Jawaharlal Nehru: The Democrat

Of Jawaharlal Nehru’s several contributions to the making of modern India, democracy is the most remarkable. As Ashutosh Varshney aptly puts it, “Nehru was a pioneer in that he established democracy in a highly unlikely setting. India’s democracy is a great exception to democratic theory. Nehru is not the only figure to be credited with this achievement, but to write a history of Indian democracy without Nehru as its central figure would be an exercise in intellectual deception and futility.”

Nehru was totally committed to democracy. The first sentence of
the Objectives Resolution which Nehru moved in the Constituent Assembly was, “This Constituent Assembly declares its firm and solemn resolve to proclaim India as an Independent Sovereign Republic” and goes on to say that “all power and authority of the Sovereign Independent India, its constituent parts and organs of government are derived from the people”.

Elaborating further, Nehru said, “We are aiming at democracy and nothing less than democracy. What form or shape this democracy may take is another matter. The democracies of the present day, many of them in Europe, and some elsewhere, have played a great part in the world’s progress. Yet it may be doubtful if those democracies may not have to change their shape somewhat before long if they have to remain completely democratic. We are not going just to copy, I hope, a certain democratic procedure or an institutional form. Rather, we must rise to new heights and create a new democratic institution of a so-called democratic country. We may improve upon it. In any event, whatever system of government we may establish here must fit in with the temper of our people and be acceptable to them. We stand for democracy. It will be for this House to determine what shape to give to that democracy, the fullest democracy, I hope. The House will notice that in the Resolution we have not used the word ‘democratic’, because we thought it obvious that the word ‘republic’ contains the meaning of that word. We have done something much more than using the word. We have given the content of democracy in this Resolution and not only the content of democracy but the content, if I may say so, of economic democracy.”

In a letter dated June 16, 1952, to the Chief Ministers, Nehru explains why democracy is so important, “We are committed, and I think rightly so, to democratic and parliamentary institutions. That does not necessarily mean that democracy must be rigid and unable to adapt itself to changing conditions. Democracy apart from its institutions, is a way of Government and life itself. I firmly believe that it is a better way than a dictatorship or authoritarianism. In the long run, dictatorship must, I think, rather stunt the growth of the country. There are initial advantages which are obvious and the outward speed of progress appears to be fast. But it is very doubtful if the essential quality which underlies human progress, that is the creative spirit of man, can develop adequately under an authoritarian system.”

Nehru nurtured democracy with great care and devotion. He worked tirelessly for the formation of the Constituent Assembly and made sure that the country’s best minds were its members. India’s Constitution is the work of those brilliant men and women but the credit for making it work must, in all fairness, go to Nehru. India’s infant parliamentary democracy attained maturity and strength through his wise handling of parliamentary affairs. In the words of Madhav Khosla, editor of the book titled ‘Letters for a Nation’, “India’s constitutional polity is virtually inconceivable without Nehru.” Others like Dr. Ambedkar, Sardar Patel and Maulana Azad undoubtedly played significant roles, but Nehru’s contribution to India’s constitutional democracy was unparalleled”.

What Nehru said...

... The test of competency is not merely a university degree. Our greatest responsibility today is to give every child - boy or girl - equal opportunity. My heart saddens when I see our young children going about half naked, half starved. It is our duty to supply them with proper nourishment and clothing. We have a glorious past and our history goes back thousands of years; but our civilization had its evils also, the caste system not the least of them. We must draw lessons from our past and rise to new heights.....

November 1, 1952
Biography of the Universe

As the name suggests, Biography of the Universe is a story of our Universe. It is an inspirational journey through time and a celebration of life on Earth. Starting with the Big Bang, this programme deals with the birth of the Universe, the formation of the stars & galaxies, formation of the solar system, formation of our Earth and the first life on Earth. You will also fly deep into our own Milky Way galaxy and watch few major constellations appear in the night sky. Finally we look at the universe through the eyes of today’s scientists and space explorers to experience a spectacular overview of the heavens.

