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Nehru Centre



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NEWSLETTER

"Indian Paradox: Why Democracy and Mass Poverty Co-exist"

New India Foundation lecture by Prof. Yogendra Yadav of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi on "Indian Paradox: Why Democracy and Mass Poverty co-exist" was organised on March 16, 2007.

In his opening remarks Shri Yadav observed that 'Poverty is a real issue in this country that supplies the largest number of poor in the world. Poverty is not a question only of economics but is deeply a political question because poverty is the outcome of a socio-economic structure whose presence or absence is politically determined and which also can be altered by power relations in a society.'

Continuing he said that co-existence of democracy and mass poverty is paradoxical. It is surprising. Democracy in a minimal sense is where elections are held regularly and are competitive. Whoever wins the election get to exercise real effective political power and makes the most crucial decisions in the society. India is a functioning democracy which is faulty and far from perfect. Even in this minimal definition norms have been broken.

Poverty is evident in our lives said Prof. Yadav. 60 to 70 percent of our population in realistic measure lives below poverty line. A majority of the population in this country is therefore poor.



Photograph : C. M. Karambelkar

Prof. Yogendra Yadav

Analyzing his concept of 'paradox', Prof. Yadav said that Democracy is the rule of the majority. One of the reasons why the ruling classes, throughout political history, always dreaded majority was that democracy is the rule of the majority – the poor. Democracy comes in a society where the poor are in majority. Democracy works in a minimal functional way. In a sense whoever people vote for does get elected. Yet the poor do not control that democracy. That democracy functions in a way which does not deliver even the minimum to the poor.

Political parties pick up the issue of poverty to win elections. As the majority is poor, whoever offers the most attractive promises for poverty is expected to win elections. As political

parties are expected to want to come back to power, they are expected to fulfill the promises at least in a minimal way. All these are not moral expectations. These are simply expectations that come from a logic of free and open competition. This is in a society which has poor as majority as in India. How do we keep them out of decision making in an open politics is the issue today. This is the 'paradox'.

contd. on page 2

What Nehru said

The country is committed to a socialist pattern of society. To bring about this change, we have to do many things in many spheres of activity. But the essential thing is to make freedom secure and broad-based, to bring the people in close association and partnership with the apparatus of administration and, more especially, with the working out of our Five-Year Plans. We talk of the people's plan and we talk of the people's Community Projects. That is the essence of our approach to this question. No great change can be brought merely by governmental functioning, although that is important, and we aim at great changes.

Therefore, it is necessary that these community schemes should be based on the intimate co-operation of the people....

May 9, 1955

At a glance ... Events of Nehru Centre

Cultural Wing

MUSIC APPRECIATION

Lecture-Demonstration on Hindustani Music by **Dr. Veena Sahasrabudhe**

**5th May 2007, 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm
& 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm
Hall of Harmony**

KATHAKDARPAN

A Workshop on Kathak Dance by **Pt. Birju Maharaj**

**21st-25th May 2007,
10.00 am to 7.00 pm
Nehru Centre Auditorium**

Lecture

Lecture on "**Water Management**" by **Shri Suresh Prabhu, MP**

**19th May 2007, 5.30 pm
Hall of Harmony**

"Indian Paradox: Why Democracy and Mass Poverty Co-exist"

contd. from page 1

Elaborating, Prof. Yadav observed that in India there are three other reasons why one would have expected democracy to do something about poverty in a direct way.

First we have a good Constitutional design. There are very few veto points where a popular Bill can be prevented. In this Constitutional design, if the majority wants something it will happen.

Secondly not only are the poor in majority in our country, they actually participate in politics.... India is the only country where the chances that a poor person will participate in politics are higher than that of a rich person.

Thirdly there is a high turnover in governance in the last 15 years. The poor exercise their vote with considerable effect.

Explaining the reasons as to why this happens. Prof. Yadav stated that there are two kinds of orientations to democracy. On the one hand is the belief that democracy will solve all problems. There is also the other extreme opinion that democracy is most ineffective. Need is to operate somewhere in between. There are three mechanisms (sites) at work viz: Media, Elections and Governance. At each of these sites, a certain slippage takes place and this takes the voice of the majority away from decision making.

