

Newsletter

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Nehru Centre



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Events At a Glance...

LIBRARY

Celebrate Diversity with Poetry @ the Nehru Centre Library

Ten poets will recite from their
own poems on celebrating
diversity.

Concept and Curation: **Dr. Paramita
Mukherjee Mullick**

**Saturday, 16th March, 2024
4.30 p.m.
Who Are We Hall**

CULTURE WING

सांगे बहिणा

To celebrate International Women's
Day, Nehru Centre has organized
a poetry evening on the poems
of the famous Marathi poet,
Smt. Bahinabai Choudhary.

Concept, Script, Music Director
& Singer

Smt. Kalyani Salunke

Acting as Bahinabai:

Smt. Manisha Kolhe

**Friday, 22nd March, 2024
7.00 p.m.
Nehru Centre Auditorium**

Constituent Assembly Debates Presentation of the Draft Constitution - II

Continuing his speech, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar said,

"The Draft Constitution is also criticized because of the safeguards it provides for minorities. In this, the Drafting Committee has no responsibility. It follows the decisions of the Constituent Assembly. The Constituent Assembly has done wisely in providing such safeguards for minorities as it has done. In this country, both the minorities and the majorities have followed a wrong path. It is wrong for the majority to deny the existence of minorities. It is equally wrong for the minorities to perpetuate themselves. A solution must be found which will serve a double purpose. It must recognize the existence of the minorities to start with. It must also be such that it will enable minorities and majorities to merge someday into one.

The solution proposed by the Constituent Assembly is to be welcomed because it is a solution which serves a twofold purpose. To diehards who have developed a kind of fanaticism against minority protection, I would like to say two things. One is that minorities are an explosive force which, if it erupts, can blow up the whole fabric of the State. The other is that the minorities in India have agreed to place their existence in the hands of the majority. They have loyally

accepted the rule of the majority. It is for the majority to realize its duty not to discriminate against minorities.

The most criticized part of the Draft Constitution is that which relates to Fundamental Rights. It is said that Article 13 which defines fundamental rights is riddled with so many exceptions that the exceptions have eaten up the rights altogether. In the opinion of the critics, fundamental rights are not fundamental rights unless they are also absolute rights. The critics rely on the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights embodied in the first ten Amendments to that Constitution in support of their contention. It is said that the fundamental rights in the American Bill of Rights are real because they are not subject to limitations or exceptions.

I am sorry to say that the whole of the criticism about fundamental rights is based upon a misconception. The fundamental rights in America are not absolute rights. In *Gitlow vs New York* in which the issue was the constitutionality of a New York 'criminal anarchy' law which purported to punish utterances calculated to bring about violent change, the Supreme Court said, 'It is a fundamental principle, long established, that the freedom of speech and of the

press, which is secured by the Constitution, does not confer an absolute right to speak or publish, without responsibility, whatever one may choose, or an unrestricted and unbridled license that gives immunity for every possible use of language and prevents the punishment of those who abuse this freedom.'

In America, the fundamental rights as enacted by the Constitution were no doubt absolute. Congress, however, soon found that it was absolutely essential to qualify these fundamental rights by limitations. When the question arose as to the constitutionality of these limitations before the Supreme Court, it was contended that the Constitution gave no power to the United States Congress to impose such limitation, the Supreme Court invented the doctrine of police power and refuted the advocates of absolute fundamental rights by the argument that every State has inherent in it police power which is not required to be conferred on it expressly by the Constitution. It said, 'That a State in exercise of its police power may punish those who abuse this freedom by utterances inimical to the public welfare, tending to corrupt public morals, incite to crime or disturb the public peace, is not open to question...'

What the Draft Constitution has done is that instead of formulating fundamental rights in absolute terms and depending upon our Supreme Court to come to the rescue of Parliament by inventing the doctrine of police power, it permits the State directly to impose limitations upon the fundamental rights. There is really no difference in the result.

