

Newsletter

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Nehru Centre



Discovery of India Building
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Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.
Phone : 2496 4676-80
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Annual Subscription Rs. 100

Events At a Glance...

CULTURE WING

25th Theatre Festival 2023

Monday, September 11, 2023

गजव तिची अदा (Marathi)

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

अंत-अनंत (Hindi)

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

हमारी नीता की शादी (Hindi)

Thursday, September 14, 2023

માધુરી દીક્ષિત (Gujarati)

Friday, September 15, 2023

Mr. Apple (Hindi/English)

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Nehru Centre Auditorium

LIBRARY

Being Human in a War Zone

Written by Meher Pestonji

Saturday, 2nd September 2023

4.30 p.m.

Who Are We Hall

**Celebrate Festivals with
Poetry @ the Nehru Centre
Library**

Friday, 8th September 2023

4.30 p.m.

Who Are We Hall

Constituent Assembly Debates

Language for the Union - Part VI

It was then the turn of the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru to speak.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru

"Mr. President, I rise to support the amendment. It is the result of continuous effort, endeavour, thought and consultation.

Language is a most intimate thing. It is perhaps the most important thing which society has evolved. When language is developed, it makes us aware of our neighbour, it makes us aware of our society, and it makes us aware of other societies also. It is a unifying factor and it is also a factor of promoting disunity. It is an integrating factor and it is a disintegrating factor as between two languages, as between two countries. When, therefore, you think in terms of a common language here, you have to think of both those facts.

All of us here wish to promote the integrity of India. Yet, in the analysis of this very question of language and in the approaches to it, one set of people may think that this is going to be a unifying factor, another may think that if approached wrongly, it may be a disintegrating factor and a disrupting one. So I want this House to consider this question in the larger context.

The Father of our Nation thought of this question and throughout his career he

went on repeating his advice in regard to it.

The first thing he taught us was that while English is a great language, no nation can become great on the basis of a foreign language. So he taught us that we must do our work more and more in our own various languages and more particularly in the language that you may choose for all India to use.

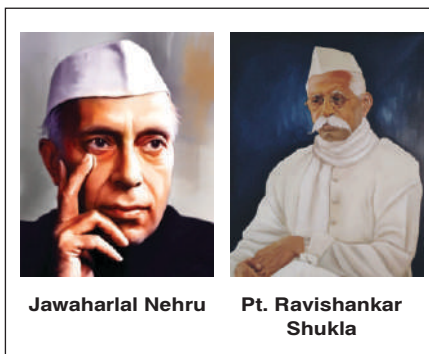
Secondly, he laid stress on the fact that language should be more or less a language of the people, not a language of a learned coterie. No language can be great which is divorced from the language of the people. Now, in any language that we may seek to adopt as an all India language, we have to keep in mind that we dare not live in an ivory tower of purists and precisionists. It is a dangerous thing to allow a language to become the pet child of purists and such like people, because then it is cut off from the common people. You have to have both - a certain precision, a certain profundity and a certain all-embraciveness in language and, at the same time, contacts with the people, drawing its sustenance from the common people.

The last thing to which the Father of the Nation drew our attention was that this language should represent the composite culture of India. Therefore, he used the word Hindustani."

Referring to English, Nehru said, “English today is far more important in the world than it was when the British came here. It is undoubtedly today the nearest approach to an international language. It is not the international language certainly but it is the biggest and the most widespread language in the world today; and if we don't have contacts with the world as we must, then how are you to have those contacts unless we know foreign languages? It is absurd for us to try to forget what we know or not take advantage of what we have learnt. But it will have to be inevitably a secondary language meant for a relatively restricted number of people.”

On the question of what should be the basic approach to the language problem, Nehru said, “Is your approach going to be a democratic approach or what might be termed an authoritarian approach? I venture to put this question to the enthusiasts for Hindi, because in some of the speeches I have listened to here and elsewhere, there is very much a tone of authoritarianism, very much a tone of Hindi-speaking area being the centre of things in India and the others being just the fringes of India. That is not only an incorrect approach, but it is a dangerous approach. If you consider the question with wisdom, this approach will do more injury to the development of Hindi language than the other approach. You have to win through the goodwill of those people whose mother tongue is not Hindi. If you do something which appears to the others as an authoritarian attempt to dominate and to force down something, then you will fail in your endeavour.”

