THE COLOUR OF THE ISSUE IS

ULTRAMARINE BLUE

"Ultramarine Blue is a colour, illustrious, beautiful, and most perfect, beyond all other colours; one could not say anything about it, or do anything with it, that its quality would not still surpass."

-Cennino Cennini, 14th-15th Cent. Italian Painter.

Ultramarine, the tender retiring blue colour, was for centuries, the most highly prized of all traditional pigments not only on account of its intrinsic value but also for its durability and excellent colour. At all times the demand exceeded supply.

It is derived from lapis lazuli, a semi precious stone, which is a mineral of the sodalite group. One of the best known mines is in the Khoka Valley in Afghanistan.

Ancient Indian Shilpa texts dealing with painting refer to lapis lazuli as "Rajavarta". In the Manusollas (circa 12th Century) it is compared to the flower "atasi" (common flax). It is suggested that "rajavarta" is a Sanskritised form of the Persian word "Lazward", the source of Ultramarine. The stone is heated, then fractured by plunging in cold water after which it is crushed and ground. It is then dried and applied by mixing with a binding medium like Gum Arabic. Cennino Cennini prescribes in his 'Artist's Handbook' an elaborate process of extracting ultramarine from lapis lazuli, and it is interesting to note, that the process is not unlike the one prescribed in the "Silpaparana" (16th century) for earthen and mineral colours. (For oil painting, poppy oil was preferred.)

In India, it was used in the Maha Murals in the 5th century AD, in the illustrated palm leaf manuscripts of the 11th Cent., in the Jain "Kalpasutras" executed between 12th and 16th Cent. and in the Mughal miniatures. Nowadays ultramarine is produced synthetically.

-Auupan Sah-
Final Year Student of Conservation,
National Museum, New Delhi.
WE DEDICATE THIS ISSUE TO

KUMAR GANDHARVA

The world of music mourns the departure of an institution. An institution that grew in the most unusual circumstances; an institution that caused the most intriguing, path-breaking innovations that took Indian classical music to greater heights; an institution that explored the cosmic space of art for sixty one years and became one with it on January twelfth, nineteen ninety two.

Kumarji, the innovator, was inspired by Kumarji, the searcher; since his mind did not rest for too long on any established style. He seemed to be in the quest for something within the realms of the various ‘gharana’ traditions, but something that also went beyond them all. Something which when crystallised, would be his own. Yet, his search was instinctive, intuitive. His response to the influences of his early life was his innovative creativity. This, clubbed with his inclination towards the lyrical content of music, made him the most loved, the most disliked and the most controversial exponent of Hindustani music.

Kumarji’s rendition was a manifestation of his quest for music in its totality. His plaintive, imploring ‘bhajans’, his joyous singing of the Gita quartet, and the painful romance of his Meera ‘bhajans’ are but some of the examples of his musical search for that intangible, elusive truth—the search for the right ‘swara’, the right mood, the right chord. The listener was compelled to wander with him on a journey across the musical universe.

Kumarji, the musician will always be remembered. With him ends one of the most significant eras of Hindustani music. He shall be greatly missed by classical afficionados and folk fans, the old and the young, connoisseurs and lay people. While the mortal remains of Kumar Gandharva are consigned to history, his music will resound in our hearts forever.

SHARADA RAMANATHAN
Dear Editor,

Thank you for the first issue of THE EYE, and let me congratulate you and your team. As an ardent campaigner for the protection of organic existence, I think such a magazine is urgently needed in our times. Thanks for publishing the piece on the Tandwa Super Thermal Power Station. The STPP was to be built at an estimated 2500 crore. It may again be situated within the North Kiranpur Valley where a rare prehistoric site including rock paintings, stone tools, dolmens, etc. have been found recently. We are in the fight to stop twenty coal mines being started by the Central Coalfield Limited which will destroy the environment through extracting 29 million tonnes of coal annually at a displacement of 400 hectares per million tonnes in the first phase of exploitation, and 7 h.a. perm. t. thereafter.

If we achieve the total protection of our forests and agricultural fields, no matter what the cost is, how significant the gain or insignificant the losses it will be worthwhile. The idea is in the principle that what we seek to protect is the source of life. In helping the awareness of this need to protect, I congratulate you.

Bulu Imam,
'The Grove,' Hazaribagh,
Bihar.

Dear Editor,

It was really refreshing to go through THE EYE which was gifted to me by a close friend. What one is trying to do is to use our own culture as a vehicle of change. But there are limitations in expressions of every culture. For instance, in India, there is no concept of collective liberation, only personal "nirvana" is possible, while in Islam and Christian culture, the concept of revolution and "jihad" came about without the understanding of the limitless inner. So, they believe in the limitlessi eco-tech material growth process and frequent sexual changes to provide a sense of movement.

To live under the illusion that we can live with a certain identity is never going to be a "soulution". We live in a global market and if faith in the human unlimited has to take place, then it has to be a composite faith which includes the West, the East, the tribal and above all, the woman and child. For the woman and child are 80% of every society.

It really does seem that all one’s friends are either settled in Ph.D’s or U.S. universities and just about any young person seems to be taking the intuitive of the like the child who saw the naked king said so.

I wish you luck and success with THE EYE.

Sunny Narang,
4A, Pocket C, Siddhartha Extension
New Delhi-110014.

Dear Editor,

I was extremely happy to learn about your new journal. When I saw the cover and the article on Kutiyattam I was even more pleased. This is certainly a much neglected art form. Several years ago when I was in Kerala attending a seminar at Kotayam, Prof. Anandamurthy arranged a performance of Kutiyattam for us. I never forgot it. It seemed to me to be one of the most powerful art forms of traditional India and I wondered why I had not seen it before. It is true, as Safina Oberoi points out in her article, that most audiences would find this form too lengthy and demanding, especially if one was not familiar with Sanskrit or Malayalam. However, it should not be allowed to fade into oblivion because of this. As Spic-Mocay has rightly understood the need to create and train audiences, I wonder if this form could be to begin with, presented somewhat differently. It could be shortened, for one thing, and also it would need to be carefully introduced by someone who could sensibly point out the characteristic features of the form and explain them. This might give some encouragement to the artists and performers of Kutiyattam as it must be very discouraging for them to feel that they have lost their audience.

The other articles in this issue indicate a wide scope within the format of the Indian art scene. I wish you success in your venture and look forward to your next issues.

Francine E. Krishna
R-5, University Campus
Jaipur-302004.
Dear Friend,

The theme of the issue is Consumerism. By its very nature, the topic is open to endless speculation and debate. There is no denying that it is the religion of today and like all religions, their tenets must be studied, understood and interpreted.

Here, we look at this rather ‘problematic religion’ more philosophically. Some of our senior writers have contributed willingly. The craze for acquisition alone impels man today. This impulse is overt in most cases, but very subtle and often unnoticed in others. Naturally, its goodbye excellence, hello mediocrity. The raison-d'être of work has changed and targets have acquired a new meaning. Is this new religion, paradoxically enough, formulating the death of the spirit? The spirit seems to wander in agony as it collides painfully with cluttered spaces. Spaces filled with our last mad bid for happiness.

The caterpillar consumer emerges - a small person, caught in a small world of greed, aggression, selfishness and loneliness. Shall we ever see

"Tall people, sun-crowned, who live above the fog in public duty and private thinking?"

[Signature]
MOODY BLUES AND MADONNA

SANJULA SHARMA

Why must I catch a falling star
Why hold on to a dying dream
The way the cookie crumbles
Is the way it’ll always be.

Thus flew my pen as I sat dejected on my forlorn bed. Nothing was right. Or was everything wrong? The world was topsy turvy. I could imagine the globe movin’ round, movin’ round... a gamut of rotations only enhancing the sense of displacement and fragmentation. What were life-incidents, thoughts or incongruities in the face of this tumbling jigsaw? A disjointed world. Contradictions visible everywhere, looming large on my mind like scorpions on the arid sand. For instance, that morning cup of tea. A beverage that refreshes and certainly does not dehydrate. A kind of lethargy incapacitating my limbs? An opiated stance that would have Bachic revellers staring agape? I don’t know.

Just don’t know why my thoughts were cloudy on a sunny day. Or why a dusky mood settled on a morning brow. Why couldn’t someone switch that blasted radio off? “La isla bonita”, an island in the sun... did Madonna find it, did you?

Nice enough voice but not Hawaiian. A voice fashioned for a 20 million show. And the applause, the encores. Today you, tomorrow someone else. Everywhere the same story.

Hackedneyed stuff, all. Like the Hollywood yarns bedazzling the wide-eyed and escapist fools. Glamour. Oomph. Calf love, undying promises... a rose garden depicted so cleverly you never saw the thorns. Packed shows, coffee, popcorn. Pure fantasy or starved dreams?

Dreams, sweet dreams. Fashioned by advertisements that ensnare the weak, the gullible. A yacht, balmy winds, pretty girls and what have you... a cigarette ad. Great till you see the statutory warning. Svelte models luring lesions vulnerable to an enticing world. So what if the froth girl prefers Thumbs Up? Or the Lari one, Camay? It’s all in the game. Like those Modistone tyres that promise to take you home safely, unless you’re in a DTC bus. Or a Maruti 1000 cruising 100 kmph on a crowded highway.

Incompatibility again. The griny, sweaty mass packed like sardines in a precarious bus, peering longingly at a sleek Benz. Can hold six, but the saucy tycoon prefers a wider berth... more space to ponder. On the next million. And so the gap grows. High-rise and the hills, beggar and the prince, the laughter and the pain. A swaggering mean, no meeting ground. What is the just, the bad, the good?

I only know my mind is overwrought by the sultry heat of confusion. No cool havens soothe away blistering thoughts that hammer incessantly (was that the porter at Hell’s gate?) Is it a heat stroke, I wonder, that catapults me face to face with the question of my own identity?

Superb posture of indolence, vacant eyes, crazy thoughts jostling for supremacy... a being caught up in the vortex of existentialism. Did I believe in myself? Was I because I was? Vacuities, mundane philosophy.

How much to ponder? If something, anything, happened, it would break the monotony of easy existence. Even the rains would do. They’d make things colder. And then we can search for the heat. Those moody blues. And with it the devil’s own dark thoughts. That makes me wonder why...
CONSUMERISM

CHASING THE DRAGON
IN QUEST OF THE "HIGH" LIFE.

C.B. MUTHAMMA

We live in an age when the whole world appears to have accepted the dictates of a certain geographical section on the map which is alien to us. This section of the map is what is now known to us as the First World. From more mundane matters like dress to more important matters like the structure of society, the world tries to follow them. More importantly, the 'good life', the high consumptive pattern appears to have an irresistible attraction. Nowhere, including in India, with its long history of intellectual achievement is there an attempt to examine whether a) it can succeed in emulating this pattern at a practical level and b) whether it is desirable to do so.

Over a couple of centuries, Western Europe established colonial empires across the world, with all that these implied. Their surplus population was exported to large continents that were sparsely populated. The North and South Americas, Australia, New Zealand and congenial parts of Africa. Consequently, both the local population and their resources were at their disposal. These countries then became 'captive markets'. This naturally gave the rulers a head start in both the industrial and technological revolutions, and their supremacy in economic terms was established. This is a process that cannot be replicated by India and other Third World countries.

Is an alien socio-economic pattern and a high consumption lifestyle practical in a country like India? A certain proportion of the privileged population (most often English speaking) has succeeded in surrounding itself with these sub-subsistence level people is larger than our total population at the
time of independence. There is a steep growth in crime of all kinds, from bribe-burning to burglary, murder and kidnapping for ransom, mostly by those who seek short cuts to consumptive prosperity. Governmental power, whether political, bureaucratic, police or otherwise, is also seen as a prime instrument for amassing wealth. In plain language, there is widespread corruption in high places.

The economic and cultural intervention of the North in life styles of Third World countries manifests in various ways within these countries. It is, for instance, only with industrialisation that deforestation has become a grave problem. Earlier, timber was always available for local uses like cooking fuel, housing and so on. But with industrialisation the result is that not only has it gravely injured our permanent resources, but has marginalised tribal societies which, in the past, had been self-contained and contented.

A recent report stated that around 80% of India's bonded labour consists of dispossessed tribals. There is evidently a paradox between what the government rather self-righteously proclaims and the policies they pursue.

The oppression and hopelessness of the masses is resulting in the alienation of large sections of the people, producing agitation, terrorism or secessionist movements. We have got to the state that countries like India are now being classified as the Fourth World; a group which not only has not solved its own problems, but shows signs of never being able to solve them. In the meantime, as we are told by experts, there is a net transfer of resources from the Third (and, of course, the Fourth) World, to the Developed world. India, like many other developing nations is contributing to the material prosperity of the First World and continuing to maintain its own poverty.

Third World leaders and spokesmen have been quick to point out in summits and conferences that the developed world consumes more than its share of natural resources. In other words, what the earth has is not sufficient to ensure to the entire world, a lavish lifestyle. If these resources were fairly distributed, lifestyles around the world, including those of the developed world, would have to be more modest. Are we ready for that?

Quite apart from these practical problems, we should weigh the desirability of such a high consumptive lifestyle, which usually results in Peter being robbed to pay Paul. It is imperative that a new model has to be constructed, which balances human needs and nature's capacity. Many tribal societies have used this model for centuries. A salient feature of theirs is the 'commonness' of property as opposed to 'individualism'. Therefore, economic, social and emotional security was everyone's birthright. They worked on patterns of democracy.

There is no question, of course, of going back to tribal societies at this stage. But instead of destroying these communities, the essential principles of these organisations could be modernised and utilised to the modern age. This would essentially involve building self-governing, self-reliant communities from base upwards. This is the only possible basis on which people's freedom and unhampered creativity can be put at the service of the people's needs and mark a break from the present pattern of the many poor of the world working to contribute to the wealth of the few rich.

The over-centralised society lends itself to power brokers whose ambitions are in direct conflict with the interests of the people. These centralised institutions in turn, lend themselves to manipulation by powerful international and economic forces.

India has never, in all its history, been xenophobic. We have plenty to learn from our neighbours and the West. But the exchange has to be on an equal basis.
The contemporary environmental crisis is directly related to the high consumption life styles of northern industrialised countries which are now being transferred to our country in the name of development and progress. To consume as much energy, paper, CFC’s, hamburgers as Americans do is considered the measure of being “developed”. But, inherent to limitless consumption as a measure of progress is the destruction of the environmental base of our survival. Consumption ultimately reduces itself to the original meaning of “that which destroys and exhausts.”

“Development” is the project of modelling everyone’s consumption on U.S. standards. The U.S. is currently consuming one third of the world’s fossil fuel energy even though Americans make up only 5 percent of the world’s population. If the entire world population was to have that level of consumption, we would need six
Consumerism

Planets instead of one. The awareness that consumerism as the contemporary cult is environmentally unsustainable can lead to two environmental options. The first option is to break away from that cult - to treat consumerism not as a symptom of liberation, but as a symptom of bondage, not as an indicator of social disease. It involves living within nature's limits, and treating the recognition and respect of those limits as the essence of being human and being free. A corollary of everyone within nature's limits is that everyone has access to means of survival, and nobody is denied the right to life. Ecology in this sense provides the basis of democracy.

The second option of resolving the contradiction between high consumption levels and environmental limits is to preserve the consumption levels, but only for a few. If everyone cannot have access to the high consumption life styles of the west due to resource limits, then it is the poor people of the Third World and not those lifestyles that must be sacrificed. The philosophy of "triage" - of getting rid of the "weak" for the survival of the "strong" is the logical expression of a cult based on consumerism as the religion of industrial society - the sacred which cannot be touched. Many outcomes follow from treating consumerism as a modernist/fundamentalist religion that must be preserved at all costs. Firstly, as in fundamentalism, those who are outside the fold must be exterminated. The presumption of "triage" of coercive population control in the Third World are strategies of extermination of those whose only fault is that their poverty prevents them from participating in the orgy of consumerism.

"Population explosions" have always emerged as images created by modern patriarchy in periods of increasing social and economic polarisations. Malthus saw populations exploding at the dawn of the industrial era. The next major period of concern with over-population occurred between World War I and II when certain groups were viewed as leading to the deterioration of the human genetic stock. After World War II, these nations where unrest threatened U.S. access to resources and markets became known as the "population powder kegs". The latest round of concern with over-population comes with environment concern. Popularised through the concern for the survival of the planet, the picture of the world's hungry hordes have made population control appear acceptable and even imperative.

