

# Newsletter

Vol. 13 Issue 5 MAY 2012

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**Nehru  
Centre**



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## Events At a Glance...

### Book Discussion

**"Corruption and the Lokpal Bill"**  
written and edited by M. V. Kamath  
and Gayatri Pagdi.

Panelists: Shri D. Sivanandan,  
Ms. Sonavi Desai, Prof. Monica  
Sakhrani and Ms. Gayatri Pagdi.

*Entry: By invitation only*

**18th May 2012, 4:30 pm**  
**Conference Hall, 14th Floor**

### Cultural Wing

#### Kathak Darpan

A Workshop on Kathak Dance  
by Pt. Birju Maharaj

**28th May 2012 to 1st June 2012**  
**Nehru Centre Auditorium**

### Nehru Planetarium

#### Summer Workshops 2012

Nehru Centre, Mumbai is organizing  
workshops for students of standards  
VII & VIII during summer 2012.

**10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.**

Venue:

**Hall of Quest, Nehru Planetarium,  
Worli, Mumbai 400018.**

*For participation and further details  
contact Ms. Manasi Anjarlekar, Nehru  
Planetarium, Dr. Annie Besant Road,  
Worli, Mumbai 400 018, (Tel No.  
24964676-80 Extn: 160 & Fax: No.  
24924133).*

## Constitutionalism, Democracy and Secularism in South Asia

A two-days National Seminar on "Constitutionalism, Democracy and Secularism in South Asia" was organised on February 27-28, 2012. Dr. V. Suryanarayan, Senior Professor and Director (Retd.) Centre for South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Madras presented a paper on Sri Lanka as an expert.

In his introductory remarks he said "A successful and effective political system maintains a harmonious balance between stability and change. Change is the inevitable consequence of human progress and this should take place within the framework of efficient and stable political institutions. If it does not happen, the entire political system crumbles, with new groups crying to gain power through violent means or try to break the existing political structure and carve out a new state."

In analyzing the subject he made two propositions which he considered as yardsticks for the success of multi-ethnic States in South Asia. First, the political system should provide sufficient space for minorities so that they can preserve, promote and foster their identities while being a part of a united country. Second, a federal polity, with entrenched provisions for sharing powers between the Centre and the Provinces, can lead to the softening of secessionist demands and pave the way for eventual political integration.

In support of his propositions he gave two illustrations, one success story and the other a miserable failure, both relating to Tamils. The success story relates to India, where the political system enabled the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), which subscribed to a separate State of Dravida Nadu, to contest the elections, come to power in the State and later share power in the centre as a coalition partner. As a result, the political leaders of the DMK, who not so long ago, used to insult the national flag and burn the Constitution, today swear by the Constitution and unfurl the national flag during the independence day celebrations. Whereas in Sri Lanka, the Tamils, who were a part of a consensual government in the years immediately after independence, parted ways when the Sinhalese leaders started

contd. on page 2

## HOMAGE

Nehru Centre will pay homage to the memory of late **Barrister Rajni Patel**, founder member and former General Secretary of the Centre, on his 30th Death Anniversary on **3rd May 2012**.

All are requested to join.

Time: 11:00 am  
Venue: Ground Floor

building the nation on the basis of Sinhala language and Buddhist religion. The Tamil demands slowly escalated, from a federal set-up to a separate State of Tamil Eelam through armed struggle.

Terming the upheavals in Sri Lanka as 'From Model Colony to Killing Fields', he observed that Sri Lanka is a fascinating laboratory for studying the dynamics of inter-ethnic relations. From a South Asian perspective, it is interesting to note that in the era of decolonization, Ceylon was generally referred to as a "model colony". The transition to independence was smooth; there was no prolonged and bitter anti-colonial struggle as in the case of India, Indonesia and Vietnam. On the eve of independence, it was relatively a peaceful country, compared to the orgy of violence which accompanied the birth of its northern neighbours, India and Pakistan. D.S. Senanayake, the first Prime Minister, was not only the leader of the majority Sinhalese community, he had also the tacit support of other minority groups. Most commentators felt that the newborn State would be politically stable and that the major ethnic groups would be integrated into one nation. The State was also committed to the ideals of democracy and promotion of social justice through welfare programmes.

