

Newsletter

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Nehru Centre



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Events At a Glance...

Ghazal ka Safar

A Musical Evening of Ghazal Recitals



Performing Artists
Mohammed Vakil
&
Leena Bose

Accompanists
Zubair Hussain Warsi
on Tabla

Syed Nadeem
on Keyboard

Ravinder Singh
on Bass Guitar

Mukesh Patel
on Drums

Farooque Lateef Khan
on Sarangi

Abshar Ahmed
on Lead Guitar

Saturday,
28th October 2023
7.00 pm
Nehru Centre Auditorium

Duration :
2 hours 15 minutes
without interval

Constituent Assembly Debates Language for the Union - Part VII

The final part of the debate continued.

G. Durgabai Deshmukh (Madras)

“Sir, the national language of India should not be and cannot be any other than Hindustani which is Hindi plus Urdu. For the sake of satisfying the sentiments of our friends we have accepted Hindi in Devanagari script. This departure means a very serious inconvenience to us and it is not without a pang that we have agreed to this departure from the tolerant Gandhian ideology, the Gandhian philosophy and the Gandhian proposition, namely, that the official language of India should be only that which is commonly understood and easily spoken and learnt.

We urge caution and an accommodating spirit in the interests of the minorities here who, like the Muslims, need time and sympathy to adjust themselves. Sir, they have all displayed large-hearted readiness to fall in line with the predominant sentiment. Purely from the point of view of excellence of literature and international reputation, Bengali is worthy of adoption as the national language. From the point of view of sweetness and also from the fact that it is the second largest of the languages spoken in India, Telugu could be worthy of adoption as the national language.

I must remind the House that we have agreed to the adoption of Hindi in the

Devanagari script, subject to certain conditions. Condition no. 1 is, whatever be the name of the language it must be all inclusive and therefore the clause concerned in Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar's draft should commend itself to the House and the House should unhesitatingly and unanimously agree to that clause. That language should be capable of absorbing the words which are already in use, whether of Urdu or any other regional language.

Another condition which is equally important is that the status quo should be maintained at least for a period of fifteen years, which would enable us to learn and to speak and also to adjust ourselves to the new environment. I learnt Hindi, I taught Hindi to some hundreds of women at least, in the South. My experience is this. Those who have passed the highest examinations in Hindi can read and write, but it is impossible for them to speak, because for speaking there must be some kind of environment, some kind of atmosphere. You will only realise this difficulty when you come to the South and you have to speak one of the provincial languages there.

The third condition which is not clear from Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar's draft is that there is some obligation placed on the non-Hindi speaking people to speak Hindi. There should be equally an obligation on your part to learn one of the provincial languages.”

Shri Purushottam Das Tandon (United Provinces)

“Mr. President, Sir, the speech which Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar made reflects the spirit of the proposals made by him. According to him, it was on the strength of the English language that freedom was achieved and it is, therefore, necessary to maintain English for administrative purpose or a much longer period than fifteen years during which it should continue to be the language of the Union. His second predominant idea is that none of the provincial languages and Hindi along with the rest, is sufficiently developed to meet the requirement of a language which has to carry the burden of administration in all its various phases, particularly in the realm of legal concepts and complexities. There is a third idea in his proposal that the numerals which we have learnt from the English language and which are designated in his draft as international forms of Indian numerals must stay.

I would request the Honourable members of this House to examine these three ideas a little closely, remembering that whatever we do today concerns not merely ourselves but that our decisions will affect, influence and shape the lives of those millions of men and women who have no contact with the English language.

Why is it necessary to keep out Hindi entirely from those official purposes for which it can be used without any inconvenience to our friends of the South? Under the present clauses, a Minister of the Union cannot write a letter in Hindi on any official business to anyone unless that letter is accompanied by an English translation. Obviously, then Hindi is not likely to be used at all.”

With regard to numerals, Shri Tandon said, “When you are adopting Hindi as the language, adopt also its numerals.

After we have adopted the Devanagari as the official script and Hindi as the national language, it would be up to all of us to meet in conventions and decide what changes we should introduce in the Nagari characters. Our system is perfect but the shapes of some letters require a change. Also, some new letters will have to be added.”



