

Newsletter

Vol. 25 Issue 12 DECEMBER 2024

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Nehru Centre



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Events At a Glance...

Library

Book Discussions

7th December 2024
And They Lived.... Ever After
Published by **Rising Flame**

21st December 2024
**565: The Dramatic Story of
Unifying India**
Written by
Ms Mallika Ravikumar

4.00 p.m.
Who Are We Hall

Culture Wing

34th Annual Mushaira
An evening of Sher-o-Shayari
for Urdu poetry lovers

14th December 2024
7.00 p.m.
Nehru Centre Auditorium

Art Gallery

Indian Master's Retrospective

An exhibition showcasing the works
of two women Indian Master Painters
**Smt. Sudha Madan &
Dr. Nalini Bhagwat**

18th December 2024 to
29th December 2024
Nehru Centre Art Gallery

Speeches of the Freedom Movement

3. **MADAME BHIKAJI CAMA : British Tyranny in India**
Stuttgart, 18 August 1907

One of the most fiery nationalists and revolutionaries who fought for India's freedom while living in India and France was Madame Bhikaji Cama. To enlist the support of the powerful working-class movements and parties in support of Indian Independence, the Indian revolutionaries wanted to send their representatives to put forward the case of India's freedom struggle before the world forum. Madame Cama attended the International Socialist Congress at Stuttgart (Germany) as an elected member representing India where she gave the following brief speech. It was significant that the Stuttgart Congress discussed the problem of colonialism. The other important subject discussed was the attitude of the working class on the impending World War. After her speech, Cama unfurled India's national flag – the first one by any Indian. This flag had three stripes like the present one and thus was parent and precursor of the flag of Independent India. It also had a great national tradition and symbolized in itself the aspirations of the Indian revolutionaries. The two deported Indians whom she refers to in the speech were Lala Lajpat Rai and Ajit Singh.

In the Socialist Congress, Cama moved the following resolution:

'That the continuance of British rule in India is positively disastrous and extremely injurious to the best interests of India, since the perfect social state demands that no people should be subject to any despotic or tyrannical form of government.'

The British delegation, barring H. M. Hyndman, opposed the resolution and walked out, and thus prevented it from being adopted; but the message was conveyed to the delegates, to the utter discomfiture of the British delegation which included Ramsay MacDonald, the future Prime Minister of England at the time of the Round Table Conference of 1931 - 32.

The Congress was attended by 100 delegates from all parts of the world.

"Friends, comrades and socialists, I have come here to speak for the dumb millions of Hindustan, who are going through terrible tyranny under the English capitalists and the British government. You dream of the poverty in that far-distant land, where the average income per head comes to three farthings a day! Tell me, what other country can you

compare with this? You will naturally ask me what is the cause of such poverty. My reply is that it is because thirty-five million pound sterling are taken out of that land every year. Yes, it is entirely taken out, because it goes to England to make that wealthy country more and more wealthy. While in Hindustan, owing to this poverty, we die by half a million every month, and Hindustan means one-fifth of the human race. Socialists, when I speak to you, I plead at the bar of humanity. You are discussing colonies all the time, but what about dependencies?

First of all, let me ask you, should there be such a word as dependency in socialism? Is this not the fight between class and class, where the strong are killing the weak and the downtrodden by the millions every year? Brother and sister Socialists, take up the cause of justice and make it a point to bring India to the front at every Socialist Congress. Do not wait for representation from India. People oppressed as much as the Indians cannot do anything of the sort. How can they start representation in the land where liberty does not exist? I beg of you, friends, to read the paper which Comrade Hyndman has written for this Congress. Comrade Hyndman has studied India all his life. Many years ago, he prophesied and wrote to John Morley that to take out such a vast sum of money