Six decades later, however, the political system underwent a fundamental transformation. The common links and aspirations which united the elite among the Sinhalese and the Tamils disappeared; and Sri Lanka degenerated into one of the most notorious "killing fields" of the world. In a message to the Nation, on the fiftieth anniversary of Sri Lankan independence, President Chandrika Kumaratunga underlined the failure of political leadership in building a united nation when she said:

"We have failed to forge together the diverse communities of our peoples into one coherent and strong Sri Lankan nation. We have faltered along fifty years, permitting the

differences to Emerge and dominate our social fabric, rather than nurture the commonalities".

Elaborating the subsequent drastic changes in the country's political and social situations Dr. Suryanarayan observed that "Two important strands in the Sri Lankan scene should be highlighted. During the 1950's and 1960's, Sri Lanka was undoubtedly the most vibrant democracy in Asia. The governments changed at regular intervals through free and fair elections. All the essentials of a dynamic democracy - free press, independence of the judiciary, rule of law, free and fair polls, strong trade unions and active students unions - were in evidence. Today all these welcome features have become, a relic of the past. Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike promulgated an emergency, following the outbreak of the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna Revolt in 1971, which continued upto 1977. Northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka had been under a state of emergency until very recently. The Constitutions have been tampered with and democratic institutions have been subverted. Political assassinations became common, and the militant groups, especially the

Tigers, were armed to the teeth and perfected the cult of the bomb and the bullet and also the cyanide cult. Unlike India, where the Election Commission, is a constitutionally independent body, in Sri Lanka the election commissioner works under the dictates of the President. The two year term imposed on the President under the 1978 Constitution has been done away with and the President can stand for election any number of times. A family clique consisting of President Mahindra Rajapaksa, Basil Rajapaksa and Gotabaya Rajapaksa have concentrated all powers in their hands. The comments made by Dayananda Dissanayake, the Election Commissioner, soon after the 2010 Presidential election is worth quoting. A day after the election, Dissanayake sought the approval of the Government to resign. He observed that Government institutions have been misused and the media violated the guidelines. Dissanayake added, "I request to be released and I cannot bear this any more". The Report of the Commonwealth observers Team noted in its concluding remarks that overall the 2010 Presidential election did not fully meet the benchmarks for democratic elections.

to be contd....

### What Nehru said....

(During the inauguration of the Tagore Centenary celebrations, Shantiniketan, May 9, 1961)

It is proper that we should celebrate this occasion not merely with the pomps and ceremony of celebrations elsewhere but in a way peculiar to this institution. The teachers, the students and the scholars who are privileged to be associated with this institution have to try to live up to the message and to the ideals which Gurudeva placed before all of us. These ideals are not meant for a particular institution. They are meant for the whole of India and, in a measure, for the whole world. The Visva-Bharati is closely connected with those objectives and ideals, and it is proper that you should observe this day in a mood of rejoicing certainly, but also in a mood of introspection and with a degree of searching of the heart as to how far you have lived up to those ideals.

I have a fear that in this year of Gurudeva's birth centenary his message and ideals might be swept away in the flood of words and eloquence and that we may imagine that we have done our duty by him. That is a dangerous delusion which comes over us often. I should like you specially here at Shantiniketan and he Visva-Bharati to remember that the test of your homage is not what you may say about him but the way you live, the way you grow, and the way you act up to his message.

(This year is the 150th year of Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary)



## SKY SHOWS: Shows & Timings

"Stars of the Pharaohs"	-	12 noon (Hindi)
"Awesome Universe"	-	1:30 pm (Marathi)
"Awesome Universe"	-	3:00 pm (English)
"Awesome Universe"	-	4:30 pm (Hindi)

MONDAY CLOSED

## Special lecture on Cosmology

Prof David Wands, Professor of Cosmology, Director of Institute of Cosmology and Gravitation, University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom recently delivered a lecture on "The Origin of Cosmic Structure." Following are some excerpts from his talk.

He said to understand the structure of the Universe, we need to build up a map of the universe. The one survey we have been involved in is "The Sloan digital sky survey". It has mapped 3 dimensional positions of almost million galaxies. The way we work that out is, by using Doppler Shift of light from galaxies and it is an indicator of its 3 dimensional position. And this is possible due to Hubble's law; that is, speed is proportional to the distance. People realized, this fitted in exactly with the cosmological model based on General Relativity. Which gives us a model for, how the rate at which the space expands, is determined by physical property like the energy density of the matter in the universe?