G. Durgabai Deshmukh



Purshottam Das
Tandon



Maulana Abul Kalam
Azad

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (United Provinces)

“Mr. President, two years ago I had expressed my opinion on the question of how we could remove English from the position it has come to occupy in the governmental machinery and in the sphere of education. That English should not be brushed aside immediately was generally appreciated, but the time limit fixed by me was acceptable only to a very small number of my friends. My friends from the South and Bengal were of the opinion that a much longer period was required for such an important change. I admit that experience of work and contemplation forced me to a similar conclusion as that of my friends. Now I feel that my estimate was not correct. I am in full agreement with the amendment of Shri Ayyangar that a period of at least fifteen years be fixed for it. You know very well that nobody can be more eager in seeing our national language reigning supreme instead of English.

Two great obstacles stand in our way.

The first difficulty is that there is no national language as such which can immediately take the place of English. Time is needed to evolve it, brush it and polish it. So far as the administration of the government offices and the imparting of higher education is concerned, none of our languages can all of a sudden claim the position of English. The other

obstacle is the non-existence of a common language in our country. We have to admit that so far as language is concerned, North and South are two different parts. The union of North and South has been made possible only through the medium of English. If today we give up English, then this linguistic relationship will cease to exist.”

At this stage, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma addressed the President and said “Mr. President, may I, with your permission move that the debate on this language question be closed.”

The President said, “Closure has been moved. I take it that the House accepts it.”

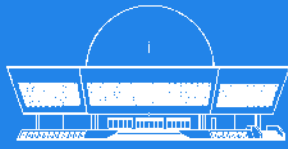
In the end practically all the amendments, which were over three hundred in all, were withdrawn. The proposal moved by Shri Gopalawami Ayyangar, somewhat modified, was adopted.

In the Constitution of India, the official language is covered in part XVII from Article 343 to 350. ... concluded

What Nehru said....

The unity of India was no longer merely an intellectual conception for me: it was an emotional experience which overpowered me. That essential unity had been so powerful that no political division, no disaster or catastrophe, had been able to overcome it.

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



NEHRU PLANETARIUM

Tel: 91-22-24920510
Mobile : 9892890510

SKY SHOW : COSMIC LIFE

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.

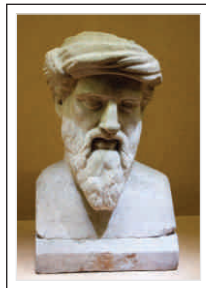
Email: managernpmumbai@gmail.com

Our Great Astronomers – II Contribution of Greek Thinkers and Philosophers to Astronomy

Pythagoras of Samos (570 - 495 BC)

Pythagoras, the Greek philosopher and polymath, was born on the Greek island of Samos off the coast of western Turkey. Nothing is known about his education. What is known with certainty though, is that, at Samos, he founded a school which became so famous that the brightest minds from Greece came there to hear him teach. Pythagoras believed that women should be taught philosophy along with men and his school was attended by many women students.

Pythagoras was the first to propagate that the Earth was spherical. He also said that the morning and evening stars as documented by Babylonians over a thousand years ago as two stars were, in fact, one wandering star or the planet Venus. He was the first to divide earth into five climatic zones.



Bust of Pythagoras of Samos in the Capitoline Museums, Rome

Pythagoras is popularly known as the man responsible for the theorem in geometry which states that 'in a right-angled triangle, the square of the hypotenuse is equal to the sum of the squares of the two other sides'. In the *Śulba Sūtras* (c. 700–400 BCE) of the Vedic Sanskrit literature, this rule finds a mention in relation to the construction of sacrificial fire altars. It has also been found inscribed on Babylonian tablets. But Pythagoras was the first to introduce it as a theorem in Greece.

Around 530 BC, Pythagoras travelled to Croton in the southern coast of Italy, where he founded another school, which was like a monastery in many ways. The students of the school had to vow to study his religious and

philosophical theories and pursue religious and ascetic observances. They shared their possessions and were so devoted to each other that outsiders were rarely allowed inside. One of the Pythagorean maxims was *koinà tà philōn* meaning 'all things in common among friends'. The students later came to be known as Pythagoreans.

Plato (428 – 348 BC)

Little is known of Plato's early life and education. We know about him from his writings, in which he refers, in great detail, about many of his relatives. Plato belonged to an aristocratic and influential family. It is believed that he was born in Athens.

Plato's given name at his birth was Aristocles, meaning 'best reputation'. He later acquired the name Platon, meaning 'broad', from his wrestling coach - as a reference to his physical broadness.

Although Socrates influenced Plato directly, the influence of Pythagoras, or in a broader sense, the Pythagoreans, also appears to have been significant.

