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# Nehru Centre



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## NEWSLETTER

### The 1857 Uprising in the History of Freedom Struggle

Prof. Kirti Narain was another panelist to present paper at the seminar organised on the 15th August 2007. Her presentation was on 'Participation of Women in the Uprising of 1857'.

In her opening remarks she observed that 'the participation of women in the upsurge of 1857 is still an area that needs to be explored and researched with gender issues becoming the focal areas of contemporary times, it is imperative that the role of women during the years of upsurge should be identified.'

Prof. Kirti Narain in her presentation referred to the role played both the Indian women and English women. She, however, elaborated at length the participation of famous Indian women patriots.

Referring to Rani of Jhansi she said "Rani of Jhansi stands tall among the leaders of the revolt, a warrior and a patriot who led her army ably. She was brought up by Bajirao II, the last Peshwa. She learnt to ride and to handle weapons and to fight in the old Maratha way, on horse back. Married to Raja Gangadhar Rao of Jhansi in 1842, she became a widow early and was required to be Regent to the

adopted son of Gangadhar Rao, Damodar Rao. When Jhansi was to be annexed under the Doctrine of Lapse and Damodar Rao was not recognized as heir, the Rani petitioned to the British authorities to reverse the decision. She remained aloof from the sepoys initially, but when the revolt broke out in Jhansi and massacre of Europeans took place and she was blamed for it, she jumped in to the fray. She first defeated the invading rulers of Orchha, Pihari and Dalia who tried to take advantage of the confusion of Jhansi and banked upon fighting a mere woman.

Continuing she said "Rao Sahib and Taty Tope, the able generals of Nana Sahib's army, helped the Rani in her fight against the British. When Sir Hugh Rose besieged Jhansi, she did not surrender but escaped on horseback in male attire, with Damodar Rao tied to her back. She escaped to Gwalior but was chased by Hugh Rose, the ablest General that the British had. She died fighting in July 1858 and with her death ended all hopes of the revolt succeeding.

Her proclamation to the people is fiery and full of conviction. She comes across as a person who is staunch in her religious belief and belief in God.

She highlighted the several efforts the British had made to contaminate our creed by forcible remarriage of Hindu widows, abolition of Sati, and the exaltation of those who may embrace Christianity. She furthered Hindu, Muslim unity and entreated them to come together in destroying the English saying 'Let not this

*contd. on page 2*

#### What Nehru said ....

At present it would appear that great countries think that the only reality is force and violence and that fine phrases are merely the apparatus of diplomacy. This is a matter which concerns all of us, whichever quarter of the world we may live in....

Our country is a large one and our population is considerable. But we have no desire to interfere with any other country. We have no hatreds and we have been nurtured under the inspiring guidance of our great leader, Mahatma Gandhi, in the ways of peace. We want to be friends with all the world. We know our failings and seek to overcome them, so that we might be of service to our own people and to the world....

*November 5, 1956*

## At a glance ... Events of Nehru Centre

### Nehru Planetarium

#### VISTAS IN ASTRONOMY

The **fourth** lecture of this series will be delivered by **Prof. Swarna Kanti Ghosh, Infrared Astronomy Group, TIFR, Mumbai** on “**Universe in far-infrared wavelengths**”

**Saturday, 17 November 2007**  
**5 pm**

**Nehru Centre's Hall of Culture,  
Worli, Mumbai 400018.**

### Cultural Wing

#### KHILTA BACHPAN

Theatre for Educational Growth

‘**Ujala Tota Sabz Pari**’  
(Presentation of Children play as a part of Children’s Day Programme)

**20th November 2007, 6:30 pm**  
**Nehru Centre Auditorium**

#### SHAM-E-GHAZAL

A Ghazal recital by Shri Shailendra Bharati is organized.

