

# Newsletter

Vol. 26 Issue 5 MAY 2025

Price Rs. 10/- Per Copy

## Nehru Centre



Discovery of India Building  
Dr. Annie Besant Road,  
Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.  
Phone : 24964676  
24964678  
40245400

Annual Subscription Rs. 100

## HOMAGE

Nehru Centre will pay homage to late Shri Rajni Patel, founder member and former General Secretary of the Centre on his 43rd death anniversary.

All are requested to join.

Date: **Saturday, 3rd May 2025**

Time: **11.00 a.m.**

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

## Events At a Glance...

### CULTURE WING

स्वरबंध महाराष्ट्राचे

(A special programme to celebrate Maharashtra Day)

**2nd May 2025, 6.45 p.m.  
Nehru Centre Auditorium**

### SUMMER CAMPS

**Date: 19th-24th May 2025  
Details on page 5**

### LIBRARY

#### SUMMER BOOK CLUB

Enjoy the cool summer mornings with a bevy of authors @Nehru Centre Library

**When: 5th - 10th May 2025  
Details on page 8**

## Speeches of the Freedom Movement

### 6. BAL GANGADHAR TILAK: Swaraj Is My Birthright

*Nasik, 17 May, 1917*

*Triggering a strong wave of patriotism, one of the most potent cries of the Indian freedom struggle was coined by Bal Gangadhar Tilak- 'Swaraj is my birthright.' He was the strongest advocate of Swaraj (self-rule), which for him had to be complete self-rule.*

*The following speech was given at the first anniversary of the Home Rule League. Tilak founded the First League in April 1916. The organization's aim was to mobilize public opinion in favour of self-rule in India.*

"I am young in spirit though old in body. The body might grow old, decrepit, and it might perish, but the soul is immortal. Similarly, even if it may seem that there is a lull in our Home Rule activities, the spirit behind it is eternal and indestructible, and it will secure liberty for us. Freedom is my birthright. So long as this spirit is awake within me, I am not old. This spirit is indestructible; it cannot be destroyed by weapons, fire, water or wind.

We ask for Home Rule and we must get it. Politics which results in Home Rule is moral politics, but what leads to slavery is not politics at all. I

want to awaken your soul. I want to remove the blindfold which has led to your ignorance. The science of politics consists of two parts. The first is divine and the second is demonic. The slavery of a nation constitutes the latter part. There cannot be any moral justification for the demonic part of the science of politics. A nation which might justify this is guilty of sin in the eyes of God. Some people do and some do not have the courage to declare their rights. Political and religious education consists in gaining the knowledge of this principle. Religious and political teachings are not separate; they appear to be so on account of foreign rule.

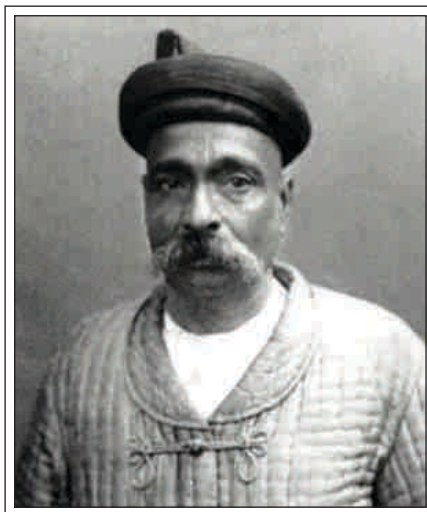
Who does not know the meaning of Home Rule? Who does not want it? Would you like it if I enter your house and take charge of your kitchen? I must have the right to manage the affairs of my own house. It is only lunatics and children who do not know how to manage their own affairs. Not being lunatics or children you have practical sense, understand your rights and therefore, you know Home Rule.

We are told we are not fit for Home Rule. A century has passed and the British Rule has not made us fit for

Home Rule; now we will make ourselves fit for it. To offer irrelevant excuses, to hold out many temptations, and to lure people and instil fear in them is a blot on the English policy. England is trying to protect the small state of Belgium with India's help; how can it then say that we should not have Home Rule? We must work hard to save the soul of our nation without caring about the opinion of others.

For the benefit of our country, we must guard this birthright. The Congress has passed this Home Rule resolution. The provincial conference is only a child of the Congress, which submits to the mandates of its parent body. We are determined to make efforts to get this resolution enforced even if it makes us suffer hardships and even if it finally brings us death. Do not pass this resolution by merely clapping your hands, but by taking a solemn vow that you will work for it. We will use every possible constitutional and law-abiding method to get Home Rule.

