A century ago India witnessed the Home Rule Movement, a short but important chapter in India’s struggle for freedom. Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Dr. Annie Besant were the prime movers of the movement which aimed at self government and at attaining the status of a Dominion within the British Empire like Australia and New Zealand.

There were two Home Rule Leagues. The one launched by Tilak in April 1916 was called the Indian Home Rule League which was restricted to Bombay Presidency (excluding Bombay city), central provinces and Berar with its headquarters at Delhi. Annie Besant’s league started in September 1916 and was called Home Rule League which covered the rest of India.

The following were the objectives of the Home Rule League Movement.
1. To establish self government in India.
2. To build up an agitation for home rule by promoting political education in the country.

contd. on page 2
3. To demand greater representation from the British Government.

Both Tilak and Dr. Annie Besant created a following for the movement. They desired that the Home Rule campaign be taken up by the Indian National Congress. But that was not to be. At the annual session of the Congress in 1915, Dr. Besant drafted a resolution, which she intended to move at the Congress session, and submitted it to the President of the session. Her draft resolution was turned down on the ground that it contravened article 1 of the Congress Constitution which restricted the scope of the demand for self government by the words “by bringing about a steady reform of the existing system of administration”.

In the middle of 1916, Tilak undertook an extensive lecture tour with a view to educating the people and exhorting them to join the Home Rule League. The speeches he made alarmed the Bombay Government and legal action was taken against him. The trial magistrate directed Tilak to enter into bonds which were tantamount to penal action. Tilak moved the High Court in appeal and the 2-judge bench cancelled the magisterial order.

Dr. Besant’s headquarters were located in Madras and in a brief period, 41 branches of Home Rule League were started in different places. Dr. Besant herself became the President of the central body and her trusted lieutenant Dr. George Arundale, the organizing secretary. Response to her call came from distant provinces. In Uttar Pradesh, Motilal Nehru, Jawaharlal Nehru, Tej Bahadur Sapru and Ishwar Saran joined her movement. Other eminent people who joined the Home Rule League were Bipin Chandra Pal, C. Y. Chintamani, C. R. Das, Bhulabhai Desai, M. R. Jaykar, K. M. Munshi and M. A. Jinnah. The government of the day was hostile to the very idea of Home Rule League. Dr. Besant recorded in her diary that the authorities were “suppressing a political agitation so constitutionally conducted that not even the sweeping clauses of the Indian Penal Code on sedition could enmesh it…. England, supposed to be the champion of liberty, is the only power in the whole wide world which seizes peaceful citizens at the whim of an autocratic executive, interns them in a stated area, allows no communication to pass between them and the outside world, save through a magistrate or police official.”

In June 1917, Annie Besant and her associates B. P. Wadia and George Arundale were arrested. There was nationwide protest. Sir S. Subramaniya Iyer, a retired judge of the High Court, renounced his knighthood in protest. Dr. Besant was released in September 1917. The country, in 1917, was all for Home Rule and the annual session of the Congress was scheduled for December. An overwhelming majority of Congress delegates elected Dr. Besant as the President. The Congress was now, as against its stand in 1915, fully committed to Home Rule.

It was the result of the Home Rule agitation that the Secretary of State for India, Montagu, made a formal announcement in Parliament on August 22, 1917 declaring that “the policy of His Majesty’s Government is that of the increasing association of Indians in every branch of the administration and the gradual development of self governing institutions with a view to the progressive realization of responsible government in India as an integral part of the British Empire.” The announcement was not received well. It did not specify the time limit by which responsible government would be conceded.

By 1919, the Home Rule agitation began to fade out for want of an effective organization. An important reason for its decline was lack of response from India’s masses. Intelligentsia was fully involved in the movement but that was not enough. The Home Rule movement did not grow after Gandhiji’s rise and his satyagraha-based revolution which was non violent but mass-based civil disobedience. In 1920, the All India Home Rule League elected Mahatma Gandhi as its President and soon thereafter Home Rule League merged into the Indian National Congress to form a united Indian political front.

What Nehru said....

I have appealed previously here in this House, and I would appeal again to the great powers, the United States of America and the Soviet Union, to desist from nuclear tests. Even if we are not certain of the saying of a man of high knowledge like Professor Pauling that it is a crime against humanity, it is a crime against the survival of the human race.

*From Speech in Rajya Sabha, June 23, 1962*
The Man from the 9 Dimensions

On Friday, April 27, 2018 Nehru Centre along with Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai organized a full dome movie and talk by Prof. Hirosi Ooguri from California Institute of Technology, USA entitled: The Science of “The Man from the 9 Dimensions”.

Professor Ooguri is a renowned theoretical physicist who works on string theory. Normally, we would perceive a smallest particle to be a point-like object. In string theory, which is a theoretical framework, a smallest particle is considered to be a string like vibrating object of dimensions about 10–33 cm. The theory deals with how these strings propagate through space and interact with each other.

The theory has been applied to various topics in physics – from black holes to the cosmology of the early universe. It has also been applied to other branches of physics like nuclear physics and condensed matter physics.