The Friedmann equation, that tells about the expansion rate and how it changes with time, due to the finite speed of light. As we look further out in distance, we are also looking further back in time. So we can follow back to the time of the Big Bang itself. And look at, how the universe expanded and the temperature then, etc.

Can one see the edge of the universe? And at that edge of the universe there exist Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation. And this was discovered in 1960's in New Jersey by Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson, they were not looking at it but they found a faint radiation in all directions. And they realized it could indeed be thermal relic radiation, from the hot Big Bang, this could be the edge of the universe. Today it is about 3 degree above absolute zero.

There is a problem in understanding the structure of the universe by using current standard model because, we have lot more expansion history. And if you allow much more expansion then you need an accelerated expansion, that's what we call inflation. Inflation is at very high energy in the very early universe.



Prof. David Wands during his lecture

These ideas were proposed by Alan Guth and Alexi Starabinski in the early 1980's and they proposed models with very exotic kinds of matter. Matter with negative pressure, in fact that is the key requirement some kind of pressure which doesn't exert pressure outwards, but has a sort of tension, of a negative pressure in the early universe, and that could give a very accelerating universe.

He stated, I am more interested in the idea of inflation that we can test. The outer structure that we can see of the universe. So models which we make should be testable through their observation. And such test indeed does provide good evidence but something like inflation did happen in the early universe.

So, the basic picture of Big Bang or expanding universe has a solid evidence, that happened about 14 billion year ago. But there is plenty of ideas which goes beyond that.

What happened in the very early universe before the first second? Where did the structure of the universe come from, does it really emerges from quantum fluctuations? Do we really have a period of inflation in the early universe? We are trying to test these ideas about high-energy physics with these astronomical surveys and even beyond that, people are ready to speculate, what happens beyond the observable universe.

# STAR CHART FOR MAY 2012

Use the Chart:

Early month: 10 p.m.  
 Middle month: 9 p.m.  
 Late month: 8 p.m.

**Mercury** (Budha) being too close to the Sun is not visible this month. It moves from Pisces, the Fishes (Meean) to Aries, the Ram (Mesha) 12th and Taurus, the Bull (Vrishubh) on 22nd of May.

**Venus** (Shukra) is still fairly high above the western horizon in the beginning of the month. After about mid-May it will be getting closer to the horizon. It is coming close to the earth and thus its angular size is also increasing. Using a simple telescope you can make out beautiful crescent phase of Venus. All through the month too Venus remains in Taurus Bull (Vrushabh).

**Mars** (Mangal) is almost over head soon after it gets dark. On the 1st of May the Moon passes barely within 8 degrees north of it and then again on 29th of May. It remains in Leo, the Lion (Simha). Jupiter (Guru or Bruhaspati) remains in Aries, the Ram (Mesha) all through this month. It is not visible in the sky as it is too close to the sun

**Saturn** (Shani) remains in Virgo, the Virgin (Kanya) this month too. It is now half way between the horizon and zenith the point directly overhead about one hour after the sunset. It continues to move towards Spica (Chitra). It is just within 5 degrees from Spica on May 16.

*(Disclaimer: The Indian names of the stars and planet, given in parenthesis for the purpose to remind the reader that India has a rich astronomical tradition. We do not subscribe to astrology.)*

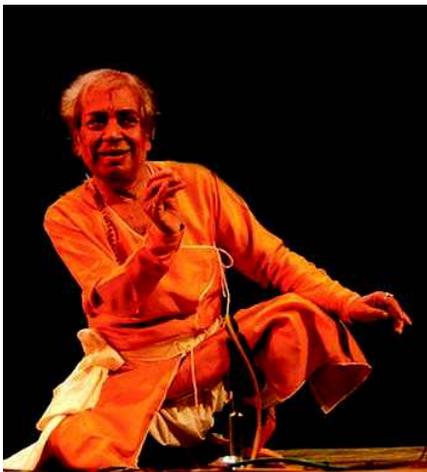


The map shows slightly more sky than that will be visible from a given location. Thus the map can be used elsewhere in India at 21:00 hrs Indian Time. Hold the chart vertically before your eye and turn it until the geographical direction you are facing shows at the bottom of the chart.

