

Newsletter

Vol. 27 Issue 9 SEPTEMBER 2026

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Nehru Centre



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Annual Subscription Rs. 100

Events At a Glance...

Library

Mumbai Icons
A Celebration of their Lives

Curated by Fiona Fernandez

3rd-4th September 2026
4.30 p.m.

Book Talks

**Bheja Fry: Heartfelt Stories from a
Neurosurgeon's Clinic**
By Dr. Mazda Turel

11th September 2026
4.30 p.m.

Culture and Conservation
with Katie Bagli

12th September 2026
10.30 a.m.

Venue for all events:
Who Are We Hall
(Details on page 8)

Culture Wing

28th Theatre Festival - 2026

**A Bouquet of Five Plays in
Marathi, Hindi/Konkani,
Gujarati and English**

7-11 September 2026
Time: 7.00 p.m. Daily

Nehru Centre Auditorium
(Details on page 5)

Speeches of the Freedom Movement

21. Dr. Rajendra Prasad

The Work Before the Constituent Assembly

New Delhi, 14 July 1947

The Constituent Assembly which had started functioning on 9 December 1946 was adjourned on 2 May 1947. The adjourned Assembly met on 17 July 1947. During these two and a half months, momentous events had taken place. The partition of the country had been agreed upon. Several Indian states which had not sent their representatives to the Constituent Assembly earlier, now decided to do so. The Muslim League, which had earlier refused to participate decided to do so, their demand for Pakistan having been conceded. Thus, the number of members increased considerably. Thirty-odd Muslim League representatives elected from non-Pakistan provinces and an almost equal number from Indian states trooped in.

By the time the adjourned Assembly met, much of the work on the new Constitution had already been done. Its aims and objectives had been defined. Reports of several Committees — Union Subjects Committee, States Committee, Business Committee, and Fundamental Rights Committee — had been submitted. All this work was for a united India.

In the speech below, the President of the Assembly, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, assesses the work already done and describes what remains to be done. However, his hope that they would be able to pass the final Constitution in the October session was not fulfilled. It took another two and a half years for the Constitution to be finalised and passed by the Assembly. The last session was held on 24 January 1950 when the Constitution was finally presented and signed.

“Honourable Members, we are meeting today after an interval of two and a half months. During this period many important events have occurred which I believe I should refer to. The most important of these was the statement of His Majesty's Government made on 3rd June. This statement has profoundly affected Indian politics. One of its results has been the division of India, and it has also been decided to partition two provinces. Further, as a consequence of this, discussions are taking place in the Government of India and the

Provinces concerned regarding the details of the Partition, and actual work relating to Partition is also proceeding. Besides this, changes in the membership of this Constituent Assembly have occurred. In place of the members who formerly represented Bengal and Punjab some new and some former members have been returned in the new elections held in these two (which have now become four) provinces. Many States which had so far kept aloof from this Assembly have now sent in their

representatives. The members belonging to the Muslim League who had so far remained absent are also attending the Assembly now.

The Constituent Assembly had appointed a number of sub-committees. Reports of these sub-committees have appeared in the press and also been sent to the members. These reports, as they are now ready, will be placed before the House from time to time and you will be called upon to give your considered decisions on them. One of these sub-committees had been appointed to draft a model Constitution for the Provinces. Another was appointed to determine and recommend to us the principle on which the Union Constitution was to be based, and to prepare a rough draft of the Union Constitution as well. A third committee was appointed to consider and determine the powers of the Union and submit its report relating to them. The reports of all the three committees are now ready. One of these reports has been presented to the House for consideration and the reports of the other committees will be presented in due course, and I hope that the House will take its decision on them after due consideration during this session.

It is my suggestion, and I believe you will approve of it, that after the House has accepted the reports, some persons may be appointed to prepare the detailed draft of the Constitution, and that a Committee be appointed to go through this draft carefully and to submit its opinion on it to this House when it meets again. The draft will then be introduced in this House for detailed consideration and acceptance. Thus, the Constitution would be finalised.