**21st November 2007, 6:30 pm**  
**Nehru Centre's Hall of Culture  
Discovery of India Building**

### Art Gallery

#### “BAL DISHA”

Nehru Centre Art Gallery organises an Exhibition of Children’s Art Works to celebrate Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru’s Birth Anniversary. This year we are presenting four young artists.

**Tuesday 13th to**  
**19th November 2007**  
**(AC Gallery)**  
**11:00 am to 7:00 pm**

### The 1857 Uprising in the History of Freedom Struggle

*contd. from page 1*

opportunity pass away know O’ people! You will never have such another.

Prof. Narain spoke of another brave lady of the time – Begum Hazrat Mahal of Awadh – who played a significant role in the siege of the Residency at Lucknow, after the defeat of the British forces at Chinhat near Lucknow. Hazrat Mahal was the chief queen of the banished king, Wajid Ali Shah and she was supported by a section of the talukdars of Awadh. In August 1857 her son, Brijis Qadr, was accepted by the citizens and sepoys of Awadh and was enthroned – a feat single handedly achieved by the Begum, considering the intrigues that the court was rife with. She was all powerful and her son got legitimacy by being recognized as ruler of Awadh by Bahadur Shah. In March 1858 after three attempts, the British army under Sir Colin Cambell succeeded in relieving the British men, women and children besieged in the Residency. Till the end Begum was giving fiery exhortations to her troops and maintaining their morale and her own by showing that they were fighting for their king, her son.

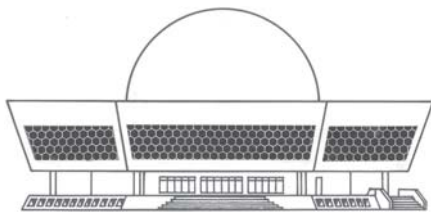
Prof. Narain added “It was only when the situation got out of control that she fled to Nepal with Nana Sahib and others. Her writ still ran in Awadh and she proved to be talented administrator. Her counter proclamation in response to Queen Victoria’s Proclamation in 1858, is worth looking at, as it conveys what the revolt was all about. She reminded the people of Awadh that the British were not to be trusted, and would not keep their word, as they considered Indians inferior beings.... The laws of the company had not been changed, interference with religion and caste

was the root cause of the revolt and this would continue along with suppression of native princess and the people. Hazrat Mahal never did surrender and died in Nepal in 1879....”

‘Rani Chinnamma, the warrior queen of Kittur waged a heroic freedom struggle against the British’ said Prof Narain. The queen received training in archery, sword fighting, horse riding and state craft. After her husband’s death in 1816, Rani Chinnamma took over the reins of the state though the nominal head was Mallasarj’s son, Shivalinga Rudrasarja who was invalid. After his death in September 1824, she continued as Regent of the State on behalf of Shivalingappa the adopted son of Rudrasarja. The British authorities questioned the validity of the adoption of Shivalingappa and ordered his expulsion, which was defied by Rani Chinnamma. The members of the royal family were thereupon kept under watch and humiliated. Exasperated, Rani Chinnamma personally led her forces to resist the alien domination. In a grim battle that ensued, the British army was defeated. Several British soldiers and their families were taken captive but Rani Chinnamma treated them generously.

Chaplin, Commissioner of Deccan again collected a considerable force and attacked Kittur in December 1824 and overpowered the army. Rani Chinnamma was kept a prisoner and died on February 21, 1829. Even in captivity, Rani Chinnamma pined for Kittur’s freedom and tried to organize the forces of neighbouring rulers to carry on the fight. The valour, sacrifice and indomitable spirit displayed by her form a glorious chapter in the nation’s history said Prof Narain.

