

# Newsletter

Vol. 27 Issue 3 MARCH 2026

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## Nehru Centre



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## Events At a Glance...

### Library

#### Poetry Evening

(International Women's Day)

Curated by Dr. Paramita

Mukherjee Mullick

6th March 2026

4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Who Are We Hall

### Book Talk

**Mumbai Metro Aqua Line:  
A Time Traveller's Guide**

by Ms Maitri Dore (Author)

7th March 2026

4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Who Are We Hall

### Culture Wing

To celebrate International  
Women's Day, Nehru Centre  
presents

## सखी ग

An all-women's group  
presents bhavgeet, angai,  
bhaktigeet and natyageet.

13th March 2026, 7.00 p.m.  
Nehru Centre Auditorium

## Speeches of the Freedom Movement

**15. Subhash Chandra Bose  
Struggle Against Imperialism**

Haripura, 9 February 1938

*The 51st session of the Congress was held at Haripura in Gujarat in February, 1938. Subhas Chandra Bose was unanimously elected President for the first time. Below is an extract of his Presidential Address to the delegates.*

"I am deeply sensible of the honour you have done by electing me as the President of the Indian National Congress for the coming year. I regard it as a mark of your generosity and as a tribute to the youths of our country, but for whose cumulative contribution to our national struggle, we would not be where we are today. Conscious as I am of my numerous limitations, I can only hope and pray that with your sympathy and support I may be able to do justice to the high office which you have called upon me to fill.

exceptions to this rule. In the face of these objective facts of history, can anyone be so bold as to maintain that there is in store a different fate for the British empire? That empire stands today at one of the crossroads of history. It will either go the way of other empires or it must transform itself into a federation of free nations. The Czarist empire collapsed in 1917 but out of its debris sprang the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. There is still time for Great Britain to take a leaf out of Russian history.

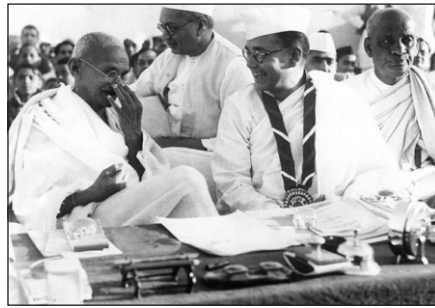
When we take a bird's eye-view of the entire panorama of human history, the first thing that strikes us is the rise and fall of empires. In the East as well as in the West, empires have invariably gone through a process of expansion and after reaching the zenith of prosperity, have gradually shrunk into insignificance and sometimes death. The Roman empire of the ancient times and the Turkish and Austro-Hungarian empires of the modern period are striking examples of this law. The empires in India - the Maurya, the Gupta and the Mughal empires - are no

It is a well-known truism that every empire is based on the policy of divide and rule. But I doubt if any empire in the world has practiced this policy so skilfully, systematically and ruthlessly as Great Britain. Before power was handed over to the Irish people, Ulster was separated from the rest of Ireland. Similarly, before any power is handed over to the Palestinians, the Jews will be separated from the Arabs. An internal partition is necessary in order to neutralise the transference of power. The same principle of partition

appears in a different form in the new Indian Constitution. Here we find an attempt to separate the different communities and put them into watertight compartments. In the Federal Scheme, there is juxtaposition of autocratic princes and democratically elected representatives from British India. If the new Constitution is finally rejected, whether owing to the opposition of British India or owing to the refusal of the Princes to joining it, I have no doubt that British ingenuity will seek some other constitutional device for partitioning India and thereby neutralising the transference of power to the Indian people. Therefore, any Constitution for India which emanates from Whitehall must be examined with the utmost care and caution.

From the standpoint of Indian unity, the first thing to remember is that the division between British India and the Indian States is an entirely artificial one. India is one and the hopes and aspirations of the people of British India and of the Indian States are identical. Our goal is that of an Independent India and in my view that goal can be attained only through a federal republic in which the Provinces and the States will be willing partners.

The next thing that strikes us is the problem of the minorities. The Congress has, from time to time, declared its policy on this question. The latest authoritative pronouncement made by the All-India Congress Committee at its meeting in Calcutta in October 1937, runs thus:



**Gandhi and Bose at the Harijans Congress Session**

'The Congress has solemnly and repeatedly declared its policy in regard to the rights of the minorities in India and has stated that it considers it its duty to protect these rights and ensure the widest possible scope for the development of these minorities and their participation in the fullest measure in the political, economic and cultural life of the nation. The objective of the Congress is an independent and united India where no class or group or majority or minority may exploit another to its own advantage, and where all the elements in the nation may co-operate together for the common good and the advancement of the people of India.

