

Newsletter

Vol. 25 Issue 4 APRIL 2024

Price Rs. 10/- Per Copy

Nehru Centre



Discovery of India Building
Dr. Annie Besant Road,
Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.
Phone : 24964676
24964678
40245400

Annual Subscription Rs. 100

Events At a Glance...

CULTURE WING

FOLK MUSIC TRADITIONS OF KUTCH

The Kala Varso Trust will present a musical evening of Aaradhi Vaani, Sufi Kalam, Folk Songs, Doha/Chhand etc.

Curated and Narrated by
**Shri Lal Rambhia and
Shri Bharmal Sanjot**

**Friday, 26th April, 2024
7.00 p.m.
Nehru Centre Auditorium**

SUMMER WORKSHOPS (20-24th May 2024, 11.00 a.m. - 7.00 p.m)

Flute
by **Pandit Sunil Kant Gupta**

**Acting & Theatre
Appreciation**
by **Abhijeet Zunjarrao**

Lavani Majhi Sakhi
by **Maya Jadhav, Kavita Koli
Vijaya Palav, Sachin Gajmal**

Kathak Darpan
by **Vidushi Saswati Sen**

Venue: Nehru Centre

Constituent Assembly Debates Position of Princely States under the Constitution

While the Constituent Assembly was engaged in discussing the Draft Constitution, Sardar Patel made a historic statement before it on 12th October 1949 regarding the position of princely states under the new Constitution. He said:

“Sir, it has been my endeavour to keep the house fully informed of our policy and the development in respect of the States. I laid before the House in July last year a White Paper on States in which was set out in detail not only the policy pursued by the Government of India towards the States but also the various Agreements and Covenants entered into with the rulers.

The amendments which are now being proposed concerning the provisions of the Constitution applicable to the States embody the results of the bloodless revolution which, within a remarkably short period, has transformed the internal and external setup of the States. By integrating 500 and odd States into sizeable units and by the complete elimination of centuries-old autocracies, the Indian democracy has won a great victory of which the Princes and the people of India alike should be proud.

The States had originally acceded in respect of the three subjects of Defence, Foreign Affairs and Communications only. With the formation of the Unions, the legislative power of the Dominion Parliament was extended in respect of the

Union of States to all matters specified in the Federal and Concurrent lists except those relating to taxation. The gap in the financial field has now been filled by the arrangements which have been negotiated with the States on the basis of the recommendations made by the Indian States Finance Enquiry Committee.

When the Covenants establishing the various Unions of States were entered into, it was contemplated that the Constitutions of the various Unions would be formed by their respective Constituent Assemblies within the framework of the Covenants and the Constitution of India. These provisions were made in the Covenants at a time when we were still working under the shadows of the theory that the assumption, by the Constituent Assembly of India, of the Constitution-making authority in respect of the States would constitute an infringement of the autonomy of the States. As, however, the States came closer to the Centre, it was realised that the idea of separate Constitutions being framed for the different Constituent units of the Indian Union was a legacy from the Rulers' polity and that, in a people's polity, there was no scope for variegated constitutional patterns. We, therefore, discussed this matter with the Premiers of the various Unions and decided, with their concurrence, that a Constitution of the States should also form an integral part of the Constitution of India. The readiness

with which the legislatures of the three States in which such bodies are functioning at present, namely Mysore, Travancore and Cochin Union and Saurashtra, have accepted this procedure, bears testimony of the wish of the people of the States to eschew the separatist trends of the past.

In view of the special problems with which the Government of Jammu and Kashmir is faced, we have made a special provision for the continuance of the Constitutional relationship of the State with the Union on the existing basis. In the case of Hyderabad State, the acceptance of the Constitution will be subject to ratification by the people of the State.