On the role of 'Media' he contended that the Indian media is involved in systematic masking of the chronic and structural aspects of poverty. When something visible takes place then only poverty is in the news.

On the elections also he expressed the view that what is happening in elections is somewhat similar to what is happening in the media. Electoral competition is becoming more intense. It is becoming less and less meaningful. The prevalence of volatility in democratic politics forces

a politics of short term horizons. Poverty does not become an issue because caste and community have taken over because of which, the politics of the poor gets fragmented.

On Governance, Prof. Yadav expressed his view that though in a democracy the government is suspected to be controlled by the rich, the chances of the poor benefiting become high when political parties intervene as they are much more in tune with the threat of poverty. But we have very weak civil society organizations which can hold political parties and rulers accountable. This is one of the most severe problems in our democracy which hurts the poor the most.

Prof. Yadav concluded his speech with the observations that 'Democracy provides the space to be able to utilize existing resources in an effective manner for the poor. But it does not provide the guarantee that this will happen. Certain mechanisms have to be put in order and every single defect has to be corrected.'

Vacation Workshops 2007

Nehru Centre, Mumbai is organizing following Workshops for Secondary School Students in May 2007

The Joy of Experimentation by Mr. V. G. Gambhir, Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, TIFR, Mankhurd, Mumbai.

For Students of Standards VII & VIII
Thursday, 10 May 2007, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

Introduction to Origami by Mr. Ratnakar Mahajan, Mumbai

For Students of Standards VI & VII
Friday, 11 May 2007, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

Introduction to Vedic Mathematics by Mr. Atul Gupta, Software Consultant based in Mumbai.

For Students of Standards VIII & IX
Saturday, 12 May 2007, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

The Science Experimentation by Mr. Rajiv Vartak, Institute for School Science Education, Mumbai.

For Students of Standards VII & VIII
Tuesday, 15 May 2007, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

Venue: Hall of Quest, Nehru Planetarium, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.

For further details contact Mr. Suhas B. Naik-Satam, Coordinator, Nehru Planetarium on Tel: 24964676-80



**NEW SKY SHOW:
"AWESOME UNIVERSE"**

**SHOW TIMINGS:
12:00 noon (Hindi), 1:30 pm Marathi)
3:00 pm (English), 4:30 pm (Hindi)
MONDAY CLOSED**

Prof. William Saslaw, Department of Astronomy, University of Virginia, USA gave a special Astronomy Lecture at Nehru Centre on Saturday, 23 December 2006. He spoke on "How Gravity Distributes The Galaxies". We bring you some excerpts from this lecture.

In 1920's the astronomers did not actually know what the galaxies were. It was in late 1920's when Hubble who is regarded as one of the great astronomical observers of that time, discovered a clear way to measure the distances to the smudges of life by the luminosity of variable stars. He found they were definitely out side the milky way and at that point the science of extra galactic astronomy was born. So looking at these galaxies provides us the history of the universe. When you look at the distribution of galaxies which is over the whole sky, you will notices the it will not be homogenous, there are regions of great density and there are regions of few galaxies.

We use the statistics to describe the particular way in which the galaxies are clumped and clustered. Its very simple you divide the sky or space in 3 dimension. The sky in 2 dimension and space in 3 dimension. And divide it into little cells and if one simply counts the number of galaxies in each of these little cells, one will find some cells will have none some cells will have 10, some will have 100 galaxy. And simply add up the total number of cells which has a given



Prof. William Saslaw

number of galaxies 0, 1, 10, 100 and you get a histogram which plot the number of cells which has the given number of galaxies in them. And it's a very powerful statistics, so if the galaxies were distributed uniformly throughout the space and if there were fluctuation, all cells would have had the same number of galaxies and so the histograms will just be a flat line and that will be the uniform distribution of galaxy. But what we see is non uniform distribution of galaxies and which is not a flat line. There is a new survey called the 2MASS survey, it doesn't look in the optical, but it looks at the infrared radiation coming form the galaxies. Besides optical or visible radiation the galaxies also radiate in other frequencies like radio, ultraviolet, X-ray and Gamma ray. One can look at these and form the same statistic, count the number of cells which has a given number of galaxy, and because it's inhomogeneous its goes too far form a flat straight line distribution. And our challenge is to know why is this particular variation and this particular form of distribution exists.

