

# Newsletter

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## Nehru Centre



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### Events At a Glance...

#### CULTURE WING

##### SHAAM-E-AFSANA

An Evening of Urdu  
Story-Telling

Date: **20th June 2026,**  
**6.30 p.m.**

Venue: **Hall of Culture**

#### LIBRARY

##### MAGIC OF MYTHS A Renaissance of Story Telling

An Evening of Myths, Folklores,  
Legends & Timeless Stories

Date: **20th June 2026**  
Time: **4.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.**

Venue: **Who Are We Hall**

#### ART GALLERY

##### CHATAK - 2026

Professional and student artists  
will participate in this show.

Date: **23rd to 29th June, 2026**  
Time: **11.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.**

Venue: **AC & Circular Gallery**

### Speeches of the Freedom Movement

18. Jawaharlal Nehru

#### The Congress and the Cabinet Mission Plan

Bombay, 10th July 1946

*The Cabinet Mission which arrived in India in March 1946, put up the Final Statement of 16 May which rejected Pakistan and provided instead a weak central government with limited powers, covering only foreign affairs, defence and communications.*

*The Muslim League in its Resolution of 6 June 1946 accepted the Mission Plan but at the same time reiterated that 'the attainment of the goal of a complete sovereign Pakistan still remains the unalterable objective'.*

*The All-India Congress Committee in its meeting of 6-7 July also ratified the plan after initial reservations. Nehru, who took up the presidency of the Congress at that meeting explained the Congress's position after the meeting. He reiterated those views in the now famous, 75-minute press conference at Bombay House on 10 July (extracts reproduced below).*

Question (Q): Can you amplify your statement in the All India Congress Committee that the Congress had made no commitment in regard either to the long-term or to the short-term plan of the Cabinet Mission except to go into the Constituent Assembly?

Jawaharlal Nehru (JN): If you read the correspondence that has passed between the Congress President and the Cabinet Mission and the Viceroy, you will see in what conditions and circumstances we agreed to go into this Constituent Assembly. We have not committed ourselves on any single matter to anybody. Naturally, even though one might not agree to commit oneself, there is a certain compulsion of facts which makes one accept this thing or that thing. I do not know what that might be in this particular context. But the nature of compulsion of the facts would be not of the British Government's desires or

intentions, but how to make the Assembly a success, and how to avoid its breaking up. That will certainly be a very important consideration. But the British Government does not appear there at all.

When the Congress stated that the Constituent Assembly was to be a sovereign body, the Cabinet Mission's reply was more or less 'yes', subject to two considerations: first, a proper arrangement for the minorities, and secondly, a treaty between India and England. It is obvious that the minorities question has to be settled satisfactorily. It is also obvious that if there is any kind of peaceful changeover in India, it is bound to result in some kind of a treaty with Britain.

What exactly that treaty will be I cannot say. But if the British

Government presume to tell us that they are going to hold anything in India, because they do not agree either in regard to the minorities or in regard to the treaty, we shall not accept that position. It will become a *casus belli* (occasion for war).

We shall have no treaty if they seek to impose anything on us, and we shall tear up any treaty they try to impose. If they treat us as equals and come to terms, there will be a treaty. But if there is the slightest attempt at imposition, we shall have no treaty.

In regard to the minorities, it is our problem, and we shall, no doubt, succeed in solving it. We accept no outsiders' interference in it—certainly not the British Government's—and, therefore, these two limiting factors to the sovereignty of the Constituent Assembly are not accepted by us.

Q: When will the provisional national government be formed at the Centre?

JN: I cannot just peep into the future and say what is going to happen. For the moment, we are somewhat engaged in the Constituent Assembly elections.

But remember this, that the Constituent Assembly is not going to put up easily for long with the kind of caretaker government that is in office today. There is bound to be conflict. In fact, the caretaker government has no stability, nor is there any possibility of its long continuance. How and when and what shape the new government will take, I cannot say. It will be just entering into a speculation.

Q: What would be the powers of the proposed Union Centre?

JN: According to the Cabinet Mission's proposals, there are three or four basic subjects in the Union Centre—defence, foreign affairs,



Jawaharlal Nehru at the Press Conference

communications and the power to raise finances for these. Obviously, defence and communications have a large number of industries behind them. So these industries inevitably come under the Union Government, and they are likely to grow. Defence is such a wide subject that it tends to expand its scope and activities more and more. All that comes under the Union Government.

