BOOK REVIEW 180 16



 Manmohan's Dream India His Vision of Growth, Equity and Social Change vis-à-vis Economic Reforms: V.S. Mahajan; Deep & Deep Publications Pvt., Ltd., F-159, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027. Rs. 380.

 Fundamentals of Business Organisation and Management: Y.K. Bhushan; Sultan Chand & Sons., 23, Daryaganj, New Del-hi-110002. **Rs. 165.**

 Empressions: Sainath Nagara-jan; Frog Books, A to Z Business Chambers Fort, Tamarind Lane, Mumbai-400023. **Rs. 145.** D.S. Mathur's Heat & Thermo-dynamics: M.N. Bapat; Sultan

Chand & Sons, 23, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. **Rs. 140**. Islam Unveiled — Disturbing Questions about the World's Fastest-Growing Faith: Robert Spencer; Unistar Books Pvt. Ltd., SCO 26-27, Sector 34A, Chandigarh-160022. **Rs. 275.**• Early India — A Concise Histo-

ry: D.N.Jha; Manohar Publisher & Distributors, 4753/23, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New el-hi-110002. **Rs. 395.**



ics (or the lack of it) of selling editorial space: Sunil K. Poolani
— Editor; Frog Books A to Z Business Chambers, Tamarind Lane, Fort, Mumbai-400023. Rs.

 The Storytelling Handbook — A Guide for Teachers and Parents: Sara Cone Bryant; Rs. 250.

ents: Sara Cone Bryalt; Hs. 250.
Walls and Other Stories: Randeep Wadehra; Rs. 195.
Glittering Sands: N.S. Tasneem; Rs. 195.
Half The Sky — Stories by Women Writers of Pakistan: Nirupama Dutt — Editor; Rs. 295.
Children of the Night. Pecist. Children of the Night — Resistance Stories from Pakistan: Niru-

• Melting Moments — A Collection of Punjabi Short Stories: Raghbir Dhand; Rs. 295. The above six books pub. by Unistar Books Pvt Ltd. Sco 26-27, Sector 34A, Chandigarh-160022.

 Basic Business Communica tion: C.B. Gupta; Rs. 80.
Computer Applications in Business: S.V. Srinivasa Val-

 Basic Economics & Business Environment: I.C. Dhingra, V.K. Gard: Rs. 90. The above three books pub. by Sultan Chand & Sons, New Delhi-110002.

• On Mind and Thought: J. Krishdras) Pvt. Ltd., 571, Poonamallee High Road, Aminjikarai, Chennai-600029. **Rs. 200.**

 On Truth: J. Krishnamurti; East-West Books (Madras) Pvt. Ltd., 571, Poonamallee High Road, Aminjikarai, Chennai-600029.

Rs. 200.

The Bird Man — The Extraordinary Story of John Gould: Isabella Tree: Barrie & Jenkins Ltd.,

London. Distributed by Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. £ 5.

Human Rights & The Security

Forces: Mohinder Singh Malik; The Bright Law House, 426-27, II Floor, Kucha Brij Nath, Chandni Chowk, Delhi-110006. **Rs.** 750.

• Success 24x7 — Ten Sure Ways to Corporate & Personal Success: Anil Bhatnagar; Pub. by Wisdom Tree, C-209/1, Maypuri II, New Delhi-110064. Rs.



• Paradise and Other Stories: Khushwant Singh; Penguin Books India Pvt., Ltd., 11, Community Centre, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi-110017. Rs.

• The Jaintias - Studies in Society and Change: Shobhan N. Lamare; Regency Publications, 20/36-G, Old Market, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008. Rs.

Experiences in Cane Sugar Manufacturing: P.P. Chaturvedi; Regency Publications, 20/36-G, Old Market, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008. Rs. 200.

• Interpreting Asokan Inscrip-History Asokai Inscriptions — Part Two: Etheshamul Hoda; Universal Book House, Aligarh, 8, Abdul Qadir Market, Jail Road, Aligarh-202002. Rs.

 Psychiatry, Science Religion and Health: Ajai R. Singh, Shak-untala A. Singh; Mens Sana Research Foundation, 14, Shiv Kripa, Trimurty Road, Nahur, Mulund(W), Mumbai-400080.

• An Adventure in Faith — The Story of Dr. A. K. Tharien: Jesudas M. Athyal; Christava Sahitya Samithy, Tiruvalla. **Rs. 75.**Bharatanatyam in Tamilnadu

After AD 1200: R. Kalarani; J.J. Publications, 29, Karpaga Vinayagar Complex, Madurai-625007. Rs. 100.

A Handbook on Mushroom Cultivation: M. Revathy, I. Yesuraja, M. Muthamilan, S. Anburanian, S. A

Palani Paramount Publications, 57, Anna Nagar, Palani-624602. Rs. 50. Evolution of Historiography in

Tamilagam: P. E. Mohan; Sugan Publications, 89, 2nd South Cross, Mariappanagar, Annamalai Nagar-608002. **Rs. 120.** Recycling of Sugar Industry By-Products in Agriculture: B. Bhakiyathu Saliha, A. Sarava-nan; Palani Paramount Publica-

tion, 57, Anna Nagar, Palani-624602. **Rs. 50.** Absolute Victory — How to Understand and Create the Life You Want: Robert Pino; Sara Books Pvt. Ltd., 4832/24, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 250.

Rs. 250.

Benjamin Franklin: Edmund S. Morgan; Universities Press (India) Pvt. Ltd., 3-5-819, Hyderguda, Hyderabad-500029, distributed by Orient Longman Pvt. Ltd., 3-6-752, Himayatnagar, Hyderabad-500029. Rs.

Tamil

Fidel Castro: Tha. Pandian; Kumaran Pathippagam, 3, Muth-ukrishnan Street, Pondy Bazaar, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs.

100.

Marakkamudiyadha Thiraippada Thayarippu Anubhavangal: Minnal; Rs. 50.

Swamy Vivekanantharin Vaazhvum Vakkum: P. S. Aacharya; Rs. 40.
• Kakkum Karathaal Kaalikambaal: S. S. Ragavacharyar; Rs.

Raagu-Kethu Tharum Yogan-galum, Dhoshangalum, Pariharangalum: S. P. Subramanyam; Rs. 65. The above four books pub. by Nar-madha Pathippagam, 10, Nana Street, T. Chennai-600017.

Kuzhanthai Noigal — Part V: S.
Chidambarathanu Pillai; Siddha
Medical Literature Research
Centre, E-2, (Old No. 32), Anna Nagar (East), Chennai-600102.

Rs. 80.
Sanyaasi (or) Thavaseelar — by Rabindranath Tagore: Jayasimhan — Tr. in Tamli; Kavitha Publication, 8, Masilamani Street, Pondy Bazaar, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 30.
Aavanangal Pesinaal...: M. S. Pandian; Thirukkural Pathippagam, 66/1, Periyaar Street, MGR Nagar, Chennai-600078. Rs. 115.

Andu Patti Thaligai: Andal Rangaswami; Thirumalai Charity Trust, Thirumalai Nagar, Vana-padi Road, Vanapadi Post, Ranipet, Tamil Nadu-632404 Ulaga Thalaivargalukku Kuzhandhaigalin Kadithangali A. Pannerselvam; Thamizhman Pathippagam, 2, Singaravelar Street, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 70.

Thuppakkigalil Pookum Poobhalam: Madhiyavan; Bismi Book House, Mecca Pallivasal Valagam, Anna Salai, Chenari Cooka Pari Salai, Chenari Cooka Pari Coo

Anna 0002. **Rs** Eaekkangal: M. Thiruvalluvar; Kalangarai Vilakkam Pathippa-gam, 42-21, Muthu Block, Vigneswara Garden, Gandhi Salai

Rs. 45. ■ 3 Suvarasiyangal: M. Thiruval-luvar; Kalangarai Vilakkam Path-ippagam, 42-21, Muthu Complex, Vigneswara Garden, Gandhi Salai, Thiruvanaikkoil,

Trichy-620005. Rs. 30. Aayiram Kodi Adhisayam: S Rohaiyaah; Kadhiramathi Path-ippagam, 47/1, New Circuit House Colony, TVS Tolgate, Tri-chy-20. **Rs. 50.**

Malaysiavil Thamizhasiriyar P.M. Ilamvazhudhi; Rs. 24.

Oru Punithathin Kadhai: S. Muthukannu; Rs. 42. Ennakke... Enakkai: N.C. Mo

handas; Rs. 38.

Sattangalum Neengalum: C. Ayapparaja — Compiler; **Rs. 40.** The above four books pub. by Manimegalai Pirasuram, PB No. 1447, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017.

Manavargalukkana Eliya Angila Ellakkanam: Rama Sundaram; Ramanathan Pathippagam, 1481, Garden Avenue, Mogap-pair, Chennai-600050 and dis-tributed by Manimegala Prasuram, PB No. 1447, T. Na-gar, Chennai-600017. **Rs. 60**.

Manimanidhar Nabigal Naya-gam: P. Jainool Abidheen; Moon Publications, New No. 5, Post Office Street, Il Floor, Mannadi, Chennai-600101. Rs. 30.

Telugu

• Brahma Jignasa: V.R.K. Sar ma; Master Yoga Ashram, Plot-89, Krishna Enclave, Military Dairy Farm Road, Tirumala giri, Secunderabad-500015. **Rs. 60.**

America Telugu Kathaanika,
 Vol. 8 — An Anthology of Short Stories by Telugu Writers of North America: Vanguri Founda-tion of America, Indraganti Sri-kanta Sarma, Hon. Editor, Flat No. 102, Subhodaya Apts., Offi-cer's Colony, R.K. Puram, Se-cunderabad-500056. Rs. 150.

Pasidimanasulu: G. Janaki Sastry; Vahini Book Trust, 1-9-286/3, Vidyanagar, Hydera-bad-500044 **Rs. 50.**

24 Frames: Varala Anand; Film Foundation Publications, 3-7-579/A, Bank Colony, Karimnagar-505001. **Rs. 60.** Mana Mangalagiri: Madiraju Govardhana Rao; 1-1404, Peda Koneti Street, Mangalagi-ri-522503, Guntur. Rs. 100.

Geetapeeyushabinduvulu: Joonoothula Venkatasubrama nyam; Sai Prachurane, No. 13, Kambar Street, Neelamangai Nagar, Adambakkam, Chen-nai-600088. **Rs. 40.**

Teiolinga Rahasyam: K.R.K Mohan; Flat No. 101, Kanchi Residency, H.No. 11-19, P&T Colony, Dilsukh Nagar, Hydera-bad-500060. **Rs. 80.**

Green governance

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL **CHALLENGES** — Transitions to a Sustainable World: James Gustave Speth; Orient Longman Pvt. Ltd., 1/24, Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 395. YOUNG GREENS spout anger

on the state of the global environment, older ones despair. James Gustave Speth is of a different genre, he holds out solutions. And it is precisely this approach that sets his book apart from many other tomes on the subject. Speth has impeccable credentials to comment authoritatively on varied issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss and impact of globalisation on the environ-

He was a member of the United States Council on Environmental Quality in the 1970s, an adviser to the former U.S. President, Jimmy Carter, administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for six years in the 1990s and is currently dean and professor at the School of Forestry and Environmental Stud-Yale University. These credentials also give him the stature to appeal to world leaders, particularly the U.S. President, George W. Bush to rise above local interests and join the international efforts to find solutions to global environmental problems.

'Ten drivers'

ment.

As a backdrop to the solutions he offers, Speth identifies, "ten drivers of global environ-mental deterioration." These are: population growth; affluence of some; poverty of environmentally unfriendly technology; market failure to price goods like air, water and land; policy and political failure to correct such price distortions; scale and rate of economic growth; the nature of growth; consumerist culture values; lastly and and globalisation.

According to him, global population increase per se is not so serious a problem as its growth in urban centres arising out of migration from the countryside, which, in turn, is the outcome of natural resource depletion and unemployment. Affluence in the developed world is marked by environmentally

NARADA PANCHARATRAM —

Acharyasri Vrajvallabha Dwivedi

Sahibaug, Ahmedabad-380004.

PANCHARATRA AND Vaikha-

nasa are the two main branches

of the Vaishnava Agama litera-

ture. The Vishnu temples in our

country belong to either of

ly differ in these traditions al-

worshipped is Vishnu. Several

The modes of worship slight-

the chief God

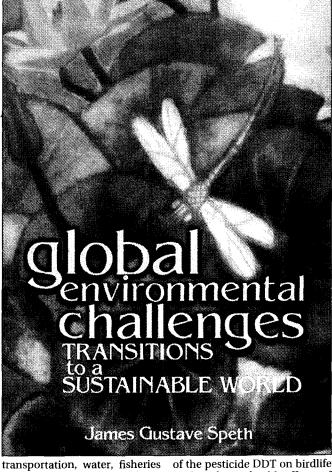
Sankarshana Samhita:

Editor; Published by

these branches.

though

Svaminarayan Akshara Pith,



per cent of the 35 trillion dollar on environmental destruction. If this is true of the rich, one can imagine the havoc subsidies play in the poor countries.

While on the issue of poverty, he ticks off both the gung-ho developers and the abominably negative greens thus, "In addressing poverty, development projects have often failed because they neglected the environment, just as environmental projects have often failed because they neglected develop-

He also investigates the reasons for the less than adequate concern demonstrated by a rich nation like the U.S. towards global environmental problems of today compared to the

appeared in print so far, al-

though several works still re-

The Agamas deal with a varie-

ty of topics related to image

worship. They start with "tilling

build the temple and end with "installation" of images for

their contents - Jnana Pada,

Pancharatra Agama texts have Kriya Pada, Charya Pada and uscripts available in Gujarat

the land" (Karshana) selected to Ratra.

have a fourfold classification of Pancharatra"

main unpublished.

worship (pratishtha).

and forestry amounting to \$860 or the adverse health effects of millions a year. That is about 2.5 toxic wastes dumped in the backyards of industries. The global economy wittingly spent cause and effect were "understandable scientifically.