There are two things that go into the explanation, the galaxies were formed early in the universe and might have had a uniform distribution or they might already have had clumping and clustering remaining form perturbation of matter in the early universe. The effect of gravity is to draw matter together, and we will have to ask the question - can gravity

alone form this very specific distribution. One can also simulate and measure the motion of these galaxies, but in speaking about the theory it would be to difficult to actually get analytically, theoretically, all of these equation in motion, computers can do it but we cannot. The expanding universe consists of large number of particles and each particle represents entire galaxy and so by applying the laws of thermodynamics that is the conservation of energy, the main constituents of theory, and by applying some properties of gravity we can derive the fluctuation that can occur in the system of expanding galaxies and those fluctuations are ones that we observe in the sky. In the last few years we have been able to look into more microscopic theory called statistical mechanics, which is more rigorous than the thermodynamics and can be generalized to include, for example the dark matter, halo around the galaxy which alter the gravitational interaction of the individual galaxies with each other.

So by combining statistical mechanics and thermodynamics for gravitating system we can discover what the distribution should be. So this gives us some confidence that the theory of gravitational clustering without putting in any special initial condition. It describes the observed distribution of galaxies that we see. This theory is relatively general and powerful and this gives us confidence that gravity is the primary force behind the clustering of galaxies, whatever the initial state that they started off with.

So gravity plays role at every level and now the connection arises, if the universe is expanding that makes it harder to cluster the galaxies. This is where things stand at the moment. But the time will tell whether this is the correct interpretation or not. This gives us an idea what the issues are at the level of the research frontier of gravitational understanding of the universe and some of its problem.

STAR CHART FOR MAY 2007



Hold the chart vertically before your eyes and turn until the geographical direction you are facing shows at the bottom of the chart. Four planets, Mercury, Venus, Saturn and Jupiter (rising) are in the evening sky in Taurus, Gemini, Leo and Scorpius, respectively, within the chart boundaries at 8 p.m. in the middle of the month. Mars is in the morning sky in Pisces. 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.

Phases of the Moon (timings in IST)			
Full Moon <i>(Poornima)</i>	Last Quarter <i>(Krishna Paksha Ashtami)</i>	New Moon <i>(Amavasya)</i>	First Quarter <i>(Shukla Paksha Ashtami)</i>
02 May 15:39 hrs	10 May 09:57 hrs	17 May 00:57 hrs	24 May 02:33 hrs

Piyush Pandey
Director, Nehru Planetarium

Cultural Wing

The following **SUMMER WORKSHOPS** for the students of Music and Dance will be organised.

MUSIC APPRECIATION

Lecture-Demonstration on Hindustani Music by **Dr. Veena Sahasrabudde**

**5th May 2007, 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm
& 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm
Hall of Harmony**

KATHAKDARPAN

A Workshop on Kathak Dance by **Pt. Birju Maharaj**

**21st-25th May 2007,
10.00 am to 7.00 pm
Nehru Centre Auditorium**

Review : Sanskriti

Nehru Centre had organised a programme "SANSKRITI" (Presentation of various traditional, classical and modern dance forms) on 12th April 2007 at 6.30 pm at Nehru Centre Auditorium.



Deepak Majumdar



A scene from 'Sanskriti'



Performance of Dashavatar by Shri T. Krishna Reddy and his troupe

The programme was conceived, designed and directed by Shri L. A. Kazi, Director (Culture), Nehru Centre, Lyrics by Shri Abdul Ahad Saaz and Music by Shri Siraj Khan.

Shri Shivanand Hegde presented Yakshagan for the first time in Hindi language.

Shri Deepak Majumdar and Dr. Sandhya Purecha presented the Bharatnatyam dance style; Smt Jhelum Paranjape presented Odissi dance style. Smt. Smita Shastri presented Kuchipudi dance style. While dancing she sketched a figure of lion, representing the 'Narasimha Avataar' by her feet. Ms. Nandita Puri presented the Kathak dance style.

