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Tentative Essay topics:-

- The Seventh Pay Commission
- Union Indian Budget
- GST bill and its benefits
- Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- UDAN Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDSA) – Making Rural India Digitally Literate
- Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY) – Skills in Line with International Standards
- Demonetization
- Role of Women in the Armed Forces
- Impact of Modern Technology on Farming
- Globalization vs. Nationalism
- Overpopulation in India
- PUBG Addiction: Harmful Effects on Children
- Adverse Effects of Internet
- COVID-19 a Roadmap to Recovery
- Pollution(Air, Water, Plastic, etc)
- Water Scarcity
- Women Empowerment
- Plastic Substitutes
- Traffic rules, Safety and reforms
- Yoga and its benefits
- Make in India
- Impact of Social Media
- GST and its impact on Indian Economy
- Health of Rivers
- Right to Information
- E-vehicles in India
- Climate Change: India and the world
- Safety of women in India

- Mob Lynching
- Normalization
- Terrorism
- Necessity of Education
- Citizenship Amendment Act
- Article 370
- Technology and its Perils
- Ayushman Bharat Yojana/Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana/National Health Protection Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana
- Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao
- Startup India/stand up India for students
- Cashless economy
- Union Indian Budget
- Women Empowerment
- Role of technology in gross development
- GST bill and its benefits
- Eradication of black money from country, steps taken by government
- Technology Advancement in India (ISRO)
- Make in India
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- UDAN Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDSA) – Making Rural India Digitally Literate
- Vrishtha Pension Bima Yojana 2017 – The Old Age Pension Scheme
- 6000 Pregnancy Aid Scheme for Pregnant Women in India
- New Scheme for Monthly Allowance of Rs. 1500 to Unemployed & Poor
- 2 Lakh Insurance Cover Scheme for Jan Dhan Account Holders
- Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY) – Skills in Line with International Standards
- Surgical Strike
- Digital India
- Corruption
- Demonetization
- Unified Payment Interface

- Digital payments, E-Wallets
- Women Empowerment
- Sexual Harassment
- Right to Information
- Right to Equality
- Globalization
- Terrorism
- The Seventh Pay Commission
- Intolerance
- Violence and peace
- The Technological Revolution
- India Pakistan Relations
- The Kashmir Issue
- Reservation in educational institutions
- Gender sensitivity/Gender-specific roles
- The GST bill
- Delhi Smog
- Reservation of women in Parliament

List of Important Letter Topics (Word limit- 135-165 words) :

- Write a letter to the municipal corporation asking them to install the cameras and street lights in your area and telling about their necessity with the advent of daily crimes.
- Write a letter to your younger brother or sister telling her/him to uninstall the mobile application that kills their time and also explain to them the potential threats of these applications.
- Assuming that you are Rajan/Rajani and you have been selected as the marketing manager in a public enterprise & have to join immediately. Write a letter to your seniors to extend the date of joining.
- Write a letter to the bank manager requesting him to approve your education loan.
- Write a letter to your friend congratulating him for getting the job in the defence sector

- Write a letter to your sister warning her about the risks associated with online transactions.
- Write a letter to the editor of the newspaper about the article on plastic pollution published in the latest edition.

Other important issues.

- Grievance letter related to public transport woes
- Organize cleanliness Drive
- Letter to the water supply board
- Letter to start bus service from your locality
- Letter to Bank Manager
- Letter to your local municipal corporation
- Improving government services
- Letter to the editor regarding grievance redressal
- Letter to an Officer for grievance redressal
- More public transport services.

ESSAY

FEMALE FOETIDICE- A CULTURAL BLEMISH

We are all the citizens of a country which can rightly boast of a proud past, a past, a culture in which there was never any discrimination on the basis of sex. Woman in this country has always been looked upon as more important than man. Look at our nomenclature : Sita — Ram, Radhey — Sham, the names of the women take precedence over those of men. No auspicious ceremony is supposed to be complete without the presence of a woman. Lord Rama had to get a golden statue of Sita made so that the auspicious Yajna could be completed.

It is this country where the unmarried girl is looked upon as 'Kanjak' — a divine being, fit to be worshipped, a rather than being looked upon as an object of lust or sex. In some of our functions like Durga Puja, Ashtami, etc. small kanjaks are invited, their feet are washed by the elders of the household, they are served with halva-puri in the presence of the deities and then given a send-off with a 'dakshina'. This is as true today as it was hundred years ago.

The practice of female foeticide is a curse on our intellect, our wisdom and our total ethos. It is a sin, a blasphemy against our ancient cultural values. It is fraught with dangerous consequences. The Act, 1994 states that the determination of the sex of an unborn child is illegal. "The Pre-Natal Diagnostic the doctor, the woman and the motivator is three years imprisonment, Rs. 10000 fine and suspension of the doctor's licence." But in spite of all the measures like this, the sex-ratio of girls versus boys is decreasing with every passing decade.

This national ratio has come down from 945 females to 1000 males in 1991 to 927 females to 1000 males in 2001. In Punjabi it has fallen from 882 in the year 1991 to 875 in the year 2001.

Punjab itself is having the lowest female sex ratio and it is expected that it would have less than 850 females per 1000 males by the year 2011. According to unconfirmed sources, there have been more than two crore female foeticide cases in the whole of India during the last decade. More than 50,000 cases are said to have been reported in Punjab in recent years.

The sex ration of female child to male child in the age group of 0-6 years in the state of Punjab only was 875 per 1000 children in the year 1991, and it came down to 793 during 2001.

If we analyse some other states also, we find that around 80 female children decline per 1000 male children during every decade. This means there is an 8% decline in one decade.

We must analyse the factors responsible for all this. It is sometimes felt that one big single factor standing in the way is the woman herself. Who is responsible for the ill treatment of the newly wed girls in the family? It is the traditional "Saas" who is herself a woman, who most shamelessly forgets that "Saas bhi Kabhi Bahu thi"? Who goes to the ultrasound clinics for the fertility or sex tests? Who goes in for foeticide? Who carries this fetus and who destroys it? Who lacks the courage to face the society and tell the society boldly, "It's my baby : I'm going to keep it. I shall not commit this sin. I'll not murder the mother of mankind." Why can't a pregnant lady, called upon to murder her female unborn child, tell her husband, "If your great grandfather or grandmother had adopted the same policy, you would not have been born !"

It is unfortunate that the Indian psyche appears to be heavily loaded against the birth of a female child. Somebody has to have the guts to change it. Why can't some bold reformers declare that their last rites would be performed only by their daughters, not sons? What's wrong in that?

It is indeed a sad truth that many of those resorting to female foeticide are those, who are regular visitors to the holy shrines of Mata Vaishno Devi, Jawala Ji, and Chintpurni and like. One feels like weeping at this terrible hypocrisy. On the one hand people are crying hoarse with slogans like Jai Mata di, Jaikara Sheranwali Mata da, Sanche Darbar Ki Jai, etc., but on the other hand, they are killing the infant 'Mata' even before she is born.

A CASE FOR AND AGAINST RESERVATION

The Reservation controversy that had been lying in a state of hibernation for the last few years, was brought to life by Arjun Singh, the Human Resources minister in the UPA government when he announced that 27 per cent of the seats would be reserved for Other Backward Classes in all the institutes of higher education. This announcement was made on the eve of the elections to the state assemblies of W.Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Assam. It amounted to reasserting the policy of reservation supported by the V.P. Singh government of the recommendations of the Mandal Commission in the nineties.

The announcement immediately stirred up a wave of unrest amongst the student community who came out on the roads to oppose this reservation policy. Even though Arjun Singh was opposed by some of his own colleagues in the cabinet and a few members of the Knowledge Commission (two of whom even resigned on the issue), the Central government headed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh silenced all critics by appointing a 4-member Cabinet Committee to go into the issue. On the report of the committee, the UPA government announced that it would go ahead with 27 percent reservations for the O.B.Cs. and that this policy would be implemented with effect from June 2007. The government also announced that steps would be taken to increase the number of seats in institutions of higher education so that the interests of students belonging to the other castes are not harmed.

In spite of all this, the agitation against this reservation policy of the government gained momentum every day. Medical students from all over the country organized protests, hunger strikes, dharnas and demonstrations against the government policy of reservations. An organization named Youth for Equality took over charge of the entire movement which was gathering more and more strength and sympathizers from all over the country.

Protesting students have a strong case. Reservations, they say, have been in place for more than fifty years now. It is only a very selected section of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes that has earned the benefits. This creamy layer continues to enjoy more benefits, thus defeating the very purpose and the spirit of the reservation policy. They also argue that now that India has already followed this policy of reservation for more than five decades, time has come to make merit alone as the criteria for admission to institutes of higher education and for jobs in the country. In the absence of any respect for merit, brilliant students would start migrating to other countries, leading to dangerous brain drain.

Those who support reservation continue to harp on the age old tune that people belonging to the OBCs are a deprived lot. They need reservation to earn a proper status of equality with others. The policy of reservation already in force has proved that it is not so. The facts prove that reservations help only a limited number of families only.

The strongest argument being put forward by the anti-reservationists is that the policy of reservation would lead to a division of the country on caste lines. This can lead to the disastrous consequences affecting the very unity and integrity of the country. The Supreme Court of India, in a PIL filed against the Reservation policy of the Government, took up the matter. It appealed to the agitating students and doctors to suspend their agitation and wait for the outcome of this PIL. A temporary calm appears to have descended on the scene for some time as the doctors have decided to resume their duties.

The irony of fate is that no political party in the country is prepared to call the spade a spade. Every party has an eye on the big vote bank constituted by the Scheduled Tribes and the Backward Classes. Rome is burning and the unmindful emperor continues to play on his flute. The country is facing a very uncertain future. The only way out appears to be the constitution of a high-powered, important judicial commission to go into the whole question of reservation again and arrive at suitable conclusion in the interest of all sections of the society. It wisdom does not prevail before it is too late, everybody may have to repent one day.

DRUG ADDICTION

OR

THE INCREASING USE OF INTOXICANTS

The use of intoxicants is as old as civilization itself. In varying degrees, people in all parts of the world have been using intoxicants in one form or the other. In olden days, this use was confined to some happy or festive occasions only. But as time passed and life became more and more complex and busy, use of intoxicants went on increasing. With the progress of science, new varied types of intoxicating drinks and drugs were invented. Today, in addition to a very large number of existing drinks and organic intoxicants, several other new and strong intoxicants are readily available in the market.

Use of intoxicants and drugs is so common today that it has become a world-wide problem. Neither the poor developing countries, nor the rich affluent countries are free from this menace. The affluent societies have problems of broken homes, late night club life and absence of social controls. The poor countries, on the other hand, have different problems. The problems of food, clothing and shelter occupy their minds. Under the impact of these problems, the young boys and girls feel frustrated and broken. Most of them try to find consolation or relief in trying to escape from the harsh realities of the world by taking recourse to intoxicating drugs and drinks.

The situation is quite alarming. More and more young boys and girls are becoming addicts. A survey was recently conducted in some universities in India. The findings were staggering. Drug addiction is fast catching hold of young Indian boys and girls. It is mainly confined to big cities like Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Delhi and the universities and colleges of the country. Hostels for boys and girls are the homes of these drug addicts.

In India, the malady of the use of drugs has come from the West. It has now assumed serious proportions. Most of the students start taking drugs as a matter of fashion or out of craze for thrills. But once they start, they cannot stop their use. The market is flooded with drugs that induce different types of intoxication. Most of these drugs are required to be taken to produce sedation or tranquility under strict medical observation and care. They are meant to provide proper treatment of certain diseases of the mind. But young boys and girls start taking them without medical advice.

Most of those who start taking drugs are socially maladjusted people. Some of these are unemployed and frustrated while others have some other social or family problems. The government is duty bound to make a thorough study of the various pros and cons of the problem. Sale of drugs in the open market should be banned. The problem of unemployment should be tackled on priority basis. Guidance and counseling bureaus manned by experts should be opened in all universities in order to provide advice and guidance to the frustrated youth of the country. Various social and voluntary organizations should take steps to provide proper social security and a respectable living for all such people as feel socially insecure. Orphans, widows and broke homes should be looked after properly. The government should use all its advertising media to educate the people about the harmful effects of the intoxicating drugs. Expert medical aid should be made readily available to wean the addicts away from their malady. Moral education should be introduced in schools and colleges. Pornographic literature and sexy pictures should be banned. Hippies and foreign visitors who encourage the use of drugs and smuggle these drugs into the country should be put behind the bars.

All these steps can go a long way in saving the country from this menace of drug addiction. In India, the disease is still in a state of infancy. It would be proper to nip the evil in the bud. In case this is not done, the disease may take the form of epidemic and strike a death blow to the great cultural traditions of this country. We must see the writing on the wall and act before it is too late.

Dowry System

Dowry system is one of the greatest evils of our society. The sacred institution of marriage is reduced to a business transaction. In fact, the whole affair has assumed the proportion of a scandal. It is the system which lowers the dignity of women. The parents of the girl are made to pay not only huge amounts of cash but also give luxury items like television sets, refrigerators, scooters, etc., all in the name of dowry. Poor parents borrow huge sums of money on high rates of interest to provide dowry. Many girls have to face a lot of trouble, and some of them even commit suicide.

The system has been in practice in India from times immemorial. As the Hindu law in the past did not give the girl the right to property, the father gave away a part of his property to the daughter in the form of dowry. It was also thought to be a sort of help to the young couple to set up a new home. The custom became an evil as the greed of bridegroom's parents mounted. Thus from a grace it became a shame of our society.

Today girls are educated and some of them are employed and are economically independent. They are in no way inferior to the boys. The argument that since bride's parents are very particular about boy's income, qualification, etc., does not hold weight. Giving of dowry is no problem for the rich. In order to enhance their false social prestige, they give maximum dowry. The poor try to imitate the rich and in the process ruin themselves.

This inhuman practice must be put to an end. Law cannot produce any desirable results. The Dowry Prohibition Act, first passed in 1961, remained ineffective and the Amendment Bills of 1976 and 1985, which declared taking and giving of dowry as a punishable offence, have brought little respite to the people. The evil of dowry is grinning at us as never before.

This social evil needs a treatment at the social level. The social organizations carry out intensive anti-dowry propaganda. To combat the evil, young boys and girls should come forward and resolve not to give consent to such marriage which involves dowry. Marriages should be performed in the

presence of some legal authority. The services of a government employee demanding dowry should be terminated. Above all, if more and more girls are educated and made to enter employment through various competitive examinations, the evil can be eradicated. Inter-caste marriages should be encouraged. The question of marriage should not be tackled by the old who lack constructive vision. The young should have more say in the matter. Thus, the most heinous of the social evils can be fought in our country.

Corruption

Even though corruption is considered a major ill of modern society, it is not something that has taken shape in recent times. Corruption in one form or another has been a part of human interaction since maybe, the beginning of civilization. In fact, it has its origins in a basic feature of human nature: the desire to favour others and in turn to be favoured by others. Corruption is also related to such aspects of human nature as greed, laziness, selfishness and jealousy, and its elimination depends on the extent to which these characteristics can be controlled. But, since self-control cannot be exercised by everyone at all times, eliminating corruption entirely is practically impossible.

Nevertheless, owing to its numerous drawbacks it has to be kept at least in check. Corruption nowadays is more worrisome because of its volume and prevalence in almost all aspects of human activity; and what makes it dangerous, is its tendency to unjustly favour some at the expense of others. The unfair advantage that, those who adopt corrupt practices enjoy, creates all-round bitterness and hatred in the society.

Based on the belief that checking or minimizing corruption is more practicable than eliminating it altogether, it is being effectively contained with the help of certain methods. By adopting an arrangement of 'checks and balances', many modern democratic societies have reduced the volumes of corruption in them, and brought a sense of order in their governance. In such an arrangement, power is so well-distributed within their governments, that no individual or group is able to decide and influence policy, without the knowledge and approval of the others. Corruptor unfair practices rarely succeed in such cases because the openness of the system ensures that nothing can be effectively hidden for long. However, such an approach will show result only in a system in which the forces against corruption are strong enough to detect and subdue it. The approach is unlikely to succeed in India, where corruption is strong and widespread, and the forces against it almost non-existent.

In India, the main reason for the failure in controlling corruption is that the ruling class, consisting of politicians and bureaucrats, irrespective of party affiliations and social backgrounds, is generally corrupt. Those that are not are so few in number that their strength cannot win the fight against corruption. In such cases, therefore, the concept of 'checks and balances' will not play any useful role because, those responsible in ensuring the 'checks and balances' may themselves be corrupt. In order to be effective, the fight against corruption, instead of being individual and isolated crusades by sincere and responsible citizens, should be a united effort, with the cooperation of a majority of the people, if not all of them.

But even with the cooperation of the people, it may not be easy to move ahead against the issue of corruption because the people themselves, owing to the fraudulent system in which they live, may be knowingly or unknowingly adopting corrupt practices. Though none might individually be corrupt or none might support corruption, yet there would be a feeling of helplessness towards corruption because of its inevitability in getting things done. In such cases, corruption may even achieve the respectability of a necessary instrument for survival. Thus we realise that even a people's movement against corruption has the risk of failure.

The best basis for the fight against corruption is the premise that no one is born corrupt, and that it is the situation that one finds oneself in, which makes one corrupt. It follows from this premise that corruption can be reduced if the situation or system is altered. Since the top levels of the leadership are empowered to control the system, it is there that the fight against corruption should start. The leadership, by being free of corruption, can set an example for the people to follow. Corruption will start losing ground the moment the scales are tipped against it.

India's freedom struggle is a case in point. The absence of any serious instances of corruption, in a mass movement that involved almost the entire native population of the country, was due to the sincerity and morality of the top leadership. The relatively corruption-free activities of the time were not the result of the people's virtue. They were so because the people's vices were kept in check by the influence of the leaders. The vices, as are evident now, raised their heads when the leadership's influence over the people started diminishing; just as darkness follows the setting sun.

The present fight against corruption should also follow a similar path. In India, with its widespread poverty and backwardness, corruption can scarcely be tolerated. Unlike in Japan, Korea or the U.S., where enough may be stolen without affecting the welfare of the society, there is not enough wealth in India for society to tolerate the luxury of pilferage.

THE POPULATION PROBLEM

OR

POPOULATION EXPLOSION

“No country can be overpopulated if there is work for everyone”.

—Jawahar Lal Nehru

Over-Population is one of the numerous problems facing India. It is a burning question of the day. It has been engaging the attention of the public and the press for a pretty long time. Much has been said and written about this problem of ever increasing numbers. During the last century, Malthus, a well-known economist; had stated in his famous essay on population that population increased at a much faster rate than food supply. Malthus seems to be quite true if we look at the conditions prevailing in our country to- day.

India occupies only 2.4 percent of the total land area of the world but the population of the country is 16 percent of the total global population. According to the 1991 census, the population of India had crossed the 882 million mark. What is more, it is still increasing at an alarming rate. It is rising at the rate of about one million heads every month. According to 2001 Census, the population of India crossed the 1000 million mark. This crossing of the billion mark has shaken the government and the people of India to the bones. Since 1947, the population of India has increased by 360 millions. This means we have added an entire population of the erstwhile USSR. Every year, the increase in India's Population equals the population of Australia. The situation is just

staggering. The production of food cannot keep pace with the alarming increase in numbers.

The causes of this problem are not very far to seek. Ours is a hot country. So we have a high birth rate. The boys and girls of our country grow and mature sexually at an early age. Early marriages are common even today, especially in the rural areas. Moreover, the birth of a baby is supposed to be the work of God. Illiteracy and ignorance are still rampant. Big families still carry prestige with them. So the birth rate is quite high. On the other hand, medical facilities have increased a lot since independence. It has led to decrease in the death-rate. The population is, therefore, increasing at a terrific speed. Last but not the least, there is a lack of the means of recreation for the masses. This and many other social factors are at work. They account for this serious problem facing the country.

The problem of ever increasing numbers must be solved on a top priority basis. Unless it is solved our Five Year Plans cannot raise our standard of living. No plan for employment can succeed in its absence. The food problem will remain as it is. So, for the future prosperity of the nation, every effort must be made to solve it.

A planned population control programme should be launched to check this phenomenal growth in population in our country. The first step, of course is the education of the people. Their whole mental outlook must be changed. They have to realize that it is a sin to have a large family. Besides this, an improvement in the economic condition of the people will also bring down the birth rate. Family planning schemes should be made popular. Attractive incentives should be given to those couples who come forward to plan their families. Those who refuse to all in line should be suitably penalized and discouraged. Medicines, operations and other devices, that help in checking the birth-rate should be made available to all. They should not be limited to cities only. They must reach the rural India.

With the crossing of the billion mark, the planners in the Government of India have once again started thinking of steps that can be taken of control population in the country. A suggestion has been made that the country should declare a two-year baby holiday. It has also been suggested that the one-child family norm should be adopted for

with. Punitive measures are also being thought of to curb this population explosion. No hard decisions have so far been taken.

To sum up, population control is a crying need of the hour. It is a problem that concerns each citizen of our country. If we do not plan our families, we might perish one day.

BLACK MONEY IN INDIA

Illegally earned money is called black money. It is the result of hoarding, smuggling, tax evasion and dealing in immovable property for which the consideration is paid in black. It has been beyond the control of the Government. The black money has already created a serious problem in our country.

The Indian economy stands badly shattered because of the huge amount of this tainted wealth lying in the coffers of the rich. It has given rise to parallel economy operating in the country. As a becoming poorer while the rich go on becoming richer. The gap between the haves and the have-nots is widening every day.

Black money is used by the rich in various evil activities. They use this money for corrupting and demoralizing social and political life. They display it in ostentatious living and wasteful luxuries. They bribe Government officers and lead them to corruption and dishonesty. They purchase political bosses and control the strings of the Government. Thus the entire social structure comes to be badly polluted.

It is difficult to form an exact idea of the amount of black money in circulation in the country. Searches and raids by Income Tax authorities are conducted from time to time. Such raids yield crores of rupees. But the people are, at times, cleverer, than the Government. They seek the aid of the best legal brains and get the law twisted in their favour. Most of the offenders use all their money and influence and go scot free whenever they are caught. The Government has, at various times, announced some voluntary disclosure schemes for unearthing the black money. These schemes have proved successful to a very limited extent. What has come

to the surface is believed only to be the tip of the huge iceberg lying hidden underneath. The 1997 Voluntary Disclosure Scheme announced by the Government of India unearthed a big amount of black money as the tax rate in this scheme had been reduced to thirty per cent.

The black money, according to some reliable estimates has gone up to Rs. 10,000 crores in our country. It is to a great extent responsible for a great rise in prices because the purchasing power of the people has increased. People having black money are leading a life of luxury whereas the poor people are leading a miserable life. Some leading economists of the country have suggested stringent measures to the government to unearth black money but successive governments have been rejecting those measures. The vested interest always stand in the way of effective measures and get them diluted.

The government of the day appears to be doing its best to unearth black money. A number of steps have been taken. Taxation structure and system have been made easier. At different times, the government has brought forward several schemes and asked the people to declare their wealth. There has been some success. A lot still remains to be done.

It must be clear to all that the nation cannot shut her eyes to this state of affairs. Smugglers and black-marketeers can no longer be tolerated. They are striking at the very roots of our democratic structure. All steps to weed the black money out of circulation must be taken as early as possible. The government must come down with a heavy hand of smugglers, tax evaders, black-marketeers and hoarders. Black money is a curse. It must be rooted out from public life.

Each One, Teach One
Or
Eradication of Illiteracy from India

“Education is the cheap defense of nations.”

— Burke

India is a democratic country. No democracy can function successfully if its masses are illiterate. In a democracy, people elect their own rulers. The illiterate masses are generally exploited by clever politicians through empty slogans, false promise and high sounding arguments. An educated and alert electorate is, therefore, the basic requirement of a true democracy.

Unfortunately, India continues to be a very backward country in respect of literacy in spite of the fact that successive popular governments have been trying their best to spread literacy. Our constitution also promises universal literacy and equality of opportunity for all. Compulsory primary education for children between the age group of six to fourteen years has already been introduced. Schools have been opened even in far-flung villages in the country. Efforts are being earnestly made to force the children to come to schools. It is really a commendable effort.

