

Newsletter

Vol. 27 Issue 10 OCTOBER 2026

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Nehru Centre



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Events At a Glance...

Library

Walking with the Mahatma

Meet the Author

A Demon in Dandi and Dreamers
Series by Lavanya Kartik

10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Poetry Evening

Poems on Bapu in 8 different
languages

4.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Date & Venue for both the events:

3rd October 2026

Who Are We Hall

(Details on page 8)

Culture Wing

Santvani

Presentation of Bhajans of
Saints/Sufis

1st October 2026

To commemorate birth anniversary
of Pt. Yashwant Deo

तुझे गीत गाण्यासाठी

An evening of Marathi songs

6th October 2026

Time & Venue for both the events

7.00 p.m.

Nehru Centre Auditorium

(Details on page 5)

Speeches of the Freedom Movement

22. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

The Dawn of Freedom

New Delhi, 14 August 1947

The Fifth Session of the Constituent Assembly of India commenced in the Constitution Hall, New Delhi, at 11.00 p.m. Dr. Rajendra Prasad chaired the session. The following speech, extracts of which are reproduced below was delivered by Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan on the eve of India getting independence.

"History and legend will grow around this day. It marks a milestone in the march of our democracy. It is a significant date in the drama of the Indian people who are trying to rebuild and transform themselves. Through a long night of waiting, a night full of fateful portents and silent prayers for the dawn of freedom, of haunting spectres of hunger and death, our sentinels kept watch, the lights were burning bright till at last the dawn is breaking and we greet it with the utmost enthusiasm. When we are passing from a state of serfdom, a state of slavery and subjection to one of freedom and liberation, it is an occasion for rejoicing. That it is being effected in such an orderly and dignified way is a matter for gratification.

Mr. Attlee (Clement Attlee) spoke with visible pride in the House of Commons when he said that this is the first great instance of a strong imperialist power transferring its authority to a subject people whom it ruled with force and firmness for nearly two centuries. For a parallel he cited the British withdrawal from South Africa; but it is nothing

comparable in scale and circumstances to the British withdrawal from this country. When we see what the Dutch are doing in Indonesia, when we see how the French are clinging to their possessions, we cannot but admire the political sagacity and courage of the British people.

We on our side, have also added a chapter to the history of the world. Look at the way in which subject peoples in history won their freedom. Let us also consider the methods by which power was acquired. How did men like Washington, Napoleon, Cromwell, Lenin, Hitler and Mussolini get into power? Look at the methods of blood and steel, of terrorism and assassination, of bloodshed and anarchy by which these so-called great men of the world came into the possession of power. Here in this land under the leadership of one who will go down in history, as perhaps the greatest man of our age, we have opposed patience to fury, quietness of spirit to bureaucratic tyranny and are acquiring power through peaceful and civilised methods. What is the

result? The transition is being effected with the least bitterness, with utterly no kind of hatred at all. The very fact that we are appointing Lord Mountbatten as the Governor-General of India, shows the spirit of understanding and friendliness in which this whole transition is being effected.

You, Mr. President, referred to the sadness in our hearts, to the sorrow which also clouds our rejoicings. May I say that we are, in an essential sense, responsible for it also, though not entirely. From 1600, Englishmen have come to this country - priests and nuns, merchants and adventurers, diplomats and statesmen, missionaries and idealists. They bought and sold, marched and fought, plotted and profited, helped and healed. The greatest among them wished to modernise the country, to raise its intellectual and moral standards, its political status. They wished to regenerate the whole people. But the small among them worked with a sinister objective. They tried to increase the disunion in the country, made the country poorer, weaker and more disunited. They also have had their chance now. The freedom we are attaining is the fulfilment of this dual tendency among British administrators. While India is attaining freedom, she is attaining it in a manner which does not produce joy in the hearts of people or a radiant smile on their faces. Some of those who were charged with the responsibility for the administration of this country, tried to accentuate communal consciousness and bring about the present result which is a logical outcome of the policies adopted by the lesser minds of Britain.



Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

But I would never blame them. Were we not victims, ready victims, so to say, of the separatist tendencies foisted on us? Should we not now correct our national faults of character, our domestic despotism, our intolerance which has assumed the different forms of obscurantism, of narrow-mindedness, of superstitious bigotry?

Others were able to play on our weakness because we let them. I would like, therefore, to take this opportunity to call for self-examination, for a searching of hearts. We have gained but we have not gained in the manner we wished to gain and if we have not done so, the responsibility is our own. And when this pledge says that we have to serve our country, we can best serve our country by removing these fundamental defects which have prevented us from gaining the objective of a free and united India. Now that India is divided, it is our duty not to indulge in words of anger. They lead us nowhere.

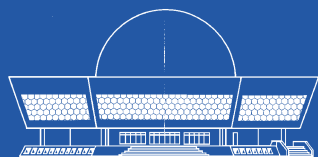
The body politic may be divided but the body historic lives on. Political divisions, physical partitions, are external but the psychological divisions are deeper. We should not allow them to grow. What we should do is to preserve those cultural ties, those spiritual bonds which knit our people together into one organic whole. Patient consideration, slow process of education, adjustment to one another's needs, the discovery of points of view which are common to both the dominions in the matter of communications, defence, foreign affairs, these are the things which should be allowed to grow in the daily business of life and administration. It is by developing such attitudes that we can once again draw near and gain the lost unity of this country.

Our pledge tells us that this ancient land shall attain her rightful and honoured place. We take pride in the antiquity of this land for it is a land which has nearly four or five millenniums of history. Civilisation is a thing of the spirit, it is not something external, solid and mechanical. It is the dream in the people's hearts. It is the imaginative interpretation of the human life and the perception of the mystery of human existence. That is what civilisation actually stands for. We should bear in mind these great ideals which have been transmitted to us across the ages. In this great time of our history we should bear ourselves humbly before God, brace ourselves to this supreme task which is confronting us and conduct ourselves in a manner that is worthy of the ageless spirit of India. If we do so, I have no doubt that, the future of this land will be as great as its once glorious past."

What Nehru said....

Records of ancient empires and dynasties have an interest for the antiquarian, but they have a large interest in the history of civilization and art. From the point of view of India they are particularly important, for it was India that functioned there and exhibited her vitality and genius in a variety of ways.

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



NEHRU PLANETARIUM

**Tel: 022-40245413
Mobile : 9892890510**

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

12. Riccardo Giacconi: 2002



The 2002 Nobel Prize for Physics was awarded to three astrophysicists. Raymond Davis Jr. and Masatoshi Koshiba shared the award, though they worked independently to detect cosmic neutrinos. Riccardo Giacconi was the third recipient, who received half the prize for his 'pioneering contributions to astrophysics, which have led to the discovery of cosmic X-ray sources'.

By the mid-20th century, scientists (physicists, chemists, and astronomers) realised that the light we see is only a small part of a much larger spectrum called the electromagnetic (EM) spectrum, arranged by wavelength, frequency or energy. The EM spectrum ranges from radio waves and microwaves to infrared rays, visible light, ultraviolet rays, X-rays, and gamma rays. Radio waves have the longest wavelengths, lowest frequencies and least energy. At the other end of the spectrum, X-rays and gamma rays have shorter wavelengths, higher frequencies, and higher energy. It has also become known that all stars emit the entire range of the EM spectrum.

By 1930, astronomers started detecting radio waves from celestial objects. In earlier issues, we saw how Antony Hewish, Martin Ryle, Arno Penzias, and Robert Wilson won the Nobel Prize for their work on radio and microwave radiation. But X-rays were never detected. It was widely assumed that there were no X-rays to be detected from beyond the atmosphere of the Earth. Riccardo Giacconi single-handedly dismantled that assumption. For this, he is celebrated as the 'father of X-ray astronomy'.

