

March 14, 1948



The Ambassador of the USSR, M Novikov (centre) photographed at the inaugural meeting of the Delhi University Russian Association, with M Vladimir Shibayev, head of the Department of Russian, and Sir Maurice Gwyer, Vice-Chancellor of the University.—Statesman.

FACILITIES FOR STUDY OF RUSSIAN LANGUAGE IN INDIA

M. NOVIKOV URGES CLOSER TIES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES

BY A STAFF REPORTER

"Russia and India are two great countries and it is in the interest of both to study and understand each other closely", said M. Novikov, the Russian Ambassador to India, speaking at the inaugural meeting of the Delhi University Russian Association on Saturday evening. Sir Maurice Gwyer, Vice-Chancellor, Delhi University, presided.

Messages wishing success to the Association were received among others for Pandit Nehru, the Prime Minister, Dr Tara Chand, Secretary, Ministry of Education, and Students of the Leningrad University.

The Russian Ambassador said that he had great interest in the material sent to him by the organizers of the meeting. From that material he had learnt that there was a great interest among the students and the people of India to understand the Russian language.

He added that there was no doubt that both the countries had vast treasures of art and literature and material study of which was of great importance. This would help to establish better cultural and economic relations between the two great countries.

M Novikov wished the students success in the study of Russian language and culture. He promised that the Soviet Embassy in Delhi would help them by supplying literature and films depicting Russian life.

Pt Nehru's Message

Pandit Nehru in his message said: "I think it is important that a growing number of young men and women in India should learn some of the important foreign languages, for it is through a language that one gets to know a people and country best. The Russian language is one of the great world languages today playing an important part not only in the political but also in the cultural and scientific field."

The message from Dr Tara Chand said: "India has for long lived almost in isolation, but in future it must break this and enter in the full stream of world advancement. The more we know others the better it will be for us. The windows of our mind must be kept open for light to enter from all directions. Russia is a great country and a great experiment. She is our neighbour and it is incumbent upon us to understand her and to cultivate friendly relations with her."

Key Languages

Sir Maurice Gwyer said: "It has long been one of my dreams to see a faculty of modern languages established in Delhi, and I hope that the Russian Department is the seed out of which that faculty will one day grow. Now that there are diplomatic establishments in Delhi representing nearly 20 foreign countries, the need for the people of India to become acquainted with many other foreign tongues does not need to be emphasized. I remember a French friend of mine once saying to me in my younger days that every Englishman must learn French if he wanted to become acquainted with the currents of thought and the general ideas of western European culture. There are a certain number of what I might call key languages, which do open the door to a knowledge of the more important cultures of the world, and no one can deny that today Russian has become one of these languages."

He added that their Russian Department owed much to M Shibayev's dynamic energy and he wished other departments of the university to follow the admirable example he had set in publishing a descriptive pamphlet telling the world at large what the department was trying to do.

The Vice-Chancellor hoped that the Russian Ambassador would be able to give a favourable report of their activities to his Government in Moscow and that real and lasting cultural contacts might be established not only between the two capitals, but between the two countries.

M Shibayev referred to the great interest taken by Indian students to study and know Russian and said that when the university inserted advertisements in some papers he received 500 or 600 inquiries and had to interview 400 applicants. They were quite unprepared for such a rush.

500 Delhi Students Receive Degrees 2

(By Our Staff Correspondent)

DELHI, Friday:—After a number of years the University of Delhi invited a public man to deliver convocation address at the annual convocation to-day. Mr. K. M. Panikkar spoke for more than 40 minutes on the new Constitution and the national and international problems. He was loudly cheered at to the end of his address.

The function which was scheduled to start at 2-30 p.m. started about 15 minutes late as Mr. Panikkar could not reach in time.

The highlight of to-day's proceedings of the two-day convocation was the presentation of an Honorary degree of Master of Arts to the Reader in Russian in the University of Delhi. The citation that was read out by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Mr. Ram Behari Lal, said "Sir, I present to you, Vladimir Shibayev, Reader in Russian in the University of Delhi. Born in Baltic provinces, his studies at Petrograde Polytechnic were interrupted by the revolution. He has since come to India, and devoted himself to the study of languages. He was editor of Foreign Review in the Publications Division of the Government of India during the War. He has to his credit the introduction of Russian printing in India. In 1946 he became the Head of the Department of Russian and has organised a Russian Studies Department with enthusiasm and success. The University have decided to mark the progress and efficiency of the Department by conferring upon him, with the approval of His Excellency the Chancellor, the degree of Master of Arts, "Honoris Causa" to which I beg that you will admit him."

The Vice-Chancellor Sir Maurice Gwyer, who presided, conferred the degree on Monsieur Valdimir Shiba.

