Newsletter
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Nehru Centre

Discovery of India Building
Dr. Annie Besant Road,
Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.
Phone : 24964676
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Annual Subscription Rs. 100

## Events At a Glance...

### Library

**Meet the Author**

**What Could It Be?**
*Written by* **Bharti Singh**

Enjoy a fun-filled morning with the author.

**7th February 2026**
**10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.**
**Who Are We Hall**

**Book Discussion**

**Mumbai: A Million Islands**
*Written by* **Siddharth Bhatia**

The author will be in conversation with Fiona Fernandez, Associate Editor and Daily Features Editor at Mid-day.

**21st February 2026**
**4.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.**
**Who Are We Hall**

### Culture Wing

**To celebrate Marathi Bhasha Gaurav Din**

**लाभले आम्हास भाग्य**

A cultural initiative to revisit timeless literary works of legendary Marathi writers, poets and playwrights.

**26th February 2026, 7.00 p.m.**
**Nehru Centre Auditorium**

## Speeches of the Freedom Movement

### 14. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The Congress and the British War Aims

*Ramgarh, 19 March 1940*

*World War II had serious repercussions in India. The British government declared India a belligerent country without consulting the Congress Party which had ministries in eight out of eleven provinces. Congress leaders, led by Gandhi, had been inquiring about the war aims of the British ever since it had started. The replies were vague and did not satisfy the Congress leaders. The Congress Working Committee met on 17 October 1939 and advised the Congress ministries to resign as it did not want to support the government in their war effort. Consequently, all the Congress ministries resigned between 27 October and 15 November 1939.*

*The resignation of the ministries proved to be a mistake. The government and the Viceroy felt relieved because the Congress with their control of eight provincial governments had the power to scuttle the war effort. Now they themselves had relinquished that power.*

*In his Presidential address at the Ramgarh Session of the Congress, Maulana Azad reiterated and justified the decision of the Congress Working Committee in clearer and stronger terms.*

"Friends,

At such a critical juncture (when the world is faced with another world war) you have elected me President and thus demonstrated the great confidence you have in one of your co-workers. It is a great honour and a great responsibility.

The first and the most important question before us is whither is the step taken by us in consequence of the declaration of war on 3 September 1939, leading us? The 1936 session at Lucknow marked a new ideological phase, when the Congress passed a resolution on the international situation and placed its viewpoint clearly and categorically. These resolutions embodied at one and the same time a declaration to the world: we stated a new ideology in Indian politics, that we could not remain in isolation from the political events of the outside world. It is inevitable that events in the outside world should have their repercussions in India. It is equally inevitable that our decisions and the conditions prevailing in India should affect the rest of the world. It was this consciousness and belief which

brought about our decisions. We declared by these resolutions that we were against reactionary movements like Fascism and Nazism which were directed against democracy and individual and national freedom.

India cannot endure the prospect of Nazism and Fascism, but she is even more tired of British imperialism. If India remains deprived of her natural right to freedom, this would clearly mean that British imperialism will continue to flourish with all its traditional characteristics. Under such conditions, India would, on no account, be prepared to lend a helping hand for the triumph of British imperialism. This was the second declaration which was constantly emphasized through these resolutions. These resolutions were repeatedly passed from the Lucknow Session onwards till August 1939 and are known by the name of 'War Resolutions'.

War was declared on 3 September and on 7 September the All India Congress Working Committee met at Wardha to deliberate upon the situation. What did the Working Committee do on this occasion? All the declarations of the Congress made since 1936 were prior to this. It had also to face the action taken by the British government in declaring India as a belligerent country. The Congress asked the British government to state its war aims, for on this depended not only peace and justice for India, but for the entire world. If India was being invited to participate in this war, she had a right to know why this war was being fought. What was its object? If the result of this grim tragedy was not to be the same as that of the last war, and if it was really being fought to safeguard freedom, democracy and peace and to bring a new order to the world, then, in all fairness, India had a right to know the effect that these aims would have on her own destiny.

The Working Committee formulated this demand in a long statement which was published on 14 September 1939. If I express the hope that this statement would occupy an outstanding place in recent Indian history, I am sure I am not claiming too much of the future historian. This is a simple but irrefutable document, based on truth and reason, and it can only be set aside by the arrogant pride of the armed forces.