'Eight transitions'

The author's roadmap to environmentally sustainable development is marked by "eight groundswell of public senti- transitions." Of these, the dement against local problems in mographic transition (transiunsustainable consumption en- the 1970s. For one thing, the tion 1) will empower women couraged by "perverse" subsi-signs of environmental impact socially, economically and podies in agriculture, energy, were visible then like the effect litically and will promote family

Yoga Pada. But the classifica-

tion of sections in the Agama

under review is slightly differ-

ent. They are called Jnana Ratra.

Manta Ratra, Achara Ratra, Ar-

chana Ratra and Prayaschitta

The last chapter deals with

atonements to be made when

there are commissions and

The text is based on the man-

utopian. But signs of these transitions are already visible not only in the developed world but On the other hand, the agen-

da of today deals with issues like global warming whose full impact would be felt only decades later and whose underlying science is still mired in controversy. The cost of mitigative action today to the U.S. economy is perceived to be unaffordably high looking at the remoteness of benefits. Note that in the last U.S. presidential elections, environment was not much of an issue. 9/11 and Iraq held the stage totally.

firmative action is being witnessed in governments' policies, programmes and peoples' movements.
Along with IT, globalisation is

green governance.

eracy and awareness at all levels

of the citizenry and effective

Need for urgent action

One may dismiss the above

transitions as nothing new and

also in the developing world. Af-

Readers, be they laymen, aca-

planning, maternal and child

health care. World population

may then stabilise at 7.3 billion

by 2050 instead of the earlier

To eradicate mass poverty

(transition 2) that is to halve the

projected nine billion.

local levels.

shrinking the world. Interaction and interdependence among people would, in turn, help bring about the transitions that Speth speaks of. In his words, There is still world enough and time to realize this future. But it will not be won without a profound commitment to urgent

demics, activists, policy-makers in the government or corporate honchos, would find the book excellent reading. There is an exhaustively annotated bibliography of green websites and literature at the end.

Pancharatra Agama literature and is quite useful. The Svami Narayan Akshara Pitha, Ahmedabad, deserves appreciation for the splendid way in which it has brought out this work. The editor's introduction is a mine of information on the Agama lit-

erature. K.K.A. Venkatachari's

foreword is highly informative and interesting. The appendices, verse and other indexes provided at the end of the text enhance its value as a reference book. Scholars working on Pancharatra literature will find the present publication highly useful.

M. NARASIMHACHARY

Cities within cities

MAKING OF NAVI MUMBAI: Annapurna Shaw; Orient Longman, 3-6-752, Himayatnagar,

Hyderabad-500029. Rs. 295.

WE ARE witnessing what Gyan Prakash would call an urban number of the world's poor by 2015, the prescription would be to make available basic social turn. Increasingly cities are services and monetary credit to studied in detail. Early urban studies focussed only on migrathe poor, to regenerate and sustain the environmental resource tion and labour while recent works encompass wider social base of the poor, to empower the poor politically and to deand planning issues. This has centralise decision-making to come about not only because of rapid urbanisation but also due The next transition (transito the fact that cities are comtion 3) would aim at a gradual pelling social artefacts, economic engines and pose ecological challenge.

increase in the share of renewable sources of energy in overall energy supply and demand It has taken a while for us to through regulation and the register that India not only lives price mechanism. Setting "enviin its villages but also in its cironmentally honest prices" on ties. The building of Chandigarh goods and services (transition has been a significant moment 4) would reflect the true value of in this context. Apart from its the Earth's life supporting sysarchitectural significance, the very idea of building a modern tems. Consumption transition (transition 5) would seek to reocity from scratch ushered in a hope of possible redemption in rient consumer choice towards urban living through proper green products and services and to ensure corporate accountplanning. The popular opinion has always been that many Indian ciability to a green business code. The last three transitions relate to spread of environmental lit-

ties appear and function chaotically because they have never been planned anew. However, the new towns built in the post-Independence period seem to have belied these hopes. There are still many disparate cities within cities; the city continues to suffer from both planned and unplanned growth; planning policies and apparatus could never disentangle from its political and commercial compulsions and equity remains still elusive.

The new city

This book is an insightful account of why and how the new towns -- Navi Mumbai in this case - has failed to achieve their avowed objectives. Navi Mumbai was first conceived in the 1940s as a counter magnet to greater Mumbai. It however took about 40 years to realise

The book maps the trajectory of the idea and its eventual concretisation. It critically reviews the objectives, the mechanism of making this new city, the role of various agencies and its failure to meet its objectives.

It is well organised into two major parts. The first two chapters together provide a useful summary of the urban history and conditions of urban plancourse that surrounds the making of Navi Mumbai. The book divides the development of urban policies in India through the categories of the colonial, international style of the 1950s and the post-1950s institutional influence.

Styles

While the first and last categories have been relatively elaborate, the influence of the international style has been dealt with inadequately. In fact it does not span more than a page. The second chapter discusses the "corpus of urban pol-

icy" that informs the making of Navi Mumbai. The chapter tries to show how the corpus of policy primarily concerns itself about large cities while the small towns have grown on themselves.

The role of the many fiveyear-plans in shaping the urban policy is well-documented and makes the pertinent point as to how large scale developments initiated by the government leads to the outward spread of the city and imposes a huge so-

The vision

The next six chapters constitute the second part. These chapters discuss in detail the emergence of the idea of Navi Mumbai, the vision, implementation and the success or the lack of it. These chapters trace the origin of the strategy to decongest Mumbai.

It compares two influential reports of 1965 and 1969 and points to the fact how the early report envisaged shifting the industries along with the government offices while the latter failed to.

The chapter on land pricing and development in detail reviews the mechanism of land acquisition and its development. The combined reason of developing it with 57 per cent private land and in a geography that has 11.67 per cent of nonusable land has lead to higher unit cost of land development.

The way City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) has modelled itself on private developers seem to add to the woes of the already marginalised poor. The land pricing also seems to foster a certain kind of land use.

Governance

The book in great detail documents the dynamics of land pricing, housing conditions, economic growth, employment opportunities in Navi Mumbai and its dependency on Greater Mumbai. The issues of local government and non-planned growth have also been adequately dealt with. The data is exhaustive and rigorous and helps evaluate the impact.

The book convincingly argues that this new town has failed to act as a counter magnet but has developed into a city of its own right. It is not only about lack of planning, uneven develning in India. This overview is opment and undue delay in the useful to understand the dis- implementation of the new

Vested interests have ensured that the land within Greater Mumbai is continuously reclaimed, the closed textile mills commercially re-developed thus negating the very desire to decongest and improve quality of life within Greater Mumbai.

The bitter truth this book tells us in great detail is that the state and its institution lack real commitment to issues of equity and considers that planning concerns only with property ownership.

A. SRIVATHSAN

Sanctity of Arunachala Classical Tamil literary work • Sankara's heritage • In defence of the dispossessed

TAMIL

ARUNACHALA PURANAM: Saiva Ellappa Navalar; Sri Shenbaga Pathippagam, Old No. 24, Krishna Street, Pondy Bazaar, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 95.

THIS BOOK in 15 cantos describes the greatness, sanctity and spirituality of Arunachalam and the town Tiruvannamalai. Various episodes like the history of the holy hill, incarnation of Parvati, Her gaining the left side of Lord Siva through penance, the stories of devotees like Vajrangada Pandya and King Vallala, the sacred tanks around Arunachala and the Lord conferring liberation on the devotees find a place in the book

There are three important aspects in this publication: at the start of each canto, a summary of what follows has been given, the poems are given thereafter and then their meaning. These three are by the same author, which help to understand the mind of the poet. The book has poetry fit for group singing at the time of circumambulation of This intensely devotional work echoes con-

cepts in the Sivananda Lahari and the Bhagavad Gita. The text is in the form of a conversation between Markandeya and Nandikeswara, the sentinel of Lord Siva. The objective is like watering the root for irrigating a plant, and the book aids devotion to Arunachala, the embodiment of The author innovates that Parvati shed Her

body not due to insult from Daksha or due to anger as commonly believed, but because Her body was brought forth and nourished by Daksha, A lot of information on the Puranic lore has been incorporated in the book.

However, certain Sanskrit terms given in Tamil words are not at once intelligible. The reader should have some knowledge of Sanskrit. The book makes for heavy reading and pausing for understanding the inner meaning. Nevertheless, for the devotees of Siva and Arunachala, this volume is a useful addition C. L. RAMAKRISHNAN

THIRUMURUGATRUPPADAI -- URAI: Samy. Sivagnanam; Published by Saraswathi Mahal

They do not stop with that. omissions in the rituals and fes-

What follows is an elaborate de-tivals. Lord Narayana, accord-

scription of various rituals and ing to tradition, revealed the

festivals conducted in the tem- present Agama to Sage Narada

ples. Normally these Agamas and hence the name "Narada

Noolagam, Thanjavur. Rs. 350. THE TERM "arruppadai" is significant in the sense that a person who obtained money and commodities from a landlord, shows the path to reach the donor's place to those who aspire for similar gains. Several literary works have been written in Tamil on this theme.

The Thirumurugatruppadai of Nakkirar, though keeping this general trend in outlook, has slightly varied from it in highlighting the abundant wealth of Lord Muruga's grace. A devotee who has become the recipient of Muruga's grace shows the pathway to His six holy centres so that other aspiring devotees can derive similar bene-

This work of grandeur finds a place in the 11th Tirumurai of the Saivite canonical literature which is mainly intended for eulogising the glory of Lord Siva and His devotees. Such a devotional work in classical Tamil language has been commented upon by several scholars.

In the preface the author's scholarship not only in traditional Tamil literature but also in the Upanishads and English literature is evident. He endeavours to establish the authenticity of the authorship of this work by Nakkirar from the perspective of his name, community, religion, period and Puranic story, and also from the fact that Nakkirar's only contribution is Thirumurugaplained from the semantic and syntactic points of ra

Another interesting feature of the book is the inclusion of various research papers on this text and the citations from various Tamil literary ERUMA DESEEYATHA — by Kancha llaiah: sources to substantiate the author's interpretative accounts.

The hermeneutic acumen of the author is evi-Kottayam-686001. Rs. 95. dent in several pages. This work is a literary masterpiece in elucidating the classical Tamil devotional scripture

TELUGU

ADI SANKARA: Yallapragada Saradadevi; Adi Sankara Publications, 274/A, M.L.A. Colony, Road no.12, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-500034. Rs. 116. ADI SANKARA, who rejuvenated Sanatana Dharma in this land, is believed to be an incarnation of Lord Siva. Besides his commentary on the Brahma Sutras, he is extolled for his literary excellence of his many hymns and texts like the Atma Bodha and the Vivekachudamani.

His life and work were very superbly portrayed by Sri Vidyaranya in Sanskrit. This is the source for what all can be said about Sankara. It has been variously interpreted and adopted by many poets and writers into Telugu.

This book under notice is a Telugu rendering of this work by Yellapragada Saradadevi, a student of Sri Sringeri Math, in "Sishtavyavaharikabhasha" style. She has deep interest in contemplative reflection on the philosopher's concepts and expositions. She has also translated her knowledge of such reflection into educational and social services to the community for engineering the commoners' lives. The book is endowed with reverential adoration of the higher values of life which Sankara visualised for the community at

A good number of colour photographs displaying the landmark events in the life of the Acharya are added as also the lineage of the head of the Sri Sringeri Math. The book will be an addition to the truppadai. Each line of the text has been ex-literature available on the life and work of Sanka-

N. C. RAMANUJACHARY *MALAYALAM*

Translated by A. S. Ajithkumar, D.C. Books, DCB Complex, Good Shepherd Street,

THIS BOOK is a Malayalam translation of Buffalo Nationalism, a collection of articles published in newspapers in which Kancha Ilaiah expounds R. GOPALAKRISHNAN distinct Dalit positions on many issues. He picks

the buffalo from the Dravidian tradition and develops it into a symbol of the dispossessed Dalit-Bahujan population in order to counter the cow nationalism of the Hindu establishment.

Of course, he makes some simplistic assumptions in the process. Although much of Indian antiquity is shrouded in darkness, there is reason to suspect that a good deal of what is attributed to the Aryan heritage was in fact appropriated from the traditions of older tribes.

The author puts the finger on an evident weakness of the Hindu system when he points to its practice of deliberately devaluing all productive activity and downgrading those engaged in that activity. While he is critical of the Hindu establishment, he approaches the Dalit problem constructively. He assesses Gandhiji in more positive terms than is normally done by Dalit intellec-

Kancha Ilaiah is the first Dalit ideologue to have broken into the mainline English language press. B. R. Ambedkar, with his considerable intellectual equipment and academic attainments,

did not receive comparable media attention. The hospitality extended to Kancha Ilaiah by prominent southern dailies is indicative of increased sensitivity on their part to the Dalit problem, which is neither an issue of caste nor religion, but one of social justice. The appearance of his writings in Malayalam at a time when the Dalit movement in Kerala is going through a process of reassessment is quite welcome.

B. R. P. BHASKAR

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to The Hindu for review. While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under "New Arrivals", the decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper. Receipt of individual books will not be acknowledged in response to enquiries.

Announcement

Scourge of extremism 40-16

THE CRIMSON AGENDA -Maoist Protest and Terror: Ranjit Kumar Gupta; Pub. by Wordsmiths, N 11, Xavier Apartments, Saraswathi Vihar. Delhi-110034. Rs. 369. CHARU MAZUMDAR occupies a central place in the history of Left extremism in the country. The movement itself was fuelled by the disenchantment of many radicals like him and Kanu Sanyal with classical Communism. They no doubt aligned themselves, out of great expectations, with the pro-Peking (as Beijing was known then) Communist Party of India (CPI -M), when the Communist Party of India split after the Chinese aggression in 1962.