Similarly, external affairs, inevitably, include foreign trade policy. You cannot have a foreign policy if you divorce foreign trade from it.

Q: How can finances for the union be raised?

JN: It has to be done by taxation. An attempt to carry on the administration with contributions ended in a failure in the United States in the early days of the American confederation. Inevitably, therefore, any central government must raise its finances by taxation.

The central government must be responsible for foreign market loans and such other subjects. It also must obviously control currency and credit.

Who is going to do it, if not the Centre? You cannot allow each unit or province to carry on a separate type of credit and foreign policy. The scope of the Centre, even though limited, inevitably grows, because it cannot exist otherwise. Though some people might oppose this broadening of the scope of the Centre, the Constituent Assembly will have to decide on the point.

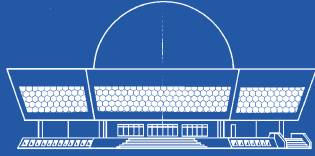
Q: What is the Congress stand in respect of the participation of the Indian States in the Constituent Assembly?

JN: Our position has been, and is, that elected representatives of the States' people must go there. The rulers say that they should nominate the representatives. What their stand today is I do not know, but obviously we cannot accept that position. The real difficulty is that, apart from the rulers' position, the governments in the Indian States are so unrepresentative that a proper procedure must be adopted to make them representative and representatives of such governments only should go to the Constituent Assembly.

### What Nehru said....

A language is something infinitely greater than grammar and philology. It is the poetic testament of the genius of a race and a culture and the living embodiment of the thoughts and fancies that have moulded them.

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



**NEHRU PLANETARIUM**

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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](mailto:managernpmumbai@gmail.com)

### Astrophysicist Nobel Laureates

#### 8. Russell A. Hulse and Joseph H. Taylor Jr.: 1993

The Nobel Prize in Physics 1993 was jointly awarded to Russell A. Hulse and Joseph H. Taylor Jr., 'for the discovery of a new type of pulsar, a discovery that has opened up new possibilities for the study of gravitation'. The prize was divided equally between them.

A pulsar is a rapidly rotating neutron star that emits beams of electromagnetic radiation, mainly in the form of radio waves. Neutron stars are formed when massive stars explode as supernovae at the end of their lives. Although a neutron star has a mass greater than that of the Sun, it is only about 20 kilometres in diameter, making it one of the densest objects in the universe. A pulsar has extremely strong magnetic fields. Its magnetic axis is usually tilted to the axis on which it rotates. As the star spins, beams of radiation emerge from its magnetic poles and sweep across space. If Earth lies in the path of these beams, astronomers detect regular pulses of radiation, like the beam of a lighthouse, hence the name "pulsar."

In 1915, Albert Einstein had proposed a general theory of relativity. The theory predicted that an accelerating massive object would produce ripples in spacetime, known as gravitational waves. However, detecting gravitational waves directly was far beyond the technological capabilities of that era. If two pulsars, known as binary pulsars, rotated around each other, they would produce gravitational waves, which would carry energy away from them. And the pulsars would slowly spiral towards each other.

The binary pulsar offered an indirect but precise way to test Einstein's prediction. By carefully measuring the arrival times of the radio pulses over many years, Hulse and Taylor observed that the orbital period of the two neutron stars was gradually decreasing. This decrease in the period of binary pulsars matched Einstein's theoretical predictions with extraordinary accuracy. This was one of the most important confirmations of general relativity since the theory was proposed. The discovery demonstrated that gravitational waves were not merely mathematical ideas but had real physical consequences.

*(We shall bring you a brief note on the works of Hulse here and a note on Taylor's work in the next issue.)*

#### **Russell A. Hulse**

Russell Alan Hulse was born to Alan and Betty Joan Hulse on 28 November 1950. He grew up in New York City, USA. As a student, he showed an early interest in science and technology. He studied physics at the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York, earning his bachelor's degree in 1970. He later joined the University of Massachusetts, Amherst for graduate studies in physics.