Some critics have taken objection to the description of India in Article 1 of the Draft Constitution as a Union of States. It is said that the correct phraseology should be a Federation of States. The use of the word 'Union' is deliberate. I can tell you why the Drafting Committee has used it. The Drafting Committee wanted to make it clear that though India was to be a Federation, the Federation was not the result of an agreement by the States to join in a Federation and that the Federation not being the result of an agreement, no State has the right to secede from it. The Federation is a Union because it is indestructible. Though the country and the people may be divided into different states for convenience of administration, the country is one integral whole, its people a single people living under a single imperium derived from a single source. The provisions relating to Amendment of the Constitution have come in for a virulent attack at the hands of the critics of the Draft Constitution. It is said that the provisions contained in the Draft make amendment difficult. It is proposed that the Constitution should be amendable by a simple majority at least for some years. It is said that this Constituent Assembly is not elected on adult suffrage while the future Parliament will be elected on adult suffrage and yet the former has been given the right to pass the Constitution by a simple majority while the latter has been denied the same right.

The Constituent Assembly in making a Constitution has no partisan motive. Beyond securing a good and workable Constitution, it has no axe to grind. The future Parliament if it met as a Constituent Assembly, its members will

be acting as partisans seeking to carry amendments to the Constitution to facilitate the passing of party measures which they have failed to get through Parliament by reason of some Article of the Constitution which has acted as an obstacle in their way. That is the difference between the Constituent Assembly and the future Parliament. That explains why the Constituent Assembly, though elected on limited franchise can be trusted to pass the Constitution by simple majority and why the Parliament though elected on adult suffrage cannot be trusted with the same power to amend it. Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment. It has to be cultivated. We must realize that our people have yet to learn it.

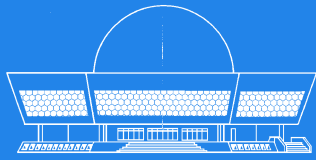
I believe I have dealt with all the adverse criticisms that have been levelled against the Draft Constitution as settled by the Drafting Committee. It is for the Constituent Assembly to decide whether they will accept the Constitution as settled by the Drafting Committee or whether they shall alter it before passing it. I feel that it is workable, it is flexible and it is strong enough to hold the country together both in peace time and in war time. Indeed, if I may say so, if things go wrong under the new Constitution, the reason will not be that we had a bad Constitution. What we will have to say is, that man was vile. Sir, I move."

There was general discussion on the Draft Constitution for ten days. From 15th November 1948, began deliberations around each Article with a view to modifying or amending it. The deliberations went on till 14th October 1949.

What Nehru said....

I was talking about the elections from day to day, and yet the elections seldom occupied my mind; they floated about superficially on the surface...I was getting into touch with something much bigger: the people of India in their millions; and such message as I had was meant for them all, whether they were voters or not; for every Indian man, woman and child.

...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 – VII

Chinese astronomer Zhang Heng

(AD 78 - 139)

The study of astronomy started in China in the 4th century BC during the Han Dynasty*. Among the several names of early astronomers, one name that stands out is that of Zhang Heng.

Zhang was born in 78 A.D., in the Chinese town of Xi'e in Nanyang Commandery. His grandfather was the governor of Nanyang. Zhang lost his father when he was only ten and was raised by his mother and grandmother. As a young boy, he noticed that the shadows were longer in the morning and would become shorter by noon. When he saw his shadow becoming short, he would remind his mother to go home and prepare lunch.



Commemorative postage stamp in honour of Zhang issued in China in the year 1955

When he reached the age of thirty, Zhang started studying astronomy and published his work. When the Emperor heard of Zhang's expertise in mathematics and astronomy, he summoned Zhang to his court. Here, Zhang was made Chief Astronomer. His duties were to record observations

of the heavenly bodies and report any warnings of likely calamities, to prepare calendars and report auspicious and ill-omened days to the Emperor.

In 120 A.D. Zhang published *Ling Xian: The Spiritual Constitution of the Universe* in which he theorized that the universe was 'as round as pellets used in (Chinese) crossbow'. This theory was similar to the geocentric models proposed by Greek astronomers.