(To be continued)



## NEHRU PLANETARIUM

NEW SKY SHOW:

### "Stars & Wonders of the Universe"

SHOW TIMINGS:

12:00 noon (Hindi), 1:30 pm Marathi)

3:00 pm (English), 4:30 pm (Hindi)

MONDAY CLOSED

### It is all there in the ray of light!

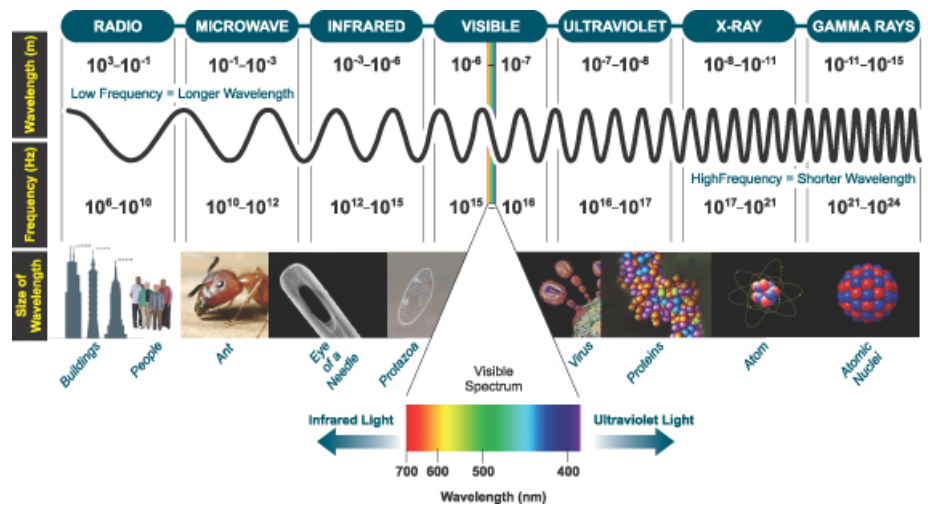
Last month we discussed how cepheids are used as standard candles in finding distances of distant galaxies.

### Expanding Universe

In the year 1929 famous american astronomer Edwin Hubble discovered the following relationship after carefully studying the spectra of galaxies (and redshift therein) for several years.

$$v = H d$$

This is the relationship between the observed velocity ( $v$ ) of a galaxy and its distance ( $d$ ). " $H$ " is a constant of proportionality now called Hubble's constant in honour Edwin Hubble. Its currently acceptable value is 50 km/sec/mega-parsec. Since, most of the galaxies are found to be red-shifted it can be concluded that they are racing away from us and that the Universe is expanding all the time! The further away a galaxy is the faster it is receding from us. Since we have no reason to believe that the Universe has any preferred centre or place we can take this expansion to be uniform all over the Universe.



### Electro-magnetic spectrum and the 'visible' window

Thus, from this relationship, it is possible to deduce the distance of a galaxy if we know its speed of recession (that comes from measuring the red-shift in its spectrum).

**Binary Stars and stellar radii and masses:** Most of the stars in the sky are binary, triplets or multiple systems. Their study allows us to apply law of gravitation to the component stars and infer their masses. When such stars produce eclipses (one star hiding the other – the phenomenon is called occultation) the study of duration of decrement in light leads to estimation of their radii. (a bigger star will produce longer eclipse).

**Space Borne Telescopes:** The visible light is just a small window in the entire electromagnetic spectrum that ranges from Radio at the low energy (long wavelength) end to the other extreme the Gamma Rays (high energy and low wavelength).

Today's astronomers are not just content with peeking through their telescopes (they seldom do that today) in the visible light. The modern approach is studying celestial objects in multiple wavelengths – through all

possible windows – using all possible means at disposal. The earth's atmosphere only allows the visible light to come down – thus astronomy has to release itself from the shackles of gravity and become sky bound. Astronomers use balloons, satellites and space borne telescopes to sample star radiation at all possible wavelengths. It is not just like putting a normal telescope up in the sky. If we wish to record x-ray or ultra violet radiation coming from stars the design of the telescope optics and the detector (the element that records that particular type of radiation) also changes.