What this focus on numbers hides is the unequal access to resources people have and the unequal environmental burden they put on the earth. In global terms, a drastic decrease of population in the poorest areas of Asia, Africa and Latin America would make an impact immeasurably smaller than a decrease of only 5 percent in present consumption levels of the ten richest countries. The dominant processes at work, however, want to protect the wasteful "way of life" at any cost, and think of the poor only when it comes to accusing them of being burdens that should be treated as expendable.

The second serious outcome of preserving consumerism at any costs is that it makes diverse cultures dispensable. As consumerism takes on, more and more, the semblance of a religion - by becoming the only legitimate framework of morality that goes hand in hand with the rule of the market: Macdonalds, Pepsi and Blue Jeans become the sacredness, the holy communion. These ultimate symbols of a consumer culture destroy all cultures. In a very material sense, consumer culture is based on the consumption of nature and all cultures. It is this aspect of consumerism as predatory and inherently destructive that creates the imperative to go beyond it. And a post-consumerist world has much to learn from cultures and religions that have thought and lived sustainably because they valued the virtue of living within limits.

Vandana Shiva is an Indian physicist, philosopher and feminist. She is the author of "Staying Alive, Women, Ecology and Development" and is working on a new book, "The Violence of the green Revolution". She is actively involved in the Chipko movement. She is now Director of the Research Foundation for Science Technology and National Research Policy. She has a Phd in the Philosophy of Science from the University of Western Ontario and has since worked with the Indian Institute of Management and the United Nations Environmental Programmes.

Illustration: Aditi Roychoudhary

My Maidservant earns just Rs.200 per month!!!
And you know WHAT?..Yar?
She goes and buys for herself:
Talcum Powder????

Tut, Tut! This DEADLY CONSUMERISM!
M ALCOLM'S COLUMN

One of my most enduring memories as a child was travelling to visit my grandmother in London. I cannot pinpoint the year with any accuracy, but the bitter chill of that winter's day suggests it was 1949 - round about my sixth birthday. I vividly recall being overawed and fearful at the amount of destruction which remained after the Second World War. A few months later in the summer of that year, I was aware of the grass and willow herb bursting through the cracks of our ruined city, symbols of growth and renewal. However, my infant sensibilities were too young to grasp the fact that economic growth and renewal had become the universal panacea about to sweep Europe, and raise our material standards of living beyond the wildest dreams of avarice.

Amidst the bombed wreckage of former city streets, the numerous clusters of temporary housing (known as prefabs) gave many Londoners their first encounter with modern living conditions. Indoor lavatories and bathrooms were standard fittings in these temporary dwellings. In contrast to the creaking slums bombed during the war, these overcrowded little prefabs were comparatively luxurious. In addition, the war years had brought large sections of the community into contact with American troops whose abundant supplies of cigarettes, zippo lighters, and nylon stockings offered an alluring glimpse of a consumer society. This message was reinforced throughout the fifties - Victor Lebow wrote in the New York Journal of Retailing: "our enormously productive economy demands that we make consumption a way of life, that we convert the buying and use of goods into rituals, that we seek our spiritual satisfactions in consumption...We need things consumed, burned up, worn out, replaced and discarded at an ever growing rate".

Here in Britain, the consumer boom slowly gathered momentum. In 1951, The Festival of Britain, 'Skylon' dominated the city horizon. This new momentum heralded not only a celebration of economic recovery after the war, but a new mood of liberalism in the arts and daily life. Europe's shattered economy began to grow at unprecedented rates, and wealth began to permeate through to all levels of society. Within a decade, Prime Minister Harold Macmillan summed up the mood of the country when he coined the phrase "You've never had it so good!"

In material terms he was right, and within thirty years, the consumer society dominated every aspect of life. The last census showed that 98% of British households owned a refrigerator, and a television set. 85% of households now have a washing machine. On average, there is at least one car per household in the UK. Homes are stuffed with luxurious furniture and labour-saving devices, while 30% of the population travel abroad for their holidays. New consumer durables like video recorders are commonplace...
ers, home computers, and personal stereos have become commonplace items in high street shops. Even the structure of the marketplace itself has changed; and now about a quarter of our gross domestic product (GDP) is devoted simply to consumer services. Travel agencies, life assurance, catering and hotel accommodation had an exponential growth rate of 6.4 per cent throughout the eighties. However, there has been a price to pay for our good fortune.

To-day, if I choose to wander around London (which is seldom) I am no longer awed by the deliberate destruction of a war-torn city, but by the mindless destructiveness of the consumer revolution. The streets are no longer strewn with bomb craters, but the visible wreckage of our industrial way of life. Litter is everywhere, traffic fumes pervade the atmosphere, while over consumption and poverty exist cheek by jowl. Luxury cars and expensive lifestyles isolate people from the realities of drug addiction, crime, and hopelessness. The senses are constantly assaulted by the gross inequality of a society where increased wealth is supposed to trickle down as a benefit to all. Within the glistening palaces of material consumption I can eat strawberries in mid-winter or dine on exotic Indonesian food to the sound of Latin-American guitars. The fact is that 20% of the world’s population now consumes 80% of its resources, and we in the North have derived enormous material benefits from plundering the resources of the developing world. In theory, the engine of economic expansion should be fuelled by an insatiable appetite for consumer products which, in a free market place, creates wealth. Given the passage of time, and minimum interference from governments, the wealth thus created should trickle down through all nations at all levels of society. It’s now forty years since the Festival of Britain erected its icons to economic development, and it is clear that the nation of beneficent capitalism works only within strictly limited boundaries, and has appalling social and environmental costs. UNICEF estimates that about half a million children die each year as a direct consequence of Third World debt. Half the world’s population does not have access to clean drinking water, and according to World Bank statistics, some 800 million people live in dire poverty.

The Marxist model of state controlled economic development is also flawed. The collapse of the Russian Empire has vividly demonstrated the folly of their industrial programme since the Second World War. Some 50 million people in Russia suffer grievously from industrial, chemical and nuclear pollution. In Poland, the River Vistula flowing from Warsaw to Gdansk is so polluted that its water can no longer be used even by industry. Such examples can be multiplied all over the globe with increasing regularity, and it is now quite clear that industrial expansion is pushing nature beyond the limits of her endurance.

Yet, in spite of all evidence to the contrary, politicians and economists persist with the notion of infinite economic expansion in a finite world. Clearly the model does not work, but in President Bush’s “new world order”, country after country is blindly embracing the free market economy without a thought for the quality of life or the well being of future generations. Doubtless, there will be some marginal short term successes like Malaysia, but there is currently an economic growth rate of 10% per cent per annum,
(a 3% growth rate means a doubling of production every 25 years). In cutting down their rain forests, and anorexic western style industrial expansion, not only are they destroying countless species of living things forever, but they are plundering the real wealth of that country which if managed in a sustainable way, might be capable of feeding unborn generations.

These days, it is only necessity which takes me to my capital city. It used to be said when I was a boy that “the streets of London were paved with gold”. Now it is hard to see the pavement through the debris of our throwaway consumer society. It is quite clear that the era of unlimited consumerism is coming to an end, and new economic models will be needed to take the world into the twenty first century. What we need to realise as quickly as we can is that present ideas about economic development are neither sustainable nor in the long term desirable. In the final analysis, all the consumer goods in the world will not compensate for an impoverished planet where one fifth of humanity lives in conditions of grinding poverty.

I have been lucky enough to live through the most prosperous forty years of Western European history, and as the threat of global warming, ozone depletion, overpopulation and famine become present realities, I remain cautiously optimistic. At this late stage new ideas are emerging which might contribute towards a fairer distribution of wealth. The green movement all over the world is beginning to address the problem in a number of diverse ways, and it is clear that given the spiritual commitment and political will, ordinary men and women can create a sustainable future for us all. If they fail, all of us will be consumed by the monster of our own creation.

Malcolm Baldwin is a gifted teacher, writer and a dedicated environmentalist. Born in the U.K., he has a B. Ed degree from the University of Sussex. He has worked in Theatre and as Film Editor mainly for BBC TV. He has been cameraman and director for several BBC productions. He is deeply committed to organizations such as Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, Environmental Investigation Agency and has produced environmental educational material.

Anything can be sold!

NOW THE HOLY GANGA FLOWS THROUGH YOUR TOWN
Hernetically packed at source at Gangori, 1500 ft. high in the Himalayas

- Healthiest natural mineral water ever known
- Just a pouch with your meals
- Make it a habit — for good health and prosperity.
- Invulnerable for puja and sacred rituals
- Spills in your shops, offices & homes everyday

THE NATURAL WAY TO CURE DISEASES

THE EYE NO.2 VOL.1 MARCH-APRIL 1982
13
"We sell, or else............"
David Ogilvy.
Every marketing manager around the globe knows and respects the awesome powers of advertising. In a world where sales and profits are the moving forces of society, promotion could mean the difference between life and death. Media promotion being undoubtedly the high priest of all promotional means, the marketing man advertises, advertises and advertises.

Now that the ‘profit motive’ is no longer an ugly phrase in the Indian scenario, it would be unwise not to examine the moral standing of advertising as an industry or institution. The primary objective of any advertiser is to sell. Hence, it is not unreasonable to assume that social concerns are only peripheral to his interest. On the one hand, advertising provides valuable service to society informing consumers about products and services, while on the other, it influences the independent thinking of the consumer and
attempts to change his behaviour. It is in this sense that the issue of discipline in advertising is to be considered.

Advertising today has grown into a thousand crore plus industry, from modest beginnings not so long ago. The industry has a healthy growth rate of around 17%. Capitalized billings of 88 major metro-based agencies alone comes in to around 720 crores. Translated into plain English, this implies a persuasive effort worth Rs.720 crores from agencies who advertise on a national scale and influence national consumer behaviour in a significant way. Market noise has also increased tremendously over the last five years, with hundreds of new advertisements being released every year. Television, radio and the print media are the main vehicles of promotion in the Indian context. Newer methods of promotion such as personal selling and direct mailing are also making inroads into the Indian markets.

The picture that emerges is one of growing chaos at the marketplace. Advertising agencies are shedding inhibitions and adopting any method available to cut through the media clutter and grab a piece of the consumer's ever-wandering attention. Under the circumstances, it would be unnatural if ad agencies did not throw ethical and moral considerations overboard in making themselves heard through the communication explosion. The man on the street however, is blissfully unaware of these conspiracies to take over his mind and convert him into a fertile colony with unlimited profit potential. It is in this context that the emergence of a high profile watchdog agency becomes the need of the hour.

The first ethical point which should be examined is that of deception whether it be wilful and blatant or subtle and understated. Deception appears in many forms, some of which are common enough to merit discussion.

Is an advertisement which uses false information or which leads to false conclusions ethically correct if the eventual product satisfies the consumer in terms of the benefits he expects?

Even a marketing guru, Ted Levitt, has nodded an emphatic 'yes' as an answer to this issue. Think again. The consumer is lured into buying the product in the first place through false or misleading information. He is the victim of a marketplace hypnosis act, which is totally unethical.

CASE: Brand X of toilet soap has just been launched. The ad proclaims in a not too modest manner that the soap contains ingredient Y which, of course, does all sorts of miraculous things to your main nourished skin. What it does not mention is that there are brands A, B, and C in the marketplace which also contain Y and that brand X has nothing new to offer. The discerning consumer (a scarce commodity) is able to sift the hype and draw out the strand of truth. But the remaining millions go out and buy X as if it is their last chance to save their withering skin.

CASE: A microwave oven is advertised. The proud mother-homemaker role model stands, surrounded by pulao, kormas and succulent chicken. The copy screams that there is no limit to the culinary heights which the said oven assists in achieving.

In her dining room, Mrs. Bhattacharya, 28 and mother of two wonders why the chicken she makes never achieves the stunning visual effect of the mouthwatering red in the picture. Little does she know that the chicken in the pic-
ture is a perfect fake, coloured and doctored to precision by sharp production designers. Likewise, most food product advertisements are doctored with additives, colour processing and a wide array of tools which technology has thrust into wrong hands. Ice-cream, soups, instant foods, health drinks, chocolate - in all these cases, the real thing bears little relation to the photographed product displayed in ads.

Personal care products are the greatest villains in the deception game. Facial creams, hair removers, skin care lotions, soaps, talcs...... the list is endless.

The first-person copy drools over the virtues of the moisturiser-cum-lotion. For every teenager who compares her own face with the Facial Cream Goddess, a con is executed and a product is sold.

In the area of corporate advertising and capital issue advertising, deception takes the form of misrepresentation. Many companies branch technology transfers and collaborations which may amount to buying a few pieces of machinery from the “collaborators”. Though the MRTP commission does investigate allegations of misrepresentation, there is no formalised code of conduct which regulates agencies and companies from twisting half truths to their own advantage. Many a time, as in the recent case of a leading textile manufacturer, the commission is forced to reject complaints for lack of a clear definition of misrepresentation. Selective use of information and suggestive copy in capital issue advertisements often lead investors to make wrong investments.

Offensiveness and bad taste are the other important issues which advertisers tend to neglect in their trade. To the advertiser, the human mind is a fortress under siege. The advertising army camps outside, plotting, scheming and exploring the weakness of the fortresses. As India’s booming middle class carries the flag of conspicuous consumption forward the Indian advertising industry has responded by adapting ("copying" would be a better word) trends of Western advertising (product to image to positioning, etc.). The result is often a host of advertisements which are insensitive to cultural and social considerations. A glaring example of bad taste is the case of the pimpled girl whose parents cannot find a good match for her until she has cleared her facial defects with a popular brand of pimple cream. Such advertisements not only spread wrong messages but also subliminally scar young minds with baseless complexes.

Does advertising cause people to buy things they don’t really need? The advertising establishment often argues, despite criticisms to the contrary, that advertising has only a limited influence on the consumer. They argue that one of the functions of advertising is to awaken sub-conscious desires. But where does one draw the line between the stimulation of a genuine latent need and the hidden promotion of conspicuous consumption? A case in point is a recent advertisement for, hold your breath,...... designer underwear for children. Do we really have to stimulate demand for such products in a country reeling under a DOP deficit, cash crunch and woes of all, millions of underprivileged children?

In a consumerist society, it is impossible to discriminate among needs. Consumption is raised to the level of an ethic which renders superfluous all the whys and whereas. There is a singular absence of goals and society degenerates into a feeling of anonymous well-being, where every man believes himself to be affluent but is totally unaware of where his affluence should lie and does lie. In such a society, books, ice-cream, Kuchipudi and motorbikes get the same ranking. Thus conspicuous consumption has no pattern, no self-guiding mechanism. Man
buys objects independently of the use
he can make or wishes to make of
them. It is this consumption ethic which
modern day advertising preaches and
promotes. I consume, or else...has
become the byline of the Indian middle
class.

Advertising is more often than not
accused of conditioning people, thrust-
ing choices upon them and taking away
part of their freedom. Paradoxically,
the lack of direction which advertising
fails to give to consumption has also
thrown men into a state of unbridled
liberty, in that it gives license to any
form and magnitude of consumption.
Advertising achieves this by pam-
pering the whims and fancies of the
human mind. One of the more recent
Japanese business aphorisms doing the
rounds says that "the consumer is no
longer king, he is God".

Moving away from these generic
areas, some issues specific to the In-
dian scenario can also be identified as
problem areas.

Lifestyle selling has become an
accepted mode of promotion for many
products ranging from cigarettes to
clothing. However, what is disturbing
is the fact that a substantial amount of
lifestyle selling has blatantly Ameri-
can/European overtones. Awe of the
occident is a pre-natal instinct in the
Indian psyche which surfaces in all
types of situations. It is the same
instinct which surfaces when, on a rural
train, an old village patriarch gets up
from his precious seat to accommodate
a European punk in a vest and bermu-
das and when intellectuals lap up the
lecture of any mediocre occidental
professor with more reverence than
they would accord Sri Aurobindo. It is
the same instinct which is cleverly
used by the ad world when they adver-
tise a range of products from clothing
to liquor and soft drinks to cars.