Soon thereafter they found the Marxists too moderate in dealing with the "class enemies." Their strident dissent with the CPI (M) leadership led to their expulsion in 1968.

The success of Naxalbari in the Darjeeling District of West Bengal where a momentous peasant uprising took place in 1967 with guidance from Mazumdar and others was too heady not to be followed up.

Birth of the movement

The birth of the Communist Party Marxist-Leninist (CPML) in 1969 was logical and the violence that Naxalites - as Mazumdar and his ilk came to be known all over the country and beyond - unleashed thereafter to promote a cross between Marxism-Leninism

Integrated Power and

Desalination Plants: As-

ghar Husain — Editor; Eolss Publishers Co. Ltd.,

58, St. Aldates, Oxford

OX1 1ST, United King-

Application of advanced

computer-oriented tech-niques is necessary in the

synthesis, design analysis

and operation of a comple.

integrated plant to produce power and freshwater by de-

water at higher efficiency

Maoism is part of history. Mazumdar had a deceptively delicate physical frame and his battle with asthma required constant companionship with an oxygen cylinder and pethedine. This did not however deter him from a single-minded pursuit of his mission. But Naxalite operations were too ruraloriented, that their message had only a relatively modest impact on Kolkota and other

urban centres.

By 1971, the movement apparently ran out of steam and Mazumdar died in 1972 without achieving all that he had aspired for. Since his death, the Maoist movement, that he conceived out of an utterly ideological passion and so ruthlessly led, has broken into numerous

If the Maoist Communist Centre (MCC) in Bihar and People's War (PW) in Andhra Pradesh and other states are forces to reckon with, they owe it to the initial example that Mazumdar had set, notwithstanding the strong perceptions that now separate them from the remarkable revolutionary.

All this comes out beautifully in Ranjit Kumar Gunta's interesting narration of the history of the Maoist movement in India as well as neighbouring Ne-

Indomitable spirit

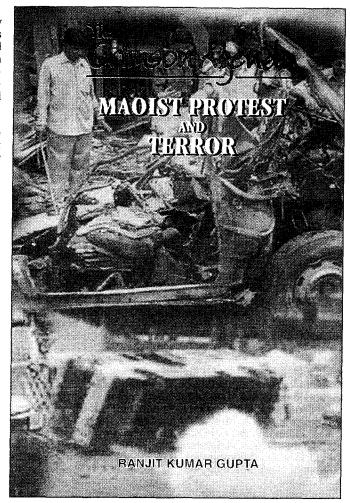
DESALINATION PLANTS

Optimization And Contro • Thermosomotale Analysi And Fault Thirpeoid • Systems Sustainability

Gupta led the Kolkota Police in momentous times and had

and lower cost. These are the two vital commodities to maintain sustainability of life particularly in the arid re-

right and the convergence on which international English can be gions where natural freshwater supply is either totally based. Comprises more than 400 points of word mean-lacking or has become scarce and even in the regions ing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and larger iswith polluted water resources such a system is required sues of inclusive language, and effective writing and to support life. At the same time the available energy argument. Is descriptive rather than prescriptive but of should be put to maximum use and life-cycle analysis is fers a principled basis for implementing progressive or essential to ensure sustainability of the systems. This



FROM THE BLURB

his own usual brush with au- dulged in frequently got him how to deal with the kind of ter- cused of being soft, if not ac-

book presents advanced energy analysis tools for the

design and operation of plants co-producing power and desalted water at higher efficiency and lower cost, by

ich experience and the contents would therefore be of

interest not only to designers and operators of dual-pur-pose power-desalination plants but also to academics

• The Cambridge Guide to English Usage: Pam Pe-

Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 475.

ters; Pub. by Cambridge University Press, Distributed by Foundation Books Pvt. Ltd., 4764/2A, 23, Ansari

An A-Z reference book giving an up-to-date account of the debatable issues of English usage and written style. Its advice draws on a wealth of recent research and data

and those in the processing industry.

experts. They outline the various techniques from their

thority. His strong views on into trouble. He was also acrorism that the Naxalites in- tually conniving, with his

Agricultural Incentives in India — Past Trends and

Prospective Paths Towards Sustainable Development: Bruno Dorin and Thomas Jullien — Editors; Pub.

by Manohar Publishers & Distributors and Centre de

Sciences Humaines, New Delhi, 4753/23, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. **Rs. 950**.

Collection of 12 papers that sustained the discussions and conclusions of an Indo-French seminar organised by

the Centre de Sciences Humaines (CSH, New Delhi) the objective of which was to debate the relevance and sus-

tainability of a nearly 40-years old system of public in-centives to Indian agriculture, mainly subsidies to water, electricity and fertilizers. The sensitivity of the subject as also its pertinence is rooted in the difficult challenge that

India had to take up since the early 1990s: to liberalise and open to the world its domestic market in order to

bypass some inefficiencies or failures of its mixed econo-

my, without selling of in the process its decision-making

independence as well as some social and environmental

objectives peculiar to the sub-continent or to the world

The Wisdom of Vasistha — A Study of Laghu Yoga Vasistha from a Seeker's Point of View: Raghunan-dan; Motilal Banarsidass Publishers Private Limited,

policemen in their brutality ligence, which, "if collected against young CPML cadres. He weathered all these storms, and this indomitable spirit has enabled him now to put down the delightful account of the times, est formation, namely, the poeven if it is as late as when he is lice station. in his Eighties.

BOOK REVIEW

He writes at length of the stranglehold that the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-M) has gained over most parts of that strategically located Himalayan kingdom.

We in India cannot be complacent over this unfortunate turn of events in a neighbouring country, because there is more than a hint of Beijing's support to the movement.

More disturbing is the link that the CPN (M) has established with the MCC and the PW, two parties with considerable prowess on the ground in Bihar, Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya

Unchecked, this unholy nexus could endanger law and order in a region where peace is already fragile. There is information that the three groups have exchanged knowledge on guerrilla warfare and techniques of bomb manufacture.

Role of intelligence

The author, known for his practical wisdom, highlights the role of intelligence in combating the Maoist threat. His emphasis is on grassroots intelearly, is painless and effective. He rightly views this as "lowgrade intelligence," something that can be collected at the low-

This is a prescription that may sound utterly simple, perhaps too fundamental to take care of the sophistication of the modern terrorist, of the Al-Qaeda variety.

He does not confine himself to operational mechanics, as a typical policeman will normally do. He goes beyond to talk of the political strategy that Nepal needs to consider, if only it wants to eliminate the Maoist menace.

In his view, what that country requires is a democracy, a constitutional monarchy and the Panchayati Raj. What King Gvanendra contemplates for his country is however anybody's guess.

Age does not seem to have dimmed Gupta's power of analysis. He writes in a direct language that is most appealing and gives ample proof of his ability to convey facts of a complex situation in a lucid man-

Those who want to understand the history as well as the current state of Communist extremism in the country would benefit from reading him.

R. K. RAGHAVAN

41, U.A. Bungalow Road, Jawahar Nagar, Delhi-110007. Rs. 795. Yogavasistha or Yogavasistha Maharamayana has been a guidebook to earnest spiritual seekers and its popularity appears to be due to the fact that it is a happy



combination of terse Upanishadic thought clothed in sto ry form; thus relevant to both the beginner and advanced seeker. It is believed that Sage Valmiki wrote the Ramayana for the purification of mind and to create a mood for spiritual-seeking. book is a study by a seeker

and an attempt to present the philosophy and practical hints given in the text to fellow seekers who are not faniliar with Sanskrit. Attempt has been made to cover all the stories in the six Prakara nas. The essays are glimpses into meditation on the golden verses and their connection and relevance in day-

PERFECT KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

"If you are coming to the party on Friday, you had better wear something nice. I don't want you walking in wearing an old pair of jeans mean?' and a torn T-shirt. Another

thing, be on time." "Love me, love my dog." "What are you talking about? You don't have a dog!

"True, but I may get one. But that's not the point here. When you say, "Love me, love my dog" what you mean is that you want the person to accept you the way you are."

"In other words, you are telling him to like you for what you are! Though he knows your faults.

"That's right. You want the person to like you despite your faults.

"So if my aunt cribs about how lazy I am, can I say, 'Love me, love my dog'?"

"You certainly can. But do

you think that your aunt really likes vou?' "Of course, she does! Why just the other day she was tell-

ing my mother what a greatthat could have been just window dressing, you know."

"Window dressing? Does it mean insincere talk?'

"Not exactly! When you refer to someone's talk as being 'window dressing', what you mean is that the individual is trying to create a good impression in order to cover up the unpleasant things that have happened.'

"In other words, you present the facts in such a way that you highlight only the good.

"Exactly! You cover up the bad. You don't actually present a true picture of what is happening.

'The Finance Minister's article on the state of the economy is little more than window dressing.

"Good example. Are you inviting that chinless wonder Vivek to the party?'

"Chinless wonder? Don't think I have heard that expression before. What does it

"It's an expression mostly used in British English. It is used to refer to someone who

is weak.' "Someone who can be easily pushed around by others. Is

that what you are saying?" "Right! Many people think that Vasu is a chinless wonder. What do you think?"

"Haven't met him. But if he is anything like Vivek, then I would say that he is a chinless wonder. But tell me, are you coming to the party or not?"

"You know me, I am strictly a day person."

"A day person? In other words, you are saying that you remain active during the day and not

...in the evening. I am not a night person. My friend Sunil, on the other hand, is strictly a night person. He parties till the wee hours of the morning. And like your friend Vivek, he has deep pockets."

"Deep pockets? I have heard expression before. Doesn't it refer to a rich

person?" "Exactly! Some of our MPs

have very deep pockets I am

They become politicians to make the pockets deeper! Anyway, how about this example? I want to meet the deep pockets who sponsored last night's programme." "Good example. If the

school is keen on improving its facilities, then the management must find some deep pockets to finance the project.

"Intellectuals are people who believe that ideas are of more importance than values. That is to say, their own ideas and other people's values. - Gerald Brenan

S. UPENDRAN



OPEN PAGE

In defence of the spiritual scientist

THE ARTICLE "Spiritual scientist — a modern day of reality" (Open Page, December 21) is engagingly interesting in many ways. As a way of appreciating the innovative article, I would like to offer some response.

The statement "many are not convinced that science and religion can ever converge" is no more true, as the author herself seems to envisage such a possibility. She also points to Raja Ramanna's "observation on the convergence of physics and metaphysics." In recent times, such a move has been picked up by the other sciences. Since 1994, John Mark Templeton of the United States has donated an enormous sum to propagate the conviction that science and religion can have a creative partnership. Several conferences over these ten years have been held mostly in the U.S., England, and the Vatican. In the West, many centres for sciencereligion have been opened and the science-religion debate is finding a permanent place in schools, colleges, universities and seminaries. This highly visible public profile is further enhanced by a veritable explosion of books and papers on this fascinating topic.

Because of Templeton's enterprise in this field, more than a thousand institutions around the world have been generously financed for this project. In India, there are at least 15 institutions involved in this adventure, including the Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth in Pune, the United Theological College, Bangalore and the American College, Madurai. The Inana-Deepa Vidyapeeth at Pune has an active Indian Institute of Science and Religion and holds annual national workshops on the theme of the consonance between religion and science; the institute also encourages research in

New ways of looking at science

Kamala Balachandran is very right to point out that many scientists have been religious and may continue to do so. Contemporary science, after Einstein's revolutionary papers, has also changed from a purely secular study to a discipline suffused with metaphysical and theological insights. It is significant that in recent times, scholars have identified certain new ways of looking at science, namely, science as reading the mind of God, science as discovering the wonder and purpose of creation, science as repairing and healing the world, science as a liberating process and science as a spiritual journey.

Kamala Balachandran's observation that Galileo "held that the Bible could not err," is not quite correct. Galileo quoted favourably St. Augustine who said that when there appeared a conflict between demonstrated knowledge and a literal reading of the Bible, the scripture should be interpreted metaphorically. Galileo often cited a contemporary Cardinal who quipped, "the intention of the Holy Ghost is to teach us how one goes to heaven, not how heaven goes." Galileo's hope, however, was that we learn not only from the 'Book of Nature' but also from the 'Book of Scripture.' Galileo was finally condemned as much for disobeying the Church as for questioning biblical literalism. (source: Jerome J. Langford, Galileo, Science and the Church, 1971)

• SAROJINI HENRY | community-led developmental approach

Opportunities in rural non-farm sector

THE PUBLIC debate on the Employment Guarantee Scheme of the United Progressive Alliance government has mainly centred around its viability, cost, coverage, misuse, possible implementation failure, lack of resources, gender bias in selecting the beneficiary (one adult member in a family criterion would invariably exclude women), inadequacy of the number of days of employment, etc. The current discussion on the issue is based on the assumption that the provision of 100 days of employment in a year as a matter of right is the ultimate solution to the problem of rural unemployment. Unfortunately, it is a shortterm measure for a long-term problem.

An ad hoc relief

Besides, far from being a solution to the problem of the rural poor, it provides an ad hoc relief to the people concerned. By launching the scheme, the government has tried to absolve itself of finding a lasting solution to the problem. The very approach of the government is flawed. What the rural poor need is not merely a guarantee of 100 days of work in a year but

uninterrupted employment throughout the year. They need creation of sources of sustainable livelihoods within their own village communities based on the concept of empowerment and not dependence on the government. As agriculture alone cannot sustain the growing population in villages, it is imperative that the rural non-farm sector is strengthened.

Interestingly, development of the rural non-farm sector in the 1980s resulted in a remarkable reduction in poverty. However, this is an area which has received slipshod treatment from the policy makers, economists, politicians, social activists, entrepreneurs and more importantly, the communities themselves. Despite this neglect, it is said that 90 per cent of the additional employment during the reform period was due to the non-farm sector.