Riccardo was born on October 6, 1931, in Genoa, Italy, to Elsa Canini Giacconi and Antonio Giacconi. He was their only child, and he grew up in Milano. His father owned a small business, and his mother was a school-teacher who taught mathematics and physics. She strongly influenced his intellectual discipline, instilling in him a passion for geometry and structural reasoning.

Giacconi enrolled at the University of Milan to pursue a physics degree. During his undergraduate and doctoral studies, Giuseppe Occhialini, a legendary figure in experimental cosmic-ray physics, mentored him. Occhialini taught Giacconi the importance of rigorous experimental design, meticulous detector construction, and absolute intellectual honesty. Giacconi completed his doctorate in 1954, conducting research at high altitudes in the Italian Alps using cloud chambers to detect cosmic rays.

In 1956, Giacconi left Italy for the USA on a Fulbright Fellowship to conduct research at Indiana University under Robert Thompson. About three years later, in 1959, he joined American Science and Engineering (AS&E), a small research firm in Cambridge, Massachusetts. There, he got the opportunity to collaborate with Bruno Rossi, an MIT professor and AS&E trustee.

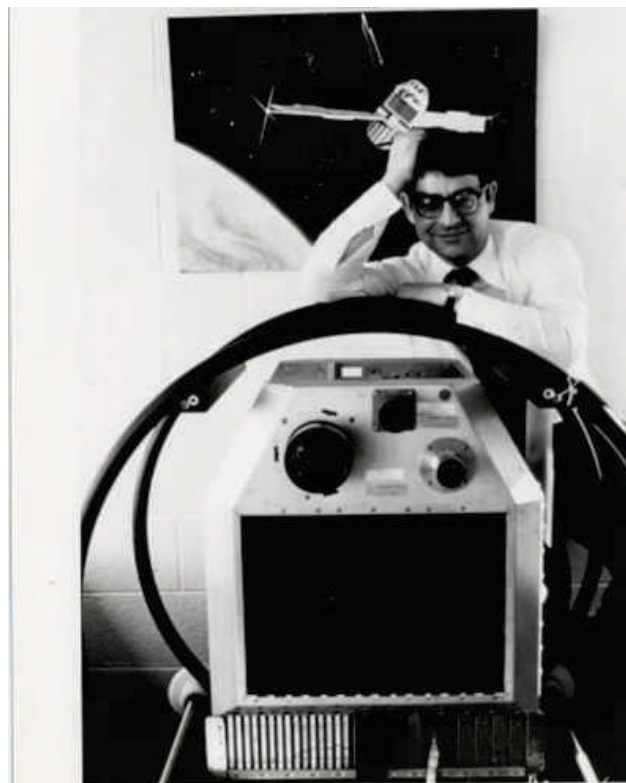
At the time, scientists believed studying cosmic X-rays was impossible because Earth's atmosphere blocks them. While X-rays emitted by the Sun's hot corona were detected in 1949 using high-altitude rockets or satellites, theoretical calculations suggested that other stars, situated light-years away, would be far too faint for current instruments to detect.

Giacconi and Rossi realised that capturing faint X-rays required vastly more sensitive detectors and a revolutionary way to focus X-ray photons. Giacconi conceptualised 'grazing-incidence' optics, where X-ray photons strike parabolic and hyperbolic metal mirrors at extremely shallow angles, allowing them to be focused into sharp images. But before he could build such a telescope, he needed proof of sources of X-rays other than the Sun.

On the night of June 18, 1962, he and his team launched a rocket with X-ray detectors. They detected extraordinarily intense X-rays coming from the direction of the constellation Scorpius. This source, named Scorpius X-1 (Sco X-1), was emitting thousands of times more energy in X-rays than the Sun emitted across all wavelengths combined. This was a major success for Giacconi.

Over the next three decades, he launched missions that defined space-based astronomy. Two well-known examples include the 1970 Uhuru (Freedom in Swahili) mission. This helped astronomers create the first comprehensive X-ray sky map. Einstein Observatory, launched in 1978, gave us, for the first time, images of supernova remnants.

