

Newsletter

Vol. 27 Issue 1 JANUARY 2026

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Nehru
Centre



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Events At a Glance...

Library

Meet the Author

Stories of Forests from India
Written by **Katie Bagli**

The author will share stories of forests in India.

17th January 2026
10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Who Are We Hall

Poetry Evening

Dr. Paramita Mukherjee Mullick will curate the evening on the theme 'Kintsugi'

17th January 2026
4.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.
Who Are We Hall

Culture Wing

A Three Day Dance Festival

14th January 2026
CROSSING OCEANS

15th January 2026
INDRAYANI KATHI

16th January 2026
KANUPRIYA

7.00 p.m. (Each day)
Nehru Centre Auditorium

Speeches of the Freedom Movement

13. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi:
Plenary Session of 2nd Round Table Conference
London, 1 December 1931

The second and concluding part of the speech delivered by Gandhiji at the Second Round Table Conference is produced below.

"General Smuts is a brave general, a great statesman, and a very hard taskmaster also. But he himself recoiled with horror from even the contemplation of doing to death innocent men and women who were merely fighting for the preservation of their self-respect. The things which he had vowed he would never yield to in the year 1908, reinforced as he was by General Botha, he had to do in the year 1914, after having tried these civil resisters through and through. And in India, Lord Chelmsford had to do the same thing; the Governor of Bombay had to do the same thing in Borsad and Bardoli.

I shall hope against hope, I shall strain every nerve to achieve an honourable settlement for my country if I can do so without having to put the millions of my countrymen through this ordeal of fire. It can be a matter of no joy

and comfort to me to lead them on again to a fight of that character, but if a further ordeal of fire has to be our lot, I shall approach that with the greatest joy and with the greatest consolation that I was doing what I felt to be right, the country was doing what it felt to be right, and the country will have the additional satisfaction of knowing that it was not at least taking lives, it was giving lives; it was not making the British people directly suffer, it was suffering.

Negotiation there always will be; and if this time I have travelled all these miles in order to enter upon negotiation, I thought that your countryman, Lord Irwin, had sufficiently tried us through his ordinances, that he had sufficient evidence that thousands of men and women of India had suffered; and that, ordinance or no ordinance, lathis or no lathis, nothing would avail to stem the tide that was onrushing and to stem the passions that were rising in the breasts of the men and women of India who were thirsting for liberty.

Whilst there is yet a little sand left in the glass, I want you to understand what this Congress stands for. My life is at your disposal. The lives of all the members of the Working Committee, the All-India Congress Committee, are at your disposal. But remember that you have at your disposal the lives of all these dumb millions. I do not want to sacrifice those lives if I can possibly help it. Therefore, please remember that I will count no sacrifice too great if by chance I can pull through an honourable settlement. You will find me always having the greatest spirit of compromise if I can but fire you with the spirit that is working in the Congress, namely, that India must have real liberty.

Call it by any name you like; a rose will smell as sweet by any other name, but it must be the rose of liberty that I want and not the artificial product. If your mind and the Congress mind, the mind of this Conference and the mind of the British people mean the same thing by the same word, then you will find the amplest room for compromise, and will find the Congress itself always in a compromising spirit. But so long as there is not that one mind, that one definition, not one implication for the same word that you and I and we may be using, no compromise is possible. How can there be any compromise as long as each one of us has a different definition for the same words that we may be using? Prime Minister,



Gandhi arrives to attend the Round Table Conference

I want to suggest to you in all humility that it is utterly impossible then to find a meeting ground, to find a ground where you can apply the spirit of compromise.

I know that liberty is made of sterner stuff, and I know that the freedom of India is made of much sterner stuff. But today you and we have come together at a Round Table and we want to find a common formula which will work. I shall be here as long as I am required because I do not want to revive civil disobedience. I want to turn the truce that was arrived at Delhi, into a permanent settlement.

This is, perhaps, the last time that I shall be sitting with you at negotiations. It is not that I want that. I want to sit at the same table with you and to negotiate and to plead with you and to go down on bended knees before I take the final leap and final plunge. But

whether I have the good fortune to continue to tender my co-operation or not does not depend upon me. It largely depends upon you. But it may not even depend upon you. It depends upon so many circumstances over which neither you nor we may have any control whatsoever. Then let me perform this pleasant task of giving my thanks to all - from their Majesties down to the poorest men in the East End, where I have taken up my habitation.

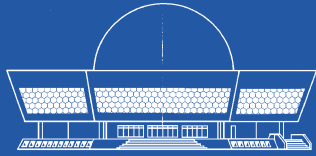
I am carrying with me thousands upon thousands of English friendships. I do not know them, but I read that affection in their eyes as early in the morning I walk through your streets. All this hospitality, all this kindness will never be effaced from my memory no matter what befalls my unhappy land. I thank you for your forbearance."