In all matters affecting the minorities in India, the Congress wishes to proceed by their co-operation and through their goodwill in a common undertaking and for the realization of a common aim which is the freedom and betterment of all the people of India.'

The time is opportune for renewing our efforts for the final solution of this

problem. A policy of live and let live in matters religious and an understanding in matters economic and political should be our objective. Though the Muslim problem looms large whenever we think of the question of the minorities and though we are anxious to settle this problem finally, I must say that the Congress is equally desirous of doing justice to other minorities and especially the so-called depressed classes whose number is a very large one. The Congress stands for the political and economic rights of the Indian people as a whole.

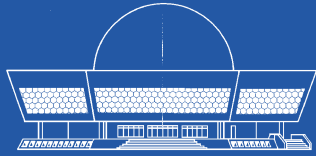
In our struggle for independence, we may adopt either of two alternatives. We may continue our fight until we have our full freedom and, in the meantime, decline to use any power that we may capture while on the march. We may, on the other hand, go on consolidating our position while we continue our struggle for Purna Swaraj or complete independence. From the point of view of principle, both the alternatives are equally acceptable and *a priori* considerations need not worry us. But we should consider very carefully at every stage as to which alternative would be more conducive to our national advancement.

Ours is a struggle not only against British imperialism but against world imperialism as well, of which the former is the keystone. We are, therefore, fighting not for the cause of India alone but of humanity as well. India freed means humanity saved."

### What Nehru said....

It would seem that every outside element that has come to India and been absorbed by India, has given something to India and taken much from her; it has contributed to its own and to India's strength.

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



NEHRU PLANETARIUM

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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

#### 5. Robert Wilson: 1978

*Robert Wilson shared the Nobel Prize in Physics for the year 1978 with Arno Penzias, about whom we wrote in the last issue. They shared the prize for 'their discovery of the cosmic microwave background radiation'.*

Robert Woodrow Wilson was born on January 23, 1936, in Houston, Texas. His grandparents, who moved to Texas from the South after the U.S. Civil War, believed in education as the way to improve their children's lives. Both of Robert's parents were college graduates. His father, after receiving an M.A. in chemistry from Rice University, worked for an oil-well service company in Houston.

"Both of my parents are inveterate do-it-yourselfers, almost no task being beneath their dignity or beyond their ingenuity," writes Robert Wilson. He picked up a keen interest in electronics from his father. On Saturday mornings, he would visit his father's company and putter around the machine, electronics, and automobile shops. He built his own hi-fi set and enjoyed helping friends with their amateur radio transmitters.

Robert graduated from Lamar High School in River Oaks, Houston. From an early age, he displayed an interest in how things worked, a curiosity that would later define his scientific career. In 1957 he earned his undergraduate degree in physics from Rice University. He then pursued graduate studies at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), a premier centre for the study of physics and astronomy. At Caltech, Wilson completed his PhD on experimental physics in 1962. His training emphasised on precision measurement, signal detection and instrumentation. Wilson was not drawn to astronomy during his early career; his path was more grounded in physics and engineering. The skills he acquired led him to make one of the most important discoveries in modern science, viz., cosmic microwave background radiation.

At Houston, he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest academic honour society in the United States. (SEE BOX) After completing his doctorate, Wilson joined Bell Telephone Laboratories (Bell Labs) in Holmdel, New Jersey. At the time, Bell Labs had a unique environment where fundamental science and applied engineering coexisted. Researchers were encouraged to explore questions that had no immediate commercial payoff, provided that the work advanced knowledge and technology.

It was at Bell Labs that Wilson began working with another young physicist, Arno Allan Penzias. Together, they were tasked with using a large horn-shaped radio antenna—originally built for satellite communication experiments—to study radio emissions from the Milky Way.

Radio astronomy in the early 1960s was still a developing field. Detecting faint cosmic signals required extraordinary care, as even small sources of interference—electronics, atmospheric effects, or local radio noise—could overwhelm the data. Wilson and Penzias approached their work with painstaking thoroughness, calibrating their equipment and accounting for every known source of error.

