

# 'His address in Russian was tremendously applauded'

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During these visits, I would often talk to **Madam Lokasindari** and exchange views about the hoary Indian culture and heritage. It is said that behind every successful man, there is a woman. How true was it of the Ramans.

She told me that they were inspired by the great epic Ramayana and named their abode 'Panchavati'.

One bright morning, **Dr. Raman** told me with a beaming smile that he had been invited to visit USSR as a State Guest to receive the prestigious award. He added that he would very much like to address the Soviet Academy of Sciences at Moscow in the Russian language during his visit. The Russian Language which I had taught him in those few weeks was too rudimentary to undertake such a mammoth exercise.

Nothing is impossible for a great scientist like him. He immediately hatched a plan and suggested that I should give him a scripted text of the speech which he would practice to deliver. A couple of days later, Lady Raman told me during a repartee that her husband used to practise the speech delivery by heart like a school boy, something she could not decipher. On hearing his wife's jibe, Dr. Raman told me he was ready to deliver the speech. At the rehearsal session, he waxed eloquence over his heavily Tamil-accented Russian speech. Both lady Raman and myself had a hearty laugh. While appreciating his sincere effort, I told him that nobody would understand him if he spoke with that accent. I then gave him a cassette with the speech delivered in my voice. With the help of this cassette Dr. Raman fine-tuned his speech.



A clipping of a 1957-edition of *The Sunday Standard* carrying the report on C V Raman receiving the Lenin Peace Prize

Soon after, my assignment in Bangalore ended and I was called back to Bhilai to take up my designated job in the newly inaugurated steel plant. After a few years, when I came to Bangalore, I made it a point to visit 'Panchavati'. To my dismay, I learnt that Dr Raman had passed away. On further enquiry, I came to know that his address in Russian at the Soviet Academy of Sciences was tremendously applauded and was a great success.

I solemnly paid my tributes to the great scientist and patted

myself on my back for having added a few flowers to his bouquet of successes. May his life and memory inspire the young and budding scientists of India. May his soul rest in peace.

*(The author studied in and taught at the Indian Institute of Science in the 1950's. He has served the Indian steel industry in various management and leadership capacities over five decades. He is 82 years old and lives in Kalyan Nagar)*