Alongwith the education of the children, efforts are also being made to provide a knowledge of the three R's (reading, writing and arithmetic) to the illiterate adult population in the country. The project of Adult Education was launched on a big scale by the Janata Government in 1977. But the scheme could not see the light of the day because of the in-fighting and the internal squabbling of the various constituents of the Janata Government.

When the Congress government came back to power, it decided to take up the project of Adult Education again. It gave the slogan : 'Each one, Teach one.' It was an excellent idea. The Central Government gave a concrete shape to the entire project and work was started in right earnest.

The problem of educating 'the old parrots' is a colossal one. There are about 450 million illiterate adults in the country. First, they have to be persuaded and motivated to receive education. Secondly, resources, personnel, equipment, teaching aids, buildings and other related materials have to be provided on a large scale. Thirdly, huge amount of expenditure involved has to be arranged for. In addition, there are several other related problems also. But in spite of all this, the government is proceeding ahead with the project in all seriousness.

The project has been handed over to more than 150 universities in the country. Colleges affiliated to the universities have been asked to open and organize adult education centres for adults in their respective areas. Each unit conducts teaching courses for 20-30 adults. The curriculum includes in addition to the knowledge of the three R's up to the primary standard level, a training in some socially useful activities. Teachers manning each unit are suitably paid. Suitable incentives are being paid to the adult learners so that more and more them willingly join the teaching centres. It is hoped that lakhs of centres working in the country will certainly be able to achieve the desired targets.

The problem of adult education is really a gave problem. But there is no need to be pessimistic about it. Let the teachers and the concerned officials rise to the occasion and put themselves heart and soul into the noble task. No government plain can succeed unless it is backed by the people. We must give up the practice of sitting at the fence and throwing missiles or criticism and condemnation at the government. Let us join the heroic effort and make this ambitious plan a grand success so that

Gurudev Tagore's dreams are converted into a reality. He dreamt of an India. :—

“Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high ;

Emancipation of Women

The position and status of women in society has been changing from time to time. In Vedic India, woman was considered to be a goddess. No religious or social function was considered to be auspicious where woman was not present. She was called the “Ardhangini” (the better half) of man. She had a fairly high status in society. That is why in the nomenclature of couples, the name of the woman was always put before the name of man, for example, Sita-Ram, Radhey-Sham, etc. When Sita was in exile, Lord Rama had to get a golden statue of Sita built for the Yajan he performed. All this shows the high esteem in which women were held in ancient India.

With the advent of Muslims in India, the position of women received a set-back. They had to go behind the veil. The British rulers, too, did not take any concrete steps to improve the status of women. It was only with the dawn of freedom that the position and status of women took a turn for the better. Our national leaders started working for the emancipation of women. They were given their rightful place in all spheres of life. Discrimination on the basis of sex became a matter of the past.

As a result of all this, the woman broke out of the four walls of her house and started marching ahead in life. She joined the worldwide phenomenon of women. Today, the eve is certainly on the march. In fact, she has left man far behind in many fields. We have women legislators, women ministers, ambassadors, doctors, lawyers, teachers and officers. With the encouragement of co-education, modern girls have thrown off old complexes and they are marching shoulder to shoulder with boys in every field of life.

A modern girl is conscious of her position and importance in the society. She is no longer a dumb cow of the society. She competes with boys and every sphere of life. She is full of self-confidence. She is as ambitious as the boys and wants to become a problem for the poor parents. A girl born to poor parents does not cut down her needs. She, too, wants to enjoy life like her rich friends.

A woman in olden days had to depend upon her parents, her husband or her sons for the whole of her life. But the modern even is as free as a bird. She no longer depends on others. Education has raised her status. She is keen on becoming self-supporting. She likes to enter some profession. It does not mean that she wants to remain alone or unmarried. She longs to have respectable status. She does not like to be a dumb driven cattle.

Freedom is good but too much of freedom is bad. The modern girl should not employment westernize " herself. She should copy only the best of the West without losing the best of the East. She should not forget the glorious traditions of the Indian women. Nobody, would like to keep her confined freedom wrongly.

India of the Future

When Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the President of India took over as the President, he gave to the people of India a vision, a dream of India in 2020. He foresaw an India that would lead the world not only in the fields of science and technology but in all other fields also. Swami Vivekananda, the great India saint had declared more than a hundred years ago that India would rise to its full stature and glory and lead the world in all spheres—spiritual or material. That dream of the people of India appears to be coming to its fulfillment whenever one casts a glance over the big strides India is taking in all fields, especially that of knowledge through information technology.

India is now in race to be recognized as a world power in the next few years. In the field of space programme, India took a big jump on May 5, 2005 with the successful launch of the 44-meter tall four-stage Polar satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV –C6 from the Indian spaceport at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. This has placed India on a stage where it can now receive launch orders from other countries.

The Indian IT industry is already leaving several countries behind. There are more than 600,000 persons working in the Indian IT industry responsible for creating a wealth to the tune of 16 billion dollars. India is going to take bigger strides and touch the 50 billion dollar mark in the export of software soon. The 'on-line' is becoming the in-line in every Indian home and the day is not far when every Indian village panchayat will be fully computerized.

Indian immigrants in USA are the richest amongst the immigrants. According to reliable estimates, there are some two lakh millionaires of Indian origin in USA alone. The size of the Indian entrepreneur market in the Silicon Valley alone comprises 200,000 people. It is only because of their hard work, perseverance and dedication to duty that the people of India are finding a place of pride in the fields of technology, health and corporate business all over the world. Anybody can be proud of Indian firms like the Mittal Steel Corporation which now operates in 14 countries of Europe, Asia, Africa, and the USA.

Gone are the days when our leaders used to go to the advanced countries with a begging bowl for aid and expertise. The roles appear to be reversed now. India is now in a position to help several countries with money as well as expertise in several fields. The Delhi Metro and the Konkan Rail Project are being looked upon as the best project comparable to any such project anywhere in the world. Several countries are already trying to replicate the Delhi Metro model and are approaching India for the purpose. Projects like the Golden Quadrilateral and the linking of rivers in the country will certainly revolutionize the infrastructure in the country within the next ten years.

Only a little while ago, Henry Kissinger, the former US Secretary of State eulogized India as a global power and backed India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council.

There is no doubt that the country has changed beyond recognition during the last 50 years. India and Indian products are now becoming synonymous with quality and durability all over the world. That is why the Indian export figures are jumping higher and higher every year.

India is certainly on the march. It is going to be a different India in the year 2020. It is going to be an India of our dreams, an India that can hold its head high in the comity of nations. Once again India will occupy the seat of a jagad guru in the world.

Sexual Harassment: The Hidden Truth

When most people think of sexual harassment, they think of a guy grabbing a girl. However, sexual harassment can be something as “insignificant” as being called a slur. It is anything that makes a girl, or boy, feel uncomfortable about his/her sexuality.

According to the law, sexual harassment is anything from unwelcome sexual advances and requests for sexual favors to verbal statements of a sexual nature. It also violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in addition to Title IX of the Education Code. The Sexual Harassment Policy which is in effect in all schools and work-places is aimed at providing an academic and work environment free of harassment. This includes sexual harassment and every form of intimidation or exploitation.

Sexual harassment is alive and thriving not only in the workplace, but also in schools. Despite all the TV shows, headlines, news broadcasts and negative publicity in movies about the harmful effects of sexual harassment, it is still one of the most frequently reported complaints in the workplace and schools, according to WASH (Women against Sexual Harassment).

Most students have probably heard of the highly publicized Anita Hill and Clarence Thomas case, or cases of women suing their bosses. But there is another form of sexual harassment that unfortunately doesn't get as much publicity. It happens where females should be learning their rights as “citizens” and being educated about them... in our schools.

Girls often accept verbal insults on a regular basis. Even though boys say these are “in Jest”, it has become common (and even acceptable) for males to refer to females derogatorily. Often males, as they walk past a female’s locker, will “reach out and touch” a part of her, and the girl is too embarrassed to do anything more than just laugh or ignore it. Girls have to be aware of their rights. Recently, a high school girl sued her school and won a settlement of \$600,000 because the administration took no action to stop the sexual harassment.

Many females who have been harassed face administrators and other adults who give them the “boys will be boys” response. This encourages females to believe that sexual harassment is acceptable in today’s society. However, harassment at a young age can have long-lasting, detrimental effects. It may have a severe impact on self-esteem and make girls feel self-conscious about their bodies.

When a female does not take action against sexual harassment, not only does it negatively affect her as an individual, but it also gives others, who see the abuse, the idea that it is acceptable to be treated like a sex object and humiliated. Ignoring this negative behavior toward girls encourages them to accept mental or physical abuse, and may encourage young boys to become rapists or wife beaters. So girls, SPEAK OUT!?

Secularism

Secularism implies equal respect for all religions in the same measure as we have for our own. In our country, the liberty of “belief, faith and worship”, as enshrined in the Constitution, has been implemented by incorporating the Fundamental Rights of all citizens to “freedom of religion” vide Articles 25-29. Secularism, as any theologian would tell us, lies at the very root of all religions and faiths in this world.

It is true that the earliest force of civilisation was religion. In the West, it was religion, whether pagan or Christian, that consolidated the idea of political sovereignty. In the East, it was religion again that provided the foundation of the State. The glorious structure of the ideal Hindu State or ‘Ram Rajya’ was religious to the backbone. The idea of Islamic State in the imperialistic history of Islam, as distinguished from the domestic history of a few ideal Muslim rulers, is nothing but the conquering sword of Islam dripping with the blood of the victims of the religion of Islam. For time, religion was a necessity and a boon to keep peoples together within the organisation of a State. It was an advance in the thought of humanity to regard a fellow being as a brother by virtue of the fact that he was the son of the same Father, inhabiting the same land over which the Father ruled. The idea of political sovereignty and of geographical unity was given to the world in an emphatic form by religion. Even the idea of One World Government under the Supreme Lord is religious in its origin. But as fanaticism increased, the force of reason declined in religion. Faith became corrupt, and religion became a source of discord and bloodshed. Some of the greatest wars of the world and the bloodiest massacres have been perpetrated in the name of religion. The history of the Middle Ages in Europe is a record of the havoc which religion created in the national and the international fields. It was, therefore, found necessary that the States should tear themselves away from the world—devouring force of

religion. The dawn of the modern era is characterised by this change in Europe. The doctrine of the two swords, and the councilor theory led to the development of the secular State.

Revolution followed revolution in Europe until the principles of secular sovereignty were fully established in France, America, England, Germany and Russia. A band of distinguished writers gave the world a very complete theory of the sovereignty of the secular State. Rousseau is one of the most eminent leaders of this group. Karl Marx is another. And there are many more who have not had the luck of becoming world-famous.

From the point of view of history, the modern age is characterised by a change in the fundamental attitude of humanity. People of the middle Ages were led by the theocratic States. They had visions of absolute happiness here and hereafter; they had promises of all knowledge and God communions; they lived in the hope of developing hidden powers and the third eye through faith, and they hoped for a peaceful and ascetic order of society. But in the long run they found that all their hopes and expectations were blasted by the theocratic State. Instead of the happiness there was misery arising from fanaticism, crusades and religious wars. Instead of human brotherhood all over the world, the entire humanity was torn up into religious factions. Instead of knowledge there was all-round darkness, not only about religion and God but also about nature and man. Instead of developing institution or the third eye even the intellect was not developed. Instead of a high moral order prevailing in society there was nothing but corruption, hypocrisy, immorality and selfishness in the Church and the monasteries.

The forces of Renaissance and Reformation were at work. Reason assumed the supremacy over faith and States became non-theocratic or non-religious, i.e., secular. They set about removing the deficiencies of the theocratic State. Instead of abstract happiness they undertook to provide man with his physical, economic and social needs and wants. They sought to introduce an intelligent social morality against ritualistic custom. They understood to develop the intellect and promote scientific knowledge of man and nature. But this did not mean that the secular State was to annihilate religion. On the contrary, the secular State set about developing religion as an institution of civilisation and as a cultural value. In regard to religion, the goal of the secular State is to evolve something universal which should be capable of satisfying the religious thrust of humanity without any of the

dangers that history records in connection with religion in the theocratic States.

The present world is increasingly in the grip of religious fundamentalism. Politicians and religious leaders of all hues inflame communal passions at the slightest provocation. The cases of Salman Rushdie and Taslima Nasreen are well-known. In India, ever since Independence, communal violence has almost become a way of life for the people. Whether it is Bhiwandi or Hubli or Ayodhya after the demolition of the Babri Masjid structure, religion has always been misused to exploit personal as well as political ends. We have lost all patience and tolerance for believers in other religions and faiths. Fundamentalism is the biggest threat to secularism today. It does not give us any chance for understanding the others' point of view. The question of loving other religions equally as we love our does not, therefore, arise. Consequently, secularism remains a tenet on paper only.

The vast religious literature available to us also lends itself to diverse interpretations. Value systems in different faiths are represented differently by different theologians. Reason is often blurred. A broad, cosmopolitan outlook, which is so essential to practise healthy secularism, is what is required today. One need not be an atheist, but what one must realise, like Jawaharlal Nehru, that secularism does not mean conflict with religions other than one's own. Any person, who understands the true import of religion, will automatically become secular; he would tolerate, understand and love other religions in addition to his own.

To the Father of Nation, religion meant love, non-violence and above all, tolerance of different creeds. "I know of no great sin", Gandhiji said, "than to oppress the innocent in the name of God". People must be made to understand that promoting a climate of intolerance precipitates an acid rain of intimidation and violence, which ultimately scalds everyone. India had a long history of tolerant secularism since the days of Ashoka. We only have to nurture it by rising above the bitter memories of the past by propagating love and tolerance. Intellectuals must take the lead in this respect. That is the only glimmer of hope in the present scenario. Otherwise, we shall not be able to blame anyone else but ourselves.

PROBLEM OF POVERTY

The incidence of poverty in India is on increase in spite of recent opening up of the Indian economy, globalization and market oriented economy. The rich are becoming richer and the poor, poorer and deprived. The rural poverty has increased from 32 per cent to 42 per cent as nothing effective has been done to alleviate poverty and to bridge the gap between the well off and the needy and poor in the villages. Poverty can be seen at its worst in some of the Indian States like Bihar, Orissa, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh etc. where millions and millions of people suffer from hunger, poverty, malnutrition, ill-health and destitution. Hundreds of them are dying regularly for want of basic minimum needs. There cannot be a more appalling and agonising scene than this. In spite of our 50 years of independence, we have been not been able to provide millions and millions of Indians with barest minimum food to keep their body and soul together, let alone the improvement in the quality of life.

It is estimated that about half of the Indian population has been living below poverty line. However, official figures show that poverty in India has declined from 36 per cent in 1984-85 to 29.9 percent during 1987-88. These figures cannot be relied upon because they are prepared on the dictate of the political bosses.

For example, till March 1997, it was estimated that 18.1 per cent of people in India were living below poverty line against 29.9 per cent, during 1987-88. Then this figure was doubled to 39.57 per cent at the full meeting of the Planning Commission held on 10 March, 1997 and presided over by the Prime Minister to suit and serve the ends of the political leaders and masters. Every now and then poverty statistics are manipulated and new methodologies are evolved to calculate the number of poor in the country. It is high time that such practices are stopped and a sound, foolproof and objective methodology, based on facts and technical data, is adopted.

Poverty cannot be defined exactly and in absolute terms. It may differ from country to country and even from one province to another in the same country. Similarly, a rural poor and an urban poor cannot be measured with the same yardstick because the cost of living in respect of these two are different. But all people whose calorie intake is very low or modest, those who do not have basic minimum needs of living are below poverty line. They are victims of hunger, starvation, ill health and malnutrition because their means of subsistence are abysmally low and negligible. They have been living in famine no money to buy it. Political freedom and independence is meaningless unless people are free from hunger and abject poverty. These people just exist and life has no joy, no significance for them.

The rural poor spent over 75 per cent of their meager income on food. In urban areas too, the very poor spend almost the same percentage of their wages on food items. Then there is hardly left anything for clothing, housing, education or health. These people have been victims and endemic hunger, poverty and destitution. Even the food-grains sold through the network of ration and fair price shops at subsidized rates have been beyond their purchasing power. The imbalance between the population and food-production is hardly keeping pace with the rapidly increasing number of mouths in the country. According to a report India is one of the three countries where 50 per cent of the world's malnourished children are found. The other two countries are Pakistan and Bangladesh. About 53 per cent of under-five children are malnourished in the country. Infants here are worse off than in any country of the world. Thus, the per capita availability of

foodgrains was 15.2 ounces per day in 1956 which increased marginally to 15.8 ounces in 1974.

There has been green revolution and food-grains production has definitely increased but this has been in respect of fine and superior foodgrains like wheat and rice only. As far as the coarse foodgrains like bazra, jowar, barley etc. are concerned, the growth has been served the interests of relatively rich and prosperous sections of the society and the weaker and vulnerable sections have been left in the lurch. The marginal farmers have been further marginalized and it is the rich peasants and farmers who have benefited the most from this agricultural revolution. There has been improvement in the quality of life and living-standards of the upper middle class but as far as the poor classes are concerned, they are just managing to survive and exist. For them radio, electronic gadgets etc. are still a luxury. They cannot dream of consumer durables. The small farmers, daily wage-earners, labourers, artisans etc. In the villages and small towns are still being exploited by the middle men and money-landers. They are the worst victims of hoarders, black marketers and price-manipulators. The traders and shopkeepers fleece them as and when they will because they are poor, illiterate, superstitious and fatalistic.

Poverty is not a sin but is definitely a curse which in its turn generates such social evils and crimes as theft, dacoity, kidnapping, murder, drug-trafficking, violence, prostitution, extremism, terrorism etc. A poor person, driven to extreme and desperation can stoop too low to commit any crime. Poor and unemployed young men in Jammu and Kashmir easily become an unwilling instrument of foreign sponsored terrorism. Insurgency and terrorism in our North-eastern States and directly linked with poverty, unemployment and industrial backwardness prevailing there. The poor masses there feel alienated, isolated and discriminated against and easily become tools in the hands of war-lords and terrorists Naxalite and People's War Ground movements thrive well in the regions where there is extreme poverty, illiteracy and economic backwardness. Many times extreme poverty pushes the people to suicide. For example, three brothers in Ludhiana (Punjab), all daily wage labourers and dalits committed suicide by consuming alphas poison on April 4, 1997. They

could not afford the proper treatment for their ailing father because of extreme poverty who ultimately died for want of medication and care. Many unmarried girls hand, immolate or drink poison to commit suicide because their parents cannot afford dowry or decent marriage.

No sincere and determined efforts have been made to remove and check poverty. There is a clear lack of social and political will to have alleviated poverty. With the political leaders "poverty alleviation" has been a mere voting-catching slogan. In spite of the 50 years of independence and political freedom the masses in India are living below the poverty line. They are not only poor but also illiterate, hungry person is the most frustrated person. For him morality, conscience, social order, religion, patriotism etc. have no sense, no availability of employment, land, water, foodgrains is further shrinking in the country. The natural resources are already under pressure resulting in adverse environmental consequences.

India is rich both in man and materials, but they have not been exploited. Poverty amidst plenty seems to be a major problem. Availability in plenty of cheap and skilled labour and natural resources is a great advantage; which can be very favourably utilized for rapid industrial growth and agricultural expansion. Actually there is no contradiction between industrialization, growth, globalization and opening up of the economy on the one hand and eradiction of poverty and social justice on the other. Industrial and agricultural growth and development will go a long way in removing poverty, unemployment and in improving living standards of the people. For the empowerment of the weaker and vulnerable sections of the society it is imperative that a proper balance is struck between the development of agriculture and industry. India means villages, agriculture and cottage industries. At the same time it also means globally competitive industrial growth and development. Both should go hand in hand to make India a strong, poverty-free and a major economic power in the world.

India is a welfare State, and it is the duty of the government to see that all its citizens lead a good, meaningful, satisfying and qualitative life. Some of the directive Principles like "the right to adequate means to

livelihood,” right to work”, protection against “unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement,” “free and universal education up to the age of 14 years” should now become part of our fundamental rights and, therefore, justiciable. The concentration of wealth in the hands of few should be prevented and there should be fair distribution of national wealth among all its citizens.

SPACE EXPLORATION IN INDIA

In ancient India, astronomy and mathematics were remarkably developed. It produced great astronomers and mathematicians like Varahamihira, Aryabhatta, and Bhaskara etc. They contributed a lot to knowledge of heavenly bodies. Their calculations were accurate and reliable. They know that the earth revolved around the sun on its axis. They could forecast eclipses with accuracy. Their astronomical knowledge was deep and of far-reaching consequences. The 17th century observatories of Jaipur, Delhi etc, constructed on a big scale were equipped with very accurate instruments. These suggest that there were their counterparts in ancient days as well. Zero and decimal system of numerals were invented by the ancient Indian Scientists and mathematicians. Indians were the first to understand the mathematical implications of zero and infinity. These are the very foundations on which modern space research and exploration is said to be based.

Vedic literature is full of significant references to ‘antariksha’ and ‘askasha’ the intermediate space between heaven and earth, the atmosphere, the sky, the open space, vacuity, the ether etc. In the Ramayana Rama travels in an aerial chariot called ‘Pushpaka’ from Lanka to Ayodhya. Ravana having abducted Sita travels through skies. Similarly, the Mahabharata is replete with space-stories and adventures. There is an

interesting anecdote in the Mahabharata which wonderfully allegorically. Bhima, physically the most powerful of the 5 Pandava princes, caught hold of an elephant by one of its feet and swirling hurled it into the space and it never fell on earth.

India's modern space research and exploration is somewhat belated and yet significant. India now ranks sixth after the U.S., Russia, France, Japan and China in the world, and second in the developing countries in the matter of satellite launching into low earth orbit. India made a modest beginning in 1963 with the launch of Rohini sounding rockets. Since then, Indian scientists produced the world's most advanced remote sensing satellite IRS-1C which was successfully put into Orbit afloat a Russian rocket on December 28, 1995. It is equipped with the panchromatic camera (PAN) which will send pictures of the earth with a resolution of 6 meters, the highest available today in the world. India's third indigenous satellite INSAT-2C was launched from Kourou, French Guyana by the Ariane Rocket. It carries KU band transponders meant for telecommunication. Recently on March 21, 1996 the PSLV-D3 (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) successfully launched IRSP-3 (Indian Remote Sensing Satellite) from Sriharikota. The launch placed the 930 Kg IRS-P3 into a near-polar sun-synchronous orbit. The 2nd Indian remote sensing satellite IRS-1A was launched in March 1988 and IRS-1B in August 1991. The first satellite in the IRS series IRS-1A, launched in March 1988 had successfully completed its designed life of 3 years and continued to provide operational service even as it entered its 6th year of operation.

The Indian space programme was started formally in 1972 when Space commission and Department of Space were established. The programme aims at providing space based service in areas of communication, meteorology, resources survey and management and, as integral to it, develop satellite, launch vehicles and associated made remarkable progress. As a result of these, the communication capabilities have been enhances, distance education in remote areas search and rescue system. Similarly, space remote sensing is providing vital inputs on agriculture, soil, forestry, land and water resources etc.

The Indian National Satellite (INSAT) is a multipurpose operational satellite system for communications, meteorological observations and data relay, direct satellite TV Broadcasting and radio programme distribution. The INSAT system was set up in 1983 with the successful commissioning of INSAT-1B aboard the U.S. Space Shuttle Challenger on August 30, 1983. INSAT-1D, the last in the series of the first generation INSAT Satellite was sent into space by the U.S. Delta Rocket on June, 12, 1990. The indigenously built INSAT-2A was launched in July 1992 on board the European launch vehicle, Ariane and was commissioned in August 1992. INSAT-2 series of satellites are more advanced and have one and a half times the capacity of INSAT-1 satellite, was launched into space by Ariane Vehicle from Kourou on 23 July, 1993. And then INSAT-2C was sent into space by Ariane rocket from Kourou, French Guyana in 1995.

Besides the last 2 satellites of the second generation series INSAT-2D, scheduled for launch on May 29 from Kourou and INSAT-2E, the ISRO has plans to launch four satellites of the third generation during the current five year period. Two of them will use procured launches and the remaining 2 the second generation Geo Synchronous Launch Vehicles (GSLV).