According to the National Sample Survey, the percentage of employment in the rural non-farm sector in total rural employment increased from 16.6 per cent in 1977-78 to 18.4 per cent in 1983, to 21.6 per cent in 1993-94 and 23.8 per cent in 1999-2000. Thus, if the government decides to boost the rural non-farm sector, munities to be proactive and develop ru-

creation of more jobs in the long run would be very much possible. Besides, such employment would be more sustainable as opposed to merely providing hundred days employment.

Basic problems not addressed

Although the rural non-farm sector has tremendous potential of removing unemployment in villages, the government has never been serious to address the basic problems of this sector. Major bottlenecks in the holistic development of the rural non-farm sector are poor quality of employment and incomes, shortage of skilled manpower, unavailability of credit facilities, absence of marketing networks, poor transportation facilities, low public investment in villages, lack of basic amenities in rural areas, poor law and order scenario, erratic power supply, etc.

Besides, not much has been done to develop technologies relevant for the sector. Entrepreneurs are by and large reluctant to invest in the rural non-farm sector, Not many NGOs and political groups are engaged in empowering the rural com-

ral non-farm sector enterprises on their ingly they can decide which industry

Communities themselves can change the scenario in case the bottlenecks in the speedy development of the rural nonfarm sector are removed. There are mainly three stakeholders so far as rural industrialisation is concerned. Workers of all categories - skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled — belonging to a particular rural community are the primary stakeholders whose survival depends on the success of rural industries. Entrepreneurs are the secondary stakeholders who are concerned with productivity, quality and constraints in rural industries. Policy-makers and economists representing the government are tertiary stakeholders who are interested in relative effectiveness of allocated resources, generation of employment and quality of life. Rural industrialisation initiative can succeed only if all the three stakeholders work in tandem.

Rural communities as a combination of primary stakeholders should first of all do a SWOT analysis (strength-weakness-opportunities-threat) in case they are really serious about industrialisation. Accord-

would be best suited to a particular village or a cluster of villages. Any enterprise thus conceived has a greater chance of success. One should also understand that every rural community might not have potential for significant industrialisation. Location, available resources, access to market, public facilities and services and attitude of the people determine the industrial potential of any community. All these factors should be carefully examined during the SWOT analysis.

It is possible that the rural community can approach a financer/entrepreneur or a bank to invest money in the project based on the feasibility report prepared by the community. It seems to be an ideal situation, a little difficult to implement. However, NGOs may intervene and empower the rural folks to take the right course with a holistic training and attitudinal re-engineering. The project will be more viable if the rural folks also take up some stakes in terms of capital investment. Rural industrialisation should not come in the form of charity.

• SRIRANG JHA

Integrated environment management

ronmental protection Acts and rules in conformity with the global environment pact following the Rio summit. Yet it continues to witness environmental degradation in various forms. This clearly indicates a gap between principles and practice. The rapid increase in greenhouse gases, degradation of land, pollution of air and water, deforestation, loss of bio-diversity and the fragile ecosystem have put a challenge to the country's policy makers and planners to ensure economic growth along with sustainability. Responding to the challenge, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has recently formulated a holistic environment policy for the nation (Draft National Environment Policy 2004 (NEP-2004)).

The existing monitoring and enforcement mechanisms are numerous, un-coordinated and ineffective. The NEP-2004 attempts to correct the inherent anomaly in the previous environment management policies and regulations and seeks to establish an integrated environment management system in the country. The draft policy envisages public-private partnerships and rightly prescribes involvement of local communities in monitoring and maintenance of environment and ecosystems. The previous policies relating to environment management lacked the

TNDIA HAS adopted a series of envi- laying little emphasis on empowerment of sessed regarding the species of plants, was necessary to involve rural women capability of economically and socially women and involvement of rural poor women in the management system. The village communities were not sensitised to the dread fact that the ecological misbalance could lead to destruction of the ecology. Now with education and increase in the level of awareness, the rural community recognises the need of sustainable development. In this context, millions of the poor living below the poverty line are coming together and establishing informal community-based organisations such as self-help groups (SHGs), Vana Samrakhsana Samiti (VSS), water users' associations (WUAs), etc. **Involving locals**

In the 1990s, participatory forest management was recognised as an efficient means for the effective protection of existing forests and regeneration of depleted ones. The government banked on involving village communities and voluntary agencies in the planning, implementation, maintenance and management of environment conservation programmes keeping a separate provision for fuel wood, fodder and timber to people living in and around forests. In this adventure, the local community was given freedom to use indigenous knowledge about various aspects of conservation, development and use of forests, thereby effectively tapping the vast knowledge the locals postheir utility and values.

Be it land degradation, deforestation. water pollution or soil erosion, any policy having an objective to conserve these natural resources should clearly identify a catalytic relationship between the natural resources and enhancement of economic standards of people backed by employment generation and an awareness of proper use of these resources. The NEP-2004 explains that the key environmental challenges which the country faces today relate to the nexus of environmental degradation with poverty in its many dimensions and economic growth and says that poverty can itself accentuate environmental degradation, given that institutional failures persist.

Instead of merely blaming poverty as the root cause of environment pollution, there is need to formulate anti-poverty programmes or pro-poor livelihood schemes that directly or indirectly focus on natural resource management. The social forestry programme launched by the government did not achieve its overall objectives as the benefits were not equally shared amongst the participants. In most cases plantation was done on commercial basis and not keeping in view the basic necessities of poor families (viz. food, fuel and fodder). As a result, this has not generated employment in the rural areas. It

who could have been instrumental in effective and judicious utilisation of natural resources. Further, there has hardly been any convergence of various programmes launched for poverty alleviation and environment management.

Environmental management should focus on involving the poor for ecological preservation by social mobilisation and participatory governance. Issues relating to environmental degradation should be discussed among the rural people at the grassroots level panchayati raj institutions (PRIs). In this context the role of the gram sabha is noteworthy where the rural community can discuss and examine environmental issues and their impact on their present and future livelihood systems.

Livelihood security

Sustainable development can become a reality only if the policy of economic and social development is pro-poor, prowomen and pro-nature. Each and every programme launched for ensuring livelinood security of the poor should address issues like proper conservation of common resources such as land, water, forest, etc., and establish a holistic livelihood system. There is need for action to improve participatory governance and economic capacity of the poorest of the poor, especially of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women. This will develop the

disadvantaged groups, particularly women's groups, to deal with community resource management systems with a focus on their livelihoods based on natural resources

Partnership between diverse stakeholders (rural community, local level governments, PRIs, civil society organisations) is the effective strategy to strengthen sustainable development to take forward innovative interventions in any livelihood activity. For this purpose, the common resources such as land, water, forest, etc., should be appropriately outlined and an institutional arrangement made for their equitable distribution and sustainable utilisation with the active participation of PRIs and community based organisations like non-government organisations (NGOs) and voluntary organisations (VOs).

• K.K. TRIPATHY

Announcement

Contributions to the Open Page will be considered for publication only if they are in electronic form and emailed. The length of the article should not exceed 800 words. It may be addressed to the Open Page desk at openpage@thehindu.co.in

Window to humanistic philosophy

RISE, LET US BE ON OUR WAY:

John Paul II: Jonathan Cape, London. Distributed by Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002.

PEOPLE WHO are accustomed to the rather heavy and involved official documents of the present Pope will breathe a sigh of relief reading these pages of this book, marked by enchanting simplicity and candour.

In the book we are able to understand the Pope as he is, a vibrant personality in spite of his advanced age and his experiences as a bishop during times. the many years of his service in his native Poland and later as Pope in Rome. The book is a sequel to his earlier autobiographical volume, Gift and Mystery narrating his experiences of his early years and his life as a priest. In this volume, the focus is on his service as a bishop.

Reflections

It blends captivating autobiographical narrations with pertinent reflections inspired by the Christian scriptures. The Pope begins by recounting his own vocation as a bishop, signified in the various symbols and insignia used in the ordination ritual such as mitre, crosier and the episcopal ring. He continues the narration on under the socialist regime of Poland. such themes as the leadership of the bishop, his intellectual and pastoral re- Roman Catholic Church with such a

THE MESSAGE OF MAHABHARATA -- The

Kothandaramayya; Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan,

Kulapati K. M. Munshi Marg Mumbai-400007.

LIKE THE soulful sounds of Krishna's flute that

has kept us captivated for ages in realms spiritual,

the message of Dharma in the Mahabharata has

and life of India." No wonder our political diction

is embroidered with the epic's ethos and under-

lines the enduring effect of those ancient legends

and teachings on the national mind. Justice P.

Kothandaramayya is immersed in the epic; un-

derstandably so, for the epic is a great help to

deliver judgments in cases riddled with moral di-

The judges have to remind themselves repeat-

edly that the ways of Dharma are inscrutable, yet

man must with his partially dark mind, seek a

way out and give a just solution and also remain

There is a structural jaggedness about the

like Caesar's wife in his career.

Legends and cosmogony

Nation's Magnum Opus: Justice P

sponsibilities, his spiritual fatherhood to the people to whom he is called to serve, the collaboration he needs to foster with other bishops, priests, clergy and the people as a whole, and finally on the courage a bishop needs to demonstrate.

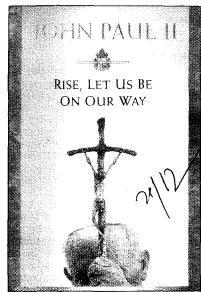
All these questions are dealt with through personalised narrations relating to the concrete way he discharged his episcopal service. In the course of treating these questions, he recalls many persons with whom he has been associated with at various levels and

On Mother Teresa

Perennial wisdom

He does not fail to mention Cardinal Ratzinger, known for his many controversial theological views, whom he refers to as "a trusted friend" and Cardinal Martini, former Archbishop of Milan who was considered till recently in the world-press as one of the prospective candidates for papacy to take over the mantle of the present Pope. Mother Teresa and her heroic involvement for the sake of the poorest of the poor find a pride of place in the papal narration.

The book allows us to have an inkling into the struggles the Pope went through as the archbishop of Krakow No wonder that later as the Pope of the



large worldwide following, he has been credited as one of the main protagonists in dismantling the communist regimes of the Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Moral leadership

The courage which the Pope calls for in the exercise of episcopal leadership amidst suffering and opposition is nothing but a reflection of his own personal experiences. Tested by fire, he the world today giving moral leadership which was evident in his unam-rounded by controversies. biguous condemnation of the war on

The title, Rise, Let Us Be On Our Way is a direct quote from the New Testament and it refers to the words of Jesus addressed to his disciples in deep slamber on the eve of his impending iolent death

They are words of courage to stand up to the adversities and oppositions in doing one's duty. Are we not reminded of the words of Lord Krishna to Arjuna in the Gita?

Popes in the past have relied heavily on the support of religious orders in the Roman Catholic Church. For example, the order of the Jesuits founded by the Spaniard Saint Ignatius of Loyola, was a shot in the arm for the popes in the years following the crisis of Reformation spearheaded by Luther.

Church movements

The present Pope does not make any mention of this order, but seems to see his support in the various movements in the Church such as Neo-catechumenate, Communion and Liberation, Focolare movement, and not the least Opus Dei, which the Pope endowed with special privileges. It is interesting to note that some of these movements. which he refers to appreciatively, are

restorative trends and have been sur-

The book is a window to the deep humanistic philosophy of the pontiff which has been characterised as "personalism" with its roots in the thought of the medieval Christian thinker Thomas Aquinas

It found revival in the neo-scholasticism of the 19th and 20th Centuries. The life of Pope John Paul II is informed by his deeper general philosophy that "no vocation should be wasted because all are valuable and necessary

This philosophical anthropology of human beings viewed as those who are called to fulfil a certain mission in life — differing according to the various existential situation — is the bedrock of Pope's understanding of his own call as a bishop.

The personal narration about the discharge of his duty as a bishop shows the remarkable degree of his fidelity to his vocation, which he also exhorts to everyone, especially to the bishops.

Though an autobiographical narration and centred on bishops, the scope of the book is much larger and could be read profitably by anyone interested in entering into spiritual maturation through the dutiful performance of one's Dharma.

FELIX WILFRED

Dictionaries for the hearing impaired

liant tangle of legends, explanations, glossaries You can open any page and walk straight into a world that is astounding. Here is a list of rivers, there Yudhishtira is answering the Yaksha and elsewhere Sage Jabali allows birds to build a nest

book. It has been divided into three parts, a bril-

and raise their offspring on his head. Not a line is been a lip for keeling the Indian society as a adipose tissue in the book. civilised role model for the entire world. The epic's value is enhanced by a detailed, educative introduction. The author's anguish **Enduring appeal** that "having given fundamental rights to the mi-As Sri Aurobindo pointed out, the work of Vvanority community, we have reached a state that sa is "the epic of the soul and religious and ethical we cannot make a prayer in Parliament" deserves mind and social and political ideals and culture serious hearing. Would this be the reason why the

> The answer can come only from Indians who must take up a deep study of the epic. "A comparative study of concepts of Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksa embodied in the epic, with the concepts of courage, wisdom, self-control and justice conceived by Socrates as foundation for democracy will equip every citizen of this country to understand the difference between the East and the West and also enable him to sacrifice in some degree his self-interest that makes the country glorious, prosperous and ideal.

becoming

PREMA NANDAKUMAR

INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE **DICTIONARY & INDIAN** TECHNICAL SIGN LANGUAGE **DICTIONARY:** Copies can be

had from The Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya, Coimbatore-641020 Rs. 600.

THE DEVELOPMENT of Indian Sign Language (ISL) dictionary (2001) is an earnest effort to endorse the Salamanaca statement of 1994 which indicated that the hearing impaired should have access to the communication they need and that sign language is the right of the hearing

impaired. The dictionary under review brings at one-place varieties of Indian sign languages which are used in various parts of India, by compiling and unifying the facts gathered.

Communication among such people all over India can be made effective through the use of this book. Indeed there is

gathered through still photography, video filming, field visits, interviews and collections of drawings from various existing

Well-illustrated

It has 2500 line drawing-illustrations of the various signs with their meanings. The value of the book is enhanced because the work has been endorsed by many associations for the hearing impaired in India.