It is particularly significant that all
these advertisements are targeted pre-
dominantly at the young. There exists
an acknowledged yuppie-nouveau riche
minority in the country which idolizes
consumption and for whom such a life-
style is pre-sold. There is also a larger
middle class which may be brainwashed
into buying a lifestyle which is alien
to it. There also exists a third class of
nobodies, an amorphous mass of mal-
able minds which has the ability to
observe what goes on around them but

Cultural disjunction as a corollary
of homogenisation of the global mar-
ketplace is an observed social reality.
It is particularly significant as India
moves into the nineties with a host of
multinationals on her trail. Low levels
of foreign direct investment, misali-
mentation and mismanagement of resour-
ces and indiscriminate borrowing have
ensured that India finds itself in deep
economic crisis. The wave of economic
liberalization now sweeping the coun-
try brings with it serious cultural por-
tients. The government's recent deci-
dion to allow international brands is
significant in this regard, as most in-
ternational brands use campaigns which
are derived from, and are in many
cases, carbon copies of campaigns which
have run successfully in their own
countries.

Advertising has been one of the
most criticized industries in recent times.
The mantle of moderating and con-
ducting the debate on advertising eth-
ics has so far lain only with the industry
pundits and media sharks. It is impara-
tive that the ballooning middle class,
especially the young, take up the
debate on a much wider scale - which
explains this article and why I am
writing it.

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at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi.

One of the more recent
Japanese business
aphorisms doing the rounds
says that "the consumer is no longer king;
he is God".

lacks the analytical enterprise to ques-
tion.

CASE: The scene: A C-grade cinema
theater in a small town. The commer-
cials are on. A helicopter arrives at a
beachside resort, which is soon joined
by a seaplane. A flurry of bikinis, yachts,
surfboards and spray cans. Over ample
doses of nearly nude bodies, a soft
drink is pushed.

The damage that such commercials
do is irreversible. They aim at associat-
ing lifestyles with the products but end
up selling the lifestyle itself, thus cre-
ating what may be crudely jargonised
"as dissonances in the social psyche".

How subservient are Indian advertise-
ments to the Indian mind? Do In-
dian ads perpetuate and reinforce sub-
liminal messages of Western cultural
superiority?

CASE: A leading national magazine.
Liquor is advertised in the inside page
under the guise of club life. Pardon-
able? The visual shows a very Anglo-
Saxon profile attired in Raj finery flanked
by a very "desi" couple who look on
admiringly. The ad text sells the Raj
unabashedly. Raj nostalgia deteriorates
to Raj worship. Message? These were
good times, chaps....

The Eye is a forum for
young people (and others
not so young!) to send in
articles, short stories,
poems, photographs,
illustrations, cartoons etc.
We look forward to receiving them.
It is clear that Buddhist economics must be very different from the economics of modern materialism, since the Buddhist sees the essence of civilization not as a multiplication of wants.

"Right Livelihood" is one of the requirements of the Buddha's Noble Eightfold path. It is clear, therefore, that there must be such a thing as Buddhist economics.

Buddhist countries have often stated that they wish to remain faithful to their heritage. So Burma, 'The New Burma', sees no conflict between religious values and economic progress. Spiritual health and material well-being are not enemies, they are natural allies. Or: we can blend successfully the religious and spiritual values of our heritage with the benefits of modern technology. Or: we Burmese have a sacred duty to conform both our dreams and our acts to our faith. This we shall ever do.

All the same, such countries invariably assume that they can model their economic development plans in accordance with modern economics, and they call upon modern economists from so-called advanced countries to advise them, to formulate the policies to be pursued, and to construct the grand design for development, the Five-Year Plan or whatever it may be called. No one seems to think that a Buddhist way of life would call for Buddhist economics, just as the modern materialist way of life has brought forth modern economics.

Economists themselves, like most specialists, normally suffer from a kind of metaphysical blindness, assuming that theirs is a science of absolute and invariable truths, without any presuppositions. Some go as far as to claim that economic laws are as free from 'metaphysics' or 'values' as the law of gravitation. We need not, however, get involved in arguments of methodology. Instead, let us take some fundamentals and see what they look like when viewed by a modern economist and a Buddhist economist.

There is universal agreement that a fundamental source of wealth is human labour. Now, the modern economist has been brought up to consider 'labour' or work as little more than a necessary evil. From the point of view of the employer, it is in any case, simply an item of cost, to be reduced to a minimum if it cannot be eliminated altogether, say, by automation. From the point of view of the worker, it is a 'disutility'; to work is to make a sacrifice of one's leisure and comfort, and wages are a kind of compensation for the sacrifice. Hence the ideal from the point of view of the employer is to have output without employees, and the ideal from the point of view of the employee is to have income without employment.

The consequences of these attitudes both in theory and in practice are, of course, extremely far-reaching. If the ideal with regard to work is to get rid of it, every method that 'reduces the work load' is a good thing. The most potent method, short of automation, is the so-called 'division of labour' and the classical example is the pin factory eulogised in Adam Smith's, Wealth of Nations. Here, it is not a matter of ordinary specialisation, which mankind has practised from time immemorial, but that of dividing up every complete process of production into minute parts, so that the final product can be produced at great speed without anyone having had to contribute more than a totally insignificant and, in most cases, unskilled movement of his limbs.

The Buddhist point of view takes the function of work to be at least threshold: to give a man a chance to utilise and develop his faculties; to
enable him to overcome his ego-centricity by joining with other people in a common task; and to bring forth the goods and services needed for a becoming existence. Again, the consequences that flow from this view are endless. To organise work in such a manner that it becomes meaningless, boring, stultifying, or nerve-racking for the worker would be little short of criminal; it would indicate a greater concern with goods than with people, an evil lack of compassion and a soul-destroying degree of attachment to the most primitive side of this worldly existence. Equally, to strive for leisure as an alternative to work would be considered a complete misunderstanding of one of the basic truths of human existence, namely that work and leisure are complementary parts of the same living process and cannot be separated without destroying the joy of work and the bliss of leisure.

From the Buddhist point of view, there are, therefore, two types of mechanisation which must be clearly distinguished: one that enhances a man's skill and power and one that turns the work of man over to a mechanical slave, leaving man in a position of having to serve the slave. How to tell the one from the other? "The craftsman himself," says Ananda Coomaraswamy, a man equally competent to talk about the modern west as the ancient east, "can always, if allowed to, draw the delicate distinction between the machine and the tool. The carpet loom is a tool, a contrivance for holding warp threads at a stretch for the pile to be woven round them by the craftsmen's fingers; but the power loom is a machine, and its significance as a destroyer of culture lies in the fact that it does the essentially human part of the work." It is clear, therefore, that Buddhist economics must be very different from the economics of modern materialism, since the Buddhist sees the essence of civilisation not in a multiplication of wants but in the purification of human character. Character, at the same time, is formed primarily by a man's work. And work, properly conducted in conditions of human dignity and freedom, blesses those who do it and equally their products. The Indian philosopher and economist, J.C. Kumarappa sums the matter up as follows:

'Re the nature of the work is properly appreciated and applied, it will stand in the same relation to the higher faculties as food is to the physical body. It nourishes and enlivens the higher man and urges him to produce the best he is capable of. It directs his free will along the proper course and disciplines the animal in him into progressive channels. It furnishes an excellent background for man to display his scale of values and develop his personality.'

If a man has no chance of obtaining work he is in a desperate position, not simply because he lacks this nourishing and enlivening factor of disciplined work which nothing can replace. A modern economist may engage in highly sophisticated calculations on whether full employment "pays" or whether it might be more "economic" to run an economy at less than full employment so as to ensure a greater mobility of labour, a better stability of wages, and so forth. His fundamental criterion of success is simply the total quantity of goods produced during a given period of time. "If the marginal urgency of goods is low," says Professor Galbraith in The Affluent Society, "then, so is the urgency of employing the last man or the last million men in the labour force." And again, "If we can afford some unemployment in the interest of stability - a proposition, incidentally, of impeccably conservative antecedents - then we can afford to give those who are unemployed the goods that enable them to sustain their accustomed standard of living."

From a Buddhist point of view, this is standing the truth on its head by considering goods as more important than people and consumption as more important than creative activity. It means shifting the emphasis from the worker to the product of work, that is, from the human to the sub-human, a surrender to the forces of evil. The very start of Buddhist economic planning would be a planning for full employment, and the primary purpose of this would in fact be employment for everyone who needs an 'outside' job: it would not be the maximisation of employment nor the maximisation of production. To let mothers of young children work in factories while the children run wild would be as uneconomic in the eyes of a Buddhist economist as the employment of a skilled worker as a soldier in the eyes of a modern economist.

While the materialist is mainly interested in goods, the Buddhist is mainly interested in liberation. But Buddhism is 'The Middle Way' and therefore in no way antagonistic to physical well-
being. It is not wealth that stands in the way of liberation but the attachment to wealth; not the enjoyment of pleasurable things but the craving for them. The keynote of Buddhist economics, therefore, is simplicity and non-violence. From an economist's point of view, the marvel of the Buddhist way of life is the utter rationality of its pattern - amazingly small means leading to extraordinarily satisfactory results.

For the modern economist this is very difficult to understand. He is used to measuring the 'standard of living' by the amount of annual consumption, assuming all the time that a man who consumes more is 'better off' than a man who consumes less. A Buddhist economist would consider this approach excessively irrational: since consumption is merely a means to human well-being, the aim should be to obtain the maximum of well-being with the minimum of consumption. Thus, if the purpose of clothing is a certain amount of temperature comfort and an attractive appearance, the task is to attain this purpose with the smallest possible effort, that is, with the smallest annual destruction of cloth and with the help of designs that involve the smallest possible input of toil. The less toil there is, the more time and strength is left for artistic creativity. It would be highly uneconomic, for instance, to go in for complicated tailoring, like the modern West, when a much more beautiful effect can be achieved by the skilful draping of uncut material. It would be the height of folly to make material so that it should wear out quickly and the height of barbarity to make anything ugly, shabby or mean. What has just been said about clothing applies equally to all other human requirements. The ownership and the consumption of goods is a means to an end, and Buddhist economics is the systematic study of how to attain given ends with the minimum means.

Modern economics, on the other hand, considers consumption to be the sole end and purpose of all economic activity, taking the factors of production - land, labour, and capital - as the means. The former, in short, tries to maximise human satisfactions by the optimal pattern of consumption, while the latter tries to maximise consumption by the optimal pattern of productive effort. It is easy to see that the effort needed to sustain a way of life which seeks to attain the optimal pattern of consumption is likely to be much smaller than the effort needed to sustain a drive for maximum consumption. We need not be surprised, therefore, that the pressure and strain of living is very much less in, say, Burma than it is in the United States, in spite of the fact that the amount of labour-saving machinery used in the former country is only a minute fraction of the amount used in the latter.

Simplicity and non-violence are obviously closely related. The optimal pattern of consumption, producing a high degree of human satisfaction by means of a relatively low rate of consumption, allows people to live without great pressure and strain and to fulfil the primary injunction of Buddhist teaching: 'Cease to do evil; try to do good.' As physical resources are everywhere limited, people satisfying their needs by means of a modest use of resources are obviously less likely to be at each other's throats than people depending upon a high rate of use. Equally, people who live in highly self-sufficient local communities are less likely to get involved in large-scale violence than people whose existence depends on world-wide systems of trade.

From the point of view of Buddhist economics, therefore, production for local needs is the most rational way of economic life, while dependence on imports from afar and the consequent need to produce for export to unknown and distant peoples is highly uneconomic and justifiable only in exceptional cases and on a small scale. Just as the modern economist would admit...
that a high rate of consumption of transport services between a man's home and his place of work signifies a misfortune and not a high standard of life, so the Buddhist economist would hold that to satisfy human wants from far-away sources rather than from sources nearby signifies failure rather than success. The former tends to take statistics showing an increase in the number of ton/miles per head of the population carried by a country's transport system as proof of economic progress, while to the latter - the Buddhist economist - the same statistics would indicate a highly undesirable deterioration in the pattern of consumption.

Another striking difference between modern economics and Buddhist economics arises over the use of natural resources. Bertrand de Jouvenel, the eminent French political philosopher, has characterised 'western man' in words which may be taken as a fair description of the modern economist:

'He tends to count nothing as an expenditure, other than human effort; he does not seem to mind how much mineral matter he wastes and, far worse, how much living matter he destroys. He does not seem to realise at all that human life is a dependent part of an ecosystem of many different forms of life. As the world is ruled from towns where men are cut off from any form of life other than human, the feeling of belonging to an ecosystem is not revived. This results in a harsh and Improvist treatment of things upon which we ultimately depend, such as water and trees.'

Just as a modern European economist would not consider it a great economic achievement if all European art treasures were sold to America at attractive prices, so the Buddhist economist would insist that a population basing its economic life on non-renewable fuels is living parasitically, on capital instead of income. Such a way of life could have no permanence and could therefore be justified only as a purely temporary expedient. As the world's resources of non-renewable fuels - coal, oil and natural gas - are exceedingly unevenly distributed over the globe and undoubtedly limited in quantity, it is clear that their exploitation at an ever-increasing rate is an act of violence against nature which must almost inevitably lead to violence between men.

This fact alone might give food for thought even to those people in Buddhist countries who care nothing for the religious and spiritual values of Brown of the California Institute of Technology gives the following appraisal:

'Thus we see that, just as industrial society is fundamentally unstable and subject to reversions to agrarian existence, so within their ability to avoid the conditions which impose rigid organisation and totalitarian control. Indeed, when we examine all of the foreseeable difficulties which threaten the survival of industrial civilisation, it is difficult to see how the achievement of stability and the maintenance of individual liberty can be made compatible."

Even if this were dismissed as a long-term view there is the immediate question of whether 'modernisation', as currently practised without regard to religious and spiritual values, is actually producing agreeable results. As far as the masses are concerned, the results appear to be disastrous - a collapse of the rural economy, a rising tide of unemployment in town and country, and the growth of a city proletariat without nourishment for either body or soul.

It is in the light of both immediate experience and long-term prospects that the study of Buddhist economics could be recommended even to those who believe that economic growth is more important than any spiritual or religious values. For it is not a question of choosing between 'modern growth' and 'traditional stagnation'. It is a question of finding the right path of development, the Middle Way between materialist heathenism and traditionalist immobility, in short, of finding 'Right Livelihood'.

The essay is taken from E.F. Schumacher's well known book "Small is Beautiful".

Pix: Courtesy IGNCA

Democracy is not a state in which people act like sheep. Under democracy individual liberty of opinion and action is jealously guarded.

-Gandhi
SIMPACITY

EXCELLENCE THROUGH SIMPLICITY

A MAJOR DIMENSION OF EXCELLENCE IS SIMPLICITY

A MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS

M.B. ATHREYA

Many people hold an unstated assumption in their mind that success in any field is due to the availability of resources, opportunities, luck, etc. Young people on the threshold of life are particularly liable to this assumption. For the many young in India, who are not affluent, this can be a very discouraging, debilitating thought. For the few who are affluent also, this idea can be a source of complacency and under achievement. Such attitudes could lead to destructive competition, cornering of resources, exhibitionism, wastage and similar ills of a consumerist society.

EXTERNALISING
All the three factors mentioned above - resources, opportunities and luck - are examples of “externalising” explanations for what happens in human lives. Externalisation takes place in two ways:
(i) Attributing another person’s success to his or her favoured access to resources, opportunities or luck.
(ii) Explaining away one’s own failures to the alleged lack of these three factors.

Both ways of responding to life are unfair and unhelpful, to the person and to oneself. Let us examine some of these rationalisations.

RESOURCES
The normal human tendency is to seek more resources at any given time. This tendency is manifested at different levels of human aggregation - the individual, family, organisation or nation. To be sure, there are occasions when additional resource inputs are required. But more often than not, the hidden agenda is to preempt and hoard the resources, so as to deny it to some other party - be they relatives, friends, colleagues, another organisation or a foreign nation. The macro, global impact of this micro level obsession with resource control and enjoyment is to threaten the environment, ecology and the survival of plant, animal and, indeed, human life.

MANAGEMENT LESSON
Modern management science offers a number of concepts, which are not only relevant to business organisations, but are also very pertinent to individuals, families and nations in managing their respective affairs. It is particularly useful to young persons, who have still to make some basic choices of values, attitudes, goals and life positions. They do not have to go through the same amount of unlearning of wrong mind-sets, and relearning of meanings that older adults have to.

Management Science helps each of us raise the following crucial questions about resources in our lives.

i) Are you making optimal use of resources already available to you?

ii) Are you developing the resources at your command, starting from even a small base?

iii) Are you generating more resources, by multiplying the returns on existing resources?

iv) Are you mobilising the resources in and around you, which may be untapped or under-tapped?

v) Are you conserving resources, with a long-term perspective?