On 17 October 1939, the statement of the Viceroy was published and the Working Committee met to deliberate upon it on 22 October at Wardha. Without any discussion, it came to the conclusion that this reply could under no circumstances, be considered satisfactory, and that it should now unhesitatingly give the decision, which it had postponed till then. The decision of the Working Committee was as follows:

*"In the circumstances, the Committee cannot possibly give any support to Great Britain, for it would amount to an endorsement of the imperialistic policy which the Congress has always sought to end. As a first step in this direction, the Committee calls upon the Congress ministries to tender their resignations."*

As a result of this decision, the Congress ministries in eight provinces resigned.

When, after the declaration of war, we raised the question of war aims and their effect on India's destiny, we did not forget the British policy of 1917 and 1919. We wanted to know how in the year 1939, when the world was covering centuries in the course of days, England looked at India. Had that changed? We were given a clear reply that it had not. Even now there is no change in that imperialist outlook. We are told to believe that the British government is very desirous that India should attain the status of a dominion, in the shortest possible period. We knew even earlier that the British government had expressed this desire. We now know that they are very anxious indeed.

Since war began, several members of the British Cabinet have tried to make the world believe that the old order of British imperialism has ended, and that today the British nation has no other aims except those of peace and justice. Which country could have more warmly acclaimed such a declaration than India? But the fact is that in spite of these declarations, British imperialism stands in the way of peace and justice today exactly as it did before the war. The Indian demand was the touch-stone for all such claims. They were so tested and found to be counterfeit and untrue.

In this connection one question naturally faces us. It is the verdict of history that in a struggle between nations, no power forgoes its possessions unless compelled to do so. Principles of reason and morality have affected the conduct of individuals but have not affected the selfish conduct of powers that dominate. Therefore, so far as the question of war is concerned, our position is quite clear. We do not wish to see British imperialism triumphant and stronger and thus lengthen the period of our own subjection to it. We absolutely refuse to do so."

## What Nehru said....

The ancient and medieval civilisations thought far more in terms of a golden past and of subsequent decay. In India also the past has always been glorified.

*... 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)

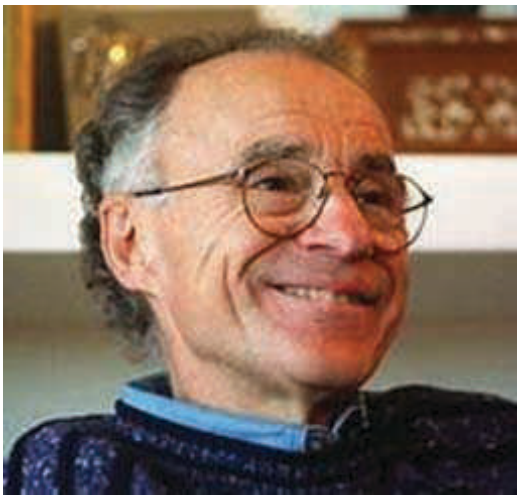
Email: managernpmumbai@gmail.com

## Astrophysicist Nobel Laureates

## 4. Arno Penzias: 1978

The Nobel Prize in Physics for the year 1978 was awarded to three physicists. They were Pyotr Leonidovich Kapitsa who received it 'for his basic inventions and discoveries in the area of low-temperature physics', and Arno Allan Penzias and Robert Woodrow Wilson who jointly received it for 'their discovery of the cosmic microwave background radiation'. Kapitsa received half, and the other half was equally shared between Penzias and Wilson.

Arno Penzias was born on April 26, 1933, in Munich to Jewish parents, Karl and Justine Penzias. It was the period of the rise of the Nazi regime. In 1939, Arno and his brother Gunther were among the Jewish children evacuated to Britain. Later, their parents also fled Nazi Germany, first to the United Kingdom, and, from there, to the United States of America. The family settled in the Bronx, New York City, in 1940. In 1946, the Penzias family became American citizens. Arno Penzias demonstrated early aptitude in science and mathematics. He attended Brooklyn Technical High School and graduated in 1952. He then enrolled at the City College of New York (CCNY) to study chemistry, but later switched to physics. He obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in 1954 and topped the class. After graduation, he served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps as a radar officer for two years. His work here got him a research assistantship at Columbia University's Radiation Laboratory in 1956. Here, he worked under Charles H. Townes and earned his Master's degree and PhD in physics in 1962.Townes later invented the MASER (Microwave Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation). Townes was the recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1964.