Phases of the Moon (timings in IST hh:mm)			
Full Moon (Poornima)	Last Quarter (Krishna Paksha Ashtami)	New Moon (Amavasya)	First Quarter (Shukla Paksha Ashtami)
06 May, 09:05	13 May, 03:17	21 May, 05:17	29 May, 01:64

## Kathak Darpan

### An Encounter with Pandit Birju Maharaj



Pandit Birju Maharaj

The annual SUMMER CAMP for the students of Kathak Dance will be organized from **28th May 2012 to 1st June 2012** between **10.00 am to 7.00 pm**.

Pandit Birju Maharaj is one of the greatest maestros, who can communicate to the students even the most intricate things in simple words giving examples from their own environment.

Admission forms are available from the office of the Cultural Wing, Nehru Centre.

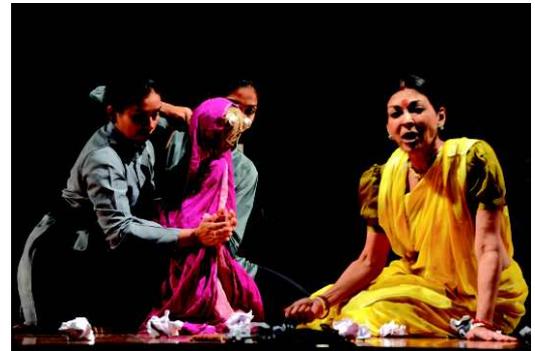
**28th May to 1st June 2012**  
**10.00 am to 7.00 pm**  
**Nehru Centre Auditorium**

*Entry: For the students of Kathak Dance*

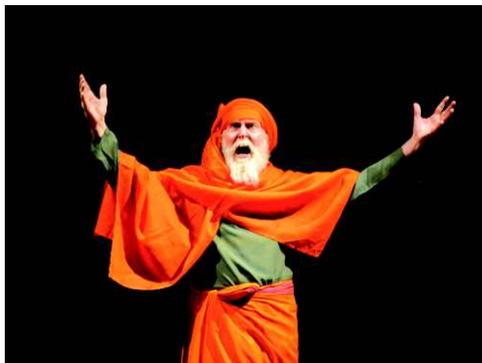
## Review : Tagorenama



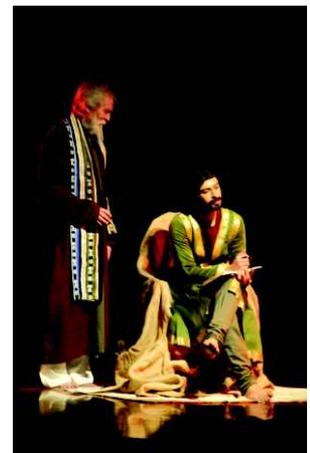
A scene from 'Ritu Chakra'



A scene from 'Street of Voices'



A scene from 'With Love'



A scene from 'With Love'

### Tagorenama

(Remembrances of noble laureate, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore)

A Three Days Festival of "TAGORENAMA" (Remembrances of noble laureate, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore) devised by Darpana Academy of Performing Arts, was presented from 15th to 17th March 2012.

*Ritu Chakra* - Australian Dancer Choreographer Liz Lead and Revanta Sarabhai created a full evening of dance to Tagore's cycle of seasons reinterpreted in contemporary fashion by composer Shashank Acharya & Sandeep Pillai on 15th March 2012.

*Street of Voices* - Scottish Puppetry Theatre Director Symon Macintyre created a production inspired by the short stories of Tagore using Puppets, Dances, Actors and Film with original music by Sandeep Pillai and performed by Mallika Sarabhai and the Darpana Artists on 16th March 2012.

*With Love* - Mallika Sarabhai and Australian Director Steve Mayer created Tagore as he Paints, Ponders and Battles personal demons. With Tom Alter and Revanta Sarabhai as Tagore and Mallika Sarabhai as Victoria Ocampo on 17th March 2012.

The festival was well attended by the theatre lovers.

## PROGRAMMES FOR MAY 2012

### RAGINI SINKAR

**Ragini** completed B.F.A. in Painting and A.T.D. from Sir J. J. School of Art, Mumbai. She has many shows to her credit. Her landscapes are in water colours.