Shri T. Krishna Mohan Reddy and his troupe from Behrampur, Orissa presented scintillating performance of Dashavatar through modern dance style.

The audience enjoyed and applauded each and every item of the programme. The programme was also widely covered by the print and electronic media.

The Art Gallery

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

Programmes of May 2007

PURNEDNU MANDAL



Painting by Purnendu Mandal

Purnendu secured degree in Arts from West Bengal. He also has a degree in Textile Designing. His paintings bear the stamp of realistic and semi-realistic trends. He works in different medias.

**Tuesday 1st May 2007 to
Monday 7th May 2007
(AC Gallery)**

PRAMOD THAKUR . SURESH PARIHAR. KAWITA THAKUR



Painting by Pramod Thakur

Nehru Centre Newsletter - May 2007

Pramod graduated in Fine Art from Darbhanga and received Degree in Applied Art from Sir J. J. School of Art, Mumbai. His paintings are in mix media with relief work on canvas.

Suresh is a self taught artist. His paintings are in bold colours with abstract form in acrylic on canvas.

Kawita secured B.F.A. Degree in Fine Arts from Kolkatta and Applied Art from Mumbai. Her works are in mix media with copper and ceramic relief on canvas.

**Tuesday 1st May 2007 to
Monday 7th May 2007
(Circular Gallery)**

SUBHASH KHARAT

Subhash is a self taught Commercial Artist. His paintings are figurative in acrylic on canvas.

**Tuesday 8th May 2007 to
Monday 14th May 2007
(AC Gallery)**

ANIL SHINDE . PRABHAKAR VICHARE



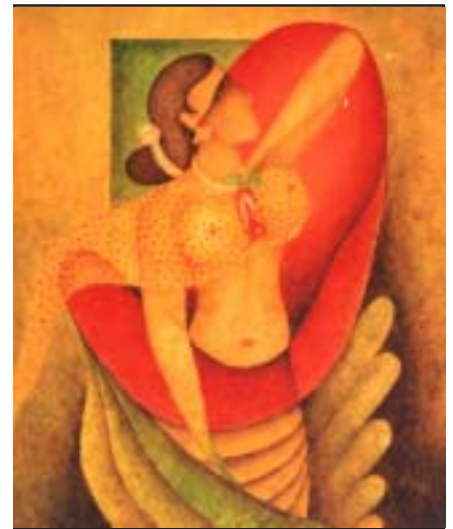
Photograph by Anil Shinde

Anil is a graduate in Science. He has done a Certificate course in photography from Sir J. J. School of Art, Mumbai. He will be showing glimpses of Hampi in this photo exhibition.

Prabhakar is also a graduate in Science. He has received Certificate in Applied Art from Sir. J. J. School of Art, Mumbai. His paintings are realistic in different mediums.

**Tuesday 8th May 2007 to
Monday 14th May 2007
(Circular Gallery)**

NARAYAN PATIDAR . AJAY PATIDAR . RAJEEV WAINGANKAR . SHANKAR SHINDE . HARENDRA SHAH . RAMESH KHER . ROOPKUMAR KUMARIYA



Painting by Ajay Patidar

Narayan has received M. A. degree in Painting from Indore. His paintings are figurative in oil on canvas.

Ajay is M. A. in Drawing & Painting from Indore. His paintings are in realistic decorative form in acrylic and oil on canvas.

Rajeev also is a graduate from Indore. His paintings are in abstract form in oil on paper.

Shankar has National Diploma in Arts from Indore and M. A. from Indore with specialization in portrait painting. His paintings are in acrylic and oil on canvas.

Harendra holds National Diploma in Arts from Indore. His paintings are in abstract form in oil on canvas.

Ramesh is a National Diploma holder from Indore. His paintings are in oil on canvas in abstract form.

Roopkumar is B.Com (Hons) and M. A. in Drawing & Painting from Indore. His works are in Compugraphy.

**Tuesday 15th May 2007 to
Monday 21st May 2007
(AC Gallery)**

**SWATI BHIDE . KOMAL BHAGWAT
. SUDHIR KAMBLE**

Swati secured Diploma in Art from L. S. Raheja School of Arts, and A.Ed from Mumbai. Her landscapes are in water colours.

