

Newsletter

Vol. 26 Issue 7 JULY 2025

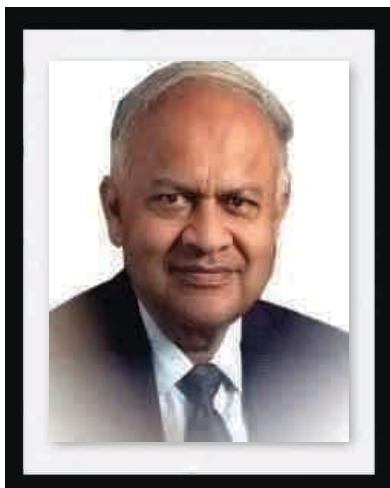
Price Rs. 10/- Per Copy

Nehru Centre



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

Annual Subscription Rs. 100



Prof. Jayant Narlikar
(1938 - 2025)

Professor Jayant V. Narlikar, world renowned cosmologist and friend, philosopher and guide of Nehru Planetarium is no more. He passed away last month in his sleep. He had authored the script of the Planetarium's first sky show "Tryst with Destiny".

He will be deeply missed.

May his soul rest in peace.

Speeches of the Freedom Movement

8. MOHANDAS KARAMCHAND GANDHI

The State of National Institutions

Ahmedabad, 14 January 1925

When Gandhi started the Non-cooperation Movement in 1920, one of the items on the agenda was the boycott of government - run schools and colleges. As an alternative, national schools and colleges were opened. A few universities (vidyapeeths) were also established. One such university was the Gujarat Vidyapeeth founded by Gandhi in November 1920. He had great hopes from the institution and he even used to deliver a weekly lecture to the students. However, his hopes were belied as is evident from the Fourth Convocation address reproduced below. The address also throws light on Gandhi's philosophy of education which basically revolved around the 'charkha'.

"Students, brothers and sisters, you may have seen from the report which the registrar read today that during the last four years, the number of students has gradually been going down. Ordinarily, this would cause disappointment. I am not disappointed though I would admit that if it had been possible for us to show an increase in the number of students or some other progress by commonly accepted standards,

I would have been pleased. It is true that many of us had hoped that we would need to run this institution only for a year and that after the attainment of *swaraj*, you would go back to your schools and colleges which you had left at the call of the country. But four years have passed since and it is not yet possible to say how much longer we must remain in banishment. I have now come to believe that even after we secure *swaraj*, many such institutions would continue to work independently of the government. The only difference then would be that unlike today, these institutions would not have to compete with government schools and colleges.

This morning itself when I reached the ashram, there was a postcard waiting for me. It contained accusations against this institution. The communication was anonymous. It said, 'Why don't you close this institution? Why don't you open your eyes? You have misguided the students, many of whom are returning to government schools after deserting this institution. Whatever you think, the students have not the least faith in the *charkha*. Therefore, you should close the *vidyapeeth* and all affiliated

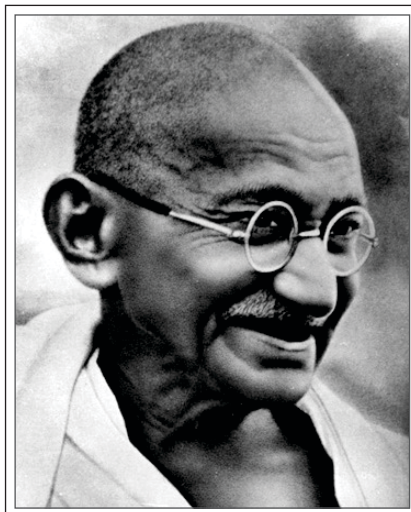
institutions.' I do not accept this advice, and hope that you too would not do so.

I would indeed be sorry if the students did not have faith in the *charkha*. You must remember the resolution which the Congress has passed about national institutions. A national school to be classed as such must fulfil the following conditions:

- Spinning must have a place in the daily routine.
- Teachers and students must spin daily for half an hour and should wear only hand-spun and hand-woven khadi.
- The medium of instruction should either be the mother tongue or Hindustani.
- Vyayam, i.e. physical training including the art of self-defence, should be given due importance.
- The school should endeavour to unite the hearts of the Hindus and Muslims. It should in no circumstances shut its doors to untouchables.

This definition of a national school has been laid down by the Congress.