The Chandra X-ray Observatory (1999) was originally proposed by Giacconi and Harvey Tananbaum in 1976. The observatory, named in honour of Chandrasekhar Subramaniam, became NASA's flagship X-ray observatory. Equipped with mirror surfaces polished to atomic precision, Chandra allowed scientists to observe deep-field cosmic phenomena with unmatched angular resolution.



Riccardo Giacconi and the Uhuru satellite.

Courtesy: Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

Beyond his research accomplishments, Giacconi was a master architect of scientific institutions, instilling rigorous system-engineering principles into astronomical management.

In 1981, he became the founding director of the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI). He established the operational, scientific, and data archiving infrastructure for the Hubble Space Telescope. He served as Director General of the European Southern Observatory (ESO) from 1993 to 1999. Giacconi led the construction and deployment of the Very Large Telescope (VLT) in Paranal, Chile by modernising European ground-based astronomy.

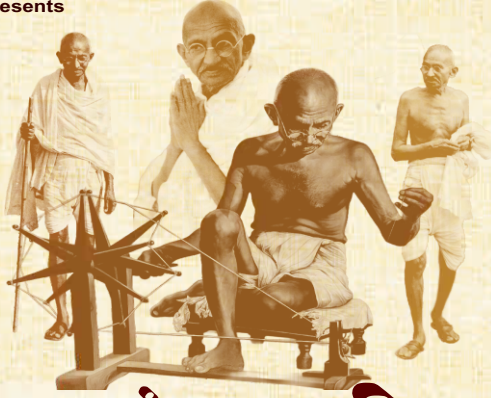
He passed away on December 9, 2018, at the age of 87. He was survived by his wife Mirella Manaira, whom he had known since his school days. They had three children—daughters Anna and Guia and a son, Marc. Marc died in an automobile accident in 1991. Riccardo and Mirella later had grandchildren, Alexandra and Colburn.

Giacconi's legacy endures in every X-ray image of a black hole accretion disk, every high-energy map of cosmic structure, and the world-class observatories he conceived and built. By daring to look where others assumed there was nothing to see, Giacconi unveiled a violent, energetic, and infinitely richer universe.

Nehru Centre
Presents

On the eve of Gandhi Jayanti

LDC
Living & Learning
Design Centre
Music Gallery



श्रंतवणी

Presentation of Bhajans of Saints/Sufis

Designed, Narrated and Presented by **Shri Lal Rambia**

Singers



Jignesh Gadhvi



Pooja Jethi



Faka Bhagat



Ramiben Bhagat



Prashant
Kalundrekar



Prakash
Vadaliya

Accompanists



Faizan Fakirmamad
on Benjo



Aman Fakirmamad
on Dholak



Shabbir Langa
on Shehnai



Ganibhai Langa
on Nobat



Compere
Lal Rambia

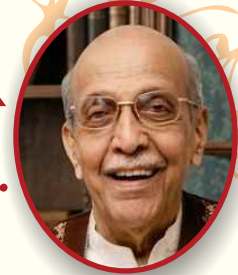
Thursday, 1st October 2026
7.00 p.m.
Nehru Centre Auditorium

Free Entrance Cards will be available from
Monday, 28th September 2026 from 10.30 a.m.
until availability from the Ticket Counter of
Nehru Centre Auditorium

Nehru Centre

आयोजित

तुझे



गीत गाण्यासाठी

ज्येष्ठ संगीतकार, गीतकार पंडित यशवंत देव यांच्या जन्मशताब्दी
वर्षानिमित्त त्यांच्या गाण्यांवर आधारित विशेष कार्यक्रम