Plato said that the Earth is spherical and lies at the centre of a large sphere, the heavens, which is today known as the celestial sphere. He said that the inner part of this large sphere was embedded with bright nails, the stars. This sphere made one rotation around the Earth every day. The Sun, the Moon, and the other planets revolved around the Earth at different speeds in a circular path.

During Plato's time, it was known that, unlike the speeds of the celestial sphere, the Sun and the Moon rotated at a constant speed while the speed of planets changed. Plato boldly claimed that this apparent change in the speed of

planets could be explained by the fact that they did not move in one circular path but a path formed by many circular tracks—this was, indeed, a new thinking.

Plato was an innovator of the written 'dialogue' and 'dialectic' forms in philosophy. Dialogue is a style of writing in which two or more people discuss a subject. The dialectic writing style is like a debate but excludes subjective elements such as emotional appeal or rhetoric.

At the age of forty, Plato founded a school of philosophy in Athens, on a plot of land in the Grove of Hecademos or Academos, named after Academos, an Attic hero in Greek mythology. The school came to be known as the Academy where many philosophers studied, the most prominent being Aristotle. Unfortunately, it was destroyed in 84 BC by Sulla, a Roman general and statesman.

Aristotle (384–322 BC)

Aristotle was an ancient Greek philosopher and polymath. He was born in Stagira, Chalcidice, east of modern-day Thessaloniki, the second-largest city in Greece, after Athens.



Plato and Aristotle at the Academy

In his childhood, his father, a personal physician to King Amyntas of Macedon taught him biology and medicine. His parents died when Aristotle was only thirteen. Aristotle moved to Athens at seventeen or eighteen to continue his education at Plato's Academy.

After being at the Academy for nearly twenty years, Aristotle moved out of it. He was disappointed with the direction in which the Academy was going. Aristotle travelled with his pupil Theophrastus to the island of Lesbos, where together they researched the botany and zoology of the island and its sheltered lagoon. Philip II of Macedon invited him back to Athens in 343 BC to teach his son, Alexander the Great. Aristotle was appointed as the head of the Royal Academy of Macedon.

Aristotle refuted Democritus* (460 – c. 370 BC), claim that the Milky Way was made up of those stars which are shaded by the earth from the sun's rays. He pointed out that the size of the sun is greater than that of the earth and the distance of the stars from the earth is many times greater than that of

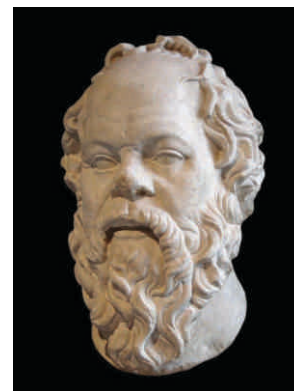
the sun and that the sun shines on all the stars, and the earth screens none of them. Aristotle observed and wrote descriptions of comets.

Aristotle added aether as the fifth element to the list of four elements viz. earth, water, air and fire. Aether is a divine substance that resides between the spheres of stars and planets.

His writings cover the natural sciences, philosophy, linguistics, economics, politics, psychology, and the arts. His influence lasted till the Renaissance in Europe (15 - 16th century AD). Aristotle had a lifelong interest in the study of nature. He investigated a variety of different topics, ranging from general issues like motion, causation, place and time to systematic explorations and explanations of natural phenomena across different kinds of natural entities.

Socrates (470–399 BC)

Socrates, born in Athens, is considered the founder of Western philosophy which includes pure mathematics and natural sciences like physics, astronomy, and biology. Socrates developed a style of examining a subject-based question and



Bust of Socrates

answer. This cross-examination style as a pedagogical technique has been called the 'Socratic method'. The youth of Athens were attracted towards him, and for this very reason, those in power feared and hated him. Socrates was condemned to death by poisoning for impiety and corrupting the youth. The trial lasted a day, and Socrates willingly submitted to the death sentence.

Though Socrates did not directly contribute to the science of astronomy, his influence on the generations that followed was tremendous. We know about him only through the writings of his pupils, mainly those of Plato and Aristotle. Both of them significantly contributed to the science of astronomy.

* Democritus was an Ancient Greek pre-Socratic philosopher. None of his work survived.



