

Newsletter

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Nehru Centre



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Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.
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Annual Subscription Rs. 100

HOMAGE

Nehru Centre will pay homage to late Shri Rajni Patel, founder member and former General Secretary of the Centre on his 44th death anniversary.

All are requested to join.

Date: **Sunday, 3rd May 2026**

Time: **11.00 a.m.**

Venue: **Ground Floor,
Discovery of India Building**

Events At a Glance...

CULTURE WING

SUMMER CAMPS 2026



(Workshops on Kathak, Tabla, Harmonium, Theatre and Lavani)

Date: **18th May 2026 to
24th May 2026**

Details on page 5

LIBRARY



SUMMER READING WEEK

Lets read together
@Nehru Centre Library

Date: **11th to 16th May 2026**

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

Venue: **Nehru Centre Library**

Details on page 8

Speeches of the Freedom Movement

17. Subhash Chandra Bose

Proclamation of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind

Singapore, 21 October 1943

On 4 July 1943, Rashbehari Bose had handed over the leadership of the Indian Independence League (IIL) and its armed wing Indian National Army (INA) to the younger Subhash Chandra Bose. The ceremony to proclaim the provisional government of free India was held in the Town Hall in Singapore from where this broadcast was made.

Below are excerpts from that historic broadcast.

"After their first defeat at the hands of the British in 1757 in Bengal, the Indian people fought an uninterrupted series of hard and bitter battles over a stretch of one hundred years. The history of this period teems with examples of unparalleled heroism and self-sacrifice.

Unfortunately for us, our forefathers did not at first realise that the British constituted a grave threat to the whole of India and they did not therefore put up a united front against the enemy. Ultimately, when the Indian people were roused to the reality of the situation, they made a concerted move — and under the flag of Bahadur Shah in 1857, they fought their last war as free men. In spite of a series of brilliant victories in the early stages of this war, ill-luck and faulty leadership gradually brought about their final collapse and subjugation. Nevertheless, such heroes as the Rani of Jhansi, Tatya Tope, Kunwar Singh and Nana Sahib live like eternal

stars in the nation's memory to inspire us to greater deeds of sacrifice and valour.

Forcibly disarmed by the British after 1857 and subjected to terror and brutality, the Indian people lay prostrate for a while — but with the birth of the Indian National Congress in 1885, there came a new awakening. From 1885 till the end of the last World War, the Indian people, in their endeavour to recover their lost liberty, tried all possible methods — namely, agitation and propaganda, boycott of British goods, terrorism and sabotage — and finally armed revolution. But all these efforts failed for a time. Ultimately, in 1920, when the Indian people, haunted by a sense of failure were groping for a new method, Mahatma Gandhi came forward with the weapon of non-cooperation and civil disobedience.

For two decades thereafter, the Indian people went through a phase of

intense patriotic activity. The message of freedom was carried to every Indian home. The Indian people not only recovered their political consciousness, but became a political entity once again. They could now speak with one voice and strive with one will for one common goal. From 1937 to 1939, through the work of the Congress Ministries in eight provinces, they gave proof of their readiness and capacity to administer their own affairs.

Now that the dawn of freedom is at hand, it is the duty of the Indian people to set up a Provisional Government of their own and launch the last struggle under the banner of that Government. But with all the Indian leaders in prison, the people at home totally disarmed — it is not possible to set up a Provisional Government within India or to launch an armed struggle under the aegis of that Government. It is, therefore, the duty of the Indian Independence League in East Asia, supported by all patriotic Indians at home and abroad to undertake this task — the task of setting up a Provisional Government of Azad Hind and of conducting the last fight for freedom, with the help of the Army of Liberation (Azad Hind Fauj or the Indian National Army) organised by the League.

Having been constituted as the Provisional Government of Azad Hind by the Indian Independence League in East Asia, we enter upon our duties with a full sense of the responsibility that has devolved on us. And we hereby pledge our lives and of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of the



Subhash Chandra Bose proclaims the Provisional Government of Azad Hind

freedom of our motherland, of her welfare and her exaltation among the nations of the world.