This dictionary will serve as a resource material and a communication tool for those persons interested in the welfare and empowerment of persons with deafness. This ISL dictionary offers a vocabulary base and could lead to further research in the area

The Indian Technical Sign Language dictionary provides signs related to job oriented technical vocational courses. It is in conformity with the views great depth and logic in the pre- of the Rehabilitation Council of sentation, as the signs have been India (RCI) to equip the voca-

tional instructors of hearing impaired students, both in integrated and segregated set up, in enhancing their communication skills.

Details of components

The book also discusses the components of Indian sign language - signs, gestures, finger spelling, facial expressions, body language, mime, lip reading - in detail as each of these components play a vital role in

Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya, Coimbatore and the project team deserve praise for their painstaking efforts in the production of this valuable dictionary. Its use as a manual for instructors could have been emphasised.

These books have been pub lished at a very opportune time when India has moved into the new millennium with its emphasis on the rights of persons with disabilities

LATHA RAJENDRAN

PERFECT

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

How is the word "raucous" (No one did.) pronounced? (J. Radha, Avoid using Bangalore)

The first syllable is pronounced like the word "raw". The "c" is like the "k" in "king" and the following "ou" is like stress is on the first syllable. When you refer to a sound as being "raucous" what you mean is that it is loud and harsh. It is very unpleasant to listen to.

*The raucous cry of the birds woke him up early in the morning.

What is the meaning of "buttonhole" someone? ($ec{P}$ Bharathi, Madurai)

go somewhere, people sometimes stop us and compel us something simple, eaten listen to their problems. They just refuse to let us go. What they are doing is buttonholing us. It is as if they have a finger in one of the buttonholes and are forcing us to listen.

the candidate and explained their problems.

The original expression was The person forced you to liston. As the years went by, is almost like a feast. "button hold" became "but-

Is it OK to say "All the students didn't turn in their assignment"? (R, Nirmal, Chennai)

Careful users of the language avoid such sentences. Although the sentence is acceptable, its meaning is ambiguous. The sentence could mean that "none" of the students handed in their assignment, or it could mean that "not all" the students handed clear you need to say.

*Not all the students handed in their assignment. (Some

*None of the students handed in their assignment.

Avoid using "all" and "both" with negatives. Remember, it is wrong to say, "Both the sisters aren't beautiful". You will have to say, "Neither sister is beautiful." Similarly, instead the "a" in "china". The main of saying, "Both the bowlers aren't bowling well," you need to say, "Neither bowler is bowling well."

15

What is the difference between a "banquet" and "dinner"? (G. Ashwin, Warrangal)

All of us have dinner every day; it is the main meal of the day. Some people have their dinner in the afternoon, while others have it in the evening. Dinner can be a formal or an When we are in a hurry to informal affair. The dinner we have every day is usually along with the members of the family. A dinner can also be formal. You can be invited by vour client to discuss something. Since the situation is formal, you will go neatly *The people buttonholed dressed for the occasion. When a President from another country comes to India, our President usually invites him "to button hold someone". for dinner. The invitees come elegantly dressed. There are a ten by holding on to your but- number of dishes on offer - it

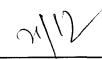
A "banquet" unlike "dinner" is always a formal affair given in honour of an individual or an event. The two syllables of this word are pronounced like the words "bank" and "wit" respectively; the main stress is on the first syllable. A banquet is something that is given on special occasions. During a banquet, people give speeches. For example, during a wedding banquet, the best man and a few other people give speeches. A it in. To make the meaning dinner may or may not have speeches.

"Thanks for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it." — Moses Hadas S. UPENDRAN





BOOK REVIEW





 Indian Mathematics & Astronomy — Some Landmarks: S. Balachandra Rao; Bhavan's Gandhi Centre of Science and Human Values, Bharatiya Vidha Bhavan, 43/1, Race Course Road, Bangalore-560001. Rs.

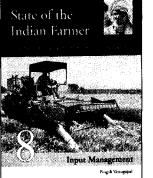
 Panchatantra — World's Greatest Book for Children: J. S. Bright; Touchstone Publishing (P) Ltd., P.O. Box No. 3549, TD Road, Kochi-682035. **Rs. 100.** Hoad, Kochi-682035. Hs. 100.

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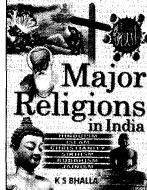
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• Community Action Planning:
T. Vasantha Kumaran, Bala Hyma, David Wood; T. R. Publications Pvt. Ltd., PMG Complex, First Floor, 8, South Usman Road, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 395.

nai-600017. Hs. 395.

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Asia and Europe: Jamal Malik,
Helmut Reifeld; Oxford University Press, YMCA Library Building,
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 Law Relating to Sexual Ha-rassment at the Workplace: Indira Jaising; Universal Law Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd., C-FF-1A, Ansal's Dilkhush Industrial Estate, G. T. Karnal Road, Delhi-110033. Rs. 250.

• Rural Transformation in India

— The Role of Non-farm Sector: Rohini Nayyar, Alakh N. Sharma; Institute for Human Develop-ment, Old IAMR Buidling, 3rd Floor, IIPA Campus, IP Estate, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 950.

Delhi-110002. Rs. 950.
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Enclave, New Delhi-110017. Rs.

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sheel Enclave, hi-110017. **Rs. 480.** Muttu's Revenge: Sheela Rao Manoni; Palimar Publishers, 13, BHC's Layout, BTM 2nd Stage, Bannerghatta Road, Banga lore-560076. Rs. 195. **Tamil**

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CO, Industrial Estate, Ambattur, Chennai-600098.

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Rs. 70. Two-Wheeler Mechanism Muzhumaina Vazhikatti: K.K. Ramalingam; **Rs. 60.** The above

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mugilan; Jayalakshmi Pathippa-gam, 4, Muthukrishnan Street, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. **Rs. 30.** • Antha Viduthalai Vaanil...: G. Barathy; Kuyil Veliyeedu, H-9, Gandhi Nagar, Pondicherry-605009. Rs. 100.

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Nana Street, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 50. Mooppal Mudalvan — Thiruvalluvar Kaviyam: Nanjil Nara-

na Dhokappiyam; Kalaivani Pathippagam, 19, Netaji Street, Kamarajar Nagar, Avadi, Chen-nai-600071. **Rs. 70.** Doctor Padma Samarasam Maruthuva Bathilgal: Padma Samarasam; Kumaran Pathip-pagam, 3, Muthu Krishnan Street, Pondy Bazaar, T. Nagar Chennai-600017. **Rs. 130.**

Kannada

 Utthama Baluvege Mahan Vyakthigala Jeevanaadhar-sha: V. Gopala Krishna; Sura Books (Pvt) Ltd., 1620 'J' Block, 16th Main Road, Anna Nagar, Chennai-600040. Rs. 50.

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Vishwanath; Rs. 40.

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Kumarapa; Rs. 40. The above four books pub. by Navakarnata-ka Publications (P) Ltd., Embassy Centre, Crescent Road,

sy Centre, Olessian Bangalore-560001. Vachanagalu Vachanagalu Basavannana Vachanagalu
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 Avvennavva Kaavya: Tharihalli Hanumanthappa — Editor; Rs. 75. The above books pub. by Prasaranga Kannada University, Hampi, Vidyaranya-583276. Malayalam

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Smarakamuyarthan: K.N. Kaimal; distributed by CICC Book House, Press Club Road, Ernakulam. Kochi-682011. Rs. 37. Jeevitham Avasanikkunnatheppol: M.K. Chandraj; Current Books, Round West, Thrissur.

Rs. 60. Vivahathinu Munpum Pinpum: Sathi Raveendran; Lalu Books, Njarackal, Kalathipady, Kot-

Time for introspection

INDIAN MUSLIMS — Where Have They Gone Wrong? Rafiq Zakaria; Bharatiya Vidya

Bhavan, Kulapati K.M. Munshi Marg, Mumbai-400007. Rs. 495. THE STANDPOINT of an insider offers an often unrecognised but real licence when critiquing a subject. The provocative title of Rafiq Zakaria's new book — Indian Muslims: Where Have They Gone Wrong? — may have been regarded as much too contentious had it been written by a member of another community.

Issues

In these politically correct times, many of the issues and questions he raises in the book are regarded taboo; so much so. they are rarely addressed in a sober and objective fashion. If they are raised at all, it is usually in a spirit of animosity and without any hint of dispassionate scholarship.

Has the community's leadership badly let Indian Muslims down? What is the strategy Indian Muslims should adopt to become an integral part of the national mainstream? Is there a need for a change in Muslim outlook? Zakaria seems unconcerned that the very act of asking these and related questions could lead to allegations of bias or prejudice.

Ît is a confidence that stems from a man whose record in public service (Cabinet Minister, Member of Parliament, scholar, educationist) is irreproachable — the poise and assurance of someone who commands the respect of the Muslim community, who knows that his motives will not he will not be misunderstood. their separatist way.

A collection of essays written over a span of more than five decades, the book is divided into 12 sections with a variety of themes that range from the role of the community in the freedom struggle to the threat it faces from communal Hindu organisations. As one might expect from a Congressman who was associated with the Independence movement, Jinnah gets a bad rap.

Partition and its aftermath

Apart from holding the Pakistani leader responsible for cynadvocating two-nation theory, he argues it was Jinnah's Partition powerplay that resulted in Indian Muslims being reduced to a small minority. Pre-Partition, Muslims who comprised 33 per cent of the sub-continental population, had a pivotal position at the Centre and had their 'own" governments in five

Post-Partition, they were down to 12 per cent, in other words, a much smaller and more vulnerable minority. "Its (Partition's) aftermath was horrendous, both Hindus and Muslims went through virtual hell. But while Hindus have managed to recover and improve their lot, Muslims have been ruined in every respect - economically and socially and much more so politically.

The way forward

Striking a more nuanced note, Zakaria also argues that Nehru and Patel gave in somewhat too easily to the Partition demand and that Congress insensitivity encouraged Jinnah be called into question and that and the Muslim League to go

BHAVAN'S BOOK UNIVERSITY Indian Muslims Where have they gone wrong? Foreword

> Bhavan There is an important theme

pened to them.

It is important, the author that runs through these diverse suggests, to look ahead rather essays. It is that rather than see than keep harking back to the themselves solely as victims of past, something that is encourthe post-Independence socioaged by politicians who play the political order, Indian Muslims vote-bank and leaders who exshould also regard themselves ploit religious sentiments. "If as responsible for what has hap-

Indian Muslims have to preserve their identity, there are five factors they must concentrate on: education, employment, social adjustment with Hindus, family planning and political realism. Here, social adjustment is a

euphemism for a common civil code and political realism is an exhortation to give up playing vote-bank politics, which he regards as a self-defeating game. As M.J. Akbar in his foreword points out, Zakaria does not shy away from answering the central question of his book: where have Indian Muslims gone wrong? "The answer: whenever they have forgotten their Indian

Plea for modernity

His plea for modernity is made in the full awareness of the increasing threat to Indian Muslims — from majoritarianism, from stereotyped perceptions of the community and from misperceptions about Islam and what it stands for. He is severely critical of Hindutva and its proponents but apportions equal blame to the communal forces in both the communities for keeping Hindus and Muslims apart.

There are places where his writing is suffused with an oldfashioned romanticism, one that is based on a yearning for a more congenial, a more communally innocent time. But his confidence that it is possible "to check and replace the present divisive pattern of politics by a broad based common brotherhood" is unshaken throughout the 500-odd pages of this wellintentioned and eminently readable book.

MUKUND PADMANABHAN

Spiritual discourses

VEDARAMAN (Tamil): Mukkooi Vanathi Padhippagam, 23, Deenadayalu Street, T. Nagar

Chennai-600017. Rs. 50. THIS HANDY book describes how Rama, while sojourning in the forest, lived as per the tenets of the Vedas. Hence the title. Actually it is an edited transcript of the discourses given by the late Mukkoor Swami, years back. Fourteen cardinal codes of conduct are chosen as chapter-heads. Perhaps the magic number 14 corresponds to the number of years of forest life forced on Rama. An incidental coincidence is that, in the Raghuveera Gadya of Vedanta Desika, there are just 14 addresses to Rama, pertaining to the Aranya

The Tamil is simple, almost as spoken and forceful. The author focusses our attention on the high ideals that our ancient sages had spelt out with emphasis. It may be pointed out that such tenets would not be normally apparent to a lay reader who reads the epic in a routine manner. The all-round mastery of the author enabled him to cull out the salient tenets and present them in a telling man-

Out of the many episodes so portrayed in the book, one or two would merit a mention: Jatayu says that Sita would surely be retrieved because she was lost in a "vinda muhoorta". Jesting and joking ought not to be indulged in with regard to an indiscreet or villainous person (Recall what happened because of the Soorpanakha episode).

The book has been printed very neatly with sketches that would attract children.

V. N. VEDANTA DESIKAN

Australia-Asia relations in historical perspective

Rafiq Zakaria

AUSTRALIA'S AMBIVALENCE TOWARDS ASIA: JV D'Cruz and William Steele; Monash University Press, Monash

University, Victoria-3800, AUSTRALIA CARRIED out a quasi-eugenic experiment between the 1880s and the 1960s to create an ethnically homogeneous society. The objective of the "White Australia" policy, which was essentially a restricfrom its immediate geographi-

cal region. from their parents if they were people notably. found to be of mixed race and sent them to white institutions run by churches.

were denied access to Aborigthen assimilated into white society. Whatever name the Government gave this grotesque project, it was done to contain the evidence of miscegenation. The story of the "stolen gen-

"Rabbit-Proof Fence," a film based on true events, is all the more shocking as the project carried on well into the late 1960s. What is telling is the Federal Government's refusal to apologise for the

Human rights record

In Australia's Ambivalence Towards Asia, JV D'Cruz and William Steele are indignant tive immigration policy, was about Australia's smug superimeant to isolate the continent ority towards its Asian neighbours. Australia broadcasts its image as the standard-bearer of The harsher effects of the pol-rights and in censorious tones icy were directed at the indige- rebukes its benighted Asian nous natives; in the name of neighbours. This moral postur-Her Majesty, the Queen, the ing is jejune given Australia's Australian Government forcibly rights record at home — the unseparated Aboriginal children just treatment of Aboriginal

The authors argue that Australia's attitudes towards nonwhites and Asia stem from a re-The idea was if these children active racism; from a feeling of inferiority rooted in its colonial inal culture they would turn to past. It transfers the hatred it western culture and could be suffered at the hands of its colonial masters on to Asia.