Mohammed Vakil

Ghazal Ka Safar



Leena Bose

A Musical Evening of Ghazal Recitals

Mohammed Vakil hails from a family of classical ghazal singers. He was trained by his two maternal uncles, Ustad Mohammed Hussain and Ustad Ahmed Hussain. He gave his first stage performance at the young age of eight.

He is a recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Indian Television Award, R D Burman Pancham Sammaan by Abhinay Kala Parishad, Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi Award-2001 by Government of Rajasthan.

Ms Leena Bose started her career early in her hometown Kolkata by participating in state level Indian classical music competitions and winning most of them. She has also performed on various television shows from the early age of ten. Her Guru was Shri Jayanta Sarkar. After completing her post-graduation in comparative literature, Ms. Leena Bose moved to Mumbai.

She has done playback singing for television title tracks, jingles, background vocals and sang for regional movies. She has travelled worldwide to perform her live shows.

Accompanists:

Zubair Hussain Warsi *on* Tabla
Syed Nadeem *on* Keyboard
Ravinder Singh *on* Bass Guitar
Mukesh Patel *on* Drums
Farooque Lateef Khan *on* Sarangi
Abshar Ahmed *on* Lead Guitar

**Saturday, 28th October 2023,
7.00 pm (without interval)
Nehru Centre Auditorium**

**Entrance cards will be available
on Monday, 23rd October 2023
from 10.30 am until availability
from the Ticket Counter of the
Nehru Centre Auditorium**

**SUNIL WAGLE
DHARMENDRA DHURI**



Sunil Wagle

Both artists will showcase their work on nature and human emotions in acrylic and oil on canvas.

**Tuesday 3rd October 2023
to Monday 9th October 2023
(AC Gallery)**

SANDEEPA BAGRECHA

Sandeepa will exhibit abstract paintings in mix media.

**Tuesday 3rd October 2023
to Monday 9th October 2023
(Circular Gallery)**

PUJA AGGARWAL



Puja Aggarwal

Puja will display works on nature in acrylic on canvas.

**Tuesday 10th October 2023 to
Monday 16th October 2023
(AC Gallery)**

PASABHAI MAKWANA



Pasabhai Makwana

Pasabhai from Gujarat will showcase paintings on traditional subjects, in acrylic on canvas.

**Tuesday 10th October 2023 to
Monday 16th October 2023
(Circular Gallery)**

MOHANAN VASUDEVAN

Mohan an ex-serviceman from Kerala, will exhibit his works on themes in vibrant colours in acrylic on canvas.

**Tuesday 17th October 2023 to
Monday 23rd October 2023
(AC Gallery)**

**VIJAY JAGDALE
RAVINDRA REDKAR**

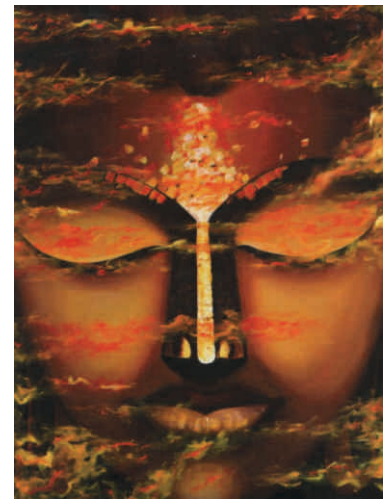


Ravindra Redkar

Both artists who are students of Karandikar Kala Academy, Mumbai will exhibit their works in water colours.

**Tuesday 17th October 2023 to
Monday 23rd October 2023
(Circular Gallery)**

DR. ARATI MISHRA

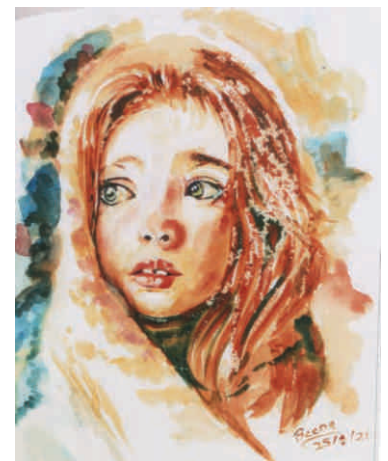


Dr. Arati Mishra

Dr. Arati Mishra, a scientist working with I.I.T. Kanpur, has done paintings on Ganesha in oil and acrylic on canvases.

**Tuesday 24th October 2023 to
Monday 30th October 2023
(AC Gallery)**

BEENA GUPTA



Beena Gupta

Beena, a self-taught artist, has done paintings on nature and portraits in water colours and charcoal.

