot is about 2.5 times larger than the Earth and rotates in a counter clockwise direction.



Astronomers are not clear about what caused the formation of the GRS. It has also been observed that GRS is constantly changing its shape. In 2012, some amateur observations showed that GRS is shrinking at a rate of about 928 km per year and predicted that at the present rate of reduction, it would become circular by 2040. Astronomers are not sure whether the change results from normal fluctuations or whether it will again become oval after becoming circular.



Photograph of Jupiter taken by Hubble Space Telescope

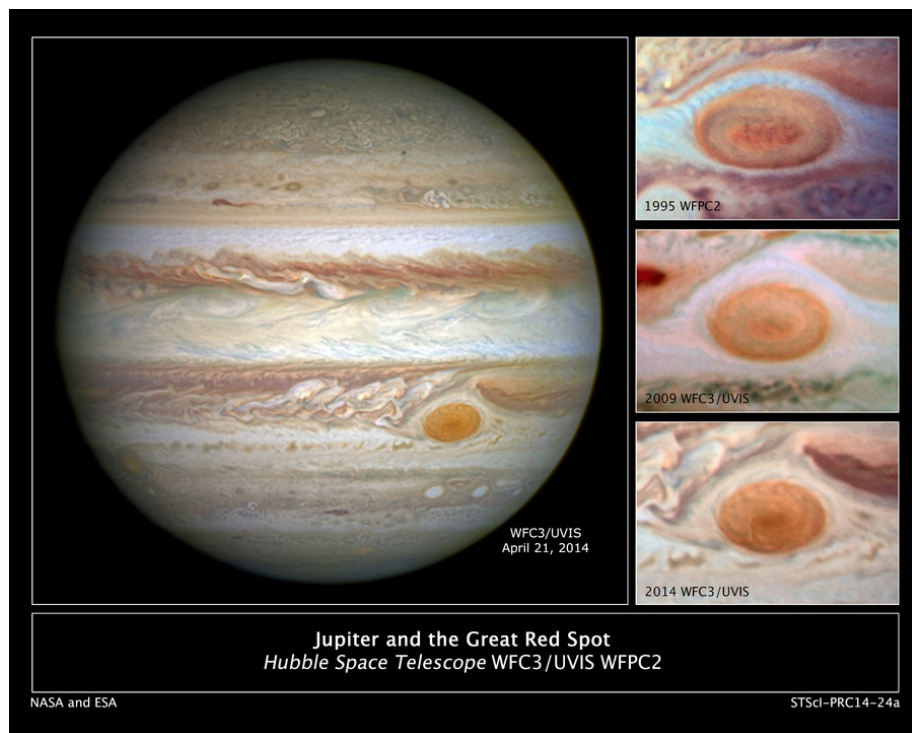


Picture of Jupiter taken by James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)

In addition to GRS, smaller spots and patches lasting for only a few weeks or months have been noticed on the surface of Jupiter. Careful observations of the belt and zones of Jupiter showed that the planet appears to rotate faster when it is close to its equator and slower when near the polar region. This is called differential rotation and indicates that the upper visible region of Jupiter is gaseous. Jupiter's rotational speed at its equator is 9h 50m 30s, and at the poles, it is 9h 55m 30s.

Jupiter is the largest object in the solar system, second only to the Sun. Its mass is two and half times the combined mass of all the planets, moons, asteroids and comets. If Jupiter had 40% more mass, it would have become a star, though it would have been cooler than the Sun.

Observational data from radio telescopes indicates that Jupiter has a solid rocky core which has a radius of about 10,000 kilometres. It is surrounded by 40,000 kilometres thick liquid metallic hydrogen<sup>2</sup>. The outer 20,000 kilometres thick layer is composed primarily of ordinary hydrogen. Rotating liquid metallic



This photograph shows the changing shape of the Great Red Spot (GRS) and other turbulent features on Jupiter.

hydrogen creates a strong magnetic field around Jupiter and generates radio emissions.

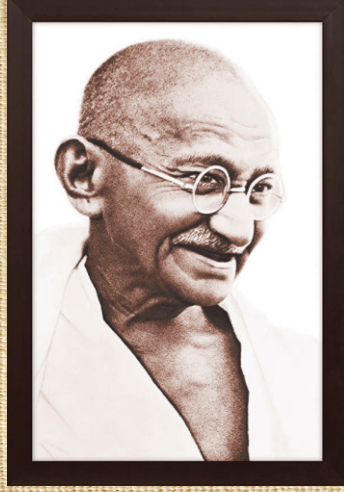
Our understanding of nature and the composition of Jupiter (and, of course, those of the other outer planets) became much better after spacecraft visited the planet. The next issue will describe space flights to Jupiter.

## References

- 1 Zodiacal constellation – These are 12 constellations through which the Sun and planets appear to pass.
- 2 Liquid metallic hydrogen – Hydrogen can be liquified under very high pressure, and electrons and protons can get separated. In this stage, electric current can pass through it, and it is called liquid metallic hydrogen.

## संतवाणी

An evening  
of  
devotional  
songs



On the eve of Gandhi Jayanti, some of Gandhiji's favourite bhajans will be presented.