The second operations Indian Remote Sensing Satellite, IRS-1B was launched on 29 August, 1991. Before this IRS-1A was launched in March. On October 15, 1994, 870 kg remote sensing satellite IRS-1C WAS LAUNCHED FROM Sriharikota by PSLV-D2. IRS-1C was launched by Russian Molniya Vehicle in 1995. IRS-1C and IRS-1D are second generation highly advanced satellites with much better spectral and spatial resolutions, more frequent revisits, stereo viewing and on board recording capabilities.

In spite of some setbacks the launch vehicle programme in India has made significant strides. The maiden venture in developing a satellite launch vehicle proved a failure as SLV-3 failed in August 1979. The second attempt of SLV, however, proved successful and it placed a 35 kg Rohini satellite in orbit. SLV-3 was successfully launched in 1983 and it

transmitted more than 2,500 pictures home. The next 2 Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicles (ASLVs) sent into space in 1987 and 1988 also failed in their mission, but the launch of ASLV-D3 on 20 May, 1982 was a success which carried the stretched Rohini Satellite (SROSS-III). ASLV-D4 was successfully launched from Sriharikota placing into low earth orbit the SROSS-C2 satellite on May 4, 1994. PSLV – D2 was successfully launched on October 15, 1994 hurtling into polar synchronous orbit 870 kg remote sensing satellite IRS-P2. PSLV-D3 launched successfully the IRS-P3 on March 21, 1996.

The ISRO is determined to continue the use of its workhorse, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) for hurtling satellites in polar orbit. The five continued series of PSLV would launch IRS-ID, IRS-P4, IRS-P5, IRSP-6 besides an astronomical payload. However, the crowning glory of the current 5-years programme would be the realization of the Rs. 935 crore GSLV series of which developmental launch is expected this year (1997) end, using the cryogenic top stage engine acquired from Russia, 6 GSLV launches have been planned during the next five years. GSLV (Geo Synchronous Launch Vehicle) is capable of putting, 2,500 kg communication satellite into geo synchronous transfer orbit. It is a three stage Vehicle with 3.4 m diameter heat shield.

A major milestone targeted for period is the operationalisation of the GSLV in launching communication satellites. According to the current programme, the last 2 of the GSLV series would launch INSAT-3C and INSAT-3D. Though the ISRO's vision for the decade 2000 to 2010 lays stress on promotion and development of space technology for application in socio-economic development, one of its important plans is to commercialise the technology capability and space application potential in the global market in an attempt to harness the benefits accruing from the national space efforts.

It is an ambitious programme which the Western powers may not like to succeed. They are already at work through MCTR (Missile Technology Control Regime) to see Indian space development programme of

developing cryogenic engine derailed. But the Indian scientists and technologies at ISRO and other allied departments seem determined that the development is an scheduled. India is committed to peaceful application of space technology, but it can also be used in augmenting national security measures if there is any external threat from across the borders. This technology can help us in producing Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM's) for launching conventional as well as nuclear warheads – a rare capability which only a few countries in the world possess.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is responsible for the planning, execution and management of all space research and exploration activities. Space research and development activities are carried out at various centres and units of ISRO. Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram is the lead centre for launch vehicle development, ISRO Satellite Centre (ISAC) Bangalore is responsible for design, fabrication, and testing and management of satellite system, Space Application Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad is ISRO's research and development centre for conceiving, organising, and building systems for practical applications of space technology. The main launch centre of SHAR Centre, Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh). Liquid Propulsion System Centre (LPSC) is the main centre for development of liquid propulsion system with its facilities located at Thiruvananthapuram, Bangalore and Mahendragiri (Tamil Nadu). ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) with its Sriharikota, Thiruvananthapuram, Bangalore, Lucknow, Car Nicobar and Mauritius, provides telemetry , tracking and command (TTC) support for the launch vehicles and satellite missions. Master Control Facility at Hassan (Karnataka) is responsible for all post launch operation of INSAT satellites including orbital manoeuvres, station keeping and in-orbit operations on the spacecraft. Physical Research laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad under Department of Space is the premier national centre for research in space and allied sciences.

ENVIRONMENT IN DANGER

Environment is in danger and so life and its quality. Several factors like population explosion, industrial and technological developments in the last 200 years have done immense harm to environment which supports life and growth. Many species of plants and animals are already extinct and many more are on the road of extinction. Pollution has become a major problem of the present day society. There is too much addition of polluting substances to the environment causing a great imbalance in the elements of atmosphere. This imbalance in biosphere has not only deteriorated the quality of life but has also threatened its very survival. Environment and life are two very unique things found only on the planet earth. These make the earth the only living planet known so far. Environment and life are two aspects of the same coin. If environment is affected, life cannot remain unaffected and immune. As such, environmental pollution is a matter of global concern and needs global remedy. It is a threat to the whole world, nay to the very existence and survival.

The every thickening blanket of carbon emission is one of the greatest dangers to our environment. It has already caused the warming up of earth's atmosphere for minus 0.3°C in 1870 to plus 0.3°C in 1990. This dangerous phenomenon, known as green house effect, has resulted in 30 per cent more carbon-dioxide in the atmosphere today than 200 years ago. Advanced countries in Europe and America produce more than half of the world's carbon-dioxide emissions. According to a study the U.S. alone has been causing 5.2 tonnes of carbon dioxide emission per head. East-Europe is producing 3 tonnes per head of carbon dioxide, West Europe 2.1 tonnes, China 0.6 tonnes; Africa 0.3 tonnes followed by India 0.2 tonnes. One of

the major factors for this emission is the large scale and indiscriminate use of fossil fuels. During the year 1996 alone, carbon emission from burning fossil fuels all over the world accounted for 6.1 million tonnes. It is increasing further rapidly as the number of cars, buses, trucks, scooters and such other vehicles plying on the road is increasing the world over.

Such emissions cause bronchitis and various other respiratory diseases. The London smog of 1952 killed as estimated 4000 people. According to a WHO report increasing carbon emission has helped many tropical diseases like malaria, dengue, and cholera to assume serious dimensions in Africa and Asia. Besides, it also worsens the problems of malnutrition and water-scarcity. It also adversely affects the rainfall pattern and causes droughts and famines. It is reported that warming of the earth's surface by 3 or 4 degrees may result in the elimination of 85 per cent of the remaining wetlands and many species of water birds and turtles.

Records indicate that as a result of the emissions of these greenhouse gases, the year 1995 has been the warmest year so far since record-keeping began some 130 years ago. This increase in earth's temperature has resulted in dwindling of food grain production, shrinking of forest cover, extinction of many plant and animal species and acid rains. The average global temperature during 1995 was 15.39°C , breaking the previous record 15.38°C in 1990. The constant rise in temperature makes oceans release more energy into the atmosphere, leading to more violent storms and cyclones.

The environment is deteriorating rapidly which can be seen and experienced in many ways. For example, the deforestation of the planet continues unabated resulting in soil erosion, flash floods, droughts, the elimination of many species of animals and plants. About 40 per cent of the earth was covered with forests a few decades ago but now it has shrunk to just 20 per cent. And most of this damage has occurred since 1950. The tropical and sub-tropical regions have suffered the most in this respect. Large forest areas have been cleared for the purpose of cultivation and farming. Over-grazing, logging and felling of the trees indiscriminately on a

large scale for timber and fuel has further worsened the situation. Rain forests are disappearing at an estimated rate of 4.6 million hectares per year which sustain and support a vast species of animal and plant life. Moreover, the destruction of forest causes soil-erosion which silts the rivers, lakes, canals, streams and other reservoirs.

Water pollution has also been on increase alarmingly all over the world. Sewage and industrial waste have fouled our seas, rivers lakes and other sources of water. The norms regarding the discharge of industrial effluents are being flouted by the industries with impunity. Even the drinking water being supplied in towns and cities by the civic bodies is not safe. This has directly affected the health of people. They suffer from many diseases, deformities and illness. The destruction of wholesomeness of our water resources is causing havoc. The encroachment upon lakes, rivers and seas by industries is a serious threat to our environment. Since most of our cities are on the banks of the rivers or the coast of the seas, our rivers and seas have turned murky and polluted with industrial and human waste and effluents. The toxic chemicals, industrial wastes discharged into rivers, lakes and seas from mills and factories have proved fatal to all kinds of marine life. People often fall ill by eating fish etc. taken out of these rivers, lakes and seas and they are often poisoned by industrial wastes pumped into these natural sources of water.

Industries, especially in developing countries, pay no attention towards pollution control measures and treatment of effluents before discharge into rivers and seas. Recently, the Supreme Court of India ordered out the hundreds of industrial units around the Taj Mahal. Similarly, in many States like Delhi, Gujarat etc. the courts have ordered the closure or immediate shifting of the hundreds of manufacturing industrial units. The ostrich-like approach to the problem of pollution by Indian industries is really condemnable. It is better that the industries in India immediately realize that the key to their survival lies not only in their ability to cope with competition but also in pressures of all sorts including that of following zero-pollution norms.

The indiscriminate use of pesticides like DDT, BHC (Benzene hexachloride) etc. has seriously damaged the fragile ecology of soils by

weakening the micro-organisms in it. These pesticides ultimately contaminate fruits, vegetables, cereals, and dairy products. The neurotoxins reach the human body through various food-stuff and severely impair the central nervous system and cause other disorders. The milder forms of pesticide poisoning result in migraine, dizziness, stomach-ache, abdominal cramps and diarrhea. Dairy products have been found containing very high levels of pesticides residues. Mother's milk too is not free from this contamination. Vegetables and fruits suffer from pesticide overload. Insecticides like carbofuran are used to quicken fruiting. Parathion is used to give fruits and vegetables a fresh look. Bananas, grapes, apples etc. are sprayed with harmful ripening agents, fungicides and pesticides.

Urgent steps need to be taken to stop this deterioration in our atmosphere and environment. The balance of nature should be restored at the earliest. Some hard and effective decisions are the need of the hour. Something should be done to stop the damage caused to the ozone layer by the discharges from the rockets and airplanes besides the emissions of synthetic chemicals, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons and such other substances. The developed countries should immediately phase out the use of these chemicals. With the rapid increase in consumerism and the use of white and brown goods, the demand of appliances that use ozone-depleting substances is growing fast. The cult of owning of refrigeration is spreading fast in the developing and underdeveloped countries.

Noise pollution and international trade in toxic wastes are other areas of concern. The recyclers and processors of the toxic wastes expose the humanity at large to many hazards. People should be made aware of these hazards. Industrialized countries are dumping their toxic wastes in under-developed countries. All the countries should be obliged to accept the Base Convention to keep the environment clean of such wastes. There should be an effective ban and control on global trade in hazardous wastes. No country should be allowed bartering the health and well being of its people for a few dollars. During April 1996 to January 1997, over 15,000 tonnes of lead and battery wastes were imported in India. During this same period nearly 12,000 tonnes of zinc waste was also imported. In 1996 alone, Australia exported at least 8,500 tonnes of hazardous wastes

and 1.9 million scrap batteries, and India, the Philippines and China were its major destinations.

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Our society is still male-dominant and women are widely and openly discriminated against. They are denied their social and domestic rights because of gender bias. They are still illiterate, uneducated, exploited, underprivileged, sexually abused and assaulted and not treated fairly because of traditional mindsets. The sex ratio in India and in other countries is in favour of male. There are 927 females after every one thousand males in India according to 1991 and prejudiced against the feminine gender. The girls are allowed to die soon after their birth by neglect or infanticide. Preference of sons over daughters is a well-known fact. Sex-determination is often practiced and female fetuses are terminated. The middle and upper middle class people are the worst offenders. Sixty to ninety per cent of them go for this determination at the second time of pregnancy in spite of the ban of sex determination in many States.

Sex-selection is not confined to India alone. It is prevalent in many other Asian countries as well. Even mothers themselves go willingly and go for abortion if the sex of the would be child is found not be male. It is estimated that more than one million baby girls were killed in such sex determination and selection in India during 1981 to 1991. According to a research about 4 million girls disappeared during their first four to six years of life or about 36 girls for every 1000 born. The story is the same whether it is India, Pakistan, China or Taiwan. Women are not aware of their rights and privileges within their families. Even if they are not bold enough to exercise them. They cannot marry against the wishes of their parents. They cannot choose and pursue a career of their choice. They cannot inherit

property because of age-old and useless traditional thinking and restrictive interpretation of religion.

There may be some enlightenment in regard to their public rights but in case of private rights, they have been still kept in darkness. The prevailing social, political and family status of women in Asia is a matter of great concern to all social reformers, right thinking leaders and thinkers. Women's lot is that of most deprived, repressed, exploited and abused one. They make almost half the world but in their world there is hardly sunshine or spring. It is an endless world of cold wintry night. Even in States where there are women prime ministers, the situation is no better. In Sri Lanka, both President and Prime Ministers are women. In Bangladesh there have been women Prime Minister for a fairly long time. India and Pakistan too have been governed by women Prime Ministers. But yet only a third of the adult women in a South-Asian region have received some education and only half of the female population gets enrolled at the primary, secondary or tertiary levels. On an average they spend only 14 months in school.

Their health status is very insecure. Married women are burdened with unwanted and frequent pregnancies since their husbands and spouses do not use contraceptives. Same is their economic position. Only 36 per cent are economically active as compared to 50 per cent in the developing countries. Women earn only a fifth of the total income of the region. Only 3 percent of the women are administrators and managers in SAARC region, a ratio which is lower than 10 per cent for sub-Sahara Africa, 13 per cent for the Arab States and 27 per cent for the industrialized countries.

South Asia is fast emerging as a poorest, the most illiterate, the most malnourished, the least gender sensitive and indeed the most deprived region in the world.

Empowerment of the women in the real sense is the need of the hour. It is high time that they are brought in the political mainstream. It would be a very positive and forward step benefiting all the people of the

society, if the women are given their due status in personal, family and social circles. They should have reservation of seats in educational institutions, employment and services. In India an effort is being made to have 33 per cent seats reserved for women in that Parliament and State legislatures, but this move is being frustrated by certain vested interests on one pretext or the other. Women's mother who is the first school of a child. It is the mother who is the first school of a child. It is the hand that rocks the cradle also rules the world. Only an educated mother can successfully instruct and educate the children in the early stages of development. Only an educated girl child can successfully fight superstitions, man prejudices, sex-abuses and gender discrimination.

Women should be made fully aware of their reproductive and conjugal rights. According to the 1997 World Population Report with 5,85,000 women, one every minute is dying from pregnancy relation cause, all in developing countries. This Report again says that violence against women is the most pervasive and least recognized human rights abuse in the world. Women's reproductive and sexual well-being, self-perception and self-esteem are affected by rape, homicide, incest, psychological abuse, trafficking of women and children and other kinds of violence including forced sterilization and forced abortion. In India alone there is a rape every 54 minutes, a molestation every 26 minutes, a reported dowry death every hour and 42 minutes, and act of cruelty every 33 minutes.

The data is really shocking. Women subjected to rape and assault faces numerous health risks, including severe injuries, mental illness, unwanted pregnancy etc. The report says there are at least 75 million pregnancies each year that are unwanted. They result in 45 million abortions, 20 million of which is unsafe. Every year 70,000 women die as a result of unsafe abortions and unknown number of women suffers infections. Much of this could be avoided if effective means of contraception were available.

At least 60 million girls are missing from various populations as a result of sex selective abortions or neglect. The other startling statistic is

that two million girls between the age of 5 and 15 are introduced into the commercial sex market every year.

Women's emancipation and empowerment is in the interest of all. In recent years, there have been some positive developments but they are not indicative of a general trend in the male attitude but signify a token transformation. This pace should be accelerated and made to cover wider areas of human activities all over the world. There is still a wide gap between legal rights and status of women and real attitudes, beliefs and practice. However, it was quite heartening to find 121 women MPs, the highest number ever, out of 412 MPs on the Treasury Benches of the new House of Commons led by Tony Blair. Of these 101 are in Labour Party and make up almost a quarter of Labour MPs. In the outgoing House the number of women MPs was nearly 60.

Since independence, position of Indian women has much improved. The Indian constitution prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex. Men and women are equal before law. There is provision for equal pay for equal work. They are guaranteed equal opportunities in the field of education, employment and social, economical and political opportunities. Womenfolk in India now definitely enjoy better status and privileges. Recently, on 3rd June (1997) there was Cabinet expansion by Mr. I.K. Gujral, the Prime Minister of India, particularly to give ministerial berths to women MPs. And 4 women MPs were inducted. Similarly, the Uttar Pradesh government is contemplating a legislation to provide spinster and widows a share in their parental agricultural land. A proposal to this effect has been forwarded to the Cabinet for its approval. The Government of Karnataka is also introducing reservation for women. These are steps in the right direction but they appear cosmetic before the enormous problems of real emancipation and empowerment of women. Really, the road is long, rough, and bumpy and there are many miles to go, before one can have some measure of satisfaction.

CHILD LABOUR

There is no social security for children belonging to the poor and weaker sections of the society. They are subject to various types of abuse and exploitation. Their parents cannot afford to send them to schools or allow them to play. They are forced to work in mills, factories, houses, fields and farms, in establishments and for long hours in trying and unhealthy conditions. They work as labourers in match, knitwears, silk, carpet, sports-goods, constructions, fireworks, in industries, etc. They are engaged as bid rollers, brick kiln workers and other domestic helps against their wishes and abilities. Between 70-90 million children in India are employed in various sectors of industry and labour. The present Child Labour Act covers only the 15 per cent of the employed children and the rest comprising 85 per cent working in unorganized sector have been ignored. There is no social awareness, no social accountability. And in spite of the promulgation of Child Labour Act ten years back, no case has been ever registered labour is being exploited openly and bluntly in India and other Asian countries in industries and other sectors. There is no effective forum to protect their rights and expose their exploitation.

Obviously, the international code of conduct on minimum labour standards is not being implemented in the developing countries. In Pakistan Iqbal Masih, a very young person, was shot dead because of championed the cause of the children and campaigned against child labour. Every human being under 18 years of age unless, under the law

applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier, is a child. According to the convention of the Rights of the child of 1990, every child has the right to an adequate standard of living and social security. He or she has the right to education, with states making primary education compulsory and free. Children have the right to protection from economic exploitation, with a minimum age for admission to employment. They are entitled to protection from involvement in the illicit production, trafficking and use of narcotic drugs, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. But these rights are only on paper and the reality is very shocking. They have no opportunity for going to school and develop their potentials. It is estimated that half of the population of children in India is outside schools. Without provisions of universal, free and compulsory education, elimination of child labour is almost impossible. The emancipator value of education, specially primary education, is very significant as can be seen in the case of Kerala. Movements campaigning against child labour should direct their attention to the urgent need of free, compulsory and universal education for children. They should pressurize the Centre and State Governments to implement the scheme of universal, free and compulsory primary education at the earliest.

Social groups, voluntary organisations and reform societies should create a public awareness against child labour and making the masses demand free primary education. The [problem of child labour is directly linked with the problem of poverty. Unless there is significant improvement in the quality of life and living standards, the elimination of child labour will remain a pipe-dream. Poor families cannot afford to let their children not to work. It is a very disturbing situation. Children are the agents of transformation. Play, education and good health are children are denied these facilities and they are made to work instead. Social boycott of goods produced with child labour can be one of the effective weapons to fight against this social evil.

Promotion of child-rights presupposes economic well-being of the people. Removal of children from employment means loss of jobs which may drive vulnerable children into more dangerous and degrading jobs. Thus, the problem is not so simple as it sometimes appears to be. Therefore, all its dimensions and implications should be taken into thorough consideration and only then remedial measures taken. Children should be

rescued, their rights promoted and their voice heard. But this cannot be done effectively unless there is economic freedom and industrial growth. Child labour was a common thing a few decades ago in the nations that today are developed and advanced. During the Industrial Revolution of 18-19th centuries child labour was a common thing in Europe. Small children were often stolen and abducted and forced to become chimney sweeps. They eradicated the evils as soon as they grew rich and industrially powerful. For India also elimination of child labour is ultimately linked with economic development and growth in industrial and agricultural sectors. In India over 36 per cent people suffer from the poverty. In human development India ranks 138 among 175 developing countries. In human poverty index (HPI) based on the percentage of people dying before the age of 40, adult illiteracy and percentage of people without access to potable water, health services and underweight children under five, India stands 47th among 78 developing nations. The percentage of people living below poverty line has increased from 36 per cent in 1990-91 to 43 per cent in 1992 in rural areas.

To Eradicate poverty and the resultant child labour, India needs to invest on a massive scale in education adult employment and industrialization. It is imperative that there is free, compulsory and universal primary education in the country by the turn of the century. Till appalling poverty persists and social insecurity prevails, child labour cannot be checked, let alone its eradication. In May 1997, to mark the 50th year of Indian Independence, the Union Government decided to make elementary education to children in the 6-14 age group a fundamental right. The Constitution is proposed to be amended for the purpose. This is a step in right direction in respect of elimination of child labour. But it is to be seen when and how this scheme is implemented. The government's ad hocism and tokenism sometimes make people sceptic about its policies and programmes and their timely implementation. The scheme of Universal Education in the country has still miles to go. The problem is compounded by the high incidence of dropouts from school system. And one of the main reasons is Child labour. Children are required to work in fields and farms, on shops and in factories to eke out a living.

The liberalisation of Indian economy will also go a long way in alleviating poverty by creating more job opportunities for the adults and thus the child labour will automatically get reduced. If poverty is reduced significantly, the problem of child labour may take care of itself. Liberalization creates opportunities at the bottom as well as near the top levels of the society. The recent World Bank report has said that since the process of liberalisation in India began a few years ago, the wages of landless rural workers have improved remarkably. The reforms in India started in 1991 and hold the promise of considerable improvements in the living standards of the country's 300 million poor, the report avers.

International organisations want to help India to solve the problem but their attempt to connect it to trade is undesirable. The problem cannot be solved overnight but concrete steps should be taken immediately. The provision of the present Child labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act should also be suitably amended to bring about a cognizable offence. The penalty in such cases should be made more stringent and deterrent; burden of proof of age of the child should be on the employer and the names of the defaulting establishments should be furnished to law-courts and law-enforcement authorities. The Common Minimum Programme of the UF Government announced in June 1996 has referred to step to be taken to total elimination of child labour in all industries, in all occupations and in all forms. But there is often found a big gap between good intentions and their timely implementation. Even the survival of the UF Government is often in doubt.

Religion And Politics

Terrorism in Punjab and J & K is endorsed and encouraged by the religious fanatics. Religious places have become the convenient place of refuge for the terrorists and threat to religion is the justification of terrorism. Secular minded people condemn the induction of religion in politics whereas religious diehards believe that religion is the basis of politics. Is the latter view consistent with the secular character of our State? What will be the long term effects of mixing up religion and politics?

Gandhiji used to say "My religion is my politics and my politics is my religion." If religion stands for moral qualities like love of truth, faith in God, love for human beings it would moralise politics. This is what we need today. In a world where respect for human life is at its lowest ebb, where politics is identified with cheating and political leaders are oblivious of moral consideration we need politics imbued with morality.

But religion is nothing more than a bundle of outdated rituals, hackneyed customs and irrelevant practices. As it is divorced from practical life; it is not in touch with the realities and demands of the present day life. It suspends the reasoning power and makes human thinking pointless. It is today a powerful opiate for the masses; with the help of religion they are

drugged into hostile and dangerous state of thinking. They cannot be persuaded; they confirm their prejudices and never try to change them. They become idolatory and repose full faith in their leaders. Instead of cultivating tolerance they become intolerant to other religious groups. All of this is incompatible with the democratic spirit which needs broad mindedness, open mind, belief in reason and faith in the potentialities of the common man. Clearly if we want to weaken our democracy we may allow religion to have incursions in politics.

For India politics as an ally of religion is more dangerous. Religion with diametrically opposed practices may lead to disintegration. Religious dogmatism breeds on illiteracy which is available on a large scale in India. So religion should be a private affair having nothing to do with the public affairs. It can be achieved only through a thorough overhauling of outlook.

The Menace of Terrorism

Terrorism, as a method to achieve political aims has gained worldwide popularity. The terrorists, it is alleged, are financed and trained by the powers which are hostile to India. In the case of Punjab, Pakistan, it has been established beyond doubt, has been playing the ugly role. The terrorists are trained in Pakistan and then equipped with weapons before they are sent to India. A large quantity of ammunition recovered from the Golden Temple at the time of Blue Star Operation proves Pakistan's role. In the earlier days Mizos and Nagas were trained by the Chinese. Investigations of some of these have disclosed that it has been very easy for the terrorists to get in and out of the country; India has become unbelievably permissive. It implied that grafts and massive pay offs to some who have been manning security must be involved. Thus terrorism is closely linked with corruption.