In 123 A.D. government official Dan Song proposed that the Chinese calendar should be reformed to adopt certain apocryphal teachings which were never challenged. Zhang opposed this move because it would introduce errors in the calendar. Other officials supported Zhang. The calendar stayed as it was. He also suggested banning certain writings which were apocryphal. But his suggestions were not accepted. As a result, he lost favour of the then Emperor.

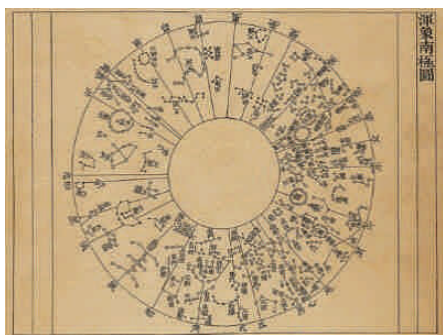
In 126 A.D. Emperor Sun of the Han dynasty ascended the throne. He reappointed Zang as Chief Astronomer.

China's first star catalogue was compiled in the 4th century BC. Zhang updated the catalogue by adding 2500 stars under the brightly shining category. He also made star maps and listed 124 constellations.

He designed a three-dimensional spherical model of the universe and marked the stars on it. He initially made the models by using bamboo strips. Later, he made a model which was one and a half meters in diameter. It was made of bronze. This was the first-

ever attempt by any astronomer to make such a three-dimensional map. Zhang also built the armillary sphere, a three-dimensional model showing the path of the planets, the Moon, or the Sun using graduated circular rings.

To explain solar and lunar eclipses, Zhang propounded a theory of 'Radiating Influence' as translated from the original Chinese. He said, "The Sun



Sky map based on Zhang's work

is like fire and the Moon like water. The fire gives out light, and the water reflects it. Thus, the Moon's brightness is produced from the radiance of the Sun, and its darkness is due to the light of the Sun being obstructed. The side of the Moon facing the Sun is fully lit, and the side away from it is dark. Like the Moon, the planets too have the nature of water and reflect light. The light pouring forth from the Sun does not always reach the Moon owing to the obstruction of the Earth itself — this is called a lunar eclipse. When a similar effect happens with a planet, it is called an occultation; when the Moon passes across the Sun's path, then there is a solar eclipse."

By about 1100 BC, the Chinese had developed the water clock or clepsydra, an instrument for timekeeping. The instrument was based on the flow of water. This was a timepiece by which time was measured by the regulated flow of liquid into (inflow type) or out of (outflow type) a vessel, and where the amount was then measured.

Zhang not only improved the original design of the clepsydra, but he also used the mechanism of the rising rod to rotate his armillary sphere. This rotating armillary sphere was the first of its kind. He then added more rings to it to demonstrate the waxing and waning phases of the Moon. Later, based on this design, Chinese engineers developed water clocks, showing more accurate time than before.

As a seismologist, Zhang made a very innovative seismoscope, an instrument to detect an earthquake. At that time, the Chinese believed that

the earthquakes were caused by winds and changes in the air pressure.

The basic model of his seismoscope worked by attaching a well-balanced object, such as a sphere or ball, to a vertical cylinder. The ball would drop if it was shaken, in this case, due to an earthquake, to the ground.

Zhang decorated his seismoscope with figurines of eight dragon heads at the top of a cylinder. The heads were aligned to the eight cardinal directions. A bronze ball was intricately balanced in each dragon's mouth. Below the heads, he placed



Replica of Zhang's seismoscope

with open mouths. When an earthquake occurred, one or more balls from the dragon's head would fall into the mouths of the frogs below and make a sound. It was an instrument that worked with intricate mechanism. The head of the dragon from which the ball fell indicated the direction in which the earthquake occurred. On one occasion, he even detected an earthquake about 400 kilometres northwest of Luoyang.

Zhang believed that the Sun, the Moon, and planets were spherical, but he thought that the Earth was flat. Only by the 12th century did some astronomers suggest that the Earth could be spherical. The spherical nature of the Earth was accepted in China only after European influence in the 17th century.

Among his other inventions is the odometer, an instrument to measure distance and a magnetless instrument that continuously points south.