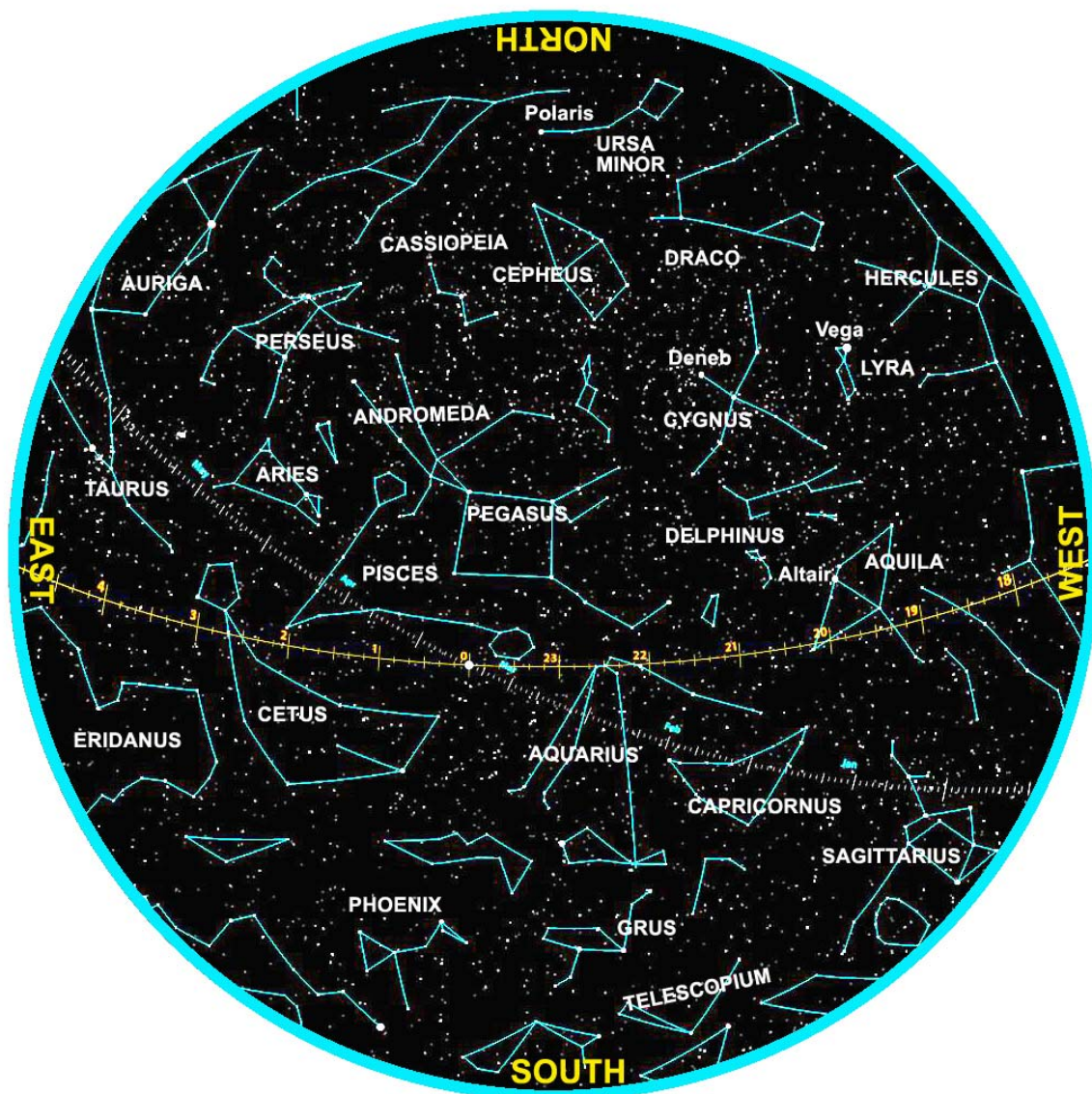
[Concluded]

Piyush Pandey  
Director, Nehru Planetarium

### Lecture series "VISTAS IN ASTRONOMY"

The **fourth** lecture of this series will be delivered by **Prof. Swarna Kanti Ghosh, Infrared Astronomy Group, TIFR, Mumbai** on "Universe in far - infrared wavelengths" on **Saturday, 17 November 2007** at 5 pm at Nehru Centre's Hall of Culture, Worli, Mumbai 400018. All are cordially invited.