Another committee known as the Advisory Committee had been



Dr Rajendra Prasad was the President of the Constituent Assembly

appointed, but it has not completed its work. It has set up the following sub-committees - Minority Sub-Committee, Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee, Tribal and Excluded Areas Sub-Committee. One of these sub-committees has submitted its report, but the reports of the other two are not ready as yet. I hope that very soon the reports of these sub-committees will also be submitted, so that when the Constitution is drafted these may be incorporated therein and the Constitution when finally accepted may be complete in all respects.

It is my hope that, if all this is done properly, we shall be able to pass the Constitution finally after due consideration in the October meeting of the Assembly. I want that the work of the Constituent Assembly should be speeded up, because, as you are aware, according to the proposed Indian Independence Bill, the Constituent Assembly would also function as the Legislative Assembly, and already there are many matters

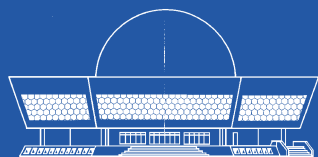
pending before the Legislative Assembly which must be taken into consideration. After some time, the Budget Session would also be due. Consequently, the earlier we finish the work of the Constituent Assembly the sooner we shall have the opportunity to take in hand the work of the Legislative Assembly. But I do not want that the work of the Constituent Assembly should be done in such a hurry as to spoil any part of it. Every matter will have to be decided after full consideration. On the other hand, you must devote so much time to each matter as you consider desirable. But if you keep in view that we have to do, sitting as the Legislative Assembly, other work also, we must finish our present work as early as possible.

I welcome all the new members, and they are many, who are present today. I hope that all of us together will finish, as early as possible, the work of the Constituent Assembly and will give a Constitution that shall be agreeable and acceptable to all."

What Nehru said....

In India, far more so than elsewhere, the old concept of social organization and the philosophy of life underlying it, have persisted, to some extent, to the present day. They could not have done so unless they had some virtue which stabilised society and made it conform to life's conditions.

... 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

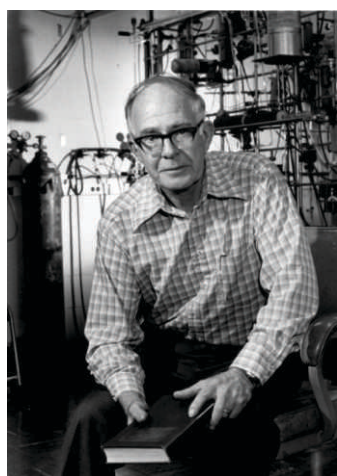
Astrophysicist Nobel Laureates

11. Raymond Davis Jr, Masatoshi Koshiba: 2002

The 2002 Nobel Prize in Physics was given to three astrophysicists: Raymond Davis Jr. and Masatoshi Koshiba, who independently worked on the detection of cosmic neutrinos and Riccardo Giacconi, whose work led to the discovery of cosmic X-ray sources.

In the August issue, we discussed the science of cosmic neutrinos and their detection. In this issue we give a brief biographical sketch of Raymond Davis Jr. and Masatoshi Koshiba.

Raymond Davis Jr.



Raymond Davis Jr. was born on October 14, 1914, in Washington, D.C. His father, a photographer for the National Bureau of Standards, fostered a household environment rich in curiosity and experimental spirit. Raymond developed an early fascination with hands-on mechanics and the physical sciences.

He pursued higher education at the University of Maryland, receiving his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry in 1938 and a Master's degree in 1940. He then moved to Yale University, earning his Ph.D. in physical chemistry in 1942. His dissertation focused on the solubility of gases in liquids—a subtle detail of expertise that would later prove pivotal to his ground-breaking experimental achievements.

World War II interrupted his academic path. After he joined the United States Army in 1942 as a reserve officer, Davis was stationed at the Dugway Proving Ground in Utah. There, he observed chemical weapons tests and conducted studies of the region's geological history.