Terrorism sprouts from political frustration as well. When some political parties are defeated at the polls and fail to rally mass support they resort to such methods. They are generally financed by the foreign powers. Such terrorists think that they can coerce the government and so the people to submit to their demands. They take the responsibility of killing some and for creating unstable conditions.

The main aim of the activities of the terrorists is to create conditions which may necessitate a change in the political set up or create law and order problem for the government. Disturbed conditions will check progress and

people are sure to lose confidence in the people in power. Working of democracy will become difficult and the interested foreign powers may fish in the troubled waters. So terrorism is anti-democracy, anti-people and anti-progress. The government has to curb such activities by devising suitable methods. India can learn much from others' experiences in this respect.

When organized and large scale terrorism first struck Western Europe about a decade ago the nations were shocked. Terrorist groups like Germany's notorious Baader Meinhof gang, Italy's Red Brigade and various Palestinian organizations were initially successful though caused a great havoc. But after the initial surprise and shock plans were carefully devised to counter the terrorists. Units specially trained to deal with the terrorists were set up. Thus the British have their Special Air Service (SAS) which a few years ago in most spectacular anti-terrorist action stormed the Iranian Embassy in London and rescued 10 hostages killing five of the six Arab terrorists. The West Germany also has an effective unit called GSG-9 which was responsible for the equally sensational rescue of 87 hostages on a Lufthansa jet at Mogadishu in 1977. Israeli Commandos executed a similar feat at Entebbe in Uganda. The effectiveness of such anti-terrorist squads has partly been responsible for the gradual decline in terrorists' activities at least in Western Europe though the problem has not yet been licked. There was a time when many Europeans seriously felt that the terrorists threatened the democratic system and the way to tackle them is to suspend some of the rights at least temporarily. Council of Europe's report on the defence of democracy against terrorism says, "Terrorism aims to overthrow and destroy pluralist parliamentary democracy and halt the scope for free political, economic and social development. Terrorism could in certain circumstances prompt states to take legislative, judicial or administrative measures that might pervert the very character of democracy. In the face of this threat we need reassert our conviction that democracy must overcome terrorism while remaining true to itself."

The experiences of Western Europe in this respect, are relevant to India. An SAS type commando action at the Golden Temple much before June, 1984 – perhaps immediately following the gunning down of the D.I.G. of Police Mr. Atwal – might have caused much less loss of lives and also avoided the terrible trauma of subsequent events.

Terrorism in Punjab exhibits many faces and should, therefore, be tackled at various levels. Along with the gearing up police and intelligence the

external environment in which the terrorists operate must be set right. At the political level if there is resumption of the political process and eventual restoration of the popular rule in Punjab, terrorists would be alienated. And with political stability we will have economic progress.

There is also the psychological and the emotional aspect of the problem which in many ways, meshes with the economic and the political. Psychologically speaking the feeling of alienation has encouraged the terrorists. Indeed quite a few who may strongly disapprove of the terrorists and their methods still have a sneaking admiration for them largely because of their feeling of alienation. There is no leader among the Sikhs who is bold enough to condemn terrorism, they fear losing popularity. The most important thing is that democratic right should not be prostituted to perpetuate terrorism. Moreover, terrorism cannot be finished with appeals or appeasement; it will have to be dealt with greater force and strength

Unemployment in India

Unemployment is one of the scourges in the developed countries and one of the greatest problem for the developing countries. Human beings are the means as well as the ends of production. So it should be borne in mind that they should neither be treated as only means nor as only ends. If there is no manpower planning, it is not possible for the country to get rid of frustration and consequently the rebellious tendencies are generated among the masses. For a democratic country unemployment is a blot which cannot be washed off by all the welfare functions which the Government might be performing. It will not be incorrect to say that the very institution of democracy becomes weak if the number of unemployed people abnormally increase in a country. Apart from it as manpower of a country is not fully utilized there are no chances of developing the economy of the country on the appropriate lines. The process of development necessitates the enlargement and the diversification of industries which demands more manpower of various degrees and skills. Similarly education will have to be job-oriented. Since the supply of manpower cannot be decreased so the demand for it should be increased by proper planning in the Public and the Private Sectors. For India unemployment cannot be more disastrous than it can be in other countries.

India is an under-developed country. That is why the nature of unemployment is completely different from what it is available in more advanced countries. It is definitely not the result of the deficiency of effective demand rate it is because the resources and the potentialities have not been fully utilized. In India there is what is called by the economists 'frictional

unemployment and also under-employment or disguised unemployment'. It is the consequence of the shortage of the capital equipment or the other necessary resources. We can find a remedy for this unemployment in expanding the stock of capital assets or units of production. The nature of unemployment in rural India is somewhat different from the urban places. Rural unemployment has two aspects – seasonal and perennial. As agriculture is the most important occupation in the rural areas so a large number of the people remain unemployed for a number of months during the year. The small scale industries could not be properly developed in the rural areas and handicraft has almost died out. Apart from it there is perennial unemployment. About 72 per cent of the working population is engaged in the primary sector and as a result of it there is no increase in the area of cultivation though there has been increase of population engaged in agriculture. The result is that the marginal productivity of increased population is almost zero. The workers are employed but actually they do not get even subsistence wages, and their income is fantastically low. Moreover this unemployment is spread over the entire agricultural population.

The problem of urban unemployment is a complex one. Unemployment can be categorized under two heads: unemployment among industrial labourers and unemployment among the educated middle class. With urbanisation a large number of people from the villages have shifted to the cities but the rate of expansion of industries has not been keeping pace with the shifting of the workers. As far as urban unemployment among the educated is concerned it is more alarming. In fact the education is a sort of learning, writing and reading with very little emphasis on technical education. Recently there has been development of technical education but the fields are so limited in number that there seems to be no diversification. As a result of it there are a very large number of the unemployed educated people in India. Unemployment is dangerous; Sadler Commission pointed out “the existence and the steady increase of a sort of intellectual proletariats not without reasonable grievances forms a menace to a good Government especially in a country where.... The small educated classes are vocal.”

Economics have discovered various causes of the unemployment in India. According to Dantawala Committee, “in an economy like this there is very little open or outright unemployment but there would be considerable seasonal unemployment and or under-employment.” This is somewhat eccentric type of view which the Committee has given because

unemployment is not the result of the factors which Committee keeps in mind. Despite the best efforts, *i.e.*, the creation of Directorate General of Employment and Training as well as Employment Exchanges it has not been possible to help the educated and others to get suitable employment. Even the Five Year Plans have failed to achieve the objective and with every successive plan the percentage of unemployment has all the time increased. At the end of the First Plan the unemployment was 2.9% but at the end of the Fifth Plan it rose to 5.6%. It has been estimated by the Bhagwati Committee that the unemployment will go on increasing every year till effective steps are taken. In fact the exploitation of the resources and providing the employment opportunities to the job seekers have not been properly undertaken by the Government. Similarly studies made by the N.S.S. show that under-employment has also been on the increase. Similar is the case with the disguised unemployment. The economists have not taken up the empirical studies about the magnitude of this type of unemployment so far. Some initial estimates show that in India nearly seventeen percent of the labour suffers from this type of unemployment.

One of the most important causes of unemployment in India is the growth of population. Above 4 million people enter the labour market every year. Rural unemployment is on the increase because there is a great pressure of population on the land and cultivation is still backward. Moreover handicrafts have declined in the villages and the villagers have no alternative occupation in the rural areas. Urban unemployment is because of various other reasons. Educated unemployment is because of the increasing turn out of the school, colleges and universities. The mass production of educated people has created a gap between employment opportunities and the job seekers. The educational system is still producing clerks and very little emphasis is laid upon specialisation or technical training. Moreover, the industrial production due to foreign exchange difficulties, famine conditions and rising prices has declined appreciably. Consequently a large number of the labourers cannot be absorbed. Apart from it there is a greater tendency on the part of the younger generation to take up white collared jobs instead of working with their hands. Hence the employment opportunities have decreased a lot.

Five Years Plans' objective was that more employment opportunities should be created. They recognised that providing employment is not just a welfare measure. It is rather a necessary part of the strategy of development in the poor countries. It has generally been assumed that economic growth leads to increase in production and increase in employment but some of the

statistics released by the I.L.O. falsify this fact. We may say that particularly in the developed countries there is no correlation between economic growth and employment but in the developing countries there might be some relation because of technological changes. We will have to take some measures which are completely different in the case of urban and rural sectors. No doubt rural electrification, road construction, house building, irrigation works and small scale industries may help to reduce the rural unemployment yet some other positive steps will have to be taken.

Professor Dandekar in one of his studies, "Problems of Poverty in India" has argued that urban poverty is an overflow of rural poverty and he thinks that if there is rural development then urban unemployment can be finished. Mr. Bhagwati, the Chairman of the Committee, set up by the Central Government, has given his own suggestions for combating unemployment. According to the Committee there should be rural electrification, housing, road building and minor irrigation works which may provide employment to a large number of people. The Committee has given the greatest importance to irrigation and rural electrification. In order to create employment in the industrial field the Committee feels that it is essential that under-utilisation of installed capacity should be reduced.

It has been seen that every Five Year Plan has increased the number of the unemployed. So some concrete steps should be taken to eradicate this evil from our country. Firstly, there should be a change in the pattern of investment. At this time we have been able to build a reasonable infrastructure and industrial base so now the investment should be in those industries where the employment opportunities are greater. This policy will foster social stability. Moreover small enterprises as against large enterprises should be encouraged. This policy will definitely increase employment opportunities. Apart from it, the Government will have to take steps to discourage the introduction of automation at least for some years because this will decrease the employment opportunities. The new growth centres in the small towns and rural areas must be encouraged. By establishing the small industrial complexes greater employment opportunities can be provided. The most important change that the Government should bring is with regard to education. Till the very nature of educational system in India is not changed we cannot decrease pressure upon office based jobs. In fact the Gandhian concept of education system based on vocational training should be emphasized. Even the National Labour Commission suggested that the educational system should conform

to the demands of high level manpower. Clearly the problem of unemployment in India is mostly the result of lopsided industrial development. If the proper emphasis is laid and priorities are fixed it is not difficult to eradicate unemployment.

Impact of Economic Reforms

Economic reforms were introduced in India in 1991 to check the declining performance of Indian economy at home and abroad. The measures taken were privatization as a part of liberalization to integrate into the world economy so that India does not fall behind in the process of globalization. Our liberalization remained partial and so was its impact. The economic reforms could not touch the poorest of the poor. The gap increased between the rich and poor. Moreover the tensions also grew in the society.

A system of mixed economy was adopted in India after independence. Public sector and private sectors coexisted with the primacy of public sector. Infrastructure and various other sectors remained under the purview of public sector. Basic and heavy industries, were set up in iron and steel, and power sectors. Private initiatives were also encouraged but the emphasis and primacy was towards centralized and common economy through five year plans guided by Planning Commission and National Development Council. The banks were nationalised and the goal was towards socialistic pattern of society.

In due course of time our institutions became stagnant, corrupt and inefficient due to permit raj and centralized control. Then the liberalisation process became inevitable. Liberalisation enhances economic activities. It encourages initiative, entrepreneurship and competition which is very vital for growth of the economy. The liberalisation process has been evident

since 1985 but since 1991 it has come out with good pace. In 1991 the condition of our economy was very critical. Foreign reserves was at the lowest level. Balance of payment not good. Inflation was in double digits. Rupee had become weak in international markets. Devaluation of the rupee and structural adjustment was made. Privatisation of the economy took place on many fronts. Private sector has been allowed to operate in infrastructure sector, e.g., power. Subsidies were cut as per the conditions of IME.

Economic reforms were mainly on the industrial front. Industrial relicensing was followed in many industries. Permit raj was abolished. It attracted foreign investors due to simplification of procedures. Both types of investments, i.e., Foreign Direct Investment and portfolio investment started coming to Indian economy. Foreign institutional investors also started investing. All these investments increased the economic activities which led to rise in growth rate and lowering of inflation rate. At present the inflation rate is less than five percent. Our foreign reserves increased and balance of payment is better. The trend is towards privatising all the sectors except few. The efforts are towards privatising even insurance sector. But it has to be done on gradual scale. Foreign equity participation is increasing. Disinvestment of shares is also taking place.

Economic reforms has not touched agriculture sector to greater extent. Though the agricultural production is increasing still we have to import some of the food grains. The impact of economic reforms has been partial. Also, all is not well with the economic reforms. The subsidies on fertilizers and food have been cut which directly affect the small and marginal farmers and poor people. The reforms have not improved the conditions of the poor. The rich have become richer and poor have become poorer. Reforms have helped those who are already in that stage to avail the benefits. It has opened avenues. But how can poor avail it. Our imports have increased in want of latest scientific and technological knowledge. In the same ratio exports have not increased.

Due to reforms multinational corporations are coming to this country in large numbers. They are being allowed even in consumer items which is eating our indigenous industries due to better quality products. For science and technology, e.g., computer chips they are welcome but not on potato chips. We have enough resources to provide better consumer products. Also due to inflation explosion, our electric media values and cultural

practices are getting eroded. Western values are setting in and consumerist needs are being developed among people which is really bad for Indian society. This is leading to earning money by any means. This will help in increasing corrupt practices. It can instill materialist tendencies which is already pervading in metros and also the impact of obscene films through foreign channels can be devastating for young minds. MNCs can exacerbate the already existing social tensions. Its impact increases the social and economic inequalities.

The impact of economic reforms are mixed. Some of its effects are really helping and positive as it increases initiative and entrepreneurship qualities provided taken in that spirit. If the intention is just to consume whatever comes from the West, then it is harmful. At the same time state's strategic intervention is essential because more than 40% of people live below poverty line. Many of the national problems like education and population need urgent attention. They have to be regulated and direct intervention is called for. The help of private sector should be taken to remove the problem of illiteracy, infrastructure development, power distribution, etc. but under the government control. The efforts should be made towards making the public sector institutions effective and efficient. We have to emphasise on quality in order to compete otherwise we will perish in international markets as well as on home markets.

Conservation of Forests

Floods, population problems and other environmental hazards have been increasing. The environmental hazards in this country have not reached the stage prevailing in several highly industrialized countries. We are, however heading to it. Lack of adequate vegetate cover in the catchments or watersheds of our rivers and streams, exploitation of our hill forests indiscriminately to meet the ever-increasing needs of population, the indiscriminate lopping, grazing and fires have resulted in a great loss to the country in the form of soil erosion, floods, and damage to the regeneration.

Since independence the country has lost over four lakh hectares of forests – a precious and renewable source of energy – due to indiscriminate release of land for agriculture (when one knows that what is needed is a more intensive cultivation and not extensive one), submersion due to irrigation and power projects, clearance for high tension lines, for rehabilitation of expropriated and other categories of people, development of colonies, command areas, etc. with adequate safeguards against environmental hazards.

Only recently the National Committee on Environmental Planning and Co-ordination was constituted to have a look into the several projects from an ecological angle sent by States to the Planning Commission for clearance.

It is needless to indicate here the manifold advantages of vegetation in ameliorating the climatic conditions, maintenance of stream flow, conserving the soil and general maintenance of the eco-system including flora and fauna. Forest soils well stocked with deep-rooted trees have a storage capacity varying from 50,000 to 2,00,000 cusecs of water per square kilometer.

The structure of a forest has a bearing on its influence on noise effect. The denser the under storey and the ground vegetation and the more pronounced the vertical closure of the forest stand, the higher is its sound-absorbing capacity. A park 50 m wide can reduce the traffic noise by 20 to 30 decibels. Forests thus provide indirect protection against noise. A hectare of a forest of broad-leafed trees would collect at least 30 to 50 tons of dust, besides the usefulness of forests from the recreational aspect and in conserving wild life.

The people living in the villages need for their daily sustenance fuel for their cooking and other needs, fodder for their cattle, fertilizer for their fields, and small timber for their rural houses and agricultural implements, bamboos for a variety of uses.

The plight in urban areas of middle and low-income groups is worse. In other words the trees become the basis of all sustenance and preservation of environment.

Forestry's role in preventing soil erosion, stabilizing sand dunes, protecting water catchment areas, and providing fodder and shade for livestock and humans may be less obvious, but is frequently more important than the production of timber. Ecological considerations have not been of high priority in many developing countries.

Fortunately awareness of ecological consequences has been growing rapidly, and environmental considerations would increasingly affect the forest development policies and strategy all over the world.

Large areas of the hills of North-East India, Orissa, M.P., etc., are subjected to shifting cultivation. This is a serious threat to the ecological balance of these areas resulting in the rapid destruction of flora and fauna in the hill regions and accentuating soil erosion and floods. It is both a way of life and an aspect of culture of these people.

The only way in which shifting cultivation could be controlled is by agro-forestry practices. Taungya cultivation, Agrisilvi culture is practiced in India to grow forest crops in conjunction with agricultural crops where there is great pressure on land in North U.P. and Kerala.

A notable example of agro-forestry practice is the Paper Industries Corporation of the Philippines which has initiated the shifting cultivators to grow *Albizia falcataria* for pulp aided by the World Bank through the Development Bank of the Philippines. A similar measure, modified to our local conditions, would help in the ecological balance in the hills.

Government of India through the I.C.A.R. have rightly constituted a Task Force on agro-forestry for the Ganga, Brahmaputra, Barak region. To do this, dedicated experienced people are needed to handle these cases and to make the cultivators accept the concept of a settled way of life.

India's forest area is hardly 23 per cent and is short by nearly 10 percent of the world average. Since independence we have lost 410 million hectares of forest land. The installation of more thermal plants and planning of nuclear power plants as well as utilization of solar energy should be encouraged and natural forests saved. Forests form the backbone for many wood and pulp industries which consume power and if forests are lost the power cannot be commissioned. India's non-commercial energy resources include fuel wood, agricultural residues, and animal dung. Nearly, 175 million tons of fuel wood is consumed per year out of which only 20 million tones come from recorded sources.

This indicates the alarming rate at which the tree growth is depleted on the countryside. Nearly four million tons of fuel is reported to be needed for cremation in the country. Nearly 80 million tones of valuable crowding is burnt as fuel for want of alternative fuel. Bio gases and other agricultural residues valuable as raw material for pulp industries are burnt.

In order to rationalize the usage of these materials energy plantations are badly needed. Such energy plantation as Casuarinas and Eucalyptus could be seen raised by people around Bangalore and Keral in Karnataka. The extensive plantations raised by Government have been earmarked to industries and the common man continues to feel the pinch of shortage of fuel wood.

Large area in India are subjected to mining. In 1977, 5097 mines were working in India of which 4564 were non-coal mineral mines and 533 were coal mines, all employing nearly 7,45,000 persons.

The pollution and health hazards consequent on the open mining methods, as well as the slime disposal of underground mines pose a big problem. Ecological measures are badly needed to prevent soil wash, prevention of noise and dust and other forms of pollution.

A far reaching development was that of Kudremukh Iron Ore Co., having initiated measures to sustain ecological stability in the area along with turning out of the first sod of the subject. This has been followed by the Visvesvarayya Iron & Steel, and Chitradurga Copper. The Bababudangiri Iron Ore Project has tried to inbuilt the environmental measures within the project cost.

Extensive implementation of social forestry would mean the improvement in climatic conditions, betterment of the environment, and building up of enormous potential for energy resources without detriment to the present resources and providing employment to thousands.

The large scale cultivation of bamboo, a much sought after material both by the rich and the poor, would add to increased resources. Treated bamboos offer excellent raw material for housing of low-income groups.

In the matter of conservation of wild life our country has done a commendable work in total banning of shooting and initiating establishment of sanctuaries and National Parks including the prestigious Project Tiger which has also produced encouraging results.

The conservation of other species like crocodiles and reptiles and fish which are threatened of extinction need to be stepped up. Crocodile farming has been an outstanding success in places like Bangkok, and India should step up such projects. A more intensive vigilance is needed to protection of wild life especially around project areas.

Our elephant population has been dwindling, though reports of rampage by elephants are made out in such a way as to make people believe that their number has increased. In reality it is the other way and man has encroached on their habitat and they are perforce to head into the agricultural fields for food.

In recent years a pernicious practice has developed where the herd are followed with or without the help of the local tribals and males are killed for ivory. It is found that there has been a gradual reduction in the number of male animals in elephant herds. The Karnataka-Kerala-Tamil Nady complex has been the home of these pachyderms. The submergence of large chunks of forests has deprived these animals and other wild life undisturbed habitat.

Against this background, it was proposed nearly ten years ago to develop an integrated National Park called Jawahar National Park including Bandipur, Mudumalai sanctuaries of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu of the area abutting these in Kerala. But it is unfortunate that some considerations have come in the way of integrating these three areas. When this is done there can be no better effort in conservation of wild life and with the interest the Prime Minister has in this it is hoped it will materialize. Even the Rhinos have to get a better deal than what they are getting now.

The denudation in the Himalayan Region and consequential floods calls for an international programme of watershed management aided by all the adjacent countries – Pakistan, Nepal, India, Bangla Desh and Bhutan. Controlled forestry policy backed by political will, with a long-range view and not a primitive outlook towards forest, is needed today. Our forest policy should, therefore, result in a large share of resources being allocated to rural a forestation programme directly benefiting the large percentage of the people.

Greater investment in forestry section, formation of a separate department of social forestry and environment in each state, total banning of export of wood in the form of logs, control of pests like parthenium, eupatorium and other species and a judicious working of existing forest followed by a more intensive utilization of the biomass, proper after-care aided by adequate legislation and people's participation would improve the country's resources. These could create enormous employment opportunities.

Technology and expertise is not lacking in our country for handling these challenges and for providing clear habitat, water and air to our people. Otherwise we could not be able to conserve our resources.

The sorry spectacle of clearance of large extents of primeval tropical forests by long leases in the countries of the Asia-Pacific Region has led to a serious set-back in the ecological balance and shortage of potential resources. It is,

therefore, fondly hoped that India will forge ahead as one of the leading developing countries not only in conserving but also in the all-round development of our natural resources.

Drug Addiction

Drug addiction is the worst social evil of modern civilization. It is spreading like cancer. The misguided and frustrated adults are the prey of this habit. Mostly of rich families, these people are becoming habitual of using drugs such as herion, smack, opium, charas, cocaine, ganja and brown sugar. Drug addiction is a part of western culture. It is thought is a thing of fashion and modernization. The worst aspect of this social evil is – if you start taking drug in fun or fashion, it becomes so habitual that it cannot be left easily. It is an invitation to death. This evil is reaching and spreading in Asian and African countries. Drug addiction is self- destruction. This may take sometimes as we see in case of cancer, but it is a sure stepping towards death.

Drugs have been used for medical purposes since ages. Never before this modern period. There was no misuse of drugs. Man is greedy by nature. To earn more in short period some anti social adulterated drugs cause deaths those who are busy in anti- human activity for their selfish motives, should be punished. There should be no encouragement from government department to anti- social elements. The public should also co- operation to make anti- social elements suffer.

Drug abuse is fast becoming very common among students. thousands of school and college going youngmen have become drug- addicts. This evil is more rampant in big cities. Villagers and the town people are still free form this abuse. Urban life is slowly becoming a mechanical life. it has become highly competitive and risky. Tension and cut-throat competition put an unbearable pressure on youngmen and women. Life becomes tiring and burdensome. Students tend to become escapists. As an escape from the drudgery of life, they take to drugs. In the beginning they turn to drugs just for fun and thrill. Then they get addicted to this abuse. They are compelled to even steal to buy drugs. They become physically and mentally wrecks. They invite their own doom.

Drug abuse has become a great social and cultural problem. It has been polluting the minds and morals of our youngmen. The menace of drugs can't be tackled by the authorities alone. There should be a comprehensive and all- out – war to root out this evil from the students. rehabilitation centers should be opened to treat the addicts. However, the root of this evil lies in the disorder an degeneration of our social and family life. peaceful and purposeful social and family life will fill our youth with hope and faith in themselves. They will not be tempted or lured by the vicious addiction of drugs.