Madame Bhikaji Cama with the Indian Flag at Stuttgart in 1907

every year would impoverish that country hopelessly. He wrote that such things could not go on, and should not be allowed. Now all this has come true today to the very last letter. You know everything about what is going on in Russia, but do you ever try to know of our sufferings? We die by the millions every year. I have all sympathy with Russia and Poland, so do not misunderstand me. I know their heroic sufferings, but let me tell you the truth that India's sufferings are greater. You must pass resolutions for Indians at every Congress. I only ask for moral support. We will fight for our rights ourselves. You Socialists must say that you are against the bureaucratic, tyrannical and capitalist English. Say that you are for the suffering millions of

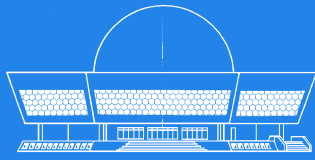
Hindustan. Two of our most enlightened and patriotic men have been deported and, without trial, kept in captivity in some fort in Burma for the last three months after a mock trial. This is only for speaking and writing the truth about tyranny and injustice in the land, and for discussing India's economic question. I unfold this little Indian national flag before you, friends, and I ask you in the name of the Indian nation to fight for justice. I implore you to read and study Comrade Hyndman's paper written for this Congress. I wave this Indian national flag before you once again, and before concluding, let me tell you that I have every hope of seeing the Republic of India established during my lifetime."

Madame Cama demanded complete independence for India. At that time, British rulers could never think of this, nor could a section of the Congress leadership itself visualize such a thing. Undoubtedly, Madame Cama was an outstanding leader, who had the foresight as well as political acumen to correctly formulate the national slogan and to focus the attention of an international forum of India's national liberation movement. The resolution of Madame Cama was supported by the pioneer British Marxist H.M. Hyndman, but opposed by the rest of the British delegation.

What Nehru said....

The Upanishads are instinct with a spirit of inquiry, of mental adventure, of a passion for finding out the truth about things. The search for this truth is not by the objective methods of modern science, yet there is an element of the scientific method in the approach.

... from Chapter 4, *The Discovery of India*.



NEHRU PLANETARIUM

Tel: 022-40245413
Mobile : 9892890510

SKY SHOW : AWESOME 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

The International Space Station - I

The race between the United States of America (USA) and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) to land on the Moon ended in the early 1970s. After that, space agencies of both countries, NASA (National Aeronautics & Space Administration) of the USA and Roscosmos of the USSR, started working to launch more advanced artificial satellites in the Earth's orbit. These satellites were to be used for various functions from agricultural surveys to military surveillance.

Scientists, engineers and administrators of these agencies also started conceptualising collaborative missions like the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project in which spacecraft from these two spacefaring nations docked together in space. International Skylab was one such mission. The world saw a paradigm shift in September 1993 when Al Gore, Vice President of the United States and Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister jointly announced plans for a new space station. NASA and Roscosmos jointly signed a memorandum of understanding to set up a space station leading to the International Space Station (ISS).

It was initially intended to be a laboratory to perform experiments in a near-zero-gravity or microgravity environment. The research fields included astrobiology, astronomy, physical sciences, space environment/space weather experiments, material science, meteorology, human research, space medicine and life sciences. It was also planned that the ISS would test possible orbiting base stations for future space missions to the Moon, Mars or the asteroids. In 2010, the ISS also offered commercial, diplomatic and educational services.

The International Space Station is made of different modules. These modules are fabricated and tested on Earth. They are then transported to space using the appropriate vehicles (rockets) and assembled in space. The ISS's overall length is 109 metres and its width is 73 metres. For a comparative idea, the standard size of a football ground is 105 metres by 68 metres. The ISS weighs 4,50,000 kg. In comparison, an African elephant weighs 6000 kg. Hence, the weight of the ISS is equivalent to 75 African elephants.

The ISS is a product of global collaboration. It is divided into the Russian Orbital Segment (ROS) and the US Orbital Segment (USOS). Roscosmos assembles ROS and NASA assembles USOS. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), the European Space Agency (ESA), and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) also participate in assembling USOS. As described below, various modules were added to these segments one by one to complete the station. Russian modules were launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan and American modules were lifted off from Cape Canaveral and other space stations using space shuttles.

