

# Newsletter

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## Nehru Centre



Discovery of India Building  
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40245400

Annual Subscription Rs. 100

### Events At a Glance...

Children's Day @ Nehru Centre

Art Gallery



**Bal-Disha**

An exhibition of artworks by children.

**November 11 - 17, 2025**

**11.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.**

**Nehru Centre Art Gallery**

**Library**

**A Book I Wrote-2025  
(7th Edition)**



**Launch of book written by  
children and for children on the  
occasion of Children's Day.**

**Friday, November 14, 2025**

**3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.**

**Who Are We Hall**

**Culture Wing**

**नारायणी** (A Marathi Play)

The story of an innocent eight year old girl and her father's dream of making her a scientist at NASA.

**Friday, November 14, 2025**

**6.30 p.m.**

**Nehru Centre Auditorium**

### Speeches of the Freedom Movement

**12. MOHANDAS KARAMCHAND GANDHI**

**Gandhi and Bhagat Singh**

*Karachi, 26 March 1931*

*Bhagat Singh was hanged in Lahore jail on 23 March 1931. His martyrdom shook the entire nation. It was felt that Gandhi did not do enough to save the lives of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev while negotiating with Viceroy Irwin. When Gandhi wrote a letter to Irwin on 23 March 1931 — the day when Bhagat Singh was hanged — under pressure, it was a very feeble plea for commutation of his sentence. 'Popular opinion rightly or wrongly demands commutation. When there is not a principle at stake, it is often a duty to respect it,' Gandhi wrote. This resulted in anti-Gandhi demonstrations throughout the country.*

*The following speech by Gandhi at the Karachi Congress is an attempt to silence his critics and to justify his action or inaction.*

"By the executions, the government has given the nation grave cause for provocation. It has shocked me too, as my negotiations and talks had made me entertain a distant hope that Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev might be saved. I am not surprised that

the young men are angry with me for not having been able to save them.

I have a message for the young men. If you want my service, do not disown me; come and understand everything from me. It is against my creed to punish even a murderer, a thief or a dacoit. There can, therefore, be no excuse for suspicion that I did not want to save Bhagat Singh. But I want you also to realize Bhagat Singh's error. If I had an opportunity of speaking to Bhagat Singh and his comrades, I would have told them that the way they pursued *swaraj* was wrong and futile. I declare that we cannot win *swaraj* for our famishing millions, for our deaf and dumb, for our lame and crippled, by the sword. Violence cannot bring *swaraj*, it can only lead to disaster. I wish to tell these young men with the authority a father may speak to his children that the way of violence can only lead to perdition. I shall explain to you why.

Do you think that all the women and the children who covered themselves with glory during the last campaign would have done so if we had pursued the path of violence? Would they have

been here today? Would our women known as the meekest on earth and women like Gangabehn, who stood the lathi-blows until her white sari drenched in blood, have done the unique service they did if we had violence in us? With God's name on their lips, she and her sisters hurled defiance at their oppressors, without anger in their hearts. And our children—our *vanarasena* (monkey-army)? How could you have these innocent ones, who renounced their toys, their kites and their crackers, and joined as soldiers of *swaraj*—how could you have enlisted them in a violent struggle?

We were able to enlist as soldiers millions of men, women and children because we were pledged to non-violence. Rowdy demonstrations cannot help us. Could they call Bhagat Singh back to life? They can only retard the advent of *swaraj*. I agree that the Government has given sufficient cause for provocation, but I want the impatient youth in the name of God, in the name of our dear motherland, to throw themselves heart and soul in the non-violent struggle. I ask them to trust my unbroken experience of forty years of the practice of non-violence.

I have felt deeply ashamed of those deeds of blood. How can we, with Hindus and Mussalmans slaughtering one another, continue to assert that we have been non-violent? How can I, a votary of truth, hug the belief that we as a nation are non-violent? If I did so, I would be untrue to myself and to my Maker. With carnage going on about



**Mahatma Gandhi**

me, I cannot bear to live unconcerned. Let me declare, that as soon as I feel that life is unbearable, I should hope to have the courage to fast myself to death rather than witness these blood feuds. If I can witness this contradiction with equanimity, with what face can I stand before the world and my Maker? He will tell me I have been living a life of falsehood, a life of sham and fraud.

I know you will say that this sort of thing has been going on all these years, and I have done nothing to stop it. Penances with me are no mechanical acts. They are done in obedience to the inner voice. I am telling you what has been going on within me all these days. The crisis may never come, either because I am unnecessarily agitated, or because I have lost courage to face reality. I must be true to my Maker, and the moment I feel that life is insupportable for me, I hope not to be found wanting. What better

reparation can I do than willing surrender of the body that has ceased to evoke response and may be a hindrance to the discovery of the true way?