In 1948, post-WWII, he joined Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), which was created to explore peaceful applications of atomic energy. When Davis asked which field he should work on, he was simply told to 'find something interesting to work on.' Davis chose to work on the neutrinos, which were widely regarded by contemporary physicists as practically undetectable. While working at BNL, he met his future wife, Anna Torrey. Together, they built a 21-foot wooden sailboat named 'Halcyon'. They raised five children in Blue Point, New York.

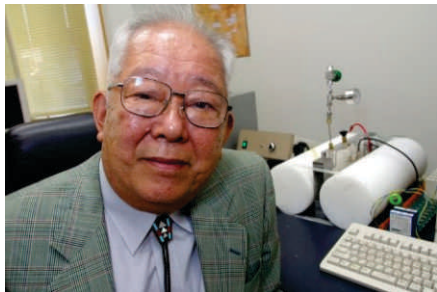
In the mid-1960s, Davis collaborated with astrophysicist John N. Bahcall, who calculated the theoretical rate of solar neutrinos reaching Earth based on the Standard Solar Model. To capture these elusive particles, Davis designed a massive experiment and placed it underground in the Homestake Gold Mine in South Dakota. (See Aug 2026 issue).

In 1968, Davis published his initial findings. He successfully confirmed that the Sun produces neutrinos, proving for the first time that nuclear fusion powers stars. The discovery and subsequent research led to Davis getting the Nobel Prize. His other honours included the Wolf Prize in Physics (2000), the National Medal of Science (2001), and the Enrico Fermi Award (2003).

Davis retired from Brookhaven in 1984 but continued his work as a research professor at the University of Pennsylvania. He passed away on May 31, 2006, at the age of 91 from complications of Alzheimer's disease.

Raymond Davis Jr. transformed experimental physics by proving that the most subtle, ghost-like signals from deep space could be caught and measured.

Masatoshi Koshiba



Masatoshi Koshiba was born on September 19, 1926, in Toyohashi, Aichi Prefecture, Japan. The son of a Japanese military officer, Koshiba spent much of his youth in Yokosuka. As a teenager preparing for the military academy during World War II, his life took a major turn when he contracted polio. The illness left his right arm partially paralyzed, exempting him from military service.

Confined to bed during his recovery, Koshiba developed a deep interest in mathematics after reading a book featuring conversations with Albert Einstein. Later he chose to pursue physics at the University of Tokyo to prove wrong a high school

teacher who doubted his scientific aptitude. Working night jobs in post-war Japan to support his family, Koshiba completed his Bachelor of Science degree in 1951. He went on to earn his Ph.D. in ultra-high-energy cosmic radiation from the University of Rochester in New York in 1955.

After research appointments at the University of Chicago and the University of Tokyo, Koshiba joined the faculty at the University of Tokyo in 1962. By the late 1970s, particle physicists were eager to test Grand Unified Theories, which predicted that protons might eventually decay over long timescales.

To detect proton decay, Koshiba conceived and built a massive detector which he placed 1,000 meters underground inside the Kamioka zinc mine in Gifu Prefecture, to shield the detector from other radiations. The experiment which became operational by 1983, was named Kamiokande (Kamioka Nucleon Decay Experiment). Though no photon decay was detected, Koshiba recognized the facility's potential for subatomic particle astronomy. He upgraded the detector's electronics to detect low-energy neutrinos from space.

In 1986, the enhanced Kamiokande II confirmed the findings of Raymond Davis Jr., providing real-time directional evidence that neutrinos detected on Earth originated directly from the Sun's core. Koshiba was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2002, along with Raymond Davis Jr.

Koshiba's landmark achievement occurred on February 23, 1987, when a massive star in the Large Magellanic Cloud exploded, creating Supernova 1987A.

Located roughly 160,000 light-years away, the exploding star released a massive burst of neutrinos into the universe. Over a span of 13 seconds, Kamiokande II captured 11 of these subatomic particles. It was the first time in history that neutrinos from a source outside our solar system were directly observed, confirming theoretical models of star collapse and founding the field of observational neutrino astronomy.