I have never said that the students should ply the *charkha* all day. If I could persuade students and other countrymen that this would be most helpful to the country, I would indeed ask all people to spin the entire day. But I cannot persuade the country today nor can I myself do it. My ambition is to be able to proclaim to India that real learning consists in spinning round the clock. In a way, if you select any pure activity and



Mahatma Gandhi

concentrate thereon, it will lead to real learning because it is a way of performing yoga.

The other charge is about a remark which I made that the *vidyapeeth* should make a scheme for a syllabus which would provide one with a livelihood after graduation. I say this even now. But this is not and should not be the principal aim before the *vidyapeeth* or before you. If learning becomes merely a means of earning, it will lead to your downfall. The *vidyapeeth* has defined learning as that which leads to liberation. Therefore, it would be wrong, in this idealistic institution, to learn merely for the sake of earning. There are several ways of earning. Learning is intended to improve the body, mind and soul. One who has acquired real learning is one whose body is well-built and strong, who can endure extreme heat and cold, who has a strong will, self-restrained and pure, whose soul is so pure that he can claim to listen to the beat of his own heart, and since the

seat of the soul is in the heart, his heart must also be pure. I am being told that the students have to run a house and feed many mouths. It may be so; a family should be maintained and it needs courage to do so. But while acquiring the learning described above, we also secure the ability to earn our livelihood.

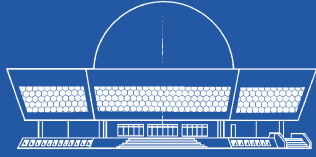
You should not bother about what happens to the *vidyapeeth*. It is enough for you to know that your being here in this institution is the right thing for you, and going to a government school or college would have been wrong, seeing that as things stand you would not have received the kind of education that you should. As long as you believe that India did not get what she should have from government institutions - and there is no likelihood of her doing so till she shakes off the foreign bondage - the *vidyapeeth* is the right place for you and you must not think of leaving it. But if you feel that you can get all that you want from a government institution, you had better go there. In that case, there can be no reason whatever for you to worry about the future of the *vidyapeeth*.

You may not have realized the significance of the prayer that was recited before my speech or the vows that were administered to you by the registrar. The noble mantras of the prayer convey a sustaining message which cannot be imparted by speeches and writings. You may think no more of my speech and all other things, but do not forget the prayer and the vow. Then your time and mine would not have been wasted."

What Nehru said....

Reality is not something that is permanent and unchanging, but rather a kind of radiant energy, a thing of forces and movements, a succession of sequences. The idea of time is just a notion abstracted by mere usage from this or that event.

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



NEHRU PLANETARIUM

Tel: 022-40245413
Mobile : 9892890510

SKY SHOW : COSMIC LIFE

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

(MONDAY CLOSED)

Email: managernpmumbai@gmail.com

Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar (1938 - 2025)

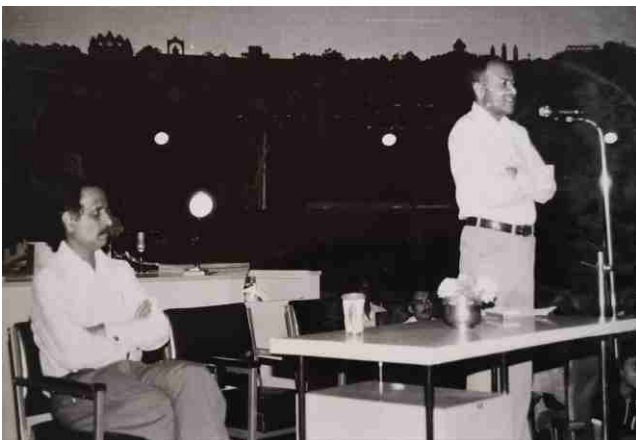
On May 20, 2025, India and the world lost a highly acclaimed cosmologist, Prof Jayant Vishnu Narlikar. He, along with his PhD supervisor, Prof. Fred Hoyle, expounded the theory of the Quasi-Steady State Universe challenging the prevailing Big Bang theory.

Jayant Narlikar was born on July 19, 1938 to Prof. Vishnu Narlikar and Smt. Sumati Narlikar, in Kolhapur, Maharashtra. His father was a professor and the head of the Mathematics Department, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), while his mother was a Sanskrit scholar.