The first ISS module, a Russian-built Zarya, which means Dawn, was launched on 20 November 1998. This symbolised the beginning of a new era of international collaboration in space sciences. The module was built to provide attitude control, communication and electrical power. Later, when more modules were added to the ISS, Zarya was primarily used for storage of material not in regular use.

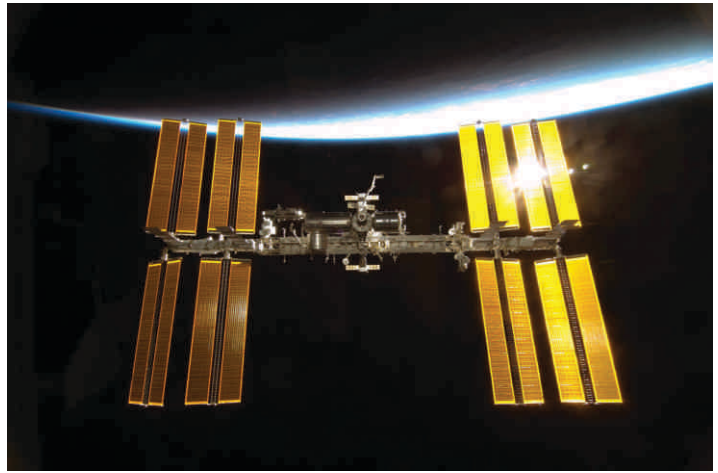
Two weeks later, the American module Unity was sent to join Zarya. It provided the connection between the Russian and American segments. Unity is also known as Node 1. It has six Common Berthing Mechanisms for attaching more modules. It is cylindrical, with a diameter of 5.47 metres and a length of 4.57 metres. But both modules lacked a life support system.

On 26 July 2000, the Russian-built module Zvezda (meaning Star) docked with the ISS. It has a core of ROS, providing living quarters and a life support system. This is the first module to enable continuous human presence in space. Zvezda is the command and control centre for the Russian segment and the emergency assembly station for the entire ISS crew.

The US-built Destiny module docked with the ISS on 10 February 2001. It is 8.5 metres long and 4.3 metres wide and is a laboratory and USOS's primary research facility. Astronauts conduct medical, engineering, biotechnology, material science and earth science experiments here. The module also houses life support and oxygen-generating systems.

In July 2001, Quest Joint Airlock was attached to the Unity module. This enabled astronauts to carry out extravehicular activities (EVA) or spacewalks. This module is 6.1 metres long and 4.0 metres wide. It houses crew airlock for astronauts to exit or enter the ISS, equipment airlock for space-suit storage and has facilities to accommodate astronauts during their overnight pre-berthing procedure to prevent decompression sickness. The crew airlock has equipment like lighting, handrails, a unit that provides life support and a communication system for crews carrying out EVA. Two astronauts can take a spacewalk together.

Russia added Posid (meaning Search) which was a mini-research module. It is 4.05 metres long and 2.55 metres in diameter. It docked the ISS on 12 November 2009. Posid is capable of docking spacecraft, conducting extravehicular activities (EVA) and science experiments. It also has two hatches for EVA.



The first International Space Station



Zarya, the first module of the International Space Station



Sunita Williams during EVA (the spacewalk)

... to be continued

Culture Wing



Nehru Centre

34th Annual Mushaira

Since the 14th and 15th centuries, Mushairas have been an integral part of our literary tradition, in which some of the greatest Urdu poets like Mir, Ghalib, Momin and Zauq participated. Over the years, this rich cultural heritage has continued and reached greater heights. Poetic verses comprising ghazals, nazms and rubayis are recited to a live audience.

The Nehru Centre is pleased to announce its 34th Annual Mushaira, an eagerly awaited event for lovers of Urdu poetry.