By the grace of God, England has changed its mind towards us. We feel our efforts will finally bring us success. England proudly thought that a tiny nation would be able to protect the Empire by itself. It has now begun to feel that it must make changes in the constitution of the Empire. Lloyd George has openly confessed that England cannot go on without India's help. The Indian soldiers have saved the lives of the British soldiers by their exemplary



**Bal Gangadhar Tilak**

bravery on the battlefield in France. Those who once considered us slaves have now begun to call us brothers. We must push our demands while the notion of this brotherhood exists in the minds of the English. They must be made to understand that we, thirty crore Indians, are ready to lay down our lives for the Empire; and that while we are with them, none can dare cast an evil glance at the Empire.

Swaraj is the natural consequence of diligent performance of duty. What then is this Swaraj? It is a life centred in self and dependent upon self. God does not help the indolent. You should not, however, presume that when you toil, you yourself will reap the fruit of your labours. Let us then try our utmost and leave the generations to come to enjoy that fruit. Let the advantage now go to our children and their descendants. We should not relax in

our efforts. Well thought out action alone must be our guiding principle.

We demand Swaraj, as it is the foundation and not the height of our future prosperity. Swaraj does not at all imply a denial of British sovereignty. It means that we Indians should be reckoned among the patriotic and self-respecting peoples of the Empire.

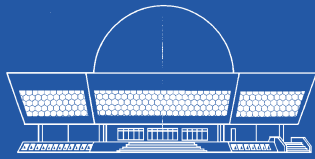
In practical politics, some futile objections are raised to oppose Swaraj. Illiteracy of the majority of our people is one such objection but I think it should not be allowed to stand in our way. It is sufficient even if the illiterate in our country have only a vague concept of Swaraj. Those who can efficiently manage their own affairs may be illiterate but they are certainly not foolish. If they can understand their immediate concerns they should not find any difficulty in grasping the principle of Swaraj. Even the illiterate are our brethren; they have the same rights and are actuated by the same aspirations. It is, therefore, our bounden duty to awaken the masses. Circumstances are favourable. The voice has gone forth, 'Now or Never.' Rectitude and constitutional agitation are expected of you. Do not turn your back, and leave the ultimate issue to the benevolence of the Almighty."

**Note: The Second Home Rule League was started by Annie Besant in September 1916.**

### What Nehru said....

The impact of science and the modern world have brought a greater appreciation of facts, a more critical faculty, a weighing of evidence, a refusal to accept tradition merely because it is tradition. Many competent historians are at work now, but they often err on the other side and their work is more a meticulous chronicle of facts than living history.

*... 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)

Tickets will be available online and at the Booking Counter.  
Visitors are expected to strictly follow Covid-19 norms.

Email: [managernpmumbai@gmail.com](mailto:managernpmumbai@gmail.com)

## Space Stations - I

Space stations are space-crafts that orbit the Earth with humans on board for cutting edge scientific research for extended periods. Some of the studies pertain to the effects on the human body of a zero-gravity environment, earth's landforms, weather, vegetation and other such features.

### History

The concept of a space station was first mentioned by an American writer, Edward Evert Hale (1822–1909) in a serially published novella, *The Brick Moon*, 1869, in which he fictionalised an artificial satellite. In 1928, Herman Potočnik (1892-1929), an Austro-Hungarian army officer, electrical engineer and astronautics theorist, created the first detailed technical drawing for a space station. He included these drawings in his book, *The Problem of Space Travel* in which he discussed the concept of a rotating space station.

Later, in 1951, Wernher von Braun (1912- 1977) a German-American aerospace engineer advanced Herman's concept. He envisaged that a space station should be continuously rotating, thus creating artificial gravity. The artificial gravity would save the crew from the feeling of weightlessness. The diameter of the first such space station was expected to be 75 meters so that about eighty people like astronomers, meteorologists and engineers could be accommodated on it.

By the end of 1950, the basic technology for making and installing a space station had already been worked out in the USA and the USSR. Both countries had launched their artificial satellites in outer space for military reconnaissance, communications and scientific experiments. Space stations were also to serve as transit stations for future expeditions to the Moon and other objects of the solar system, such as planets and comets.



