

■ Nehru Centre

Is A New Global Order Emerging?

The Nehru Centre recently organised a conference on 'Is a new Global order emerging?' The conference brought together political and business leaders from India and the U.K. to create and implement the vision of India as a global leader in economic resuscitation and entrepreneurial activities.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, former president of India and one of India's most distinguished scientists. Other speakers included Lord Newby, Liberal Democrats'



Treasury spokesman in the House of Lords for 10 years; Lord Desai, Professor Emeritus of Economics at the LSE, Dr. Amit Mitra; Secretary General FICCI and Roshni Nadar, Executive Director and CEO, HCL Technologies. The programme was moderated by Lord Dholakia.

Amongst the dignitaries who

graced the occasion was Shiv Shankar Mukherjee, High Commissioner of India in London.

The conference was hosted by GOPIO and FICCI, represented and assisted by Lord Rana on behalf of GOPIO, Lord Dholakia and Harsh Pati Singhania on behalf of FICCI.

Ambedkar lecture



Hon'ble Justice K G Balakrishnan was invited to deliver the lecture, 'Judicial Activism and the Enforcement of Socio-Economic Rights', at The Nehru Centre on June 13. Shiv Shankar Mukherjee,

High Commissioner of India, was present on this occasion. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, also known as Babasaheb, was an Indian nationalist, jurist, Dalit, Buddhist, political leader and a Buddhism revivalist. He was also the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. Born into a poor Untouchable family, Ambedkar spent his whole life fighting against social discrimination, the system of Chaturvarna — the Hindu categorization of human society into four varnas.

Indian summer at British Museum

On June 5, Sona Datta, co-curator of the Jodhpur paintings exhibition at the British Museum gave a talk at The Nehru Centre, introducing various components of the 'Indian Summer' at the British Museum, which is playing host to a major programme of Indian cultural events this summer including an exhibition of remarkable paintings never previously seen in Europe titled Garden and Cosmos; the Royal Paintings of Jodhpur.



In Valley of Mist: Justine Hardy

In collaboration with Ryder Books, The Nehru Centre hosted a talk by Justine Hardy, author of *In the Valley of Mist* on June 8. It is a story of Kashmir told through family life. The *Valley of Mist* is an intimate portrait of the Kashmiri people and it moves from the winding streets and languid, misty waterways

of the capital, to the militant training camps hidden deep in the breath-taking landscape, portraying the local reality of trying to stay sane, maintain family life, and seek solace in religion, while being attacked by those acting in its name. The talk was chaired by Rod Pryde, director of the British Council, New Delhi

Book Launch: Apni Apni Aag

In association with Medha Books, Delhi, Mahendra Dawesar launched his book, *Apni Apni Aag*, at The Nehru Centre on June 3. This is one of the two books selected by the High Commission of India, London, for the grant accorded to new and upcoming authors. Mahendra Dawesar's stories included in this collection, sensitively portray the social and emotional problems of the Asian immigrants in the U.K. Some of the stories included have already been published in literary Hindi magazines in India and have been very well received.



Speakers included acclaimed author and co-editor of *Purvai*, Usha Raje Saxena, Tejendra Sharma, well known author and founder of *Katha-U.K.*, and Ravi Sharma, Sunrise Radio.

JRD Tata — Personal Memories

Maneck Dalal OBE, Chairman of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan UK since 1973, gave a talk on his personal memories of J.R.D. Tata at The Nehru Centre auditorium, to a full house on June 4. The talk was chaired by Anwar Hasan, managing director, TATA Ltd. U.K. A graduate of Cambridge University, Maneck Dalal was called to the Bar in 1945. He then went on to establish Air India in the U.K., as its regional director. In 1977 he became managing director/vice chairman of TATA Ltd., London.



Mirch Masala



The Nehru Centre screened one of Ketan Mehta's triumphant efforts, *Mirch Masala*, on May 29, starring Naseeruddin Shah, Smita Patil and Om Puri. The film is set in colonial India, when *subedars* (tax collectors) went from village to village with soldiers, often demanding more than taxes. Mehta also won the Best Film Award at Hawaii for this film.

Exhibition of photographs



An exhibition of photographs by Dr. Satyendra Singh was inaugurated at The Nehru Centre on June 2. The exhibition celebrates the joys of childhood in the Himalayas and journeys into a world still 'untouched' in many ways. The photographs were candid and posed for with families, friends,

toys, pets — dogs, goats, cows, and even a cobra. For the artist the inspiration came from the Himalayas and a desire to share all the joy he has received.

Dr. Satyendra Singh is a teacher, surgeon and filmmaker, and has travelled extensively in the Himalayas while interacting with people on a medical mission.

Round table conference



On June 6, to celebrate the three decades of lively and busy Gujarati Literary Academy, Dr. Gulzar Kanji, a prominent educationalist, conducted a discussion at The Nehru Centre.

Speakers included Dr. Dayashankar Joshi, former Head of the Language Department of South Gujarat University and Dr. Adam Ghodiwala (Adam Tankarvi). The Guest of Honour was reputed author Prakash N. Shah.