During the early 1970s, radio astronomy was rapidly developing into one of the most exciting branches of modern astronomy. In 1967, the discovery of pulsars by Jocelyn Bell Burnell and Antony Hewish\* had already astonished the scientific world. Hulse joined the radio astronomy group at the famous Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico as part of his doctoral research. There, he worked under the guidance of physicist Joseph H. Taylor Jr. Together they searched for new pulsars using the giant 305-metre radio telescope at Arecibo, then the world's largest single-dish radio telescope.

In 1974, while analysing radio signals from the sky, Hulse detected something unusual. The pulsar he observed did not emit pulses at perfectly regular intervals. Instead, the timing of the pulses varied systematically. Careful study revealed that the pulsar was orbiting another compact object. The discovery was revolutionary. The object, later designated PSR B1913+16, became known as the 'Hulse–Taylor binary pulsar.'

The system consisted of two neutron stars orbiting each other at enormous speeds. One of them was visible as a pulsar, that is, it emitted pulses in the visible range. The orbital period was only about 7.75 hours or about 7 hours and 45 minutes, meaning the stars circled each other very rapidly. Such a system provided astronomers with a unique natural laboratory to test the laws of gravity under extreme conditions.

This was one of the most important confirmations of general relativity since the theory was proposed nearly 60 years ago. Decades later, in 2015, the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) Scientific Collaboration directly detected gravitational waves, a breakthrough that built strongly on the earlier work of Hulse and Taylor.

Apart from its importance in gravitational physics, the discovery also advanced the study of neutron stars. Neutron stars are among the densest objects in the universe. A teaspoon of neutron star material would weigh billions of tonnes on Earth. Binary systems involving neutron stars help astronomers understand stellar evolution, supernova explosions, and the behaviour of matter at nuclear densities.



**Russell A. Hulse delivering his Nobel Prize lecture**

Unlike many scientists who remain in academic astronomy throughout their careers, Hulse later moved into other fields of research and technology. He worked at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, contributing to fusion energy research. He also became involved in science education and public outreach, encouraging young students to appreciate scientific inquiry and critical thinking.

Hulse's career demonstrates how fundamental scientific research can lead to discoveries of profound significance. When he began searching for pulsars, he could hardly have imagined that his work would provide evidence for gravitational waves and help reshape modern astrophysics. His discovery highlights the importance of careful observation, patience, and collaboration in scientific progress.

Today, binary pulsars continue to be studied by astronomers worldwide. They remain vital tools for testing gravity, detecting subtle relativistic effects, and exploring the behaviour of spacetime. Modern radio telescopes and gravitational-wave observatories owe much to the pioneering efforts of scientists like Russell Hulse.

In 2004, Hulse joined the University of Texas at Dallas and became the founding Director of the UT Dallas Science and Engineering Education Center. He remains on the faculty there, though his activities have been limited since 2012, when he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. His work is a landmark achievement in modern astrophysics and radio astronomy, inspiring generations of scientists interested in pulsars, neutron stars, and gravitational physics.

*\* Antony Hewish was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1973 for his 'decisive role in the discovery of pulsars'. 'See Nehru Centre Newsletter January 2026'.*



Janab Azmat Iqbal



Janab Anwar Mirza



Janab Tahir Siddiqui



Janab Hashim Khan

## An Evening of Urdu Story-Telling

Story-telling is an art which is being resurrected in almost all languages. Narration of short classic stories gives a new life to literary works and inspires one to read other works of the writer. Urdu literature is replete with story-telling or '**Afsana Nigari**' by which eminent scholars bring alive the richness of Urdu literature through their readings.

The Culture Wing of Nehru Centre takes great pleasure in inviting lovers of Urdu literature to an evening of Urdu story-telling '**Shaam-e-Afsana**'.

**Shaam-e-Afsana** will feature:

**Janab Anwar Mirza** from Mumbai will present *Afsancha*

**Janab Tahir Anjum Siddiqui** from Malegaon and **Janab Azmat Iqbal** from Shirdi will read their short *Afsanas*.

**Janab Hashim Khan** from Mumbai will share his views on the *Afsanas*.

**Saturday, 20th June 2026 at 6.30 p.m.**

**Venue: Hall of Culture**

**Entry: Free to all Urdu literature lovers on first come first served basis**

## SACHIN DEEP SINGH



Sachin is a dentist by profession and a self-trained artist by passion. He draws inspiration from nature, his favourite mediums are charcoals, watercolours and oil.