He received his early education in BHU, where he completed his B.Sc. in 1957. Thereafter he went to Cambridge University for further studies, becoming a Wrangler in Mathematical Tripos and also winning the Tyson Medal, the Smith's prize and the Adam's prize.



Prof Jayant Narlikar with his parents



Delivering a talk in the Sky Theatre

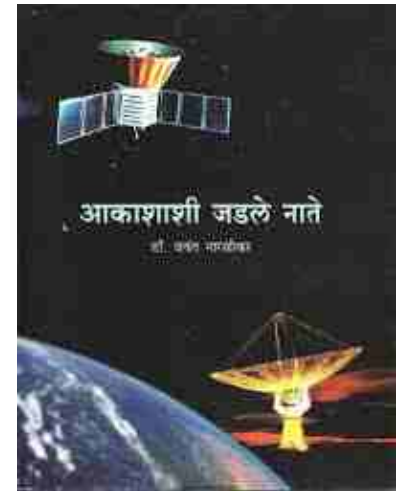
Prof. Narlikar returned to India in 1972, his home country, primarily to contribute to the development of scientific research. He joined the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, where he established and led the Theoretical Astrophysics Group. Later, at the invitation of the University Grants Commission, he worked on establishing a world-class research facility where science faculty from various universities across the country could pursue their research interests in astronomy and astrophysics. In 1988, he became the founding Director of the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA).

He played an integral part in the activities of the Nehru Planetarium as he helped to plan and develop the sky theatre shows. In fact, when he was with the TIFR, he regularly invited famous astronomers to deliver public lectures at the planetarium, a practice which continued even after he moved to IUCAA, Pune. He always liked to visit the Nehru Planetarium and interact with students or deliver a public talk. One particularly memorable

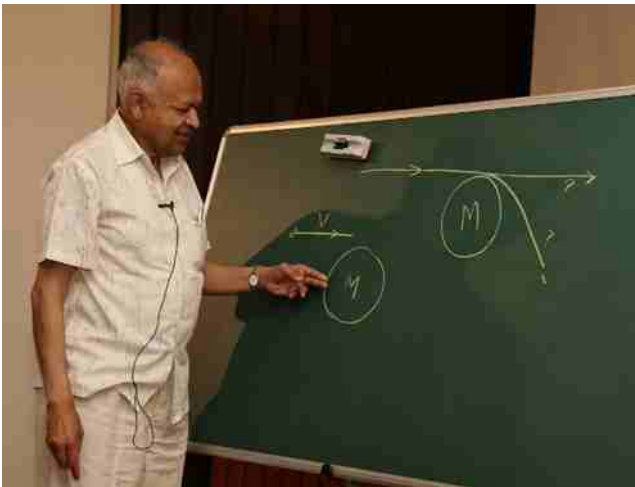
lecture was on cosmology, which he presented using only chalk and a blackboard, in a traditional classroom setting.

When the Nehru Planetarium modified one of its shows for people with hearing impairments, Prof. Narlikar attended the show and, after the show, took questions from the audience, along with the expert in sign language. The hearing impaired do not clap to show their appreciation, but raise their hands overhead and shake them.

Prof. Narlikar was a prolific writer. He published more than 375 research papers in academic journals and also wrote popular articles in English, Marathi, Hindi and occasionally in Sanskrit too. He published over 150 books and wrote more than 1,200 popular articles. In one of his books, '*Akashashi Jadale Nate*' in Marathi later translated into English by his wife and titled '*A Cosmic Adventure*', he described the many stages of astronomical development.



Akashashi Jadale Nate



His talk using only chalk and a blackboard



Applause from the hearing impaired

For his outstanding contribution to the science of cosmology at Cambridge, Prof. Narlikar was conferred the Government of India's civilian honour, Padma Bhushan, in 1965 at the young age of 27. He was later conferred with the Padma Vibhushan in 2004. He was awarded the Kalinga Prize by UNESCO in 1996 for his outstanding contribution to the popularization of science.

Prof. Narlikar was equally comfortable with technology. He regularly delivered talks and participated in online meetings. Since January 2024, he had started writing blogs, with the tag line "Musings by Prof. Jayant Narlikar on life, science, the world, and how it all began". The last blog was dated March 24, 2025.

During the upgradation of the Vedic gallery in the Discovery of India Exposition, Professor Narlikar was requested to review the translations of the Sanskrit text into English, Hindi, and Marathi, as well as select appropriate visuals for the gallery, which he most graciously did.