Let us examine some examples:

UTILISATION
First of all, is one aware of all the resources at one’s command? Make an inventory of these:
a) Human Resources - These are the most valuable resources. Philosophically, since even object to the use of the term “resource” with respect to human beings. Yes, we humans have several dimensions, all simultaneously valid:
- We are the “sources” of all thought, goals and actions.
- We are also the “ends” of all activity, outputs and benefits.
- We can be, in addition, resources to ourselves and to others.
You have direct access to at least three the following:
- Yourself.
- Your siblings.
- Parents.
- Close friends.
- Direct Teachers.
One can examine ways of better utilisation of these human resources through:
- Interaction.
- Learning.
- Evaluation.
The biggest challenge is to know and utilise one’s own capacities better.

b) Physical Resources - If one wants alibis, there are many things to complain about:
- Lack of an independent room for study at home.
- Lack of an independent fast transport like car or motorcycle to college and back.
- Inadequacy of books and papers.
- Insufficient repertoire to display savoir-faire at work and socially.

History is replete with examples of individuals excelling under severe resource constraints. I grew up with stories of freedom fighters, scientists and academics studying with hurricane lamps, under street lighting in the early days of rural electrification; in crowded houses, schools, trains, buses and public places.

c) Financial Resources - This is in two parts:
- The family’s total disposable income.
- One’s own pocket money.

In a wider culture of consumerism, one can so easily fail prey to the tendency for an inferiority complex, with several possible feelings, such as that:
- My parents are not rich enough to get a good start in life - like scaring
- But the greatest scope for development is with oneself. The two major developments of the contemporary world underline the centrality of the individual and his initiative.

But the greatest scope for development is with oneself. The two major developments of the contemporary world underline the centrality of the individual and his initiative.

...
- Laws, policies and systems should ensure that the elite is coming up on merit and demonstrated performance.
- Culture should foster the norm that the elite will see it as its duty to contribute, to enrich society in various ways - economically, educationally, aesthetically, etc.

GENERATION
An attitude of dependence keeps one waiting for resources from outside.

One’s confidence and self-worth go up by generating one’s own resources. This is a way of earning and deriving autonomy from parents, teachers and seniors in any context - firm, club, association or similar organisation. Delegation and freedom are not only to be given, but taken by one’s initiative.

Resources can be “generated” by an individual in several ways:
- Time saved from wasteful applications is, indeed, time generated. An era of consumerism is an invitation for wasting time in a myriad ways:
  - Window shopping.
  - Shopping.
  - Promenading, in order to display what one has acquired.
  - Party time, to see and to be seen.
  - Seeing films and videos, not on merits, but to be seen to be “in” “with it”.
  - Similarly, reading certain kinds of magazines and books.

A core message in Time Management training courses is:
“You will not get the time to do the many things that you want; but you will have to make the time to do the priorities”.

- A fair amount of “learning” can be generated by seeking out the right kinds of experiences, introspecting on them, generating insights about one’s strengths, weaknesses, aptitudes and aspirations.
- Physical, psychological, intellectual and spiritual energy can be generated by:
  - Physical and mental fitness, through appropriate exercise and diet.
  - Meditation for stilling the mind and probing deeper into one’s sub-conscious.
  - Selective reading and exposure for conceptual clarity.

- Philosophical and devotional exploration for some understanding of the cosmos, life forms and human links and responsibilities.
- Avoiding misuse of that energy in unproductive pursuits and conflicts.

We have held back the most obvious and elementary aspect of generation, namely that of money. It takes a fair amount of maturity and self-control in a climate of consumerism to control one’s herd instincts, refrain from excessive consumption, and make a habit of saving from pocket money first, and from income later.

MOBILISATION
One of the key elements of leadership in any field is to mobilise dormant resources. Such leadership is required in all fields - in the student body, faculty, government, industry, arts, politics and social service. Pumping a lot of external resources is not an effective route to excellence. In fact, experience shows that external resources, beyond a point, harm individuals, communities and nations. One can mobilise resources creatively in many ways:
- Invite classmates and friends to be directly involved in worthwhile projects - intellectual, aesthetic, environmental, etc.
- From those who cannot devote time to such projects, get contributions in cash or kind - books, papers, clothes, etc.
- Similarly, provide worthwhile outlets to people in the neighbourhood and surrounding community.

INDIAN PERSPECTIVES
The above points are not an argument for austerity, self-denial and asceticism. Excellence can be achieved quite consistent with enjoyment. However, one dimension of excellence is simplicity. Goodness and any form of excess is a wastage of resources, and hence detracts from the very concept of excellence. Indian philosophy recognises four legitimate objectives of human existence. It recommends them in a particular order, namely:
  i) Dharma - Righteousness
  ii) Artha - Wealth
  iii) Kama - Enjoyment
  iv) Moksha - Release

The mortal is typically likely to evolve in the following order:
- a) Kama - Want to enjoy the good things of life.
- b) Artha - Seek wealth to buy those things.
- The consumerist ethos stimulates the individual towards these two objectives. Developing country governments will chase GNP growth for some time to come. Industry will develop new products and services and advertise heavily and seductively. It is rather for the individual to defend himself against over-stimulation. He or she can do this by consciously cultivating simplicity, not so much in goals, but in methods. Such simplicity will lead most individuals towards the third objective:
- c) Dharma - Pursue wealth and enjoyment through the right methods.

In this ageless debate of whether good wins over bad, or vice versa, the data at individual, national and international levels continue to underline the message of hope that good wins, and increasingly faster.

Indian philosophy has two other simple messages that can help us towards excellence. Both are in the Gita:
- i) Yogah karmas aakarshanam - Yoga is excellence in action. It is an invitation to excel in whatever one does.
- ii) Yogah samvrit udhayya - Yoga is balance. Avoiding extremes.

In an age of consumerism, a balanced approach to life is more imperative. We can conclude with two statements:
- i) Excellence is Simplicity - Making complex things simple, by cutting out the inessentials.
- ii) Simplicity is Excellence - Doing things as simply and efficiently as possible, is the best route to excellence.

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NEEDED
A POLICY PRESCRIPTION

NALIN JOHRI

Does the world of allopathic drugs conform to the basic tenets of the Hippocratic oath? This "industry of service" has now become an "industry of commerce" and has gone the consumerist way. The author analyses some of the issues involved.

SPURIOUS DRUGS AND QUALITY CONTROL
Of late, a disturbing trend has also been noticed. Drugs which are meant to cure humans are killing them more often that not, due to their substandard quality. The most common example is the faint opacity of a fungus observed in intravenous solutions, causing febrile reactions. These substandard products are flooding the market due to the amended drug rules (1977) which require that every drug manufacturing unit, big or small, set up an "in house" laboratory for testing drugs. Earlier, the manufacturers could get their raw materials and final products tested by government approved laboratories. Failure to comply with this could even lead to cancellation of the license of the errant drug manufacturer.

Big houses like Glaxo, Hoechst, Ranbaxy etc. can afford to and have quality laboratories. But what does the average small manufacturer producing maybe only one or two specific drugs do? This adds to his cost of production, placing him in a peculiar situation - the cost increase might wipe out this manufacturer from the market, but if he doesn't comply with the laboratory clause, the drug controlling authorities would wipe him out. As it is, the storage of technical staff to man such laboratories and the possibility of the manufacturer pressurising their technical staff to approve, the emergence of batches of substandard drugs appears a likely outcome. Of course, the drug control authorities would like to counter this argument by clinging to the flimsy reason that under these amended rules, a manufacturer can carry out quicker and more tests.

TECHNOLOGY NEEDING RENFMENT
The story of medical equipment is even stranger. There is a black market for catheters, scalp-vein sets, etc. Mind you, scalp-vein sets are manufactured in India. But their quality leaves a lot to be desired. Dr. Nayan, who practices in a private nursing home in Delhi, opined that he would feel safer using the fine Japanese scalp-vein sets on his patients rather than their poorer Indian cousins. Strange, a small thing such as a scalp-vein set and we just don't have the
technology to turn out good quality sets. Or, is it due to the fact that technology is tied up in perfecting the technique to make imitations, so much so that the real thing - the scalp-vein set, fades into the background? Even otherwise, the mind has been so conditioned that people would rather fork out the extra rupees even if it means an under-the-counter transaction, the end result of course being a quality product. Not realizing that what they are left with is a fake product. Who do they get redressed from? Don't the "extra rupees" send an unambiguous signal to manufacturers Indian, not to compromise on quality?

LICENSES TO...

Many specialized lines of treatment, as in cancer, require drugs which, besides being very expensive have to be more often than not imported from abroad. And importing means entering the murky field of licenses. If a particular drug is in short supply, what does a helpless consumer do, short of a letter to the Drug Controller? The authorities invariably reply giving a list of Indian companies with the requisite import licenses and also the news that the said drug is not in short supply. How does this help the consumer who still has to wait for Mr. Fix-it to "arrange" the medicine? It is not just the latest antibiotics like Vancomycin which are in short supply but also the coon BCG vaccine, so necessary for immunization, which are hard to come by. Take the case of potassium penicillin. This was manufactured by Sandhhat Chemicals and also by the public sector, Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd (IDPL). Supplies were easy to come by. The ailing IDPL then became so sick that losses have completely eliminated the net worth of the company many years ago. IDPL has built up an accumulated loss of Rs. 427 crores by March '91. In this scenario, potassium penicillin started disappearing from chemists. The peculiarity of the situation borders on the tragic. IDPL can be revived possibly by privatization. But this will depend on the government's will to carry this move through, especially as all the units are in politically sensitive states. Added to this is a recall test with a force of 12,000. And the Rishikesh plant of IDPL has some of the best facilities to manufacture, besides potassium penicillin, streptomycin, tetracycline, oxytetracycline, ampicillin and ceftizoxime. These are some of the most widely used antibiotics. If the November 29, 1991 public sector strike is anything to go by, it is unlikely that this privatization move will see the light of day.

PRICING THE RIGHT MIX

The Drug Price Control Order, by deviating from the original policy direction of 1979 has made the manufacture of non-essential drugs more lucrative. Naturally, with no compulsion now bearing on them, drug manufacturers are giving the bye to many essential drugs. However, the Ministry of Chemicals has finally woken up and is looking into the matter and is trying to bring some sort of linkage between the price structure and the list of essential drugs, so as to ensure that the production capacity improves during the Eighth Plan period. There is a plethora of non-essential drugs with at times unnecessary changes in formulation and brand names. The result being that there are many manufacturers of the same drug - something which could easily be cut down upon.

PRODUCERS' HEADACHES

Problems exist not just for the consumers. The producers also have problems, some of them very genuine. To highlight some of these problems, a strike was called by the pharmaceutical trade and industry on the 26 of August '91. Issues centered around, withdrawal of five percent ceiling on price increases, neutralization of cost escalation, on account of devaluation, cost increases due to domestic inputs would be neutralized, computing prices on actual as against notional costs, continuation of loan license manufacture and trade margins for retailers. Apparently only the first two are under ministerial consideration. What this augurs for the common man, besides the obvious increase in prices is more hardship.

The revised draft of the New Drug Policy which is awaiting Cabinet clearance, proposes radical changes with far-reaching consequences. The major policy changes that this enunciates are: a) a single maximum allowable post-manufacturing expense (MAPLE) of 100% by merging the existing two drug categories into one b) reduction in number of drugs under price control from 140 in category I to around 95 in the single automatic escalation of prices list under certain conditions e) companies will be allowed to jack up prices to the extent of 70% of the increase in the wholesale price index, de-reserving 7 of the 15 drugs that are manufactured exclusively by the public sector.

IN PURSUIT OF AN AWAKENING

The picture that emerges from all of this, is at best, confused. It hinges on a lot of ifs and buts. The situation is in a state of flux but indications are that the drug prices might rise even higher. Quality control as well as the essential/non-essential mix of drugs are issues which cannot be left to the social sensitivity of manufacturers. Something concrete needs to be done about this and fast. With no let up in the rising prices, an ailing pharmaceutical industry (though some major companies are in a position to flaunt their bottom line) and a government preoccupied with a host of other issues, falling ill can prove a very costly affair. Hard times are in store for the man in the street whose only fault is that he is not well.

Nalin Johri, 22 is the volunteer editor of the National Cancer Foundation newsletter. He is a student of economics at the Hindu College, Delhi.

University Illustrations: Rustam

THE EVENING TIMES, VOL. 3, MARCH-APRIL 1992

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She heard some voices from far away. A voice boomed across, "This is an atrocity committed on the holy mother cow. May the damnation of God fall on these sinners and criminals who have slaughtered the innocent cows."

Another agitated voice spoke, "A country in which this sin was committed has taken leave of its senses. That country will surely sink in the curse of the innocent blood of its cows."

A hundred voices echoed from a vaulted sky. It was as if these voices from the darkness had assuaged the rays of the rising sun.

Kapila was sinking into a numbness and her hoofs were stuck in streams of warm blood that flowed on the ground.

Then she felt some people walking around in uniforms and surveying what had happened. She saw them with her stony eyes. Far away she noticed the wreckage of an aeroplane.

"Then what happened?" somebody asked.

A humble and abrupt reply came, "Sir, before taking off, I performed the routine checks and lined up the plane on runway 19. Releasing the brakes and power on 6000 RPM, I accelerated the engine to take off. When I looked outside, I could not see anything except the lights."

"What happened after that?" the voice asked impatiently.

"Kapila collapsed each time she tried to get up on her broken legs. Each time she made a gallant effort to dig her hoofs on the ground and stand straight, she staggered and crashed helplessly on the hard ground."

"Sir, the aeroplane kept on rolling, the speed was increasing, the middle marker indicated a speed of 135 knots. I pulled the control stick and as I did so I was looking at the instrument panel. The nose wheel of the plane lifted and then I felt a number of violent shocks and jerks."
He went on, "I shut the engine immediately and applied the brakes. It seemed as if somebody was shaking the plane violently. My first reaction was that, perhaps, the tyre of the plane had burst or skidded off the runway towards the trees. Or perhaps, it had crashed into a pit. At this moment, with a terrible jerk, the right wing of the plane broke away and with a sharp swerve turned right and then skidded off the runway. There were sparks around the plane as its belly scraped against the ground."

The impatient voice interrupted him, "Who was the navigator at that time?"

A new voice intervened, "Sir, I am the navigator of the plane. At the time of the takeoff, I was sitting on the crash seat. The plane came to a sudden stop and I tried to open the entry door. But the door had got jammed. Then I saw that the nose section of the plane had broken apart with a big gaping hole in it and I squeezed out of that hole."

Somewhere asked the pilot, "How did you get out of the plane?" An abject voice replied, "Sir, I had only one way of getting out and that was to jettison out of my seat canopy. I pressed the button, the canopy flung open and then again shut back with a bang. The aeroplane at that time was still. Therefore, there was no flow of air under it. I realised that I was imprisoned in the aeroplane. I tried to open the canopy with my hands but could not raise it. Then I tried to raise the canopy open by pressing my head against it. I struggled and opened it with my hands. Holding the jut, I jumped out. When I came out, I saw that the right wing of the plane had broken off. There were pools of blood round the runway and I saw many cows lying dead. I was afraid that with this impact the plane would catch fire. This is why we raced off and stood far away."

Another voice called out, "But how did these cows get into the airfield area?" Quick came the reply, "Sir, we are completely ignorant about it and it is, in fact, amazing."

An authoritarian voice rang, "The investigation must be quick and thorough. But right now the situation is volatile. Both of you should not go out of your protected areas. There is a demonstration going on in the village against us for having rammed into these cows."

Kapila felt that her life was ebbing away. Her eyes opened, blinked and then closed again. Her eyelids dropped over her eyes like heavy curtains. The light was fading into darkness. She felt a throng of people gathering around her as she heard a multitude of voices. Somebody asked, "Who are the owners of these cows?"

Kapila felt sometirrinr within her. But as she tried to look up, silence fell on the scene. From somewhere a voice came loud and clear, "Those of you who own the cows will give your names. You will get compensation for these dead cows."

Then a babble of voices tore the air in a burst of cries and shrieks.

"This was my cow, Sir."
"This cow is mine and my name is Shera."
"This was my cow, Sir, and my name is Harman.
"This cow is mine..."
"This cow..."
"This cow..."

The babble of voices and names shook this ghastly landscape of blood and hulks of flesh.

And then a voice thundered, "I see... You have given twenty names but there are only ten cows here. You are all a pack of liars."

