

Newsletter

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Nehru Centre



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Events At a Glance...

Culture Wing

संतवाणी

एक

भक्तिमय

संगीत संध्या



Presentation of some of the favourite bhajans of Gandhiji

To celebrate Gandhi Jayanti, the Culture Wing of the Nehru Centre will present some of Gandhiji's favourite bhajans and other bhakti geet. These will be presented by Prashant Kalundrekar, Mona Kamat and Meghna Kalundrekar. The programme will be compered by Shri Deelip Joshi.

Date:

Wednesday, 2nd October 2024

Time:

7.00 p.m.

Venue:

Nehru Centre Auditorium

Speeches of the Freedom Movement

2. BAL GANGADHAR TILAK: Tenets of the New Party (Part 1)
Calcutta, 2 January 1907

The following speech was delivered by Bal Gangadhar Tilak at Calcutta after the Calcutta session of the Congress. That was the time when the Liberal Government had come to power in England. Many leaders of the Indian National Congress nourished great hopes from it. Tilak, however, had a contrary view. In this speech, he warns that any expectations from the Liberal Government was totally misplaced.

"Two new words have recently come into existence with regard to our politics, and they are Moderates and Extremists. These words have a specific relation to time, and they, therefore, will change with time. The Extremists of today will be Moderates tomorrow, just as the Moderates of today were Extremists yesterday. When the National Congress was first started and Mr. Dadabhai's views, which now go for Moderates, were given to the public, he was styled an Extremist, so that you will see that the term Extremist is an expression of progress. We are Extremists and our sons will call themselves Extremists and us Moderates. Every new party begins as Extremists and ends as Moderates. The sphere of practical politics is not unlimited.

We cannot say what will or will not happen 1,000 years hence - perhaps during that long period, the whole of the white race will be swept away in another glacial period. We must, therefore, study the present and work out a programme to meet the present condition.

It is impossible to go into details within the time at my disposal. One thing is granted, viz., that this Government does not suit us. As has been said by an eminent statesman, "The government of one country by another can never be successful, and therefore, a permanent Government." There is no difference of opinion about this fundamental proposition between the Old and New schools. One fact is that this alien Government has ruined the country. In the

beginning, all of us were taken by surprise, we were almost dazed. We thought that everything that the rulers did was for our good and that this English Government has descended from the clouds to save us from the invasions of Tamerlane and Chengis Khan, and, as they say, not only from foreign invasions but from internecine warfare, or the internal or external invasions, as they call it. We felt happy for a time, but it soon came to light that the peace which was established in this country did this, as Mr. Dadabhai has said in one place - that we were prevented from going at each other's throats, so that a foreigner might go at the throat of us all. Pax Britannica has been established in this country in order that a foreign Government may exploit the country. That this is the effect of this Pax Britannica is being gradually realised in these days. It was an unhappy circumstance that it was not realized sooner. We believed in the benevolent intentions of the Government, but in politics there is no benevolence.

Benevolence is used to sugar-coat the declarations of self-interest and we were in those days deceived by the apparent benevolent intentions under which rampant self-interest was concealed. That was our state then. But soon a change came over us.

English education, growing poverty and better familiarity with our rulers, opened our eyes and our leaders; especially the venerable leader who presided over the recent Congress session was the first to tell us that the drain from the country was ruining it, and if the drain was to continue, there was some great disaster awaiting us.



Bal Gangadhar Tilak

So terribly convinced was he of this that he went over from here to England and spent twenty five years of his life in trying to convince the British people of the injustice that is being done to us. He worked very hard. He had conversations and interviews with Secretaries of State, with Members of Parliament – and with what result?

He has come here at the age of eighty two to tell us that he is bitterly disappointed. Mr. Gokhale, I know, is not disappointed. He is a friend of mine and I believe that this is his

honest conviction. Mr. Gokhale is not disappointed but is ready to wait another eighty years till he is disappointed like Mr. Dadabhai.