**Tuesday 1st May to  
Monday 7th May 2012  
( AC Gallery )**

### SUNITA TAWADE

**Sunita** has Government Diploma in Painting from L. S. Raheja School of Art, A.T.D. and Dip.Ed. from Sir J. J. School of Art, Mumbai. Her compositions are in acrylic on canvas.

**Tuesday 1st May to  
Monday 7th May 2012  
( Circular Gallery )**

### NARAYAN SHELKE

**Narayan** secured G.D.A., Dip.Ed. and A.T.D. in Painting from Nashik. He has participated in many shows. His landscapes are in oil on canvas.

**Tuesday 8th May to  
Monday 14th May 2012  
( AC Gallery )**

### 'STUDY CAMP' COLLECTION OF THE GALLERY

Nehru Centre Art Gallery since last twenty years take the Study Camp for students of Art Colleges every year to various places. The students and the Expert Guide work on locations during the camp. The works produced there are being exhibited in the Gallery.

**Tuesday 8th May to  
Monday 14th May 2012  
( Circular Gallery )**

### KIRAN SONI GUPTA

**Kiran Soni Gupta** is an artist, writer and an active administrator. She is an IAS Officer presented posted in Rajasthan. She is a self taught artist and exhibited her works in major cities in India as well as in U.S.A. She is an achiever of many prestigious awards in art. She received Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University and Masters in Public Policy from Maxwell School, Syracuse.

**Tuesday 15th May to  
Monday 21st May 2012  
( AC Gallery )**

### G. MANOHAR RAJA

**G. Manohar Raja** graduated with B.Sc. in Visual Communication from College of Art & Craft, Chennai. He has exhibited in many galleries in India. His landscapes are in oil on canvas.

**Tuesday 15th May to  
Monday 21st May 2012  
( Circular Gallery )**

### PARAMESH PAUL

**Paramesh** received Diploma in Art from Bangiya Sangeet Parishad affiliated to Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata. He has many shows to his credit. His landscapes on ghats are in oils on canvas.

**Tuesday 22nd May to  
Monday 28th May 2012  
( AC Gallery )**

### VIJAY CHOKAKKAR

**Vijay** secured G.D.A. in Commercial Art from Kalaniketan Mahavidyalaya, Kolhapur. His realistic figurative and Still Life

paintings are in oils and water colours.

**Tuesday 22nd May to  
Monday 28th May 2012  
( Circular Gallery )**

### KANIKA MUKERJEE

**Kanika** has B.F.A. degree in Painting from College of Art, New Delhi. Her at works are landscapes in Cotton with Fabric as media on canvas. Her beautiful collages are reminiscent of tapestries of old. The effect of light and shade are shown through varied cloths in her paintings.

**Tuesday 29th May to  
Monday 4th June 2012  
( AC Gallery )**

### NAVIN NAKAR

**Shri Nakar** is a self taught artist. He specializes in Gold leafing and portraits. He has many shows to his credit. His works are metal embossing and siporex murals.

**Tuesday 29th May to  
Monday 4th June 2012  
( Circular Gallery )**

## Dear Subscribers

You are requested to renew your subscription for the year 2012-2013 if not already done, so that the Newsletter can be sent to you without any break.

Thanks to the subscribers for their continued co-operation and interest in the Nehru Centre activities.

The Art Fusion Show 2012 was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Smt. Prafulla Dahanukar on 17th April 2012. A catalogue was also released on the occasion. Present on the occasion were Shri R. D. Pradhan, Vice Chairman, Shri I. M. Kadri, General Secretary and Smt. Bakul Patel, Jt. Secretary, of Nehru Centre. Many artists from Odisha also attended the inauguration function including Dr. Durga Prasad Das, President and Shri Rabi Narayan Rath, Secretary, Lalit Kala Akademi, Odisha.

The exhibition was on view for art lovers from **18th April to 24th April 2012**. Response to the exhibition was excellent from the art lovers.