With regard to the question of numerals, Nehru stated, “The right approach was to keep the numerals, Indian in origin but which have taken a certain form which are used internationally. Nobody is banning the use of Hindi numerals. They can be used whenever anybody wants them, but in official use, where all kinds of statistics on banking, auditing, census and other columns of figures come in, it is not only an undoubted advantage that these international numerals should be used, but there are also other advantages. These numerals remove at least one major barrier between you and the other countries. That is a very important thing in these days when numerals count for so much in the development of science and the application of science.”



Jawaharlal Nehru

Pt. Ravishankar Shukla

We stand on the threshold of a new age. Therefore, it is important that we should have this picture of India clearly in our minds. Do we want a modern India with modern science and all the rest of it or do we want to live in some ancient age? You have to choose between the two.”

Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla (C.P. and Berar)

“There are two approaches to this question. One approach is of those who wish the English language to continue in this country as long and as far as possible, and the other approach is of those who wish to bring Indian language in place of English as early as possible.”

Hindi language is to be the national language, the official language of this country, and the Devnagari script is to be the script of this language. Having admitted all that, is it not right for us to find out ways and means by which we can bring this about? If we look at the very part of Chapter XIV-A, it would appear to us that this is not the aim at all. What is aimed at is, judging the various hurdles that have been put in this Chapter, to prevent Hindi from coming in as early as possible. When you come to that part of the Chapter which refers to the Commission and the Committee, there is a provision which says more or less that for five years in the Centre as well as in the provinces you have to go on with English as your official language.

With respect to numerals, there has been a high feeling running throughout this house for some time. We have heard from no less a person than Panditji that so far as international numerals are concerned they are required for very many purposes - some of them he mentioned. Some of the members including myself thought that was necessary. So we have given an amendment to that effect that for certain purposes English numerals shall continue to be used. If that is admitted by the mover of this Chapter, then our difficulties ought to be solved.

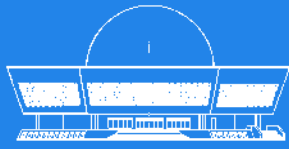
I, therefore, submit that let the provinces evolve their own destiny with freedom to develop.”

... to be continued

What Nehru said....

The people of India are very real to me in their great variety and, in spite of their vast numbers, I try to think of them as individuals rather than as vague groups. Perhaps it was because I did not expect much from them that I was not disappointed; I found more than I had expected.

...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 –I Thales of Miletus and Eudoxus of Cnidus

History

The discovery of the Solar System is a chronologically long one covering nearly twenty five centuries. Some of the greatest minds in science and astronomy have contributed to this great discovery. We bring you glimpses of some important events and contributions by some of these learned men that led to understanding the history and nature of our Solar System.

The starry sky at night gave the early homo sapiens a sense of direction and helped them in navigation. They were nomads and wandered from one place to the other. Slowly, they started becoming settlers and took to farming. For this, it was important for them to understand the changing weather patterns. By about 3000 BC, astronomer-priests¹ of various settlements across the world discovered some basic concepts such as the movement of the Sun and the Moon in the sky with respect to the stars and also that the change in weather was linked to the movement of the Sun. They started recording their observations.

Flooding of the Nile

One of the best examples from history that linked astronomy to life on Earth was the 'flooding of the river Nile'. The Nile originates from Lake Victoria in mid-Africa from where it flows northwards. After



Nile delta

covering about 6600 km, it ends in the Mediterranean Sea at the Egyptian town of Alexandria. The Nile was the lifeline for ancient Egyptians as it brought water to the otherwise arid land thus making the soil fertile soil.

Based on the flow of the Nile, the Egyptian year was divided into the three seasons of akhet (inundation), peret (growth), and shemu (harvest). Akhet was that time of the year when the Nile floods, leaving several layers of fertile soil behind, at the same time aiding in agricultural growth. Peret was the season of cultivation and Shemu, the last season, was the harvest season. It was essential to know the arrival of Akhet early as the water level of the river would rise as much as fourteen metres and destroy the crops. Priest astronomers of the time observed that when the star Sirius (Sothis in Egypt) rose in the sky before the Sun, the Nile would flood soon. This was indeed a pathbreaking discovery for the ancient Egyptians.