**Tuesday 24th October 2023 to
Monday 30th October 2023
(Circular Gallery)**

RAMSAR WETLAND SITES IN INDIA

9. Jammu and Kashmir

Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve

Hygam Wetland is situated in Baramulla district about 30 kilometres from Srinagar. The wetland stretches across 1400 hectares of land and is dominated by extensive reed beds. Hygam Wetland falls within the River Jhelum basin and plays a significant role as a flood absorption basin, biodiversity conservation site, ecotourism site and livelihood security for the local communities. The wetland is adjacent to the southern tip of Wular Lake which is a Ramsar Site and forms a part of the interconnected ecosystem complex.

Hygam Wetland has dense settlements and the people in this area work in the reed business and fishery. The extensive reed boats help to allow passage between areas of open waters. Hygam is also recognized as an Important Bird Area (IBA) and serves as an abode to many residents and migratory bird species. It has birds of local and migratory origin and fishes of all types that are easily available in the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir. Rows of willow trees have been planted around the perimeters of wetlands of Hygam. In the winter, Hygam Wetland becomes the homeland of migratory ducks particularly the Anser species. This wetland provides local communities with a range of ecosystem services, providing fish, wood and clean water and regulating the local climate.

The Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve was designated as a Ramsar Wetland Site on 13 August 2022.

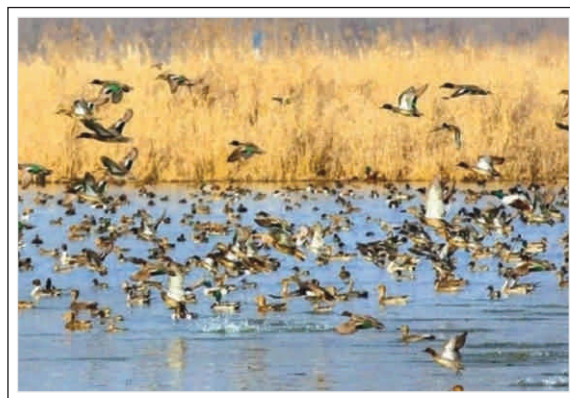
Wular Lake is one of the largest freshwater lakes in South Asia. It is located near Bandipora town in Jammu and Kashmir.

Wular Lake is an important fish habitat as the fish from the lake make up a significant part of the diet for those living on its shores and elsewhere in the Kashmir Valley. More than eight thousand fishermen earn their livelihood from the lake. The lake also sustains a rich population of birds. Terrestrial birds observed around the lake include a humongous variety.

The Wular Lake was designated as a Ramsar Wetland Site on 23 March 1990.

Following are the other Wetlands in the state of Jammu and Kashmir with designated dates of the Ramsar Convention.

1. Surinsar-Mansar Lakes on 8 November 2005
2. Hokera Wetland on 8 November 2005
3. Shalbaugh Wetland Conservation Reserve on 8 June 2022



Migratory birds in Hygam Wetland



Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve



Fishing on the Wular Lake

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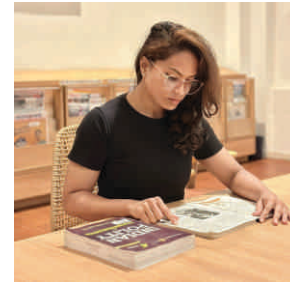
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Reader of the Month

"Within these walls, knowledge unfolds, and every page turned becomes a step toward success."

I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation for the incredible experience I have every time I visit your library. The wealth of knowledge embodied within the ample collection of books is truly remarkable. Whether I'm seeking adventure, knowledge, or inspiration, your library never fails to live up to my expectations.



Additionally, the dedication and helpfulness of your staff have made my visits even more rewarding. Their willingness to assist, recommend, and guide me through the vast literary landscape is truly commendable. It's evident that they are not just employees but passionate advocates for the world of books and learning.

Special thanks to Zikra and Sharbani for creating such a welcoming and enriching space. Your library has become my daily haven, where I can explore new worlds and expand my horizons. I'm truly grateful for the positive impact your library has on my life.

23 August 2023

Ankita Pokhre

Perfect example of collaborative learning

Students preparing for competitive exams are solving their doubts in a whispering voice which shows their respect for library as they consciously maintain the decorum.



Comparative study by readers, reading non-fiction and self-help books, having discussion while finding similarity in the topic.

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