### Performing artistes

Shri Bhagvant Kulkarni  
Smt. Anuja Vartak

### Accompanying artistes

Shri Ajay Damle (Tabla)

Shri Subhash Malegaonkar (Keyboard)

Shri Bhajan Singh (Dholak)

Shri Kishor Tamhane (Guitar)

Shri Vinayak Powar (Side Rhythm)

Saturday, 1st October 2022, 6.30 p.m.  
Hall of Culture  
Discovery of India Building  
Nehru Centre

Entry: Free to all

## Review: मराठी संगीत नाटक महोत्सव

A 3-day festival of Marathi Sangeet Nataks was held at the Centre's Auditorium from 3rd-5th August 2022.

The following Marathi Sangeet Nataks were presented.

1. धाडीला राम तिने का वनी?
2. संगीत मानापमान
3. संगीत मदनाची मंजिरी

The audience were treated to lilting music accompanied with dramatics and story-telling of extremely high standards. Below are some glimpses.



धाडीला राम तिने का वनी?



संगीत मानापमान



संगीत मदनाची मंजिरी



**RAKHI BAID**



Rakhi, a self-taught artist, has received many awards for her paintings on Radha Krishna in acrylic.

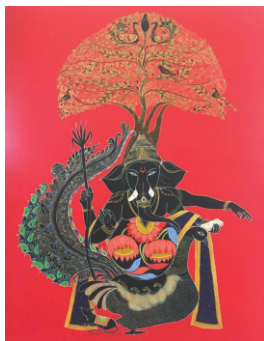
**Tuesday 4th October 2022 to  
Monday 10th October 2022  
(AC Gallery)**

**DR. DIVYA KHER  
BHARTI SINGH PARMAR  
ALPA PALKHIWALA**

This group will display paintings in acrylic, oils and ink on canvas.

**Tuesday 4th October 2022 to  
Monday 10th October 2022  
(Circular Gallery)**

**PRADNYA RAJE  
SHRUTI KALE SHAH  
PREETI WALVE  
NILAKSHI KULKARNI  
SIDDHARTH RAJE**



Pradnya Raje

This group will display works in acrylic, oil on canvas and water colours based on natural themes.

**Tuesday 11th October 2022 to  
Monday 17th October 2022  
(AC Gallery)**

**VEERESH WANI**



Veeresh paints in oil, acrylic and water colours and creates sand paintings too.

**Tuesday 11th October 2022 to  
Monday 17th October 2022  
(Circular Gallery)**

**SHOBHA SHETE**



Shobha has acquired G.D.A. from Sir J. J. School of Art in Advertising.

**Tuesday 18th October 2022 to  
Monday 24th October 2022  
(AC Gallery)**

**JONAS PAMBUJYA**

Jonas will exhibit his works in acrylic on canvas.

**Tuesday 18th October 2022 to  
Monday 24th October 2022  
(Circular Gallery)**

**CAPT. ASIT KUMAR SINGH**



His water colours are clearly influenced by the beauty of north-east India and Jammu and Kashmir.

**Tuesday 25th October 2022 to  
Monday 31st October 2022  
(AC Gallery)**

**BHAGWAT SAPKALE  
MANOHAR BAVISKAR  
DNYANESHWAR MALI**



Bhagwat Sapkale

The three artists will display landscapes in acrylic colours and various forms of Ganesha.

**Tuesday 25th October 2022 to  
Monday 31st October 2022  
(Circular Gallery)**

## UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India

### 36. Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve

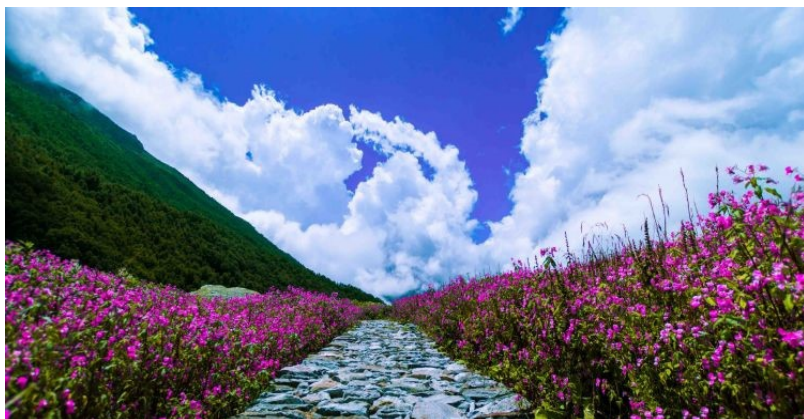
Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve in the Himalayan Mountains includes as core zones the Nanda Devi National Park and the Valley of Flowers National Park. These are exceptionally beautiful high-altitude West Himalayan landscapes with outstanding biodiversity. One of the most spectacular wilderness areas in the Himalayas, Nanda Devi National Park is dominated by the 7,817 m peak of Nanda Devi, India's second highest mountain which is approached through the Rishi Ganga gorge, one of the deepest in the world. Established in 1982, it is a national park situated around the peak of Nanda Devi in Chamoli Garhwal district of Uttarakhand in



Nanda Devi Mountain Range

northern India. The entire park lies at an elevation of more than 3,500 m (11,500 ft.) above mean sea level and is home to a wide variety of flora. Some 312 floral species that include 17 rare species have been found here. Fir, birch, rhododendron and juniper are the main flora.