The following poets from across the country
will participate in the Mushaira.

Local Poets

Janaab Ahsan Usmani
Janaab Ameer Hamza Halbe
Janaab Irfan Jafri
Janaab Nadeem Siddiqui
Dr. Qasim Imam
Dr. Rajesh Reddy
Dr. Prof. Rafia Shabnam Abedi



Outstation Poets

Janaab Aziz Nabeel (Qatar)
Janaab Altaf Ziya (Malegaon)
Janaab Ismail Raaz (Amravati)

Sadarat

Dr. Prof. Rafia Shabnam Abedi

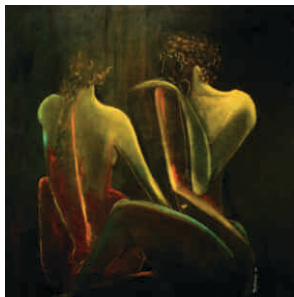
Nizamat

Janaab Irfan Jafri

Saturday, 14th December 2024, 7.00 p.m.
Nehru Centre Auditorium

Entry: Free entrance cards will be available on Monday, 9th December 2024 from 10.30 a.m. onwards until availability from the ticket counter of Nehru Centre Auditorium

MAHUA RAY



Mahua Ray has degrees in MA (Education), B.Ed. Her show will display paintings and sculptures.

**Tuesday 3 December 2024
to Monday 9 December 2024
(AC Gallery)**

FALGUNI ARORA



Falguni works with textures and bold strokes. She has taken part in many group shows and loves to explore different mediums on canvas.

**Tuesday 3 December 2024
to Monday 9 December 2024
(Circular Gallery)**

DEEPAKALA FOUNDATION

A Mumbai based Art Foundation, The Deepkala Foundation, which has medical professionals, promotes artists globally.

**Tuesday 10 December 2024
to Monday 16 December 2024
(AC Gallery)**

**30th
Indian Master's Retrospective 2024**

The Indian Master's Retrospective will present the works of two women master artists — Smt. Sudha Madan and Dr. Nalini Bhagwat.

Smt. Sudha Madan was a noted and senior artist who hailed from Kolhapur. She was the student of S. L. Haldankar. She worked majorly with water colours and oils with almost 100 exhibitions across the country. She passed away on August 2, 2024 at Mumbai.



Dr. Nalini Bhagwat had obtained a Doctorate in Art History from M. S. University, Vadodara. She had a special technique of using pure colours and flat tones with a painting knife for thick colour application that brought a rich textural surface to her art. She passed away on September 15, 2022 at Kolhapur.

**Wednesday, 18th December 2024
to Sunday, 29th December 2024**

**Nehru Centre
Art Gallery**

11.00 am to 7.00 pm

ADISHWAR KUMAR JAIN

Adishwar's art works are from waste paper and other waste material.

**Tuesday 10 December 2024
to Monday 16 December 2024
(Circular Gallery)**

MIHIR DAS

Mihir is a self-taught professional artist and likes to work in oil, acrylic, soft pastel, charcoal and water colours.

**Tuesday 17 December 2024
to Monday 23 December 2024
(Circular Gallery)**

**ARVIND SAWANT and
other artists**



Arvind Sawant



Anuj Wagale

This group of six artists will exhibit their artworks in mix media.

**Tuesday 24 December 2024
to Monday 30 December 2024
(Circular Gallery)**

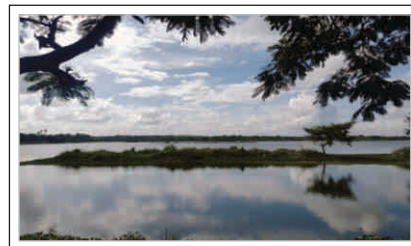
RAMSAR WETLAND SITES IN INDIA

21. Tamil Nadu (Part 2)

1. Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary

Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary is composed of small man-made reservoirs interconnected by an ancient network of canals and fed by the Mettur reservoir. The rooted floating aquatic plants distributed through the reservoir provide habitat for around 118 bird species, including spot-billed pelican, black-headed ibis, Eurasian wigeon, and northern pintail.

