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THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB OF INDIA

What it Strives For?

Presently the world is torn apart ideologically and this gap between the two blocs is progressively on the increase. Forces of mutual hatred and suspicion are over-active and are trying to tear the world to pieces. The countries on the two sides have entered into an arms race and any day we might witness again the horrors of the Second War. On the side of the Eastern bloc Red Dragon is raising its ugly head and its lust for power is becoming a threat to the entire world. Obviously an emergent need of the hour is to check the over-play of such forces and thus to terminate the compartmentalisation of the human race.

It is, therefore, imperative that the trend for international outlook must increase to safeguard the interest of the peoples. The Commonwealth Club of India, a non-political and non-sectarian organisation, established recently with its headquarters at New Delhi aspires to take a step further in this direction. Its main aims are to strive to preserve Commonwealth traditions and to further friendly relations amongst the Commonwealth countries. Recently the institution of the Commonwealth has been passing through serious crisis, when even its most ardent supporters felt shaky and fell in line with those who because of their ideological interests, have been opposed to this institution from the very beginning. It, however, survived many of these shocks, viz. Suez crisis when the mother country was charged by even a member like India of having not observed the Commonwealth tradition of mutual consultation before launching the invasion; South African Government's strong belief in their policy of apartheid and their consequent withdrawal from the Commonwealth; British decision to join the Common Market at the cost of the Commonwealth trade; and recently which we have witnessed is the attitude of certain Common-

wealth Powers on the Chinese aggression on India's North-east and North-west frontiers. An African member went to the extent of questioning the logic of British arms aid to India. Such trends are not healthy in the interest of the organisation.

The Commonwealth Club is established to promote better understanding and knowledge respecting the peoples and the countries of the Commonwealth.

To achieve these objects, the Club proposes to publish brochures on various aspects of the Commonwealth and on important issues arising from time to time insofar as they affect the Commonwealth. The Club will also undertake extensive research work on the history of the Commonwealth.

The Club celebrates its first public function today at India International Centre when the New Zealand High Commissioner is speaking on New Zealand and the Commonwealth.

New Zealand being the first in the series, every month one High Commissioner will be invited to speak on his country *vis-a-vis* the Commonwealth. These lectures will be edited and annotated carefully and later on published in the form of a book.

Soon the Club will have branches all over the country and will also seek affiliation with societies with similar aims abroad, such as the Royal Commonwealth Society of London. Lastly it aspires to erect a Commonwealth House in the Capital, wherein research facilities could be provided to the students interested in Commonwealth affairs. Besides it will also provide hostel facilities to visitors from the Commonwealth countries.

This is a healthy trend in international outlook which is the need of the hour.

— A. P. Jain

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AIMS AND OBJECTS

1. The name of the Society shall be "Commonwealth Club of India".
2. The Headquarters of the Society shall be situated at New Delhi.
3. The objects of the Society are to promote better understanding and knowledge respecting the peoples and the countries of the Commonwealth; to further friendly relations within the Commonwealth and to foster unity of thought and action in matters of common interest.
4. The Society shall be a non-political and non-sectarian organisation.
5. These objects shall be pursued by the Society by—
 - (i) Providing a central meeting place to its members;
 - (ii) Maintaining libraries and newspaper rooms in order to disseminate information regarding travel, education, business, domicile, and other matters concerning the Commonwealth;
 - (iii) Producing and publishing journals and other publications giving information regarding economic, political, social and cultural aspects of the Commonwealth and a free interchange of ideas in these fields;
 - (iv) Holding meetings for the discussion of subjects of Commonwealth interests and providing opportunities for visitors from other countries to give expression to their views;
 - (v) Promoting, assisting and undertaking research investigations in different fields and to encourage comparative studies of the ways of life in Commonwealth countries;
 - (vi) Arranging special programmes in schools, colleges, and universities by providing lectures, essay competitions, debates and other cultural activities in order to encourage better understanding amongst the youth of the Commonwealth;
 - (vii) Providing information services to assist the students from the Commonwealth countries studying in India;
 - (viii) To set up branches of the Society;
 - (ix) To build a Commonwealth House to provide residential facilities for the members of the Society, visiting students and teachers of the Commonwealth countries and visitors interested in Commonwealth nations;
 - (x) Using such other methods as are conducive to promote the aims and objects of the Society.
6. The funds of the Society will be raised by means of membership fees, donations, public collections, charity programmes, advertisement campaigns, travel programmes, Commonwealth House membership and any other means deemed fit and approved from time to time by the Executive Council of the Society.