The abuse of drugs has now become an international problem. Recent studies show that 88% of heroin addicts in India are in the age group of 14-25 years. In fact at present drug abuse has become a craze among school and college students. drug habit is considered a fashion or a symbol of modernity at the beginning. But after some time it becomes a habit, making body weak and a prey of different diseases. Children having no sweet life, lack of healthy education , heavy burden of books; sex and violence seen through T.V. and cinema programmes; loss of moral values, uncertainty of future life prepare a youth to be a prey of this bad habit. Drug affects a person physically, mentally, and spiritually leading to a wreck life. he lives only for these deadly drugs.

Drugs addiction must be fought on war footing. Concerning departments and public should be alert to remove this social evil. A great publicity should be made regarding this social evil. A large number of banners, posters and placards should be displayed. Evils of drug should be highlighted through the media- radio, television and press. The parents should be more careful about their wards specially in tender young age. The drug addicts should be

kept under special care and treatment. Doubtful anti- social worker should be checked with regular attention and should be punished seriously if found guilty.

Crime Against Women

Crime against women has been on increase. It has existed in the past in almost all countries, regions, cultures and communities. The crime has much to do with the existing low status of women prevalent in our society. The violence is at various levels. It is at physical, mental, emotional, domestic and public. They are the most oppressed, subjugated section of society. Though various measures at education, economic independence have been taken but they are far from improving their status which directly or indirectly help at increasing crime against women.

If we look back historically, the status of women during Veda period was good. They were equal to men and had high esteem in society. But subsequently their position in society deteriorated. They began to be treated like animals, often beaten by husbands. Women were deprived from getting education. Their activities were limited to household chores and help in reproduction. A girl child born was considered to be curse in society. Husband was their *Parmeswar*. They had no independent existence. Their existence lay in association with men as wife, sister or mother. She was thought to be a burden as dowry was to be given. Dowry system is still rampant in our society. Widows were looked down upon. System of sati was prevalent which even snatched the right to live. They had to die with their husbands on the funeral pyre.

The range of crime against women is very wide including rape, wife beating, bride burning, child marriages, prostitution, sexual harassment, etc. Nowadays the girl child is killed even before the birth. This has become easy due to improvements in science and technology, e.g., amniocentesis, i.e., sex determination tests. The discrimination towards development of girl child is the greatest crime against women. They are deprived of basic educational opportunities essential for development of child. Neglect of proper nutritious food to them is quite evident. Even pregnant women do not get balanced diet which has vital effect on off springs which lead to rise in infant mortality rates.

The causes for increasing crime against women can be attributed to low status of women in our society. The attitudes towards women have not changed much. They are treated as burden and hence denied education. As per the 1991 Census, the literacy rate of women is 39% as against 63% of men. The situation is alarming among the lower castes women on literacy front. It is much lower than even 39% in some states. The sex ratio has declined from 933 in 1981 to 929 in 1991, i.e., the number of girl child born has declined which is a sad state of affairs. The women are considered as commodities. They are treated as properties. They are taken for granted. The efforts have been made to make the women dependent. They are still not economically independent which has made the conditions worse for them.

Women are considered as weaker sex. That is why all sorts of violence are perpetrated on them. They become the easiest target and victim during conflicting situations between two groups or communities. They are unable to resist against the injustices due to weaker positions. It becomes their habit to suffer silently in homes and outside. Rape or sexual harassment takes the form of teaching a lesson to hostile groups. During communal riots or caste riots, women become the first and easiest targets. Sometimes teasing or harassing of women becomes the instigating point for two hostile groups to fight leading to violence.

Our society has become violent today. On slightest pretext violence takes place. This is due to increasing lawlessness and normlessness in our society. Our value system has gone under acute perversions. Here, again women are the worst sufferers. For increasing violence men are to be blamed. They have become corrupt. People want to become rich employing any means. Women are denied share in property. They cannot

own property. On slightest resistance they are beaten badly. Property again plays greater role in dowry. Grooms expect much from brides in the form of dowry. If they do not bring adequate dowry, they are illtreated by the family members, especially mother-in-law. The situation becomes pathetic when women do not help the other women in improving each other's condition. Instead they are treated badly. With the spreading educational consciousness among women, some advancement can be seen on their educational achievement and economic independence. Women are able to compete with men in every profession. But this has added some problems to the working women. They are expected to do the household chores once they return from office. Tension and ego clashes are frequently evident which is not healthy for man-woman relationship.

Attitude has to change drastically against women in order to ensure that no violence against them takes place. They have to be treated with equality and respect. The laws have to be implemented effectively and stringent action should be taken for violaters or perpetrators of violence against women. Education of women is the foremost priority of today's parents. By educating women we help families and not only women. Two pronged strategy can be adopted. First, men have to change their attitudes so that women have enough space to develop themselves. Secondly, women themselves have to unite and spread consciousness which will help in real social development. Then only we will be in a position to eradicate the social ills prevalent in our society. We should provide conditions to make them 'better half' which can help effectively to solve the problem of violence against women.

Role of Religion

“Irreligion is our Malady, Religion the Only Cure”

Religion, as bundle of myths and miracles, doctrines and beliefs has become outdated. The miracles and mysteries of magic and religion have yielded place to new ones of science. Belief is no longer a matter of faith, it is based on reason; intellectual faith has replaced emotional attachment. *“Unless religion sheds its primitive cosmology, myths and miracles, it is likely to go down into the limbs of oblivion”* [E. Hubbard]. Like all human institutions religion, during the course of time, had become too formal to serve any purpose. So it produced a religion of superstition, tyranny and barbarism. None can deny that *“religion is the best armour in the world but the worst cloak”* [John Newton]. Our world is strewn with the wreckage of many a venerable traditions built by unnumbered generations. Religion is like a modern ozymandias battered by scientific knowledge and hollowed by its own weaknesses. Today it stands humbled amidst these ruins; it is an outcaste, a refugee in our civilisation. The Christian Europe has built an unchristian civilisation; in China and India it has lost its former hold and Pakistan considers Islam a lever to register political backing within and without. Religion has been condemned, criticized, challenged, and ridiculed by anybody and everybody. Marx considered it the opiate of the masses; Russell regarded it as a disease born of fear and a cause of untold misery

to the human race. Some psychologists have explained away its value as a beneficial psychosis.

It is only the perverted version of religion that has stunted manhood and deformed spiritual growth. It supported bigotry, lent its authority to the oppressors and sanctified many pretence. It weakened man's social conscience and moral sensitivity. It engendered fatalism, intolerance and narrow mindedness; it fostered conceit, hatred and fear. It undoubtedly played a shabby irreligious role. This was not true religion. "*True religion*", says the German writer **Goethe** "*teaches us to reverence what is under us, to recognize humanity, poverty, suffering and death as things divine.*" That is why man tried to break with religion; he extolled science and glorified materialism. But man needs anchorage in life otherwise it becomes a meaningless drift. It did not take much time for man to realize that by divorcing religion he has lost the mooring in life. Man, despite the surfeit of ideas and ideologies which generate enough heat but no light, suffers from the sickness of the spirit. They have lost the sense of purpose and direction and there is nothing to elevate their sense of suffering and sin. "*Man is still groping for a more meaningful and synthetic view of life and human destiny*", says **Radhakrishnan**. Unbelief is impossible for man and a modern man needs faith – a living faith, a new faith which may give spiritual happiness.

Religion does not come in clash with science. Science is a method and a set of explanations based upon proofs; religion is an experience, and adventure of the spirit based upon spiritual illumination. Science takes up the second cause but religion the first cause. We should not forget that scientific investigation affirms to strengthen faith, it kindles our sense of mystery and wonder. The deep sense and wonder which filled the heart of man when he first saw the glorious sunrise is, in no way, different from the one looking through the lenses of telescope myriads of rolling spheres in the universe. "*Man's highest happiness*", says **Goethe** "*is to have fathomed and to bow in reverence before the unfathomable*". Scientific researchers can perform this dual function – these can fathom the unfathomable. But this is a continuous process to discover the unfathomable. Tennyson's Ulysses correctly says, "Experience is an arch where through gleams the untraveled world". Max Planck has acknowledged that even the scientists have to wait for the "spark from heaven". If we subject everything to reason, religion will have nothing mysterious; if we violate the principles of reason our religion will be absurd

and ridiculous. “*Science cultivated to be utter neglect of religion would produce a reign of impiety and sensuality*” [G.W. Shields]. It is quite strange that the man in the street is losing faith whereas the man in the laboratory is gaining.

Our world is torn with rivalries; people belonging to different cultural patterns and racial groups are facing one another in hostile postures. We talk of nations living together but mere talks will not go a long way. The international forums of discussion have become forums of rivalries. International ethics based on agnostic positivism or ethical humanism will not do. Religion as a binding force is necessary for a world made by the developments of science. Moreover there is a sense of insecurity; we fear our neighbours, we fear our friends. The inner defences of man have cracked. He has lost his independence and self assurance the civilizing process has reduced his Godman to the state of a suckling cotton-wool baby sterilized and vitaminised. There is an acting sense of loneliness and unrelatedness. He must realize that he is a macrocosm and microcosm. Science, technology, political, and economic security cannot retrieve his lost confidence. Man must become aware of his own divinity. His sense of insecurity and unrest would vanish if he comprehends the ultimate goal of life. Religion has the capacity to steel the soul of man.

Violence has disfigured the face of the civilized man. People fight for ideologies they fight for supremacy. But war is an organised violence and often breeds violence. Religion and spirituality serve as antidote to violence. We are living as sub-human beings perceive that they belong to an order of reality higher than brute nature, they will abjure violence.

Man is supposed to work for society though he is unaware of social purpose. The modern states demand obedience from its subjects and conformity with mass opinion. Man has been transformed into a herdsman. These mechanical methods cannot make man conscious of his social obligation; the willing cooperation of the individual is needed. Religion can generate and strengthen the spirit of social purpose. Progress of man lies in enlarging human sympathies and outlook. Man's inner self must be illuminated to colour his outer actions. The challenge to the modern civilisation can survive on the strength of material equipment and power acquired over Nature. Its sustaining power must come from within that is from spiritual values. In the earlier civilisation the challenges were from Nature and the forces of Nature but today we have to fight against spiritual

paralysis. T.S. Eliot one of the greatest English poets of the 20th century recommends Daya, Daya-Dharam, and Damitri as the solution for the spiritual regeneration of the modern world. Religion can rehabilitate humanity. It contains the essential means of coping with evil which threatens the existence of the civilized world. It restores the best relationship between the individual and the eternal.

Role of Press

Democracy has least to do with the structural aspect; it is more concerned with developing democratic forces within and without. It not only allows the active participation of the people in administration it also makes them worthy of that participation. So if it is to go on working vigorously and is to make people fearless so that they can defend and preserve it, it must take care of the stability of its four pillars – the Parliament, the executive, the judiciary and the press. The moment any of the pillars develops any crack, it is sure to collapse. All the four must therefore be independent, strong and free. Unless they are free they cannot be strong. But the freedom of these four organs are subordinate to the freedom of society or the people whom these are to serve. Unless they guard the freedom of the people and enable them to get the necessary strength, these will not be performing their proper function. No doubt Parliament is supreme within the constitution, but outside it, people are supreme. In fact people are the final authority in a democratic state.

The press is one of the most important pillars because it puts a check not on one organ but on all the three organs *i.e.*, the parliament, the executive and to some extent on the judiciary as well. But it is vital for the people because people should be kept informed of what is happening. Public opinion will be

difficult to cultivate or make it to assert itself unless people have the knowledge of the happenings around them. It can be done more effectively by the press; it reflects the public opinion and keeps it healthy as well. The people in power always try to camouflage their actions and decisions in words which seem to be in the public interest. It is for the press to probe deep and discover the real motive of those steps or decisions. Apart from it, it gives strength to the people, to the parliament, to the executive or to all the judiciary. It brings to the notice of all the concerned what is wrong and what is likely to impair the freedom of the people, their rights and their welfare. Therefore the independence of the press is vital. If this is not preserved, democracy will be thrown over-board.

No doubt we talk about a free and independent press and also understand the necessity, yet we do not know or we pose that we have no knowledge of the ways to secure the independence of the press. If there is dictatorship in the country how can the independence of the press be guaranteed or preserved? Again this responsibility falls on the shoulders of the people. If people are politically conscious and they have faith in democracy, they will try to give wholehearted support to the independent press. In this respect press and people are interdependent; press informs the people and people fight for the freedom of the press may be frustrated by the government if the press is not allowed to inform the people truthfully. So press despite all types of checks will have to assert its independence and objectivity to preserve democracy.

Some may think that the Government should play an important role in making the press independent. But it is wrong because the moment the government touches any of the pillars of democracy, it becomes distorted and may not be able to serve the public properly. Even if the press goes wrong a truly democratic government should not interfere. Let the public opinion put them in right place. In fact if the press indulges in yellow journalism or starts giving fabricated stories, the people will refuse to accept it as a source of information and so its circulation will drop. This is the democratic way of punishing the errant press. If the government starts making laws and starts controlling the press, it is bound to become one of the departments of the government working under the directions of the people in power. If the press does not bother about the ethics of journalism, people will have to guide the press in the right direction.

Unfortunately, politics corrodes upon the democratic structure and the party's interests distort the function of the press. No doubt everyone should be allowed to have his own political views or economic views but we should not try to spurn the views of others as long as those views do not do any harm to our freedom of opinion and expression. This objectivity is more vital for the press as it is for the judiciary. If the Government is to be objective as it should be, press will automatically be in proper trim.

Democracy implies the right to dissent but if criticism is to become effective or useful, it must be objective and based on facts and not on prejudices. Whenever it is based on prejudice, it does not do any good. If the criticism is misplaced due to selfish motive, it can never strengthen the democratic forces. Press has the right to decide and so have the people. But people's voice can become effective only if press supports it because that is only the effective medium of expressing public opinion. So it is only the press that can make democracy stable and workable.

It is a matter of common observation that the Parliament, the executive, the judiciary and the press must zealously guard the freedom of other three pillars because if one pillar gets weakened, all other pillars will become weak. So there is no question of contradiction among these. There is a relation of harmony among all of them and identity of interest, which is the interest of the people. The interest of the people justifies the existence of all the four otherwise there is no justification for any one of them. So if everyone balances properly, we should say no government is necessary. But that is an ideal state which perhaps may not be given any practical shape so easily.

If press is tempted into doing wrong things wither by favours or money or by threats of government, nobody can preserve independence of the country. In fact the press should guard against these types of temptations, it should have integrity. The unity of the press is vital in fundamental matters relating to the press and to the people. Of course they are bound to adhere to their opinions. Rather that is necessary for democracy. It is a common saying that only two idiots can agree on everything, and the intelligent people are sure to differ. It is the function of wisdom to show that when we work together, we coordinate our differences and act in the interest of all the concerned. This is what is assumed in democracy and this is what the press must propagate. Some times mistakes are committed but to err is human. The real danger lies in not recognizing those mistakes; one must try to see them and correct them and should not persist in them. So the press must criticise, of course in

a constructive manner, the people as well as the government. If it is to achieve a high degree of integrity, it should also point out its own mistakes. The four agencies will serve as a check upon each other. This type of competition among the four agencies would make them to function properly.

Nobody can say that the press is free from the weaknesses which are inherited from the human nature. Newspaper people are also human beings. But the weaknesses are to be removed, and they can be removed if we know about them. So the press should preferably regulate itself in a manner that it consolidates democratic forces, helps in cultivating the public opinion and puts a corrective check upon the people in power. If press is to become an important agency or the Fourth Estate, it must realise its responsibility and moral-commitments to the people and to the government. If they want to enjoy their prerogatives without taking responsibilities on their shoulders, it may be difficult for them to carry on the work properly.

Water Problem

Water is one of the essential ingredients of life. Water is life and without water there cannot be life at all; The earth is the only living planet because there is water. The other planets like Mars, Jupiter, etc, are dead, deserted and lifeless because there is no life-supporting water. Presence of water-means also the presence of other ingredients of life. The total replenishable, ground water resources in the country have been estimated at 45.22m.ha. Per year.

There is often scarcity of drinking water. There are droughts and famines causing untold misery, death and destruction. Today there are thousands of villages and towns facing an acute drinking water-shortage. Even in cities with huge water-supply plants there is not sufficient water and their supply is often limited to a very short period of the day... With the rapidly increasing pressure of population on our water resources, more and more villages, towns and cities are facing the

problem. The then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had to launch a drinking water mission and programmed in 1986 to meet the drinking water requirements. Then drinking water was available to only 30 per cent of the country's population and today theoretically it is available to 91 per cent. But the investigations have shown that a large percentage of drinking water schemes remain non-functional for a very long time of the year and so the safe and potable water is not available to the people.

A team of scientists and researchers of Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi has made detailed study of the problem, its dimensions and solution. They have emphasized the need to traditional wisdom of water harvesting. They have given many details and data and proved how useful it can be to make use of our time-tested, age-old and traditional water harvesting system. These traditional methods of water harvesting have been in constant practice from time immemorial in the country, among various communities and villages.

Heavy showers are not uncommon in the country. It receives rain for about 100 hours each year spread over about 50 days in a year. Cherapunji in India is the wettest place in the world which receives annual rainfall of about 15,000 mm and yet the village often faces drinking water shortage because of widespread deforestation resulting in drying up of water sources soon after torrential rainy season is over. On the other hand, Jaisalmer in Rajasthan has just about 100 mm of annual rainfall and yet this desert town was able to collect enough water for its use. But it too has started facing the drinking water shortages of late since government water supply system has begun based on tapping of limited ground water neglecting traditional wisdom of water.

The problem of over-exploitation and pollution of our water resources is really grave. According to a UN report two-thirds of mankind will suffer moderate to severe water crisis within next 30 years if remedial steps are not taken. World Bank report estimates 5 million deaths from unsafe drinking water and investments to the tune of \$ 600 billion worldwide to repair and improve water delivery system.

Environment Pollution

Environment is a very broad term. It includes everything that is around, above and below us. Air, water, plant and animal life is all included in the environment. The greatest problem of present day world is the pollution of environment, be it water, air or sound. Pollution literally means fouling the natural environment by some unnatural elements which make it polluted to the extent that it becomes unhealthy for plant and animal life. Natural calamities like earthquakes, cyclones, famines, epidemics, etc., because great suffering to human being. But man's most effective enemy is man himself because he is himself responsible for polluting the environment in which he lives.

The problem of water pollution is rampant in all thickly-populated areas, especially urban conglomerates. No doubt water does possess a self-cleaning property, but there is limit to it. The problem intensifies with the addition of pollutants in our waterways from any sources; radioactive wastes from factories, laboratories and hospitals; fallout from nuclear explosions

domestic wastes from the cities and towns, chemical wastes from factories and industrial units, etc. Persons with a higher DDT content in their fatty tissue are afflicted with brain tumor, higher blood pressure and malfunctioning of the liver. The Bhopal gas leak tragedy of December 2/3, 1984 was a consequence of the release of poisonous Methyl isocyanate from the Union Carbide plant producing pesticides and insecticides.

Contemporary pessimism, however, goes far beyond this traditional worry about the state of affairs, Its new aspect is the assumption that our descendants will be even worse off than we are, because the world will have become too complex for comprehension by the human brain, These developments, together with the recklessly wasteful use of world's limited resources by the advanced market economies, even at the cost of damaging the eco-system and denying the poor countries the succor they need desperately, and the disconcerting experience of half-baked modernization plans, which have distorted both priorities of development and living mores in large parts of the Third World

This is how environment is polluted by human activity. If environmental degradation continues at the present rate, mankind is bound to perish one day or another. It is, therefore, imperative to take measures for protecting and minimizing if not totally eliminating, pollution of the environment.

The scientific development and expansion of urban areas has become as must to cater to the increasing needs of increasing number of people capable to be benefitted by the modern standards of living. The atmosphere has to be affected more and more by the production of more and more consumer goods along with the capital goods. . Mahatma Gandhi's saying that the future of India is not a mass production but in production by the masses may definitely have meaning for Western world as well. The human tragedies resulting from unemployment may lead industrial societies to reconsider that, except for the dullest, most repetitive and painful tracks, human beings are better than machines-and certainly more creative. If we are to cut ten trees to make a road, it should be imperative to raise twenty around to compensate the loss.

Researchers are already underway for devising new methods to control environmental pollution and protect the environment. In India, the department of Environment and Prevention and Control of Pollution boards, working at national and State levels, have enacted several laws to protect

the environment and stop its further degradation. The *chipko* movement started in 1973 in Himalayan foothills has received worldwide acclaim. A mass movement worldwide like this is the need of the time.

Global Warming

The inordinate warmth has begun to hit the earth and the entire living world. It is estimated that average temperature has risen by 0.2°C every decade; the threat of the global warming is real and immense. A lot of imbalance has been created in nature by human activities. Consequently there have been unprecedented and unexpected devastation's storms, etc, in various parts of the world especially into the coastal and low-lying regions.

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We need to have greater respect for the earth and its environment. It is high time that all the peoples of the world realize the gravity of problem and make determined and combined efforts to redact global warming appreciably. Our efforts to check the global warming should include both preventive and curative measures we should develop both long and short term strategies to overcome the devil of environmental pollution.

Poverty in India

India was once known as the land of plenty food grains. Foreign rule had changed India into a poor country. Poverty is the state of being poor. 26.10 percent of the total population of India live below the poverty line. According to the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP), Human Development Report, 2003.

India was ranked 127th among 175 countries. People living below poverty line are deprived of basic needs of life. The chief causes of poverty are over-population, unemployment, slow industrial growth, etc. Poverty leads to many social and economic problems. India was once known as the land of plenty. There were plenty of riches and resources. Foreign rule had changed

India into a poor country. The Turks, the Mughals and the British reduced the resources to a great extent. Poverty is a serious problem of today.

Poverty is the state of being poor. It is the state of not having the minimum income to obtain the basic needs of life. These include food, clothing, shelter, education and health. Poverty leads to misery. It lowers the standard of living of human beings.

India has low per capita consumption of electricity. A large number of people still do not have access to clean drinking water and sanitation. They do not have the basic health facilities. In Orissa, extreme poverty has forced parents to sell their children for money. There are reports of farmers committing suicide for not being able to repay loans.

The main causes of poverty is over-population. The national income has failed to keep pace with the growing population. In rural areas, poverty is due to low land base. There is low level of productivity in rural areas. The urban poor are largely due to the overflow of rural poor into the urban areas. The unemployment problem is another cause of poverty. The uneven distribution of resources are other reasons of poverty. Moreover, the industrial growth in India is slow. There is a slow increase in the demand for labor. There is a rise in the cost of living also.

Poverty leads to many problems in the society. It gives rise to child labour. According to the NSSO Survey (1999-2000), there are 10.4 million child labourers in our country. Poverty also leads to illiteracy, crime, corruption, prostitution etc.

With Fifth Plan, poverty eradication became a principle objective of economic planning. The Swarnajayanti Gram Sroozag Yojana (SGSY) was formed in 1999. The programmes merged with it are IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRA, SITRA, GKY and MWS. Other programmes are the Annapuran Schemes, the Samagra Awaas. Yojana, etc. are other such schemes.

These schemes provided shelter, sanitation and drinking water to the poor. The Eighth Plan provided food, healthcare, education, employment and shelter to the weaker sections. The Tenth Plan is aimed at reducing poverty below 20 percent in the country by 2007.

Eradication of poverty is not an easy task. The alarming rate of increase of population should be checked. The Government should undertake effective

steps to make India a fully literate country. The Government has been successful to some extent to eradicate poverty.

Illiteracy: A Bane

After six decades of independence we are still too far away from the universal literacy. What is the reason? Why have we come to such a sorry state? Reason can be well enumerated; improper planning, poor implementation of policies, lack of infrastructure and lack of political will are the main causes responsible for such state of affairs.

If seen statistically, literacy in India has made remarkable strides since Independence. The literacy rate has increased from 18.33% in 1951 to 74.04% in 2011. This is despite the fact that during the major part of the last

five decades there has been exponential growth of the population nearly 2% per annum.

A number of significant programmes have been taken up since Independence to eradicate illiteracy among adults like Social Education, Gram Shiksha Muhim and National Adult Education Programme. Yet, the problem lies in their proper implementation. Lack of motivation among school teachers, poor infrastructure facilities and corruption are the basic reasons why the result could not come as desired. There is little healthy contact between the teacher and the taught, parents are unwilling to send their daughters to school. The dropout rate still remains high. The infrastructure provided in the schools is not adequate. Many schools are being run in open or in buildings without roof or plaster.