... concluded

What Nehru said....

There is perhaps a certain conflict always between the idea of progress and that of security and stability. The two do not fit in, the former wants change, the latter a safe unchanging haven and a continuation of things as they are.

... 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)

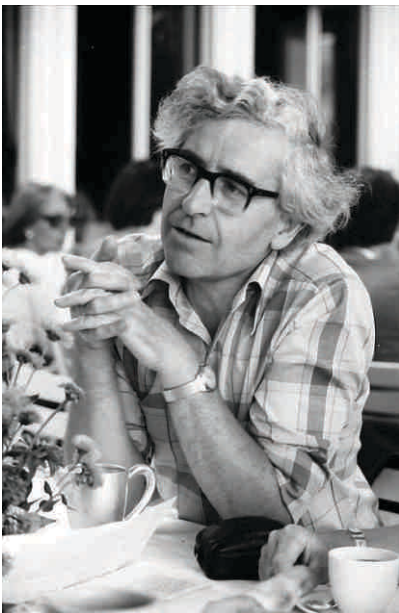
(MONDAY CLOSED)

Email: managernpmumbai@gmail.com

Astrophysicist Nobel Laureates

3. Antony Hewish: 1974

Antony Hewish received the 1974 Nobel Prize in Physics, jointly with Martin Ryle (see Newsletter December 2025). Antony Hewish was six years younger than Martin Ryle and was awarded the Prize for his 'decisive role in the discovery of pulsars'. Pulsars are magnetised, rapidly rotating, highly dense neutron stars. The density of a neutron star is so high that a teaspoon (5 ml) of its material would weigh over 5.5 trillion kilograms. All pulsars are neutron stars, but all neutron stars are not pulsars. Pulsars emit continuous, strong radio jets from the magnetic poles of a star. If one of a pulsar's magnetic poles points toward Earth, we observe the pulsar, just as a lighthouse is visible only when its light is pointed towards an observer.



Antony Hewish (1924 -2021)

Antony was born on 11 May 1924 in Fowey, Cornwall, a port town at the mouth of the River Fowey, in the southwest of the United Kingdom. His father, Ernest Hewish, was a banker and the family lived just above the bank. He was passionate about doing science experiments. Hence, his father allowed him to set up a laboratory in the house. He had also developed a passion for swimming and boating.

After completing his school education, he was sent to King's College, Taunton. Here, he built a crystal set radio because an ordinary radio was not allowed in the dormitory. In 1942, Antony Hewish went to the University of Cambridge to study natural science, but his studies were interrupted by the war. From 1943 to 1946, Antony worked on airborne radar countermeasure devices at the Royal Aircraft Establishment. Here he met Martin Ryle. After the war, Hewish returned to Cambridge in 1946 and graduated two years later.

He immediately joined Ryle's research group at the Cavendish Laboratory and worked under him. He obtained his PhD in 1952. Later, in 1961, he joined Churchill College, became a lecturer in 1961, a reader in 1969 and a professor of radio astronomy until his retirement in 1989. He took over the leadership of Cambridge Radio Astronomy at the Cavendish Laboratory in 1977, following Ryle's illness.

At Cambridge, Ryle had asked Hewish to work on antennas for observing the extraterrestrial radio sources. For nearly 10 years, Hewish worked on a succession of innovative radio telescopes. He became an expert on radio scintillation, a phenomenon similar to the twinkling of stars at visible wavelengths. The only difference is that we see the stars twinkling due to changes in Earth's atmosphere whereas radio scintillation occurs in the medium between Earth and the stars.

Hewish wanted to design an extensive array of antennas to detect scintillations. He was trying to address three important astronomical problems. The first was to discover compact radio galaxies, called quasars; the second was to measure their angular size; and the third was to detect the structure and velocity of the solar wind, a stream of charged particles flowing out of the Sun.

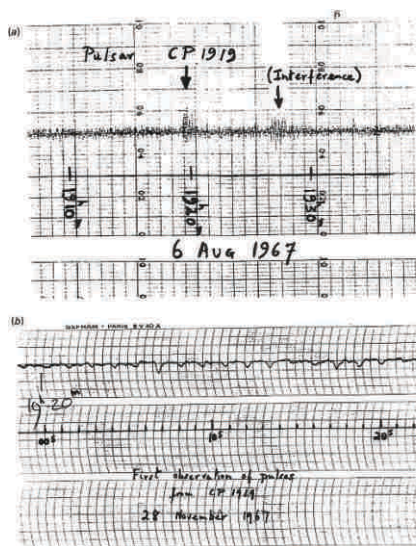
For this project, he had won a US\$48,000 grant to design and build a 1.82-hectare array at the Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory near Cambridge. Using this array of antennas, astronomers could detect intensity fluctuations on a time scale as short as one-tenth of a second. In October 1965 a young graduate student, Jocelyn Bell, joined the team. Her responsibility was to supervise the network of cables connecting the antennas. After all the antennas were connected, the complex would act as a single large radio telescope.