I am sure the House will note with gratification the important fact that, unlike the Scheme of 1935, our new Constitution is not an alliance between democracy and dynasties, but a union of the Indian people built on the basic concept of the sovereignty of the people. It removes all barriers between the people of States and the people of Provinces and achieves for the first time, the objective of a strong democratic India built on the true foundation of a co-operative enterprise on the part of the people of the Provinces and the States alike.

I now come to the proposed article 267-A in respect of which some explanation is necessary. The Government of India have guaranteed to the Rulers of merged and integrated States payment of privy purses as fixed under the terms of various Covenants and Agreements of merger. Article 267-A gives constitutional recognition to these guarantees and provides for this expenditure being charged on the Central Revenues, subject to such recoveries as may be made from time to time from the Provinces and States in respect of these payments.

Human memory is proverbially short. Meeting in October 1949, we are apt to forget the magnitude of the problem which confronted us in August 1947. As the Honourable Members are aware, the so-called lapse of paramountcy was a part of the Plan announced on June 3, 1947 which was accepted by the Congress. The Indian Independence Act released the States from all their obligations to the British crown. In their various authoritative pronouncements, the British spokesman recognised that with the lapse of paramountcy, technically and legally the States would become independent. The situation was indeed fraught with immeasurable potentialities of disruption, for some of the rulers did wish to exercise their technical right to declare independence and others to join the neighbouring Dominion.

It was against this unpropitious background that the Government of India invited the Rulers of the States to accede on three Subjects of Defence, External Affairs and Communications. At the time the proposal was put forward to the Rulers, an assurance was given to them that they would retain the status quo except for accession on these subjects. It had been made clear to them that this accession did not imply any financial liability on the part of the States and there was no intention either to encroach on their internal autonomy or the sovereignty of the States or to fetter their discretion in respect of their acceptance of the new Constitution of India. If the Rulers had elected to stay out, they would have continued to draw the heavy Civil Lists which they were drawing before and, in large numbers of cases, they could have continued to enjoy unrestricted use of the State Revenues. The minimum which we could offer them as quid pro quo for parting with their ruling powers was to guarantee to them privy

purses and certain privileges on a reasonable and defined basis. The Privy Purse settlements are, therefore, in the nature of consideration for the surrender by the Rulers of all their ruling powers and also for the dissolution of the States as separate units. Need we cavil then at the small price we have paid for the bloodless revolution which has affected the destinies of millions of our people.

Let us do justice to them; let us place ourselves in their position and then assess the value of their sacrifice. The Rulers have now discharged their part of the obligation by transferring all ruling powers and by agreeing to the integration of their States. The main part of our obligation under these agreements is to ensure that the guarantees given by us in respect to privy purses are fully implemented.

I take the liberty to remind the house that, at the Haripura Session the Congress in 1938 defined its objective in respect of the States as follows:

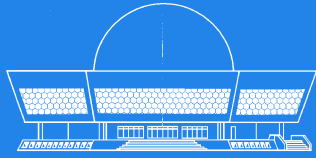
‘The Congress stands for the same political, social and economic freedom in the States as in the rest of India and considers the States as integral parts of India which cannot be separated. The *Purna Swaraj* or Complete Independence, which is the objective of the Congress is for the whole of India, inclusive of the States, for the integrity and unity of India must be maintained in freedom as it has been maintained in subjection. The only kind of federation that can be acceptable to the Congress is one in which States participate as free units, enjoying the same measure of democratic freedom as the rest of India.’

I am sure the House will agree with me when I say that the provisions which we are now placing before the House embody in them full achievement of that objective.”

What Nehru said....

I saw the moving drama of the Indian people in the present, and could often trace the threads which bound their lives to the past, even while their eyes were turned towards the future. Everywhere I found a cultural background which had exerted a powerful influence on their lives.

... 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

47th Anniversary of Nehru Planetarium

The Nehru Planetarium celebrated its 47th anniversary with the organizing of various inter-school competitions.

In all, 79 students from ten different schools in Mumbai and Greater Mumbai enrolled and participated.