In 1966, Jayant married Mangala Rajwade, who had topped the University in the Master's Degree in Mathematics and won the Chancellor's Gold Medal at the University of Mumbai in 1964. They have three daughters, Geeta, Girija, and Leelavati, all of whom have chosen research careers in science.

In the demise of Professor Jayant Vishnu Narlikar, Nehru Centre has lost a good wellwisher. This void is not likely to be filled in the foreseeable future.

Culture Wing

Megh Malhar

मेघ मल्हार



A two-day festival of vocal
classical music based on Malhar
and other monsoon ragas



Friday, 18th July 2025, 6.45 p.m.



**Vidushi
Smt. Shalmalee Joshi**

Shalmalee's first guru was her mother, Smt. Madhuri Kulkarni, who introduced her to the world of classical music.

Shalmalee's musical foundation and career were shaped in the vibrant cultural landscape of Mumbai. She is the only Hindustani vocal artist who has performed solo in an entire three-hour concert dedicated to Rajasthani folk music. This is a testament to her versatility and deep-rooted connection with Indian music traditions.



Pandit Raja Kale

Pt. Kale is an Indian vocalist, composer and scholar of Indian classical, semi-classical and devotional music. He is a senior disciple of Pandit Jitendra Abhisheki. Pt. Raja Kale received his initiation in music from his father Prabhakarrrao Kale, and further training from Pandit Uttamrao Agnihotri. He also received valuable guidance from Pt. C. P. Rele and Pt. Balasaheb Poonchwale of the Gwalior gharana.

He holds a PhD (1990) on the importance of Bandish in Khayal.

Compere: Shri Vighnesh Joshi

Saturday, 19th July 2025, 6.45 p.m.



**Shri Prashant
Kalundrekar**

Prashant received his initial education in music from Pt. Anant Mahajani of Gwalior. He has successfully completed Sangeet Alankaar from Khairagadh University. In 1993 he became 'A' graded artiste of 'Akashvani', Mumbai. Since then, he regularly performs for Akashvani, Mumbai and Mumbai Doordarshan.

He admires and follows great classical singers like Pt. Jitendra Abhisheki, Pt. Kumar Gandharva and Dr. Vasant Rao Deshpande. He specializes in *Abhanga Gayaki* and *Natyasangeet*.

Compere: Ms. Punam Chandorkar



**Vidushi
Smt. Archana Kanhere**

Archana hails from the family of Kirtankar and Tabla player late Shri Vasudev Upadhye. She received advanced training from Vidushi Manik Verma. She was so dedicated to her guru's teaching that she received the honour of being Manik Verma's favourite pupil.

Further, she received valuable guidance from Pt. Jitendra Abhisheki during the *Matsyagandha Te Mahananda* project which was based on raags. She has a great collection of Khayal, Bandish, Thumri, Natyageet, Bhajan etc. in her repertoire and can present them with equal proficiency.

Venue: Nehru Centre Auditorium

Entry: Free Entrance Cards will be available on 14th July 2025 from 10.30 a.m. until availability from the booking counter of the Nehru Centre Auditorium.

Both galleries will be closed for maintenance
from 1st July 2025 to 28th July 2025

**SRUJAN - A MONSOON
ART EXHIBITION**



Shrikant Tare



Prasanna Patil



Archana Satoskar

Srujan: A Monsoon Art Exhibition by alumni artists from L. S. Raheja School of Art, Bandra will have 24 artists participating. Various styles of paintings and sculptures will be on display.

**Tuesday 29th July 2025
to Monday 4th August 2025
(AC Gallery)**

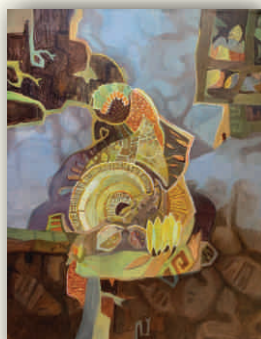
'CHATAK' 2025 A Monsoon Show



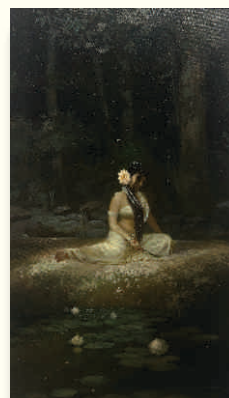
... and the first drop
of rain arrived to quench
the thirst of the Chatak
(a legendary bird)

A Review

Since 30 years, the Art Gallery has been welcoming the Chatak, a legendary bird awaiting the first drops of rain, by hosting an annual monsoon show. This year too the show had works by student and professional artists. There was a resounding number of 73 participants who showcased their art and sculptures. Below are some glimpses of the works that were on show.



