

One example of Nehru's achievement was shown to us on our visit to India in 1965, one of the National Laboratories he founded. It was the Indian Institute of Technology in New Delhi, one of the five Institutes of Technology which were all generously supported by foreign countries. The one in Kharakpur enjoyed the support, financial and academic, of UNESCO; the one in Bombay by the USSR; the one in Madras had German help; Kanpur received assistance from the USA and the one in New Delhi had help from Great Britain.

Nehru had stated his views quite explicitly when he laid the foundation stone for the New Delhi Institute of Technology in 1959:

“If modern life depends on science and technology, then we must seize hold of them, understand them, and apply them.”

When in 1965 our group of British Science Correspondents visited the Institute, it was only half ready, yet such was the pressure and desperate need for technical education that the first students had arrived to take up their courses. The first degrees were awarded in 1966.

With my great interest in the history of science and technology, I was delighted that the New Institute had a geographical link with a theological University built in 1295 AD by Sultan Allauddin Khilji, near which it now stands. Nearby is the Qutb Minar with its famous wrought iron pillar, 7 m high, dating from about the 5th or 6th century AD. It has never rusted. This still awaits a final and definitive explanation why it has withstood the annual monsoon rains; it will remind the students of the Institute that Indian technology was once highly developed.

Land, buildings, services and salaries are paid by the Indian Government, while Britain funds research and teaching equipment not available in India and provided reciprocal visits of teachers and students. By the time of our visit, the British Government had donated more than half a million pounds sterling. Particularly appreciated were the close relations with Imperial College in South Kensington, London (my own college).

The inspection of the Institute of Technology was our last scientific event and we returned to Bombay. From there I sent the following telegram:

EX BOMBAY 650619 PAWLEY SERVICE DT LONDON
Owing aircraft breakdown and tour extension return delayed two days
STOP Onstaying upfollowing possible exclusive angloindia technological
university story STOP Greatly appreciate permission for three days
local leave after utterly exhausting furnace temperature atomic tour
uptaking personal invitation chief secretary kashmir MICHAELIS.

Mr Pawley, the Managing Editor, of the *Daily Telegraph* (DT above) granted my request by return telegram.