The detection of the cosmic microwave background radiation, which led to Penzias and Wilson being awarded the Nobel Prize, is now regarded as one of the most important discoveries of the 20th century. It provided strong, direct



ΦBK



Robert Wilson (right) and Arno Penzias, with the Holmdel horn antenna, 1978, on the occasion of their Nobel Prize award

evidence for the Big Bang theory and helped shift scientific consensus away from the competing “steady-state” model of the universe.

For Wilson, the discovery was remarkable not only for its significance but for the way it was made. He and Penzias were not searching for evidence of the Big Bang. They were careful experimentalists following the data wherever it led, refusing to ignore a signal simply because it did not fit their expectations. This approach - patient, rigorous, and open-minded - became a hallmark of Wilson's scientific reputation.

Perhaps Wilson's most enduring contribution lies not only in *what* he discovered, but in *how* he discovered it. His approach exemplified several core principles of experimental science like systematic error control over speculative interpretation, instrumental understanding as a prerequisite for theoretical inference, and willingness to pursue anomalies rather

than dismiss them. Wilson consistently emphasised that the discovery emerged from persistence and precision, not from an attempt to confirm a specific cosmological model. This methodological humility has become a standard ideal in observational cosmology.

Wilson and Penzias also together won the Henry Draper Medal of the National Academy of Sciences in 1977. Wilson received the Golden Plate Award of the American Academy of Achievement in 1987. Wilson remained at Bell Laboratories until 1994, when he was named a senior scientist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Wilson has been a resident of Holmdel Township, New Jersey, where he purchased property upon joining Bell Laboratories. He likes to spend his evenings reading or continuing the day's work, and enjoys playing the piano, jogging, and travelling with the family.



Aerial view of Bell Laboratories

The Phi Beta Kappa Society (ΦΒΚ) is the oldest academic honour society in the United States. It was founded in 1776 at the College of William & Mary in Virginia. The society aims to promote and advocate excellence in the liberal arts and sciences, and to induct outstanding students of arts and sciences at select American colleges and universities.

The Greek letters Phi Beta Kappa stand for Φιλοσοφία Βίου Κυβερνήτης (Philosophia Biou Kybernētēs), which means "Wisdom is the guide of life."

Since its inception, 17 United States presidents, 42 United States Supreme Court justices, and 136 Nobel laureates have been inducted into the society.

# Culture Wing

Nehru Centre आयोजित

जागतिक महिला दिनाच्या औचित्याने

**सखी ग**

(स्त्री मनाचे भावविश्व)

विविध मराठी गाण्याद्वारे संगीतमय सादरीकरण

गायिका: निहिरा जोशी

विनीता जाधव  
दर्शना जोग  
सुलक्षणा फाटक  
भावना हडवळे  
निशा मोकल  
राधिका अंतुरकर

To celebrate International Women's Day, Nehru Centre is pleased to bring to you **सखी ग**, a rendering of classical compositions by an all-women's group. They will present *bhavageet, angai, bhaktigeet and natyageet*.

Songs by famous artistes (Kishori Amonkar, Shanta Shelke, Bahinabai, Sant Soyarabai and Meerabai) will be presented by Nihira Joshi who will also sing her own compositions.

When she was young, the late Lata Mangeshkar used to compose music under the pseudonym 'Anandghan' which means 'a cloud of joy.' These compositions will also be presented.

*Lead Singer*  
Nihira Joshi

*Compere*  
Dr. Samira Joshi

*Music & Keyboards*  
Darshana Jog

*Accompanists*  
Radhika Anturkar (*Guitar*), Bhavna Hadawale (*Flute*)  
Sulakshana Phatak (*Tabla*), Nisha Mokal (*Dholak*)  
Vinita Jadhav (*Octapad*)

Friday, 13th March 2026, 7.00 p.m.

Nehru Centre Auditorium

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

## BIRA KISHOR PATRA



Hailing from Orissa, his works on spiritual waves in acrylic on canvas will be on display.

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

## SWAPNA JOSHI



Swapna works in abstract art and will exhibit her works in oil, acrylic and mixed media,

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

## GHANSHYAM GUPTA

Having completed his masters in Royal College of Art, London, Ghanshyam has many solo and group shows to his credit.

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

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Nehru Centre Art Gallery takes immense pleasure in presenting the second Women's Art Exhibition in which 70 to 75 senior and student women artists will participate.