Komal received Govt. Diploma in Art from Sir J. J. School of Art, Mumbai. Her paintings are landscapes in water colours.

Sudhir secured G.D.A. in painting from L. S. Raheja School of Art. His landscapes are in water colour.

**Tuesday 15th May 2007 to
Monday 21st May 2007
(Circular Gallery)**

DEVKUMAR VAIDYA



Mural by Devkumar Vaidya

Devkumar received Diploma in Sculpture, Painting from M. S. University, Gujrat. His paintings are on tribals and does murals on Tantra, symbolism and Abstract.

**Tuesday 22nd May 2007 to
Monday 28th May 2007
(AC Gallery)**

SWETA MORE

Sweta has done Interior Designing course from SNTD, Mumbai. Her landscapes and seascapes are in acrylic on canvas.

**Tuesday 22nd May 2007 to
Monday 28th May 2007
(Circular Gallery)**

**DEEPAK PATIL . YOGESH PATIL .
SACHIN BARI**

Deepak secured Diploma in Fine Art from Dhule and Dip.Ed. from Pune. His landscapes are in water colour.

Yogesh received Govt. Diploma in Arts and A.T.D. from Pune. His paintings are figurative in acrylic on canvas.

Sachin has B.F.A. degree and Diploma in Art Education. His landscapes are in acrylic on canvas and board.

**Tuesday 29th May 2007 to
Monday 4th June 2007
(AC Gallery)**



Painting by Yogesh Patil

RAMAKRISHNAN N.

Ramakrishnan is an orthopaedically handicapped, suffering from cerebral palsy. He is a member of the International Mouth and foot Artists' Association. He paints with his foot and mouth in water colours.

Tuesday 29th May 2007 to Monday 4th June 2007 (Circular Gallery)

Review : "Glimpses of Hyderabad"

Nehru Centre Art Gallery has been taking a Study Camp of artist students since last fourteen years. Last year the Camp was at Hyderabad. An exhibition of paintings, "Glimpses of Hyderabad" was inaugurated on 28th March 2007 by Shri Satish Sahney, Chief Executive, Nehru Centre.

The exhibition was visited by a large number of art lovers who appreciated the efforts of students and their Guide Shri Kishor Nadavdekar.



Shri Satish Sahney, Chief Executive, Nehru Centre inaugurating the exhibition "Glimpses of Hyderabad" by lighting the traditional lamp

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D. G. KULKARNI (DIZI)**"GURU-SHISHYA"**

BABA GAJBAR & GANPATRAO WADANGEKAR

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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DISCOVERY OF INDIA EXPOSITION**Glimpses****Know Your India:****First Millennia**

The word 'Veda' is derived from the Sanskrit vid - to know. The vedas are a collection of hymns, to praise and appease the powers, to attain peace and prosperity. Some hymns explore the heavens, and wonder how they came to be.

There are hymns which speak of an order and meaning in the cosmos. The universe is not a chaos, it is governed by an unseen power - manifest as the elements - panchamahabhutas. Fire, water, wind, the skies, and the earth, were the elements.

After their formulation over the centuries, the vedas were transmitted orally, from generation to generation. The vedic tradition is thus an oral tradition. The vedas are divided into four compilations.

Rigveda - a collection of over a thousand hymns

Samveda - a musical anthology of Rigvedic hymns

Yajurveda - a collection of sacrificial chants

Atharvaveda - a book of magical spells and incantations



Later, works like the Upanishads, Brahman Granthas and Aranyakas along with the epics were composed by generations of thinkers. The Vedas were first written, on palm leaves and then, on paper - porthis. In this way, almost all the Vedic hymns were transcribed in a few centuries. With the advent of printing, the text of the Vedas along with the Brahmanas, Aranyakas, and Upanishads, were published, in India and abroad.

Today we have all the Vedas, and critical essays on the Vedas by many scholars, in the form of printed text. Many institutions all over India conduct research into vedic thought and literature, and bring out publications describing the various aspects of Vedic life and culture.

(To be continued)

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