Stonehenge

Around 3000 B.C., in Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire, about 150 km southwest of London the construction of Stonehenge had begun. This monument had an outer ring of stones weighing



Stonehenge

around twenty five tons which were connected with horizontal stones. This ancient monument was aligned towards the sunrise on the summer solstice. The centre of the Stonehenge was used to observe the Sun and the Moon. The approach of the summer meant that

inhabitants could start moving their cattle to greener pastures and that they could prepare for the winter. Eclipses could also be predicted in this manner.

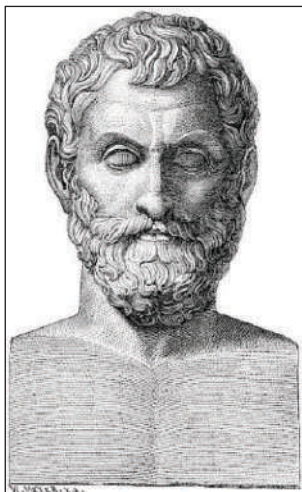
Meanwhile in Babylon, about 1400 km east of Egypt, we find one of the best records of various astronomical observations on clay tablets in cuneiform script. The Babylonians did not, however, try to interpret their observations. For example, they observed that a 'star' which is seen in the morning and in the evening is the same one. But they did not try to find



Babylonian Clay Tablet

out why it was seen on alternative mornings and evenings. In the 5th century BC, the Greeks used this date to explain the motion of celestial bodies.

Thales of Miletus (623 – 545 BC) was the first Greek astronomer/philosopher who tried to explain natural phenomena based on scientific observations rather than attribute it to the actions of gods as was the popular belief then. Thales was one of the Seven Sages who were the founding figures of Ancient Greece. He is credited with the saying "know thyself".



Thales of Miletus

Thales was the first Greek philosopher to have engaged in mathematics, science, and deductive reasoning. He theorized that nature was based on the existence of a single ultimate substance which was water. Hence, he thought that the Earth floated on water. He is also said to have predicted the solar eclipse of 585 BC. He is also credited with calculation of duration of the year and timings of the solstices and equinox.

Eudoxus of Cnidus (408 – 355 BC) was an ancient Greek astronomer, mathematician and scholar. The name Eudoxus means 'honoured' or 'of good repute'.

Eudoxus was very poor but his eagerness to attend Plato's lectures made him walk seven miles (11 km) in each direction each day. Due to his poverty, his friends raised funds sufficient to send him to Heliopolis, Egypt, to pursue his study of astronomy and mathematics.



Eudoxus of Cnidus

Although his original work has not survived, the works of later astronomers who were greatly influenced by him have mentioned him. Some of his works on astronomy include disappearances of the Sun, possibly on eclipses; Oktaeteris (dealing with eight-year lunisolar-Venus cycle of the calendar); Phaenomena and Enoptron (dealing with spherical astronomy and optics) and Speeds (on planetary motions). In mathematical astronomy, his fame is due to the introduction of the concentric spheres, and his early contribution to understanding the movement of the planets.

Eudoxus is considered by some to be the greatest of classical Greek mathematicians second only to Archimedes. Through the writing of his student Aristotle, who was also the student of Plato, we learn that in the Speeds, Eudoxus had tried to explain the motion of planets by combining more than one circular path for each planet. For example, he assigned three spheres to the Moon. According to him, the outermost sphere rotated westward once in 24 hours. This explained the rising and setting of the Moon. The second sphere rotated eastwards once a month. This motion explained the motion of the Moon with respect to the stars. The last sphere also rotated once a month but its axis was tilted.

The idea of spheres of planets to explain their circular path survived for nearly twenty centuries and were further explained by Aristotle (4th Century BC) and Ptolemy (1st Century A.D.)