## STAR CHART FOR NOVEMBER 2007



Hold the chart vertically before your eyes and turn until the geographical direction you are facing shows at the bottom of the chart. None of the planets are within the chart boundaries at 8 p.m. in the middle of the month. Jupiter sets early in the evening in Ophiuchus. Mars rises in Gemini around 10 p.m. Mercury, Venus and Saturn are in the morning sky in Libra, Virgo and Leo, respectively. The star positions shown in the chart are for early month; 9 p.m., middle month; 8 p.m. and late month; 7 p.m. and the planet positions are for the middle of the month.

<b>Phases of the Moon (timings in IST)</b>			
<b>Last Quarter</b> <i>(Krishna Paksha Asthami)</i>	<b>New Moon</b> <i>(Amavasya)</i>	<b>First Quarter</b> <i>(Shukla Paksha Ashtami)</i>	<b>Full Moon</b> <i>(Poornima)</i>
02 Nov. 02:48 hrs	10 Nov. 04:33 hrs	18 Nov. 04:03 hrs	24 Nov. 20:00 hrs

*Piyush Pandey*  
Director, Nehru Planetarium

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# Cultural Wing

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## KHILTA BACHPAN

Theatre for Educational Growth

### 'Ujala Tota Sabz Pari'

(Presentation of Children play as a part of Children's Day Programme)

A weekend Theatre Development Workshop was organised for the students studying in Class III to VII from 1st week of September with a view to provide them the basic training in the areas of Voice, Diction and Body movements.

The workshop ends with a show presented by the participating students.

**Concept :** L. A. Kazi

**Creation :** Rashi Bunny

**Lyrics :** Abdul Ahad Saaz

**Music :** Uday Mazumdar

**Sets :** Gautam Joshi

**Tuesday, 20th November 2007, 6:30 pm**  
**Nehru Centre Auditorium**

*Entry: Entrance Cards will be available on 17th November 2007 from 10:30 am until availability of entrance cards from Booking Counter of Nehru Centre Auditorium.*

## SHAM-E-GHAZAL

A Ghazal recital by Shri Shailendra Bharati is organized.

**Wednesday, 21st November 2007, 6:30 pm**  
**Nehru Centre's Hall of Culture,**  
**Discovery of India Building**

*Entry is free to all music lovers.*

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## Discovery of India Exposition

The Discovery of India Exposition of the Nehru Centre is organizing a 'Discovery of India Quiz Competition' for School Students of Standards VIII & IX

**Friday, 23rd November 2007**  
**Between 11.00 hrs to 13.00 hrs**

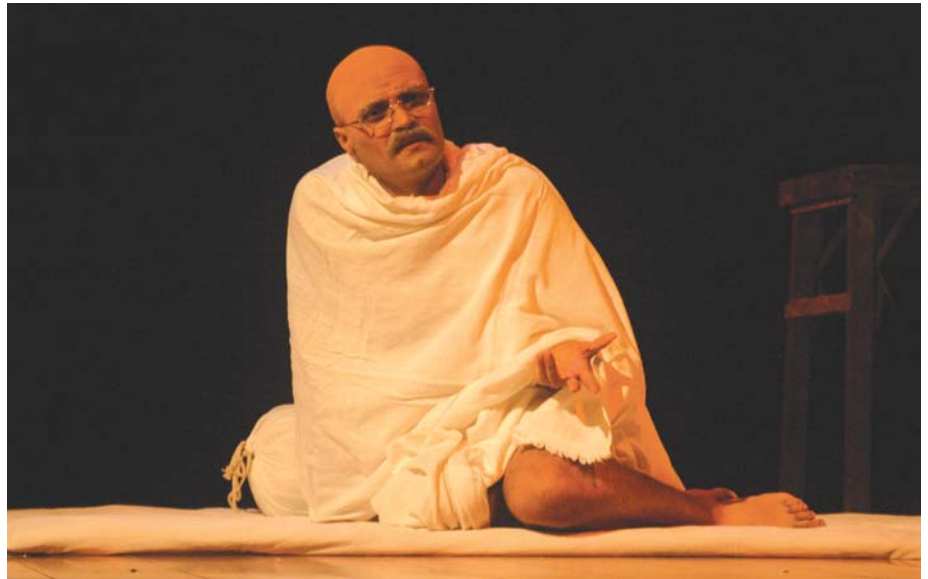
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## Reviews

