

Newsletter

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Nehru Centre



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Events At a Glance...

Library

Book Discussion
**The Sherpa Trail: Stories from
Darjeeling and Beyond**

Thursday, 22 August 2024
Who Are We Hall
4.00 p.m.

Meet-The-Author
Ouch! What's Hurting our Ocean?
by Katie Bagli

Saturday, 31st August 2024
Who Are We Hall
10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Culture Wing

**मराठी संगीत नाटक महोत्सव
(August 20-23, 2024)**

संगीत लावणी भुलली अभंगाला

संगीत सौभद्र

संगीत जय जय गौरी शंकर

संगीत मंदारमाला

Time: 6.30 p.m.
Nehru Centre Auditorium

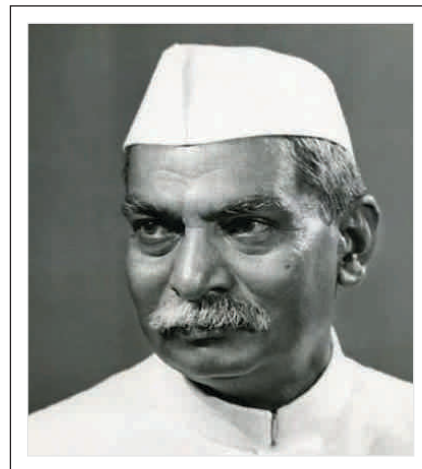
Constituent Assembly Debates

Adoption of the Constitution

After Dr. Ambedkar's speech, the only thing left was to put the motion moved by him to vote. Before doing that, Dr Rajendra Prasad, the President of the Constituent Assembly, addressed it. He expressed his thanks to all members of the Assembly; to the members of the Drafting Committee, particularly to its Chairman; to Shri B.N. Rau, the Constitutional Advisor; to Shri S.N. Mukherjee, the brilliant draftsman of the Constitution; to Shri H V R Iyengar, who organised the Assembly's secretariat; and to the members of the staff including the peons. He surveyed the entire proceedings of the Constituent Assembly in his address and referred to some of the contentious debates and also touched upon the salient features of the Constitution. Some of his profound statements are reproduced below in his own words:

**Dr. Rajendra Prasad,
The President, Constituent
Assembly**

"I desire to congratulate the Assembly on accomplishing a task of such tremendous magnitude. It is not my purpose to appraise the value of the work that the Assembly has done or the merits or demerits of the Constitution which it has framed. I am content to leave that to others and to posterity.



Dr. Rajendra Prasad

I would like to mention some facts which will show the tremendousness of the task which we undertook some three years ago. If you consider the population with which the Assembly has had to deal, you will find that it is more than the population of the whole of Europe minus Russia, being 319 millions as against 317 millions. In spite of the size of the population and the country, we have succeeded in framing a Constitution which covers the whole of it.

Apart from the size, there were other difficulties inherent in the problem itself. We have got many communities living in this country. We have got many languages prevalent in different parts of it. We have got other kinds of differences

dividing the people in the different parts from one another. We had to make provision not only for areas which are advanced educationally and economically; we had also to make provision for backward people like the tribes and for backward areas like the tribal areas. The communal problem had been one of the knottiest problems which the country has had before it for a pretty long time. The Second Round Table Conference which was attended by Mahatma Gandhi failed because the communal problem could not be solved. The subsequent history of the country is too recent to require narration here; but we know this, that as a result, the country has had to be divided and we have lost two big portions in the north-east and north-west.

Another problem of great magnitude was the problem of the Indian states. We had something near six hundred states covering more than one-third of the territory of India and one-fourth of the population of the country. When the British decided to leave this country they also declared that all the treaties and engagements they had with the Princes had lapsed. The paramountcy which they had so long exercised and by which they could keep the Princes in order also lapsed. The Indian Government was then faced with the problem of tackling these states. It must be said to the credit of the Princes and the people of the States no less than to the credit of the States Ministry under the wise and far-sighted guidance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel that, by the time we have been able to pass this Constitution, the States are now more or less in the same

position as the Provinces and it has become possible to describe all of them including the Indian States and the Provinces as States in the Constitution.