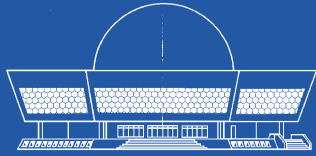
Well, I was not on my defence and so I did not bother you with the details of what I did to save Bhagat Singh and his comrades. I pleaded with the Viceroy as best I could. I brought all the persuasion at my command to bear on him. On the day fixed for the final interview with Bhagat Singh's relations, I wrote a personal letter to the Viceroy on the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup>. I poured my entire soul into it, but to no avail. I might have done one thing more, you say. I might have made the commutation a term of the settlement. But it could not be made so. And to threaten withdrawal would be a breach of faith. The Working Committee had agreed with me in not making commutation a condition precedent to truce. I could, therefore, only mention it apart from the settlement.

And it was not I alone who did what was humanly possible. The revered friend Panditji and Dr. Sapru tried their best. But why should that failure worry us? Success is in God's hands. Our failure should spur us to greater effort. That effort lies in being true to ourselves, in Hindus and Mussalmans determining to live as brothers in unity, in merchants and others keeping their voluntary pledges, in workers eschewing violence in thought, word and deed. May God help us to mend our ways. May He help us to be strong enough to be true to ourselves and to Him."

### What Nehru said....

India has had many distressful periods in the course of her long history, when she was ravaged by fire and sword or by famine, and internal order collapsed. Yet a broad survey of this history appears to indicate that she had a far more peaceful and orderly existence for long periods of time at a stretch than Europe has had.

...from Chapter 5, *Through the Ages, The Discovery of India*



**NEHRU PLANETARIUM**

Tel: 022-40245413  
Mobile : 9892890510

## STARS & WONDERS 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](mailto:managernpmumbai@gmail.com)

### Astrophysicist Nobel Laureates

#### 1. Hans Bethe: 1967

Hans Albrecht Eduard Bethe (July 2, 1906 – March 6, 2005) was a German-American physicist who significantly contributed to nuclear physics, quantum electrodynamics, solid-state physics, and astrophysics.

In 1967, Hans Bethe was the first astrophysicist who received the Nobel Prize 'for his contributions to the theory of nuclear reactions, especially his discoveries concerning the energy production in stars'. His work, the theory of nucleosynthesis, explained how stars produce energy and create elements heavier than hydrogen. The process occurs inside the cores of stars with masses more than ten times larger than the Sun.

Hans was born to Anna and Albrecht Bethe in Strasbourg, Germany, on 2 July 1906. His father was a professor of physiology at the University of Strasbourg. When Hans was six years old, the family moved to Kiel, where his father had accepted the position of Professor and Director of the Institute of Physiology at the University. Hans's schooling was interrupted when he contracted tuberculosis in 1916.

Six years later, Hans Bethe completed his schooling and entered the University of Frankfurt in 1924. He found that the teaching of physics was not of the highest standard and while mathematics was taught by distinguished mathematicians, he disliked their teaching method, as they taught the subject without reference to other sciences.



**Hans Bethe**

He decided to major in chemistry, but soon discovered that he was a poor experimentalist when he destroyed his lab coat by spilling sulphuric acid on it. Later, Hans then joined Professor Walter Gerlach, who taught advanced physics and was a great teacher. Gerlach, however, left the university a year later. His successor, Prof Karl Meissner, advised Bethe to go to the University of Munich where theoretical physics was taught by Prof Arnold Sommerfeld<sup>1</sup>. Prof Sommerfeld was a great teacher who pioneered developments in atomic and quantum physics. Seven of Prof Sommerfeld's students were Nobel Prize winners, and thirty others were acclaimed physicists and chemists.

Sommerfeld suggested that Bethe study X-ray diffraction in crystals for his PhD thesis, which he earned in 1928. Sommerfeld recommended Bethe for a Rockefeller Foundation Travelling Scholarship in 1929 which helped him in funding his study abroad. In 1930, Bethe chose to do post-doctoral work at the Cavendish Laboratory at the University of Cambridge in England. Here, he worked under the supervision of theoretical physicist Sir Ralph Fowler.

In 1930, Bethe published a formula to find the energy loss per unit distance (stopping power) of fast-moving charged particles as they travel through matter. This formula is now known as Bethe's formula. In February 1931 he joined Enrico Fermi's<sup>2</sup> laboratory in Rome. He was influenced by Fermi's simplicity and Sommerfeld's attention to detail while solving problems. These qualities influenced his own research.

Due to his Jewish background, Bethe had to leave Germany in 1933. He moved to England and joined as lecturer at the University of Manchester. Here he worked with William Lawrence Bragg. In February 1935, Bethe arrived in the United States, and joined the faculty at Cornell University. Bethe, with the help of two other physicists, Stanley Livingston and Robert Bacher, published a series of three articles, which summarized most of what was known on the subject of nuclear physics until that time. This series of articles became known informally as "Bethe's Bible". It remained the standard work on the subject for many years.