It will be the task of the Provisional Government to launch and conduct the struggle that will bring about the expulsion of the British and their allies from the soil of India. It will then be the task of the Provisional Government to bring about the establishment of a permanent National Government of Azad Hind constituted in accordance with the will of the Indian people and enjoying their confidence. After the British and their allies are overthrown and until a permanent National Government of Azad Hind is set up on Indian soil, the Provisional Government will administer the affairs of the country.

The Provisional Government is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Indian. It guarantees religious liberty, as well as

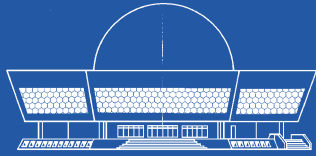
equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens. It declares its firm resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation, cherishing all the children of the nation equally and transcending all the differences cunningly fostered by an alien Government in the past.

In the name of God, in the name of bygone generations who have welded the Indian people into one nation and in the name of the dead heroes who have bequeathed to us a tradition of heroism and self-sacrifice — we call upon the Indian people to rally round our banner and to strike for India's freedom. We call upon them to launch the final struggle against the British and all their allies in India and to prosecute that struggle with valour and perseverance and with full faith in final victory — until the enemy is expelled from Indian soil and the Indian people are once again a free nation."

What Nehru said....

The human mind appears to have a passion for finding out some kind of unity in life, in nature and the universe. That desire, whether it is justified or not, must fulfil some essential need of the mind. The old philosophers were ever seeking this, and even modern scientists are impelled by this urge.

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



NEHRU PLANETARIUM

Tel: 022-40245413
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THE MOON MISSION – INDIA'S JOURNEY TO THE MOON

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

7. William Alfred Fowler: 1983

William Fowler was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1983 jointly with Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar for his 'theoretical and experimental studies of the nuclear reactions of importance in the formation of the chemical elements in the universe'. How the elements and later molecules are formed in our universe is one of the most profound scientific narratives ever constructed. At the heart of this story stands William Alfred Fowler (1911–1995). He was a pioneering nuclear astrophysicist whose work fundamentally transformed our understanding of how stars create the elements that make up the cosmos — and indeed, life itself.

William Fowler was born on 9 August 1911 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to John MacLeod Fowler and Jennie Summers Watson. He was their first child. The family moved to Lima, Ohio, a steam railroad town, in 1913.

William showed an early aptitude for science and engineering. Growing up near the Pennsylvania Railroad yard influenced Fowler's interest in locomotives. In 1973, he travelled to the Soviet Union just to observe the steam engine that powered the Trans-Siberian Railway plying the nearly 2,500-kilometre route connecting Khabarovsk and Moscow.

He pursued his education at Ohio State University. In 1936, he earned his PhD in nuclear physics from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in Pasadena, California. He was elected to the United States National Academy of Sciences in 1938. In 1939, Fowler became an assistant professor at Caltech. It was at Caltech that Fowler spent most of his distinguished career, ultimately becoming one of the leading figures in astrophysics during the 20th century.



William Alfred Fowler
Photo Credit: American Institute
of Physics

Although an experimental nuclear physicist, Fowler's most celebrated paper, in collaboration with Margaret and Geoffrey Burbidge, and Cambridge cosmologist Fred Hoyle, was on the Synthesis of the Elements in Stars, published in 1957, in *Reviews of Modern Physics*. It is widely known as the B²FH paper (after the initials of the authors). This work laid out a comprehensive theory of stellar nucleosynthesis, explaining how elements are formed through nuclear reactions in stars throughout their lifetimes and during explosive events such as supernovae. The paper was 104 pages long.

Before this work, scientists had only a partial understanding of stellar energy production. The prevailing idea was that stars shone due to gravitational contraction, but this could not explain their longevity. The breakthrough came with the realisation that nuclear fusion reactions in stellar interiors were responsible for the immense energy output of stars.