The winners were felicitated on 3rd March 2024 by Dr A. P. Jayaraman, Chairman of National Centre of Science Communicators.

A variety of competitions based on astronomy like the Astro-Painting, Astro-Essay, Astro-Oral, Science-Quiz and Astro-Quiz were held.



Astro-Essay Competition



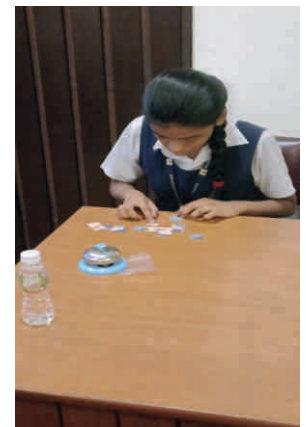
Astro-Oral Competition



Astro-Quiz Competition



Astro-Painting Competition



Science-Quiz Competition

Two Day Symposium on Astronomy and Astrophysics

Nehru Planetarium organised a two-day symposium on Astronomy and Astrophysics in collaboration with the Centre for Extra-Mural Studies, University of Mumbai. The symposium was titled *Frontiers in Astronomy: New Challenges in Careers in Astronomy and Astrophysics*. Fifty college students of physics and engineering attended.

Young working scientists from the country's premier research institutes were invited as speakers to deliver talks on the subject of their current research and to give a world view on modern research in astronomy and astrophysics. The following were the speakers and the subjects of their talks.

Prof. A.N. Ramaprakash from IUCAA, Pune spoke about *Large Astronomical Observatories*. He gave a detailed view of astronomical observatories (ranging from optical to gamma ray) and their findings that gave deeper insights of the mysterious universe.

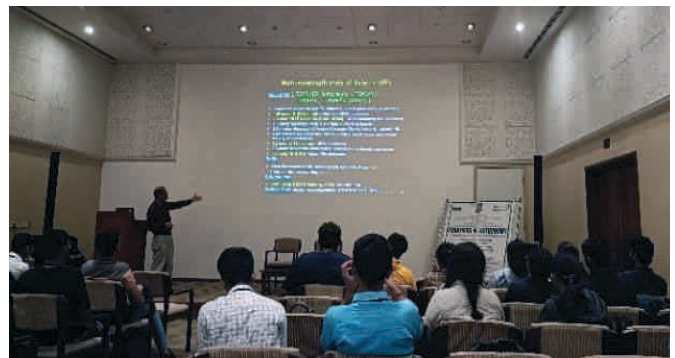
Prof. Durgesh Tripathi also from IUCAA, Pune discussed India's first space solar observatory, Aditya L1. The session emphasised on objective and technological development in building Aditya L1.

Prof. Devendra K. Ojha from TIFR, Mumbai spoke about *The Universe at Infrared Wavelength and Star Formation in the Milky Way Galaxy*. In this session the students gained more knowledge regarding the star formation in our own galaxy and how the universe can be studied in different areas of the electromagnetic spectrum.

The title of Prof. Varun Bhalerao's (IIT Bombay) talk was *Taming the Transient Sky* in which he introduced students to the country's first fully robotic telescope (GROWTH-India) which is developed by Indian scientists, technicians, graduate and undergraduate students to study the night sky and better understand the universe that we live in.

Prof. Ananda Hota from CEBS, University of Mumbai spoke on *Entering Galaxy Evolution Studies through RAD@home RGB Image Analysis*. In this session Prof. Hota spoke about spectral image analysis and analyzed the Red-Green-Blue (RGB-contour) images of some specific galaxies in UltraViolet-Optical-Infrared-Radio band.

The sessions covered a large range of subjects in astronomy and astrophysics ranging from cosmology to astronomical observatories and also focused on the modern astronomical research in India.