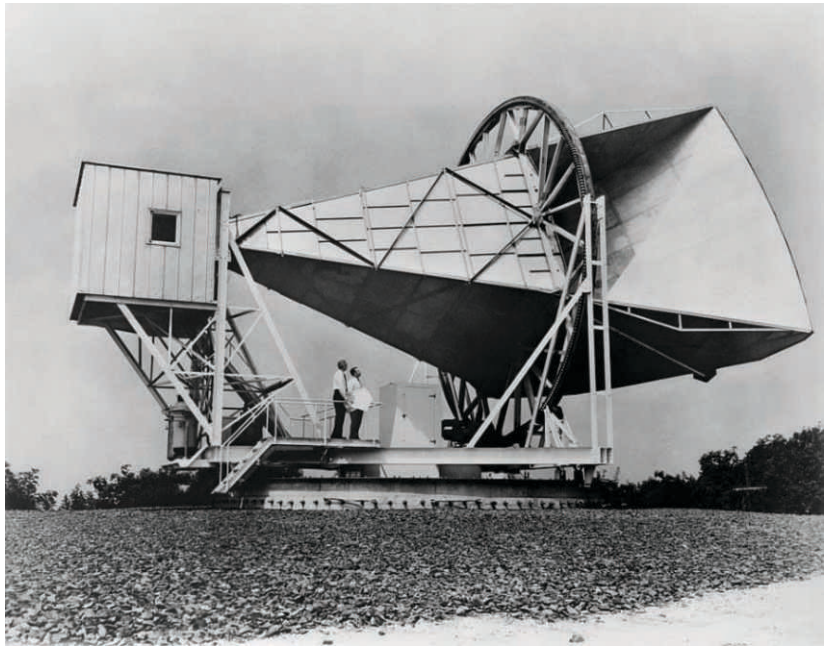


**Arno Penzias (1933-2024)**

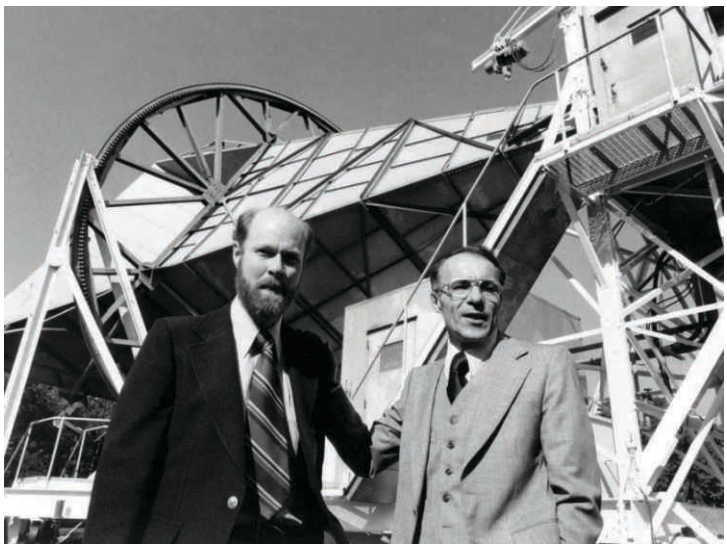
In 1961, Penzias joined Bell Telephone Laboratories (Bell Labs) in Holmdel, New Jersey, and retired from there in 1998 after 37 years of service. Bell Labs is a premier industrial research institution renowned for its culture of scientific freedom and innovation. Here, Penzias collaborated with Robert Woodrow Wilson to develop an ultra-sensitive cryogenic microwave receiver for radio astronomy observations, using a large horn-shaped antenna originally built for satellite communication experiments. In 1964, while building their most sensitive antenna/receiver system, the pair observed an unexplainable radio signal. Astronomers call such signals a noise, rather a 'radio noise' in this case. The intensity of this noise was much less than what they received from the Milky Way. The noise was isotropic, meaning that it came uniformly from all directions. The two scientists were tasked with improving microwave communication systems and conducting radio astronomical observations using a large horn-shaped antenna originally built for satellite communication experiments. Initially, they suspected that the noise must have originated from radio emissions from numerous terrestrial sources, such as electric motors, ovens, and generators, primarily in New York City. But after careful studies, they rejected this hypothesis. Then they examined the microwave horn antenna. They found that it was covered with bat and pigeon droppings. Penzias described this as 'white dielectric material". But the noise still remained.