The Valley of Flowers National Park, with its gentler landscape, breath-taking beautiful meadows of alpine flowers and ease of access, compliments the rugged, inaccessible, high mountain wilderness of Nanda Devi. Flowers like orchids, poppies, primulas, marigolds, daisies and anemones carpet the ground. Sub-alpine forests of birch and rhododendron cover parts of the park's area. A decade long study by C.P. Kala from 1993 onwards concluded that the Valley of Flowers is endowed with 520



Valley of Flowers National Park

species of plants (angiosperms, gymnosperms and pteridophytes) of which 498 are flowering plants. The park has many species of medicinal plants including *Dactylorhiza hatagirea*, *Picrorhiza kurroa*, *Aconitum violaceum*, *Polygonatum multiflorum*, *Fritillaria roylei* and *Podophyllum hexandrum*.

Both parks contain high diversity and density of flora and fauna of the west Himalayan biogeographic zone, with significant populations of globally threatened species including the snow leopard, Himalayan musk deer, brown bear

and blue sheep and numerous plant species. Covering 71,210 hectares these two parks are surrounded by a large buffer zone of 514,857 hectares which encompasses a wide range of elevation and habitats. Together they form a unique transition zone between the mountain ranges of the Zaskar and Great Himalayas, praised by mountaineers and botanists for over a century and in Hindu mythology for much longer.

Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks together were declared as UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 1988 and 2005 respectively.



## 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  
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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)
  - (7) NARAYAN L. SONAVADEKAR (2003)
  - (8) NAGESH B. SABANNAVAR (2004)
  - (9) SAMAKALEEN (2005)
  - (10) VINAYAK S. MASOJI (2006)
- and many more...

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## 75 YEARS OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE

On August 6 and 7, 2022, Vivaan Sharma, a student of standard XII at Hill Spring International School, organised two lectures on *75 Years of India's Independence*. The lectures were held at Nehru Centre's Hall of Harmony.

On August 6, the first lecture was delivered by Dr. Gaurav Gadgil, Assistant Professor of History at Somaiya College, Mumbai who spoke on *Wars, Conflicts and the Smiling Buddha*. He dwelt upon various security challenges faced by India since independence. Beginning with the armed attack on Kashmir in October 1947 and the accession of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir to India and how it was saved from Pakistani marauders by the Indian Armed Forces, Dr. Gadgil touched upon many important events. They included the liberation of Hyderabad and Goa, India's humiliating defeat in Indo-China border conflict of 1962, Indo-Pak war in 1965 in which both sides claimed victory, Indo-Pak war of 1971 which ended in the crushing defeat of Pakistan, the liberation of East Bengal and the creation of Bangladesh and the Kargil war of 1999 caused by Pakistani infiltrators who had moved deep into Indian territory and had to be forcibly evicted by the Indian Armed Forces at heavy loss of life. Dr. Gadgil further explained the real meaning of 'Smiling Buddha'. It was the code name for India's first nuclear bomb test at Pokhran in 1974. India carried out another nuclear bomb test in 1998. "Along with India, Pakistan too became a nuclear power", Dr. Gadgil said. Dr. Gadgil's talk was a very lucid exposition of India's security challenges.

The second lecture was delivered on August 7 by Shri Rajdeep Sardesai, a renowned journalist, author and TV news anchor who spoke on *Democracy: A Journey of Three Quarters of a Century*. His talk was a comprehensive survey of Indian democracy interspersed with interesting anecdotes. "Universal suffrage", he said, "was granted by the Indian constitution at one stroke, an achievement which eluded the older democracies of the world till the 20th century." The first general election held in 1952 was unique in the sense that, in the history of democracies, such an enormous exercise had never been carried out. He argued that the foundation of Indian democracy was laid on very sound principles. He was equally forthright in pointing out the flaws of Indian democracy which is now afflicted with money power, muscle power, religion, caste and dynastic control. He was unsparing to the promulgation of emergency in 1975, at the same time being also appreciative of Mrs. Indira Gandhi's decision to call for elections in 1977 in which she was defeated. He lamented the absence of probity in the holders of public office, be it the political executive or public servants or media persons. He had a dig at the police but also praised them for their acts of bravery. He concluded his talk on a note of optimism saying that sooner or later our democratic institutions would retrieve their lost glory and realise what was expected and what was not expected of them.

Both lectures were well attended and much appreciated.



Website: [www.nehru-centre.org](http://www.nehru-centre.org)



Email: [editor@nehru-centre.org](mailto:editor@nehru-centre.org)

Printed at

**M/s PRINTCOM**

I-Wing, Shop No. 1, Mahalaxmi SRA CHSL.,  
P. B. Marg, Worli, Mumbai - 400 030.

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

*Editor*  
Arati N. Desai  
*Design & Layout*  
Imtiaz Kalu