Interestingly, many physicists and mathematicians believe that the theory has the potential of providing a unified description of gravity and particle physics. It is possibly the Theory of Everything or TOE.

Prof. Ooguri spoke about the theory and its importance. He then introduced the full dome movie “The Man from the 9 Dimensions”. He was the scientific adviser to the movie. It is an award winning 3D dome theater movie on what is now called as super string theory. Professor Ooguri explained the science behind the movie, which took the audience from the microscopic world of elementary particles to the macroscopic world of the universe, all the way back to its beginning – the Big Bang.

The full dome movie was a visual treat and the lecture was thought provoking. It started with a professor and his students looking for TOE (theory of everything) personified as a man whose actual face was not quite clear. TOE then takes the audience through a journey in the world of physics.

The talk was well attended by science enthusiasts. There was a large group of physicist from TIFR including the director Prof. Sandeep Trivedi. The question-answer session continued well after the official closure of the programme.
This month that year

Six years ago, on 6 June 2012, mankind witnessed an astronomical event that no other human alive today will see again. It was the transit of planet Venus across the solar disc. The tiny planet was seen as a black spot travelling against the backdrop of the Sun’s brilliance. This seemingly mundane event of a planet coming between the Sun and the Earth was an important moment for astronomers.

This event will now take place again on 10 December, 2117.

By the 18th century, the Copernican theory of a heliocentric Universe, where the Sun is at the centre of the Universe, was gaining ground over the geocentric theory. The latter presumed that the Earth lies at the centre and everything revolves around it. By then, the orbital periods of the planets had been established. Applying simple trigonometry to this information, it became possible to ascertain the distance of the planets from the Sun in terms of the Sun-Earth distance.

It was only realized two centuries later that the Universe actually has no centre.

In 1716, the astronomer Edmund Halley proposed a method of finding the distance between the Sun and the Earth. His method was based on measuring the parallax of Venus on the solar disc. Parallax is the apparent displacement of an observed object due to a change in the position of the observer. This can be observed by holding a pencil at arms’ length and looking at it alternately with the left and right eye. The position of the pencil will appear to shift with respect to the background. Knowing the distance between the two eyes, the angle made by the left eye - pencil - right eye can be used to determine the distance between the eyes and the pencil.

Halley proposed that this principle could be used to determine the distance between the Earth and Venus if the transit of Venus was observed from two different latitudes. Using the analogy above, the eyes are the observers, and the pencil is Venus. But the method had one natural limitation: Transits of Venus take place at an interval of 8 years, and then after 105.5 and 121.5 years, which is beyond the average lifespan of humans.

The earliest opportunity-pair that presented itself was on 6 June, 1761 and 3 June, 1769. Recognizing the scientific importance of the event, for the first time in the history of science there was worldwide collaboration among scientists. Hundreds of observers came together to take part in the event.

The measurements of 1761 put the Sun-Earth distance in the range of 128–154 million km. The results were refined in 1769, and the more accurate value returned was 147–154 million km. The observers had to overcome the challenges of weather, location, and more important, the ‘Black Drop’ effect. At the moment when the projected outer limb of Venus touches the Sun’s inner limb, the two limbs appear to merge into each other, making it difficult to pin point the exact time of contact.

The next pair of transits took place on 9 December, 1874 and 6 December, 1882. At that time, scientists were better prepared to observe the event. The Sun-Earth distance was calculated to be in the range of 148.2 –148.8 million km. This value was within one per cent of the present-day accepted value of 149.6 million km.

For the first time in the history of the Earth, mankind was able to get a feel of the extreme enormity of the Solar System and his own insignificance on the cosmic scale.
Review: Kathak Darpan

The 21st Kathak Workshop was held from 14th to 18th May 2018. Around 800 students along with their Gurus, from various parts of India attended the workshop. They got the opportunity to learn various ‘bhava’ and ‘padhant’ from the maestro Pt. Birju Maharaj. The five days workshop was highly appreciated by the students of Kathak.

A programme depicting literary expression of emotions rendered through poetic idioms of couplets, songs, hymns, which are also termed as ghazals, geets, lavanis and abhangs rendered by various artistes. These emotional melodies are very popular in Maharashtra and have been penned by various literary figures like G. D. Madgulkar, Jagdish Khebudkar, Pradeep Oakh, Sadanand Dabir and various others.

The melodies will be sung by Madhav Bhagwat & Suchitra Bhagwat

Accompanists:
Synthesizer: Prashant Lalit
Tabla & Dholki: Anil Gawade
Side Rhythm: Arun Tawade

Anchor: Shweta Apte

Friday, 22nd June 2018
6.30 p.m.
Hall of Culture, DOI Building
Nehru Centre

Entry: Free to all music lovers on first come, first served basis.
Programmes for June 2018

R. SOLOMON

R. Solomon obtained B.F.A. and M.F.A. in Painting from Chennai. He has won National Award in “Nehru Yuvagendra Youth Festival”, Chennai. He has had many shows in Mumbai and Chennai and won awards. He does landscapes in acrylic on canvas distinctive style.