* The Han Dynasty ruled China from 206 BC to 220 AD and is known for promoting Confucianism (focusing on the importance of personal ethics and morality) as a state religion. It also opened the Silk Route to Europe.

Culture Wing

सांगे बहिणा

Recitation & Singing of
selected poems of
Bahinabai Choudhary



Bahinabai Choudhary



Kalyani
Salunke



Manisha
Kolhe

To celebrate International Women's Day, Nehru Centre has organized a poetry evening on the poems of the famous Marathi poet, Smt. Bahinabai Choudhary.

There will be a programme of recitation of selected poetries and singing of selected poems by Smt. Kalyani Salunke showcasing innovative interpretations of Bahinabai's timeless compositions, infusing them with fresh musical arrangements.

Bahinabai Choudhary (24 August 1880 - 3 December 1951) was a Marathi poet from Jalgaon district. She composed her songs verbally in ovi (ओवी) metre in a mixture of two dialects: *Khandeshi* and *Levaganboli*. Her poetry captures the essence of her life, reflects the culture of village and farming life and presents her wisdom.

Her poems were published under the title Bahinabainchi gani (Bahinabai's songs) in 1952 by Suchitra Prakashan.

**Concept, Script,
Music Director & Singer:** Smt. Kalyani Salunke

Acting as Bahinabai: Smt. Manisha Kolhe

Musicians

Tabla: **Anil Karanjavkar, Sandeep Mayekar, Ameya Thakur-Desai**

Keyboard: **Sagar Sathye, Prashant Lalit**

Basuri: **Vijay Tambe**

Sitar: **Uma Shankar Shukla**

Violin: **Shruti Bhawe**

Guitar: **Amogh Dandekar**

Friday, 22nd March 2024

7.00 p.m.

Nehru Centre Auditorium

**Entry: Free Entrance Cards will be available from the ticket counter of Nehru Auditorium
on Monday, 18th March 2024 from 10.30 a.m. onwards until availability of cards.**

DR. MEERA SAWANT & GROUP



Soni Patel

Meera Sawant and artists of S.N.D.T. College of Art will exhibit their works.

Tuesday 5th March 2024 to Monday 11th March 2024 (AC Gallery)

B.M.C. TEACHER'S SHOW



Dinkar Pawar



Amol Pawar

Art teachers from Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation schools will exhibit their artworks done during their art camp at Murud-Janjira.

Tuesday 5th March 2024 to Monday 11th March 2024 (Circular Gallery)

**MILIND THAKUR
MANDAR KHOT
SUMANT SHETTY
MADHURI TIWARI**



Sumant Shetty

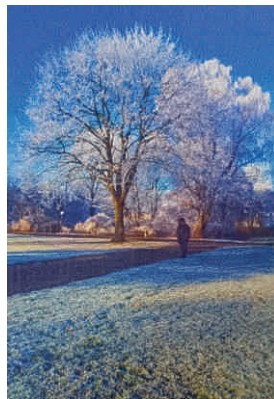


Madhuri Tiwari

These four artists who are students of Sir J. J. School of Art will showcase figurative compositions with paintings in acrylic and sculptures in bronze.

Tuesday 12th March 2024 to Monday 18th March 2024 (AC Gallery)

ANKITA BHATNAGAR



Ankita is a photographer who will showcase her photographs on nature.

Tuesday 12th March 2024 to Monday 18th March 2024 (Circular Gallery)

MODEL ART EDUCATION SOCIETY

Every year, Model Art Education Society displays artworks of

students. This year nine students will participate in this show.

Tuesday 19th March 2024 to Monday 25th March 2024 (AC Gallery)

GROUP OF STUDENTS OF SNDT WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY

Students from the Department of drawing and painting of the S.N.D.T. Women's University will exhibit their artworks.

Tuesday 19th March 2024 to Monday 25th March 2024 (Circular Gallery)

SHAFALI ANAND

Shafali, an engineer by profession will display her paintings which depict various moods.

Tuesday 26th March 2024 to Monday 1st April 2024 (AC Gallery)

MAREDU RAMU



Maredu has completed his Masters in Fine Arts and his works are in acrylic on canvas.