Koshiba passed away in Tokyo on November 12, 2020, at the age of 94, leaving behind a legacy that transformed our understanding of the universe's most elusive particles.

**Nehru
Centre
Presents**

28th THEATRE FESTIVAL 2026

**In Marathi,
Hindi/Konkani,
Gujarati & English**

7th-11th September 2026, 7.00 p.m. daily at Nehru Centre Auditorium

1

**Monday
7th Sept.
7.00 pm
Marathi**
Duration:
2 hrs 45 min. with interval



Written by:
Kshitij Patwardhan
Directed by:
Chandrakant Kulkarni
Cast:
Sachin Khedekar, Samidha Guru, Jai Khandekar, Jayashree Jagtap, Suyash Zunzurke and Atul Mahajan

2

**Tuesday
8th Sept.
7.00 pm
Gujarati**
Duration:
2 hrs 10 min. with interval



Written & Directed by:
Vinod Sarvaiya
Presented by:
Leela Arts Serjan, Chitrak Shah, Kiran Malvankar
Cast:
Sandeep Mehta, Kinjal Bhatt, Saunil Daru, Krupa Mishra, Dhanveer Soni and Janmejay Tailong

3

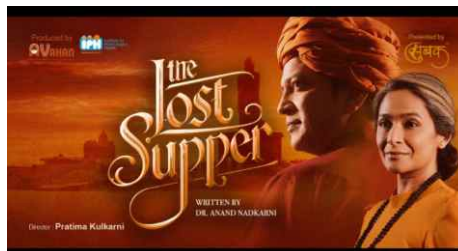
**Wednesday
9th Sept.
7.00 pm
Hindi/Konkani**
Duration:
1 hrs 10 min. without interval



Written by:
Antara Bhide
Directed by:
Dr. Saish Deshpande
Cast:
Priyanka Verekar, Abhishek Dhawaskar, Tania Gaikwad, Akshay Bhatkuly and others

4

**Thursday
10th Sept.
7.00 pm
English**
Duration:
2 hrs with interval



Written by:
Late Dr. Anand Nadkarni
Directed by:
Pratima Kulkarni
Cast:
Girish Pardeshi and Dr. Pradnya Manwatkar

5

**Friday
11th Sept.
7.00 pm
Marathi**
Duration:
2 hrs 20 min. with interval



Written by:
Omkar Gokhale
Directed by:
Suraj Parasnis
Cast:
Chinmayee Sumeet, Sumeet Raghavan, Shubhankar Ekbote and Amruta Vikas Bane

Entry : Free Entrance Cards will be available from Tuesday, 1st September 2026 from 10.30 a.m. until availability from the booking counter of Nehru Centre Auditorium.

**NITAI DAS
PRALAY DATTA
SUBHASH ROY
DR. D. N. BARASKAR**



Dr. D. N. Baraskar

This group of four creative personalities will showcase their work in various mediums.

**Tuesday 1st September 2026
to Monday 7th September 2026
(AC Gallery)**

SAIKAT BAKSI

Saikat promotes emerging artists and creates meaningful platforms for them to showcase their work.

**Tuesday 1st September 2026
to Monday 7th September 2026
(Circular Gallery)**

**PRAMOD
SAHASRABUDDHE**

Pramod is a self-taught artist and paints in oil on canvas.

**Tuesday 8th September 2026
to Monday 14th September 2026
(AC Gallery)**

**MIHIR DAS
DIPANKAR GHOSH
GOBINDA BISWAS
SHEKHAR CHAUDHARY
MONOJIT BHUNIYA**

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



Gobinda Biswas

**Tuesday 8th September 2026
to Monday 14th September 2026
(Circular Gallery)**

**RAMESH THORAT
JAGRUTI SONAWANE
RANJIT DESHMUKH
GUHYACITTA
GOPAL GANGAWANE**



Gopal Gangawane

This group of five artists and sculptors will display their works in various mediums.