Artist's concept of a rotating Space Station

### Development

The development of any space station never began for two reasons: firstly, the rotating station had to be large, and thus, the project would become very expensive; and secondly, the announcement by John F. Kennedy in 1961 that the US would land a man on the Moon "before the decade is out".

The US Air Force devised plans to operate a Manned Orbiting Laboratory for military purposes. The laboratory was to be fitted with an advanced camera to facilitate reconnaissance activities. The Nixon administration cancelled this programme after successfully landing on the Moon in 1969.

## Soviet Space Missions

By early 1960, the Soviet Union had begun a highly secret military reconnaissance station programme called Almaz (meaning diamond). Almaz stations flew under the Salyut (meaning 'salute' or 'fireworks') programme and were also called Durable Orbital Stations. Salyut 1 was the first such station which was launched on 19 April 1971 and placed in orbit about 200 kilometres above the Earth. Three days later, on 22 April, three Russian cosmonauts were launched on board Soyuz 10. They, however, had difficulty docking with Salyut 1 and had to abort the mission.

A second attempt to dock with Salyut 1 was made on 7 June 1971. It was successful. On 29 June 1971 after spending 22 days on Salyut 1, the cosmonauts started their journey back to the Earth. This was the first time that humans were in space for an extended period. Unfortunately, the mission ended in disaster. Though the space capsule in which the cosmonauts were returning landed safely, the cosmonauts were found dead inside. The cause of their death was attributed to capsule depressurisation during preparations for re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere. Also, the cosmonauts were not wearing their space suits. From then on, wearing space suits during re-entry to the Earth's atmosphere has become mandatory for every astronaut.

## American Skylab



**Skylab**

The United States' first space station, Skylab, was launched on 14 May 1973. It had a solar observatory, detectors and cameras for observing the Earth and conducting scientific experiments. Unfortunately, the Skylab was damaged during its launch. Its micrometeoroid shield was torn away, damaging the main solar panel and jamming the other solar panel array. The first crew replaced the shield and freed the jammed solar panels. This was the first repair work carried out in space. But the Skylab had to be deorbited on 11 July 1979. It broke into many pieces that fell across the Indian Ocean and Western Australia.

## Russian Mir

Until 1986, all the space stations placed in orbit around the Earth were single units. From 1986 onwards, the space stations that were launched were modular units, which were assembled in outer space. On 20 February 1986, the Soviet Union launched Mir (meaning 'peace' or 'world' in Russian). It was assembled in orbit over a period of ten years from 1986 to 1996. At the time, it was the largest artificial satellite in orbit. Mir was the first continuously inhabited long-term research station in orbit and, at 3,644 days, held the record for having the longest human presence in space. This record was surpassed on 23 October 2010 by the International Space Station. Russian cosmonaut Valeri Polyakov spent 437 days and 18 hours on the station between 1994 and 1995. After spending 4,592 days in space and making 86,331 orbits around the Earth, Mir was deorbited on 23 March 2001.

Later, both USA and Russia, along with other countries like India too started considering establishing space stations in the Earth's orbit. We will write about some of these in the next issue.



**Mir**

*... to be continued*



# Culture Wing

Nehru Centre  
Presents

## स्वरबंध महाराष्ट्राचे



To celebrate Maharashtra Day, Nehru Centre has organised a special programme which will trace the history of performing arts in Maharashtra through a dialogue.

Participants:  
**Ashok Patki** (music director),  
**Faiyaz Shaikh** (singer, actress)  
and **Pramila Datar** (singer)

Script & Compere: **Uttara Mone**

Music Arranger: **Pranav Haridas**  
Singers: **Mandar Apte, Madhuri Karmarkar**

Accompanists: **Pranav Haridas** (Flute),  
**Saurabh Shirke** (Tabla), **Deep Vaze**  
(Keyboard), **Harsh Parmar** (Octopad),  
**Chetan Parab** (Side Rhythm)

Friday, 2 May 2025, 6.45 p.m.  
Nehru Centre Auditorium

Entry: Free Entrance Cards will be available on  
Monday, 28th April 2025 from 10.30 am onwards  
until availability from the ticket counter of Nehru Centre  
Auditorium