After the telescope was commissioned in July 1967, the data was recorded on a long roll of paper, very similar to what we see in an ECG or a polygraph recording. Bell began meticulously analysing the data recorded every day. The computers had not yet arrived; Bell did this work entirely by hand.

On 6 August, Bell noticed a strange pattern she had never seen before. Later on 28 November, it became clear that the data showed the arrival of stable pulses every 1.33 seconds. The object that generated such regular pulses was called a pulsar, or pulsating star. This object is too faint to detect with an optical telescope. Later, Bell and others discovered many more pulsars. The interval between two pulsars is so precise that they offer unparalleled stability over decades and centuries, even better than atomic clocks. Currently, more than 3500 pulsars have been detected.



Jocelyn Bell and Anthony Hewish



The Pulsar discovery

The discovery of a pulsar was considered to be one of the most important discoveries of the time. It was but appropriate of the Nobel committee to award Hewish the most coveted prize for any scientist. Hewish said in an interview that when Stephen Hawking heard the news (of the discovery of a pulsar), he rang up to say that if neutron stars existed, then black holes were almost certain to occur too.

Hewish believed that science and religion were complementary, and said, "We should be prepared to accept that the deepest aspects of existence go beyond our common sense understanding."

He died on 13 September 2021 and is survived by his wife Marjorie Richards, son Nicholas and daughter Jennifer.

SCIENCE TALK



Professor Duncan Lorimer, FRS (Professor, West Virginia University, USA), who discovered the first Fast Radio Bursts (FRB) will deliver a public talk on *The Brightest Pulses In The Universe*.

Venue: **Sky Theatre of the Nehru Planetarium**

Date and Time: **Saturday, 17 Jan 2026 at 6:30 p.m.**

Culture Wing

**Nehru Centre
presents**

A Three Day Dance Festival



CROSSING OCEANS

Based on Greek, Japanese and Australian Aboriginal folklore explored through Odissi, Chhau and Contemporary Dance

Conceptualised and Produced by
Odissi Dance Exponent
Smt. Daksha Mashruwala

Presented by
Kaishiki Dance Academy.

Wednesday, 14th January 2026
Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes
(without interval)



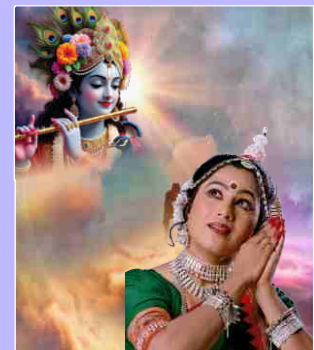
INDRAYANI KATHI - Kathak Ballet

The ballet is based on the popular "Abhangas" sung in praise of Lord Vitthal.

Conceptualised and Produced by
Kathak Dance Exponent
Smt. Sarita Kalele

Presented by
Aamad Society
for Performing Arts.

Thursday, 15th January 2026
Duration: 1 hour 15 minutes
(without interval)



KANUPRIYA Odissi Ballet

Radha's monologue performed in Odissi dance form with a blend of theatrical techniques

Conceptualised and Produced by
Odissi Dance Exponent
Smt. Shubhada Varadkar

Presented by
Sanskrita Foundation.

Theatrical Direction by
late Shivdas Ghodke

Friday, 16th January 2026
Duration: 1 hour 20 min.
(without interval)

7.00 p.m. (Each day)
Nehru Centre Auditorium

Entry: Free Entrance Cards will be available from Friday, 9th January 2026 from 10.30 am onwards until availability from the ticket counter of Nehru Centre Auditorium

**SANJAY KUMAR
KOSAL KUMAR**



Both the artists are from Delhi. Sanjay Kumar works in abstract form in acrylic, whereas Kosal Kumar is a sculptor.

**Tuesday 30th December 2025
to Monday 5th January 2026
(AC Gallery)**

**MAHESH KADAM
RIYAZ KAZI
ARJUN MACHIVALE
ROSHAN GOTAD
ARBAZ USMANI**

This group of five artists will display their works in watercolour, oil and acrylic.

**Tuesday 30th December 2025
to Monday 5th January 2026
(Circular Gallery)**

**DILIP MALI
RASANA BHARDWAJ
KIRAN KUMBHAR
PARAG VANARASE
VIJAY WADEKAR**

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

**Tuesday 6th January 2026 to
Monday 12th January 2026
(AC Gallery)**

SHARVARI MALI

Sharvari delicately evokes balance and harmony in her artworks by incorporating layers, colours, shapes and textures.