It is absolutely necessary that the problem of illiteracy is to be tackled on war level by making awareness to the general masses about the importance of being literate. A powerful mass movement involving the Central and State Governments, Municipalities, Panchayats, NGOs, media and every other supportive institution is required to be launched.

Education is the most significant instruments of the national development. Literacy is the base of a Nation's overall progress and development. We must remember that ignorance leads to greater expectation and lack of empowerment leads to perpetrator of poverty and hunger. India is known for best skilled man power in the world, and also for largest number of illiterates in the world. The bane of illiteracy is to be root out at the earliest at all levels with all out positive efforts with strong political determination and will. Eradication of illiteracy should be given priority as delay can be disastrous.

Health

Recently, the government launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) aimed at correcting rural inequities in the matter of health. It correctly seeks to integrate health with those essential inputs in health, namely, sanitation, hygiene, safe drinking water, and nutrition. Most of the schemes and programmes initiated by our governments looks good on paper; where they fail is where it really matters-on the ground, in the implementation. The infrastructure devised- again on paper-for rural health delivery has little to find fault with, but the primary health centers and sub-

centers, as we all know, are crumbling if they have not already collapsed. In place of a well structured delivery system of health care, there is a thriving sector of quacks. And by quacks, one does not necessarily mean practitioners of the indigenous systems of medicine per se, but pretenders to all systems of medicine. Is that only because of paucity of funds, as government investment in the health sector is admittedly low as a proportion of the GDP? One hesitates to put all the blame on typically all our well-intentioned plans and programmers for the welfare of the people.

The NHRM Proposes to empower local communities in the matter of public health; specific health plans are sought to be drawn up for each village by special health committees within the panchayats. Good enough, but what about the way our villages are structured? There has been little change in the feudal mindsets and the caste/community hierarchies, Panchayats, supposed to be epitomes of grassroots democracy, are notorious for the stifling of democratic values. Irrespective of caste and community, there is universal discrimination against women. In the circumstances, the social participation and empowerment envisaged by the health mission is bound to be skewed in favour of the already empowered to the further detriment of the already marginalized. The panchayats are not the ideal political bodies that one likes to see them as- fair and free of bias. It was possible in a story by Premchand for a person to lose his personal grudges and become objective and absolutely just as soon as he assumed the position of 'panch'. In today's realities, patronage alone is seen as functioning. The selection of the office bearers will be governed by who is close to the ruling elite at the village level. It would be foolish to expect equitable representation of all castes and communities, and least of all women, in such a situation. So, whether the basic objective of empowering local communities? Will, for instance, there be a concerted effort to root out female foeticide without women becoming strong enough a voice their protest and stand up for their rights?

Women, from infant stage to their old age, get an unfair deal in matters of health. Firstly, as a class, they are conditioned through generations to place themselves last within the family itself, though they put in the most labour without any financial gain in the running of that family. As such, their health concerns also get a very low priority, if at all. Women themselves bear in silence pain and discomfort for long periods of time without seeking relief. And they are implicitly encouraged by other family members to do so. The abysmal sex ratio in India as revealed by the 2001 census speaks volumes about the importance given to women in this

country. Women are discriminated subtly and not so subtly when it comes to the treatment of diseases and medical problem requiring expensive treatment, it is inevitably the man who gets the first attention, often the only one to get the attention; women can wait. All means of bearing the cost of treatment will be explored and availed for the man's treatment but in the case of the woman, there will be procrastination, an unwillingness to go to all lengths to procure the treatment. It is not just the poor who, for want of resources, and with the inherent preference for the boy, are guilty of this dangerous and condemnable bias. A survey of uptown hospitals in Delhi revealed that even well-off parents discriminate against the girl child in the matter of medical treatment. Seems unbelievable, but statistics go to prove this fact. Doctors vouch for the fact that it is attitude that is responsible for the skewed statistics it would be blatantly erroneous to assume that the health of the girl child is so robust that she needs little medical attention! Doctors say how parents often declare their unwillingness to pay for the expensive treatment of their daughter, and that is would be different if it a son were the patient. Yet another statistical information spoke volumes about the bias. While the male – women ratio for organ donors at the AIIMS was 40 to 100, the male-female ratio of recipients of organs at the same hospital was 560 to 100!

Education is Freedom

Knowledge has always been represented by light, and ignorance has been symbolized by darkness. Hence education, the key to all knowledge and yet more knowledge, dispels the darkness and ushers in the light. Freedom too has always been associated with light whereas servility, imprisonment have been relegated to the depths of darkness. Prisons and dungeons have been always conceived as dark and gloomy whereas free men have all the access

to light. This completes our equation that education equals freedom since both are symbolized by light.

Freedom can be of many kinds. We can have economic freedom which is the freedom to earn one's livelihood and maintain a decent standard of living. There is social freedom in which the individual is allowed to develop his own kind of relationship vis-à-vis society. Then there is political freedom in which the individual has a say in the way in which he is governed. We also have intellectual freedom which is the liberty to think as you please without restrictions and impediments. And just as one can be allowed freedom of thought so also can there be freedom of action, of belief, of faith etc. For every kind of freedom to be truly effective education is necessary and with education every one of these types of freedom becomes truly justified.

Education must not be confused here with literacy and learning the 3R's. Nor is education confined to the 10+2+3 system. Education does not consist in collecting degrees or burying oneself in research. Education is a continuous process of learning which broadens our mental horizons and with it our perspective. Education leads to the dissemination of knowledge, to the breaking down of all mental barriers and to a greater realization of self-worth and a better understanding of fellow beings.

If a person is uneducated he cannot think for himself. He is forced to blindly accept the dictates of others and this makes him servile as he lacks the ability to judge right from wrong. With education he is able to make this distinction, to realize the reasons behind his forced servility and to stand up and demand redressed. This frees him from the shackles of servility and makes him a free individual. Nowhere is this more true than in women's education which has been the single most important factor in women's emancipation.

Swami Vivekananda had said "I don't consider a man to be educated who has learnt libraries by heart. If a man learns 5 ideas, and applies them in his life, I consider him educated". Thus Swamiji believed true education helped person to think for himself. Let us all pledge ourselves to Shiva the destroyer as he goes about his tandava-nritya to stamp out ignorance and let us make education transport us in the words of Tagore to that "heaven of freedom".

The Gender Bias

We sometimes gloat over the fact that so many women of our country have got the title of Miss India. Then it seems we have women all the way when we recall how women trounced men in Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan during the assembly elections held towards the end of 2003 and these were women who became the Chief Ministers in these States.

This however, is misleading. We cannot forget that thousands may be millions of women all over India are being exploited daily in the form of eve teasing molestation, physical oppression, mental trauma, discrimination on several counts etc. This is how gender trauma, discrimination on several counts etc.

The fact regarding female feticide which has reduced the female ratio drastically in the country and in many states below 800 per 1000 boys needs no emphasis.

The most distressing is a mother's bias against girls as compared to boys in the matter of education, giving pocket money, diet, allowing freedom, etc. If a mother behaves like this, her son will consider himself superior to his sister and will in course of time, show male chauvinism even to his mother and the daughter when she grows up and becomes mother will behave similarly to her daughters and thus the vicious circle will continue.

Rural Reconstruction

Before Independence the lot of the villages was very miserable, although at least eighty per cent of Indians lived in villages.

Mahatma Gandhi and other Indian leaders laid great stress on the necessity for rural uplift and reconstruction.

As time passed, the govt. and people of India began to take more and more interest in improving the lot of villages. New roads were built. Dispensaries, hospitals, schools and milk collection centers were established. In many villages, community halls were also set up. Of late, the Panchayat system in the villages has been strengthened.

Villages in certain states like Punjab and Haryana have reached a considerable level of development as compared to their condition in pre-independence India. In these States, most of the villages are electrified.

In the early decade after Independence, agricultural produce in India was very small. Thanks to the Green Revolution, this condition changed for the better. Now farmers began to get sufficient remuneration for their crops. The installation of tube wells also helped in irrigation and in increasing the produce. Added to these were better crop yielding seeds researched by agricultural universities, insecticides, fertilizers, etc. Free electricity and water were also provided to the farmers in some States.

Still, there is a dire need for establishing agro based cottage industries in villagers to enable the villagers, especially farmers, to augment their income and also keep busy. The level of literacy should be raised in villages to rescue the villagers from the evils of drinking, drug taking, litigation, etc. They should also be told about the importance of small families. Much still needs to be done for the uplift of villages in most of the States in India.

Science and Religion

Science and religion seem to be antagonistic to each other. But intrinsically, their purpose is the same – that is, to make life happy and worth living. Both claim to be based on truth, though their methods are different.

There are many similarities and dissimilarities between science and religion. The basis of science in earliest stages at least, is believed to have been observation and experience, and it is quite understandable that man must have been observing the natural phenomena and having some experiences of varied type. Yet, religion is believed to be much older than science. It is because religion is primarily based on belief and faith which later took the shape of magic. But science in its tangible form came to be recognized later.

It is now almost established that man has evolved from other species after the passage of numerous millenniums. As he appeared on the earth in the present human form, he was awed to watch the lightening in the sky followed by a loud thunder. As he moved on the earth, he came across or experienced floods and forest fires such things and happenings. He began to feel and realize and associate his own life and fate in the hands of some invisible power who perhaps he gave the name of God. The fact that the name of God in different vernaculars, languages and dialects exists almost all over the world in all religions, among all races and countries, means that either all mankind was thinking alike at one or the other time or the people in different regions or areas of the world were having some communication system even unconsciously, may be in the form of conveying of some fact, information, secret or the writing process, as we know, came much later, indeed, recently only.

Whatever might be the origin of science and religion. The main point is their area of activity and their method of working.

Science makes a man rational and free-minded. Religion wants man to believe blindly in what he is told to be true and worthy of being practiced. Science asks questions and puts every thesis or proposal to test. Religion abhors such methods.

Science believes in logical experimentation and wants to declare something truthful and true if it comes out finally resultant of the investigation irrespective of the outcome of investigation, inquiry or experiment.

So, religion and science both are complementary to each other. For mankind, both are required in equal measure and simultaneously. Thus intrinsically , both are essential for man.

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Renewable Energy

Ex-prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said in an address to people through leading newspapers on December 25, 2003. “Just as the last two centuries were driven by coal and oil, it is my belief that the next century will belong to renewable.”

He also said, “ Our expanding economy, and the strong growth expected in the next few decades, will require substantial addition to our energy generating capacity.”

We can , indeed, come over energy crisis that we have been facing for quite long by reducing dependence on fossil fuels and focusing our attention on renewable energy sources. This we can do by expanding and diversifying our energy supply mix.

This shift towards renewable energy can provide a greater of national energy security and social responsibility.

Some of the important renewable energy sources can be listed in to main categories.

The first system which may be called ‘Grid Connected system’ may involve wind power, small hydro power, Biomass/ cogeneration power, urban and industrial waste power and solar photovoltaic power.

The second category system which may be captioned ‘Decentralized System’, may involve systems which come in closer touch of the common man such a biogas plants, night soil based biogas plants (which may be community or institution –based) improved chulhas, solar home lighting, solar street lighting, solar lanterns, SPV pumps, solar water heating etc.

The use of renewable energy has been started in various forms at several places(number of which may expand in the near future) such as Sunderbans, Ladakh, Bastar, North East, Bangalore, Tirupati, Tirumale , Devasthanam,

Global Warming Effects

The most prominent among the greenhouse gases is the carbon dioxide. The maximum amount of this gas is produced in America and Europe.

The greenhouse gases raise the atmospheric temperature. It is told by the intergovernmental panel on climatic change that the Global Mean Temperature of the atmosphere has risen by about one degree Fahrenheit (0.55 degree Celsius) in the 20th century and by the end of 21st century the world may get warmer by about 3.5 degrees.

The effect of this global rise in temperature is stupendous. It is likely to bring about severe climatic changes. It can lead to greater evaporation of water from oceans and water reservoirs. This means that world will become rainier and more moist. This can make the northern latitudes greener. But can also causes devastating floods, as the rainfall pattern changes the world over.

One greatly devastating effect of the greenhouse gas can be visualized from the almost certain possibility that the global warming will make the snow on mountains melt more quickly. This will mean more water in oceans and accordingly, some islands. And sea-coasts in certain parts of the world may get submerged.

It is of utmost importance that the production of greenhouse gases at such an alarming scale should be checked. This will also reduce pollution all over the world, particularly in urban areas. In brief, Global warming is caused due to burning of coal, oil, wood, fossil etc. some gases used in refrigerators and perfumes are greatly responsible for thinning of the ozone layer over the earth's atmosphere. This also leads to global warming.

The remedy lies in checking those practices and in making the increasing use of renewable energy.

Secularism

India, as a country and nation, has always been secular. It has never been a theoretic, sectarian and communal state. In spite of fact that Indian masses have ever been deeply religious, religious-intolerance, hatred, fundamentalism etc. have never been part of their ethos. Respect for one another's faith, religious practice and peaceful preaching have been the hallmark of Indian culture and civilization. Unity in cultural and religious diversity is one of the unique features accommodations etc. have always been the essence of Indian religious preaching and practice. It is inhabited by the followers of many different religions, faiths, sects, way of living and thinking. There are the Hindus, the Muslims, the Sikhs, the Parsis, the Jains, the Buddhists, the Christians, the Zoroastrians and many others. The Hindus have always been a majority community but their religious outlook and practice have never been narrow, sectarian, obscurantist and fundamentalist. They never believed in conversion, coercion, intolerance, jihad or religious persecution. India is the only country where civilization and culture has been like a ceaseless and continuous flow since times immemorial only because of its deep-rooted faith in religious tolerance co-existence and non-interference in one another's personal and religious affairs.

Followers of different and alien faiths came to India as invaders, refugees seeking shelters from religious persecution in their own countries or as preachers of their faith and became an integral part of its unique unity in staggering diversity. The Christian church in India is much older than coming of Islam. St. Thomas was one of the 12 Disciples of Christ and contemporary of St. Peter in Rome. He was the first preacher of Christianity in India. The Parsis came in the 8th century seeking refuge from religious persecution in Iran and brought Zoroastrianism. The Jews came quite early about 2000 years ago and settled down chiefly in Bombay, Pune, Cochin and Delhi. Islam came to India with Muslim invasions and conquests. Today India is one of the largest Islamic nations. According to 1991 census there are 627.5 million Hindus, 95.2 million Muslims, 18.8 million Christians, 16.2 millions Sikhs, 6.3 million Buddhist and 3.3 million Jains in the country. The decadal rate of increase of the Hindus has been 22.78 per cent and that of Muslims 32.76 per cent and 16.89 percent that of the cultural currents and cross currents. Besides these major religions, there are about 183 other religious sects and persuasions. In Hinduism rites, rituals and ways of worship and prayer. All these sects and religions, and atheists as well,

represent a complete and wonderful pattern of unity, integrity and wholeness.

Communal tensions, conflicts and frictions have been relatively of recent origin and can be traced back to the British rule. They always followed the policy of "Divide and rule". The partition of the sub-continent into India and Pakistan was clearly a legacy of the British rule. They had divided the people of communal lines; introduced separate electorates to serve their own narrow interests. They were successful to a large extent in sowing the seeds of communal disharmony, tension and conflict. This resulted in the partition and Mahatma Gandhi's association. In spite of all these tragic events of epic dimensions, India's commitment to secularism has never been political leader. But gradually he felt sidelined on the pre-independence ambition. Ultimately the portion was agreed and Jinnah had his "moth eaten" Pakistan, a product of his vicious communalism.

Time and again, and in no uncertain terms in the Parliament and outside, it, the Indian leader like Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and other have declared that India is fundamentally a secular country. All are first and last and Indians in the political and national sense, their different religions and faiths notwithstanding. India is a sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic. The Indian constitution guarantees its citizens full freedom in matters of religion, faith and its practice. One of the fundamental rights and freedoms granted to all citizens individually and collectively is the "right to freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion". Moreover, each and every section of citizens has "right to conserve its culture, language or script and right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice."

This freedom of culture, conscience, faith, following the way of living has been one of the corner stone's of Indian social fabric and democracy. There is no discrimination on the basis of religion and caste, among other things. There is no favour to any particular religion and its followers. All religions, sects and their followers are equal before the law. There is complete religious freedom unless it does interfere in the freedom of other religions. Here in India religion and its practice has been recognized as a personal and private affair. It means that there is no mixing up of religion with politics.

Secularism is often defined as neutrality and detachment or indifference to religion without being antireligious or discriminating among citizens on grounds of religion, caste, creed etc. Now, this is a negative and narrow definition of secularism and does not suit the Indian context. This gives the detractors of secularism an opportunity to call it anti-religious approach to the policy. They call the whole concept as borrowed, alien, atheist and godless. Therefore, secularism needs to be redefined to suit Indian psyche. Some thinkers suggest that secularism means “Sarvadharmā sambhava”, that is, equal respect for all religions. This is certainly better and positive interpretation of secularism and should be preached and propagated. Really this is the essence of secularism and Gandhi’s secular vision was very much close to it. Pt. Nehru and other great leaders were also inspired and guided by this same vision.

India is a very big and great country populated by many communities. It is a second largest country in the world after China in population. There are conflicts, tensions and frictions among the pressures and clash of interests. Therefore, every clash cannot be termed as communal. There have been communal clashes, conflicts, religious riots, conflagrations and massacres during the last 50 years of our independence. But most of them have been either political in nature or sponsored by our hostile neighbour Pakistan. There are certain vested interests who under the influence of foreign powers across our borders, want to weaken the country. They are always trying to disturb India’s social fabric and communal harmony. They often succeed in engineering communal conflicts and clashes here and there. We should be vigilant and guard ourselves against such various elements. Then there are certain political leaders and parties who to serve their own narrow interest indulge in communal lines. The politics of vote banks originates from lack of genuine commitment to the cause of secularism and social harmony. They now and then practice appeasement of minority community and thus give opportunity to the detractors of secularism in mudslinging.

Many of the clashes and conflicts between communities are because of economic and educational backwardness. They are not actually communal in nature and origin but are construed as such. The economic and cultural backwardness of their sections and communities should be removed. They should be removed. They should be enlightened and brought into the national mainstream so as to eliminate their self-inspired isolation, alienation and educational backwardness. It is not unnatural that the

economically weak and vulnerable communities should succumb to name of religion against those who are better off and belonging to other community and faith. Removal of unemployment, backwardness, more economical development of various communities only can ensure real and lasting secularism. In poverty, economic slavery, backwardness and widespread unemployment, secularism can never survive, let alone its prosperity. The poor and the weak become an easy prey to priest, mullahs, fundamentalist and reactionary forces having their roots overseas.

The communal and obscurantist forces should not be allowed at all to undermine our secular spirit, religious tolerance, peace, harmony and co-existence. No political leader or party should be allowed to raise the bogey of religion or community. In our public and social life we should be guided only by our national interests and such giants as Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru or Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

FORMAL LETTER WRITING TOPICS

FORMAL LETTER WRITING TOPICS :

QUES 1) Write a letter to the Mayor of your city seeking a solution to the problem of water logging in your area. You are Rani of of Dharma Colony, Ramgarh.

ABC apartment
Dharma Colony
Ramgarh

Sep 29, 2019

The Mayor
Maujpur
New Delhi

Respected Sir

Subject : Problem of water logging

This is to draw your kind attention towards the excessive problem of water logging in Ward 2E, Maujpur. Water logging is playing havoc with the lives of people in rainy season and it needs instant action.

Because of the rainy season this problem has aggravated. Within a rainfall of mere five minutes duration, clogged drains lead to roads full of water everywhere. Potholes get filled with water which can cause dangerous accidents.

Many manholes are lying open which become lethal in rainy days. Yesterday a student going to school suffered major injury when he struggled to carry his bicycle forward in such tough conditions. Office goers and other people are equally affected. It has become nearly impossible to step out of the house safely. Water also seep inside in some houses . It not only affects our schedule but also gives rise to many water-borne diseases like dengue. Cases of dengue are already on high in Delhi. This is only adding to the problem.

I request you to activate the concerned authorities. Drains should be cleaned immediately to avoid any epidemic. Covering of drains and manholes is the urgent need of the hour. Proper maintenance and repair of the roads and streets is required to prevent any mishap with anyone. I would like you to please take cognisance of this problem which is obstructing our lives immensely.

Quick response will be highly appreciated.

Thanking You
Yours Truly
Rani

FORMAL LETTER WRITING TOPICS :

**QUES 2) Write a letter to the editor on the topic
“STREET LIGHT PROBLEM”?**

ABC apartment
Lodhi Road
Delhi-11

Sep 29, 2019

The Editor
ABC Times
New Delhi

Respected Sir

Subject : Street light problem

Through the esteemed column of your prestigious newspaper, I would like to draw your kind attention towards street light problem in our area.

We have complained multiple times regarding fused street lights but to no avail. People are facing a lot of difficulties because of it. Road signs become completely invisible at night. Speed breakers, potholes and manholes are not clearly visible which makes our area more prone to lethal accidents. This poses a huge risk to the life of citizens. It becomes very dark and unsafe after evenings. Women and children are afraid to step out of their house after it gets dark. CCTV cameras are totally ineffective. Incidence of thefts are increasing unproportionately. Unsocial elements are encouraged to carry out their activities and get away unnoticed. This is really increasing a sense of fear among

citizens. Kidnappers find such dark areas conducive for their unholy acts.

It needs immediate action to curb this menace. This is a request to take cognisance of this grave problem before it takes a toll on the law and order of the society completely. Maintenance of street lights is urgently required for our smooth and safe life.

We would highly appreciate your support in this matter.

Thanking You
Yours Truly
XYZ

FORMAL LETTER WRITING TOPICS :

QUES 3) Write a letter to the editor of national daily by seeing bad conditions of historical monuments.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

The Editor
National Herald
New Delhi

Respected Sir

Subject : Bad condition of historical monuments.

Through the esteemed column of your prestigious newspaper, I would like to draw your kind attention towards the bad condition of our heritage, our historical monuments. When the government is so keenly pursuing the programme of conserving our monuments of national importance, it is shocking to see that all the historical monuments near our area are in collapsing condition.

They are not being taken care of the way it should be. Walls are all damaged, with roofs falling frequently. No one is obstructed from entering them any time. People are not aware of their fundamental duty to conserve and protect them. People coming to visit them often express their emotions on walls. They are throwing garbage all over the place without any sense of guilt. Vendors have illegally occupied corners. Stray dogs are lying there most of the times. No rules and regulations are followed. Security personnel appointed are rarely on duty. If such situation is continued than very soon it will turn into a petty building with nothing left to conserve.

Responsible authorities should be activated before it gets too late to act upon. Kindly acknowledge the matter. We would highly appreciate your support in this matter.

Thanking You
Yours Truly
XYZ

FORMAL LETTER WRITING TOPICS :

QUES 4) Write a letter to the editor for the corruption in government department.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

The Editor
PQR Daily
New Delhi

Respected Sir

Subject : Corruption in govt department

Through the esteemed column of your prestigious newspaper, I would like to draw your kind attention towards ongoing rampant corruption in government departments.

It is out in the open that government workers are getting corrupt day by day. Common people can't even access the people in power. Wealthy people are influencing the coterie of power. It takes heavy pockets to get a small task done from the government. Everyone in the hierarchy, from the lower ring to the highest, is neck deep in corruption. Earlier there were reports in bits and pieces of

how every file is passed with a push from under the table. But now its clearly visible. Transparency and Accountability seem to be far dreams. It is unhealthy and horrifying for the democratic structure of Indian society.

Electronic media seems to be reluctant to pursue this as it involves people of stature. This matter needs urgent action from honest media persons as well as investigation agencies. Strict action and honest enquiries are the needs of the hour. Concerned citizens are raising their voice. Support from media can play an active role to highlight the issue.

We would highly appreciate your contribution in this matter.

Thanking You
Yours Truly
XYZ

FORMAL LETTER WRITING TOPICS :

QUES 5) Write a letter to the Bank Manager for reissuing your ATM card.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

The Editor
PQR Daily
New Delhi

Subject : Application for reissuing my ATM card

This is to draw your kind attention towards a problem I have been facing since a few months regarding my ATM card.