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### "BAPU".... the exile of the father of the nation



On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, Nehru Centre presented a Hindi Play "BAPU".... the exile of the father of the nation on 1st October 2007.

The role of Gandhi was ably presented by the veteran actor Shyam Kishore before the well attended audience.

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## REPRESENTATION OF 1857



Professor Mariam Dossal, former Head of the Department of History, University of Mumbai inaugurated the exhibition "Representation of 1857" by lighting the traditional lamp on 15th October 2007 at the Nehru Centre.

Nehru Centre in collaboration with Indian Council of Historical Research has put up this exhibition for public viewing from 15th October 2007 to 4th November 2007 between 10:30 am and 5:30 pm.

# The Art Gallery

Open from 11.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. daily

## PROGRAMMES FOR NOVEMBER 2007

### KHETANCHI

**Khetanchi** comes from Rajasthan. His paintings are with traditional beauty. He shows the dresses, ornaments with par excellence. Each canvas is a master piece with graceful figures.

**Tuesday 30th October 2007  
to Monday 5th November 2007  
(AC Gallery)**

### PRAKASH KHARKAR . SHYAM GURAV . DEEPAK PATIL

**Prakash** has secured G. D. Art in Commerical Art. His landscapes are in water colours.

**Shyam** is a self taught artist. He works as spray artist and illustrator. His landscapes are also in water colours.

**Deepak** has a Diploma in Applied Art. He has worked as an Asst. Animator for many animation films.

**Tuesday 30th October 2007  
to Monday 5th November 2007  
(Circular Gallery)**

### BHAVESH ZALA

**Bhavesh** has a Diploma in Painting from Bhavnagar. He has won many prestigious awards. His paintings are figurative in water colour wash on paper.

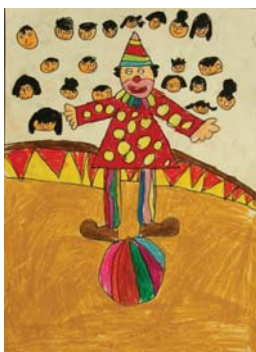
**Tuesday 6th November 2007  
to Monday 12th November 2007  
(AC Gallery)**

### SUHAS CHANDAK

**Suhas** graduated in Applied Art from Abhinav Kala Mahavidyalaya, Pune. His acrylic and mix media paintings are with calligraphy.

**Tuesday 6th November 2007 to  
Monday 12th November 2007  
(Circular Gallery)**

## "BAL DISHA" - CHILDREN'S DAY SPECIAL



Painting by Omkar



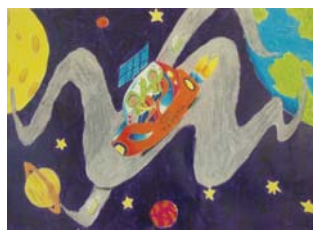
Painting by Jeeya



Painting by Mihir



Woodcut by Eesha



Painting by Eenesh



Painting by Palomi

Nehru Centre Art Gallery organises an Exhibition of Children's Art Works to celebrate Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru's Birth Anniversary. This year we are presenting six young artists.