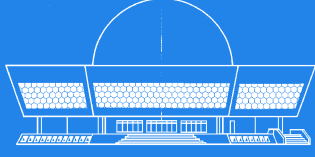
He is young, younger than myself, and I can very well see that disappointment cannot come in a single interview, from interviews which have lasted only a year or so. If Dadabhai is disappointed, what reason is there that Gokhale shall not, after twenty years? It is said that there is a revival of Liberalism, but how long will it last? Next year it might be, they are out of power, and are we to wait till there is another revival of Liberalism, and then again if that goes down and a third revival of Liberalism takes place; and after all what can a liberal Government do? I will quote the observation of the father of the Congress, Mr. A. O. Hume. This was made in 1893. "Let the Government be Liberal or Conservative, rest sure that they will not yield to you willingly anything." A liberal Government means that the Government or the members of the Government are imbued with liberal principles because they want to have the administration of their country conducted on those principles. They are Liberals in England, but I have seen Liberals in England come out to India to get into conservative ways.

... to be contd.

What Nehru said....

In India we find during every period when her civilization bloomed, an intense joy in life and nature, a pleasure in the act of living, the development of art and music and literature and song and dancing and painting and the theatre.

...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

A Brief Review of 'Indian Astronomy: A Source-Book (Based primarily on Sanskrit texts)'

Authors: B. S. Subbarayappa and K. V. Sarma

"In the perspective of human history of over five thousand years, one of the most fascinating intellectual endeavours of man has been devoted to a rational understanding and interpretation of the celestial bodies, their nature and structure, their movements and their relation with his own habitat, the Earth". These are the opening lines in the Foreword penned by Dr Raja Ramanna in the above book. "It is estimated that more than 1,00,000 manuscripts on astronomy are still available in public or private collections, both in India and abroad," notes Ramanna.

Of the 5000 years of accumulated knowledge of astronomy, the knowledge gained over the last 500 years is what can be called a modern understanding of our universe. The 16th-century Polish priest and astronomer Copernicus proposed Heliocentrism i.e. the universe centred at the Sun and brought radical changes in thinking about the nature of the universe. But, of course, that was only possible with highly advanced scientific and mathematical methods developed by the learned men of the bygone era.

In the book's Preface, the authors mention that '... a need for a source-book has been felt ...' by scholars interested in traditional Indian astronomy as well as modern astronomers. After referring to many manuscripts, the authors extracted and have presented about 3000 verses (mainly in Sanskrit) and their translations in English in the book. The book has a long introduction of nearly 8000 words, followed by five major divisions with each division having sub-chapters.

In the Introduction, the authors write that the study of *Jyotisha* (the science of astronomy) was an integral part of Vedic priests who were well-versed in astronomy. They say, "The Vedic life was noted for the performance of several sacrifices at prescribed times." This required observations of the Sun and the Moon. Astronomical knowledge was also needed to find dates for festivals, marriages and agricultural activities.

The first division is 'General Ideas and Concepts' and consists of chapters on Astronomy (गणितज्योतिषम्), Astronomer (गणकः), Cosmogony (विश्वसृष्टिः), Views and Concepts (भावना: सिद्धान्ताश्च), Erroneous Notations (मिथ्याज्ञानम्), Numeration and Measure of Time etc (कलादिमानम्).

In the chapter on Astronomy (गणितज्योतिषम्), the authors quote a verse that says, "The Science of Jyotisha, with three divisions, Siddhanta (theory), Samhita (the main part of the text) and Hora (a division of a day), is the unparalleled and clear eye (vision) of the Veda." In the chapter on Cosmogony, the authors write the Rigvedic Shlok which is translated thus: Then was not non-existent nor existent: there was no realm of air, no sky beyond it.' In the chapter on Views and Concepts, the authors quote from Varahamihira's *Pancha-Siddhantika* and say that he knew that four zodiacal signs (*Vrishiik, Dhanu, Makara* and *Kumbha*) would never be visible from the latitude of 78° and above. By the 5th century, it was known that the globe of the Earth stood without any support (निराधारो महीगोलः) in space. They quote Aryabhata's verse यद्वत् कदम्बपुष्पग्रन्थिः प्रचितः समन्ततः कुसुमैः ... (Just like the bulb of a Kadamba flower is covered around by blossoms, so is the globe of Earth is surrounded by all ...')

