

Newsletter

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Nehru Centre



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Annual Subscription Rs. 100

Events At a Glance...

CULTURE WING

Shaam-é-Afsaana

(An Evening of Urdu Story-Telling)

Date: **21st June 2025**

Time: **6.30 p.m.**

Venue: **Hall of Culture,
Ground Floor,
Discovery of India Building**

ART GALLERY

CHATAK 2025

A Monsoon Show of Student and Professional artists showcasing work done in various mediums and styles will be on display.

Category: Students

**24th June to 30th June 2025
Circular Gallery**

Category: Professionals

**24th June to 30th June 2025
AC Gallery**

Dear Subscribers

Please renew your subscription for the year 2025-2026 (April to March) so that the Newsletter can be sent to you without any break.

Please send cheque drawn in favour of 'Nehru Centre' only.

Speeches of the Freedom Movement

7. MOTILAL NEHRU: The Policy of Divide and Rule

New Delhi, 17 March, 1924

After the suspension of the Non-Cooperation Movement by Gandhi in 1922, several leaders of the Congress Party decided to enter the legislative bodies forsaking the boycott of the councils. This resulted in the formation of the Swaraj Party. The aim of the Swaraj Party was to fight elections for the assembly and the councils under the Act of 1919. After being elected, their aim was to wreck the working of these bodies and consequently of the government from within. The leading lights of the Swaraj Party were Motilal Nehru and C.R. Das. Their party fought the elections in 1923 and were successful beyond expectations. They were able to acquire a working majority in the Central Legislative Assembly under the leadership of Motilal Nehru, and were able to influence the decision-making process to a considerable degree.

The following speech of Motilal Nehru in the Legislative Assembly in New Delhi on the Indian Finance Bill, is a fine example of the obstructionist method adopted by the Swaraj Party. After his forceful speeches, the Finance Bill was overruled by sixty votes against fifty-seven. However, the grants and the Bill were certified by the Governor General.

"The Hon'ble Home Member has on more occasion than one during my brief experience of this House, with his special polemics shown himself to be a master in the art which is usually practised by the Government of India. That art is the art of 'divide and rule'. We have seen on many occasions that the great argument which he has against any proposition which is advanced by this section of the House, is to point out to those, who he fears, will follow us into the lobby and vote in favour of that proposition, the grave danger in which they stand if they do so. He never fails to point out to the non-swarajists the dangers of their associating themselves with the swarajists, and to those who are not in the Nationalist Party, the grave danger of their joining or voting with the Nationalist Party. Today we have witnessed an exhibition of that art almost to perfection. My Hon'ble friend has told all those who are not for a policy which destroys all, to beware how they cast in their lot with those who openly and professedly, before they came into this Assembly, were wreckers, and whose object was to make the government impossible.

I have made the effort to point out on previous occasions as to how it was

that I, a sworn swarajist, a confirmed swarajist, was using the instruments and the means that lay at my disposal in this assembly to push forward the national demand and to see what response that demand elicited from the authorities before whom it was pressed.

I said in clear terms and with no room for any doubt that we had come into this assembly, non-cooperators as we were, to offer you our cooperation, but on our own terms. Those terms were not dictated by a spirit of hostility to the government but were considered in consultation with other friends who were not swarajists. Those terms were put before the whole country and opinions were invited. All schools of thought concurred that we could not, in the interests of our country, place national demand any lower. Having satisfied ourselves as to the nature of the demand and the acceptance it had found in the entire country, we put it forward not on behalf of the swarajists or any particular section but, as I submitted when I was moving my amendment to the motion of my Hon'ble friend Mr. Rangachariar, we put it forward on behalf of the country.

Now, sir, after the discussion of the demands, we have the Finance Bill confronting us. What is our position regarding that? I should like to know what the Hon'ble Home Member expected it would be? I am sure he did not expect us to readily agree to the motion. He might have heard 'Ayes', as he did in the case of my Hon'ble friend, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, who informs us that he



Motilal Nehru

never voted on any of the demands. It is obvious that the Finance Bill, as it stands, could not possibly have our approval. Well, if it did not have our entire approval, was it merely the amendments of the various clauses proposing reductions of the various taxes that would have satisfied us? Was that all we wanted? What reason did my Hon'ble friend have to make that guess? After my statement that these demands would now be discussed in the ordinary course, no division was called for during the entire debate on the remaining grants with the exception of two. All the demands were discussed and done with. The whole idea was to put forward all the objections that could be raised on the merits.