## SUMMER WORKSHOPS (19 - 24 May 2025)

**Kathak Darpan** by Vidushi Saswati Sen, Senior Disciple of Pt. Birju Maharaj



**Laya Aur Taal - A Workshop on Tabla Techniques** by Pt. Yogesh Samsi

**Harmonies of the Harmonium** by Pt. Sudhir Nayak



**Acting & Theatre Appreciation** by Shri Abhijeet Zunjarrao

**Lavani Majhi Sakhi** by Ms. Surekha Punekar (Lavani Samradhyani)



**Workshop on Calligraphy** by Padmashri Shri Achyut Palav (19th-22nd May)

Grand Finalé on Saturday, 24th May 2025 between  
11.00 and 8.00 p.m. at Nehru Centre Auditorium

Workshop Forms are available from our website: [www.nehru-centre.org](http://www.nehru-centre.org) till 10th May 2025.

**NANDINI VERMA**



Nandini works in acrylic, water colours and ink.

**Tuesday 6th May 2025  
to Monday 12th May 2025  
(AC Gallery)**

**PODAR ORT  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

This unique event will celebrate creativity by paying homage to the great masters who dominated the art world through their various mediums and styles.

**Tuesday 6th May 2025  
to Monday 12th May 2025  
(Circular Gallery)**

**JYOTI CHORDIA, ITEE JAIN  
RRITU GOEL, ROSY GUNITI**

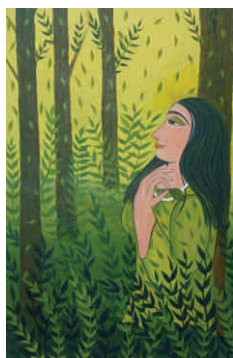


Jyoti Chordia

This group of four artists will display paintings in water colours and acrylic on canvas.

**Tuesday 13th May 2025  
to Monday 19th May 2025  
(AC Gallery)**

**YASH NESARIKAR  
BABITA PUJARI  
MEGHANA VEERKAR**



Babita Pujari

Students of Fine Art will showcase works in oil colour, water colour, acrylic and oil pastels.

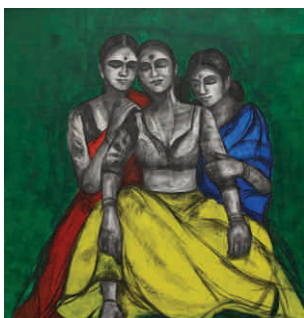
**Tuesday 13th May 2025  
to Monday 19th May 2025  
(Circular Gallery)**

**MAHARASHTRA ART FAIR**

A group of artists, sculptors and photographers from different professions will showcase their art in this show.

**Tuesday 20th May 2025  
to Monday 26th May 2025  
(AC Gallery)**

**MAITRRY SHAH**



Maitrry will showcase paintings in mixed media. Her paintings reflect a woman's introspective moods.

**Tuesday 20th May 2025  
to Monday 26th May 2025  
(Circular Gallery)**

**REFLECTIONS: A  
RETROSPECTIVE OF  
MILIND MULICK'S  
ARTISTRY**



A unique retrospective that traces the trajectory of Milind Mulick's art over the past thirty years will be on display with works of renowned illustrator Pratap Mulick.

**Tuesday 27th May 2025  
to Monday 2nd June 2025  
(AC Gallery)**

**AARDRA PATIL**



Aardra is a water colour artist and paints florals and themes inspired by nature. She also paints with acrylic and mixed media.

**Tuesday 27th May 2025  
to Monday 2nd June 2025  
(Circular Gallery)**

# RAMSAR WETLAND SITES IN INDIA

## 24. Bihar (New)

Wetlands are land areas covered by water, either temporarily, seasonally or permanently. Such areas play a key role in the hydrological cycle and flood control, water supply and providing food, fibre and raw materials. India has added two bird sanctuaries in the country's list of wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, becoming a joint third with China in terms of having 82 such sites in the global list. The latest two — Nagi and Nakti bird sanctuaries — were added on the occasion of World Environment Day in 2024. Both are man-made reservoirs situated in the Jhajha forest range of Jamui district.