Prajval Sangare



Abhishek Acharya



Jeevan Kumbhar



Golakha Sahoo



Bhawini Golwala



Ajay Patil



Umesh Ghadge

UNEP - Champions of the Earth Awards

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global authority on the environment. UNEP's mission is to inspire, inform, and enable nations and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. Through cutting-edge science, coordination and advocacy, UNEP supports its 193 Member States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and live in harmony with nature.

With this issue, we start a new series on the Champions of the Earth Awards. The Champions of the Earth award honours individuals and organizations whose actions have a transformative impact on the environment. This award recognizes individuals or organizations who have taken bold environmental action in urging and creating decisive positive change in the planet.



Established in 2005, the Champions of the Earth award is the UN's highest environmental honour. Since its inception in 2005, the Champions of the Earth award has brought visibility and validation to some of the world's most dynamic environmental leaders, from pioneering scientists and captains of industry to heads of state and community activists. They are inspirational and motivational examples of the potential of individual and collective action to change the world.

The Champions of the Earth laureates are selected by a global jury following a public nomination process. The high volume of nominations reflects how an increasing number of people understand what is possible and see the opportunities in protecting and restoring nature.

The Champions of the Earth are an affirmation that humanity has the ingenuity and the ambition to protect and restore our environment. Their initiatives confront the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and they remind us that environmental sustainability is the key to achieving sustainable development.

The Champions of the Earth award is conferred by the Executive Director of the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**. The legacy of the laureates in this award is one of determined action.



Champions of the Earth are celebrated in four categories:

Policy leadership - Public sector officials leading global or national action for the environment. They shape dialogue, lead commitments and act for the good of the planet.

Inspiration and action - Leaders taking bold steps to inspire positive change to protect our world. They lead by example, challenge behaviour and inspire millions.

Entrepreneurial vision - Visionaries challenging the status quo to build a cleaner future. They build systems, create new technology and spearhead a groundbreaking vision.

Science and innovation - Trailblazers pushing the boundaries of technology for profound environmental benefit. They invent possibilities for a more sustainable world.

After this brief introductory, we shall bring glimpses of the award winners who are the Champions of the Earth from our next issue.



**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. SABANNAVAR (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

**New Arrivals: Books**

Sr. No.	Title	Author/s
1.	Wild fictions: Essays	Amitav Ghosh
2.	Flowers of the sun: The people and land of Kutch, c. 1740-2020	Mariam Dossal
3.	The Indian constitution: Conversations with power	Gautam Bhatia
4.	Boforsgate: A journalist's pursuit of truth	Chitra Subramaniam
5.	Punjab: The knights of falsehood	K P S Gill
6.	India is broken: A people betrayed, independence to today	Ashoka Mody
7.	A Maharaja in Florence: Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj	Nandita Ghatge
8.	Pratap: A defiant newspaper	Chander Mohan and Jyotsna Mohan
9.	Living with Adi: A middle-grade novel about an autistic teenager navigating through life	Zarin Virji
10.	The case that shook the empire: One man's fight for the truth about the Jallianwala Bagh massacre	Raghu Palat and Pushpa Palat

 nehru-centre.org/library.html	 www.facebook.com/NehruCentreLibrary
 nehrucent-koha.informindia.co.in	 www.twitter.com/nehrucentlib
 nehrucentrelibrary.blogspot.com	 www.instagram.com/nehrucentrelibrary

10.00 a.m. to 5.45 p.m.
On all working days

 Website: www.nehru-centre.org	Published for Nehru Centre by Shri Chandrakant M. Rane Discovery of India Building, Dr. A. B. Road, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.
 Email: editor@nehru-centre.org	Editor Arati N. Desai Design & Layout Imtiaz Kalu
Printed at M/s PRINTCOM I-Wing, Shop No. 1, Mahalaxmi SRA CHSL., P. B. Marg, Worli, Mumbai - 400 030.	