Our position in regard to the Government of India Act, is that it is a false beginning. You assume much when you tell us that we the people of India would have to train ourselves in parliamentary institutions before we

can aspire to have parliamentary rights. Your conception of parliamentary duties, parliamentary rights and parliamentary procedures may be quite different to what the genius of the people might dictate to its representatives. Now, sir, it is stated in the report of the speech of Lord Olivier which I have before me:

'We claim to know by centuries of experience in Europe and America the laws and conditions indispensable for the stable working of that system, which is not native to India.'

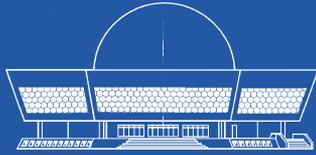
That claim admits the whole of my case. I do not want a system which is not native to India. What I want the Round Table Conference to determine is a system which is native to India and of which you have no experience in Europe or America. Your experience of centuries of Europe and America will not assist you in the least to find out what system is native to India.

What we are doing, I say again, merely amounts to the strongest protest we can make. We are using the strongest weapon available to us. We can do no more. I expect that in the step proposed to be taken, the House is with me. I beg the House to vote with one voice in support of my Hon'ble friend Pandit Malaviya, and to reject the motion to take the Bill into consideration. It will then, not be necessary for us to go into the amendments proposed which were put in as a matter of ordinary precaution."

What Nehru said....

Even today it is strange how we suddenly become overwhelmed by tradition, and the critical faculties of even intelligent men cease to function. This may partly be due to the nationalism that consumes us in our present subject state. Only when we are politically and economically free will the mind function normally and critically.

... from Chapter 4, *The Indus Valley Civilization, The Discovery of India*.



NEHRU PLANETARIUM

Tel: 022-40245413
Mobile : 9892890510

SKY SHOW : BIOGRAPHY OF THE UNIVERSE

12 noon (Hindi) 1:30 p.m. (Marathi)
3:00 p.m. (English) 4:30 p.m. (Hindi)

(MONDAY CLOSED)

Email: managernpmumbai@gmail.com

Space Stations - II

Chinese Tiangong Programme

The Chinese space programme began around the 1950s. By the last decade of the previous century, the programme had advanced sufficiently to consider constructing its own space station. The China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) was set up to look into the possibility of setting up a Chinese space station. The objective was to create a modular space station that a crew would continuously occupy. The CMSA came up with the Tiangong (the Heavenly Place) programme. In 1992 it was officially given the green light as Project 921.

China launched its first space laboratory, Tiangong-1, on September 29, 2011. It was the first prototype to demonstrate orbital rendezvous (an orbital manoeuvre where two spacecraft are brought to the same orbit) and docking capabilities that join two spacecrafts so that crew can move from one spacecraft to the other. The launch was uncrewed.

Later three astronauts* were launched aboard Shenzhou 9 spaceship. Shenzhou, in Chinese, means 'divine vessel' or 'divine boat'. On 18 June 2012, Shenzhou 9 spaceship docked with Tiangong-1 autonomously. This means that the spaceships docked without human intervention.

On 24 June, the astronauts carried an operation of manual docking of Shenzhou 9 with Tiangong-1. The Shenzhou 9 was first undocked from Tiangong-1, and later, the astronauts carried out manual docking. The exercise proved that if needed, like in the case of instrument malfunction, astronauts could take over the commands of the spaceship.

The second crewed docking with Tiangong-1 was with Shenzhou 10, on 13 June 2013. This mission was particularly noticed across the world for two of its three crew members were female astronauts, Liu Yang and Wang Yaping. The crew remained docked with Tiangong-1 till 25 June.