**Tuesday 6th January 2026 to
Monday 12th January 2026
(Circular Gallery)**

PARAMESH PAUL



Paramesh has been recognized and appreciated for his uncanny ability to capture the mood of the place and sense of atmosphere.

**Tuesday 13th January 2026 to
Monday 19th January 2026
(AC Gallery)**

PRAWEEEN KARMAKAR



Praween's paintings are in acrylic and water colour.

**Tuesday 13th January 2026 to
Monday 19th January 2026
(Circular Gallery)**

PRAVIN RANDIVE

Pravin works both in acrylic and oil.

**Tuesday 20th January 2026 to
Monday 26th January 2026
(AC Gallery)**

**SUBRATA GHOSH
RAJIBSUR ROY
JOYDEV BALA**

This group of three artists will display their paintings in acrylic on canvas.

**Tuesday 20th January 2026 to
Monday 26th January 2026
(Circular Gallery)**

PRIYANSHU THAKUR

Priyanshu is a contemporary artist and designer. He has many shows to his credit.

**Tuesday 27th January 2026 to
Monday 2nd February 2026
(AC Gallery)**

INDIA ART FESTIVAL

This is a mega Indian Art Fair hosted in New Delhi, Bengaluru and Mumbai and is an initiative of Raturaj IndoArtFest Pvt. Ltd. It provides an opportunity to emerging, independent artists along with mid-level and major art galleries.

**Tuesday 27th January 2026 to
Monday 2nd February 2026
(Circular Gallery)**

Our Instagram link: [nehru_centre_artgallery](https://www.instagram.com/nehru_centre_artgallery)

UNEP - Champions of the Earth Awards

6. José Sarukhán Kermez – Mexico - 2016



José Sarukhán Kermez is a research biologist from Mexico. Known as the founding father of ecological research in Mexico, he is among the best-known conservation and biodiversity scientists in the world. He received the UNEP Lifetime Achievement award in 2016 for his leadership and innovation in conserving biodiversity in Mexico and worldwide. As a researcher at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, he rose to become the Director of the Institute of Biology in 1979 and then served as Coordinator of Scientific Research. However, his best innovation was in 1991 when he convinced the Mexican government to establish a permanent top-level commission on biodiversity known as 'National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity' (CONABIO). Sarukhán was named its first national coordinator and holds this position till date.

Sarukhán received his doctorate at University of Wales in UK. He worked with renowned plant population biologist, John Harper. His founding institution CONABIO has bridged the barriers between academic disciplines, government departments and social interest groups. The CONABIO monitors animal and plant species in Mexico and creates inventories. It pools knowledge from institutions across Mexico and its people to build a complete understanding of diversity of life and its value to humankind. CONABIO also produces and collates data and assessments across Mexico's varied ecosystems to make them available to policy-makers and public. It guides biological conservation and sustainability projects in the region by protecting biodiversity at international levels.

José Sarukhán Kermez says "I studied the ecology of plants, particularly in the rainforests of Mexico. There I realized the richness of Mexico's nature and the richness of the local people's knowledge about it". He states, "An adequately informed society with reliable information is the best partner you can have to defend biological diversity."

Sarukhán has received recognition all across the world for his work. He has published more than 190 scientific works. His academic work in areas including ecology, biodiversity and Darwinism won him many awards. In 2017, he received the *Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement* for his ability to translate scientific knowledge into action. José Sarukhán Kermez continues his work in the scientific and environmental fields, primarily as a representative and researcher at the El Colegio Nacional (The National College) in Mexico.

**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 Day with the Authors

Meet-the-Author

Katie Bagli with her book

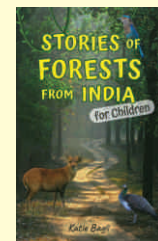
Stories of Forests from India

Do dancing deer really dance? What dangers do fishermen and honey gatherers of world's largest mangrove forest face? How do diverse species in forest live in perfect harmony?

Join the author to know the answers and hear interesting stories of forests from India!

Date: Saturday, 17.01.2026

Time: 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.



Audience:
 Children (9years +) and
 family

Poetry Evening

Dr. Paramita Mukherjee Mullick

Concept and curator on the theme: *Kintsugi*

Kintsugi means 'joining with gold' which is a centuries-old art of Japan. But for the Japanese, *Kintsugi* is a part of a broader philosophy of embracing the beauty of human flaws.

Join us in an evening of multilingual poems recited by various poets on this concept.

Date: Saturday, 17.01.2026

Time: 4.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.



Audience:
 Lovers of Poetry

Registration and Entry: By Invitation only

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

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



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