The method which the Constituent Assembly adopted in connection with the Constitution was first to lay down its 'terms of reference' as it were in the form of an Objective Resolution which was moved by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in an inspiring speech and which constitutes now the Preamble to our Constitution. It then proceeded to appoint a number of Committees to deal with different aspects of the constitutional problem. Several of these had as their Chairman either Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru or Sardar Patel to whom thus goes the credit for the fundamentals of our Constitution.

There are only two regrets which I must share with the Honourable Members. I would have liked to have some qualifications laid down for members of the Legislatures. It is anomalous that we should insist upon high qualifications for those who administer or help in administering the law but none for those who made it except that they are elected. A law giver requires intellectual equipment but even more than that, the capacity to take a balanced view of things, to act independently and above all, to be true to those fundamental things of life - in one word- to have character. It is not possible to devise any yardstick for measuring the moral qualities of a man and so long as that is not possible, our Constitution will remain defective. The other regret is that we have not been able to draw up our first

Constitution of a free Bharat in an Indian language. The difficulties in both cases were practical and proved insurmountable. But that does not make the regret any the less poignant.

Whatever the Constitution may or may not provide, the welfare of the country will depend upon the way in which the country is administered. That will depend upon the men who administer it. If the people who are elected are capable men of character and integrity, they would be able to make the best even of a defective Constitution. If they are lacking in these, the Constitution cannot help the country. After all, a Constitution, like a machine, is a lifeless thing.

It acquires life because of the men who control it and operate it, and India needs today nothing more than a set of honest men who will have the interest of the country before them. Let us launch on this new enterprise of running our Independent Republic with confidence, with truth and non-violence and, above all, with heart within and God overhead.

It now remains to put the Motion which was moved by Dr Ambedkar to the vote of the House. The question is:

'That the Constitution as settled by the Assembly be passed.'

The motion was adopted.

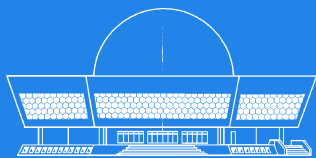
The President: "I have now formally to sign the Bill which has now become an Act, by way of its authentication so that it may get authority and come into force immediately."

(series concluded)

What Nehru said....

Some of the founders of religions were astonishing individuals, but all their glory vanishes in my eyes when I cease to think of them as human beings. What impresses me and gives me hope is the growth of the mind and spirit of man, and not his being used as an agent to convey a message.

...from Chapter 3, The Indus Valley Civilization, The Discovery of India.



NEHRU PLANETARIUM

Tel: 022-40245413

Mobile : 9892890510

SKY SHOW : BIOGRAPHY OF THE UNIVERSE

12 noon (Hindi) 1:30 p.m. (Marathi)
3:00 p.m. (English) 4:30 p.m. (Hindi)

(MONDAY CLOSED)

Tickets will be available online and at the Booking Counter.
Visitors are expected to strictly follow Covid-19 norms.

Email: managernpmumbai@gmail.com

Bhaskara-I¹ (c. 600 – 680 CE) was a 7th-century scholar from Saurashtra in present-day Gujarat. Just like Brahmagupta (see *NC Newsletter June 2024*), he too is considered the most important scholar of the *Aryabhatiya* school of astronomy. His two important works are *Mahabhaskariya* and *Aryabhatiyabhasya*, a commentary on *Aryabhatiya*.

Mahabhaskariya deals with the mathematics of astronomy in which Bhaskara-I discusses the phases of the Moon, eclipses of the Sun and the Moon, and the rising and setting of planets. He also talks about planetary and stellar conjunctions. Conjunctions, in astronomy, refer to when two planets or a planet and a star are seen close to each other.

In 629, Bhaskara-I annotated Aryabhata's magnum opus, the *Aryabhatiya* in *Aryabhatiyabhasya* in which he commented on the 33 verses of *Aryabhatiya*, which had mathematical rules or formulae to compute astronomical phenomena like the rising and setting of astronomical objects. Bhaskara-I explained the accuracy of these mathematical rules and formulae and confirmed that they were correct.

About 500 years before Bhaskara-I, Indian mathematicians evolved what is now referred to as the positional numbering system.² In this system, an alpha-numerical sequence of Akshar (अक्षर) and Shabd (शब्द) from the Sanskrit *varnamala* (the alphabet) were used to representing a number. For example, the number 365 (days of a year) would be written as गिवड. Here गि represents the value of 300, व represents a value of 60 and ड at the rightmost position represents a value of 5. We can see that this method of writing numbers using letters and words can be very confusing to common people like us, though this would make perfect sense to the experts in the field.