Kapila tried to open her eyes to identify the owners. Some faces were familiar; the others complete strangers. No one ever knew from where

Amrita Pritam (born 1919) is a writer par excellence. Her works are largely in Punjabi. She is the recipient of the Jnanpith Award in 1981, for her outstanding work "Kaghaz Te Canvas", written in Punjabi.
they had come. Kapila recognised the face of her master, Mohan. She thought of her calf and with all the might of her fading life tried to yell out something. But a big lump choked her throat.

A voice boomed in the air, "You are claiming ownership of these cows because of the promised compensation. Eh, I see your game. You are not owners of these dead cows. You are all fakers and deceivers."

Even before these words could die away, the owners of the cows had quietly slipped out. A deafening darkness fell on the landscape. Kapila did not know whether it was the darkness of the approaching night or the darkness of death that was stalking around her. Ready to grab her by the throat and take her far away. A pause of silence followed as if many hundred years had passed. A voice yelled out, "Tell us, chauddar, how ever did these cows get into the restricted area of this airfield. We have just come to know that these cows are brought stealthily to graze here every night. The owners of these cows bribe you every month. You are going to be hauled up for this scandal."

Kapila's life was a mere faint glow now. She tried to move her tail to flap away the flies on her body. But even her tail had become numb and motionless.

Somebody marched on the scene with his boots thumping the ground. He shouted, "Where are the twenty people who had come to claim compensation? Now, no one is prepared to even own these dead animals. They even deny having ever seen them just because they have been told that they have caused a damage of thirty-five lakh rupees to our plane! And now the cows will have to bear this."

Kapila longed to see the face of her master but he had fled. Her mind reeled and shuttled back and forth in a myriad image of memories.

Time was when her master Mohan fell seriously ill and all hope of his recovery were given up. Some saint told him that on a particular Tuesday he should offer a ball of kneaded flour to his cow with his own hands. And, like a miracle, Mohan had recovered.

Kapila's numbness and lifeless limbs felt a strange sensation, a hunger of longing. A ball of kneaded flour! Memories shuttled backward and forward. On Tuesday. Was it a Tuesday?

Her master. Did she have a master? Who would ever own her now? A lump of lifelessness.

Kapila's story eyes faintly saw some movement in front of her. Maybe, Mohan had come after all. Maybe, he had come to put his soft hand on the lifeless skin of his dying cow.

With a great effort she tried to lift the eyelids off her misty eyes. A soft touch on her skin sent a shiver of warmth through her body. Something was touching her.... A touch of velvet.... A feeling of silk. Something softer and warmer than the caressing hands of Mohan.

Through the slit of her drooping eyes she knew who it was. Her own being. Her very life. Her own calf.

From somewhere, her own calf had come. Where did he come from? A part of her being, her own calf was licking the body of his dying mother. A surge of tide hit her and she was carried on it far away.

Translated from the original Punjabi by Mannmohan Singh
Courtesy: Pratibha India
Illustration: Suchitra Chauhan
THE DANCER, DANCING

That dancer dancing, the singer singing?
neither one nor the other
what one or other seem
but them, upon whom has come
the soul of fire leaping, water running-
spirits of the winds.

It is only so
those turning gyres, the whirling rings-
all such, surprising sounds from chords and strings;
the medium singing as it sings,
or springing up the breathless winding stair
though no wings.

Yes, as and when
fire-water-the winds-care to conspire
the pulse mounts higher,
tongue inspires-

a Nijinsky, an Ulanova
or who have you-
dreams.

GRACE

Half an hour, only a half
before comes the great divide
between day and absolute night.

And only in this half
to snatch a beating heart
from out the flaming jaws.

Stroke on stroke, the minute hand ticks off
the approaching digits
so not a dot remains.

The reign of stones resumed,
no force turns the waiting page-
to turn the untameable tides alone.

Half an hour, a half only
in which into eyes draw the glimmer
that lies flashing upon the waves.

Does such grace, as obtain
suffice to reuse body and soul
into a lasting reunion?

-Keshav Malik

Keshav Malik was born in Pakistan in 1924 and is a
Literary Editor of "Thought Daily." He is the art critic
of the 'Times of India' since 1978 and is an active
member of the Poetry Society. He has some poetry
volumes to his credit. They are called 'Negatives'. His
anthology, "Islands of Mind" has just been released.
The above two poems are from the same anthology.
A WALK

i would like to go
for a walk with you;
as we pass the side
of large grey walls
pluck white and yellow wild flowers
and
for that touch of cultivated
subtlety
collect a hand
of fragrant white jasmine
from the overhanging
of delicate leaves

as the mind becomes
a wisp of coolness
joining the blue sky
there lies only the distance
to the green hillock ahead

there, among the spread
of dark, large trees
one may turn round
to face
the marvel of creation.

-Akhila Ghosh

THE SEARCH

The road of destiny
each one different,
cross roads of life
leading to darkness,
leading to light.

Narrow, winding and
treacherous.
The road...pre-mapped
for all of us.

Calls, beckons and,
lures,
for some to fall,
into the gaps, opened
like primeval wounds,
for some, to claw,
their way, towards
the glittering eye
of the storm.

To be blown away
into a cosmic dance
or, devoured by
the many-headed hydra
called, Chance.

-Akhila Ghosh

THE DANCE
OF THE PEACOCK

It is not the dance itself
nor the colours that fascinate,
it is the moment of joy
above
a blue cloud
another joins, clicks into place
the stage is set
the colours shimmer
the long nose of the peacock
smells the wet earth

it is the moment of joy,
average of a repeated promise
being again fulfilled
the parched earth yields
to strains of jewelled rain
and a light spreading
in the sky.

-Akhila Ghosh

Send in your poems, with your name, age, occupation and address, to: Mayura Tewari, Poetry Editor, 143, golf Links, New Delhi- 110003

-Akhila Ghosh

A WAY OF LIFE

"I am in love with India",
the tourist said
when I saw him off
at the airport.

He was not referring to
the 200,000 or more
pavement-dwellers of Bombay.

Returning home, I glanced
at some of them-
and turned away.
I, too, was in love with India,
and even more, with myself.
What can be done, I ask
repeatedly
about India's poverty?
Then I settled down to one more
splendid South Indian vegetable
biryani
with a cheerful friend.

Loving India, and oneself,
is a way of life, after all.

-Nissim Ezekiel

-Sujata Pandey

THE EYE NO.2 VOL.1 MARCH-APRIL, 1992

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WHY BECOME AN ACTIVIST?

ASHISH KOTHARI

To be sensitive in these trouble-torn times is to be a worried person. It is not easy; one is always acutely aware of the injustices, the atrocities being committed, the cruelty of human nature. And what choice does one have then, but to be an activist?

I have been what one might call a voluntary activist for over a dozen years now. I have concentrated on environmental issues trying to do my very minute bit in bringing this insanely destructive world back into some semblance of sanity. In these twelve years I have seen things go from bad to worse; the loss of our heritage, forests razed to the ground, wildlife decimated, rivers turned into sewers, tribal dispossessed of their land and rights, people murdered and maimed by killer gases, and my own city, Delhi, become more of a hell-hole. But I have also seen sparks of hope turn into rays of light. Ordinary people promoting our heritage and the arts, saving forests, governments responding with appropriate policies, laws and programmes, and a whole range of alternative development paths emerging. Has life as an activist been worth it?

Sometimes, when it all gets too much, when news comes in of yet another forest sold off to a contractor, when the police shows its frequently repressive might against peaceful protesters, when another careless motorist drives over a puppy trying to cross the road, I almost wish I had never been sensitive to such things, never become an activist, but rather gone into diamonds or some such thing. Then all I would have had to worry about is the latest market prices... and perhaps about being kidnapped! How can people be so oblivious to anything other than themselves?

But they are, and so are, I am sorry to say, many of those who are reading this magazine. They are, quite frankly, not concerned about petty things like social exploitation and ecological destruction, they would much rather worry about monstrous problems like how to land a job with a cushy five-figure salary, or if they already have one, how to get a promotion. They would rather spend a few hundred rupees buying a new dress (so necessary for the Wednesday night party), rather than donate even a fraction of that on such trivial matters as earthquake relief. It is not necessarily anyone's fault; our bitterly competitive educational system moulds them into thinking how to be one up on the other, not how to help the other; and our "21st-century" consumerist society entices them into always wanting more than they have. Result: an uncaring, selfish, over-consuming, passive human being.

But then, what is wrong with that?

Plenty. Especially if the person in question belongs to the privileged section of Indian society (like myself) having had the opportunity of a comfortable life; adequate roti, kapda aur makaan (food, clothing and shelter), higher education, and urban amenities. Because then, he or she has been subsidised by the state and in all likelihood, has enjoyed such a lifestyle at the expense of
some less fortunate citizens of India. Let me explain that last part of the sentence a bit. In the past few years, it has become increasingly clear to me that our resource consumption in the city has a drastic impact on villagers, often hundreds of kilometers away. Our electricity probably comes from a dam which has displaced people and submerged forests or, from a thermal power station which pollutes the air and fields and waterways of villages downstream. The paper used in our daily newspapers and in the magazines we are so fond of, including this one, comes from bamboo forests which once supported entire tribal communities. The colleges we study in and the houses we live in are built with bricks made from the topsoil of some farmers’ fields, farmers who have probably been paid peanuts for it. And all this has been made possible by government policies which allow, indeed encourage, such transfer of resources from the villages to the cities, from the poor to the rich.

Does that make you feel guilty? I am sorry, that was not my intention. Guilt cannot be an adequate basis for taking to activism. For that, a simple lifestyle would be an adequate response. But an ascetic who seals himself/herself hermetically from society is not much more of a socially useful character than an elite person with a lavish lifestyle, only a little less destructive. Both are socially passive, and unable, or unwilling, to do anything about the crises around them.

But if not guilt, then what could be a basis for activism? Concern. Concern for the consequences of one’s actions, concern for the humans (and other creatures) who suffer things we would ourselves hate to suffer, empathy, respect for others’ lives, a feel for others. These are the cornerstones of activism. And those of us who are lucky enough not to have to worry about where our next meal is to come from, have a responsibility as human beings, to do something about these who do have such a worry.

What comprises activism? That’s a difficult question to answer. These days, everything ranging from terrorism to lecturing at seminars, is termed activism! I would rather restrict my definition to a smaller range, basically to activities which are socially responsible. Terrorism is not socially responsible...nor, often, is seminaring. a promoter of culture. Poor villagers who are protesting about the destruction of their life-support systems (forests, rivers, land) are true environmentalists, but do not claim to be so. But there is also a whole bunch of ivory tower pseudo-activists, who treat the whole thing as means of making a name for themselves, who are basically jumping onto the bandwagon, and who, in the process, give all environmentalists a bad name. Activism as a sed means you do not actually want to get your hands dirty, you would rather avoid controversial issues, and you treat as mere objects the people you claim to represent. True activism means the opposite of these.

While I think it is right to look at activism as a ‘career’ which can get you places in society, there is nothing wrong with earning a livelihood from it. Being able to feed and clothe yourself, even give yourself some basic comforts, is not evil. Indeed, I think that self-deprivation is as bad as over-indulgence for, it is a form of violence towards oneself which is as unacceptable as violence towards others. I know many activists who are not careful about their personal well-being, and end up sick and diseased, with only their sheer will-power carrying them on. Not only is their own productivity reduced, but they become a constant source of worry to their dear ones.

Does all this sound a bit patronising, or maybe slightly arrogant? I hope not, for it is not intended to. I do not claim to have found all the answers to my own personal and professional quandaries, I am groping as much as anyone else. But perhaps my dozen or so years of activism have taught me something, and it is nice to share it with others.

But action research could be; that is, research which is oriented towards some social action, even if the researcher himself/herself does not take this action. Then there is, of course, a greatly diverse range of activities which could constitute activism: social work, organizing the disadvantaged or helping them organise themselves, socially relevant media work, lobbying with the state, participating in protest demonstrations, taking legal redress, promoting the arts and preserving our heritage.

Activism is not, should never be treated as fashion. It is today, indeed, fashionable to claim to be an environmentalist, or a social worker or
THE I.I.T. FLYOVER

RAJIV SINGH

Last summer when the academic environs of IIT bore a comparatively deserted look on account of vacations, the few watchful students who had stayed back found that the trees from IIT Gate to Hazrath Khas were being felled to construct a flyover. The IIT Nature Club immediately started a protest movement against this “ecocide”. Friends from IYAP and Kalpavriksha, an environmental action group, helped a lot in mobilising people. The protest got heard, not only in the press and AIR but also in the corridors of power. Two protest marches, one - a symbolic funeral of the killed trees, and subsequent lobbying made the authorities transplant full-grown trees, which would have been cut and the timber taken, into the IIT campus. The expenditure incurred by the Delhi Administration in this process made them more circumspect in felling any more trees, elsewhere and the I.G (lieutenant Governor) ordered that no more trees are to be felled in Delhi, without his prior permission.

Rajiv Singh is a B. Tech in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Kanpur, and is presently doing his Masters at IIT Delhi. He has initiated and has been involved in nature-study and environmental action groups at both these campuses.

CHIPKO INFORMATION CENTRE
SERAIN via TEHRI PIN 249001 TEHRI-GARHWAL U.P. (HIMALAYA) INDIA.

APPEAL FOR THE EARTHQUAKE-STRICKEN PEOPLE OF UTTARKASHI & TEHRI GARHWAL

We are sending this appeal to you on behalf of earthquake victims of Garhwal Himalaya. The miseries, which this mishap has brought upon the simple hill-folk cannot be described in words. It has generated a wave of sympathy in the whole country, but the magnitude of disaster is so great that we need international help. About 10,000 families are to be provided temporary shelter immediately. The cost of tin sheets for one shelter will come to about US $ 250.

We have co-ordinated it with the environmental protection movement. The press has come out in full support of our stand on Tehri Dam.

The amount of help may be sent to PARVATIYA NAVJEEVAN MANDAL, SILYARA, Tehri Garhwal, PIN 249155, through STATE BANK OF INDIA, GHANSALI, TEHRI-GARHWAL (U.P). Please send this appeal to all friends of Chipko in your country and the neighboring countries.

The Silyara Ashram buildings and library which were the headquarters of the Chipko movement and where many of you have visited, are completely destroyed. Books on ecology, environment and mountains will be welcome.

Yours Sincerely,
(SUNDERLAL BHAGWATI)

THE EYE NO.2 MARCH-APRIL 1992
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O ne-fifth of the world’s population belongs to the age group of 16-24 years old, defined as ‘youth’ by the United Nations. It may be distressing to remember that since the end of World War II there have been 150 military conflicts in which over 16 million persons have died. Most of those that have died are children and young people. Roger Rosenblatt, author of *Children of War*, wrote, “children and youth are, of course, the least consulted about their futures...nobody asks them, nobody gives them a choice, and the first thing that they are ordinarily asked to do by their governments is to fight.” It may be of interest to quote here what the late Dr. Martin Luther King (Jr) said while addressing a group of Shanti Sainiks in Gandhigram in Tamilnadu in South India: “Our understanding of the youth has to undergo a change. They can play a great role in solving the various problems which elude satisfactory answers. It is not enough we praise their abilities. We should trust them and assign them responsible roles. I receive overwhelming support from youth in my non-violent struggle for social justice and peace”.

A study conducted by the present writer in four different places in India recently, have revealed very interesting responses about the perception of youth on several vital aspects of modern Indian life. Five different types of conflicts that are sending shock waves in Indian society in different ways were selected to elicit the views of the youth because it was found that an overwhelming majority of those involved in these conflicts are young. The issues identified are: (1) the terrorist violence in Punjab (2) the violence that followed the Mandal Commission Report (3) the Naxalite violence in Andhra Pradesh (4) Secessionist violence in Kashmir and (5) The Mandir-Masjid controversy. The writer spoke to some of the active participants in these conflicts, thus being able to make an authentic collection of responses.