Fear and anxiety

Australian attitudes toward Asia are partly constructed in immutable discourses of fear

australia's ambivalence e en el la Asia gent Asia would pose a threat to

Australia's sovereignty. The images and metaphors used to describe Asian society and assumptions about "our" and "their" national character reflect an enduringly negative view of Asia. The book was written as a

sort of riposte to Blanche d'Alpuget's Turtle Beach which first appeared in 1981. The novel set largely in Malaysia provides an unflattering picture of Asians with D'Alpuget employing language as a tool to belittle and

cover its racist shadow.

how use of language difference Right-wingers like Pauline Han-

The open racism of the 19th sorbed our spirit."

erations" so movingly told in and anxiety; fear that a resur- disempower non-whites. The identity of Australia could have "other" -- the Asianisation of

alist but the authors swiftly un-

public discourse post-1975 but nous Australians as well as its the authors detail how language Asian neighbours as inferior issues matter in a country and fearsome, for it has itself which still perceives itself as a felt inferior, and it has feared its monoculture where there is lit- own self — socially, culturally tle variation in the way English Hence, the variant of English

Trojan horse by which racism can be subtly evoked. The nonwhites are "othered" subtly that something alien, and therewithout any overt reference to fore undesirable, may breach race. The authors demonstrate the Anglo-cultural barrier. becomes a culturally permissi- son would insist that they were ble way to give vent to racist not being racist but how could urges.

Identity crisis

Century may have gone only to be replaced by a bigotry that insists on assimilation. On the death of a Hungarian-born industrialist Peter Abeles, the former Australian Prime Minister, Bob Hawke wrote, "Peter never acquired our accent but he ab-

sent. Instead it chose to be a near replica of its colonial mas-Overly racist comment may ters. "White Australia has to have been eliminated from look at the Asian and indige-

and morally." The Tampa crisis in 2001 showed yet again how the quesspoken by Asians becomes a tion of admitting non-white migrants into

Australia regurgitates the chronic anxiety they not object to the Asian immigrants who formed ghettos

and spoke their own language and held on to their culture in these ghettos?

Exclusivity What is worrying is that this exclusivity of nationality is endorsed by liberals as well, all the more dangerous because of the insidious subtlety. Politicans, journalists and academics alike In his eloquent foreword, are caught up in this historical Ashish Nandy says that the first web of anxieties and fears of the

book claims to be post-colonialist but the authors swiftly unserved been that of a country of disast but the authors swiftly unserved been that of a country of disast but the authors swiftly unserved been that of a country of disast but the authors swiftly unserved been that of a country of disast but the authors swiftly unserved been that of a country of disast but the authors swiftly unserved been that of a country of disast but the authors swiftly unserved been that of a country of disast but the authors swiftly unserved been that of a country of disast but the authors swiftly unserved been that of a country of disast but the authors swiftly unserved been that of a country of disast but the authors swiftly unserved been that of a country of disast but the authors swiftly unserved been disast but the authors swiftly unserved been disast but the authors swiftly unserved been disast but the authors of the au overwhelming numbers.

The anti-Asian backlash generated by the One Nation party led by Hanson may have represented a radical fringe but what if she had tapped into a broader undercurrent of the Australian mainstream that could surface if the economy faltered?

The authors' anguished self-

reflexivity is refreshing and their analysis and arguments thought-provoking though the bashing of western, especially American, values of "liberalism" and "democracy" is a bit tedious. They drive home the point that Australia is a nation still looking for a way to recon-

s geography an Drawing a parallel between Australia's relations with Asia and its race relations at home, they emphasise that if the nation is to succeed in Asia then it has to acknowledge and reach out to the "other" at home.

The key to establishing better relations with Asia is not a clearer understanding of "them" but what Australia needs is a thoughtful unpacking of the values and fears that constitute

ANANDHI SUBRAMANIAN

Anthology of poems • Critical essays Inspiring role model • Fictional biography

TAMIL

KAVITHAIKAL — Enadhu Ulagam Enadhu Ulagial Enadhu Unmaigal: Isvaramurti; Pub. By Vadamalai Media Private Limited, Pichanur, Coimbatore-641105. Rs. 200.

Tamil, giving a bird's-eye view of the poems and an afterword in English, a review of the 300 years of Tamil intellectual history presented in the light of European enlightenment with an overview of According to the author, there is no serious poetry as lyrical or metaphysical, especially in present day Tamil. His intellectual and cultural

exposure to diverse world class poetry appears to

have motivated him to acquire true newer poet-

ical visions. He believes that true poetry should

THIS BOOK is a collection of poems given under

20 different heads. It has introduction, written in

sensitise readers and touch the heart and the soul. A nationalist by upbringing and temperament, the recurring themes in his poems, generally reflect his thinking and his views on various social issues related to Indian life in general and the life

of Tamils in particular. The author's strong views on Tamil cinema, hatred of other languages equated with love for Tamil and its promotion, spiritual and religious faiths are some of the themes of his poems. As far as form is concerned, the poems are neither in traditional nor in the novel style. At the same time it is difficult to say that this is not poetry either as pointed out by one of the critics. V. GNANASUNDARAM

SRIMAD BHAGAVATA TATTVA BINDUH: Vindhyeshwari Prasad Mishra 'Vinay'; New Bharati Book Corporation, Shop No. 18, II Floor, 5574A, Ch. Kashi Ram Market, Durga Complex, New Chandrawal, Delhi-110007. Rs. 800.

SANSKRIT

THIS BOOK is collection of 21 research papers which discuss textual and topical matters on the Bhagavata Purana. The content of the papers has rich variety beginning with the author's textual citations for the Pre-Bhasa origin of the Bhagava-

ta considered to be post-Bhasa by western researchers and their followers, his textual evidence for the composition of the work on the western bank of the River Sarasvati in Vyasa's hermitage and his averment of the genuineness of Vyasa's composition of the work on the basis of the internal evidence, set against modern views of the origin of the work in or near the Tamil area, inspired by the emotional devotion of the Azh-

The author does not deal in detail with the arguments adduced by scholars about the period of the Azhwars for the Bhagavata and satifies himself with setting out an unnoticed piece of

evidence from the text for further consideration. After these questions on the composition of the Purana, its many facets of textual, philosophical, and theological orientation are discussed. Each paper has a short statement in verse on its contents. The total coverage of the essays focussing on the textual evidence is impressive. According to the author, the Bhagavata Purana is the fourth scriptural text synthesising the three accepted one - the Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita

and the Brahmasutras. The great scriptural distinction of the Purana is its marriage of Bhakti yoga, absorption in devotion to the theistic God identified with Brahman. It is a Purana, a Sastra (scripture) and a poem in one and these various aspects with their subtleties are discussed on in the papers.

With its thoughtful and original approaches to the study of the great scripture of the Bhagavata, this book will be welcomed by the world of Sanskrit scholarship and others interested in our religio-spiritual tradition.

J. PARTHASARATHI TELUGU

SAHASAME NA VUUPIRI - Kiran Bedi -Jeevita Charitra: D. Samrajyalakshmi --- Tr. in Telugu of "I Dare, Kiran Bedi — A Biography by Paramesh Dangwal". Alakananda Prachuranalu Opp. Maris Stella College, Vijayawada-520008.

THIS BOOK narrates the fascinating story of an intrepid woman who reached the pinnacles of

glory through sheer determination and dedication. Born as Kiran Peshawaria in 1949 at Amritsar, she became Bedi in 1972 after marrying Briz Bedi, a textile engineer. As the country's first lady IPS officer, she tackled difficult situations with courage and firmness.

implemented traffic rules without fear or favour earning the sobriquet "Crane Bedi". Besides taming a host of bigwigs, she did not spare even the former Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi's car. Her tenure as IG of Prisons in Tihar Jail, where 8500 prisoners were lodged against its capacity of

2500 became a landmark in her career. Her re-

In 1981, as Deputy Commissioner in Delhi, she

forms through education, employment and meditation metamorphosed prisoners into responsible citizens. While Madanlal Khurana, the then Chief Minister of Delhi proclaimed, "I need Bedi's help for bringing out revolutionary changes in Delhi," Mother Teresa gave her a warm hug when she visited Kolkata. She indeed became a role model to aspiring young girls. Currently Bedi, winner of the prestigious Magsaysay award in 1994, is the

U.N. Secretary General's Advisor for Civil Peacekeeping Forces. Quite a few television serials and films have come based on her life. In a survey conducted by The Week in 2000, Bedi was adjudged as one of the respected Indians along with A.B.Vajpayee,

Lata Mangeshkar and Amitabh Bachchan. Photographs by Ajay Goel showing Kiran Bedi with celebrities like Indira Gandhi are a visual treat. Samrajya Lakshmi deserves praise for mak-

ing the translation interesting.

P. V. L. N. RAO

MALAYALAM

MUHAMMAD ABDURRAHMAN: N. P. Muhammad: D.C. Books, DCB Complex, Good Shepherd Street, Kottayam-686001. Rs. 55. THIS WORK is a fictional biography of Muhammad Abdurrahman, a highly respected freedom fighter, who trod the path of secularism unswervingly until his death in November 1945 at the age of 47. The author who had the opportunity to watch him at close quarters as a young man as-

sesses the doughty leader in these words, "Muhammad Abdurrahman was a failure. A hearty

The novel opens with Abdurrahman's return to Kozhikode in September 1945 after five years in Bellary jail and dwells on his last 77 days in communally charged Malabar. The Muslim League had gained ground during his absence and the separatist slogans of its supporters could be heard above the nationalist slogans raised by his followers at the railway station.

Nowhere else in the south had the conflict be-

tween Indian nationalism and Muslim sectarianism assume such dimensions as it did in Malabar. Abandoned by the Left, which had stood by him earlier and alienated from the Muslim masses, which had come under the sway of communal forces, he met with his end like a tragic hero. The novel, published posthumously, raises the question whether it is a finished product. N. P. Hafiz Muhammad, the author's son, says in an

introductory note that the idea of a novel based on Abdurrahman's life was as old as the author himself. He had collaborated in the preparation of a biography of Abdurrahman, but it was not until 1990 that he started working on the novel. The manuscript was found among his papers after his death. The fact that he had put it away

even though more than one publisher had

evinced interest in it suggests that he wanted to

revise it. However, even in the present form, the

biographical fiction.

work is a valuable addition to the growing body of B. R. P. BHASKAR

Announcement

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to The Hindu for review While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under "New Arrivals", the decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper. Receipt of individual books will not be acknowledged in response to enquiries.

"There are limits to American power"

HE WAS born in the year the Bolshevik revolution shook the world. At 87, Eric Hobsbawm still displays all the analytical skill and prowess that led him to be counted as one of the most important historians ever. "Hitler came to power when Eric Hobsbawm was on his way home from school in Berlin, and the Soviet Union fell while he was giving a seminar in New York. He translated for Che Guevara in Havana, had Christmas dinner with a Soviet spymaster in Budapest and an evening at home with Mahalia Jackson in Chicago," the cover of his recent autobiography, Interesting Times, says about the man.

In addition to The Age of Revolution, The Age of Capital, The Age of Empire and The Age of Extremes, Prof. Hobsbawm, who taught until retirement at Birkbeck College, London, has also authored Primitive Rebels, Labouring Men, Industry and Empire, and Bandits.

The Professor has written extensively about power relations in the world, focussing on the world after the demise of the Soviet Union.

Referring to the rise of the U.S. as the only superpower, Prof. Hobsbawm writes in his autobiography, "The problem is that its situation has no historical precedent ... and that almost certainly the world is too large and complicated to be dominated for any length of time by any single superpower, however great its military and economic resources.'

He is the painter of the big picture, locating events in time and space with ease. Rising above the specific and the current, Professor Hobsbawm has demonstrated in his writings the ability to put complex ideas in simple language, making his books accessible to non-specialists as well. In this exclusive conversation with

Amit Baruah for The Hindu, Prof. Hobsbawm, a onetime jazz critic of the New Statesman, speaks of the implications of 9/11, the situation in Iraq, the rise of China and India, and the challenge posed by religious fundamentalism of different hues:

dangerous phase. Would you agree with such a view?

am afraid what has been happening in the Middle East [West Asia] rather supports this view. My view at the time was tive Americans took this opportunity to, in effect, put forward their claim for world hegemony, world domination. They are cupation. engaged in pursuing this aim nmited, at present, only by the fact that it proved much more difficult then they had tual analysis of the facts of the situation was, clearly, very defective.

We see daily reports of violence coming out of Iraq — in you feel that the invasion of to American power or do we see this as a demonstration of get this one view? American power?

About 10 years ago, when I wrote my history of the 20th Century, the situation was such that the developed countries of the North could win any battle they wanted. Translate that into specific terms, the Americans could win any battle that they wanted. The major problem was that of maintaining control on the ground afterwards - largely because the basic stabilising force of empire had become dissipated namely, the willingness of subjects to accept any effective rule as legitimate rule — which means that even to maintain basic control is much more difficult than it used to be.