# ART

## Fusion Show 2012 Maharashtra & Odisha



Chief Guest Smt. Prafulla Dahanukar releasing the catalogue of Art Fusion Show 2012. Also seen are Shri R. D. Pradhan, Vice Chairman, Nehru Centre and Dr. Durga Prasad Das, President, Lalit Kala Akademi, Odisha



Chief Guest Smt. Prafulla Dahanukar lighting the traditional lamp on the occasion of the inauguration of Art Fusion Show 2012. Also seen in the picture are Shri R. D. Pradhan, Vice Chairman; Smt. Bakul Patel, Jt. Secretary, Nehru Centre; Dr. Durga Prasad Das, President, Lalit Kala Akademi, Odisha and Smt. Saryu Doshi



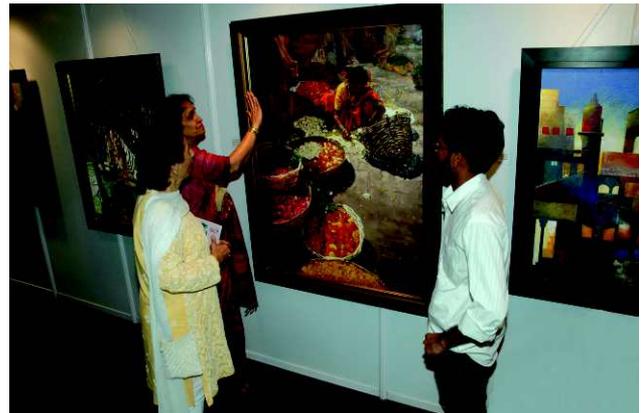
Chief Guest Smt. Prafulla Dahanukar opening the exhibition - Art Fusion Show 2012.



Chief Guest Smt. Prafulla Dahanukar and Shri Arup Patnaik, Commissioner of Police, Mumbai admiring the painting



Art lovers at the Art Fusion Show 2012 exhibition



Chief Guest Smt. Prafulla Dahanukar and Smt. Bakul Patel, Jt. Secretary, Nehru Centre admiring the painting.

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7. VINAYAK S. MASOJI

8. SAMAKALEEN

(Contemporary Five Artists)

VINAYAKRAO WAGH

RAJARAM PANVALKAR

KRISHNAJI KETKAR

DATTAJIRAO DALVI

GOVIND MALADKAR

9. NAGESH B. SABANAVAR

10. NARAYAN L. SONAVADEKAR

11. "GURU-SHISHYA"

BABA GAJBAR &amp;

GANPATRAO WADANGEKAR

12. D. G. KULKARNI (DIZI)

13. MILLENNIUM SHOW

(A Century of Art from Maharashtra)

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## DISCOVERY OF INDIA EXPOSITION

## Glimpses

## Know Your India:

## IMPACT OF THE WEST: RULE BRITANNIA

Since the Raj had no wish to be a welfare stae, it confined its functions to the collection of revenue, the maintenance of law and order and the building of such public works as could profitably recover the costs of construction. Unfettered for the most part of any autonomous legislative body, the administrators of India, from the Viceroy to the Collector , were authoritarian executives limited only by the legal codes of their own making. Concessions to the democratic ideal, such as self-governing municipal corporations or legislative reforms, were grudgingly made only to be systematically subverted by bureaucrats. Paternalists like John Lawrence were keen to play the benevolent ma-baap role, but they did not want their children to grow up!

The Collector was the rock on which the Raj was built. The model of the heroic District Officer emerged as soon as the grant of the Diwan in 1765, gave the Company direct administrative responsibilities.

The Collector toured his districts, held durbars and rules upon everything from communal riots to domestic quarrels. The institutions of the district were built around his routines. The bungalow made him properly remote, the club provided him with a semblance of western society, the Circuit House eased the rigours of his tours.

The mystique of the district officer was based on the presumption that he was European. The Raj proved hugely reluctant about letting Indians in . It seemed absurd that the white man's burden should be shouldered by a native of some other colour. As late as 1947, most district officers in British India were white. After independence, the bureaucracy was subordinated to the authority of representative government, but the institution of the district officer endured. Its mystique was not diminished by the Indianization of the civil services - if anything, it was enhanced. He was still a sahib - but being India, he was a matrimonial prize as well.

For ordinary Indians, the Raj meant the police in the local thana. The authority of the colonial state was based on its ability to maintain law and order. For example, before 1857, the East India Company was as proud of its suppression of Thuggee (the robbery and strangling of wayfarers), as it was of the building of the Punjab canals.

to be contd....

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

## 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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