The programme is based on the dictum of Julian Huxley, the British evolutionary biologist, eugenicist, and internationalist “Man is that part of reality in which and through which the cosmic process has become conscious and has begun to comprehend itself.” This programme is a modified version of the previous planetarium programme with a similar name.

It is indeed difficult to condense the biography of the Universe. Running through 15 billion years in less than an hour, the programme gives an overview of the structure of the Universe, its origin and evolution.

The story of the Universe is broadly divided into its birth and infancy, its early childhood and lastly its present stage – a story stretching over 15 billion years in time – in fact the story of time itself. About 10 billion years ago our galaxy, the Milky Way was formed and 4.6 billion years later our Earth and the other planets were formed.

The climax of the story is reached with life appearing on Earth, and finally evolving into the ‘highest product yet achieved by the “Cosmos” – ‘Man’, at least as we human beings understand it today.

The story is presented thought high quality graphics and videos. Audience, general students and even some of the astronomers and scientists highly appreciated this programme.
“The Sun as Viewed from India”

Prof. P. Venkatakrishnan, honorary professor at Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru, delivered a special astronomy lecture on “The Sun as Viewed from India”, on Thursday, 5th October 2017 at 6.00 p.m. at Sky Theatre of Nehru Planetarium, Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai.

Prof. Venkatakrishnan commenced the lecture with a very simple question – “Why do we need to study the sun?” Indians have always been fascinated by the sun since times immemorial and this fascination has only grown over the years in modern India. The sun is our nearest star and its proximity gives us heat and light to maintain life on Earth as well as being a unique laboratory to test our theories of the evolution of other stars and the formation of galaxies. We are able to resolve features and physical processes of the sun in a way that is impossible to study with more distant stars.

The solar corona, the outer layer of the Sun’s atmosphere, is composed of extreme high temperature gas, known as plasma, with temperatures reaching millions of degrees Celsius.

As the outer layer of the Sun, the part farthest from the core where the nuclear reactions powering the Sun occur, it would be expected to be the coolest part of the Sun. But in fact, it is 200 times hotter than the photosphere, the layer beneath it. This contradiction, known as ‘the coronal heating problem’ has puzzled astrophysicists ever since the temperature of the corona was first measured over 70 years ago.

He stated that, according to the great solar physicist Gene Parker, a solar magnetic field line need not be continuous but there could be breaks in it along the tangential direction causing current, which could be the answer for the mysterious problem of coronal heating in the sun.

Also, there are darker, cooler regions on the surface of the sun in the photosphere region known as sunspots. They are magnetic in nature. They are the places where the sun’s magnetic field rises up from below the sun’s surface. They vary with time in a cycle called the solar cycle which lasts for 11 years on an average and reverses magnetic polarity from one cycle to the next.

He then listed some milestones in the development of solar physics in India and briefly mentioned some of the facilities established over the years in various parts of India. He also touched on the research highlights coming from the various groups.

He shared with the audience how the new telescope MAST of the Udaipur Solar Observatory was built and set up on an island in Rajasthan where students are welcome to take up various projects to study our sun. He also mentioned briefly about his recent book “The Amazing Story of Kuton the Photon” which he published for curious young readers. A photon named Kuton arrives at a sage’s ashram in a bewildered state seeking help from the sage. The story is a dramatization of the actual fate of the energy produced in the centre of the sun, as it travels through photon-absorbing matter and finally reaches our earth. He concluded with a glimpse into the future of Indian solar physics mentioning upcoming ADITYA-L1 mission and the 2m class National large Solar Telescope to be set up in Merak on the India - China border in Ladakh 4500 m above sea level.
Cultural Wing

2nd General Knowledge Quiz Contest

As part of the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Birth Anniversary Celebration, Nehru Centre is happy to organize 2nd General Knowledge Quiz Contest.

The Quiz Contest will be held on the eve of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru’s 127th Birthday and will be conducted by Hamid Iqbal Siddiqui & his group of Quiz Time, Mumbai on 15th November 2017.