संगीत संयोजन आणि हार्मोनियम
अप्पा वढावकर

संहिता आणि सूत्रसंचालन
उत्तरा मोने



श्रीरंग भावे



तनुजा वैद्य

संयोजन
मिती ग्रुप

गायक
श्रीरंग भावे
तनुजा वैद्य
डॉ. मनोज भाटवडेकर
अदिती प्रभुदेसाई



डॉ. मनोज भाटवडेकर

साथ सांगत

कीबोर्ड: प्रशांत लळीत
बासरी: प्रणव हरिदास
तबला: सौरभ शिर्के
ढोलक आणि ताल वाद्य: प्रफुल्ल शिंदे



अदिती प्रभुदेसाई

दिनांक : मंगळवार, ६ ऑक्टोबर २०२६
वेळ: सायंकाळी ७.०० वाजता
स्थळ: नेहरू सेंटर सभागृह, डॉ. अनी बेझंट रोड,
वरळी, मुंबई - ४०० ०१८.

प्रवेशिका:

कार्यक्रमाच्या विनामूल्य प्रवेशिका - सोमवार, २८ सप्टेंबर २०२६ रोजी नेहरू
सेंटर सभागृहाच्या आरक्षण खिडकीवरती, सकाळी १०.३० वाजल्यापासून
उपलब्ध असेपर्यंत दिल्या जातील.

REENA YADAV RAMAKRISHNAN



Reena is a self-taught artist based in Mumbai and she paints in watercolours and oil. She is also an art therapist and conducts artistic workshops in her studio.

**Tuesday 29th September 2026
to Monday 5th October 2026
(AC Gallery)**

MADHUKAR MAHAJAN S. G. GURAV

The two co-hosts of the show have developed an innate and unique style of creative presentation through their paintings and sculpture.

**Tuesday 29th September 2026
to Monday 5th October 2026
(Circular Gallery)**

DR. ABHISHEK TOMAR PUNIT KADWANE SHIVANI SOLANKI NITIN PARIHAR ANITA SHARMA



Dr. Abhishek Tomar

This group of five contemporary artists from Ujjain will showcase their works in different mediums.

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

SHIPRA FINE ART COLLEGE

This is the annual exhibition of the students of the Shipra Fine Art College from Ujjain.

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

SWATI GOEL



Swati has completed her Bachelor of Arts from Nottingham Trent University, UK and will exhibit her works of art.

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

PRAKASHCHANDRA VISHWAKARMA

Prakashchandra is from Mumbai. He paints in acrylic.

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

TEJASWINI BHAVE AMRITA AMODKAR ANITA DONGRE TRUPTI FURIA VAISHALI ADHIKARI

This group of five women calligraphers will showcase their



Anita Dongre

creative pieces of art in various mediums.

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

KHUSHI PATEL

Khushi lives in Trivandrum. Since 2016, she has been practising art and has many group and solo shows to her credit.

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

ASTRO-PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

The Nehru Centre will organize an exhibition of Astro-Photography by amateur and professional photographers.

**Tuesday 27th October 2026
to Monday 2nd November 2026
(AC Gallery)**

SANDEEP MANOHAR

Sandeep will display his works of art in bright colours, vibrant metallic effects and creative shapes.

**Tuesday 27th October 2026
to Monday 2nd November 2026
(Circular Gallery)**

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

UNESCO - Intangible Cultural Heritage - India

6. Chhau Dance

Enactment of Lord Shiva's Chhau dance is a tradition of West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha. It is a spectacular dance that brings alive tales and enacts episodes from epics like the Ramayana, Mahabharata, regional folklore and abstract themes through powerful and expressive movements. Rooted in the indigenous martial arts and folk traditions of the region, Chhau dance blends vigour and grace from combat sequences to the gentle mimicry of birds, animals and village life. The Chhau dance was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in the year 2010.