My ATM did not undergo any transaction for five months from January 2019 to May 2019. Due to which it got blocked and further transactions were denied. I consulted with concerned authorities in bank and they advised me to file an application for re-issuing new ATM card under same details. I filed my application and submitted it to the relevant counter from where I was asked to wait for a 3-4 weeks. After the given period I visited bank again and they asked to re-file the application. I have filed two applications regarding the same but to no avail. Neither I have received my ATM card nor any response.

Please inform me how long it is going to take to get my ATM card reissued. If there is some other process to be followed, kindly instruct me about it. I have visited bank in person several times but it is not getting me anywhere. This is really causing me difficulties sir. Kindly acknowledge the matter as soon as possible.

Quick response will be highly appreciated.

Thanking You
Yours Truly
XYZ

FORMAL LETTER WRITING TOPICS :

QUES 6) Write a letter to the Municipal Officer demanding a Garbage Bin in your area.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

The Municipal Officer
Maujpur
New Delhi

Respected Sir

Subject : Lack of garbage bins.

This is to draw your kind attention towards problems caused by unavailability of garbage bins in our area.

There are no garbage bins in our locality because of which people are throwing garbage in the corner of the streets. Heaps of garbage are growing day by day. It has become impossible to live here because of the smell it produces. It stinks throughout the day and night. It has become a

breeding ground for mosquitoes and flies. Dengue cases are already on high these days. People burn the heaps of garbage every Sunday causing smoke and air pollution.

Stray animals keep looking for leftovers inside the polythene bags which is becoming a cause of their bad health and eventually death. Passers by find it extremely difficult to cross that much area as it had become unhygienic all around. Concerned authorities are not responding actively as they were contacted by citizens several times. This needs to be stopped before it takes the form of epidemic. Kindly acknowledge the matter for the sake of our health and safety.

You are requested to do the needful as soon as possible.

Thanking You
Yours Truly
XYZ

FORMAL LETTER WRITING TOPICS :

QUES 7) Write a letter requesting for more frequency of Public Transportation (Bus Service) in your area to the Municipal Corporation.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

The Municipal Officer
Maujpur
New Delhi

Respected Sir

Subject : Increase frequency of Public Transportation Service

This is to draw your kind attention towards less number of public transportation service available in our area.

The number of Delhi Transportation Service Buses running in our area have dropped drastically in last few years. The present buses are also not in good condition. Drivers find it risky to run those vehicles. Last fleet was bought by the government in 2009. It has become impossible to catch up with the increasing infrastructural needs of the citizens. As a result people are reluctantly using their own vehicle even if public transport would have been more economical for them.

More vehicles on the road means increased possibility of traffic jams and even more polluted air. People are engaging in car pooling exercise but that is not enough to tackle this menace. On one hand government is running odd-even programme to fight with air pollution and on the other hand, public service is on the verge of collapse. This hypocrisy is actually affecting the lives of citizens. Kindly acknowledge the matter for the sake of safety of people.

You are requested to do the needful as soon as possible.

Thanking You
Yours Truly
XYZ

FORMAL LETTER WRITING TOPICS :

QUES 8) Write a letter to the editor about the problem of frequent power breakdown in your locality.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

The Editor
PQR Daily
New Delhi

Respected Sir

Subject : Frequent power breakdown

Through the esteemed column of your prestigious newspaper, I would like to draw your kind attention towards frequent power breakdown in our locality.

Due to multiple power breakdowns in a day, people are facing a lot of difficulties. Even after being a regular taxpayer, we are living a life of obstructions. In modern day world when each and everything is totally dependent on electricity, we are left with no option but to wait. Till the power breakdown continues, our lives stop. We feel helpless when our daily routines get destructed. Some people have started using generators meanwhile, adding to noise pollution and air pollution as well.

Many young people are running online business. Charging their appliances is the main issue they face. People running mother dairies and bakeries are totally clueless about how to keep their refrigerators cool for so long without electricity. In summer, high temperature makes our lives hell without fans and coolers working. It has now become totally unbearable to live in such unacceptable conditions. People have complained about it several times but to no avail. Kindly acknowledge the matter for the sake of smooth functioning of people's life.

You are requested to do the needful as soon as possible.

Thanking You
Yours Truly
XYZ

FORMAL LETTER WRITING TOPICS :

QUES 9) Write a letter to the editor about the problem of water shortage and supply of polluted water.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

The Editor
PQR Daily
New Delhi

Respected Sir

Subject : Problem of water shortage

Through the esteemed column of your prestigious newspaper, I would like to draw your kind attention towards the problem of water shortage and polluted water in our area.

We have been facing water shortage since last two weeks. Construction and repair work of pipelines is going on in our locality. Labour indulged in maintenance work took a gap of three days in mid delaying it even further. It has taken such a long time that we are forced to order water tankers to meet our daily requirements. It is creating an extra financial burden on us. This out of the pocket expenditure cannot be bore for so long.

Where repair work of pipelines has been finished, there people are facing problem of polluted water supply. The water odour and colour has made it impotable. Water of poor quality has made people ill adding to our problems. People have complained about it but quick action is nowhere to be seen. We are worried as to how long it is going to take to normalise. Our lives have been disturbed to an unbearable extent. This needs to get acknowledged by the concerned authorities.

You are required to do the needful as soon as possible.

Thanking You
Yours Truly
XYZ

FORMAL LETTER WRITING TOPICS:

QUES 10) Write a letter to the editor about the rising number of crimes in your locality.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

The Editor
PQR Times
New Delhi

Respected Sir

Subject : Increasing number of crimes

Through the esteemed column of your prestigious newspaper, I would like to draw your kind attention towards increasing number of crimes in our locality.

People are feeling a sense of fear as unsocial elements are in very high spirits now a days. There is a kind of lawlessness in our area. Women and children find it unsafe to step out of the their house once it gets dark. Girls and women have to be escorted with a male member of their family. Chain snatchers and phone snatchers are roaming freely on bikes in broad daylight.

Number of threats have increased unproportionately and eve teasers have no fear of law and order. Street lights are also not in good working conditions which is only helping those who are destroying the peace in our area. CCTV cameras have not been installed by the government. It boosts their morale to execute crime and get away unnoticed. Such situation is affecting our lives immensely. A sense of insecurity has already crept in innocent minds of young children. Immediate attention is required to prevent it to develop into a state of anarchy.

We would appreciate your support in this matter.

Thanking You
Yours Truly
XYZ

FORMAL LETTER WRITING TOPICS :

QUES 11) You would like a temporary job working in the summer camp which runs sports and outdoor activities for children and young people next summer . Write a letter to the organisers of the summer camp.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

March 29, 2019

The Organiser
PQR Camps
Himachal

Respected Sir

Subject : Applying for the post of assistant manager(temporary).

This is with reference to your advertisement in MNO DAILY newspaper regarding a job for the post of Assistant Manager (temporary) for the upcoming summer camps.

I have done one year internship with TOUR AND TRAVEL PROVIDERS company. I have certificate of appreciation from the same. I have participated in three summer camps prior to this, organised by three different companies. I am a responsible person with full of zest and zeal to be a part of organisation and management of such reputed institutions. My track record has been neat, clean and shining till day. I possess decent communication skills . I am confident, honest and always loyal towards my duties.

I am good at organising outdoor activities for children and young people. I have been a part of sports team during my school and college days. I claim to be the best suited candidate for the job you are providing. Photocopies of all the required documents have been enclosed along with my contact details. Kindly consider my candidature for the same.

Waiting for your response.

Thanking You
Yours Truly
XYZ

FORMAL LETTER WRITING TOPICS :

QUES 12) You live in a small university town. Last week, you drove to a big city about two hours away to buy a new laptop at a good price. You worked on the laptop all week and finished writing a long

assignment that is due shortly. However this week, the laptop doesn't even switch on. Write to the store.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

The Manager
PQR Laptops
New Delhi

Respected Sir

Subject : Complaint regarding newly bought laptop.

This is with reference to the laptop I bought from your store on 19 sep 2019 with product id 1236789. I switched it on after reading all the instructions carefully. Initially it was working fine. For a week it functioned normally. But after a week it has suddenly stopped working. I charged it thinking that it may have ran out of battery but it is not getting switched on.

I have a presentation due next week. I prepared and saved it on my laptop. It will be of great loss to me if I can not recover it on time. I do not have enough time to prepare another one from scratch. Since my laptop is still in warranty period. Send your personnel to resolve the issue

as soon as possible. My contact details have been enclosed.
I need a quick response from your side.

Waiting for your reply.

Thanking You
Yours Truly
XYZ

FORMAL LETTER WRITING TOPICS :

QUES 13) Recently you read a report on increasing stress level among the younger generation and you are very disturbed with the scenario. You decide to write a letter to the editor of a newspaper expressing your concern and also about some measures which can be adopted by the youth to overcome stress. On the basis of the ideas reflected in the MCB unit health and medicine on your own understanding. Write the letter to the editor.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

THE editor
PQR Daily
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

Respected Sir

Subject : Increasing stress among youth.

Through the esteemed column of your prestigious newspaper I would like to draw your kind attention towards increasing level of stress among youth.

With the changing world we are dealing with a lot of things now a days. Main cause of stress is unemployment and peer pressure. With such a high population and increasing competition, it has become extremely difficult to get your dream job. This increases pressure on the mind of youth who are struggling hard to get their dreams come true. At the same time instead understanding and supporting, society poses as constant question mark of “when will you get settled”.

Along with this, social media which was initially meant to be the means of communication is more of now flaunting lifestyle which is far from reality. What people want to project on their profile may not match with their real life situation at all. It not only impacts others who aspire to follow the same, but their own selves also in keeping up with the level of artificial happiness they have set for themselves. School going students also see examination as a burden. Kindly acknowledge the matter to do the needful.

Your support would be highly appreciated.

Thanking You
Yours Truly
XYZ

FORMAL LETTER WRITING TOPICS :

QUES 14) A survey reveals that most of our health related problems are due to our over fascination with modern gadgets like smart phones. The findings of the survey compel you to share your views on the issue and you decide to write a letter to the editor of a newspaper. On the basis of your understanding of the MCB unit Science and your own understanding write the letter.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

THE editor
PQR Daily
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

Respected Sir

Subject : Negative effects of smartphone.

Through the esteemed column of your prestigious newspaper I would like to draw your kind attention

towards increasing use of smart phones and their negative effects on human minds.

I recently read a survey in MCB unit of science magazine which mentioned the negative effects of excessive use of smartphones and I was not shocked to see the reports. Smart phones have not only become a part of our life but they have become a part of our body. You can not keep it away from us even for a few seconds. We instead of indulging ourselves in physical and social activities are busy on apps and online games. It is not only ruining our physical health but the level of anxiety and stress it has brought to our lives is immense.

Children are more conscious of their display picture than of their health. Although it has revolutionised our lives in an outstanding way but its misuse is incalculably dangerous. It is the prerogative of parents to decide the screen time of children and its over exposure should be curbed. Its usage should be totally under their parents' surveillance. Kindly acknowledge this situation to do the needful.

Your support in this matter would be highly appreciated.

Thanking You
Yours Truly
XYZ

FORMAL LETTER WRITING TOPICS :

QUES 15) Write a letter to the editor about poor conditions of roads and public parks.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

The Editor
PQR Times
New Delhi

Respected Sir

Subject : Poor condition of infrastructure.

Through the esteemed column of your prestigious newspaper, I would like to draw your kind attention towards the poor health of roads and public parks in our area.

Poor conditions of roads has lead to increased number of road accidents. Uncountable potholes are very dangerous to people's safety. We are afraid to send our children outside because of uncovered manholes. Speed breakers are also not in good conditions. Instead of preventing mishaps they are becoming a cause of injury. Broken condition of roads leads to traffic jams which cause wastage of time and resources. Traffic jams have also become a cause of aggressive arguments and street brawls.

Public parks' maintenance is not done properly. They are not cleaned regularly. Piles of garbage are growing in the corners of the parks. They have become the breeding ground for mosquitoes and flies. Some unsocial elements have also been reported and so are the incidents of eve-teasing and kidnapping. Old people, children and women do not find it safe inside the parks. This needs to be acknowledged as soon as possible.

Your support regarding this would be highly appreciated.

Thanking You
Yours Truly
XYZ

FORMAL LETTER WRITING TOPICS :

QUES 16) Write a letter to the manager of a theatre enquiring about showing a movie to the students of a school.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

The Manager
PQR Theatre
New Delhi

Respected Sir

Subject : Enquiry about a movie show.

This is to enquire about a movie show for the students of our school. We are planning an entertainment trip for our students of class 3rd to 8th.

School authorities have decided to show an inspirational cum comedy movie to our students. This has been decided keeping in mind that they learn something different with a pinch of entertainment in it. This movie has something to learn for both teachers and students. Co-curricular activities team has concluded that 'hichki' movie is fit for this purpose. I want to enquire about the

- Fire safety system of your theatre.
- NOC from Fire Department.
- License for safe trip of our students .
- Is your emergency exit in good working condition.
- The capacity of your theatre. (400-500 members are expected to enrol excluding staff members)
- Package that you provide for school trip.
- Refreshment combo you provide.
- What is the estimated total expense.

Kindly reply with all the required details. Quick response will be highly appreciated.

Thanking You

Yours Truly

XYZ

FORMAL LETTER WRITING TOPICS :

QUES 18) Write a letter to uniform store for placing order of uniforms for your school.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

The Manager
PQR Uniforms
New Delhi

Respected Sir

Subject : Placing order of uniforms

This is with reference to advertisement id 47891 in MNO Daily newspaper regarding khadi uniform. According to the recent notification by Government of Delhi, Khadi uniforms have been made mandatory in government schools. I am sending you the order as per the deal fixed by our delegation. Take care of the quality of the product. It needs to be authentic and fine with no mix of any artificial fabric.

SERIAL NUMBER	PRODUCT ID	NUMBER OF PRODUCTS
1	A12345	220
2	B12345	450
3	C98765	630
4	D35428	110

We are sending a demand draft of rs 50000 along with it. Rest of the amount will be paid by cheque after the completion of order. You are required to send the order within 7 working days. Late delivery or poor quality product can lead to cancellation of order.

Quick delivery would be highly appreciated.

Thanking You
Yours Truly
XYZ

FORMAL LETTER WRITING TOPICS :

QUES 19) Write a letter to a stationary store for placing order for stationery items for office.

FORMAL LETTER WRITING TOPICS :

QUES 20) Write a complaint letter to the principal of a school complaining about unhygienic conditions of toilets in the school.

To
The Principal
ABC School
East of Loni Road
Delhi-94

Sep 29,2019

Subject : Complaint against unhygienic condition of toilets

Respected Mam

Myself Shubrita, student of class Ninth A of your school wants to draw your kind attention towards the unhygienic conditions of toilets in our school. Mam, the washrooms of our schools are not in good conditions. They pose a serious health risk to the students. Washrooms are usually stinking so bad that it becomes almost impossible to stay in them while using them. Since there are not enough washrooms in our schools, queue outside washrooms are very long during recess time. Sweepers of our school do not clean them after recess which makes it unfit to use them in second half.

The classrooms near toilets also face the grave problem of bad odour. This is physical as well as mental torture to those who have to use them reluctantly. Staff washrooms are cleaner comparatively. But students are not allowed to access them. They are maintained properly but toilets used by students are not. I request you to please take cognisance of this matter for the sake of health of students. The number of washrooms should be increased. They should be cleaned thoroughly and regularly. There should be separate washrooms for girl students and boys students.

Kindly acknowledge the matter as soon as possible.

Thanking You
Yours Truly
XYZ

FORMAL LETTER WRITING TOPICS :

QUES 21) Write a complaint letter to the principal of school complaining about use of abusive language and bullying by some students.

To
The Principal
ABC School
East of Loni Road
Delhi-94

Sep 29,2019

Subject : Complaint against unacceptable behaviour of students.

Respected Mam

Myself pavitra, mother of Subhranshu a ward of class Ninth A of your school wants to draw your kind attention towards increasing unacceptable behaviour of students of your school.

Students have recently been indulging in untowards behaviour a lot. They use abusive language inside and outside the school premises. Such immoral behaviour is affecting all the school mates. Senior students bully junior students during recess. When school gets over and students are asked to move to their respective rooms to avail school transport, they create nuisance and fight almost every day. The language they have been using is not of a student but that of a goon.

I hope the faculty members and discipline incharge of school will investigate into the matter and take the appropriate action for the sake of safe and bright future of the students. School is students second home. They spent their one third of the day there. We expect them to be safe there and learn something which transform them into a better human being. I request you to take care of this matter immediately and do the needful as soon as possible.

Thanking You
Yours Truly
XYZ

FORMAL LETTER WRITING TOPICS :

QUES 22) You have decided to apply for a job as a Spanish instructor that was advertised in the April edition of the magazine Teaching Professional. This ad was posted by Mr John Sullivan director of the Spanish department at the Language Institute of Great Britain in London, England.

ABC Apartments
Pete Road
london

Sep 29, 2019

The Director
Language Institute of Great Britain
London

Respected Sir

Subject : Application for the post of Spanish instructor.

This is with reference to your advertisement in the April edition of the magazine 'Teaching Professional' regarding the job of Spanish instructor in Spanish department at the Language Institute of Great Britain in London. Given below are my educational and professional qualifications :-

- I have done one year diploma in Spanish from a reputed and certified institute of Spanish language Providers. I have the 'certificate of participation and appreciation' in this field from the same.
- I have taught spanish in MNO School of Spanish Learning for two years. I have a certificate of experience from there.
- I possess decent communication skills.
- I am a responsible and honest person, always loyal towards my duty.

My work will never disappoint you if I am hired for this job. Given the level of experience I have, I claim to be the best suited candidate for the job. My Resume and photocopy of all the required documents have been enclosed along with my contact details. Kindly consider my candidature for the same.

Thanking You
Yours Truly
XYZ

FORMAL LETTER WRITING TOPICS :

QUES 23) You have received a letter from your bank, asking you to acknowledge receipt of a new bank card. However the card was missing from the envelope. Write a letter to the banks' head office.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

The Manager
PQR Bank
New Delhi

Respected Sir

Subject : Bank Card missing

This is with reference to a post I received on 28 sep 2019 from PQR Bank. It was meant to be the receipt of my bank card but unfortunately bank card was missing from it.

As and when I opened the envelope, I realised that it had the instruction document in it but the bank card was not present in it. Neither the envelope was damaged from anywhere nor was it opened before I received it. So I assume bank card was not enclosed in the while preparing it. Concerned authorities forgot to place the bank card in it by mistake. I request you to please acknowledge the matter and inform me about the whereabouts of my card if possible.

If my assumption is wrong, than there are chances of it being stolen or lost somewhere in the way. I may have to

file an FIR to prevent it from getting misused. Your immediate response would be highly appreciated.

Thanking You
Yours Truly
XYZ

e1 coaching center

INFORMAL LETTER

QUES 1) You are mahima/jaspreet a resident of lodhi road, New delhi. Write a letter in to your younger brother Tinku convincing him that if he wants to build a good career for himself/ herself then he should leave all the things that are distracting him from his goal and suggest him to focus on his studies only.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

Dear Tinku,

It has been a while since I have heard from you. How have you been? I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health and cheerful spirits.

Recently I came to know about poor performance in your examinations, from Dad. He was concerned about your studies and career. I know you are an ambitious child with big dreams. You have always made us proud. But your recent response has not been satisfying. Now a days you are spotted in a company which is neither good for you nor for your future.

Tinku, you should know that time going on now, is the most crucial time regarding your future. If you are distracted now by any means like your recent online game addiction, you are killing your time and destroying your shining future. I know you are a responsible being. You should analyse the ongoing situation. Our parents have invested their lives to see us successful. I hope you will take the right decision as this concerns not only you but also the people belonging to you.

Hope to see you soon.

Yours lovingly
Mahima

Informal Letter Writing Topics :

QUES 2) Assuming you are Suresh/Seema. Write a letter to your younger brother Naresh highlighting the distinct benefits and shortcomings of computer based examinations test for multiple choice questions.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

Dear Naresh

It has been a while since I have heard from you. How have you been? I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health and cheerful spirits.

I came to know that your SSC CGL/CHSL examination is approaching and you are giving your best to crack it up. There are a few things that I would like you to know about computer based examination. It has made it very easy for the students to keep an account of the number of questions done, left, visited or not visited. There is a question palette on the screen which is visible all the time and helps you to navigate from one section to the another. Clock shows the time you are left with.

But since the pattern is new, people are facing issues getting adapted to it. Be careful enough while signing in and seek invigilator's immediate help if you face any problem doing so. Do not press any key on the keyboard once your exam has started. If your PC stops working suddenly, do not panic and call invigilators/volunteers as soon as possible. Try not to disturb others nor get distracted by anyone. Time is the king maker during online examinations. Do not waste it.

All the best for your exam.

Yours lovingly
Seema

Informal Letter Writing Topics :

QUES 3) Write a letter to your daughter to congratulate her on her academic success.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

Dear Gunjan

It has been a while since I have heard from you. How have you been? I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health and cheerful spirits.

I recently came to know about your final year result. Your Dad told me that you have gained first rank in the entire university. You have once again made us all proud dear. This is a moment of elation and celebration. I congratulate you on your success. Your hardwork has finally paid off.

The way you toiled day and night, I was already confident that you will come out with flying colours. Your success is an inspiration for your younger brother. He also wants to congratulate you in person. Your grandmother wanted to meet and bless you before she leaves for village. We are planning to visit your hostel. Inform us about your schedule. And keep touching new heights of success. Our best wishes and blessings are always with you.

Hope to meet you soon.

Yours lovingly
XYZ

Informal Letter Writing Topics :

QUES 4) Write a letter to your cousin who is going through a depression.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

Dear Kanika

It has been a while since I have heard from you. How have you been? I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health and cheerful spirits.

I came to know that you are going through tough times. Aunty told me that you are really affected as you haven't got admission in the medical college of your dreams. I know it can be quite depressing that after dropping a year it has not surfaced as it was supposed to be. I know you gave your best but I also know one more thing which is more important- You will make it one day.

Don't get disheartened at this failure. Failures are the stepping stones of success. Shutting yourself from the world and isolating you is not the answer. You should interact with your closed ones and relieve yourself from all the stress you are facing. Prepare yourself again and get ready for the next year. That was definitely not the last chance. You are a fighter. Fight for your dreams. Keep in touch.

Hope to see you soon.

Yours lovingly
XYZ

Informal Letter Writing Topics :

QUES 5) Write a letter to your friend to invite her to your brother's wedding.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

Dear Dipika,

It has been a while since I have heard from you. How have you been? I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health and cheerful spirits.

My brother is getting married this year in December. Do you remember his friend from office who came to attend my birthday party previous year? It is the same girl. They have been dating each other since then. Now both of them have decided to tie the knot with parents' consent and both families are more than happy for the occasion. You are cordially invited.

The ceremonies will start from Dec 10 and continue till Dec 15. Venue is the same 'MAHARAJA FORT' where we attended your cousin's wedding. I request you to reach a week earlier so that we can plan and shop together. Both of us are going to have a blast. I know you must be equally excited as I am. My mother has already contacted your family and informed them about the function's date, time and venue. All of you are requested to be present at the beautiful moment. But this is my personal invitation to my best friend. Take out time from your busy schedule as no excuses are allowed.

Waiting for your reply. Hope to see you soon.

Yours lovingly
XYZ

Informal Letter Writing Topics :

QUES 6) You are Akriti/Abhinav. Write a letter to your friend describing your boarding school experience in about 150 words.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

Dear Friend

It has been a while since I have heard from you. How have you been? I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health and cheerful spirits.

As you know I have got admission in a boarding school. I wanted to share my initial days experience with you. Earlier I was stressed as I have never been away from my family since childhood. But we cannot cage ourselves in a small world which matches our comfort level. I want to thank for your precious advice at the time I needed it the most. You said it very truly that we should not reach to conclusions without even visiting the campus. Your words were really encouraging.

That time it seem to be a bold decision but now I am slowly and happily adapting to the new environment. With the passage of time I realised that staff here is so understanding and cooperative. I found it smooth to adjust with them easily. Way of teaching here is very impressive and totally different from my previous school. More focus on co-curricular activities helps a lot in making friends from different blocks. I have started feeling that I

am a part of this institution now. There is a lot to share about my new school when we will meet.

Eagerly waiting to see to you soon.