Krutika Parulkar



Mauli Shah



Anushka Varekar



Swati Sable



Samruddha Purekar

**Tuesday 10th March 2026 to Monday 16th March 2026  
(AC & Circular Gallery)**

## SOMA MAJUMDER GAUTAM MAJUMDER



Soma Majumder



Gautam Majumder

This duo will display their contemporary figurative paintings and spiritual work in acrylic.

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

## SURESHCHANDRA TARKAR SUNIL KADAM VIJAY BHINGARDE PANDAV VIDYA NARALKAR

A group of five artists including a photographer will showcase their work.

**Tuesday 24th March 2026  
to Monday 30th March 2026  
(AC Gallery)**

## SHIRISH BURDE

Shirish started his painting journey as a hobby which is now a passion. He works on Warli paintings.

**Tuesday 24th March 2026  
to Monday 30th March 2026  
(Circular Gallery)**

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

### 8. Sylvia Earle – United States of America - 2014



Dr. Sylvia Earle is an internationally renowned marine biologist, pioneer of deep-sea exploration and author. She was awarded the UNEP Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014 in recognition of her profound contribution to ocean exploration and conservation. She is the Chairman, Founder and President of Mission Blue and the Sylvia Earle Alliance and Founding Advisory Board Chair of the Harte Research Institute at Texas. Dr. Sylvia Earle has logged more than 7,000 hours underwater in 100 expeditions, has led the first team of women aquanauts and also set a record for solo diving to a depth of 1,000 metres. She was the first woman to serve as the Chief Scientist of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and, since 1998, has been Explorer-in-Residence at the National Geographic Society.

Young Sylvia spent her early life on a small farm near Camden, New Jersey where she developed an appreciation for the wonders of nature through her own explorations of nearby woods. When her family moved to Florida, their waterfront property gave her a chance to explore the habitat in the salt marshes and sea grass beds.

Dr Earle did her PhD in phycology from Duke University. She is such a renowned pioneer of deep sea exploration and conservation that she now has a Lego figurine modelled after her, complete with little yellow flippers. She received the following titles from some of the world's most prestigious organizations: she was referred to as 'Her Deepness' by the New Yorker and the New York Times; 'Living Legend' by the Library of Congress; and, in 1998, the very first 'Hero for the Planet' by Time magazine.

Dr. Sylvia Earle's more than 100 national and international honours include the 2011 Royal Geographical Society Gold Medal, the 2011 Medal of Honour from the Dominican Republic, the 2009 TED Prize, and the Netherlands Order of the Golden Ark.

Dr. Earle embodies the spirit and values of UNEP's Champions of the Earth, and her work will undoubtedly live long in memory and motivate others to follow in the wake of her ever-flapping flippers.

**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)
  - (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)
  - (10) VINAYAK S. MASOJI (2006)
  - (11) K. B. KULKARNI (2007)
  - (12) COLLECTOR'S PRIDE (2007)
  - (13) P. A. DHOND (2008)
  - (14) HAREN DAS (2009)
  - (16) G. N. JADHAV (2011)
  - (17) J. B. DIKSHIT (2014)
  - (18) DEENANATH DALAL (2015)
- and many more

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**Nehru Centre Library**  
*for all things literary*



**Forthcoming Events**

Poetry Evening

**International Women's Day**

**Dr. Paramita Mukherjee Mullick**

Concept and curator



International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.

**Audience:**  
Lovers of Poetry

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

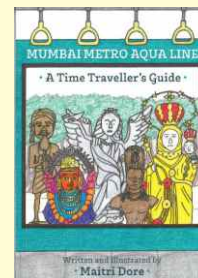
**Date: Friday, 06.03.2026**

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

Book Talk

**Mumbai Metro Aqua Line: A Time Traveller's Guide**

**Ms Maitri Dore Author**



Mumbai Metro Aqua Line: A Time Traveller's Guide is a book for the commuter to discover the history of Mumbai while riding the Aqua Line. The book is divided into eight 'stories' about Mumbai, starting from the 3rd century BCE until 2025.

**Audience:**  
Open to all

**Date: Saturday, 07.03.2026**

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

**Venue: Who Are We Hall**

**For R.S.V.P.: - [nehrucenlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:nehrucenlibrary@gmail.com)**

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



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