Eighteen Schools will be participating in this Quiz Contest.

Nehru Centre will offer Cash Prizes to the winners. Details are as follow:

Cash Prize of Rs. 7,000/- each to Winners of 1st Prize (3 Students per group)
Cash Prize of Rs. 5,000/- each to Winners of 2nd Prize (3 Students per group)
Cash Prize of Rs. 3,000/- each to Winners of 3rd Prize (3 Students per group)

Books on General Knowledge will also be awarded to all the winners.

Students participating in the Quiz Contest will also be awarded “Certificate of Participation” and all the accompanying teachers will be given “Letter of Appreciation”

Date: 15th November 2017
Time: 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.
Venue: Nehru Centre Auditorium

Review:

To celebrate Gandhi Jayanti Nehru Centre had organized “ASHRAM BHAJANAVAALI”- Presentation of Bhajans of various saints, on 3rd October 2017. Shri Uday Mazumdar, Rekha Trivedi, Upagna Pandya and Shantanu Herlekar enthralled the audience with their soulful rendition of the bhajans.

The accompanying musicians were Manoj Bhati on Tabla, Vishal Dhumal on Keyboard, Babulal Gandharva on Belabahar, Shankar Acharya on Flute and Nilesh Vinchhi on Side Rhythm.

The spiritual evening was enjoyed and applauded by the audience present.
Programmes for November 2017

VISHNU SONAVANE

Vishnu obtained B.F.A. in Fine Arts from Sir J. J. Institute of Applied Art. He has been invited regularly to exhibit his works in all important exhibitions in India and abroad and won many awards. His paintings are compositions of figurative forms in acrylic on canvas.

Tuesday 31st October to Monday 6th November 2017
( AC Gallery )

GOKUL PATIL . NILESH PATIL

Gokul received G.D.A.; A.T.D. and G.D.A. in Painting from Mumbai. He has participated in many shows. His paintings are on rural landscapes in acrylic on canvas.

Nilesh completed A.M. and A.T.D. in Painting from Mumbai. His landscapes are on rural life in acrylic on canvas. He has participated in many shows and won awards.

Tuesday 31st October to Monday 6th November 2017
( Circular Gallery )

KUMAR GAIKWAD

Kumar received A.T.D.; A.M. and G.D.A. in Painting from Sir J. J. School of Art. He has had solo and group shows in Mumbai and won awards. His paintings are landscapes and in oil and acrylic on canvas.

Tuesday 7th November to Monday 13th November 2017
( AC Gallery )

ARUN SURYAWANSHI . MURLI LAHOTI . N. D. CHINCHORKAR . V. R. SALI

Arun completed G.D.A. and Diploma in Art Education. His paintings are in impressionist style with human figures and letters in textures. He has had many shows in India.

Lahoti Sir is a senior artist. Obtained N.T.C.; G.D.A. in Painting and G.D.A. in Applied Art. He has won 3 Gold and 7 Silver medals during his student life. He also won 40 Outstanding Personality and Veteran Artist Award from Maharashtra State. He has had over 157 solo and 110 group shows to his credit. He has given around 500 demonstrations. He has travelled extensively for his shows and attended camps. His paintings are in distinct style with abstract forms in oils and acrylic.

Tuesday 7th November to Monday 13TH November 2017
( Circular Gallery )

Saraswati Purushottam Memorial Trust' presents 'CHILDREN ART'

The trust has been organizing art activities for children of Mumbai for the past 28 years. Selected works will be displayed during this exhibition.

Tuesday 14th November to Monday 20th November 2017
( AC Gallery )

KISHOR NADAVDEKAR

Kishor is a self taught artist. He also does portraits in acrylic and oil on canvas. He has fifty shows to his credit and won many National and International prestigious awards. He has been a guide to many camps and given demonstrations.

Tuesday 21st November to Monday 27th November 2017
( AC Gallery )
To commemorate Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru’s Birth Anniversary, Nehru Centre Art Gallery has organised an exhibition of children’s art works. There are 15 child artists from different schools of Mumbai and Ahmednagar.