Tuesday 26th March 2024 to Monday 1st April 2024 (Circular Gallery)

RAMSAR WETLAND SITES IN INDIA

14. Maharashtra

1. Lonar Lake

The Lonar Lake also known as the Lonar Crater is the world's only salt water lake in basaltic rock, believed to have been caused by a meteorite which hit earth around 52,000 years ago. It was discovered by British Officer J. E. Alexander. Geologists, ecologists, archaeologists, naturalists and astronomers have reported several studies on the various aspects of this Crater Lake ecosystem.

Lonar Lake has a diameter of 1.2 kilometres and is about 137 metres below the crater rim. The mystic lake is surrounded by ancient temples, natural beauty and rich biodiversity.

It also has forests with a large variety of birds, particularly peacocks, owls, red-wattled lapwings and ducks.

Lonar Lake was designated as a Ramsar Wetland site on 22 July 2020.



Lonar Lake

2. Nandur Madhameshwar

Construction of the Nandur Madhameshwar Weir at the confluence of the Godavari and Kadwa rivers helped create a thriving wetland originally designed to overcome water shortages in the surrounding area. The site now serves as a buffer against floodwaters and as a biodiversity hotspot. With 536 species recorded, its diverse habitats contrast with the surrounding semi-arid conditions caused by the rain shadow of the Western Ghats mountain range. It provides sanctuary to critically endangered species including Deolali minnow, Indian vulture and white-rumped vulture. Invasive species including common water hyacinth threaten the site, along with the effects of urban development and water abstraction. Nandur Madhameshwar was declared as Ramsar's Conservation site on 21st June 2019.



Nandur Madhameshwar

3. Thane Creek

Thane Creek is one of the largest creeks of Asia and hosts many birds migrating on the Central Asian Flyway. Thane Creek is an inlet in the shoreline of the Arabian Sea that isolates the city of Mumbai from the Konkan region of the Indian mainland. The first part lies between Ghodbunder and Thane, a section from where the Ulhas River flows from the north of Mumbai Island to meet the Arabian Sea. The second part of the waterway lies between the city of Thane and the Arabian Sea at Trombay / Uran, before the Gharapuri islands. Thane Creek was formed due to a seismic fault lying below it which runs from Uran to Thane.

Its mangrove forests provide nurseries for several fish species, sustaining the local fisheries and they also act as a natural buffer against floods, cyclones and seawater intrusions.

The Creek features a rich biodiversity of birds, fish, crustaceans, molluscs, butterflies and floral species. Thane creek was designated as a Ramsar Wetland site on 13 August 2022.



Mangroves of Thane Creek

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. SONAFADEKAR (2003)
- (8) NAGESH B. SABANAVAR (2004)
- (9) SAMAKALEEN (2005)
- (10) VINAYAK S. MASOJI (2006)
- and many more...

ART FUSION catalogues

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

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 Designed by differently abled children

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 An aesthetics of Indian culture

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 Based on Discovery of India Exposition

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 Discovery of India Building,
 Nehru Centre, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.



New Arrivals: Books

Sr. No.	Title	Author/s
1.	Madam Commissioner: The extraordinary life of an Indian Police Chief	Meeran Chadha Borwankar
2.	A plain, blunt man: The essential Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel	Urvish Kothari
3.	Dethroned: Patel, Menon and the integration of princely India	John Zubrzycki
4.	Milletts for children: Rhymes, recipes and resources for all ages	Vijaya Chakravarty & Sweedle Cerejo-Shivkar
5.	The Babri Masjid question, 1528-2003: A matter of national honour: Vol. I and II	A. G. Noorani



Celebrate Diversity with Poetry @ the Nehru Centre Library

Ten poets will recite from their own poems on celebrating diversity.

Concept and Curation: **Dr. Paramita Mukherjee Mullick**

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 Nehru Centre, Mumbai - 400018.

RSVP : nehrucenlibrary@gmail.com



nehru-centre.org/library.html nehrucenlibrary.blogspot.com

nehrucen-koha.informindia.co.in www.facebook.com/NehruCentreLibrary

www.twitter.com/nehrucenlib

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On all working days

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