**In conversation with journalists**

The story of Bethe's work for which he won the Nobel Prize is dramatic. Bethe attended the fourth annual Washington Conference on Theoretical Physics on 17 March 1938, organised by Carnegie Institute and George Washington University. He was one of 34 invitees, including stalwarts in the field like Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, George Gamow, Donal Menzel, etc. At first, he was reluctant to attend the conference because its topic was stellar energy generation, which did not interest him. After his return to Cornell, Bethe studied the relevant nuclear reactions leading to his discovery of the carbon-nitrogen-oxygen cycle (CNO cycle). He sent a paper based on this work to the scientific research journal *Physical Review*. Later, his student informed him that the New York Academy of Sciences was offering a \$500 prize for the best unpublished paper on solar and stellar energy. Since Bethe needed the money, he withdrew his paper and sent it to New York Academy and won the prize. He gave \$50 to his student and used \$250 to get his mother's furniture, who had migrated to the USA from Germany, and the Nazi government was demanding \$250 in U.S. currency to allow Bethe's mother's furniture to be exported.

The paper was subsequently published in the journal *Reviews of Modern Physics* in March 1939. It was a breakthrough in the understanding of the stars, and would win Bethe the Nobel Prize in 1939. Bethe was head of the Theoretical Division at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, a secret establishment where the first atomic bombs were developed. He played an important role in the development of the hydrogen bomb.

Later, with Albert Einstein, he campaigned against the testing of nuclear bombs, and the nuclear arms race. They, along with other scientists, persuaded the Kennedy administration to sign the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in 1963 and the Nixon administration to sign the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (SALT I) in 1972.

Bethe had a very active academic career spanning nearly seventy years. As a scientist, he published scientific papers well into his nineties, having published at least one major paper every decade.

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**1** Arnold Sommerfeld - Arnold Johannes Wilhelm Sommerfeld (1868 – 1951) was a German theoretical physicist who pioneered developments in atomic and quantum physics. He educated and mentored many students for the new era of theoretical physics. He served as doctoral advisor and postdoc advisor to seven Nobel Prize winners and supervised at least 30 other famous physicists and chemists.

**2** Enrico Fermi (1901 – 1954) was an Italian and naturalized American physicist. He is renowned for being the creator of the world's first artificial nuclear reactor, the Chicago Pile-1, and a member of the Manhattan Project. He has been called the "architect of the nuclear age" and the "architect of the atomic bomb". Fermi was awarded the 1938 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work on induced radioactivity.



# नारायणी

(A Marathi Play)



A Story of an innocent eight year old girl and her father's dream of making her a scientist at NASA

On Children's Day, the Culture Wing of Nehru Centre proudly presents Narayani - a Marathi Play.

**Narayani - The story of an innocent eight year old girl and her father's dream of making her a scientist at NASA. One day, her father passes away. Does Narayani then fulfill her father's wishes?**

Join us to see this presentation produced by Nehru Centre's Culture Wing and performed by students who participated in the 'Appreciation of Theatre and Acting Workshop' in May 2024 and 2025, and supported by other theatre enthusiasts.

**Cast :**

Narayani :	<b>Ms Sanika Patil</b>
Father:	<b>Mr. Pranav Shedge</b>
Ishwari:	<b>Ms Surabhi Ghangrekar</b>
Aaji (Grandmother):	<b>Ms Shubhangi Dhotre</b>
Narad:	<b>Mr. Jitendra Mane</b>
Shankasur:	<b>Mr. Kshitij Gaikwad/Shubham Ambike</b>
Bholya (Teddy Bear):	<b>Mr. Jeet Jadhav</b>
Friend:	<b>Ms Bhumi Koli</b>
Friend's Mom:	<b>Ms Janhavi Nale</b>
& Mob Actors & Dancers	

**Credits:**

Written by **Mrs. Sarika Dherange**  
Directed by **Mr. Abhijeet Zunjarrao**  
Assistant Director: **Mr. Pranav Shedge**  
Music & Dance Choreography: **Mr. Ganesh Jagtap**  
Lights by **Mr. Shyam Chavan**  
Set Design by **Ms Rituparna Kirtonia**  
& **Mr. Rohit Deshmukh**

**Music Team:**

**Mr. Sushant Khillare**  
**Mr. Akhilesh Kumbhar**  
**Mr. Piyush Munde**

**Friday, 14th November 2025**  
**6.30 p.m.**  
**Nehru Centre Auditorium**

**Entry: Free Entrance Cards will be available on Monday, 10th November 2025 from 10.30 a.m. until availability from the booking counter of the Nehru Centre Auditorium**

**DR. HARSH THAKKER  
SULOCHANA GAWDE**



**Dr. Harsh Thakker**

The work of both artists captures not just scenes but sentiments, inviting viewers into a space of contemplation and connection.