Tuesday 29th May to Monday 4th June 2018
(AC Gallery)

SANJAY MHATRE
PALLAVI PATHAK
JYOTI MALIK

Sanjay has received B.A. and A.M. in Art from J. J. School of Art, Mumbai. He has won many awards during his academic career. His paintings are in acrylic on canvas.

Pallavi is a self-taught artist. Her paintings and landscapes are in acrylic on canvas.

Jyoti has Diploma in Photography & Fashion Designing. Her paintings are figurative, specially on Indian women in their various moods in acrylic on canvas.

Tuesday 29th May to Monday 4th June 2018
(Circular Gallery)

SURABHI SONI

Surabhi has completed Post Graduation in Art from Rajasthan University. Her paintings are on various flowers and figurative compositions in acrylic on canvas.

She has exhibited her works extensively in India and won many awards.

Tuesday 5th June to Monday 11th June 2018
(AC Gallery)

BHAGWAT SAPKALE

Bhagwat obtained A.T.D., G.D.A. and A.M. in Painting from Mumbai. His landscapes are in water and acrylic colours.

Tuesday 5th June to Monday 11th June 2018
(Circular Gallery)

TARAB KHAN

Tarab Khan is a self-taught artist. Her oil and acrylic paintings are inflation of her dream sequences. She has had many shows in India.

Tuesday 12th June to Monday 18th June 2018
(AC Gallery)

JITENDRA SARANG

Jitendra received B.F.A. from Sir J. J. Institute of Applied Art, Mumbai. He worked for Ad agencies as an illustrator. His paintings are in acrylic on canvas.

Tuesday 12th June to Monday 18th June 2018
(Circular Gallery)
‘CHATAK’
A MONSOON SHOW of Professional Artists

‘CHATAK’ - A Monsoon show of Professional artists will be on display with their paintings. There are forty artists participating from Mumbai, Thane, Raigad, Pune, Nashik, Kolhapur, Satara, Sangli, Jalgaon, Osmanabad and Sholapur. Their works are in various styles and mediums. The art lovers can view different styles of paintings and sculptures under one roof.

Thursday 21st June to Friday 29th June 2018
( AC & Circular Gallery )
NEHRU CENTRE PUBLICATIONS
MUMBAI PAST & PRESENT * WITNESS TO HISTORY * REMEMBERING EINSTEIN * INDIAN ASTRONOMY A Source Book
EXPLORING THE UNIVERSE: The Planetarium Way
SCIENCE IN INDIA: PAST & PRESENT
DISCOVERY OF INDIA Abridged and illustrated
NEHRU REVISITED
RULE OF LAW IN A FREE SOCIETY
CHALLENGES TO DEMOCRACY IN INDIA

Colourful Catalogues for Sale
1. RAJA RAVI VARMA / 2. A. A. RAIBA
3. DEENANATH DALAL / 4. J. B. DIKHIT
5. R. K. LAXMAN / 6. MARIO DE MIRANDA
7. G. N. JADHAV
8. ART HERITAGE OF MAHARASHTRA
9. HAREN DAS / 10. PROF. P. A. DHOND
11. COLLECTOR’S PRIDE / 12. K. B. KULKARNI
13. VINAYAK S. MASOJI
14. SAMAKALEEN (Contemporary Five Artists)
VINAYAKRAO WAGH * RAJARAM PANVALKAR
KRISHNAJI KETkar * DATTAJIRAO DALVI
* GOVIND MALADKAR
15. NAGESH B. SABANNAVAR
16. NARAYAN L. SONAVADEKAR
17. "GURU-SHISHYA"
BABA GAJBAR & GANPATRAO WADANGEKAR
18. D. G. KULKARNI (DIZI)
19. MILLENIUM SHOW
(A Century of Art from Maharashtra)
20. BALAJI TALIM & HARISH TALIM
21. S. L. HALDANKAR & G. S. HALDANKAR
22. VINAYAKRAO P. KARMARKAR
23. GOPALRAO DEUSKAR
ART FUSION
SANSKRUTI - CD ROM : An Aesthetics of Indian Culture
DISCOVERY OF INDIA (VCD Version)
Set of ten greeting cards
Based on Discovery of India Exposition
Set of five assorted gift cards
Designed by Handicapped children
Available at:
Discovery of India Exposition, Ground Floor,
NEHRU CENTRE, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.

New Arrivals: Books for Children
Sr. No. Title Author/s
1. Tree matters Gita Wolf
2. Talon the falcon Deepak Dalal
3. Make do be: The activity joyride Shikha Lal
4. Intriguing insects Katie Bagli
5. Girls to the rescue Sowmya Rajendran
6. Winking, blinking, waggling and wagging Brian Moses
7. Akbar and the tricky traitor Natasha Sharma
8. My facebook friends Kavita Singh Kale
9. Walk the rainforest with Niwupah Aparajita Datta
10. Alphabets are amazing animals Anushka Ravishankar

Let’s Read Together
All of June 2018
Parents, bring your children and their friends and read to them from their books or the books from the library. Refer to the library catalogue for details about children's books.

10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.
(Monday to Friday, 1st, 3rd and 5th Saturday)
10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. (2nd and 4th Saturday)

Venue: Nehru Centre Library
First Floor, Discovery of India Building,
Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.

Extended

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