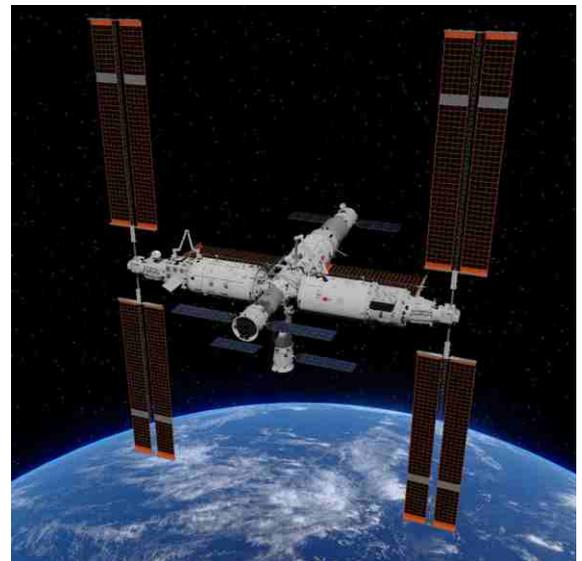
The three crew members conducted experiments in space medicine, technological experiments and other scientific endeavours. Wang Yaping conducted scientific experiments like the study of the effects of zero gravity on objects, the effects of zero gravity on buoyancy, the movement of objects in space, and surface tension of liquids. In addition, she conducted physics classes for Chinese students by live television broadcast. The crew also performed a manual redocking.

The Tiangong-1 was finally deorbited on 2 April 2018. It burned up in the Earth's atmosphere over the South Pacific Ocean.

Tiangong-2 was launched on 15 September 2016 and was deorbited as planned on 19 July 2019. It was also launched without crew. Two astronauts aboard Shenzhou 11 were launched on 16 October 2016.

The only mission of Tiangong-2 was to rendezvous and dock with the spacecraft Shenzhou 11 and test its life-support systems. Shenzhou 11 autonomously docked with Tiangong-2. Astronauts remained on board Tiangong-2 for 33 days and returned to Earth on 18 November 2016.

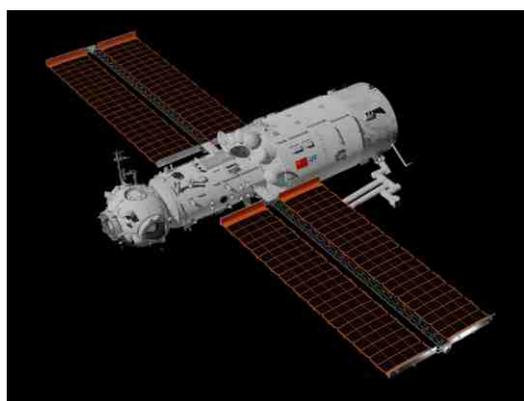
With the success of Tiangong-1 and -2, China was ready to start building the Tiangong Space Station. Like the International Space Station, it was built by assembling modules in space.



Tiangong Space Station

The first and core module, Tianhe (“Harmony of the Heavens”), was launched on 29 April 2021. It was built to provide life support, power (using solar cells), propulsion, guidance, navigation, and orientation control for the station.

The module consists of three sections: the habitable living quarters, the non-habitable service section, and a docking hub. The living quarters have 50 cubic meters of habitable space for three people, compared to only 15 cubic meters for Tiangong-1.



Tianhe core module with the robotic arm at the docking position (at the right end of the module)

The living quarters include a kitchen and toilet, fire control equipment, air processing and control equipment, computers, scientific apparatus, and ground communications equipment. For real-time communication (live audio and video) between the space station and the ground control, a constellation of three communication satellites is placed in geostationary orbits. A satellite in a geostationary orbit is positioned so that it remains over a specific land location at all times.

Two more modules, Wentian (‘Quest for the Heavens’) and Mengtian (‘Dreaming of the Heavens’), docked with Tiangong on 25 July 2022 and 31 October 2022, respectively.

The Tiangong station is provided with a robotic arm. It is fixed outside the station. This arm assists in docking other modules to the station. The arm facilitates extravehicular activities (e.g., spacewalks).

CMSA has planned approximately 1,000 experiments to be carried out in space. There are twenty-three experimental racks to be used for scientific research. These racks are in enclosed and pressurised environment.