**Tuesday 15th September 2026
to Monday 21st September 2026
(AC Gallery)**

PRINCI KHANDELWAL

Princi is from Ujjain and has completed her masters in drawing and paintings. She paints subjective paintings in acrylic on canvas.



Princi Khandelwal

**Tuesday 15th September 2026 to
Monday 21st September 2026
(Circular Gallery)**

**Up Next by TELA ART
GALLERY**



Cheena Madan

This group exhibition led by Ritu Chopra and Vikas Singh will provide a high visibility platform for emerging and established contemporary artists.

**Tuesday 22nd September 2026
to Monday 28th September 2026
(AC Gallery)**

**LADY ENGINEER HIGH
SCHOOL**

This school aims to showcase the artistic talents of its students and provides them with a creative platform to display their talent.

**Tuesday 22nd September 2026
to Monday 28th September 2026
(Circular Gallery)**

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

5. Ramman, a religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwalis

Every year in late April, the twin villages of Saloor-Dungra of Chamoli district in the state of Uttarakhand are marked by the religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwali community of Himalayas called Ramman. The Ramman was inscribed on the Representative List of the Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2009 in the category of 'festival'. This festival brings together devotion, folklore and community participation for cultural expression and is celebrated as an offering to the village deity Bhumiyal Devta.

The festival includes rituals like reciting verses from the Ramayana and other legends, performing songs and masked dances. At least 18 people participate to play 18 characters, wearing 18 masks, dancing on 18 beats and celebrating the 18 Puranas and themes of the Ramayana. The festival is organized by the villagers and every cast and occupational group plays a distinct role in it. For example, the youths and elders perform, the priests lead prayers and rituals and the Bhandaris represent the locals of Kshatriya caste. The Bhandaris are the only ones entitled to wear the sacred mask of a half-man and half-lion of the Hindu deity Lord Narasimha.

The Ramman is a multiform cultural event which combines theatre, music, historical reconstructions and traditional oral and written tales. However, like any other traditional art, it too is facing challenges for its survival. Some of the challenges are a lack of Himalayan birchwood which is used to make the masks. This wood is currently endangered. A lack of participation from the youth in the festivities is also a challenge. For various reasons, the younger generation is moving far from the villages and settling in other parts of the country. The Ramman is also vulnerable to extinction as it is transmitted orally from one generation to another due to a lack of proper documentation. Last but not the least, a lack of awareness and recognition though it is culturally significant has also limited the Ramman's chance to get support outside Uttarakhand. In order to ensure that this festival remains viable, the communities are trying to promote it and make it recognized in other states too.

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 Chandradas Choudhury, The Taj Magazine, Vol.45, No.1, Barcode: J11560



Bhumiyal Devta



Participants dressed in festive attire

**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 KARMAKAR (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



Mumbai Icons

A Celebration of their Lives



Mr. Nissim Ezekiel
(1924-2004)

A famous poet and author with deep set ties with Mumbai.



Mr. Mario de Miranda
(1926-2011)

A cartoonist, illustrator and painter whose drawings captured the life and people of Mumbai.

Curated by: Ms. Fiona Fernandez



Panelists

- Ms. Urna Bose
- Prof. Mustansir Dalvi

3rd September, 2026
@ 4.30 p.m.

Panelists

- Ms. Farzana Contractor
- Mr. Rahul da Cunha

4th September, 2026
@ 4.30 p.m.

Book Talks

Bheja Fry: Heartfelt Stories from a Neurosurgeon's Clinic
 by
Dr. Mazda Turel

• **Story of the Aravallis for Young Readers**
 • **Gods, Greens & Gripping Tales**
 by
Katie Bagli



The Brain Story

11th September, 2026
@ 4.30 p.m.



Gods, Greens & Gripping Tales

12th September, 2026
@ 10.30 a.m.

📍 'Who Are We' Hall, 1st Floor,
 Discovery of India Building, Nehru Centre.

Registration mandatory
nehrucenlibrary@gmail.com



nehru-centre.org/library.html



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nehrucenlibrary.blogspot.com



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



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