**Tuesday 2nd June 2026  
to Monday 8th June 2026  
(AC Gallery)**

## KAILAS KALE

Hailing from Aurangabad, Kailas will showcase his works on abstract forms in acrylic on canvas.

**Tuesday 2nd June 2026  
to Monday 8th June 2026  
(Circular Gallery)**

## DR. DATTATREYA PHADKE



Dr. Phadke is a fabric collage artist from Pune. He creates beautiful paintings with pieces of fabric.

**Tuesday 9th June 2026  
to Monday 15th June 2026  
(AC Gallery)**

## RUPA PATEL



Rupa is an artist working with oil painting, multimedia experimentation, sculpture casting and moulding imprints of natural materials.

**Tuesday 9th June 2026  
to Monday 15th June 2026  
(Circular Gallery)**

## RAJIB DEY

Rajib is a self taught artist and he works with charcoal powder and graphite on canvas board/paper.

**Tuesday 16th June 2026  
to Monday 22nd June 2026  
(AC Gallery)**

## PRATIBHA KARNIK MEDINI ROTKAR



Medini Rotkar

Both these artists will showcase their works in watercolour on paper.

**Tuesday 16th June 2026  
to Monday 22nd June 2026  
(Circular Gallery)**

# CHATAK MONSOON SHOW 2026

..... and the first drop of rain arrived to quench the thirst of the Chatak (a legendary bird)

Nehru Centre will celebrate the 32nd Chatak Monsoon Show this year. Professional and student artists will participate with their works in various mediums and styles. The show will be on display in the AC and Circular Galleries.

**Tuesday 23rd June 2026 to Monday 29th June 2026  
(AC & Circular Gallery)**

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

### 2. Kutiyattam (Sanskrit theatre)

Kutiyattam, a Sanskrit theatre practiced in Kerala is one of India's oldest living theatrical traditions dating back to more than 2,000 years. Proclaimed in 2001, it was finally inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in the year 2008. Kutiyattam represents a synthesis of Sanskrit classicism and reflects the local traditions of Kerala. It has a close connection with the aesthetic techniques discussed in the ancient dramaturgy text *Natyashastra*. The major themes are taken from the Hindu epics Ramayana and Mahabharata. In Kutiyattam, dance movements are restricted to a limited area and focus is more on the acting prowess. What makes this form unique are its meticulous acting techniques especially the *netra abhinaya* (expressions with eye works) and detailed hand gestures. The verses in Kutiyattam are in ancient Sanskrit language and the plays are designed in accordance with the written performance text called *attaprakaram*. Due to the immense scope it offers the actor to interpret the character and situations with improvisation, Kutiyattam is also known as an actor's theatre. The actor's art lies in elaborating a situation or an episode in all its detail.

A single act may take days to perform and a complete performance may take upto forty days. The actors undergo ten to fifteen years of rigorous training to become full-fledged performers with sophisticated breathing control and subtle muscle shifts of the face and body. Originally the access to these performances were restricted owing to their sacred nature but the plays have now opened to larger audiences also. Yet the actor's role even today maintains a sacred dimension as attested by purification rituals and placing of the oil lamp during the performance signifying a divine presence. Presentation of a single play spans across several days as it applies a detailed and elaborate way of enactment focusing on the nuances of expressions. These performances begin at 9.00 p.m. following the conclusion of rituals in the temple's sanctum sanctorum and continue until midnight or early morning. The legacy is handed down by the male actors to their trainees in detailed performance manuals, which, until now, remained the exclusive and secret property of selected families.

**Further Reading:** Kutiyattam: Fifty years of transcendence into a secular art form by K. K. Gopalakrishnan. Nartanam; July-September 2016, J11136.



**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)
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*for all things literary*



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*for all things literary*

# MAGIC OF MYTHS

## A Renaissance of Storytelling

*An evening of myths, folklore, legends & timeless stories*

**Ms. Sankalpita Mullick**

**Ms. Paridhi Puri**

**DATE**  
20<sup>th</sup> June 2026

**TIME**  
4.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

**VENUE**  
Who Are We Hall, First Floor,  
Discovery of India Building,  
Nehru Centre,  
Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli,  
Mumbai-400018.

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