Fowler's role in this collaboration was crucial; he provided the experimental backbone, while Hoyle contributed theoretical insights. Working closely with experimental nuclear physicists and astronomers, Fowler conducted and interpreted laboratory measurements of nuclear reaction rates under conditions that mimic stellar interiors. His meticulous work provided the essential data needed to understand how light elements like hydrogen and helium fuse to form heavier elements in stars.

This integration of theory and experiment was a hallmark of his approach and a key reason for the enduring success of the B²FH framework. It described the processes responsible for creating many elements, including those essential to life, such as carbon, oxygen and iron.



E. Margaret Burbidge, Geoffrey Burbidge, William A. Fowler and Fred Hoyle with the steam train presented to William Fowler in July 1971 at the conference on massive objects organised in honour of his 60th birthday.

In recognition of his groundbreaking contributions, Fowler was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics. Interestingly, despite the roles of the Burbidges and Hoyle in the development of nucleosynthesis theory, Fowler was the sole recipient of the Nobel Prize for this work among the B²FH collaborators. This has often been a topic of discussion in the scientific community, highlighting both the collaborative nature of science and the complexities of recognising contributions within large teams.

Beyond his scientific achievements, Fowler was also known as a dedicated mentor and teacher. At Caltech, he guided numerous students and postdoctoral researchers, many of whom went on to become leaders in astrophysics and related fields. His laboratory became a hub for interdisciplinary research, bridging nuclear physics and astronomy in ways that were innovative for the time. He was called Willy by his friends and students.

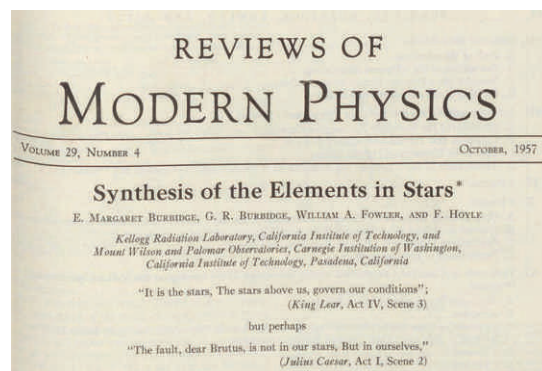
Fowler's work has had a lasting impact on multiple branches of science. In astrophysics, it provided a coherent framework for understanding stellar evolution and the chemical evolution of galaxies. In cosmology, it helped clarify the processes that led to the diversity of elements observed in the universe today. Even in fields like planetary science and biology, the implications of stellar nucleosynthesis are profound, as they explain the cosmic origins of the elements that constitute planets and living organisms.

Perhaps one of the most poetic aspects of Fowler's legacy is the realisation that the atoms in our bodies were once forged in the hearts of stars. This idea, often summarised in the phrase "we are made of star stuff," captures the deep connection between human existence and cosmic processes.

In his later years, Fowler remained active in research and public engagement. He remained deeply interested in the broader implications of astrophysics and was a strong advocate for scientific inquiry and education. His contributions were recognised not only through the Nobel Prize but also through numerous awards and honours from scientific societies around the world.

William Alfred Fowler passed away in 1995. But his legacy endures in the foundations of modern astrophysics. Every time we study the life cycle of stars, analyse the composition of distant galaxies, or trace the origins of elements, we build upon the framework that Fowler helped to establish.

Fowler did not just study the stars — he revealed how they create the very fabric of existence.



Credit: Linda Hall Library

Culture Wing

SUMMER WORKSHOPS - 2026 @ Culture Wing



Kathak



Tabla



Harmonium



Theatre



Lavani

KATHAK DARPAN

A Workshop on Kathak Dance by **Vidushi Saswati Sen**

Vidushi Saswati Sen, Kathak Dance exponent and choreographer is the senior disciple of Pt. Birju Maharaj. She conducted Kathak Workshops with Pt. Birju Maharaj for the last 22 years and is on her own since the last four years.

