

Laureates on Soviet Soil



N.V. KRISHNA WARRIOR

I have just returned from the USSR after a brief visit. I saw many places of interest and met a number of people. As the Director of the State Institute of Languages, Kerala, I was interested in several problems I face in my work. I had occasion to see how Soviet text-books are processed. Many of them, especially relating to sciences, are translated into English. Some of them are in use in India.

The Soviet text-books are not copyrighted. Without paying any royalty, we are free to translate Soviet publications into our languages.

There are authentic text-books, in all branches of sciences and in other disciplines of knowledge, in the Russian language. There is nobody to prevent Indians from using these Soviet books in English.

The Government of India have constituted an Indo-Soviet Text-Book Board in the Ministry of Education. A reference library of Russian books has been built up at the Ministry of Education, New Delhi. Anybody may make use of this library, select suitable books for translation and approach the Indo-Soviet Text-Book Board for technical assistance.

Recently, the State Institute of Languages, Kerala, contacted the representatives of Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga. They agreed to render necessary assistance to the Kerala institute in contacting authors, getting latest editions and in advising if better books are available on the same subject. Publishers in India may get the same facilities.

In order that India may be able to profit from the enormous amount of scientific knowledge stored in Russian language, it is necessary that at least a few hundred translators are trained in India who will be able to mediate between Indian readers and the Russian authors.

The cooperation between India and the USSR in the sphere of production of text-books will go a long way in deepening and widening cooperation in the cultural field.



J. NARENDRADDEV

Our peregrinations in the Soviet Union started from Leningrad, the city of unexampled courage and heroism, and at the same time a city gorgeous in its architectural beauty like a thousand petalled lotus! It is a tribute to the great Russian architects, their fine sense of aesthetics and creativity! The grand Winter Palace, now the Hermitage Museum, the magnificent Cathedrals, the Smolny, the Leningrad University, to name only a few, are a source of unbounded joy to a visitor. While walking the streets of this great city I was always reminded of the earth-shaking events that took place over 50 years ago, when a new age was ushered in.

The epic struggle of the Lenin-graders against the Nazi aggression in World War II has become an unforgettable saga of our epoch.

The other thing which impressed me most was the sight of bright, healthy, happy children with flaxen curls and teeth like pearls. In fact, Soviet children are the only privileged class in the land of the Soviets. All the best and choicest things are reserved for them.

The Soviet women participate in all activities, economic, political, cultural of their land. They enjoy not only statutory but real equality with men.

The Soviet Union is a veritable paradise of workers. They have all the facilities and amenities at their disposal to enable them to make their full contribution to the well-being of the Soviet society.

Along with industry and agriculture the Soviet people are lovers of art and culture.

What is the reason for the breathtaking progress of the land of the Soviets? What is the reason that every citizen has full facilities to develop his talent and then to harness it to the well-being of the state? The reason is the liquidation of the old society based on exploitation and building of a new one of socialism.



ANANT KANEKAR

Yes, once again to the Red Star, after 35 years! Just as an orthodox Hindu feels that he must go to Kashi (Varanasi) on a pilgrimage at least once in his lifetime, similarly a young radical, a poor Marathi journalist, felt earnestly at that time that he must visit the country where the October Revolution had been successful, a country—one-sixth of the world—which had turned socialist, a country where the Red Star was shining bright.

This time, after 35 years, I reached Moscow just within six hours from Delhi by a Soviet *Ilyushin* plane flying over the loftiest peaks of the Himalayas.

Now, everything has changed and I am proud of it.

In those days, as a poor Marathi journalist, I dodged the watchful eyes of the British police and somehow reached Moscow. This time, I went there on the special invitation of the Novosti Press Agency as a Soviet Land Nehru Award laureate.

At that time, India was a poor and undeveloped country, a colony ruled with a heavy hand and exploited by the British imperialists. Today it is independent, one of the big states of Asia.

At that time, the swollen-headed Hitlerite fascists were making preparations for pouncing upon the Soviet Union. All the Soviet people—men and women—were then engrossed in producing armaments and other equipment necessary for defending their country. Today, the Soviet Union has become a strong and great country. Our country has signed with it a durable Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation.

The Soviet Union has long surpassed all big countries of the world in scientific development. One notices the road to magnificence that the USSR has travelled.

For our country's speedy development and for safeguarding world peace, the friendship between India and the Soviet Union must be maintained forever.



MANINDRA ROY

We, who live outside the socialist world, have a number of problems to solve including one of complete economic independence. Efforts are being made with the help of a great friendly country like the Soviet Union to enable India to stand on its own legs and achieve economic independence.

When I got the opportunity recently to visit the Soviet Union, it was my earnest desire to observe the attitude of youth in the Soviet society. And, I have no hesitancy in affirming that my desire was amply fulfilled. I saw the free movement of radiant Soviet youth dedicated to the ideal of communist construction in their motherland.

We met a group of Pioneers at Peterhoff. It was there that we observed young shoots of Soviet nation inspired with high idealism and imbued with the spirit of cooperation. They all looked after one another, appreciated one another's merits and did not display undue inclination for individual prominence. We came across such pioneers, not only in Leningrad, but also in Yaroslavl and Vladimir.

Secondly, opportunities for progress are open to all without any reservation and discrimination. There is no privileged class in the Soviet Union. The scope for education and employment is limitless. Therefore, there is no contradiction between individual and society.

It came to us as a pleasant surprise that an oil refinery in Yaroslavl has not only a grand auditorium in its House of Culture but also plays are written and produced by workers themselves. The young boys and girls of a state farm near Yaroslavl welcomed us with songs and flowers.

This harmony and equipoise in the national life, especially in the life of the youth in the Soviet Union impressed me most. The life is simple, beautiful and harmonious because of love and dedication that permeate the entire gamut of Soviet life.