A very good example which I then quoted; this was before Iraq, but after the [1991] Gulf war that demonstrated any battle can be won; but not necessarily the peace after that. cow simply because people Compare the situation of Somalia in the imperial period when it produced relatively little problems for the two imperial powers - Great Britain and tion. Italy — you know there were guerrillas, there were people the Brits called mad Mullahs but, effectively, these were perfectly well-administered colonies largely because the great bulk of the population assumed, if somebody comes in. full of effective power, that's it. But look at Somalia now.

demonstrates the limits to pendent news distribution American power. That's to say the limits of American capacity common. But, I don't believe to remake the world — not limits to win wars or to create even class consensus, the elite chaos, anarchy, disturbance.

There are different theories about those behind the resistance in Iraq — Al-Qaeda, nasupporters. Would you say

that there's a basic force of nationalism at work here? I don't know. It's perfectly

Question: Soon after the clear that if there's one thing is a regime which would try to terrorist attacks of September that would probably unite all 11, 2001, the Cuban President, Iraqis, however they differ Fidel Castro, said that the among themselves, it is that world was entering a very they don't like to be occupied. To that extent, you might say there is a sort of nationalism, Prof. Hobsbawm: Yes, and I but the thing is that the people that are actually waging an active insurgency, or active resistance, are undoubtedly only a particular part of Iraqis, that a group of neo-conserva- probably very largely Sunnis in some of the big cities. That doesn't mean that the remain- are concerned in Western Euder are in favour of foreign oc- rope, television is the main

Centre, made some reference to the ing a thing like Al-Jazeera. Danmedia. We have the emeranticipated. And, that their acgence of Al-Jazeera as an alternative means of information, but we also have the embedding of journalists during the Iraq war. One view of the war was provided by the vast mathis post-invasion phase. Do jority of the American media we saw newscasters wear-Iraq demonstrates the limits ing the American flag on their lapels. Are we largely going to

> I would say probably not. For one thing, the Internet is relatively uncontrollable. So, to this extent, the ability of people to discover other kinds of views is immeasurably greater than before. You may say that in many parts of the world, the number of people who have access to the Internet is relatively limited although in some countries it is very large. Nevertheless, in fact, the word gets around and, to this extent. modern technology has made it possible to do this. For instance, it was possible in the last days of the Soviet Union for people in Moscow to know

exclude free news.

You have been reading newspapers, I imagine, at least for 60 years if not more.

Yes. But, of course, newspapers are no longer the central medium.

You think newspapers are in decline?

Oh, yes, at least in the West, they have declined, relatively speaking. As far as the masses news [medium]. That's where In your remarks at the India the danger lies and, of course, the relative advantage, of havgerous governments say, like, [Silvio] Berlusconi in Italy don't mind having a free press so long as the television isn't free. That's where the real danger is.

Nevertheless, it doesn't mean that news is completely eliminated in the way in which, for instance, it used to be eliminated in old-fashioned authoritarian or totalitarian governments, where you simply could not read anything or hear anything, which was not officially, as it were, permitted.

We have the phenomenon of Islamist terrorism in today's world. Is the threat going to define the next 50

That's what the Americans want. Now that you no longer have the real enemy, you do need an enemy, as it were, in order to be able to mobilise, against whom to mobilise. That was the theory of Huntington, wasn't it? It's going to be a cultural battle till the death of cul-

I don't believe it. In the first

"It's perfectly clear that if there's one thing that would probably unite all Iraqis it is that they don't like to be occupied."

would telephone them, e-mail them from abroad. And, this information could get around . I think this is a new situa-

It is probably not so easy to have a genuine, wide-distribution, mass media institution like *Al-Jazeera*. *Al-Jazeera* relies effectively on the protection of Al-Qatar and, if it didn't have that protection it couldn't exist. To that extent, the existence of what you might call ministates, produces an element of I think that to this extent it independence, a basis for indewhich [was] previously not so that official governments or consensus of particular societies, can completely dominate

a situation today. The most they can do, I tionalists, Saddam Hussein's think, is to exclude, but the degree of that is something which we'll have to test, for instance, with what happens in China in the next few years because here

what was happening in Mos- place, Islam is only one part of the world. Islamic problems, the problem of Islamic immigrants or Islamic activities, ony affects certain parts [of the world]. For instance, for practical purposes, it simply doesn't arise for most of the American continent.

> It happens, at the moment, to be a particularly lively thing. It may become a more lively thing in Europe simply because of the mass of potential immigrants who are Muslims from the Maghreb in France and Spain, and from Turkey in Germany and other places.

> There's undoubtedly a considerable suspicion, which is one of the reasons why the debate on whether Turkey should join [the European Union] is very politically explosive. A number of people are afraid of too much of an influx of Mus-

Even so, I can't believe that this is a major lasting problem. Undoubtedly, given American policy in the Middle East (West Asial, there's only one thing

is conceivable that the Chinese might be able to do it, at the moment, I don't think anybody is very anxious, in the short run, to confront the United China is a massive and growing economy with a political system that the United

> ing together? In theory, one could see, so to speak, living together peaceful co-existence, as the phrase used to be. In practice, it's not very clear. It depends very largely on American policy

States doesn't like. Is there po-

tential for conflict here or do

you see them living and work-

few religions which has contin-

ued to expand — and, to ex-

pand effectively, without the

ligion to adopt and, in some

ways, a very formidable reli-

gion because there's very little

ou need to do if you convert to

The element within Islam of,

as it were, the feeling that you

are no longer subaltern by be-

ing a Muslim, that is an ele-

ment in the situation which

has, perhaps, been underesti-

Do you see Europe emerg-

No. In the first place, Europe

The most that is thinkable is

for somebody to control some

of the global communications

systems on which the Ameri-

cans rely and even that, while it

isn't a military power. It's got a

ing as a power that will chal-

lenge the United States?

I think. People who live in non-European, Third World countries find it increasingly difficult to travel to the West. If you are in the field of information technology, some country might invite you. In a world, which says it is increasingly globalised, do you see people connected by modern means of communication but

It's difficult to know. Europe has very largely been constructed to keep people out or grants, essentially for labour control the influx. Neverthe-

otherwise boxed in?

that can be said about the Is- less, there has been a substan- even up to the present, glob- The New Century, you refer to failing states. do not have, for instance, any thing up to nine-ten per cent of the population as immigrant. support of either missionaries Once you have that, it is not very easy to completely shut or states. Islam happens to be, in some ways, a very simple rethe door ...

The other thing is simply the sheer pressure of people from poor countries trying to get to . rich countries. It's very marked, for instance, from places like Africa or even parts of Latin America to Europe America to the United States. I

> "India has a great future; a much greater I think, most Indians would have

good English and French Army, which are both quite small. In think for political or ideological the second place, at the mo- reasons the United States is ment, a military countermaking it more difficult to travweight to the United States is el. not thinkable in terms of hi-

At the same time, the enormous advantage that the United States and one or two other countries, Canada and Australia have had by opening the doors is such that, if you like, there's a conflict here between the ideological and political interests of the regime and even the economic interests of the corporations and economy ...

I think that for political reasons the cross-border flow of immigrants will be far less than the cross-border flow of other things. Nevertheless, I find it difficult to believe that it can be actually governed back.

We've also seen, for instance, refugees in Australia sewing up their lips after being put in detention centres. You had people actually jumping off ships. We've seen all that as well.

The incentive to migrate is enormous. I haven't seen figures, for instance, of how much agencies for the illegal transport of immigrants can charge, but it's very high because the potential reward of getting jobs n these rich countries is very

I think we may have a distinction here between what you might say, the class of the educated with specialised functions and the ordinary bulk of non-qualified immiseeking. There's no doubt that

lamic phenomenon and that is tial influx. There are not very alisation has been slowed India as a regional power and respect and will continue undoubtedly to be much more slow because the resistance to it is very great, not least the mass resistance in receiving countries - rightly or wrongly. But I cannot see that it can be

Eric Hobsbawm ... a clearheaded analysis. — Photo: Anu Pushkarna

stopped. You have referred to globalisation beginning in the 16th Century. Would you say that the transport of Indian indentured labour to counand, certainly, from Latin tries as far away as Fiji was part of this globalising trend?

future in the 21st Century even than, dreamed of in the first 30-40 years of independence."

> Well, I suppose, yes, in the sense that the transport of slaves and, eventually, indentured labour after the abolition of slavery, is a form of the creation of a global economy. I think, nevertheless, this is different from the present currents of migration.

> In those days, it went, as it were, from one backward place to places, which required imperial development - Guyana, Trinidad, Mauritius.

> At the moment, the major thing [migration] is from poor countries to richer countries let's say from India to England and America. That is the new situation ... I think that this is not so widely appreciated in Asia because the nature of cross-border migration in Asia is of a different kind.

> Can you tell us when you last came to India and your impressions about this coun-

I've only been to India twice. Once, in 1968 or thereabouts, when I was here for about a month, travelling around the country and, second, about four or five years ago, I came as a tourist, but this time South India, where I had not previ-

It is impossible for me to compare after about two or three days in Delhi on straightforward impression.

If I had to compare, I would compare by what I read, what people tell me, not by personal mpression ...

In your conversations with Antonio Polito, published as the Americans call the failed or

as world power for the next 50 It's difficult to tell because, clearly, since that time [the book was published in 1999], India, in terms of economic

growth, has done much better. much the revival of national-Here again, as a historian. I am in no position to speculate munalism in the religious about this. I would have sense thought, actually, neither India nor China would aim to be world powers in the sense of which the United Kingdom was a world power in the days of the empire and the Americans are now.

I would say that even the norities, Chinese have a long tradition minorities; but I don't quite of being, as it were, a leading think they've actually been power in the world. I do not think in terms of world domination in the way in which they may well consider that one of these days it will be the greatest economy in the world . and that will have a spin-off on the political ...

obviously has a great future; a much greater future in the 21st dicted, and it's a very worrying Century even than, I think, most Indians would have dreamed of in the first 30-40 years of independence. That seems to be clear. But, exactly, what the political shape or political implications of this rise of India as an economic, a cultural, and for that matter, simdemographically speaking, is going to be.

But, not only there. At one Islam is probably one of the many European countries that down enormously in this one that you didn't see it emerging time, one could honestly say are we absolutely certain, that in 50 years time, there will be single United Kingdom or a single Spain? I don't know. I think the most dangerous issue at the moment isn't so ism ... but the revival of com-

That, I think, is dangerous and it is not confined to any one religion. The extent to which revival of religion is a mass phenomenon is not so clear. În a way, fundamentalists, in a literal sense, are mi-

majorities. But fundamentalists have been extremely good at seizing power. And once they've seized power, then a great many things follow. That's where the danger is. Nevertheless, this is a thing that, on As for the future of India, it the whole, I don't think many of us, or any of us, really prephenomenon.

I notice this even in things like Buddhism — in places like Sri Lanka it developed a kind of nationalist, militant edge, which, really, very few people would have thought off.

It was believed that with material progress, religious ply as the largest state, differences would get reduced. That doesn't seem to

have happened. As we move ahead in many It's clear that we [histori-

"The most dangerous issue at the moment isn't so much the revival of nationalism ... but the revival of communalism in the religious sense."

areas, we've also seen the phenomenon of communalism. Do you see the rise of communal forces in India as threat to of it. its syncretic tradition and its nationhood?

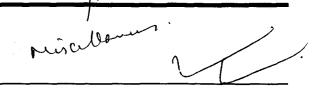
Yes. I think, obviously, the rise of identity groups of one kind or another, is at odds with the development of big, territorial states, which, after all, until recently, were the basic unit of government, of administration, of practically everything .. there are countries in which these, clearly, have threatened the existence of states -- firstly.

of course, in weak states, which

ans] underestimated the continued role of religiosity or the belief in rituals and all the rest

One of the reasons why we underestimated it was because we didn't pay enough attention to gender history. Everybody knew, for instance, that women were more pious than men, at least in Europe and continue to be, but because people didn't take this seriously enough ... we didn't really inquire into the role of this kind of motivations not only among particular groups, but generally. Very difficult to overlook it now.

BOOK REVIEW





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Vijayaniki Aaro Mettu: Yandamoori Veerendra Nath: Navasa hithi Book House, Eluru Road Near Ram Mandiram, Vijayawa da-520002. Rs. 150.

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose: Janaki Jani; Sahiti Pub-lishers, 67-17-1, Lal Bahadur Nagar, Kakinada-533003. Rs.

Srimad Bhagavadgita Sanka-rabhashyamu: Sooraparaju Radhakrishnamurthy — Tr. in Telugu; Copies can be had from S. Ramadevi, 10-30/5, Koundinya Homes, Gokhalenagar, Ramanthapur, Hyderabad. **Rs. 250.**

Governance: an insider's account

GOVERNANCE AND THE SCLEROSIS THAT HAS SET IN: Arun Shourie; Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 395.

THIS IS a book that could be written by only one man named Arun Shourie - passionate, intelligent, opinionated, totally consumed by his own self-image as the only man who knows what is wrong with the Indian system and how that system can be repaired.

He regales the reader with miles and miles of details of stupid babus, stupider politicians, and stupidest ministers, all of who engage in this benumbing, time-consuming, energy-sapping, creativity-draining charade called "governance". He calls it a "mindless, endless shuffling in slow motion;" it is now a collective habit and has come to infect every aspect of governance.

For an 'enabling state'

The system is almost beyond redemption; the only thing that can be done to save it is by debunking it. His moral is that "the way to reform this system is not to tinker with this procedure or that institution, but to just jettison the function, to hack away the limb where this is The rub is defining "where

this is possible" because politicians and bureaucrats pitch in (often on behalf of the un-

wholesome economic forces) to prevent the "possible" from taking place.

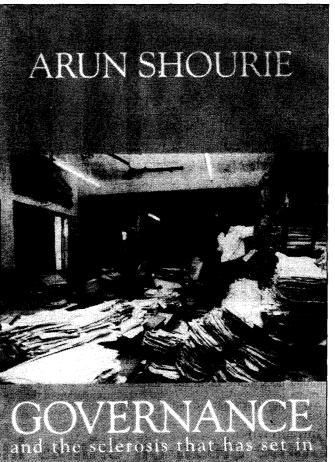
Status quo has its rationale as well as its beneficiaries. Rather passionately Shourie points out the cumulative effect of the sclerosis that the country earns a "reputation", an image that slows down and even discourages the foreign investor. This has to change. The very nature of the Indian state has to change; it must become an "enabling state."