Bhaskara-I continued to use the positional numbering system, but instead of letters and words, he used the first nine symbols of Brahmi numerals.³ He added zero, a 10th numeral and represented it by a circle. Zero was not discovered when Brahmi numbers evolved.

For example, in number 174, the position of the numeral 1 indicates its value to be 100. Likewise, the position of the numeral 7 indicates its value to be 70, and 4 is in the first place. Thus, adding 100+70+4 gives 174. The same number in *Aryabhatiya*'s 12th verse in *Dashgitika* is given as शधकि (श + ध + कि 1+7+4 = 174). This is considered to be his most important contribution to mathematics.

The positional numbering system introduced by Bhaskara-I is the precursor of the numbers that we use today in English and other Indian languages. A similar system of representing a number is used in Arabic, Persian, Urdu, etc. Even though the script is written from right to left, the numbers are written from left to right. Bhaskara-I was also the first to discuss irregular quadrilaterals. Such a quadrilateral (quadri = four + latus = side) is a four-sided flat figure with all four sides of unequal length, and no two sides being parallel.

References

- ¹ He is referred to as Bhaskara-I to avoid confusion with another astronomer mathematician by the same name from the 12th century BC who is referred to as Bhaskara-II.
- ² The positional numbering system of Bhaskara-I is the precursor of the numbers that we use today, both in English and other Indian languages. A similar system was used in Arabic/Farsi. Even though the script is written from right to left, the numbers are written from left to right.
- ³ Brahmi numerals were first used in the Indian subcontinent around the 3rd century BC.

Lalla (720 -790 AD) was an 8th-century astronomer, mathematician, and astrologer who is best known for his book *Shishyadhividdhidatantra* or A Treatise which Expands the Intellect of Students. He was born into a family of astronomers and mathematics scholars from south Gujarat. His father and grandfather were his teachers.

Shishyadhividdhidatantra is in two volumes. The first volume has thirteen chapters in which he wrote on the longitudes of planets, diurnal rotation, lunar and solar eclipses and syzygies (the nearly straight-line alignment of any three celestial bodies). In this book, he also described the perpetual motion of bodies that could continue forever if not disturbed. It is the earliest known description of perpetual motion.

The second volume, *Goladhyaya* or A Treatise On the Sphere discusses the properties of a sphere. It discusses the graphical representation of the celestial sphere, the principle of mean motion, the terrestrial sphere (i.e, the Earth), the motions and stations of the planets, geography and scientific instruments.

Lalla proposed compromise theories between the rival astronomical schools of his predecessors, Aryabhata and Brahmagupta. He also wrote a treatise on astrology, *Jyotisaratnakosa* or Treasury of Jewels in which he discussed determining auspicious and inauspicious times in astrology.

Later astronomers like Aryabhata II, Sripati, Vatesvara, and Bhaskara II were highly influenced by Lalla's works. Bhaskara II wrote a commentary on *Shishyadhividdhidatantra*.

Astrophotography Exhibition & Seminar (18th – 24th June 2024)

Nehru Planetarium organised an astrophotography exhibition at the Art Gallery from June 18 to 24, 2024. On June 22, 2024, an Astrophotography Seminar for Amateur Astronomers was also held.

For the exhibition, the Mumbai based organization The Sky Explorers contributed 112 astrophotographs. There were photographs of the Sun, the Moon, planets, meteors or shooting stars, comets, star fields, star clusters and nebulae. Many visitors appreciated the efforts and hard work of the amateur astronomers.

Dr Vinita Navalkar, an astronomer with a keen interest in astrophotography, delivered a talk 'Astrophotography for Amateur Astronomers'. Nine presentations by participants followed her talk. They shared their experiences in taking astrophotographs and the equipment they used.

The Seminar concluded with a discussion on astronomical photography, initiated by Shri Arvind Paranjpye. Many astrophotographers shared their thoughts on taking good quality astrophotographs.



Milky Way Panorama by Upendra Pinnelli

Culture Wing

३२वां मराठी संगीत नाटक महोत्सव-२०२४

दि. २० ते २३ ऑगस्ट-२०२४, ६.३० वा.