Erroneous Notations (मिथ्याज्ञानम्) is a very interesting chapter in the book. It lists about 40 verses in which questions are raised about early scientific concepts. Take for example - Lalla (8th century astronomer) in his *Shishyadhivrddhitantra* ("Treatise which expands the intellect of students") asks, "If the Earth is supported by tortoises and other things, then who supports them in space?" If these can remain in space unsupported then what prevents the Earth from remaining thus unsupported? In the chapter on Numeration and Measure of Time etc (कलादिमानम्) the authors have listed various units like *tithis*, *maas*, lunar year and *yuga* to measure time.

The second and third divisions are devoted to astronomical instrumentations and computations. Under astronomical instrumentation, the authors describe the importance and usage of the armillary spheres. They also list astronomical observatories in India and the instruments used at these observatories.

In the fourth division, Occultation, highly technical details known to the ancient astronomers are discussed. The division contains chapters on Eclipses, Phases of the Moon, Helical Rising of and Setting of Planets and Stars and Conjunction of Stars and Planets.

The chapter on Eclipses consists of mathematical rules in which the authors have quoted a formula given by Bhaskara-1 in *Laghubhaskara* to calculate the length of the earth's shadow. It says, "Multiply the Sun's distance by the diameter of the Earth and divide by the difference between the diameter of the Sun and the Earth." We also find a very interesting verse from *Panchavimsha Brahmana* that describes the details of changes in the colour of the solar disk during the progress of the eclipse.

There are more than 50 verses in the next chapter dealing with the Phases of the Moon.

A *shlok* from Varahamihira's *Pancha-Siddhantika* says, "The Sun always lights up one half of the Moon and the other half is dark by its own shadow." The date of helical rising of and setting of planets and stars (ग्रहास्तोदयः) was given significant importance by ancient astronomers. Important verses to calculate these dates are given in this chapter.

The next two chapters are Conjunction of Planets and Conjunction of Stars and Planets. They deal with calculations and formulae to find the distance between two planets or a planet and a star that are seen close to each other.

The last division Innovative Trends has two chapters: Novel Innovations (नूतना आविष्काराः) and Rationale of Astronomy (गणितयुक्तयः). They are highly technical and describe complex mathematical formulae with drawings and figures.

The Appendices contain 'Table of Indian Eras', a Select Bibliography of Indian Astronomy, a General Bibliography, a Glossary of Technical Terms, Word Numerals, and Sources and Translators.

Anyone who has more than a casual interest in general astronomy or would like to know about the development of astronomy in India before the invention of telescopes should refer to this 'Source Book'.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Prof B.V. Subbarayappa (1925 - 2019) was a chemist turned historian and philosopher of science. He was the elected President (1998-2001) of the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and the first non-westerner to be so elected. He received the Copernicus Medal from the Polish Academy of Sciences (1973). He retired as Executive Secretary of the Indian National Science Academy. He contributed greatly to the history of science in India and his works have been extensively referred to by national and international scholars.

K. V. Sarma (1919–2005) was an Indian historian of science, particularly in astronomy and mathematics, of the Kerala School. He was responsible for bringing to light several achievements of the Kerala School. He was the editor of the Vishveshvaranand Indological Research Series and published the critical edition of several source-works in Sanskrit, including the *Aryabhatiya* of Aryabhata. He was recognised as the greatest authority on Kerala's astronomical tradition.