To know more, Penzias contacted astronomer and physicist Robert H. Dicke, who was the Albert Einstein Professor in Science at Princeton University (1975–1984) and had important contributions to astrophysics, atomic physics,

cosmology and gravity. He suggested that it might be the background radiation which was predicted by some cosmological theories. According to the Big Bang theory, almost 13.8 billion years ago, the universe was filled with residual thermal radiation from its hot, dense origin. It became clear that Penzias and Wilson had detected this relic radiation or the cosmic microwave background (CMB) radiation by chance. In 1965, the findings were published in two companion papers in *The Astrophysical Journal*, one describing the observation and the other explaining its cosmological significance. The discovery of the CMB radiation was revolutionary. It provided compelling empirical support for the Big Bang model over competing theories such as the steady-state universe. Today, the CMB is regarded as one of the cornerstones of observational cosmology, and its detailed study has yielded profound insights into the age, composition, and evolution of the universe. For their role in this discovery, Penzias and Wilson were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1978.



**Penzias and Wilson, standing under the 15 m Holmdel Horn Antenna in New Jersey.**



**Arno Penzias (right) with Robert Woodrow Wilson, with whom he discovered the afterglow of the Big Bang.**

Despite the monumental nature of his Nobel-winning work, Penzias remained modest about the discovery, often emphasising its accidental nature and the collaborative environment that made it possible. He was known for his ability to communicate complex scientific ideas clearly and for his thoughtful reflections on the relationship between theory, observation, and chance in scientific progress. Beyond his research achievements, Penzias had a distinguished career as a scientific leader. At Bell Labs, he rose through the ranks to become Vice President for Research in 1981 and later Vice President for Systems and Technology. In these roles, he oversaw a wide range of research initiatives spanning physics, engineering, and information science. He was a strong advocate for basic research within industry, arguing that long-term scientific investment was essential for technological innovation. After retiring from Bell. Labs, Penzias remained active in science policy and education. He served on numerous advisory boards and committees, including those of NASA and the National Science Foundation. He also became involved in public discussions on science and society, writing and speaking on topics including scientific ethics, education, and the limits of scientific knowledge. Notably, Penzias was open about his belief that science and religious faith need not be in conflict, a position he articulated in essays and lectures that encouraged dialogue rather than polarisation. Penzias passed away on January 22, 2024, at the age of 90. His was a central role in shaping modern cosmology while also contributing significantly to telecommunications research and scientific leadership in industry. His career exemplified the productive intersection of fundamental science, engineering, and institutional stewardship.

Nehru Centre आयोजित

# मराठी भाषा गौरव दिनाच्या पूर्व संध्येस


गुरुवार,
२६ फेब्रुवारी २०२६
सायंकाळी ७.०० वाजता
नेहरु सेंटर सभागृह
वरळी, मुंबई

**Every year on 27th February, 'Marathi Bhasha Gaurav Din' is celebrated to pay tribute to Jnanpith Award winning poet V. V. Shirwadkar (Kusumagraj) on his birthday.**

**लाभले आम्हास भाग्य is a cultural initiative to revisit literary works of legendary Marathi writers, poets and playwrights like P. L. Deshpande, G. D. Madgulkar, Purushottam Darvhekar, Suresh Bhatt, V. V. Shirwadkar (Kusumgraj), Madhukar Toradmal and others through dramatic readings, music, poetry and stage performances. The show aims to connect audiences, especially the younger generation to the classical richness of the Marathi language.**

*Concept & Direction:*
**Aditya Ingale**

*Producer:*
**Barva Manoranjan Mandali**

*Co-produced by:*
**Wide Wings Media, Pune**

*Participating Artists:*
**Anand Ingale, Pushkar Shrotri, Ajit Parab, Mrunmayee Deshpande, Gautami Deshpande and Sunil Barve**

**Entry: Free Entrance Cards will be available from Friday, 20th February 2026 from 10.30 am onwards until availability from the ticket counter of Nehru Centre Auditorium**

# The Art Gallery

# Programme for February 2026

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

## SACHIN BHANGADE
## KISHOR KAWAD

Sachin Bhangade

Kishor Kawad

Both the artists will showcase their paintings in water colours, acrylic and charcoal mediums.

**Tuesday 3rd February 2026**
**to Monday 9th February 2026**
**(AC Gallery)**

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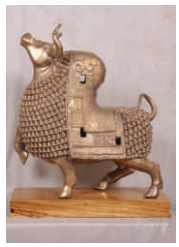
## MRUNALINI GAIKWAD

Mrunalini Gaikwad

Mrunalini has completed her diploma in drawing and painting and will exhibit her works in dry pastels on paper.

**Tuesday 3rd February 2026**
**to Monday 9th February 2026**
**(Circular Gallery)**

## KIRAN SHIGWAN
## KARUNA SHIGWAN



Kiran Shigwan

Karuna Shigwan

This couple are both graduates in sculpture modelling and will display their sculptures in metal.