Enactment of Lord Shiva

Chhau dance has three distinct styles that define its diverse expression. These styles hail from the regions of Seraikella in Jharkhand, Purulia of West Bengal and Mayurbhanj of Odisha. Seraikela Chhau was nurtured under the patronage of Maharaja Aditya Pratap Singh Deo, Kumar Bijoy Pratap Singh Deo, and Rajkumar Sudhendra Narayan Singh Deo. Performed with small, expressive masks depicting Navrasas, it portrays divine and mythic characters. Manbhum Chhau, also known as Purulia Chhau in West Bengal began under the patronage of King Madan Mohan Singh Deo of Baghmundi. It features large masks, vibrant costumes and energetic acrobatics. The Mayurbhanj Chhau dance style is a traditional martial dance drama from Odisha performed without masks allowing dancers to convey emotions through expressive faces along with vigorous athletic movements.



Purulia Chhau

Chhau dance is connected to regional festivals, notably the spring festival or Chaitra Parva. Its vocabulary of movement includes mock combat techniques, stylized gaits of birds and animals and movements modelled on the chores of village housewives. Chhau is taught to male dancers from families of traditional artists or from local communities. The dance is performed at night in an open space to traditional and folk melodies, played on the reed pipes-mohuri and shehnai. The reverberating drumbeats of a variety of drums dominate the accompanying music ensemble.

Chhau is an integral part of the culture of these communities. It binds together people from different social strata and ethnic background with diverse social practices, beliefs, professions and languages. However, increasing industrialization, economic pressures and new media are leading to a decrease in collective participation with communities becoming disconnected from their roots.

Further Reading at the Nehru Centre Library:

- Religion and theatre by M.L Varadpande, Abhinav Publications, 1983, Call No: 294.12/Tri, Barcode: 4534
- Theatre of the divine by Chandrabhas Choudhury, The Taj Magazine, Vol.45, No.1, Barcode: J11560

**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. SONAFADEKAR (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

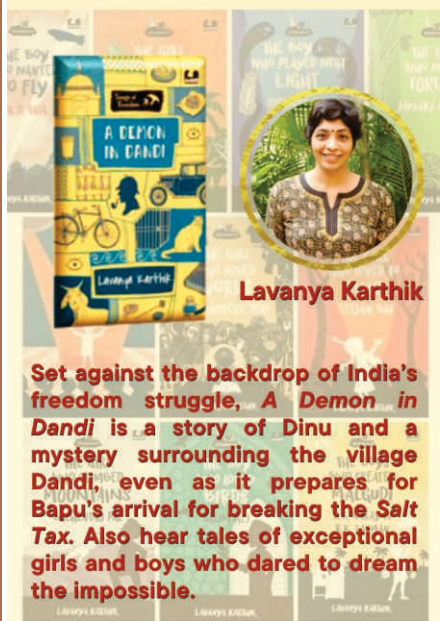


WALKING WITH THE MAHATMA



MEET-THE-AUTHOR

A Demon in Dandi and Dreamers Series



Lavanya Karthik

Set against the backdrop of India's freedom struggle, *A Demon in Dandi* is a story of Dinu and a mystery surrounding the village Dandi even as it prepares for Bapu's arrival for breaking the Salt Tax. Also hear tales of exceptional girls and boys who dared to dream the impossible.

POETRY EVENING

Poems on Bapu in 8 different languages

Concept & Curation



Dr. Paramita Mukherjee Mullick

Celebrate the birth anniversary of our beloved Bapu with poems and songs dedicated to the Mahatma in different languages. Let's honour and cherish his lifelong commitments and his ideals of truth (satya), non-violence (ahimsa) and peaceful civil disobedience (satyagraha).

OCTOBER 3RD 2026



10.30 A.M. TO 12.30 P.M.

AGE: 10 YEARS & ABOVE



4.30 P.M. TO 6.00 P.M.

OPEN TO ALL.

'Who Are We' hall, 1st floor, Discovery of India Building, Nehru Centre

Registration mandatory: nehrucentrelibrary@gmail.com



nehru-centre.org/library.html



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www.twitter.com/nehrucenlib



nehrucentrelibrary.blogspot.com



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10.00 a.m. to 5.45 p.m.

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