The answers received from them to the specific question as to why they indulged in violence are as follows:

i) Kashmir: Alienation caused by a social order insensitive to the aspirations of the youth, lack of job opportunities, religious propaganda, temptation from across the border, respectability with which a traditional society looks up to their rebels who challenge the might of the state, availability of quick money from loot or donation, free training in the use of weapons, political ambitions and excitement.

ii) Punjab: Free access to all varieties of arms, enormous media attention, hero-worshipping by others who indulge in violence, resentment against state violence. To avenge the killing of several innocent Sikhs in Delhi in 1984 seemed to act like a strong motive for violence.

iii) The Mandir-Masjid Controversy: A common opinion expressed by members of both the Hindu and Muslim communities is the fear that the future of their respective religions is at stake.

iv) Naxalite violence in Andhra Pradesh: Poverty, anger, economic disparity and social injustices have been cited as the reasons for the naxalite activities in Andhra Pradesh.

v) Violence following the acceptance of the Mandal Commission Report: North India witnessed large scale violence and cruel deaths in the form of self immolation by a large number of teenagers protesting against the acceptance of the Mandal Commission.
The various activities Gandhi undertook when he was in the "midst" of the freedom struggle would indicate that Gandhi was more concerned about the "future" of India rather than the immediate object of making India free.

Following any segment of the population, less of all to the youth, who are described as the most volatile segment of the population.

Nobody can deny the fact that Gandhi was one of the greatest revolutionaries of all times. It is a fact of history that it was Gandhi who laid the foundation for modern India by uniting various categories of Indians and giving them even the concept of a nationhood. While to get India liberated from foreign rule was certainly one of the concerns of Gandhi, his major preoccupation was to prepare the Indian mind to face the challenges lying ahead once the British went out of India. The various activities Gandhi undertook when he was in the midst of the freedom struggle would indicate that Gandhi was more concerned about the future of India rather than the immediate object of making India free. Programmes related to the removal of untouchability, sanitation, new education, ensuring equality of men and women, stress on non-violence, religious acceptance and various constructive programmes, all were part of a grand strategy Gandhi adopted in order to make India a strong modern state. The Sarvodaya concept which emphasises the welfare of all, particularly the upliftment of the dalit, abjectly poor, his infinite faith in the purity of means and ends in order to achieve the goal and the simplicity with which he lived, all indicate the kind of man he was.

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Unfortunately in the post-independence era, Gandhi was hijacked by political parties and various other organisations and individuals for their own selfish designs. They did everything, including putting Gandhi in glass cases.

The greatness of this man was his simplicity.

The epoch making changes humanity is witnessing in almost all spheres in recent times make one wonder as to where to go from here? The various political developments taking places globally have raised new doubts. An agonising reappraisal and a desperate search for alternative strategies are seen everywhere. The international community in his desperate search for a viable alternative political and economic system is increasingly turning to Gandhi. There is greater awareness of the Gandhian model of development and almost everywhere, political pundits, economic experts and even religious leaders are analysing the Gandhian model with considerable interest. Ironically, an undeniable fact is that now there are more research foundations, groups and centres devoted to the study and examination of Gandhian thought in countries abroad than in India. Nelson Mandela's prophetic words that the twenty first century belongs to Gandhi appear to be more than a mere ripple among to day's intellectuals.

While all this is happening around the world, it can't be denied that the youth of India and surprisingly not the older generation, is showing considerable interest in Gandhi. There are clear evidences that more than ever before, during the last three decades, the youth of India are turning to Gandhi. But then, in the environment of general decline of values and all its accompanyingills, three are few sources of inspiration. Gandhi the revolutionary, the Gandhi who believed in the orderliness of society, the Gandhi who advocated the gospel of non-violence, the Gandhi who was against the tyranny of machines, the Gandhi who warned humanity against growing consumerism beckons the youth to action. There is a growing awareness that the Gandhian way appears to be the only way to get out of present difficulties.

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NAGALAND

BITE THE BAIT OR REINFORCE TRADITION

VIBHA JOSHI

"Nagaland!"
"Nagas are headhunters. Aren’t they?"

Or “Nagas are very westernised. Look at the Naga students, so modern! Always up to date with the latest Western fashion.”

These diametrically opposite statements about the Nagas are frequent responses to any queries on Nagaland. Very few people are aware of life in the North-East of India, especially, in the tiny state of Nagaland.

Nagaland came into existence as a separate state in December 1963. Prior to this it was incorporated into Assam as the ‘Naga Hills District’ following the annexation of the area by the British in the nineteenth century. As the name suggests, the whole region is mountainous and covered with dense forests, an extension of the Eastern Himalayas.

The inhabitants of the state, the Nagas, have always been portrayed in exotic terms. There are more than seventeen Naga tribes, each speaking a different dialect of the Tibeto-Burman language. Tribe names, such as, Angami, Lohia, Konyak etc, help the Nagas to distinguish themselves from the other hill tribes living in the surrounding regions.

The Nagas have been identified as Scheduled Tribes by the Government of India. Hence, I have used the term, tribe, for them. This term has been accepted by the Nagas themselves, but the reader is free to substitute the term community in place of tribe, as ‘tribes’ in the true anthropological sense do not exist anymore.

Despite numerous differences in local customs and practices there are some features common to the majority of Naga tribes. As the terrain is mountainous throughout Nagaland, the scope for diversification of agricultural methods is limited. The majority of the Nagas practice “slash and burn” (jhum) cultivation on hill slopes. Only two tribes, Angami and Chakhasang, however, differ from the common agricultural pattern. Depending to a very small extent on slash and burning cultivation, they have developed a system of irrigated rice terraces which enables them to cultivate the same plots year after year.

Most Nagas build their houses on the highest points of hill ranges or spurs. The village is a congregation of units, locally known as khels. Each khel is composed of three or more clans. Traditionally, only one clan and its sub-clans occupied a khel. Nagas are patrilineal and patriarchal. Clan exogamy is generally observed, though this norm has often been violated.

The Naga communities saw a gradual change in their political and social system once the British took over administrative charge. Traditional life, which the British administrators recorded in their ethnographies and travelogues, is far away from the life of the present day Nagas. Their simple tribal life, albeit self-sufficient and wholesome, could not withstand the onslaught of westernisation, which turned almost the entire population to follow Christianity. The modern education process which began with the American Baptist Missionaries, has, no doubt benefited the people. Primary, middle and secondary schools have been opened up and university education has become available in each of the seven districts in Nagaland. While on the one hand the Baptist introduced modern education, on the other, they imposed severe sanctions against those participating in traditional rituals. As a consequence, traditional institutions and practices, like youth dormitories, feasts of merit given by village leaders, traditional religion, shamanism, dance and music, etc. gave way to a homogenisation of culture, which, in toto became Christianised and consequently westernised.
Religion and education have come together in initiating crucial changes in Naga society. The youth are in sharp contrast to the people of the older generation. The inter-generational gap has widened. Educated young people prefer to enter the structure of new occupations like teaching, government and semi-government jobs, church offices etc. They take up cultivation if they find it hard to enter bureaucratic and other occupations. Domestic labour which at one time carried out all agricultural and pastoral operations has given way to hired labour force, mainly from Nepal, Bangladesh and some Indian states like Assam, West Bengal and Bihar. For higher education, some Naga boys and girls have sought admissions in prestigious universities and vocational colleges far away from home.

Education has become an important source of upward mobility. It provides opportunities unheard of by Naga ancestors steeped as they were in traditional tribal lifestyles. But it has also made the Nagas increasingly aware of money culture. In olden days, a rich Naga benefitted socially by giving huge feasts to his clansmen or the whole village. In certain instances even clans from the neighbouring friendly village were invited. These ‘feasts of merit’ called Zatho among the Angamis, fetched social prestige to their givers and at the same time had a levelling effect by redistribution of surplus products.

Joisoma. The Church is a part of every village in Nagaland.

In olden days, a rich Naga benefitted socially by giving huge feasts to his clansmen. These ‘feasts of merit’ called “Zatho” among the Angamis, fetched social prestige to their givers and at the same time had a levelling effect by redistribution of surplus products.

A young man in Khonoma village giving finishing touches to a carrying basket made by him.

loaded with foreign smuggled goods which range from perfumes, dresses, shoes to electronic goods. Indeed, a drive through Kohima’s markets could well give you the feeling of being in some “stilish” parts of the far East (Singapore maybe?)

The saddest victim of the money culture are the forests of Nagaland. Almost 90% of the forest is privately owned. Since the last decade the race to earn quick money has seen a boom in the timber business. Every second person you meet in Nagaland, irrespective of his educational qualifications (some are trained engineers while others have given up jobs in the army or left teaching positions in colleges) has entered this lucrative trade. There are more than a hundred big and small sawmills and saw-cum-veneer mills in Nagaland. The
outcome is devastating; thick primeval forests that were left untouched for centuries are being felled at phenomenal speed. Elephants from the Assam plains are used for dragging the logs. Some of the hard woods logs which I have seen in timber factories were almost two hundred years old! There has been no attempt to stop the felling of these old trees, moreover, nobody has bothered even to plant more trees. The result is barren hills as are seen in the Phakes and Mon districts, where the activity has been particularly heavy and consequently, there is an increased occurrence of landslides. The forests around Kohima and Peren are the latest targets. That day is not far when the old forests of Nagaland will be altogether none more. A fact with which even the timber merchants agree.

The happenings in Nagaland cannot be divorced from the politics of the state. The political atmosphere has been quite eventful in Nagaland since India’s independence. There has been armed insurgency by the underground for their land’s sovereignty. In August 1947, nine members of the Naga National Council (NNC) sent a telegram declaring the independence of Nagaland to the Indian Government and to the Secretary General of the UN. The inception of Nagaland in 1963 and the declaration of the first assembly elections saw the formation of the political parties. The parties differed in their agenda; the moderates believed in more autonomy within the Union of India, while the extremists favoured secession and independence.

Encroachment of new democratic political processes has given fresh ties of political unification of various Naga communities, apart from the cultural ones which have existed from time immemorial. But the new politics has also created fissiparous tendencies, dividing the people along party lines, with each party adhering to different aims with regard to the political focus on Nagaland. Some have alleged that these new politics and the flow of money from the centre for development projects has led to the

emergence of a culture of corruption, something which was unknown to the tribal value system.

Improper utilisation of available resources and political instability accentuate the crisis further. Nearly 30 crore rupees are given for development activities and projects by the centre as grant-in-aid. But when the outcome of such activities is studied, the results are depressing. It seems that nothing substantial has actually come about, except for an alarming magnitude of modernisation and westernisation expressed exclusively in the cultural realm.

But this does not undermine the value of Naga tradition. It is well known that modernization has a tradition-reinforcing effect, and so it is witnessed in Nagaland. Traditional dances of the Nagas have become a part of any festivity, be it the Independence Day celeb-

brations or the Baptist Centenary. State efforts are making a desperate bid to keep them alive. Weaving, the traditional task of women, has been kept up and has been furthered by the weaving associations for women. In spite of commercialization of weaving, the cloth for domestic and ceremonial use is woven at home. But the commercial value of the acclaimed Naga shawls has reduced the distinct group identity of tribes once displayed by the typical designs, almost defunct.

Certain practices which have been responsible for healthy tribal communities like the institution of the youth dormitory, a primary seat of socialization in olden days and several rituals linked with the agricultural cycle have been discontinued in the wake of Christianity. However, it is heartening to see that in some places the agricultural methods (of both shifting and irrigated cultivation) are almost the same, baskets for carrying the produce and wood and big storage baskets for keeping the paddy are even today made at home from bamboo.

Ethno-medical practices have been kept alive despite the Primary Health Centres in the villages. The dietary habits of the people, the methods of dispute settlements at the village level, are all still traditional. In recent years there has been a revivalistic movement and certain major festivals have been revived. Last year’s gate pulling ceremony in Kohima is a fine example.

But present day Nagaland is very different from the descriptions one reads in the classical accounts of the Naga tribes. The transformation of Naga communities from a traditional society which sustained themselves from the hills of their life and the culture born of it, into a bustling, westernised, delinked community has occurred. There are only two options: one, that of grabbing the bait or the other of reinforcing their tradition.

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ne is hardly likely to find several pages dedicated to Rani Udayamati in any history book. Indeed, she will only be remembered as the wife of King Bhimadeva, the greatest crowned monarch of the Chalukya dynasty of Gujarat. His reign lasted from AD 1025 to AD 1063. Despite repeated attacks by Muslim invaders who looted and plundered, chief of them being Mahmud of Ghazni, Bhimadeva created throughout his reign, superlative monumental legacies such as temples, gates, stepwells and palaces. Gradually, as Muslim rule took over Gujarat’s political, cultural and social life over the next hundred and sixty five years, several mosques, madrasas and tombs were built.

But, let us get back to Rani Udayamati. It was a common practice in those days for consorts or wives of kings to commission or patronise construction of water tanks, stepwells and other civic amenities for the benefit of citizens and travellers. Udayamati commissioned one such stepwell, which is almost humble in its anonymity –

Gujarat’s stepwells.

A stepwell is an indigenous ground-water trapping system which ensures a permanent water supply. The people of the tenth and eleventh centuries, which saw peak stepwell construction in Gujarat, understood natural underground water systems and ensured themselves protection against inclemencies of rainfall, especially in arid, semi-desert conditions such as theirs.

A stepwell, as the name implies, has steps leading right down to the water level, unlike a common well where water is drawn up by a pulley. Since there is construction all around, the water is pretty much protected and the percentage of evaporation is thus reduced. Also, the stepwells, which were usually built on trade routes, were cool resting places for caravans. Water supply was ensured for beasts and man, and they could even halt and stay there till they felt refreshed enough to proceed. Another theory is that the walls on the sides of the well prevents the onslaught of shifting sands, which is a common occurrence in Gujarat.
Here, these stepwells have reached an extraordinary level of sophistication, where the divine and life-giving property of water has been so gloriously deified. A traveller who visits Rani Ni Vav could not have helped but feel strengthened not just physically, but spiritually too. Quite unlike today’s architecture which is banal and boring providing for no aesthetic or abstract upliftment.

Rani Ni Vav is situated a little away from a sleepy, little town called Patan, in Mehsana district, North Gujarat. Patan is perhaps better known for its Patolasarees, which tradition, sadly, faces imminent death, as its only practicing family will tell you. Another ancient craft is about to die, and we wonder who is doing anything about it.

From the road, with its mousy, ugly fencing, the Vav is hardly visible. But, on going closer, one is suddenly stunned by the whole magnificent perspective of a graceful, wide entrance, gradually tapering towards the epicentre, the soul of its being, the well itself.

The Vav is divided into four courtyards (angans) and pillared pavilions (jutas). The pillar bases on top of the jutas indicate that there may have been more storeys, but we are not sure how many. At the lower levels, excavation is still going on. The entire structure is built in an east-west direction.

Once the eyes have settled down to the grandeur of the entire plan, they are immediately distracted by the sheer numbers of highly sophisticated sculptures that adorn every inch of space, on the side walls, pillar bases, brackets and the well itself. At the core of the well, and visible in a straight line from the entrance, lies the tutelary deity of the well, Vishnu, the preserver, Lord of the Seven Seas, patron of water and the supreme overseer of the Vav.

At the core of the well, and visible in a straight line from the entrance, lies the tutelary deity of the well, Vishnu, the preserver, Lord of the Seven Seas, patron of water and supreme overseer of the Vav.

The Vav complex is an iconographer’s paradise. Several manifestations of the primordial deities, Vishnu, Shiva and Brahma and their consorts are liberally interspersed with the lesser, gods of the Hindu pantheon, such as, Surya, Bhairav, Hanuman, Mahishasuramardini and Ganesh. Devi, or the feminine principle, is seen side by side with awesome meditating rishis. Animals or lion face (garbamanthas), birds, fruits, trees as well as perfect geometrical designs in squares, diamonds and circles fill every inch. The whole is arranged in friezes or panels. Some of the deities are ensconced in individual niches topped by pyramidal carving.

Force, dynamism, joy and sensuality jumps at you from the silent stones. One of our guides, Mr. Rudra Rana, who is a Sub Inspector and self-styled “devoce” of the Vav believes that the whole force of the Vav lies in its tantric expression. The feminine principle, prakriti, Shakti, is indeed a dominant force and finds expression in symbols of fertility such as the snake, water jug, mangoes etc. Almost every such sensuous, sculpture is placed close to a serene, meditating rishi as he tries to conquer the primeval force of Kama (Desire).

One can go on about depictions of Vishnu’s, Dashavatara, Shiva’s forms or Hanuman’s bravery. But, suffice to say, that Rani Ni Vav is an example of the highest aesthetic and spiritual evolution of man coupled with his understanding and veneration of the earth and its moving force ....water.