**Tuesday 4th November 2025  
to Monday 10th November 2025  
(AC Gallery)**

**VAISHALI KISHOR KALE**

Vaishali, an artist from Nasik will display her works which are paintings on canvas.

**Tuesday 4th November 2025  
to Monday 10th November 2025  
(Circular Gallery)**

**CHILDREN'S ART  
EXHIBITION**

Saraswati Purushottam Memorial Trust, Mumbai will organize an art exhibition of works created by children from various schools as it has done for the last thirty-six years.

**Tuesday 11th November 2025  
to Monday 17th November 2025  
(Circular Gallery)**



To celebrate Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru's birth anniversary, Nehru Centre Art Gallery organises a Children's art exhibition every year for the past thirty years. This year we have included clay and paper work too.



**Akshara Jadhav**



**Anvi Divekar**



**Kaustubh Sutar**



**Aryan Achari**



**Mayuresh Adhav**



**Maneet Patil**

**Tuesday 11th November to Monday 17th November 2025 ( AC Gallery )  
Between 11.00 am & 7.00 pm daily**

**CHITRA SUTRA  
ART EXHIBITION**



This is a group show of works of 23 artists from various parts of India.

**Tuesday 18th November 2025  
to Monday 24th November 2025  
(AC & Circular Gallery)**

**ART 4 ALL**



Art 4 All exhibition is organized by the Art Studio, Mumbai. This studio has been a pioneering force for aspiring artists of all ages.

**Tuesday 25th November 2025  
to Monday 1st December 2025  
(AC & Circular Gallery)**

Our Instagram link: [nehru\\_centre\\_artgallery](https://www.instagram.com/nehru_centre_artgallery)

## UNEP - Champions of the Earth Awards

### 4. Joan Carling – Philippines – 2018

Joan Carling is an indigenous rights activist and environmental defender from the Philippines. She has been defending land rights from grassroots to international levels for more than twenty years. Her main concerns include protection of land rights of indigenous people, ensuring sustainable development of natural resources and upholding human rights of marginalized people. She has actively participated in global processes to defend these concerns, including those related to the UN Framework Convention on Climate



Change. She has twice served as the Secretary General of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and Chairperson of the Cordillera People's Alliance. She was appointed by the UN Economic and Social Council as an indigenous expert and served as a member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues between 2014 and 2016. She is a member and co-convenor of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group for the Sustainable Development Goals. As an environmental defender, Joan has faced threats against her life and security.

Joan spent her childhood in a remote forest. Nomadic communities from other forests often visited, travelling up to six hours to exchange their sweet potato or other crops for rice or sugar, which they couldn't grow themselves. Joan's parents would offer a meal, and it was from these simple exchanges that she learned humility, reciprocity, and respect for diverse indigenous communities and cultures.

In Joan's own words, "What I learned from indigenous communities is this: when we destroy our landscape, we destroy ourselves. By defending our land, we also defend our future and the generations to come. I am struck by the sense of community of indigenous tribes that live in forests; their simple lifestyles, their cooperation and selflessness. Their culture and values are intrinsically linked to the land, their livelihood and identity just like my own people."

She further says, "Over the years, I've seen first-hand the environmental devastation caused by large dams and gold mining. To us, these are not development projects. They are not designed by us nor for us. This is just resource extraction. Mines leave massive toxic waste, and communities collapse. These projects cause mass displacement, worsen poverty and destroy the cultural heritage of our people."

Through her work with communities in the Philippines, in Asia and beyond, Joan has recognized the need to bring voices of indigenous people to the debate and raise them in front of policymakers.

Together with other leaders, Joan too is building alliances to protect the rights of indigenous tribes. She campaigns regionally and globally for human rights and sustainable resource management, community-based climate change adaptation and renewable energy.

**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*



**A Book I Wrote-2025**  
**(7th Edition)**

*A collection of poems and stories*

**Launch of book written by children and for children on the occasion of Children's Day.**

A Nehru Centre Library initiative to encourage children to pen their thoughts.

**Date:** Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025  
**Time:** 3.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.  
**Venue:** Who Are We Hall, First Floor,  
 Discovery of India Building, Nehru Centre, Dr. Annie Besant Road,  
 Worli, Mumbai – 400018

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<a href="http://nehrucent-koha.informindia.co.in">nehrucent-koha.informindia.co.in</a>	<a href="https://www.twitter.com/nehrucentlib">www.twitter.com/nehrucentlib</a>	
<a href="http://nehrucentlibrary.blogspot.com">nehrucentlibrary.blogspot.com</a>	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/nehrucentlibrary">www.instagram.com/nehrucentlibrary</a>	

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