**Daanya Mehta**
is 6 years old studying in Gopi Birla Memorial School, Mumbai

**Divyanshu Jaiswal**
is 9 years old studying in People Education Centre, Mumbai

**Anushka Saumya**
is 6 years old studying in Hiranandani Foundation School, Mumbai

**Abdulla Shaikh**
is 9 years old studying in D. D. Kachole Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Ahmednagar

**Ananya Chheda**
is 11 years old studying in Indian Educations Society’s Manik Vidya Mandir, Mumbai

**Falak Sevak**
is 8 years old studying in Queen Mary School, Mumbai

**Gargi Bhalerao**
is 12 years old studying in Girton High School, Mumbai

**Aray Shirwadkar**
is 9 years old studying in Indian Educations Society’s Manik Vidya Mandir, Mumbai

**Tuesday, 21st November to Monday 27th November 2017**

**VIJAY VERMA**

Vijay is a self-taught artist. He has had many solo and group shows in India and received awards. His paintings are compositions in abstract in acrylic on canvas.

**Tuesday, 28th November to Monday 4th December 2017**

**ROHIT SRIVASTAVA**

Rohit has completed B.A. and M.A. in Fine Arts from Kanpur and Govt. Diploma from Mumbai. His abstract paintings are in acrylic on paper.

**Tuesday 14th November to Monday 20th November 2017**

**Kailash**
has B.F.A. in painting from Mumbai. Studied Pottery and Ceramics from Goa. He has participated in many shows. His compositions are in oils and acrylic on canvas.

**Tuesday, 21st November to Monday 27th November 2017**

**Subhash Desai**
received G.D.A. in Painting from Sangli and Dip.Ed. from Sir J. J. School of Art. His landscapes and portraits are in oils and water colours. He has had many shows.

**Sadashiv Parab**
completed B.F.A. and T.F.A. from Goa. He has also learnt Metal and Stone conservation. He has won many awards. His paintings are figurative compositions in acrylic and oil. He has attended many camps and won many awards.

**Kailash**
has B.F.A. in painting from Mumbai. Studied Pottery and Ceramics from Goa. He has participated in many shows. His compositions are in oils and acrylic on canvas.

**Tuesday, 21st November to Monday 27th November 2017**

**Subhash Desai**

**Sadashiv Parab**

**Kailash Parab**

**Tuesday 14th November to Monday 20th November 2017**

**AC Gallery**

**Tuesday 28th November to Monday 4th November 2017**

**Circular Gallery**

**Tuesday 28th November to Monday 4th December 2017**

**Circular Gallery**
NEHRU CENTRE PUBLICATIONS
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The Life and Times of Arthur Crawford: A talk

Arthur Crawford was the first Municipal Commissioner and Collector of Bombay, after whom the popular market is named.

Speaker: Dr. Vijaya Gupchup is Research Fellow having been awarded the Avabai Wadia Research Fellowship in memory of Phiroz Mehta. Dr. Gupchup has authored several books on Mumbai history.

Date: Friday, 24th November 2017

Timeless Tagore: A Lecture-Demonstration

This programme will pay homage to Ravindranath Tagore’s vast and inspirational literary legacy, through a spectacular offering of music and poetry.

Main Speaker: Shri Tushar Bhatia, accomplished sitar player, composer and writer

Accompanying artists: Beena Desai, Surajit Nandi & Sanat Kamath

Date: Thursday, 30th November 2017

Venue: “Who Are We” Hall  Time: 4.30 pm
Open to all

A Book I Wrote

Nehru Centre Library will celebrate Children’s Day with an announcement in an inter-school story writing / poem writing competition for children aged 6 to 11 years. Length of story should be approximately 200 words and that of the poem should be approximately 10 lines/50 words.

For more information, please write to aratidesai@nehru-centre.org

Date: Tuesday, 14th November 2017
Time: 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
Venue: Hall of Harmony

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