Culture Wing



संतवाणी

एक भक्तिमय संगीत संध्या

Presentation of some of the favourite bhajans of Gandhiji



To celebrate Gandhi Jayanti, the Culture Wing of the Nehru Centre will present some of Gandhiji's favourite bhajans and other bhakti geet. These will be presented by Prashant Kalundrekar, Mona Kamat and Meghna Kalundrekar. The programme will be compered by Shri Deelip Joshi.

Prashant Kalundrekar received initial education from Pt. Anant Mahajani, Gwalior. He has given playback to Marathi dramas like 'Loka Sange Brahmadnyan', 'Take it easy', 'Nay No Never' and the most recent and popular 'Shivba'.



Meghna Kalundrekar has a degree in classical music from Bombay University under the guidance of Pandit Feroz Dastur. She is a recognized singer on Akashwani and Doordarshan.



Mona Kamat while pursuing music professionally since last twelve years, has sung for some Marathi films and recorded many ad jingles and Marathi serial title songs. She has participated in Saregama season 2009 and a reality show on Star Pravah and is also a regular accompanying singer with Sudesh Bhosle.



Deelip Joshi is a reputed singer and narrator. He has left his mark on various programmes with his erudition and fluency, which he pursues purely as a hobby.



Accompanying Artistes

Shri Vinay Chevulkar
Shri Shirang Parab
Shri Sandip Mayekar
Shri Kunal Patil
Shri Gautam Naik

Keyboard
Harmonium
Tabla
Pakhawaj
Side Rhythm

Wednesday, 2nd October 2024
7.00 p.m.
Nehru Centre Auditorium

Entry: Free Entrance Cards will be available on 27th September 2024 from 10.30 a.m. until availability from the ticket counter of the Nehru Centre Auditorium.

**SUMIT BANERJEE
SHARMISHTHA BANERJEE**



Sumit Banerjee Sharmishta Banerjee

Sumit paints in mix media and Sharmishtha's paintings are on rural themes.

**Tuesday 1 October 2024
to Monday 7 October 2024
(AC Gallery)**

HOSHNNAR KAIKOBAD

Hoshnar has worked with many graphic designers and also had many shows all over India.

**Tuesday 1 October 2024
to Monday 7 October 2024
(Circular Gallery)**

**GROUP SHOW -
ORGANISED
BY REKHA SHIVDASANI**



Rekha Shivdasani



Kavita Garg

25 creative artists from Maharashtra will exhibit their art works in mixed media.

**Tuesday 8 October 2024
to Monday 14 October 2024
(AC Gallery)**

PUNIT KADWANE

Punit has won awards for his paintings in mixed media on canvas.

**Tuesday 8 October 2024
to Monday 14 October 2024
(Circular Gallery)**

**DR. MAHALAXMI
WANKHEDKAR**



Dr. Mahalaxmi is a scientist, artist and writer. Her paintings are mainly on nature and birds in various mediums.

**Tuesday 15 October 2024
to Monday 21 October 2024
(AC Gallery)**

**SHIPRA FINE ART
COLLEGE, UJJAIN**

The students of Shipra Fine Art College will exhibit their art works. Senior artists and teachers will also participate with the students.

**Tuesday 15 October 2024
to Monday 21 October 2024
(Circular Gallery)**

**RANI PRASAD
PRAKASH JADHAV
ANAMIKA
RANJEET VERMA
RAM ONKAR**



Ranjeet Verma



Anamika

This group show will display the use of eco-friendly material in art.

**Tuesday 22 October 2024
to Monday 28 October 2024
(AC Gallery)**

SHIVANI SOLANKI

Shivani specializes in acrylic, oil and water colours which she will display in the show.

**Tuesday 22 October 2024
to Monday 28 October 2024
(Circular Gallery)**

STUDY CAMP WORKS

Works of art created at study camps conducted by the Art Gallery will be on display.

**Tuesday 29 October 2024
to Monday 4 November 2024
(AC Gallery)**

KABEER RAMESH

Kabeer has a certificate in archaeology and also a Masters in Film, T.V. and Media production. He will display his photographs in the show.