**Tuesday 10th February 2026**
**to Monday 16th February 2026**
**(AC Gallery)**

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## SOMA DASGUPTA
## PARTH DUDHWADKAR
## ANKITA RAJBHAR
## ANJU TIWARI
## KANCHAN WALOKAR

Anju Tiwari

Kanchan Walokar

This group of five artists will display paintings in various mediums.

**Tuesday 10th February 2026**
**to Monday 16th February 2026**
**(Circular Gallery)**

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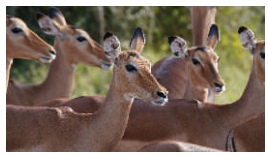
## SAWANT BHONSLE

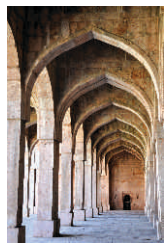
Sawant's paintings have a common theme of spirituality and yoga which will be on display in the exhibition.

**Tuesday 17th February 2026**
**to Monday 23rd February 2026**
**(AC Gallery)**

## SANJEEV BHAGWAT
## DR. ADWAITA GORE



Dr. Adwait Gore



Sanjeev Bhagwat

The former is an architect and the latter, a doctor. Both will display their photographs in their respective professions.

**Tuesday 17th February 2026**
**to Monday 23rd February 2026**
**(Circular Gallery)**

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## GROUP SHOW - ORGANISED BY REKHA SHIVDASANI

Many creative artists from Maharashtra will exhibit their artworks in mixed media.

**Tuesday 24th February 2026**
**to Monday 2nd March 2026**
**(AC Gallery)**

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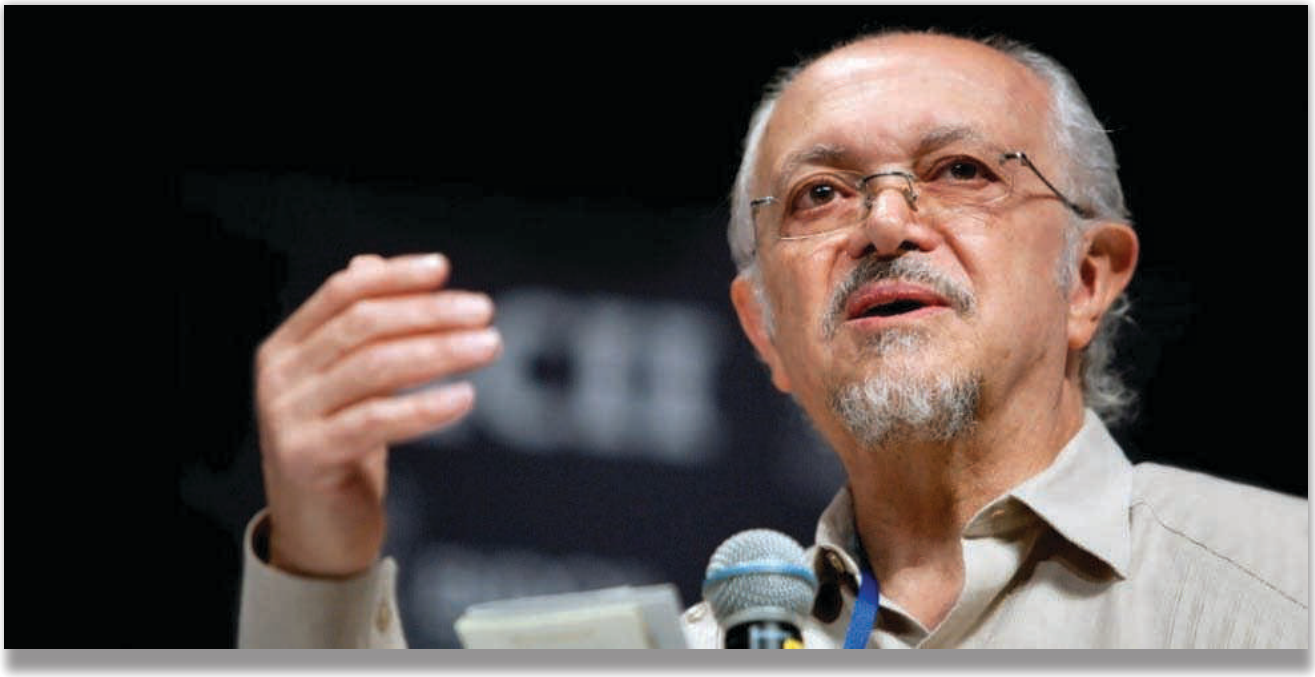
## DR. MEERA SAWANT (S.N.D.T. COLLEGE)

Meera Sawant and a group from the S.N.D.T. College of Art will exhibit their works in various subjects and mediums.