Tabla Accompaniment: **Shri Kaushik Basu**

Vocal & Harmonium Accompaniment: **Shri Vaibhav Mankad**

18th May 2026 to 22nd May 2026
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Nehru Centre Auditorium

Finale: 23rd May 2026
7 p.m.
Nehru Centre Auditorium

UPAJ, LAYA AUR TAAL

A Workshop on Tabla by **Pt. Kalinath Mishra**

Pt. Kalinath Mishra is a renowned tabla player. A member of the Banaras Gharana, he trained under Pt. Madan Mishra and Pt. Kishan Maharaj. He is an 'A' grade artist of the All India Radio and plays tabla for classical music as well as Kathak dance performances.

Harmonium Accompaniment: **Shri Vinod Padge**

18th May 2026 to 22nd May 2026
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hall of Harmony Ground Floor, Nehru Centre

Finale: 23rd May 2026
11 a.m.
Hall of Harmony

SUR AUR TAAL

A Workshop on Harmonium (*Samvadini*) by **Pt. Vishwanath Kanhere**

Pt. Vishwanath Kanhere is an Indian *Samvadini* player. He is a disciple of Govindrao Patwardhan. He has accompanied with the *Samvadini* in concerts of many artists. He has also performed solo on the *Samvadini*.

Tabla Accompaniment: **Shri Atharva Karlekar**

18th May 2026 to 22nd May 2026
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Venue: Who Are We Hall, First Floor, Nehru Centre

Finale: 23rd May 2026
2 p.m.
Who Are We Hall

REALISTIC ACTING

A Workshop on Theatre by **Dr. Milind Inamdar**

Dr. Milind Inamdar is a post graduate from the National School of Drama. He is an experienced Asst. Professor at the Academy of Theatre Arts, Mumbai University. He has over 30 years of teaching experience. and is proficient in acting and other theatre art disciplines.

18th May 2026 to 23rd May 2026
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Venue: Hall of Vision 'C', Second Floor, Nehru Centre

Finale: 24th May 2026
2 p.m.
Nehru Centre Auditorium

LAVANI MAJHI SAKHI

A Workshop on Traditional Lavani

Shri Nandkumar Patil, a senior journalist and dance choreographer has conceptualised, written and directed the workshop.

Day 1
Lecture Demo by **Smt Megha Ghadge**

Day 2
Lecture Demo by **Shri Subhash Nakashe**, an ace choreographer

Day 3
Lecture Demo by **Smt Smruti Talpade**, an ace Kathak dancer

Smt Vidya Sadafule, Dancer, Choreographer will coordinate the Lavani Workshop

18th May 2026 to 23rd May 2026
4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Venue: Hall of Vision 'A', Second Floor, Nehru Centre

Finale: 24th May 2026, 7 p.m.
Nehru Centre Auditorium

Entry: Entry Cards for the Finale Programme of Kathak Darpan, Acting Workshop & Lavani Workshop will be available from 20th May 2026 from the Ticket Counter of Nehru Centre Auditorium

THE SOUTHERN GUJARAT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Art & Culture Committee) presents a curated show of art celebrating contemporary artistic expressions from Surat.

**Tuesday 5th May 2026
to Monday 11th May 2026
(AC Gallery)**

KALIDAS SATARDEKAR



Kalidas is a well-known watercolour artist from Goa with a Masters in drawing and painting (MADP) from Goa College of Art.

**Tuesday 5th May 2026
to Monday 11th May 2026
(Circular Gallery)**

AVANI DESAI

Avani is from Surat. She is a self taught artist. Painting is her passion which gradually became her profession.

**Tuesday 12th May 2026
to Monday 18th May 2026
(AC Gallery)**

PRASHANT GHAYWAT



Prashant is a contemporary visual artist from Shahapur working primarily with soft pastels, pencils and water colours.