Celebrating the Birth Centenary
of Sangeetbhushan
Pandit Ram Marathe

संगीत लावणी भुलली अभंगाला



मंगळवार, २० ऑगस्ट २०२४

Producer:
Bharat Natya
Sanshodhan Mandir,
Pune
Director:
Shri Ravindra Khare
Writer:
Shri Jagdish Dalvi
Music:
Shri C. Ramchandra
Shri Kaushik

Duration: 3 hours with one interval

संगीत सौभद्र



बुधवार, २१ ऑगस्ट २०२४

Producer:
Swararaj Chhota
Gandharva
Pratishthan, Pune
Director:
Shri Ashok Awachat
Writer:
Shri Annasaheb
Kirloskar
Music Arrangement:
Smt. Sucheta Awachat

Duration: 3 hours with one interval

संगीत जय जय गौरी शंकर



गुरूवार, २२ ऑगस्ट २०२४

Producer:
Paraspar Sahayak
Mandal, Waghambe,
Guhaghar
Director:
Shri Ghanshyam Joshi
Writer:
Shri Vidyadhar Gokhale
Music:
Shri Vasant Desai &
Shri Rambhau Marathe

Duration: 3 hours with one interval

संगीत मंदारमाला



शुक्रवार, २३ ऑगस्ट २०२४

Producer:
Sangeetbhushan
Pandit Ram Marathe
Foundation, Mumbai
Director:
Shri Mukund Marathe
Shri Sanjay Marathe
Smt. Veena Natekar
Writer:
Shri Vidyadhar Gokhale
Music:
Pandit Ram Marathe

Duration: 3 hours with one interval

20-23 August 2024, 6.30 p.m.
Nehru Centre Auditorium

Entry: Free Entrance Cards will be available on 16th August 2024 from 10.30 a.m. until availability from the ticket counter of the Nehru Centre Auditorium

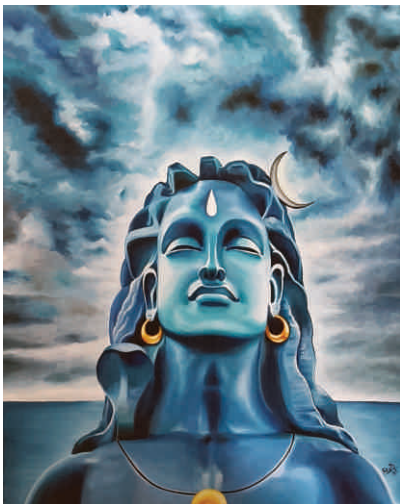
DEEPAK PATIL



Deepak has exhibited widely in India. His paintings are realistic figurative in acrylic on canvas.

**Tuesday 6th August 2024
to Monday 12th August 2024
(AC Gallery)**

RATI BHARGAVA



Rati is a self-taught artist. Her paintings are on various subjects and mediums, like water colours, acrylic and silver wash.

**Tuesday 6th August 2024
to Monday 12th August 2024
(Circular Gallery)**

SADASHIV SATHE



Shri Sadashiv Sathe is a famous sculptor. He sculpted Mahatma Gandhi's statue which is in the Queens Garden in Delhi. It was inaugurated by Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru in 1952. All his works have been acclaimed as great pieces of art.

**Tuesday 13th August 2024
to Monday 19th August 2024
(AC Gallery)**

**NEHRU CENTRE'S
COLLECTION OF STUDY
CAMPS**

Collection of students' art works from various Study Camps organized by the Art Gallery will be on display.

**Tuesday 13th August 2024
to Monday 19th August 2024
(Circular Gallery)**

**STUDY CAMPS: WORKS
FROM GOA**

The 30th year of the Study Camp for art students organised by Nehru Centre Art Gallery was held in Goa. Students from various art colleges of Maharashtra participated. The paintings were created on the spot at various locations in Goa. Jitendra Gaikwad, a well-known painter was the guide and he also painted with the students.



Shridhar Gawade



Tejas Nakate



Sunil Gavali



Jitendra Gaikwad

**Tuesday 20th August 2024
to Monday 26th August 2024
(Ac & Circular Gallery)**

**SHAILESH
ACHREKAR**



Shailesh worked as a visualizer, then ventured into making short films. He has won over 111 National and International awards for his short films. His art works are innovative creations.

**Tuesday 27th August 2024
to Monday 2nd September
2024 (AC Gallery)**

**SARBABHARTIYA
SANGEET-O-SANSKRITI
PARISHAD**

This organisation from Kolkata will showcase artists from Kolkata in this show.