References

1. Astronomer-priests - Leaders in various ancient religions which worshipped heavenly bodies as gods and goddesses.

Culture Wing

25th

Theatre Festival

(In Marathi, Hindi, Gujarati and English)



गजब तिची अदा

Monday
11th September
7.00 pm
(MARATHI)

Duration:
2 hrs 10 min
with interval



Written & Directed by Prof. Waman Kendre
Produced by Anamika + Rangpeeth & Saishakshi, Mumbai

अंत-अनंत

Tuesday
12th September
7.00 pm
(HINDI)

Duration:
1 hr 25 min



Directed by Shri Vijay Kumar
Produced by Manch, Mumbai

हमारी नीता की शादी

Wednesday
13th September
7.00 pm
(HINDI)

Duration:
1 hr 30 min
without interval



Written & Directed by Ms Veena Bakshi
Produced by Ank Theatre Group, Mumbai

माधुरी दीक्षित

Thursday
14th September
7.00 pm
(GUJARATI)

Duration:
2 hrs 15 min
with interval



Written & Directed by Shri Umesh Shukla
Produced by Sparsh Productions, Mumbai

Mr. Apple

Friday
15th September
7.00 pm
(HINDI/ ENGLISH)

Duration:
2 hrs 15 min
without interval



Written by Shri Shishir Ranawat
Directed by Shri Manoj Shah
Produced by Ideas Unlimited, Mumbai

11-15 September 2023, 7.00 p.m.
Nehru Centre Auditorium

Entry: Entrance Cards will be available on 6th September 2023 from 10.30 a.m. until availability from the ticket counter of the Nehru Centre Auditorium

MAHARASHTRA ART FAIR

A group exhibition of paintings, sculptures and photography by various artists from different professions.

**Tuesday 5th September 2023
to Monday 11th September
2023 (AC Gallery)**

KUSUMLATA VAIDYA

Kusumlata's paintings are on tribal art, wildlife in water colours, oil and pastels.

**Tuesday 5th September 2023 to
Monday 11th September
2023 (Circular Gallery)**

PROF. M. G. RAJADHYAKSHA



Prof. M. G. Rajadhyaksha

Prof. Rajadhyaksha is former Dean of Sir J. J. Institute of Applied Art. He has published books on art and artists. He will showcase drawings mainly in pen and ink.

**Tuesday 12th September 2023
to Monday 18th September
2023 (AC Gallery)**

**HITESH HARMALE
MADHURI SHIRKE
KINJAL PATIL**



Hitesh Harmale

This group of artists will display realistic paintings, seascapes and landscapes.

**Tuesday 12th September 2023
to Monday 18th September 2023
(Circular Gallery)**

**AMALESH DAS
ATISH MUKHERJEE
PRADIP MAITI
RANJANA MUKHERJEE
SUSMITA GHOSH**



Amalesh Das

The group show of artists from Kolkata will depict drawings, paintings and murals.

**Tuesday 19th September 2023
to Monday 25th September
2023 (AC Gallery)**

**STUDY CAMPS: NEHRU
CENTRE ART GALLERY**

The collection of works done by art students in study camps on various locations will be on display.

**Tuesday 19th September 2023
to Monday 25th September
2023 (Circular Gallery)**

RANJIT SARKAR



Ranjit Sarkar

Ranjit has studied the Indian style of art from Calcutta University. His work has a dramatic representation of mythology and religious characters.

**Tuesday 26th September 2023
to Monday 2nd October
2023 (AC Gallery)**

**DR. ANIL SAKHARE
DR. SUSHIL RATHI**



Dr. Anil Sakhare



Dr. Sushil Rathi

This will be a photographic exhibition by the two medical professionals.

**Tuesday 26th September 2023
to Monday 2nd October
2023 (AC Gallery)**

RAMSAR WETLAND SITES IN INDIA

7. Himachal Pradesh

Chandratal Lake is a crescent-shaped high altitude lake popularly known as the 'lake of the moon' as it is located near the source of the river Chandra. It is about 4300m above sea level. The wetland has a total area of 1.53sq km (49 hac) and the lake has a circumference of 2.5 km. The lake was formed from blocks of rock basin and para glacial deposits from the Himalayan glaciers. Chandratal is an important site for migratory birds during the summer. For the rest of the year, the lake remains frozen. The shimmering lake is flanked by the green-carpeted Chandra Baga mountain range.