**Tuesday 29 October 2024
to Monday 4 November 2024
(Circular Gallery)**

RAMSAR WETLAND SITES IN INDIA

19. Rajasthan

Keoladeo National Park

Keoladeo National Park is fed by several small streams and has no visible outlet. The lake itself has a unique physiography, with sand dunes, rocky outcrops, and shrub-land surrounding its shores. The lake bed is covered with a layer of salt, which is exploited commercially. It is characterized by high evaporation rates, which contribute to its saline nature.

The Keoladeo National Park is home to over 370 species of birds and animals such as the basking python, painted storks, deer, nilgai and more. It is an important wintering ground of migratory waterfowl and is renowned for its large congregation of non-migratory resident breeding birds.

Keoladeo National Park offers opportunities to capture a diverse variety of wildlife. Apart from clicking photographs of the animals and birds in Keoladeo National Park, one can capture its vibrant landscapes.

Renowned Indian ornithologist and naturalist, Salim Ali used his influence to garner government support to create the Keoladeo National Park. It was also known as the breeding ground for the rare and elusive Siberian crane.

Keoladeo National Park was designated as a Ramsar Site on 1 October 1981.

Sambhar Lake

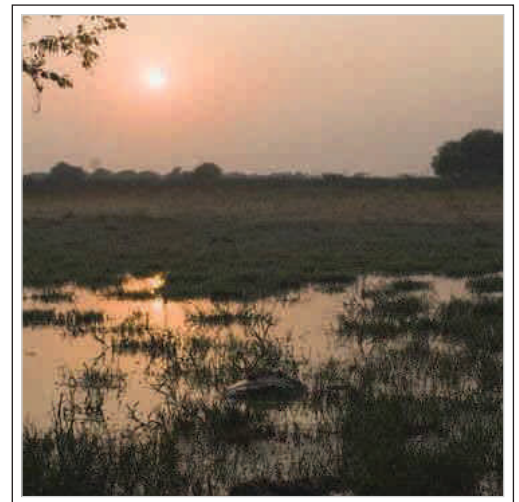
The Sambhar Lake is India's largest saline wetland and a recognized wetland of international importance.

It consists of a large saline lake fed by four streams set in a shallow wetland and subject to seasonal fluctuations. It is surrounded by sand flats and dry thorn scrub and fed by seasonal rivers and streams. The site is important for a variety of wintering waterbirds, including large numbers of flamingos. Human activities consist of salt production and livestock grazing.

The lake is surrounded by several villages and towns that are constantly expanding, leading to encroachment of the lake and a decrease in its surface area. This has affected the natural flow of water in the lake, leading to a decrease in aquatic life.

It attracts tens of thousands of flamingos and other migratory birds from northern Asia and Siberia from November to February. When the monsoon arrives in the month of July, the lake erupts with joy with the chirping cacophony of the avian species, the most common being coots, black-winged stilts, sandpipers and redshanks. In addition, one can also find foxes and blue bulls roaming freely in the 24000-hectare area.

The lake was designated as a Ramsar Site on March 23, 1990.



Sunset in the Keoladeo National Park



Siberian Crane



Aerial view of the Sambhar Lake

**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
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 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.	Song of Draupadi: A novel	Ira Mukhoty
2.	Tilak: The empire's biggest enemy	Vaibhav Purandare
3.	Nimbu Saab: The barefoot Naga Kargil hero	Diksha Dwivedi
4.	Can Poetry Halt War?	Meher Pestonji
5.	The Miracle on Kachhua beach	Nandita da Cunha
6.	Ouch! What's hurting our ocean?	Katie Bagli
7.	565: The dramatic story of unifying India	Mallika Ravikumar
8.	The paper plane flew	Bharti Singh
9.	Of feathers and wings: Exploring birds through sixteen short stories and scientific insights	Katie Bagli & Zarin Virji
10.	Money Masters: Stories to make kids money smart	Janhvi Langde & Kunjal Shah

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

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