**Tuesday 27th August 2024
to Monday 2nd September
2024 (Circular Gallery)**

RAMSAR WETLAND SITES IN INDIA

18. Punjab

Beas Conservation Reserve

The Beas Conservation Reserve is a 185-kilometre stretch of the Beas river located primarily in the north-west of Punjab. The river meanders down from the Himalayan foothills to the Harike Headworks, where its course is diverted into a number of channels. The river is dotted with islands, sand bars and braided channels, thus creating a complex environment supporting substantial biodiversity. More than 500 species of birds are documented on this stretch, along with more than 90 fish species. The Reserve also hosts the only known population in India of the endangered Indus river dolphin.

Other threatened species include the endangered masheer and hog deer as well as the vulnerable smooth-coated otter. In 2017, a programme was initiated to re-introduce the critically endangered gharial with 47 of them released into the river.

Beas Conservation Reserve was declared a Ramsar site on 26 September 2019.

Harike Wetland

Harike is the largest wetland in northern India in the Tarn Taran district. The wetland and the lake were formed by constructing the headworks across the Sutlej River in 1952. It is a shallow water reservoir with thirteen islands at the confluence of rivers Sutlej and Beas. Dense floating vegetation covers 70% of the lake. The wetland is an important site for breeding, wintering and staging birds, supporting over 200,000 ducks, geese, swans, and other water birds. The entire lake is leased on an annual basis to commercial fishery organizations.

Harike Wetland was declared a Ramsar site on 23 March 1990.

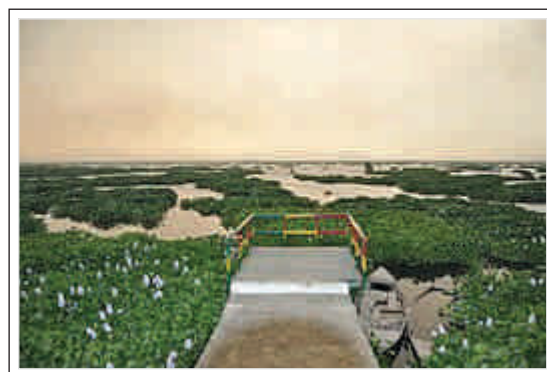
Keshopur-Miani Community Reserve

The Keshopur-Miani Community Reserve is located in the Gurdaspur district. The reserve is a mosaic of natural marshes, aquaculture ponds and agricultural wetlands maintained by the annual rainfall runoff. It is heavily human-influenced, and includes fishponds and cultivated crops such as lotus and water chestnut. The local management helps support a variety of flora, with 344 species of plants recorded in the area. In this way, the site is an example of wise use of a community-managed wetland, which provides food for people and supports local biodiversity. The threatened species include the vulnerable common pochard and the endangered spotted pond turtle.

Keshopur-Miani Community Reserve was declared a Ramsar site on 26 September 2019.



Indus River Dolphin



Harike Wetland and Lake



Sarus Crane at Keshopur Community Reserve

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. SONAVALDEKAR (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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Book Discussion



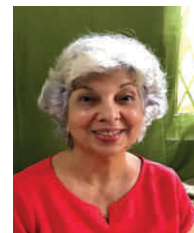
The Sherpa Trail: Stories from Darjeeling and Beyond

Written by Ms. Nandini Purandare and Ms. Deepa Balsavar

The authors will talk about the exceptional story of the climbing Sherpas of Darjeeling as they read out and share a slide show.

Date: **Thursday, 22nd August, 2024**
Venue: **Who Are We Hall First Floor, Discovery of India Building, Nehru Centre**
Time: **4.00 p.m.**
Open to all

Meet-the-Author



Ouch! What's Hurting our Ocean?

Written by Ms. Katie Bagli

Award winning children's author Katie Bagli will talk about the harmful effects of human activities on our marine ecosystem through the story of Mayaan, Man of the Sea.

Date: **Saturday, 31st August, 2024**
Venue: **Who Are We Hall First Floor, Discovery of India Building, Nehru Centre**
Time: **10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.**
Age: Students aged 8-10 yrs.

Register for both events at:
nehrucentrelibrary@gmail.com

nehru-centre.org/library.html
nehrucentrelibrary.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

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 Email: editor@nehru-centre.org

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