FOLK MUSIC TRADITIONS OF KUTCH



Kutch is the biggest district of India, covering primarily the Rann of Kutch. The people of Kutch have developed a rich musical culture. Their folk songs are based on themes of motherland, devotion, love and abundant natural diversity. A variety of musical instruments like the Santar, Morchang, Jodiya Pawa (pair of flutes), Ghado/Ghamelo (the earthen jar), Benjo and Dholak have given Kutchi music a unique identity.

The Kala Varso Trust will present a musical evening of Aaradhi Vaani, Sufi Kalam, Folk Songs, Doha/Chhand etc.

Curated and Narrated by: Shri Lal Rambhia and Shri Bharmal Sanjot

Friday, 26th April 2024 | 7.00 p.m. | Nehru Centre Auditorium

Entry: Free Entrance Cards will be available from the ticket counter of Nehru Auditorium on Monday, 22nd April 2024 from 10.30 a.m. onwards until availability of cards.

SUMMER WORKSHOPS (20-24th May 2024, 11.00 a.m. - 7.00 p.m)

Flute
by Pandit Sunil Kant
Gupta
11.00 am to 2.00 p.m.
Hall of Harmony
Ground Floor

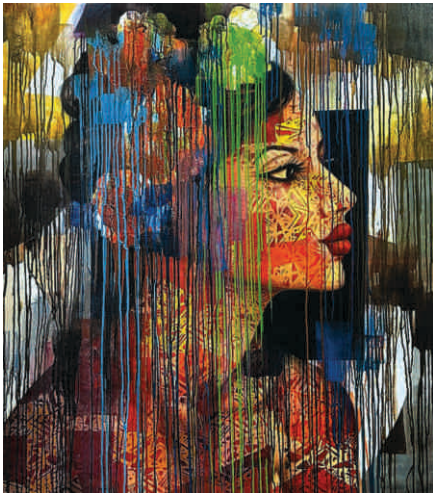
**Acting & Theatre
Appreciation**
by Abhijeet
Zunjarrao
3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.
Hall of Vision - A
Second Floor

Lavani Majhi Sakhi
by Maya Jadhav, Kavita Koli
Vijaya Palav, Sachin
Gajmal
5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.
Hall of Vision - B
Second Floor

Kathak Darpan
by Vidushi Saswati
Sen
11.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.
Nehru Centre
Auditorium

**Finale of all workshops on Saturday, 25th May 2024
at Nehru Centre Auditorium**

SAMPA PAUL



Sampa Paul will display paintings in mixed medium.

**Tuesday 2nd April 2024
to Monday 8th April 2024
(AC Gallery)**

DR. PRAMOD DESHMUKH



Dr. Deshmukh will exhibit paintings in colour pencils and inks on paper.

**Tuesday 2nd April 2024
to Monday 8th April 2024
(Circular Gallery)**

SACHIN JUVATKAR



Sachin has won many awards for his portraits of eminent personalities and also of Gods and Goddesses in mixed media.

**Tuesday 9th April 2024
to Monday 15th April 2024
(AC Gallery)**

**RAJAY BONGALE
MAYUR PALKAR
BABAJI KADAM
DISHA MISTRY
KIRAAN HOWAL
AAKASH HADAWALE**

This group of five artists will showcase paintings and portraits on various subjects and in various mediums.

**Tuesday 9th April 2024
to Monday 15th April 2024
(Circular Gallery)**

SHEKHAR VECHALEKAR

Shekhar is qualified in sculpture, modelling and ceramics from Sir J. J. School of Art, Mumbai and his works will be on show.

**Tuesday 16th April 2024
to Monday 22nd April 2024
(AC Gallery)**

**PODAR ORT
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Creative Calypso**

This exhibition will celebrate creativity by paying homage to the Great Masters in various mediums and styles.

**Tuesday 16th April 2024
to Monday 22nd April 2024
(Circular Gallery)**

**SUNIL VINEKAR
MANGESH CHORGE
M. RAMAN CHARY
VIJAYA MOHANAN**

This group show will have on display a varied palette of artworks by the talented artists.

