



# NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE SOVIET UNION

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## SOVIET-INDIAN RELATIONS

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### MEETING DEVOTED TO THE ROERICH FAMILY IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW, May 25: "India features prominently in the life-work of the Roerich family. Studying the East, we again turn to the legacy of the wonderful dynasty of the Russian orientalists," said prominent Soviet Indologist B.G. Bongard-Levin, Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, addressing the meeting "The Roerich Family and the East," held in Moscow recently. Broad circles of the Soviet public including Vice-President of the Soviet-Indian Friendship Society, Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Y.P. Chelyshev, Vice-President of the USSR Academy of Arts, V.S. Kemenov, and scholars studying the life work of the Roerichs--father and sons--took part in the meeting.

"The Roerichs," added B.G. Bongard-Levin, "followed the best traditions of Russian oriental studies. In an attempt to perceive the soul of Asia, N.K. Roerich went on a long expedition to Central Asia in 1923-1928. On his way he crossed the parts of South-Central and South-Eastern Asia, which had been unknown to the West-European scholars. The Central Asian expedition became an important step forward in promoting the study of that part of the world and a rapprochement between the East and the West," the Soviet scholar said.

Speakers at the meeting noted that N.K. Roerich and his sons did not limit themselves to research and art. Staying in India, which was under British colonial domination, N.K. Roerich actively came out for the preservation of Indian national culture.

The speakers paid special attention to N.Roerich's contribution to the establishment and development of Soviet-Indian friendly relations." N.Roerich, "Y.P.Chelyshev said in his report,

"maintained ...

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"maintained close contacts with Jawaharlal Nehru. He was a close friend of the Great Tagore, and was greatly influenced by his work. Relying on the traditions of the 19th-century Russian realistic school of painting, Roerich the artist painted many pictures reflecting the beauty and originality of India. Roerich the poet enriched his poetry with the achievements of centuries-old development of Indian philosophy and literature. N.Roerich synthesised in his work the best of Indian classical legacy and Slavonic culture," the Soviet scholar said.

A new coloured documentary film, "N.Roerich", was shown after the meeting.

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 close friend of the Great Leader, and was greatly influenced  
 by his work. Relying on the traditions of the 19th-century  
 Indian realistic school of painting, K. Sessich the artist  
 painted many pictures reflecting the beauty and originality  
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