Chandratal Lake with the Chandra Baga mountain range

There are vast meadows on the banks of the lake. During springtime, these meadows are carpeted with hundreds of varieties of wild flowers. In 1871, Harcourt, Assistant Commissioner of Kullu, reported that there was a plain of good grass to the north of Chandratal, where shepherds brought large herds for grazing from Kullu and Kangra. Due to overgrazing, the grasslands are now degraded.

Pong Dam Lake also known as the Pong Reservoir is located on the river Beas at the base of the Shivalik hills of Kangra district. It was created in 1975 by building the highest earthfilled dams in India on the Beas. Named in the honour of Maharana Pratap (1540b1597), the reservoir or the lake is a well-known wildlife sanctuary and one of the 49 international wetland sites declared in India by the Ramsar Convention. The reservoir covers an area of 24,529 hectares (60,610 acres), and the wetlands portion is 15,662 hectares (38,700 acres).



Migratory birds at Pong Dam

Pong reservoir is also the most important fish reservoir in the foothills of the Himalayas in Himachal Pradesh. The interception of the migratory birds on their trans-Himalayan fly path, during each migration season, has enriched the biodiversity values of the reservoir.

Renuka Wetland is one of the most attractive natural wetlands of Himachal Pradesh. The wetland is situated at an altitude of 660 meters and in an area of about 37kms. The lake is home to at least 443 species of fauna and has a circumference of 3,200 meters with a depth varying from 1m to 13m.



Renuka Wetland

The wetland is covered with vegetation of sub-tropical forests of Chhal, Sain, Bahera, Harar, Kachnar, Tun, Shisham and Amaltas etc. Natural Sal forests exist in the northern side of the wetland. Although Renuka catchment is a small area of five hundred hectares, it harbours a large variety of wildlife like the Gharial, Kakkar, Chital, Hare, Porcupine, and Black Bear. The wetland also possesses a good variety of aquatic life like fishes and tortoises and is gradually becoming the habitat for many species of local and migratory birds. Major resident bird groups found in the area are pheasants, partridges, parrots, jungle fowls and magpies.

Pong Dam Lake was declared as a Ramsar Wetland Site in November 2002. Chandratal Lake and Renuka Wetland were declared as Ramsar Wetland Sites in 2005.

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

ART FUSION catalogues

2007 / 2008 / 2009 / 2010 / 2011 / 2012 / 2013 / 2014

Set of five assorted gift cards
Designed by differently abled children

SANSKRUTI - CD ROM :
An aesthetics of Indian culture

DISCOVERY OF INDIA (VCD)

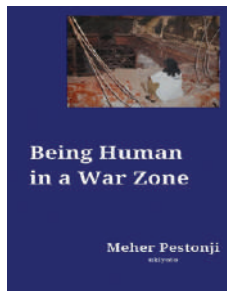
Set of ten greeting cards
Based on Discovery of India Exposition

Available at:
Book Stall, Ground Floor,
Discovery of India Building,
Nehru Centre, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.



Being Human in a War Zone

Written by Meher Pestonji



In the author's new book, readers experience varied mental and physical landscapes as protagonists grapple with complex life situations in ways that express their unique humanity.



Veteran journalist, writer and poet, she has published short stories and novels and also scripted plays.

Date: **Saturday, 2nd September 2023**

Time: **4.30 p.m.**

Venue: **"Who Are We" Hall, 1st Floor, Discovery of India Building, Nehru Centre, Dr Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai - 400018.**

Celebrate Festivals with Poetry @ the Nehru Centre Library



Ten poets will recite from their own poems on celebration of festivals.

Concept and Curation: Dr. Paramita Mukherjee Mullick

Date: **Friday, 8th September 2023**

Time: **4.30 p.m.**

Venue: **"Who Are We" Hall, 1st Floor, Discovery of India Building, Nehru Centre, Dr Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai - 400018.**

Register for both events: nehrucenlib@gmail.com

nehru-centre.org/library.html	nehrucenlib.blogspot.com	10.00 a.m. to 5.45 p.m. On all working days
nehrucen-koha.informindia.co.in	www.facebook.com/NehruCentreLibrary	
www.twitter.com/nehrucenlib		

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