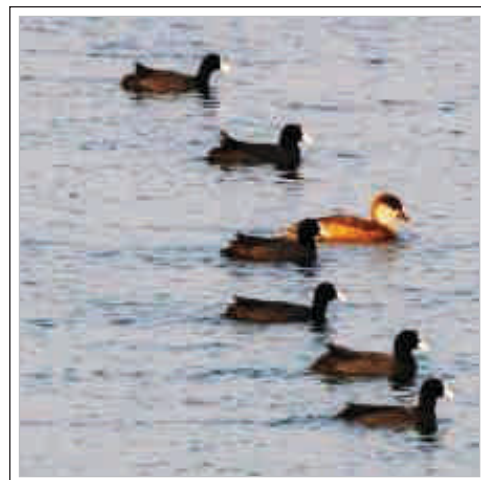
### 1. Nagi Bird Sanctuary

The site was created after the construction of a dam on the Nagi River, which enabled the gradual formation of water bodies with clear water and aquatic vegetation. The catchment area which is a largely dry deciduous forest, is surrounded by hills. Due to its importance for migratory bird species, the site was recognized locally as a Bird Sanctuary in 1984, and internationally as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) by Birdlife International. Some migratory bird species that winter at the site include the critically endangered Baer's pochard and the endangered steppe eagle.

Overall, the wetland and its fringes provide habitat for over 75 bird species, 33 fish and 12 aquatic plants. It is notable that the site hosts one of the largest congregation of bar-headed geese on the Indo-Gangetic plain when they migrate during winter. Additionally, the wetland provides a reliable source of water for the irrigation of over 9,800 acres of agricultural land and serves as a location for recreation, tourism and educational activities.

### 2. Nakti Bird Sanctuary

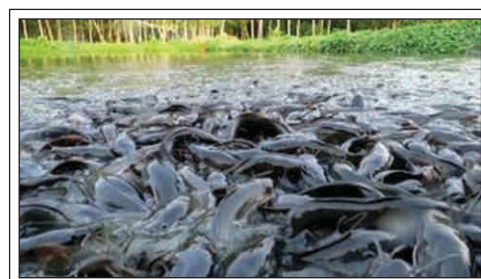
The site is a man-made wetland which was developed primarily for irrigation through the construction of the Nakti Dam. Since the dam's construction, the wetland and its surrounding areas have provided habitat for over 150 species of birds, mammals, fish, aquatic plants, reptiles and amphibians. They include many globally threatened species like the endangered Indian elephant and the native catfish. The catchment area is largely dry deciduous forest area, and is surrounded by hills. In 1984, the wetland was designated as a Bird Sanctuary, highlighting its importance as a wintering habitat for several migratory species with over 20,000 birds congregating during winter months. This includes one of the largest congregations of red-crested pochard on the Indo-Gangetic plain. Together with supporting the agricultural and domestic water demands of local communities, the site is also popular as a recreational birdwatching site.



**Baer's Pochard**



**Aerial View of Nakti Bird Sanctuary**



**Cat Fish**



**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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**LET'S READ TOGETHER**

COME, LET'S HEAR SOME STORIES IN RHYTHM WITH KETAKI MAJUMDAR  
5<sup>th</sup> MAY MONDAY

GET YOURSELF INSPIRED BY AMAZING CHANGE MAKERS WITH LAVANYA KARTHIK  
6<sup>th</sup> MAY TUESDAY

READ AND FLOW YOURSELF WITH THE JOURNEY OF RIVERS WITH VAISHALI SHROFF  
7<sup>th</sup> MAY WEDNESDAY

KNOW YOUR FOOD WITH KATIE BAGLI AND MEDHA S RAJADHYAKSHA  
8<sup>th</sup> MAY THURSDAY

KNOW THE LIFE JOURNEY OF AN AVIATOR WITH NANDITA DA CUNHA  
9<sup>th</sup> MAY FRIDAY

FIX YOUR PROBLEM BY A MAGIC SPELL WITH SONIA MEHTA  
10<sup>th</sup> MAY SATURDAY

**SUMMER BOOK CLUB**  
**@ NEHRU CENTRE LIBRARY**  
**5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> MAY**

FOR SCHEDULE AND TO REGISTER EMAIL  
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 Website: <a href="http://www.nehru-centre.org">www.nehru-centre.org</a>	Published for Nehru Centre <b>by Shri Chandrakant M. Rane</b> Discovery of India Building, Dr. A. B. Road, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.
 Email: <a href="mailto:editor@nehru-centre.org">editor@nehru-centre.org</a>	
Printed at <b>M/s PRINTCOM</b> I-Wing, Shop No. 1, Mahalaxmi SRA CHSL., P. B. Marg, Worli, Mumbai - 400 030.	<i>Editor</i> Arati N. Desai <i>Design &amp; Layout</i> Imtiaz Kalu