**Tuesday 24th February 2026**
**to Monday 2nd March 2026**
**(Circular Gallery)**

Our Instagram link: **nehru_centre_artgallery**

## 7. Mario José Molina-Pasquel Henríquez – Mexico - 2014



Mario José Molina-Pasquel Henríquez was a distinguished Mexican chemist, a Nobel Laureate and a renowned ozone scientist who died at the age of 77 in Mexico. He was known for his groundbreaking research on chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and their detrimental effects on the ozone layer. He was awarded the UNEP Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014 for this research, which led to the landmark Montreal Protocol and the substantial restoration of the ozone layer.

Mario José earned his degree in Chemical Engineering from the National Autonomous University of Mexico and pursued his further studies from Germany and University of California, Berkeley. He first uncovered the link between chlorofluorocarbons and ozone layer along with other scientists Paul Crutzen and Sherwood Rowland. They published their research in the journal *Nature* and in September 1974, at a press conference held by the American Chemical Society, they called for a complete ban on further release of chlorofluorocarbons into the atmosphere. Despite the opposition from commercial manufacturers, a consensus emerged that industrially manufactured gases were responsible for destroying the ozone layer and the US Environmental Protection Agency banned the use of chlorofluorocarbons in aerosols in 1978. It was not until 1985, that scientists from the British Antarctic Survey discovered a large hole in the ozone layer over the Earth's southern hemisphere, which was expanding at the same rate as occurrences of skin cancer in Australia and other countries in that zone. This discovery vindicated Mario José and he galvanized public support for the regulation of ozone-depleting substances, which came in 1985 when 20 nations including the major chlorofluorocarbons producers signed the Vienna Convention known as the Montreal Protocol.

Mario José Molina-Pasquel Henríquez states, "Climate change, like depletion of the ozone layer, is proof of the damage human activities exert on earth at the global level. Solutions require commitment of all sectors of society. Mitigation strategies and adaptation measures need the collaboration of the scientific community, economists, technology and energy experts, entrepreneurs, decision makers and the general population." He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013 by US President Barack Obama who called him a visionary chemist and environmental scientist.

R. N. I. No. MAHENG/1999/121 | Date of Publication: 18th of every month |
For Private Circulation Only | Posted at Worli, MDG, Mumbai - 400 018. on 24/25th of previous month

## 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. SABANNAVAR (2004)
(9) SAMAKALEEN (2005)
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and many more...

**ART FUSION catalogues**

2007 / 2008 / 2009 / 2010 / 2011 / 2012 / 2013 / 2014

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## Nehru Centre Library
*for all things literary*

# Forthcoming Events

## Meet-the-Author

### Bharti Singh *with her book*

**What Could it Be?**


Something has scared Bapu in the bathroom. Can Diya save him?
Come and hear the story of Diya, a young girl and her father who is afraid of lizards.

Children, fathers and mothers will be treated to a fun-filled morning of activities followed by a book signing by the author.

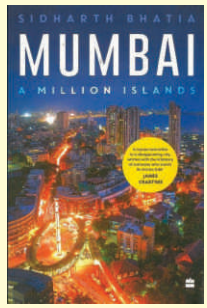
**Audience:**
**Children (9years +) and family**

**Date: Saturday, 07.02.2026** **Time: 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.**

## Book Discussion

### Siddharth Bhatia *and his book*

**Mumbai: A Million Islands**




Since the East India Company merged seven islands into Bombay (now Mumbai), change has been constant. But today it is used as a weapon for displacement. Where the original 7 islands symbolized a synergy, today they are multiplying as fractures - each more isolated than the other.

The author will be in conversation with Fiona Fernandez, Associate Editor and Daily Features Editor at Mid-day.

**Audience:**
**Open to all**

**Date: Saturday, 21.02.2026** **Time: 4.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.**

**Venue: Who Are We Hall** **Registration and Entry: By Invitation only**

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|---|---|---|
| Nehru Centre nehru-centre.org/library.html | www.facebook.com/NehruCentreLibrary | **10.00 a.m. to 5.45 p.m.** |
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| nehrucentrelibrary.blogspot.com | www.instagram.com/nehrucentrelibrary | |

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