Five hundred students, who had passed B.A., B.A. (Honours), B.Sc. and B.Sc. (Honours), were awarded degrees at to-day's session. In the absence of Dr. Thidani and Mr. Raja Ram, principals of the Hindu College and St. Stephens College, Mr. A. Bhattacharaya and Mr. C. E. Walker presented the students of the colleges to the Vice-chancellor.

Miss B. Dass Gupta, Principal of Indarprastha College for Women led the largest batch of girls who were awarded degrees. Mr. Jai Narain Vaish, Principal of the College of Commerce, probably gave the largest list of successful candidates to the vice-chancellor to whom degrees were awarded.

Prominent amongst those present were Mr. N. V. Gadgil, Bakshi Tek Chand, and Mr. Trone, till recently Industrial Adviser to the Government of India. Amongst those

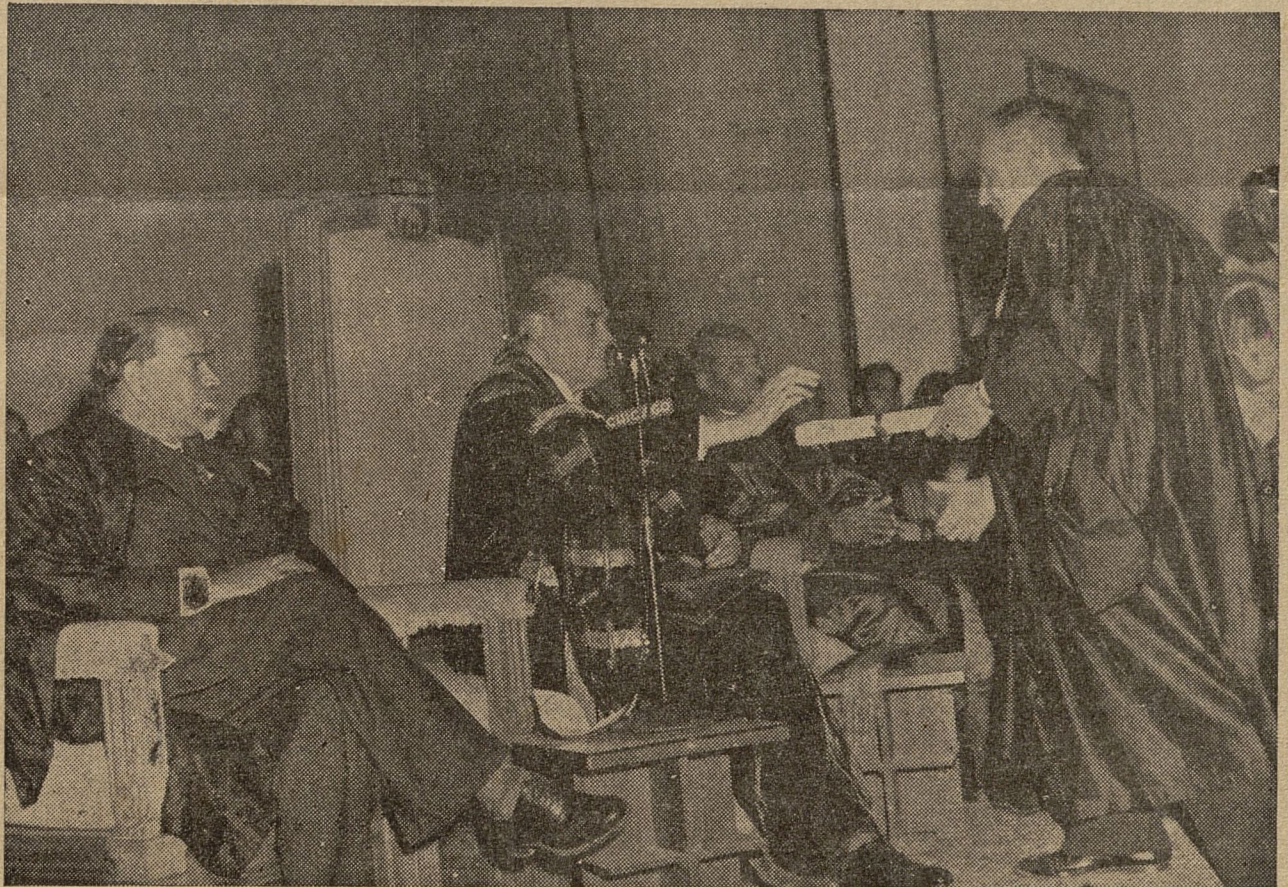
The Hindustan Times

CIRCULATION IN NORTHERN, NORTH-WESTERN AND CENTRAL INDIA

NEW DELHI: SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1950.

ON INDO-CEYLON

*Delhi Varsity
Convocation*



Mr V. Shibayev, head of Department of Russian, receiving from Sir Maurice Gwyer, Vice-Chancellor, a gold medal and citation at the 27th annual convocation of Delhi University, held yesterday. Sardar K. M. Panikkar, who delivered the convocation address is at extreme left.