Photographs by
Damin Singh
Amphitheatre, Senate, Panchayat and the modern Parliament. Debates have been an integral part of the working of all societies. But what of all of us? Are we not exercisers of franchise, poised to be at the helm of future policy making bodies? Do we not have a role in bringing our voices on to the national forum? Our voices are the national forum. And this Written -Word -Debate is our effort to be heard. This is our movement.

**TOPIC:**

MODERN DAY ADVERTISING IS LEADING TO THE CULTURAL DOMINATION OF THE THIRD WORLD.

- We wish to print a fair treatment of the topic. Therefore, the above motion must be debated for or against. Choose any ONE side.

- Your written-word-debate must be well thought out, have depth, vision and originality, and above all, make for interesting reading. It should not be longer than 2000 words.

- Send in your debate with your name, age and address clearly written in block letters. A brief, six-line bio-data should be included.

- The best entries, one FOR and the other AGAINST the motion will be published in our next issue. These two debaters will be entitled to one year’s subscription, of THE EYE free of cost.

- Your debate will be printed in our March/April issue.

- We are looking for quality of thought and language, so keep that in mind.


Are you a serious thinker? Would you like to see your debate motion debated by others? Send us your motion, neatly written, along with your name and address. HURRY!

**Good Luck!**

*Topic contributed by Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath, Principal, Lady Shriram College, New Delhi.*
E

yebrows pop up and mouths open in amazement every time I mention that I learnt Bharatanatyam from the legendary Balasaraswati herself. People are always curious to know how someone as young as I could have learnt from her. I have to explain that I studied dance from her during the last four years of her life and am her very last student. These situations have made me realise how unique the experience of learning from Balamma (as she is known to everyone) herself has been and I feel very fortunate to have been able to witness from close quarters and be part of the life of someone so great.

Balasaraswati was away in the U.S. when I joined her class at the Music Academy, Madras. During that time, the classes were being conducted by her senior students. Every time a black Fiat drew up outside, all my fellow students would get excited and, surprisingly, a bit anxious as well. One day it happened. I was early to class and there she was, sitting as erect as a rod, all by herself, outside her classroom. In spite of not having known her before and being too young to realise her greatness, I could somehow sense that she was different and very special. The passing years only served to reinforce that feeling.

Balamma came to mean for me not just a teacher, but a model to be looked up to and followed. Everything she did or said, however simple or complicated, had its foundation on full sincerity and utter dedication. I think this attitude was a result of her belief in the tradition that she was born into. She used to say that what was most fortunate for her was to have been born as the grand-daughter of the legendary Veena Dhananjali, who was a musical institution unto herself. This is also why Bala was as much a musician as a dancer. Little Bala, it is said, would always be moving her feet in rhythm to the ever present music played or sung in the house. Matriarch Dhananjali, under the persuasion of mother, Jayamal, had to but give permission to the small child to learn dancing under
I remember her once, teaching us an 'abhinaya' for a line that described Lord Shiva. After a while, she just stopped and stared into space with an expression of pure devotion and happiness. After some time she snapped out of her trance-like state and said, 'I was just seeing him. He looked so awesome'.

Balamma's views on dance and music were something I have not felt or seen in anyone else. For her, the Gods she showed through her dance were real. I think she actually saw them before her. I remember her once, teaching us an 'abhinaya' for a line that described Lord Shiva. After a while, she just stopped and stared into space with an expression of pure devotion and happiness. We students were quite bewildered. After some time she snapped out of her trance-like state and said, 'I was just seeing him. He looked so awesome'. And then she continued, telling us that she was merely describing what she had seen.
For Balamma, the divine actually existed in dance and music. Lakshmi, her daughter, had remarked once, that her mother knew that she was a good dancer, but she exhibited no ego, for she believed that the art was on a level much above her. It was this spirituality that made Bala the genius that she was. It was this that made her relationship to her art so unique.

Lakshmi once told me of an incident that I can never forget. It was the day of Vijayadashami, and, as usual, Bala had placed her dancing bells in front of Goddess Saraswati. After the pooja, she picked them up, but instead of tying them on to her own ankles, she studied them thoughtfully and turned to Lakshmi and said, ‘Here, take them. With them I give you my all. This is all that I can truly say is mine. This is my inheritance to you and today, you can have it with my full blessings.’

To Bala, it was the art that mattered and not the material trappings of human existence. Lakshmi has indeed inherited her mother’s talents in good measure and I am glad that I have been able to continue my tutelage under her after Balamma’s demise.

For Bala, music was as divine an experience as her dance. According to her, one dances ‘with’ music and not just ‘to’ music. A dancer should know music. In fact, Balamma would sing aloud as she danced. A critic once said that if Bala had not become a famous dancer, she would have become a famous musician. She was the only dancer to have been awarded with the title, ‘Sangita Kala Bharti’ by the Music Academy.

Even now, people remember, Bala’s performances as having been totally and completely elevating. Her movements were subtle and quiet, yet she radiated a great energy. A lady, remembering one of these performances which she had attended as a child, told me that when Bala was doing the famous piece, Krishna Nee Begane Baro, she jumped up and asked her mother to show her the child that the dancer was beckoning. I myself remember Balamma sitting in dance posture during her training sessions, explaining a whole line

Bala’s greatness was that she transcended the idiom of Indian dance. Martha Graham, the well known Modern Dancer of America remarked after seeing a two hour performance, earlier scheduled for ten minutes, ‘Where have you been hiding all these years!’
with only facial expressions.

Bala’s greatness was that she transcended the idiom of Indian dance. Martha Graham, the well-known Modern Dancer of America remarked after seeing a two hour performance, earlier scheduled for ten minutes, “Where have you been hiding all these years?” For Bala’s art there was no barrier. Age, cultural differences and language, posed no problem in her reaching out to her viewers. Emotions, such as love, compassion and devotion imbued her dance with a universality, rarely so refined in today’s commercial scenario.

Bala was an intense person. The day preceding her performance would be spent in total silence. She would reflect on the pieces she was to perform, dwelling on the principal emotion of each piece. That perhaps explains why a piece which most dancers would take about forty minutes to go through, would take Balamma at least two whole hours. Her teaching was very intense too. She would teach us two variations of a line one day and then a different one everyday for the next one or two weeks. In the end, we would have fifteen or twenty variations. At the end of it, we were made to learn the complete scope of a line which would have the young dancer would now be in a position to actually improvise on stage. Even as we were taught the gestures, we had to sing along with them. Thus, as we sang, we would be aware of the flow of the body, which then was a position to determine the meaning of our gestures.

I am overwhelmed by her sheer spiritual strength even as I reminisce about her in this article. She was a constant source of inspiration to everyone who came into contact with her. I am no exception. Even in her absence, this helps me, in my own small way, to combat the commercialisation that has entered the dance field today. Balamma was never to lower her standards for anyone or anything. I can only say that I have been blessed by providence which brought me in contact with this great lady, although only for a short time.

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PANCHATANTRA

It is said that an ounce of sense contained in the Panchatantra is better than a ton of scholarship. Most of us are familiar with it from our childhood as 'once-upon-a-time' stories and have read them in abridged forms or in comics. Rarely have we encountered a literal translation in verse form. Indeed these wise verses, often epigrammatic in style, go to make the real character of the Panchatantra. The stories are charming when regarded as pure narrative, but it is the beauty, wisdom and wit of the verses which lift the Panchatantra above the best story books.

The Panchatantra is a 'niti shastra' or textbook of 'niti'. The world 'niti' roughly means the 'wise conduct of life'. It is witty, mischievous and profoundly sane. The word, 'Panchatantra' means, the 'Five Books', 'the Pentateuch'. Each of the five books is independent, consisting of a framing story with numerous, inserted stories, told by one or another of the characters of the main narrative. The device of the framing story is familiar in oriental works, as in the Arabian Nights. The large majority of the actors are animals, who have, of course, a fairly constant character. Thus, the lion is strong, but dull of wit; the jackal, crafty, the heron stupid, the cat, a hypocrite. The animal actors present far more vividly and skilfully, un cheated, and free of all sentimentality, a view, that piercing the humbug of every false ideal, reveals with incomparable wit, the sources of lasting joy.

And this is how it happened....

INTRODUCTION

A
nd this is how it happened.
In the southern country is a city called, Maiden's Delight. There lived a king named Immortal-Power. He was familiar with all the works dealing with the wise conduct of life. His feet were made dazzling by the tingle of rays of light from jewels in the diadems of mighty kings who knelt before him. He had reached the far shore of all the arts that embellish life. This king had three sons. Their names were Rich-Power, Fierce-Power and Endless-Power and they were supreme blockheads.

Now when the king perceived that they were hostile to education, he summoned his counsellors and said, “Gentlemen, it is known to you that these sons of mine, being hostile to education, are lacking in discernment. So when I behold them, my kingdom brings me no happiness, though all external thorns are drawn. For there is wisdom in the proverb:

Of sons unborn, or dead, or fools,
Unborn or dead will do:
They cause a little grief, no doubt;
But fools, a long life through.
And again:
To what good purpose can a cow
That brings no calf nor milk, be bent?
Or why beget a son who proves
A dance and a disordered?

Some means must therefore be devised to awaken their intelligence.”

And they, one after another, replied, “O King, first one learns grammar, in twelve years. If this subject has somehow been mastered, then one masters the books on religion and practical life. Then the intelligence awakens.”

But one of their number, a councilor named Keen, said, “O King, the duration of life is limited, and the verbal sciences require much time for mastery. Therefore let some kind of epitome be devised to wake their intelligence. There is a proverb that says:
Since verbal sciences has no final end, 
Since life is short, and obstacles impend, 
Let central facts be picked and firmly fixed, 
As swans extract the milk with water mixed.

"Now there is a Brahmin here named Vishnusharman, with a reputation for competence in numerous sciences. Entrust the princes to him. He will certainly make them intelligent in a twinkling."

When the king had listened to this, he summoned Vishnusharman and said, "Holy sir, as a favour to me you must make these princes incomparable masters of the art of practical life. In return, I will bestow upon you a hundred land-grants."

And Vishnusharman made this answer to the king, "O King, listen. Here is the plain truth. I am not the man to sell good learning for a hundred land-grants. But if I do not, in six months time, make the boys acquainted with the art of intelligent living, I will give up my own name. Let us cut the matter short. Listen to my lion roar. My boasting arises from no greed for cash. Besides, I have no use for money; I am eighty years old, and all the objects of sensual desire have lost their charm. But in order that your request may be granted, I will show a sporting spirit in reference to artistic matters. Make a note of the date. If I fail to render your sons, in six months' time, incomparable masters of the art of intelligent living, then His Majesty is at liberty to show me His majestic bare bottom."

When the king, surrounded by his counsellors, had listened to the Brahmin's highly unconventional promise, he was dumbstruck. He entrusted the princes to him, and experienced supreme content.

Meanwhile, Vishnusharman took the boys, went home, and made them learn by heart five books which he composed and called:

(I) The Loss of Friends
(II) The Winning of Friends
(III) Crows and Owls
(IV) Loss of Gains
(V) Ill-considered Action.

These the princes learned, and in six months' time they answered the prescription. Since that day this work on the art of intelligent living, called Panchatantra, or the Five Books, has travelled the world, aiming at awakening the intelligence in the young.

THE STORY TILL NOW...

In the prosperous city of 'Master's Delight' there lived a merchant named Increase. He was of the opinion that money acquired should not only be guarded, but also wisely invested and increased. One day, the merchant set out for the city of Matrika in the pursuit of his business interests. With him were his two bulbs, Lively and Joyful. On the way, Lively, overcome with fatigue, collapsed. Leaving Lively in the care of his servants, Increase proceeded on his journey. His caretakers, however, fearing the dangers of the forest, left the bulb to die. But fate willed otherwise. Lively survived and soon became plump and healthy. One day, a lion named Rusty came to the bank of the Jamuna for water. There he heard Lively's powerful bellow. Rusty, the uncrowned king of the jungle, felt perturbed. He saw in Lively a threat to his power and pride. Now, Rusty had in his service two jackals called Check and Victor. These two conferred secretly as to the reason for their master's disconsolation. Here, Check advised Victor against meddlin' in others' affairs in these words—

Death pursues the meddling, funkey; 
Note the wedge-extracting monkey."

THE WEDGE-PULLING MONKEY

There was a city in a certain region. In a grove nearby, a merchant was having a temple built. Each day at the noon hour the foreman and workers would go to the city for lunch.

Now, one day, a troop of monkeys came upon the half-built temple. There lay a tremendous anjana-log, which a mechanic had begun to split, a wedge of accacia-wood being thrust in at the top.

There the monkeys began their playful frolics upon tree-top, lofty roof, and woodpile. Then one of them, whose doom was near, thoughtlessly bestrode the log, thinking: "Who stuck a wedge in this queer place?" So he seized it with both hands and started to work it loose. Now what happened when the wedge gave at the spot where his private parts entered the cleft, that, sir, you know without being told.

"And that is why I say that meddling should be avoided by the intelligent. And you know," he continued, "that we two pick up a fair living just from his leavings."

"But," said Victor, "how can you give first-rate service merely from a desire for food with no desire for distinction? There is wisdom in the saying:

In hurrying feet and helping friends
The wise perceive the proper ends
Of serving kings: The belly's call
To answer, no job at all.

And again:

When many lives on one depend,
Then life is life indeed:
A crow, with beak equipped, can fill
His belly's selfish need.

If loving kindness be not shown
To friends and souls in pain,
To teachers, servants, and one's self.
What use in life, what gain?
A crow will live for many years
And eat the offered grain.

For if there be no mind
Debating good and ill,
And if religion send
No challenge to the will,
If only greed be there
For some material feast,
How draw a line between
The man-beast and the beast?

"But at present," said Cheek, "we
two hold no job at court. So why
meddle?" "My dear fellow," said Vic-
tor, "after a little the jobless man does
hold a job. As the saying goes:

The jobless man is hired
For careful serving;
The holder may be fired,
If undeserving.

No character moves up or down
At others' smile or others' frown;
But honor or contempt on earth
Will follow conduct's inner worth.

And once more:

It costs an effort still to carry
stones uphill;
They tumble in a trice. So virtue, and
so vice."

"Well," said Cheek, "what do you
wish to imply?" And Victor answered:
"You see, our master is frightened, his
servants are frightened, and he does
not know what to do." "How can you
be sure of that?" asked Cheek, and
Victor said: "Isn't it plain?

An ox can understand, of course,
The spoken word; a driven horse
Or elephant, exerts his force;
But men of wisdom can infer
Unuttered thought from features' stir-
For wit rewards its worshiper.

And again:

From feature, gesture,
gait,
From twitch, or word,
From change in eye or face
Is thought inferred.

So by virtue of native in-
telligence I intend to get him
into my power this very day."
"Why," said Check, "you
do not know how to make your-
self useful to a superior. So tell
me. How can you establish
power over him?"
"And why, my good fellow,
do I not know how to make
myself useful?” said Victor. “The saintly poet, Vyasa, has sung the entry of the Pandu princes into Visnur’s court. From this poem I learned the whole duty of a functionary. You have heard the proverb:

No burden ennervates the strong;  
To enterprise no road is long;  
The well-informed all pinnacles range;  
To flatterers no man is strange.”

But Cheek objected: “I think perhaps you are forcing yourself into a position that does not belong to you.” “Yes,” said Victor, “there is point in that. However, I am also a judge of occasions. And there are rules, as follows:

The Lord of Learning, speaking to  
A false occasion,  
Will meet with hatred, and of course  
Lack all persuasion.

And again:

The favorite’s business comes to be  
A sudden source of king’s canni;  
When he is thoughtful, trying scents,  
Retiring, or in conference.

And once again:

On hours of talk or squabbling rude,  
Of physic, barber, flitting, food,  
A gentleman does not intrude

Let everyone be cautious  
In palaces of kings;  
And let not students rummage  
In their professor’s things;  
For naughty meddlers suffer  
Destruction swift and sure,  
Like evening candles, lighted  
In houses of the poor.

Or put it this way:

On entering a palace,  
Adjust a modest dress;  
Go slowly, bowing lowly  
In timely humbleness;  
And sound he kingly temper,  
And kingly whins no less.

Or this way:

Though ignorant and common,  
Unworth the honoring,  
Men win to royal favor  
By standing near the king;  
For kings and vines and maidens  
To nearest neighbours cling.

And once again:

The servant in his master’s face

Discerns the signs of wrath and grace,  
And though the master jerk and rack,  
The servant slowly moves his back.