One of the proposed experiments is to explore agriculture in microgravity to explore rice cultivation as a sustainable food source for long-term spaceflights and arabidopsis thaliana which is a small plant from the mustard family. It was the first plant to have its genome sequenced, and is an essential tool for understanding the molecular biology of many plant traits. Other experiments are related to microgravity fluid physics, material science in space, and fundamental physics in microgravity.

Tiangong orbits the Earth from 389.1 kilometre above the Earth. It goes round the Earth every 92.3 minutes at a speed of 7.67 km/s.

It has been in the orbit for more than 4 years, out of which it has been occupied by astronauts for more than three and half years. Tiangong is designed to be used for 10 years, though it could be extended to 15 years.



The robotic arm on Tiangong. It is 15 metres long.

Bharatiya Antariksh Station

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has begun work on India's space station, which is scheduled to be placed in orbit by 2035.

It will be 400 kilometres above the Earth, and three astronauts could stay on board for about 3 to 6 months.

* The official Chinese term for astronauts is “yuhangyuan”, which means space traveller. Taikonaut is a term used for a Chinese astronaut. The name comes from the Cantonese word “taikon”, which means “cosmon”, and the Greek suffix “-naut” is added to it.

Over the last six months, we have given you glimpses of the establishment of space stations and the working and lives of astronauts. If you wish to say hi to these astronauts, even symbolically, visit the link below. You can check out which space station or satellite might cross your sky. <https://www.heavens-above.com/>



Story-telling is an art which is now being resurrected in almost all languages. The telling of short classic stories gives a new life to oral histories and inspires listeners to read more works by the writer. Urdu literature is replete with story-telling or *Afsana Nigari*, by which eminent scholars bring out the richness of the language through their readings.

The Culture Wing of Nehru Centre takes great pleasure in inviting lovers of Urdu literature to an evening of Urdu story-telling - Shaam-é-Afsana.

Shaam-é-Afsana will feature

Janab Parvez Anees, Nagpur
who will present Afsancha,

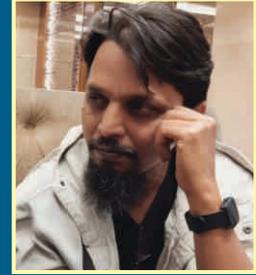
Janab Mohammed Imran Jameel, Malegaon
and Janab Shadab Sajid Rashid, Mumbai

Janab Javed Siddiqui will share his views on the stories.

Date: Saturday, 21st June 2025 at 6.30 p.m.

Venue: Hall of Culture

Entry: Free for all Urdu literature lovers on first-come, first-served basis



Parvez Anees



Mohammed Imran Jameel



Shadab Sajid Rashid

PRANOTI MODI



Pranoti is based in Ahmedabad. She is an architect by profession and paints in oil and acrylic on canvas.

**Tuesday 3rd June 2025
to Monday 9th June 2025
(AC Gallery)**

**PRAKASHCHANDRA
VISHWAKARMA**



Prakashchandra is from Mumbai. He has completed Art Masters from J. J. School of Arts, Mumbai. He paints figuratives in acrylic, oil and pastels. He has many group and solo shows to his credit.

**Tuesday 3rd June 2025
to Monday 9th June 2025
(Circular Gallery)**

BHARAT SINGH

Bharat Singh is a self-taught artist from Nepal. He is an expert in portrait painting in various mediums.

**Tuesday 10th June 2025
to Monday 16th June 2025
(AC Gallery)**

VIJAYKUMAR PANDAV

Vijaykumar is from Pune. He creates acrylic abstraction that incorporates spirituality in every stroke.

**Tuesday 10th June 2025
to Monday 16th June 2025
(Circular Gallery)**

**SCIENCE THROUGH
ARTISTS' EYES**

An exhibition of artistic expression of scientific phenomenon through paintings and photographs.

**Tuesday 17th June to
Monday 23rd June 2025
(AC & Circular Gallery)**

'CHATAK' 2025 A Monsoon Show



... and the first drop of rain arrived to quench the thirst of the Chatak (a legendary bird)

Student Artists

Chatak, a monsoon show of student artists participating with their various mediums and styles will be on display in this show.



