

Nehru Centre  
cordially invites you to  
a discussion on



## *Nehru: Utopian Or A Statesman?*

*written by*

**Dr. N.G. Rajurkar**

(Professor Emeritus (Political Science), Osmania University)

on

Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

at

Hall of Harmony, Ground Floor, Nehru Centre

Shri Sudheendra Kulkarni will be in  
conversation with the author.

Dr N. G. Rajurkar is a renowned political scientist and is known for his lifelong passion for studies on Gandhi, Nehru and India's freedom struggle. He is a recipient of the best teacher's award of the Government of Andhra Pradesh (1991) and the esteemed Maharshi Vithal Ramji Shinde award of the government of Maharashtra for his creative work entitled 'Pratibimba'. Dr. Rajurkar is a polyglot with keen interest in English, Hindi, Urdu and Marathi literature.

Shri Sudheendra Kulkarni served as a special aide to India's former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) between 1998 and 2004. Since the middle of 2009, he has been working as chairman of the Observer Research Foundation Mumbai, an independent public policy think tank. He is a columnist with the Indian Express and also writes regularly for many other publications on a wide range of subjects.

Open to all

Tea: 4.30 p.m.

Discussion begins: 5.00 p.m.

R.S.V.P. : [aratidesai@nehru-centre.org](mailto:aratidesai@nehru-centre.org)



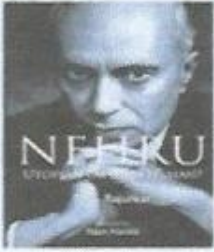
## About the Author

Dr. N.G. Rajurkar, Professor Emeritus (Political Science), Osmania University is a renowned political scientist and is known for his lifelong passion for studies on Gandhi, Nehru and India's freedom struggle. He has taught and inspired his students for more than 4 decades, with his profound grasp of the subject and extraordinary teaching abilities. He has several awards to his credit including the Best Teacher's award of the government of Andhra Pradesh as also the esteemed Maharshi Vithal Ramji Shinde award of the government of Maharashtra for his creative work, entitled '*Pratibimba*'. He has given memorable keynote addresses and has chaired prestigious international seminars in India and abroad. Besides, he has delivered Dr B R Ambedkar Memorial Lectures on '*India's Freedom Struggle*' before the members of the Indian parliament and other dignitaries in December 1991.

He has been a part of his faculty's various selection committees. He was conferred the degree of Doctor of Literature (Social Sciences) by the Punjabi University, Patiala in December 2010. As a scholar, teacher and academic administrator, his humane outlook has earned him an outstanding reputation.

Dr. Rajurkar is a polyglot with keen interest in English, Hindi, Urdu, and Marathi literature. His speeches and writings have their own artistic sensibilities and a natural flair that renders them interesting even when they are on highly technical subjects.





## About the Book

In the year of the fiftieth death anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru, this timely book has ventured to review Nehru's contribution in shaping trajectories of political developments in pre and post-independent India. In the process, it covers a wide canvas of ideas, ideologies, personalities and events that were most significant in Nehru's political career as a freedom fighter (1920-1947) and the first Prime Minister of India (1947-1964). In his relentlessly persuasive narrative, the author not merely argues that Nehru was the tallest leader of independent India but he places Nehru next only to Mahatma Gandhi. On the one hand, the author gives credit to Nehru for recasting Gandhian ideas within the framework of modernity, while on the other hand, he is conscious of the fact that Nehru parted company with Gandhi as a modernizer and built foundations of heavy industry, constructed large dams and chose to run Indian National Congress (INC) as an umbrella party, even though Gandhi would have liked it to be dissolved after independence. The author asserts that even though Nehru's emancipatory project of development did take cognizance of Marxist ideas, he was uncomfortable with dogmatic and doctrinaire views of Indian communists who looked for inspiration from outside to formulate their plan of action in India. Consequently, he chose to oppose them in domestic politics. After observing all the protocols of scholarship and going through the relevant primary sources in minute details, the author has refrained from squeezing Nehru's policies into any straitjacket schematic framework by either dubbing them as idealistic or realistic. Instead, he has explored complexities that shaped such policies in order to come to terms with the making of modern India.

As Prof. Rajen Harshe very appropriately points out in his Foreword to the book, "Being a sensitive scholar, the author has virtually stepped into Nehru's shoes to appreciate the circumstances in which he had to take decisions while dealing with difficult conditions".

*(The book will be on sale at the venue)*