And finally:

The brave, the learned, he who wins  
To bureaucratic power;  
These three alone, of all mankind,  
Can pluck earth’s golden flower.

And then he proceeds to explain how power is gained by dancing attendance on a master.

“Well,” said Cheek, “when you come into his presence, what do you intend to say first? Please tell me that.” And Victor replied:

“Answers, after speech begins,  
Further answers breed,  
As a seed, with timely rain,  
Ripens other seed.

And besides:

A clever servant shows his master  
The gleam of triumph or disaster  
From good or evil courses springing,  
And shows him wit, decision-bringing.

The man possessing such a wit  
Should magnify and foster it,  
Thereby he earns a livelihood

The clever man soon penetrates  
The subject’s mind, and captivates.

Cringe, and flatter him when angry;  
Love his friend and hate his foe;  
Duly advertise his presents  
Trust no magic-wisn him so.

And Cheek replied: “If you have made up your mind, then seek the feet of the king. Bless be your journeys. May your purpose be accomplished.

Be heedful in the presence of the king;  
We also to your health and fortune cling."

Then Victor bowed to his friend, and went to meet Rusty. Now when Rusty saw Victor approaching, he said to the doorkeeper: “Away with your reed of office! This is an old acquaintance, the counsellor’s son, Victor. He has free entrance. Let him come in. He belongs to the second circle.” So Victor entered, bowed to Rusty, and sat down on the seat indicated to him.

Then Rusty extended a right paw adorned with claws as formidable as thunderbolts, and said respectfully: “Do you enjoy health? Why has so long a time passed since you were last visible?” And Victor replied: “Even though my royal master has no present need of me, still I ought to report at the proper time. For there is nothing that may not render service to a king. As the saying goes:

To clean a tooth or scratch an ear  
A straw may serve a king;  
A man, with speech and action, is  
A higher kind of thing.

“Besides, we who are ancestral servants of our royal master, follow him even in disasters. For us there is no other course.

And as for my master’s remark: ‘It is long since you were last visible,’ pray bear the reason of that:

Where just distinction is not drawn  
Between the left and right,  
The self-respecting, if they can,  
Will quickly take to flight.

There must be bonds of union  
In all their dealings, since  
No prince can lack his servants  
Nor servants lack a prince.

“Yet the nature of the servant also depends on the master’s quality. As the saying goes:

In case of horse or book or sword,
Of woman, man or lute or word,
The use or uselessness depends
On qualities the user lends.

"And another point. You do wrong
despise me because I am a jackal.
For:

Silk comes from worms, and gold
from stone;
From cow’s hair sacred hair grass is
grown;
The water-lily springs from mud;
From cow-dung sprouts the lotus-bud;
The noon its rise from ocean takes;
And gems proceed from hoods of
snakes;
From cows’ bile yellow dyestuffs
come;
And fire in wood is quite at home.
The worthy, by display of worth,
Atain distinction, not by birth.

"Oh," said Rusty, "you must not say
such things. You are our counsellor’s
son, an old retainer." "O King," said
Victor, "there is something that should
be said." And the king replied: "My
good fellow, reveal what is in your
heart."

Then Victor began: "My master set
out to take water. Why did he turn back
and camp here?" And Rusty, concealing
his inner feelings, said: "Victor, it
just happened so." "O King," said the
jackal, "if it is not a thing to disclose,
then let it be.

"Some things a man should tell his
wife,
Some things to friend and some to
son;
All these are trusted. He should not
Tell everything to everyone."

Hereupon Rusty reflected: "He
seems trustworthy. I will tell him
what I have in mind. For the proverb
says:

You find repose, in sore
disaster,
By telling things to powerful
master,
To honest servant, faithful
friend,
Or wife who loves you till the
end.

Friend Victor, did you hear a
great voice in the distance?"
"Yes, master, I did," said Victor.
"What of it?"
And Rusty continued: "My good fel-
low, I intend to leave this forest. Why?"

said Victor. "Because," said Rusty,
"there has come into our forest some
prodigious creature, from whom we
hear this great voice. His nature must
respond to his voice, and his power
to his nature."

"What!" said Victor. "Is our master
frightened by a mere voice? You know
the proverb:

Water undermines the dikes;
Love dissolves when malice strikes;
Secrets melt when babblings start;
Simple words melt disdainful hearts.

So it would be improper if our master
abruptly left the forest which was
won by his ancestors and has been so long in
the family. For they say:

Wise men move one foot; the other
Should its vantage hold;
Till assured of some new dwelling,
Do not leave the old.

"Besides, many kinds of sounds are
heard here. Yet they are nothing but
noises, not a warning of danger. For
example, we hear the sounds made by
thunder, wind among the reeds, lutes,
drums, tambourines, conch-shells, bells,
wagons, banging doors, machines, and
other things. They are nothing to be
afraid of. As the verse says:

Bravest bosoms do not falter,
Fearing heaven’s threat;
Summer dries the pools; the Indus
Rises, greater yet.

My master must take this point of
view and reinforce his resolution, not
fear a mere sound. As the saying goes:

I thought at first that it was full
Of fat; I crept within
And there I did not find a thing
Except some wood and skin."

"How was that?" asked Rusty. And
Victor told the story of

THE JACKAL AND THE
WAR-DRUM
Continued....

In 1924, Arthur W. Ryder, the
well-known American Oriental
scholar translated the Pancha-
tantra from Sanskrit to English. It
is one of the best of all existing
translations in any foreign language.
The text here translated, dates back
from the year 1199 A.D. We are
happy to serialise and present the
Panchatantra, interspersing verse
and prose as translated by Ryder
and published by Jaico.

Illustrations : Sujata

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INDIAN MUSIC AND JAZZ

MANOJ PANT

The development over the last two decades has seen the acceptance and incorporation of Indian concepts in other forms of music. To my view, the greatest gainer has been jazz. The sitar, tabla, ghatam are now almost standard instruments in many jazz bands. In the same vein, Zakir Hussain, L. Subramaniam, V. Ramani, Hari Prasad Chaurasia and a host of other Indian musicians perform routinely with jazz bands all over the world.

Is a musical synthesis in the offering? What brings together such seemingly diverse forms as jazz and Indian music? How is it that an L. Subramaniam and a Larry Coryell play so naturally together? In this article I will try to trace the evolution of jazz over this century and look at how the emphasis and basic structure of jazz has made this musical synthesis a natural development.

EVOLUTION OF JAZZ

In categorising any form of music as belonging to a particular century, one really refers to the time in which its basic musical structure is defined. On this basis it is fair to label jazz as the music of the 20th century.

Hari Prasad Chaurasia

The development over the last two decades has seen the acceptance and incorporation of Indian concepts in other forms of music. To my view, the greatest gainer has been jazz.

Unlike western classical music, whose under lying structure was established in the 19th century, jazz is still a developing art form. The process of innovation and assimilation has not yet led to a final synthesis.

Any art form of an enduring nature must go through this process of innovation and assimilation. That is why in the area of western music, I have made so bold as to call jazz, "the music of the '80s. The rock and roll of the '50s, the 'acid' rock of the '60s and the 'pop' and punk music of the '70s and '80s - all have lent some thing to the development of jazz.

In themselves these forms of popular music are merely transient phenomena. How many people today remember who the Creedence Clearwater Revival were? What about Led Zeppelin and other such bands of the 'acid' rock era? Yet, no jazz man worth his salt can ever say he is unaware of the music of Louis Armstrong or Duke Ellington. It is in jazz, as it is developing today, that the 'popular' music of the last three decades will find its final expression.

To understand this process of innovation and assimilation is to trace the evolution of jazz. Jazz made it's small beginnings with Jerry Roll Morton and others in the black ghettos of New Orleans and St. Louis. Through the first half of this century, jazz came up against the bigotry of middle class, conservative America. "Jazz," it must be remembered, was originally a word employed in derogatory reference to negro slaves. The music then became "black" music which every righteous, god fearing, white American must shun. By bringing jazz to the theatre and screen in the '40s and '50s Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong gave it the kind of exposure and intellectual respectability difficult in those days of bigotry. To him also must go the credit for assimilating into jazz, the music of the past and developing a vocabulary specific to jazz.

The next phase in the development of jazz came with the 'swing' era of the '40s ('swing' here referred to the kind of rhythm peculiar to this music). Now a household name in America, Duke
Ellington ushered in the period of big bands. To Armstrong's melodic style he added orchestration. The rhythmic structure established, made jazz the dance music of that time.

The '50s brought in the soul of Chuck Berry, Elvis and rock and roll. In jazz there emerged something called 'be-bop' music. Technically, be-bop popularised the use of the 'flat-fifth' interval. The band became smaller, relative to the big band era, while rhythms and melodies became more complex. The names of Charles Mingus (bass), Dizzy Gillespie (trumpet) and Charlie 'Bird' Parker (saxophone) come to mind. 'Bird', in particular, attempted such a break from previous melodies and rhythms that the old fashioned labelled his music 'modern'.

The fourth phase can be dated around the late '60s. While most of the world was listening to the innovations of the Beatles and the Rolling Stones, John Coltrane and Miles Davis were ushering in the period of the so called 'cool jazz' era. Incorporating in it, some elements of rock and roll, 'cool' jazz tones down the somewhat chaotic rhythmical and melodic structure of be-bop. In a dramatic break from the past, though in accordance with the mood and technology of that time, electronic instruments made their entry into jazz bands.

Finally, we have contemporary jazz which some have labelled 'modern jazz' and others 'fusion music'. Along with stalwarts of the '50s like Sonny Rollins and Freddie Hubbard, the new breed of musicians like Chick Corea, Keith Jarrett, John McLaughlin and others now attempts a synthesis of rock, pop and traditional jazz - hence the term 'fusion'. This phase has also seen, especially in America, the revival of big band music (Clark Terry, Joe Williams, the late Don Ellis). The spread of jazz institutions in the USA and Europe had much greater intellectual involvement that at any time in the past.

**Jazz and Indian Music**

In recent developments in jazz, it is not uncommon to notice the free use of Indian idioms in the music. Polish bands, like Namyslow's 'band and Niemen's band, which visited India some years ago, use melodic structures very similar to Hindustani music. What then is the relation between jazz and Indian music? Or is there any at all?

The answer involves some technical discussion. In recent years, modern jazz has departed from tradition Western melodic patterns - the major and minor diatonic scales have been replaced by the Gregorian modes of the 12th century. Although jazz does not claim to be rooted in spirituality and the quest of the divine through the musical 'sawara as Indian music's evolution and final development establishes, there are some similarities in form and rhythm. Jazz's freedom to

...
BOOK REVIEW

COMPLEMENTARITY OF GANDHI & NEHRU

Edited by
N. RADHAKRISHNAN
& R. SUBRAMANIAN
Published by
Gandhigram Rural Institute, 1990.
Price: Rs. 150/-

A rich treasure of literature is available on Gandhi and Nehru. Gandhi and Nehru, both separately and together held the centre stage during the most eventful decades in India’s recent history. Naturally, therefore, their perceptions, their philosophy and their role in contemporary societies have all been the subject of much scholarly scrutiny. Yet, more and more literature continues to be added, as each generation embarks on its own interpretation of Gandhian and Nehruvian ideologies.

Indeed, it was not the first time that the complementarity of Gandhi and Nehru was deliberated. When the Gandhigram Rural Institute organised a National Seminar on the subject. It may have come as déjà vu to many, but it was unique, because of the wide range and sweep of issues that were presented and debated by eminent people.

Now this literature is available for wider dissemination in the form of a book called the “Complementarity of Gandhi and Nehru - its relevance, today and tomorrow”, edited by N Radhakrishnan and R Subramanian and published by the Gandhigram Rural Institute.

Those familiar with the world of publishing realise the challenges of editing. This book is certainly one for a serious reader, but the editors have, through the facility of arrangement and classification, allowed to shape it interestingly different from the diarisations that proceedings of seminars tend to become in published forms.

For the facility of the readers, the book is in three parts. While the introductory part is devoted to the seminar itself, the other two are on broad thematic divisions - namely ideology, ethics and moral issues in one group, and humanistic, economical and social issues in the other. Some areas of overlap could not, obviously, be avoided. This classification also enables a reader to understand, for instance, the incisive analysis by Shri PC Alexander, as also in appreciating the philosophical approach of Shri Venkataraman, Dr Shankar Doyal Sharma and Shri Acharya Chandy. The essay by G Vijayam on the scientific outlook complements the social science approach of K Venkata Reddy, or that of Jaya Kothari Pillai when discussing Gandhi and Nehru on the subject of women.

Nehru was not a blind disciple of Gandhi, but had a mind and will of his own. Dr Venkataraman points out in his paper, “Complementarity of course is not identity. Destiny did not intend Nehru to be a reflection, however accurate, of Gandhi”. Differences, there were, between Gandhi and Nehru. Nehru was self-admittedly uninterested in some of the Mahatma’s spiritual quests. Nehru’s adherence to non-violence, unlike Gandhi’s was not religious at the roots. His commitment to Fabian socialism was at variance with the Gandhian ethic of trusteeship. And, his faith in the need for industrial development, use of science and technology was different from the Gandhian idea that real freedom and peace could be reached only through societies based in villages.

The contributors to this volume have all sought, in one way or another, to stress the fact that Nehru believed no less than his leader in the equal importance of ends and means. There is an inherent unity in the larger purpose suffusing the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru on social issues, such as world peace and rights, poverty, women’s liberation etc.

While delving into the issues of identity as well as differences between the basic ideologies and temperaments of Gandhi and Nehru, the seminar papers answer a number of questions. What was the milieu into which the two leaders were born? How were the two great men drawn into the struggle for the liberation of India? How did they seek to restructure society, politics and the economy within India? But perhaps...
the heart of the matter is the question—how relevant are their ideas to the problems which beset humanity today? The papers do not, however, attempt to give any ready-made solutions to the problems and difficulties that beset our society and nation—biological decay, exploitation, malnutrition, erosion of natural resources and non-renewable sources of energy, pollution, and other economic problems.

In the wake of the winds of change of liberalisation, of globalisation sweeping the world, India’s regime of economic policies based on the Nehruvian model are stated by some to have failed. Many also believe that the Gandhian insistence on village as the focal point of development is irrelevant. But, is that really so? A reading of some of the contributions in this extremely presentable book should serve as words of caution to such sweeping negations or abjurance of values. One last word about the Seminar, itself—inspite of a preponderance of Gandhians at the seminar, the contributions have not been unfair to Nehru.

The editors, N Radhakrishnan and R Subramanian, and the Gandhigram Rural Institute deserve accolades for boldly bringing out this useful volume. It would undoubtedly form a valuable addition to the reference material on Gandhi and Nehru. And, indeed, the book is a faithful reflection of the “critical and honest attempt to re-evaluate the minds of two outstanding personalities of the present century in depth”, as the editors have rightly termed the seminar contributions.

Jayashree Menon Kurup

Your opinions are very valuable. Send us your letters with feedback about the magazine or on any specific article/issue. Your letters will be published.

Publishers and Editors can send us their books for reviewing. Use THE EYE to announce various projects, rallies, seminars, dharnas, meets.

We will carry appeals from social cause organisations. Announce anything which will help someone other than yourself.

MATERIALISM

The wise person leads a quiet and meditative life. But most people are busy getting as many possessions as they can.

The quiet path leads toward a more conscious existence. The busy path creates an exaggerated materialism.

Becoming more conscious leads towards a sense of the unity of all creation. But excessive consumption is only possible by exploiting someone. The world’s goods are unevenly distributed. Some have a great deal. Most have very little. We are running out of enough resources to go around. Everyone knows that.

Yet those who are already encumbered by possessions get more and more. They even brag about how much they have. Don’t they know what stealing is? Owing lots of possessions does not come from God. People get it by manipulating other people.
Our main program is to commence an afforestation project, in the region adjacent to Kadumane Village in Sakleshpur Taluk. This is in keeping with the major objective of contributing towards the welfare and upliftment of the disadvantaged rural community, through an integrated development program, of which afforestation is a major component. The other objectives are the utilization of wasteland and human resources for natural resource generation, in the form of food, fodder, fuel, fertilizer, etc., and valuable non-wood forest produce.

We need the active participation of concerned people from all walks of life. They should commit themselves to environmental causes. There are three main projects of SAVE:

1. Kadumane Main Project (MOOLADHARA) in Sakleshpur,
2. "CITY FOREST" Program for Bangalore, and
3. 1 million seedlings generation program for Bangalore.

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