Shreyash Arekar



Omkar Pokharkar



Ajit Raut



Maurya Ghanshyam

**Tuesday 24th June 2025 to
Monday 30th June 2025
(Circular Gallery)**

Chatak, a monsoon show of professional artists participating with their various mediums and styles will be on display in this show.

Professional Artists



Sahebrao Hare



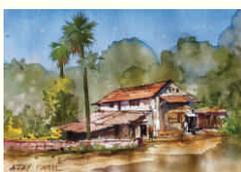
Advait Nadavdekar



Baban Mane



Rahul Kamble



Ajay Patil

**Tuesday 24th June 2025 to
Monday 30th June 2025
(AC Gallery)**

RAMSAR WETLAND SITES IN INDIA

Future Projects

The Amrit Dharohar initiative, part of the 2023-24 budget announcement, was launched in June 2023 to promote unique conservation values of Ramsar sites in the country while generating employment opportunities and supporting local livelihoods.

In 2024, India announced its programme to promote tourism at ecologically sensitive wetlands, better known as Ramsar sites, such as the Chilika Lake in Odisha and Sultanpur bird sanctuary in Haryana. The focus of the initiative is to shift these fragile wetlands from high-value tourism to nature tourism by directly supporting conservation action and letting local communities and economies take the lead.

Nature tourism is tourism based on the natural attractions of an area like birdwatching, photography, stargazing, camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, and visiting parks. These are experiential tourists who are interested in a diversity of natural and cultural resources.

As of now, sixteen Ramsar sites have been identified under the initiative and five of them have been taken up as a pilot project for skill development of the facilitators, tourism service providers, and stakeholders in and around these sites.

The five wetlands which are part of the pilot project are Sultanpur National Park (Haryana), Bhitarkanika Mangroves (Odisha), Chilika Lake (Odisha), Sirpur (Madhya Pradesh) and Yashwant Sagar (Madhya Pradesh).

The scheme is being implemented in convergence with various Union government ministries and agencies, state wetland authorities and a network of formal and informal institutions and individuals.

The Tourism Ministry and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change are training facilitators, tourism service providers and stakeholders for strengthening of nature tourism at Ramsar sites in association with the State Tourism Departments.

Training programme

At Bhitarkanika and Chilika in Odisha, two training programmes of 15 days each for the Alternative Livelihood Programme and Paryatan Navik Certificate (boatman certification for tourism) - will soon be completed. A total of 60 participants (30 for each course) are being trained at these sites.

"We are trying to train boatmen, local artisans as well as shopkeepers double up as guides who can explain the importance of these wetlands and the flora and fauna available there," the Tourism Ministry said.

The tourism industry identifies high-value travellers as those who are likely to spend more, stay longer, and disperse beyond tourist hotspots. "Wetlands are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and services. Hence it is important that we focus on nature tourism at these Ramsar sites," a senior Tourism Ministry official told *The Hindu*.

Reference:

The Hindu, Sunday, 21 January, 2024 pg. 1 & 6 by Sreeparna Chakrabarty.



Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary



Bhitarkanika



Chilika Lake

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. SONAVADEKAR (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

Set of five assorted gift cards
Designed by differently abled children

SANSKRUTI - CD ROM :
An aesthetics of Indian culture

DISCOVERY OF INDIA (VCD)

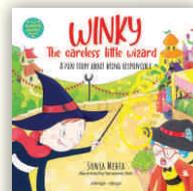
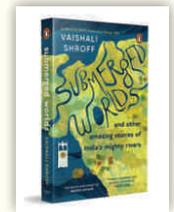
Set of ten greeting cards
Based on Discovery of India Exposition

Available at:
Book Stall, Ground Floor,
Discovery of India Building,
Nehru Centre, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.

Nehru Centre Library
for all things literary



Another week of the 'Summer Book Club' was held from May 5 to May 10, 2025. The kids, parents and authors had a great time interacting with each other. There were lots of readings, games, activities and book signings. Nehru Centre Library looks forward to organizing more such fun events.



nehru-centre.org/library.html

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www.twitter.com/nehrucenlib

nehrucenlib.blogspot.com

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