**Eesha** a student of Rajhans Vidyalaya, Mumbai, started painting at the age of one and half years. She is 11 years old and draws with confidence and paints with ease. She has won as many as 176 prizes in drawing competitions including 21 International prizes.

**Palomi** is a very talented 9 years old child. She is studying in Vidya Valley School in Pune. From the age of two years she has a flair for drawing and painting. She is an allrounder. She paints, dances and also ahead in sports. She has won many awards for her paintings.

**Jeeya** is a 9 years old and a student of Jambabai Narsee School. From the age of 10 months, she has been extremely innovative, confident in her style of strokes. Her artwork is used by CRY for the past 5 years for upliftment of under privileged children. She has won many awards Nationally and Internationally, also the prestigious Shankar's International Silver Medal 2007 which will be given to her by the President of India. Apart from art, she excels in dance, music, elocution and academics.

**Omkar** is 7 years old and is a student of Bombay Scottish School, Mumbai. He paints with pastels and ink pens. Recently he won "Chitra Bhushan" award at the hands of Mayor of Mumbai. Smt. Shubha Raul.

**Eenesh** a 7 years old student of Rajhans Vidyalaya, Mumbai, is the younger brother of Eesha. He has been getting awards for his paintings from his age of 4. So far he has won 91 prizes. He loves animals and draws elephant from any angle. He has been acting in the plays and short films.

**Mihir** is 6 years old and a student of St. Mary's School, Pune. He started painting on his own at the age of 4. His work is appreciated by renowned artists. He paints in pastels and colour pencils.

**Tuesday 13th November 2007 to Monday 19th November 2007 (AC Gallery)**

**K. B. KULKARNI**

**Shri Kulkarni** did Art Master's from Sir J. J. School of Art Mumbai. He was an art Teacher in Vidya Mandir, Arnala for 35 years and retired from there. His paintings are figurative in water colours and poster colours.

**Tuesday 13th November 2007  
to Monday 19th November 2007  
(Circular Gallery)**

**DR. GOPAL NENE. SHRIKANT  
KASHELKAR. UMESH KAWALE**



Painting by Dr. Gopal Nene

**Dr. Nene** is a practicing doctor by profession. He is a self taught artist. He has had many group shows to his credit. His paintings are figurative compositions in Tempera on paper.



Painting by Shrikant Kashelkar

**Shrikant** secured G.D. Art in Commercial Art from Sir J. J. School of Applied Art. His landscapes are in water colours.

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**Umesh** is a self taught artist. His landscapes are in water colours.

**Tuesday 20th November 2007  
to Monday 26th November 2007  
(AC Gallery)**

**KISHOR NARKHADIWALA . AJIT  
PATEL . RANVEER CHAUHAN .  
BHARAT MODI . B. S. PANDYA**

**Kishor** graduated from Gujarat. He had refresher course at Shantiniketan. His paintings are in oils on canvas.

**Ajit** studied painting in Baroda and silk screen printing in Mumbai. His paintings are compositions in oil on canvas.



Painting by Ranveer Chauhan

**Ranveer** secured G. D. Art in painting from Vallabh Vidyanagar, Gujrat. His compositions are in oils on canvas.

**Bharat** had G. D. Art in painting from Ahmedabad. He has studied Fresco painting at Rajasthan. His paintings are in oils on canvas.

**B. S. Pandya** graduated in Applied Art from M.S. University, Baroda. His landscapes are in oils on canvas.

**Tuesday 20th November 2007  
to Monday 26th November 2007  
(Circular Gallery)**

**RUCHIN SONI . NIDHI SONI**

**Ruchin** received B.F.A. and M. F. A. in painting from M.S. University, Baroda. Her paintings are figurative in creative forms in oils on canvas and boards.

**Nidhi** graduated from M.S. University, Baroda in Sculpture. She did Diploma in Post graduation in Ceramics and Glass Design from N.I.D., Ahmedabad. Her paintings are of architectural compositions in mix media on board.