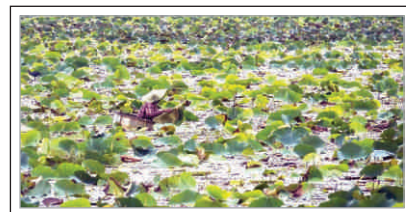
The sanctuary attracts more than 40 species of water birds like the white ibis, painted stork, grey pelican, pintails, cormorants, teals, herons, spoonbills, darters, coots, open bill storks, and pheasant tailed jacana. This is one of the largest reserves for breeding water birds in Tamil Nadu and it attracts more than one hundred and fifty thousand birds annually. There is a need to monitor the wetland on a regular basis to identify more important sites and to better understand the ecological importance of the reservoirs. Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary was designated a Ramsar Wetland site on 13th August 2022.



Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary

2. Vembannur Wetland Complex

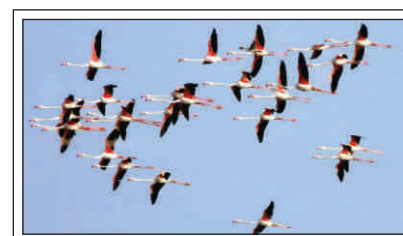
Vembannur wetland is a human-made inland tank, spanning around 20 hectares and is situated near Vembannur, a small hamlet in Rajakkamangalam block in Kanyakumari district. The wetland supports more than 2000 hectares of agricultural land which is important for the irrigation of the surrounding paddy fields, banana plantations and coconut groves on which more than 1000 families are dependent. It also supplies fish and drinking water to local communities while moderating the impacts of drought and floods, influencing the local microclimate, enhancing the beauty of the landscape and providing many recreational opportunities. Vegetation clearance and land conversion, garbage and solid waste present moderate threats to the ecological integrity of the site. Vembannur Wetland Complex was designated a Ramsar wetland site on 4th August 2022.



Vembannur Lotus

3. Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary

Kazhuveli is located in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu. The bird sanctuary covers an area of 51.56 sq. km. It has varied habitats including sloping wetlands preferred by shore birds, darters and waders, floating vegetation and open grasslands preferred by different species of birds and fauna. The lake has a feeding ground for long-distance migrants from the cold sub-Arctic regions of Central Asia and Siberia including black-tailed godwits, Eurasian curlew, white stork, ruff and dunlin. The Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary was designated as a Ramsar site on 16 January 2024.



A flock of greater flamingoes in flight

There are 16 wetlands designated under the Ramsar Convention in Tamil Nadu.

The other wetlands in the state of Tamil Nadu were designated under the Ramsar Convention between the years 2021 to 2024.

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

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Discovery of India Building,
Nehru Centre, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.



Book Discussions@ Nehru Centre Library

And They Lived...Ever After

Published by

Rising Flame

The authors of this collection seek to retell classic stories by weaving in their own everyday experiences - the struggles, joys and frustrations that may not be known to the non-disabled.

Date: **Saturday, 7th December 2024**

Audience: **Anyone who is 13+**



565: The Dramatic Story of Unifying India

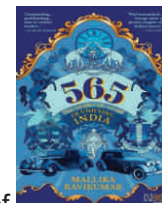
Written by

Ms. Mallika Ravikumar

The book provides a deep understanding of the massive task of deciding the fate of 565 princely states within the short time span of 50 days, during June - August 1947, in the run up to Independence.

Date: **Saturday, 21st December 2024**

Audience: **Open to all**



Time: **4.00 pm**

Venue:

Who Are We Hall, First Floor, Discovery of India Building, Nehru Centre, Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai – 400018.

Register for both events at: nehrucentrelibrary@gmail.com

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