**Tuesday 23rd April 2024
to Monday 29th April 2024
(AC Gallery)**

M. F. RATHOD



Motilal Rathod who paints village people and their life will showcase his works in oil on canvases.

**Tuesday 23rd April 2024
to Monday 29th April 2024
(Circular Gallery)**

RAMSAR WETLAND SITES IN INDIA

15. Manipur

1. Loktak Lake

The largest freshwater lake in Northeast India, the pristine Loktak Lake is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Manipur and is 48kms from Imphal. It is the largest fresh water lake in North–East India.

Loktak Lake is a beautiful stretch of water resembling a miniature inland sea known for its floating circular swamps, which are called phumdis in the local dialect. These swamps look almost like islands and are a mass of soil, organic matter and vegetation.

Loktak Lake has been broadly divided into the northern, central and southern zone on the basis of its vegetation, phumdi thickness, drainage network, open water area location and human activity. There are 14 hills varying in size and elevation, appearing as islands, in the southern part of the lake. The most prominent of them are Sendra, Ithing and Thanga islands

The lake has been the source of water for domestic generation of hydro-electric power, irrigation, habitat for several plants used as food, fishing ground for local people, fodder, fuel, medicines, biodiversity, recreation, etc. Hence, Loktak Lake has been referred to as the 'lifeline of Manipur'.

Loktak Lake houses the only floating national park in the world, the Keibul Lamjao National Park, which is the last refuge of the endangered brow-antlered deer or sangai, Manipur's state animal. In addition, it shelters about 230 species of aquatic plants, 100 types of birds and 400 species of fauna like barking deer, sambar and Indian python. Loktak is a visual treat for birdwatchers, who can find species like black kite, East Himalayan pied kingfisher, northern hill myna, lesser eastern jungle crow, and Burmese pied myna and lesser skylark.

The Loktak Lake was designated as a Ramsar Wetland site on 23rd March 1990.

Further Reading at Nehru Centre Library:

- *Manipur: A Tourist Paradise* by B. R. Publishing Corporations, 2005, Call no.915.417/Sin, Barcode: 13222
- *Some aspects of the geography of Manipur* by S.A. Ansari, 1985, Call No.915.417/Ans, Barcode 11739.



Aerial view of Loktak Lake with its floating phumdis



Fishing at Loktak Lake



Sangai

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

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.



New Arrivals: Books

Sr. No.	Title	Author/s
1.	A walk up the hill: Living with people and nature	Madhav Gadgil
2.	Adapt: To thrive, not just survive	Harit Nagpal
3.	An uncommon love: The early life of Sudha and Narayan Murthy	Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
4.	Breaking the mold: India's untraveled path to prosperity	Raghuram G. Rajan and Rohit Lamba
5.	Pranab my father: A daughter remembers	Sharmistha Mukherjee
6.	Shades of blue: Connecting the drops in India's cities	Harini Nagendra and Seema Mundoli
7.	The cooking of books: A literary memoir	Ramachandra Guha
8.	Shivaji: India's great warrior king	Vaibhav Purandare
9.	Savarkar: The true story of the father of Hindutva	Vaibhav Purandare
10.	H for heritage: Mumbai	Fiona Fernandez

 nehru-centre.org/library.html
 nehrucenlib.blogspot.com
 nehrucen-koha.informindia.co.in
 www.facebook.com/NehruCentreLibrary
 www.twitter.com/nehrucenlib

10.00 a.m. to 5.45 p.m.
On all working days



Website: www.nehru-centre.org



Email: editor@nehru-centre.org

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

Printed at
M/s PRINTCOM
I-Wing, Shop No. 1, Mahalaxmi SRA CHSL.,
P. B. Marg, Worli, Mumbai - 400 030.

Editor
Arati N. Desai
Design & Layout
Imtiaz Kalu