**Tuesday 27th November 2007  
to Monday 3rd December 2007  
(AC Gallery)**

**SANDHYA RAJADHYAKSHA**



Painting by Sandhya Rajadhyaksha

**Sandhya** a law graduate, professionally a teacher secured G.D.A. in Applied Arts from Sir J. J. Institute of Applied Arts, Mumbai. Her collage work in bright, radiant acrylics is noticeable. She also works in oil and water colours.

**Tuesday 27th November 2007  
to Monday 3rd December 2007  
(Circular Gallery)**

**FOR PRIVATE  
CIRCULATION ONLY**

## DISCOVERY OF INDIA EXPOSITION

### NEHRU CENTRE PUBLICATIONS

#### BOOKS

**NEHRU REVISITED**

**INDIAN ASTRONOMY**

A Source Book

**EXPLORING THE UNIVERSE:**

The Planetarium Way

**DISCOVERY OF INDIA**

Abridged and illustrated & VCD Version

**SANSKRUTI**

CD ROM : An Aesthetics of Indian Culture

**SET OF TEN GREETING CARDS**

Based on Discovery of India Exposition

**SET OF FIVE ASSORTED GIFT CARDS**

Designed by Handicapped children

Colourful Catalogue on Master Artists

**RAVINDRA MESTRY**

**B. V. TALIM & H. B. TALIM**

**MILLENNIUM SHOW**

(A Century of Art from Maharashtra)

**D. G. KULKARNI (DIZI)**

**"GURU-SHISHYA"**

BABA GAJBAR & GANPATRAO WADANGKAR

**NARAYAN L. SONAVALDEKAR**

**NAGESH BHIMRAO SABANNAVAR**

**SAMAKALEEN** (Contemporary Five Artists)

**VINAYAK S. MASOJI**

**K. B. KULKARNI**

**Available at:**

Discovery of India Exposition  
Ground floor, NEHRU CENTRE  
Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.

#### TO OUR READERS

Kindly write to us if there is any discrepancy in the address (or name). It is our aim to reach this publication well before the beginning of the month, to ensure that you do not miss any programmes of Nehru Centre.

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## Glimpses

### Know Your India:

#### Mauryan Period

Money first came into use in the janapadas, in the fifth or sixth century BC. The coins we find bear no inscriptions, but have tiny symbols marked on them by a punching process. Silver was melted in crucibles, purified with alkalis, and then beaten into sheets. These sheets were cut into small pieces and stamped. Though not regular in shape like cast coins, their value had to be precise and so the edges would be chipped to adjust the weight (approx. 3.5 gm).

It is thought that these coins may initially have been issued by traders, and that the punch marks testify to periodic checks. Or that the marks on the obverse side were those of the issuing state, and the ones on the reverse were made by the money changers. There are hundreds of symbols, many of which have been identified with specific periods.

Barter, of course, continued in many areas. Even today, barter exists among a number of tribes. And the practice of using cowrie shells in place of money survived till recent times.

During Mauryan rule, the use of punch-marked coins spread to remote corners of the empire. Magadhan coins have been found in large numbers at Takshashila, for example. Gold was known, and used perhaps for jewellery; besides, Herodotus, Greek historian writing in the fifth century BC, says that India paid an annual tribute of 320 talents of gold dust to Darius of Persia. Magadhan gold would have come from the gold mines of Karnataka - and in fact, the headquarters of the southern province are called 'Suvarnanagari' in some of Ashoka's edicts. The first gold coins, however, came from Rome, and were first issued in India by the Kushanas and the Guptas.

In the later Mauryan period, the silver coins were heavily debased with copper, which shows that the economy was under strain. However, the widespread use of coins in Mauryan times paved the way for the rise of a money economy in the Deccan

(To be continued)

Exposition open from 10.30 am to 5 pm - Every Day except Monday