Yours lovingly
Akriti

Informal Letter Writing Topics :

QUES 7) Write a letter to your friend Rudra inviting him to spend the summer vacation at your place in Mumbai. You are Sakshi/Saksham.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
Mumbai

Sep 29, 2019

Dear Rudra

It has been a while since I have heard from you. How have you been? I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health and cheerful spirits.

As the summers are approaching, I was thinking about you spending vacations at my place this year. We have not met each other since our batch's reunion in 2016 and I have a lot to share with you since then. Currently I am placed in Infosys in Gurugram. There is a Paying Guest facility

nearby in which I am living. So accomodation is not going to be an issue.

There are a lot of places which we can visit in Delhi. The newly build 'SHAHEED STHAL' is new point of attraction. This way we can relive our school memories which we miss a lot. If you are free in first week of june than inform me as soon as possible so that I can plan our holidays and itinerary accordingly. I am waiting for your response.

Hope to see you soon.

Yours lovingly
XYZ

Informal Letter Writing Topics :

QUES 8) Write a letter to your friend who just met with an accident informing him about his speedy recovery in a consoling tone in about 150 words.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

Dear Madhav

It has been a while since I have heard from you. How have you been? I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health and cheerful spirits.

I met Shiva in coffee house yesterday and he told me about how you met with a serious accident last week. I was really shocked to hear the news and concerned about your well being. Shiva told me that you have got minor fracture in your left hand also. Road accidents are really becoming a cause of concern now a days.

Even after stringent policies like 'Motor Vehicles Act' being passed by the government, it is difficult to prevent them completely. You should be careful from now onwards. Our safety is our responsibility. A small mistake can lead to a huge blunder. I advise you to be attentive and disciplined while driving. I am planning to meet you on weekend. I hope and wish you recover soon

Take care.

Yours lovingly
XYZ

Informal Letter Writing Topics :

QUES 9) Write a letter to your friend congratulating him for his new job offer . He just graduated from the college. You are Sara.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

Dear Saral

It has been a while since I have heard from you. How have you been? I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health and cheerful spirits.

I recently came to know that you have got placement in Tata Consultancy Services, Gurugram this month. This is really a moment of elation and celebration. You have really proved yourself and all the hard work you put in has materialised. I told my parents about you getting on campus placement and they were equally happy for you. They wanted me convey their best wishes to you.

Next time we meet, we are going to celebrate your selection with a party, with all our friends. Everyone is waiting for your return to meet you and congratulate you in person. I hope you keep performing brilliantly in every sphere of life. Now you are an inspiration to many in our locality. Keep touching new heights of success.

All the best for your future endeavours.

Yours lovingly

Sara

Informal Letter Writing Topics :

QUES 10) You are Robina. Write a letter to your friend appreciating his book that he wrote in Bangalore while pursuing his writing career.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

Dear Robin

It has been a while since I have heard from you. How have you been? I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health and cheerful spirits.

I remember you recommended me reading a book written by you "A woman and her feathers". I had a very tight schedule which did not allow me to start it those days. Now that I have finished reading the book, it found it very interesting. It truly depicts modern day reality. The way you have portrayed your emotions in such a genuine and encouraging way has totally impressed me.

I have suggested this book to many of my friends and family. My mother is very excited to read the book after I gave her my feedback on it. Your work is worthy of appreciation. You are going to have shining writing career in coming years, if you keep bringing such marvellous

pieces of writing. My best wishes are with you. Keep engaging your audience the way you do.

May god bless you with bright future ahead.

Yours lovingly
Robina

Informal Letter Writing Topics :

QUES 11) You are studying english at a private school attended by many international students. You are planning a surprise birthday party for a friend who has been feeling particularly sad and homesick. Write to another classmate inviting him/her to the party.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
London

Sep 29, 2019

Dear Shikhar

I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health and cheerful spirits. As you know that Shikha has really been missing her family since she has moved here. I have planned to throw a surprise party for her at our place this sunday.

We all noticed a feeling of homesickness she was going through. We all were trying to keep her happy and engaged with us so that she can adapt to her new surroundings smoothly. I have managed to call her parents so that we can video conference them during the event. I have bought all the essentials. I have also arranged speakers for the the party. It is going to be very exciting for all of us.

You are requested to reach at my place in the sunday morning so that you can help me host this event successfully. Inform me if you are free this sunday as soon as possible. Waiting to hear from your side.

Yours lovingly
XYZ

Informal Letter Writing Topics :

QUES 12) Your friend wants to spend a two week holiday in your region and has written asking for information and advice. Write a letter to your friend.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

Dear Amy

How have you been? I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health and cheerful spirits. Last week I received your letter enquiring about how you can spend your holidays in Delhi. I am happy to know that you are planning to come to India during your vacations.

There are a lot of places which you can visit here in Delhi like Qutub Minar, Red Fort, Jantar Mantar, National Zoological Park and the list goes on. Recently constructed “SHAHEED STHAL” is a new point of attraction these days. You don't have to worry about accomodation. If you want you can stay at my place. I will be more than happy to receive you. Otherwise, there are numerous hotels near tourist spots.

My address and other useful information to contact me have been enclosed. Inform me about your date of arrival so that I can pick you up at the airport.

Hope to see you soon.
Yours lovingly
XYZ

QUES 13) Write a letter to thank your old school teacher for making you a good human being.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

Respected Mam,

We have not been in contact for a long period. How have you been? I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health and cheerful spirits.

On this beautiful occasion of teachers' day, I want to express my gratitude for your immense contribution. Along with parents, teachers are guides of life. The way you shaped our personalities is the reason behind our success. We are successful because of the honest efforts you put in during our school days.

Teachers like you are to find. You never taught us syllabus only, you prepared us for life. Your words of wisdom still ring loud and clear in our ears. We thank you for your mother like care and teacher like attention. I want to tell you mam, that students used to get very happy when it was your substitution in our class. You behaved like our friend that brought us more closer to you. Batchmates are planning a reunion, all are eager to meet you and whole staff.

Hope to meet you soon.

Yours lovingly
XYZ

QUES 14) Write a letter to your favourite author praising his/her book.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

Respected Sir,

I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health and cheerful spirits. I recently read a book written by you 'HER LAST WISH' and I was so touched by it that I wanted to convey my heartfelt appreciation to you.

Sir the way you have presented each and every scene with minute details has impressed me beyond words. You have enriched the entire content with emotions. The manner it captured my imagination has made me suggest this book to all my friends and cousins. It is a beautiful piece of work which portrays the importance of relationships in today's materialistic era.

I was already a big fan of your writings but this book has moved me to the extent that I can not control but write to you. You are and will always be an inspiration to many young writers like me. Please accept my gratitude.

Hope to meet you someday!

Yours lovingly
XYZ

QUES 15) Write a letter to your elder brother asking him to guide you in making the right career choice.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

Dear Bro,

It has been a while since I have heard from you. How have you been? I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health and cheerful spirits.

These days I am a little confused about my career choice and seek your guidance for the same. I have completed my B.TECH and got placed in two private companies. My friends and family have advised me to grab this opportunity and join one of them.

But I want to prepare for the government job as it has always been my dream to be a part of the system that governs us. I know competition is high these days and it is a little difficult to prepare for it from the scratch and get selected in SSC simultaneously. Also sitting at home and

preparing for govt exams is going to add social pressure and pressure to get employed. I want your honest advice.

Waiting to hear from your side.

Yours lovingly
XYZ

QUES 16) Write a letter to your mother about your college life in hostel.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

Dear Maa

It has been a while since I have heard from you. How have you been? I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health and cheerful spirits.

Mom, Although I miss you and whole family a lot, but what I miss the most is the incomparably delicious food cooked by you. I am eagerly waiting to have it again very soon. But at the same time I want you to know that I have started adapting to the new environment of my hostel.

People here are friendly and cooperative. Faculty is supportive and understanding. Earlier I was feeling alone and found it very difficult to adjust. But with the passage of time I am realizing that it is not difficult as I thought it would be. Seniors here are quite encouraging. I have made some new friends. We all help each other not to feel homesick anymore. Do not worry about me at all.

Take care.

Yours lovingly
XYZ

QUES 17) Write a letter to your grandfather asking him to come and stay with you during vacations.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

Dear Grandpa

It has been a while since I have heard from you. How have you been? I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health and cheerful spirits.

Summers are approaching and so are vacations Daadu. We were thinking if you can plan to come and stay with us during holidays. It has been a long time since we have stayed together. I and everyone at home are missing you and grandma a lot.

If you can come and stay with us, it will be of great excitement to all of us. We will relive our childhood days. We cherish those moments when you used to tell us stories before going to bed and Grandma cooked delicious desserts which can not be compared to anything in the world. We will take care of your schedule and medicines. There are many parks where you can continue your morning and evening walks. We all are looking forward to your reply.

Hope to see you soon.

Yours lovingly
XYZ

QUES 18) Write a letter to your uncle saying thanks for his gift.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

Dear Uncle

It has been a while since I have heard from you. How have you been? I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health and cheerful spirits.

I recently read the book you gifted me on my birthday. All these days I was so busy in office work that my tight schedule did not allow me to start reading it then. Now that I have finished it, I can say it is an incredible book. Thank you for such a wonderful and inspirational gift. It has really changed my way at looking life.

I have suggested my friends and family to read it once and undergo some transformation in thinking process. Mom is very excited to read it after my feedback. Some gifts are beautiful beyond words. And this is one of them for sure. Looking forward to discuss it broadly with you as always.

Hope to see you soon.

Yours lovingly
XYZ

QUES 19) An year ago you lent your favourite book to your friend who you thought would enjoy it. Unfortunately your friend has forgotten to return it. The book has sentimental value to you as it has been presented to you by your grandmother. Write a letter to your friend.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

Dear Cate

It has been a while since I have heard from you. How have you been? I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health and cheerful spirits.

Do you remember I gave you a book 'LIFE AND DEATH IN ONE BREATH' when we met last? I hope you have read it. How was it? I was astonished for once when I finished reading it. It must have forced you to think twice about life the way it did to me.

My grandma was a very spiritual person. She used to read a lot of spiritual books. This was gifted to me by her on my birthday. This is one of the very few remembrances I had of her. I'll be highly thankful to you if you can return it to me next time we meet. If you have not read it yet than there is no hurry returning. You can keep it till you finish reading it. I request you to keep it safe dear.

Hope to see you soon.

Yours lovingly
XYZ

Informal Letter Writing Topics :

QUES 20) Your best friend just had her first baby. You are currently overseas but will be returning to your hometown in a week. Write to your friend.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

Dear Dipika

It has been a while since I have heard from you. How have you been? I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health and cheerful spirits.

I came to know that you delivered a baby girl. Many many congratulations to you my dear. From now onwards your life is going to change completely and in a positive way of course. This new member is going to add loads of happiness to your life. Although you may have to deal with some hardships to catch up with the new routine. But believe me these hardships have their own sweetness.

I wanted to meet you and congratulate you in person but currently I am overseas for some office work. I am returning next week and excited to meet this new angel. Till then take care of you and your princess. All the best for

your future which going to be way more beautiful than ever before.

See you soon.

Yours lovingly
XYZ

Informal Letter Writing Topics :

QUES 21) Your parents will be celebrating their 40th anniversary next month. You are planning a big celebration but you really don't know how to make the occasion really memorable. Write to your best friend Joan who is a professional event planner.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

Dear Joan

It has been a while since I have heard from you. How have you been? I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health and cheerful spirits.

My parents' 40th anniversary is approaching and I am planning a big party for them. I want to make this day very special. But I am nervous as to how to start the

preparations and from where. Since you are an awesome event planner, I need your help.

Guide me how to take this forward. Should I tell them about this so that I can arrange the theme and event as per their choice or should I keep it a surprise? Who is the best caterer in your knowledge? What return gift will be appropriate and attractive that fits my budget? Which hotel will suit best for 200-250 expected guests? Since this is my first time, I have little knowledge about all of it

Waiting for you reply.

Yours lovingly
XYZ

Informal Letter Writing Topics:

QUES 22) You stayed at a friend's house when you participated in a conference in Australia. You left a briefcase with important documents in your room. Write a letter to your friend.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

Dear Pavitra

It has been a while since I have heard from you. How have you been? I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health and cheerful spirits.

I am thankful for your hospitality during my stay at your place. I made memories to be cherished. The way you helped me prepare my presentation for the conference has already won my heart. It will be my privilege to return you a favour anytime.

However, I have forgot my briefcase in the room I stayed. It is of concern as all my important documents lie there. I request you to please look for it and keep it with you. I'll be highly thankful to you if you can inform me about the whereabouts and howabouts of it as soon as possible. Thank you once again for my comfortable stay.

Hope to meet you soon.

Yours lovingly
XYZ

Informal Letter Writing Topics :

QUES 23) You haven't seen your best friend for a long time. Write a letter to your friend.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

Dear Pratha

It has been a while since I have heard from you. How have you been? I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health and cheerful spirits.

Summers are approaching and vacations are about to get started. I was planning to spend my holidays at your place this summer. We have not met since our reunion in 2016. This can be a great get together again. I have a lot to share with you about new things going on in my life. I am equally excited to know about yours.

Inform me if you are available during these vacations, so that I could plan it accordingly. We can go to various tourist places together. It will be like reliving our school days. Those were the most carefree days of our lives and that time we made memories to be cherished throughout. I am looking forward to this very eagerly.

Waiting for your reply.

Yours lovingly
XYZ

QUES 24) You borrowed an important textbook from a classmate last term. You now realise your

classmate has now returned home overseas and you still have the book. Write a letter to him/her.

ABC Apartments
Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Sep 29, 2019

Dear Sashatra

It has been a while since I have heard from you. How have you been? How is your trip to the USA going? I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health and cheerful spirits.

I borrowed your textbook last term. I am thankful to you for helping me that time as I urgently needed the book for my upcoming exams. Your help really paid off as I scored decent in that examination.

However after exams I forgot to return you that book. Now when I was setting my bag for my new term I realised that I still have it. I apologise to you for the inconvenience it must have created for you. I should have returned it to you on time. Your book is in good condition. Inform me when you are returning home so that we can plan a meet and I can return you the book.

Waiting for your reply.

Yours lovingly
XYZ

e1 coaching center

SAMPLE LETTER

16 Ring Road
Nagpur – 01

November 30, 20xx

The Director
ABC Classes
35 Patel Street
Delhi – 18

Sub.: Enquiry about CAT Coaching Classes.

Dear Sir,

This is with reference to your advertisement in the 'The Times of India' for CAT Coaching classes. I have passed the B.Sc. degree examination with Statistics as the main subject. I am keen on joining your institute for the coaching classes.

Kindly let me know about the procedure of applying for the qualifying test and its date. I would also like to know the duration of the coaching programme, the duration and the number of classes per week along with the available mode of classes. Information about the fees payable and the study materials is highly appreciated. Could you please send me a copy of your prospectus?

I would like to enroll as soon as possible. Your early response will enable me to decide fast.

Thanking you.

With kind regards
XYZ

e1 coaching center

New Era Business

16 Ring Road

Delhi – 01

November 30, 20xx

The Manager

Woods and Worlds

35 Patel Street

Delhi – 18

Sub.: Placing order for furniture.

Dear Sir,

As we have discussed telephonically, on behalf of our company I like to place an immediate order for the supply of the following set of furniture.

Model No.	Name of the Item	Quantity
-----------	------------------	----------

1254	Chair	25
------	-------	----

1478	Chair	12
------	-------	----

2148	Conference Table	03
------	------------------	----

4615 Table 50

2418 Sofa 02

As we have discussed, we are sending a demand draft of Rs. 20,000 as advance payment. The rest will be paid at the time of delivery. Kindly ship the above order at the above-mentioned address.

Kindly adhere to the terms of the agreement. We hope to receive the order in four working days.

Thanking You.

Yours truly

XYZ

HR

New Business World
16 Ring Road
Delhi – 01

November 30, 20xx

The Manager
ABC Stationary King
35 Patel Street
Delhi – 18

Dear Sir,

Sub.: Complaint against Order No. S/24-201S-1147.

This is with reference to the Order No. S/24-201S-1147 place on Nov 17, 20xx. The order consists of letterhead and business cards. As per the agreement, we were promised of receiving the order latest by Nov 22, 20xx. First of all the order did not reach in time. Also, the quality of the papers and design selected for business cards is not matching with the selected one.

We have faced a lot of embarrassment and inconvenience and our reputation is at stake in the eyes of our clients.

Kindly ensure that the order will be replaced latest by Dec 4, 20xx, failing which payment will be stopped or the will be cancelled. I sincerely request you to look into the matter and do the needful as soon as possible.

Thanking you.

Yours truly
XYZ
General Manager

e1 coaching center

ABC Stationary King
35 Patel Street
Delhi – 18

December 02, 20xx

The General Manager
16 Ring Road
Delhi – 01

Dear Sir,

Sub.: Reply to the complaint against Order No. S/24-201S-1147.

This is with reference to your Order No. S/24-201S-1147 which you placed with our company on Nov 17, 20xx.

We sincerely apologize to you for the inconvenience caused. Right now we are facing problems with supply from the manufacturer's end. Also, we are flooded with a large number of orders.

We are taking steps in regard to your complaint and we ensure that we will replace the order latest by Dec 05, 20xx also a similar problem does not occur in future again. We would appreciate your support on this matter.

Thanking You.

Yours Truly
QPR
Manager

ABC Group of Company
16 Ring Road
Delhi – 01

November 30, 20xx

The Manager
XYA Agency
35 Patel Street
Delhi – 18

Dear Sir,

Sub.: New Branch at QPR Colony.

We are glad to announce the grand opening of a new branch of our company in QPR Colony, Delhi on Dec 05, 20xx.

As a respected client, we are extremely delighted to inform you that this branch is also fully efficient. It offers various solutions to your problems and anything that you would ask for. We are dedicated to providing you with the best service that you deserve.

We would be very happy to have you as our guest in our branch and encourage you to find more of our products.

Looking forward to your visit to our new branch.

Thanking you.

Yours truly
XYZ
HR

e1 coaching center

ABC Bank
16 Ring Road
Delhi – 01

November 30, 20xx

The Manager
XYZ Agency
35 Patel Street
Delhi – 18

Dear Sir,

Sub.: Availability of new scheme of an automobile loan.

It provides us with immense pleasure to inform you that we have launched a new scheme for an automobile loan. As a respectable and trusted client, we are providing you with the details of this scheme.

It will take only a couple of minutes to complete all the formalities. The rate of interest of the loan is also very low compared to the schemes of other banks. The bank also provides an opportunity to buy or sell any of the automobiles.

All other information is kept strictly confidential. This service is fast and free and we will provide you with the service within 24 hours.

We will highly oblige to help you to clear any of your doubts. Free feel to contact us. Looking forward to hear from your side.

Thanking you.

With regards,
KLM
Bank Manager

e1 coaching center

ABC Bank
16 Ring Road
Delhi – 01

November 30, 20xx

The Manager
XYA Agency
35 Patel Street
Delhi – 18

Dear Sir,

Sub.: Reminder for paying dues.

This is to remind you that your organization has taken a loan of Rs. 2 crores two years back on June 18. As per the agreement and loan guidelines, on completion of one and a half year, you would need to pay back the 80% of the principal amount with the appropriate interest.

Since now we have received just 50% of the principal amount. As the payment is due since long, we would appreciate if you send the cheque immediately.

I request you to kindly look into the matter within the next six working days. Otherwise, strict legal action will be taken. Kindly acknowledge the matter.

Thanking You.

Yours Sincerely
FMG
Manager

e1 coaching center

D- 1801, Neptune Society,

DS Marg, Lower Parel,

Mumbai 400 008.

11th June 2018.

The Editor-in-Chief,

Hindustan Times,

Main Street,

Mumbai 400 001.

Sir,

Subject: Construction work in our locality during monsoon season causing us difficulties.

Through the medium of your esteemed and respected daily, I wish to inform the municipal authorities of the difficulties the residents of my locality are facing due to the [construction](#) and repair work currently happening in our area. Monsoon season has started a few days ago and is compounding our problems.

The repair work has been ongoing for five weeks now and is falling way behind schedule. And now with the current weather conditions, we are having persistent problems of water logging and flooding in our area. Another worry is about the accidents that may occur due to the debris lying around the road. Diseases caused due to waterlogging are another one of our concerns.

Therefore I wish to draw the attention of the concerned authorities with the help of your newspaper. Hopefully, you will be able to help us in drawing their attention and resolving this matter at the earliest.

Thanking You,

Your Sincerely,

signature

[Mr. XYZ]

B-32, sector-11
Rohini
New Delhi-110034

July 10, 2018

Dear Muskan

My happiness knew no bounds when I got to know that you have topped your school and achieved your dream. I felt so pleased that I wish I were there to congratulate you personally.

The result has proved that hard work, determination and perseverance bring good results. You were so laborious and passionate about it. I know you were very nervous too, but I was always very confident that you would come out with flying colours. I apologise that I couldn't even attend the celebration party despite my wishes.

Hope to see you soon. Please be encouraged and continue your hard work. Your future is very bright. My parents and elder sister have sent lots of love and heartiest congratulations.

With lots of love and best wishes.

Yours lovingly

Shefali

B-32, sector-11

Rohini

New Delhi-110085

April 15, 2018

Dear Muskan

How have you been? I hope my letter finds you in best of health and spirits. It has been almost a month I transferred to the boarding school. I am very happy in my new school. The classes and dormitories are very spacious. There are well equipped science laboratories and a library with a great collection of books. The school has amazing sports facilities such as swimming pool, horse riding track and archery range.

I believe my life here will be interesting and enjoyable. Although I have made many new friends, I still miss you and the other friends. Please, pay my regards to your parents.

Yours sincerely

Aakriti/ Abhinav

129, Navyug Apartments

Pitampura

Delhi-110034

March 01, 2019

Dear Rudra

It's been a while since I've heard from you. Where have you been? I hope this letter finds you in the best of your health.

As summers are approaching, I was thinking if we could spend the summer break together at my place in Mumbai. I will introduce you to all my friends and close relatives. I will give you a city tour as well. We will spend some quality time in the afternoons near the sea shore. To add cherry on the cake, the weather here is very pleasant during those days due to sea winds.

I am excited even at the thought of you and I spending the summer together after so long. I have to tell you a lot of things and expect the same from you. Give my regards to aunty and uncle!

Hope to see you soon.

Yours lovingly

Sakshi/Saksham

129, Navyug Apartments

Pitampura

Delhi-110034

March 01, 2019

Dear Rudra

I hope this letter finds you in the best of spirits. When I visited last week, you seemed a little bit depressed.

Come on boy, you should thank God for giving you a fresh lease of life. Everything is going to be fine very soon. I even talked to your doctor this morning and he told me that you are out of danger now. You will have to remain in the hospital for a few more days but that is not something you should be concerned about. Your family and friends are there for you.

Don't forget that life is a mixture of joys and sorrows. By the way, all of us have decided to celebrate your recovery as soon as you come home you will be throwing a party the day you come back home from the hospital. Hope to see you soon. My parents and younger sister have sent you lots of love and wishes.

Wish you a speedy recovery!

Yours truly

Manvi/Manav

B-101

Regency apartments

New Bombay

28 December 2018

Dear Vishnu

I just heard that you have received a new job. I couldn't be happier for you. Congratulations!

I know it is not easy to get a good job in this troubled job market. It is particularly tough for a fresh graduate with hardly any work experience. The resourcefulness you displayed in your job search is commendable. You have inspired me and a lot others that "Where there is a will, there is definitely a way." You have made us all proud, Vishnu!

I am quite confident that your knowledge of computer and artistic skills will make you a great graphics designer. I expect to hear great news coming from your direction in the coming years. May you fulfil all your dreams.

Best wishes.

Yours truly

Sara/ Sid

B-101

Regency apartments

New Bombay

28 December 2018

Dear Vishnu

How has life been treating you? I am writing you this letter to tell you how proud I am of you. I read your novel and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Well done!

The speech and the flow in which it is written is commendable. I really liked your choice of words. I know that most of your books are inspired from actual life experiences, and this book clearly demonstrates how committed and hard working you've been. It is doing absolute justice to what you've gone through and how well you have handled it.

My friend, since you left for Bangalore to pursue your writing career, we have drifted apart, unfortunately. I hope we can start a correspondence here and meet soon one day.

Hope you fulfil your dreams. Remember, sky is the limit.

Yours lovingly

Robert/ Robina