**Tuesday 12th May 2026
to Monday 18th May 2026
(Circular Gallery)**

PRATIBHA KHEMCHANDANI POOJA VIJAY RIA ABOOBAKAR VIJAY KASHYAP



Pratibha Khemchandani



Vijay Kashyap

This group of four artists will display their paintings and sculptures in wood, acrylic and alcohol inks.

**Tuesday 19th May 2026
to Monday 25th May 2026
(AC Gallery)**

PRAJWAL SANGARE PRIYANSHU MITHAGIRI MANSI KUBADE SAI SANGARE MITALI MESTRI



Mansi Kubade

This group of five artists will showcase their works in water colours, acrylic and charcoal.

**Tuesday 19th May 2026
to Monday 25th May 2026
(Circular Gallery)**

VISHWA SAHNI AND OTHER ARTISTS

This group of eleven artists will display their works in various mediums.

**Tuesday 26th May 2026
to Monday 1st June 2026
(AC Gallery)**

NOOKALA PRAVEENA



Praveena is a versatile artist specializing in realistic artwork.

**Tuesday 26th May 2026
to Monday 1st June 2026
(Circular Gallery)**

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

UNESCO - Intangible Cultural Heritage - India

1. Introduction

From this month onwards, we begin a new series on India's intangible cultural heritage as designated by UNESCO.

Protecting biodiversity, responding to artificial intelligence, advancing quality education, safeguarding heritage, ensuring access to reliable information are some examples of the work that UNESCO does with its 194 member states across the globe. UNESCO's cultural initiatives include safeguarding historic sites, promoting creativity, supporting artistic innovation and preserving diversity through living and intangible heritage. Intangible cultural heritage includes practices, knowledge and expressions that communities recognize as part of their cultural identity along with associated objects and spaces. Transmitted through generations, this heritage adapts over time, reinforcing identity and respect for cultural diversity.

Protecting and safeguarding the world's cultural and natural heritage is necessary to address the challenges the world faces today. No development can be sustained without a strong culture component. Culture shapes individuals and societies, fostering unity through shared values and traditions. In the face of global challenges like wars or epidemics, it has become even more crucial to preserve culture. Intangible cultural heritage is the wealth of cultural traditions and practices from all across the world which UNESCO is dedicated towards safeguarding for future generations. Intangible cultural heritage includes contemporary rural and urban practices. Intangible cultural heritage is inclusive because people may share expressions that are similar to those practiced by others in neighbouring villages or cities. It contributes to social cohesion and gives a sense of belonging and identity to an individual. They are considered as heritage only when communities, groups and individuals who have created, maintained and transmitted it recognize them as such.



Yoga



Kalbelia Dance

India, as a signatory to the UNESCO 2003 *Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*, holds a deep commitment towards preserving its living traditions that define its diverse identity. Sangeet Natak Akademi, the national nodal agency has played a key role in coordinating India's nominations to *UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity* where Yoga, Kalbelia Dance, Durga Puja and Garba have earned global recognition.

In the next months, the readers will read about such Indian elements woven from our cultural tapestry which represent our living traditions.

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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LET'S READ TOGETHER

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For all things literary

SUMMER READING WEEK

11th to 16th May

10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Hear stories of the Aravalli mountain range and the dangers it faces from **Katie Bagli**
11th May Monday

Learn the traditional Japanese art of paper folding in our workshop on Origami by **Gita Kantawala**
12th May Tuesday

Meet-the-Author **Bharti Singh** to listen to fun and interesting stories
13th May Wednesday

Hear the fascinating story of electrification of Elephanta island from **Shyamala Shanmugasundaram**
14th May Thursday

Miracles do happen!
Join us to hear about the miracle on Kachhua beach with **Nandita da Cunha**
15th May Friday

Join **Vaishali Shroff** as she will take you on a journey of history, mystery and adventure
16th May Saturday

Open To All

Register at:
nehrucenlibrary@gmail.com

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