

Glowing tributes were paid by speakers at a seminar held at the Russian Centre of Science and Culture (RCSC) on November 22, 2012.



Jointly organized with India-Russia Friendship Society (New Delhi), the Seminar entitled “Russian-Indian Friendship: the Role of Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi” was dedicated to the 95th Birth Anniversary of Indira Gandhi. Mr. V. Narayanasami, Minister of State, Prime Minister’s Office, Government of India, was the Chief Guest. Mr. Jai Prakash Agarwal, President, Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC), Mr. Sergey Karmalito, Senior Counsellor, Embassy of the Russian Federation in India, Mr. Mahabal Mishra, Congress M. P., and Dr. R. B. Singh, General Secretary, India-Russia Friendship Society, and Mr. Fedor Rozovski, Director, Russian Centre of Science and Culture, addressed the large gathering. Mr. Ramesh Dutta, former Mayor of Delhi and presently Member of Municipal Corporation of Delhi, and Mr. Suresh Malik, Delegate of All-India Congress Committee (AICC) and General Secretary of DPCC, attended the seminar.



In his welcome remarks, Mr. Rozovski recalled, with a sense of reverence, the visit of Indira Gandhi to the then House of Soviet Science, Culture and Art (presently RCSC). He pointed out that the names of both Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi were close to the heart of Russian people.

In an impressive speech, Mr. Jai Prakash Agarwal described the bold measures taken by both Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, closely associating with the Soviet/Russian leadership, towards achieving economic development, universal brotherhood, disarmament, and global peace. The significant contributions made by these illustrious leaders made India proud and transformed it to be a country to reckon with by world nations in different international forums. Mr. Agarwal profusely lauded the sincere and consistent efforts taken at the RCSC, through vibrant cultural activities, aimed at bringing the peoples of India and Russia much closer.



Tracing the background of Russian-Indian friendship and cooperation and the signal contributions made by Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi to consolidating the bilateral relations, Mr. Sergy Karmalito described the former Prime Ministers of India as multi-dimensional personalities and pioneers of Indo-Russian friendship movement. Referring to the first visit of Jawaharlal Nehru, accompanied by Indira Gandhi, to the erstwhile Soviet Union as an epoch-making event in world history, he appreciated the initiative of Jawaharlal Nehru in launching the “Friends of the Soviet Union” in the early ‘40s. He also related the establishment of Russian-Indian diplomatic relationship before the advent of Indian independence to the great vision of Jawaharlal Nehru. Mr. Karmalito aptly appreciated the foresight and fortitude of Indira Gandhi in signing the historic Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation in 1971. He also made an over-all view of ambitious economic projects and joint space programmes during the premiership of these distinguished Indian leaders.