Administration

Shourie was a minister for nearly five years in the National Democratic Alliance Government. In that capacity he was privy to a zillion files, documents - secret, confidential, official - useless papers, which routinely get stamped "confidential". He is thus well armed with reams of details from which to pick and choose to make his indictment of the Indian political system.

And, like an experienced polemicist, he chooses the convenient facts to make a good and impressive case. The reader feels overwhelmed, but not necessarily becomes any wiser.

This would have been a far more useful, even insightful book if the author had opted to a less hurried enterprise from name the names or given a flavour of some of the celebrated policy fights he was involved in. in the Union Cabinet. We must He was part of a political to do things differently or had perhaps wait for another book, crowd that saw itself different any idea how to fix it. The prob-



Politics and power

than the Congress-oriented regimes that allegedly mucked up the governance. But he gives no insight if his government tried festation being economic power and political parties and their disputes are used to camouflage this unvarnished fact. Political leaders who claim to

be infused with ideology, ideals and idealism often turn out to be front-man for this or that economic interest. A bad, ungovernable system survives because those with economic clout invariably manage to cut the corners, bend the rules, slow down the procedures, or simply abuse the procedure, or define the issues and set the agenda as to what the public servants and political leaders should do.

Those with economic power control the levers of public discourse; and, soon, "enterprise" is confused with bribing the babu, hosannas are sung in honour of those who built fortunes by bending the rules and corrupting the system. Shourie does not share with the reader his experience in the government of how the powerful corporate interests would defeat the very purpose of de-bureaucratisation and would not permit the transition to regulatory regime.

Even the intelligence agencies are used to manufacturing 'security concerns" in order to prevent/promote foreign investments in this or that "strategic sector". Alas, he does not matic difference? Perhaps. offer any insight on this count.

lem is that governance is about Nor does he acknowledge the power — its most deadly mani- difficulty in bringing about drastic and dramatic changes, especially in the context of prevailing political disputes and disagreements.

Culture of accusation

A culture of accusation - beginning perhaps with the Bofors episode — has made everybody wary of doing things differently, because there is nobody to defend the honest against a frivolous and motivated accusation. We have neither had strong nor stable prime ministers who would inspire the governmentadministrators to be creative.

Strong economic interests do not prefer strong and stable governments. What is even worse is that the Indian political class has achieved a near "consensus" - that debilitating instrument of the status quo that it would not look too deeply into cases of leaders' corruption and malfeasance.

The government, of which the author was a part, has destroyed a myth that it takes only a handful of dedicated deshbakhts to turn things around. This passionate book, then, invites a question. Supposing there were a dozen honest, hard working, sincere, intelligent Arun Shouries available to a prime minister, would they have been able to make a dra-

HARISH KHARE

From the centre of action

AN UMPIRE REMEMBERS: P. D. Reporter; Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi 110002. Rs. 295.

"AMAZINGLY WHILE there are plenty of books written by players, administrators, media-persons and historians, there are very few by the men who matter most, the umpires," says Sunil Gavaskar in his foreword to this book. And he has hit the nail on the head. For save a book here and there by umpires (Harold 'Dickie' Bird) or for that matter match officials in any spectator sport, the fans seldom get an impassioned and impartial view from the most important seat at the ground - right in the centre of the action.

Who else but an umpire in the thick of action, observing everything around him keenly, could come to name that eminent pace bowler Michael Holding as Rolls

Anecdotes

So too it is with Reporter, Not that he has given a moniker to every cricketer that he might have come across. But still he, one of India's most respected umpires in the cricketing world, weaves an amazing array of anecdotes, incidents, his trials and travails and ultimately his success as a topnotch umpire, in his autobiography.

Officiating in what he calls the golden age of cricket, Reporter recounts with amazing lucidity and clarity his experiences on and off the field. And having umpired



matches involving great players like Vijay Manjrekar, in his First Class match, Sunil Gavaskar, Imran Khan, Allan Border and Vivian Richards to present day stars like Sachin Tendulkar, his stories leave you asking for more.

For any cricket lover worth his salt would love to know what exactly was exchanged

between such mercurial players like Imran Khan and Vivian Richards in the heat of the moment, or why a Salim Malik who had gone off the field was asked to resume his fielding duties and why Desmond Haynes was not allowed to leave the field because of what he called an "headache".

Not to worry. I won't spill the juicy details. For that would take away all the fun when, the reader digs into the book.

Love for the game

But the autobiography is not just about such "incidents" or happenings on the field. It also shows the undying love of the gentleman for his game. Having realised quite early that he was not cut out to be an active cricketer, Reporter chose the next best place to be on the cricket field.

Despite not making the grade in his first umpiring exam, he persevered and it finally paid off. After 24 years of hard work in which 18 were as a First Class umpire, he finally made his Test debut at the age of 46 at Delhi in 1984 when India played David Gower's Englishmen.

His story is about triumph and also of disappointment. While Reporter still rues the fact that he was not on the panel of umpires for the prestigious World Cup in 1987, he takes great pride in the fact that he and V.K. Ramaswamy were the first "neutral" umpires in a test match played between Pakistan and West Indies.

Doctrines of Sikhism PHILOSOPHY OF SRI GURU end all our relations are of no

GRANTHA SAHIBJI: Arvind S. Godbole; Published by the author, distributed by Sahitya Sindhu Prakashana, 14/3-A. Nrupatunga Road. Bangalore-560001. Rs. 100. THIS BOOK discusses the entire

gamut of the philosophical doctrines of Sikhism as found in the Sri Guru Grantha Sahibii. The provision of the chronological order of the compositions in the Adi Sri Guru Grantha Sahibji and their contents offer valuable information. The usage of multilingual vords, phrases and statements

shows the composite linguistic structure and style of this work of grandeur. They are not in the form of mantra or aphorism. Different Gurus at different times benefit of the common man. Of course, they are not without a philosophical background. It commences with a study of cosmogony and nature of the

universe. The world is regarded as the spirit of God, with diversity, but evanescent. The human existence in the world is ephemeral according to the Sikh Gurus. Like the Buddha, the Gurus repeatedly assert that life in this world is full of miseries. Since life is a waning phenomenon ev-S.V. SRIRAM ery day and every hour, in the

avail. The author develops argu-

ments about the rituals for preserving the human body, as it is a beautiful temple of God. The mind must be kept pure. Idol worship is denounced. The Vedas are said to be the foundation of the philosophy of the Grantha. The Sikh Gurus frequently refer to the Vedas in their compositions. The Smritis and the Pura-

nas too have divine origin. The Gurus insist that there are caste distinctions, but it should not be a hindrance for spiritual progress. The five evil impulses are to be controlled. The aim of this religion is that all "manamukhas" (sensuous pleasures) must be transformed into "gurumukhas" (God and Guru centred). The concept of Maya, Yoga, Inana, Karma, Bhakti, Guru, Mukti and God are the other topics dealt with.

The author quotes several passages to disprove the claim that Guru Nanak tried to reconcile Hinduism and Islam. The epilogue seems to be the author's original contribution. The book serves as a source material to the novice and the author deserves praise for the lucid elucidation of the fundamentals of

R. GOPALAKRISHNAN

◆ Spiritual attainments of a Guru ◆ Literary works ◆ Account on native rulers ◆ In search of an identity

TAMIL

YOGAMUM JNANAMUM JEEVANMUKTHIYUM -The Sadhanas of Abhinava Vidyatheertha Swamigal of Sringeri: Pub. by Sri Vidyatheertha Foundation, 49, Five Furlong Road, Guindy,

Chennai-600032. Rs. 30.

SRINGERI IS a name to conjure with. A beauty spot of nature par excellence, it is also an enchanter of the spirit. No wonder Adi Sankara chose it as the southern citadel of Advaita and enshrined Maha Saraswati in the image of Sri Saradambal. From Sureswaracharya, the first pontiff of Sarada Peetam to Bharatitheertha Swamigal, the present incumbent, we can trace an unbroken lineage of 36 saints noted as much for their austerity and scholarship as for their humility and compassion.

This book is a Tamil version of an earlier publication in English detailing the lofty spiritual attainments of the 35th pontiff, Abhinava Vidyathreetha Swamigal. The volume is in two parts. The events pertaining to the pontiff's "sadhana" span only a period of five years, just after he received initiation into "Sannyasa" in 1931. So as a backdrop the first part gives a resume of the whole life of the pontiff together with a significant note on his Guru, the 34th pontiff.

The second part is a compilation of various conversations an intimate disciple had with him on diverse occasions (1975-89). Herein the pontiff explains with remarkable lucidity and precision the step-by-step evolution. All interested seekers of Truth will be thankful for these revelations, because it is extremely rare for a realised soul to record in black and white the sublime experiences he went through.

But we cannot help wondering why the pontiff chose to keep completely secret his attainments for 40 years (1935 to 1975). Maybe because when he had the "Siddhi" he was a teenager and the general public might not have taken him serious-. He chose to share only when he had risen quite high in the world's esteem as the Jagadguru whose word cannot be doubted.

Indeed in the book valuable insights into the nuances of various Hatha yoga exercises, the nature of surrender to the Divine, the flow of the

the passage to contemplation of any deity, the dip into Savikalpa Samadhi and to crown all esgether the volume is a rare gift, a sweet to be tasted bit by bit for full spiritual enjoyment.

C. S. RAMAKRISHNAN KANDEDUTHTHA KARUVOOLAM: P. G. Sundararajan - Editor; Copies can be had from Vani Pathippagam: 403, Alakesan Salai.

Coimbatore-11. Rs. 50. THIS BOOK is a collection of two precious works, Vachana Sampirataayakkadhai and Cilappatikaravaaraaichi. The author of the first work is Muttuk Kutti Ayya who lived in the second half of the 18th Century. The second is a collection of essays on the Cilappatikaaram written by Piranatarttihara Sivan in the journal Gnaanapoothini during 1899-1902.

Vachana Sampirataayakkadhai had been first published in 1895 and a copy of it was found by the acclaimed writer Sivapaatasuntaram in Sri Lanka about two decades ago. The story had customarily been presented to the common people of Sivagangai in Tamil Nadu, in the "Kathaakaalaksheepam" style, during the popular festival of Sivaraathiri. Since it is a kind of folk-literary work, it consists of the then folk forms of speech, its beliefs and customs and manners. Researchers in linguistics and folklore may find the book quite

The second work claims to be a critical work on the great epic Cilappatikaram, but the author has not properly studied the epic and his knowledge of it is miserably poor and insufficient. The shortcomings and misconceptions in the work have been clearly pointed out by D. K. Meenakshisundaran in his erudite exposition added at the end

Both the works have been written nearly 100 years ago and they are available in book form only now, thanks to the special efforts of the great twin-writers Citti and Sivapadasundaram. It is a welcome addition to the field of Tamil literature and Tamil folklore.

Kundalini up and down, the strategy of deep REDDI RAJULA CHARITRA: V. V. Subbareddy; meditation, the visualisation of the Ishta devata, Asok Publishers, 4-5-26/28, 1/2, Nava Bharat

TELUGU

BEFORE THE advent of the East India Company tablishing in Nirvikalpa Samadhi are given. Alto- and the acquisition of states by the British, the LUCIFERINTE AATMAKATHA — Novel: K. P. country was by and large ruled by "native princes" through their subordinates and many of these regimes were acclaimed for the general welfare measures and concern for people, their culture and civilisation. Because we did not have much "historical sense", the unearthing of the story of the day must depend on foreigner's accounts, travelogues, district gazetteers and literary ex-

pressions. Archaeological surveys do help to come to definite conclusions on certain matters, though they tend to become debatable for very many reasons. Among the native rulers in the region now called Andhra Pradesh (earlier it was composite Madras Presidency) Kondaveedu, Rajamahendravaram and Kandukuru are the prominent places and the writer suggests that excavations need to be done here for collecting or gathering more purposeful

literary records of the early period, both in English and in the local language Telugu. Besides the explanatory notes on sources and the historical backdrop, he deals exhaustively with administration under the Reddy kings, agriculture, commerce, religion, literature and architecture under different chapters. The appended material brings out the historical events concerning Uyyalavada Narasimha-

The author in this huge volume has traced the

reddy, a legendary figure of the Kurnool district in the Rayalaseema region and of Chinnapareddy of Guntur district in the Circars region. These figures predate the Independence struggle. The later leaders of the land coming from the particular community are also detailed but not exhaustive. Notable omissions are Kappa Kotireddy and

The coloured photographs included bring a sort of grandeur to the volume. The contribution of Reddy Rajahs for the progressive development of the land and the people marks it out as a brighter period, memorable for all times.

The book is commendable as a historical re-

cord and will be welcomed by all interested in the human progress and perfection. N. C. RAMANUJACHARY

MALAYALAM

James; DC Books, DCB Complex, Good Shepherd Street, Kottayam-686001. Rs. 45. A NOVEL must imaginatively deal with human experiences, and often with a realistic bias. through a connected sequence of events. The author had recently written a brilliant novel, Krishnahridayam. However, the expectations are

belied when he deals with Lucifer. Lucifer is the archangel identified with Satan, who lead an unsuccessful revolt in heaven and was banished by God to hell. Lucifer is also a term used by the Romans to refer to the planet Venus. being the morning star. There is a tradition of Lucifer in the folk theatre of central Kerala and that figurative character seems to be the derivative of the author's Raman, the central character

of the novel, who identifies himself as Lucifer. His is a life of heroic qualities of strong leadership and rebellious individualism, similar to that of the mythological Lucifer. Raman, is symbolic of Lucifer being thrown out of Heaven and is in search of an identity - often the narrative

being proximal to the bizarre type. The structuring of the narrative somehow fails to evoke images, ideas or feelings. The narrator is Raman himself and the representation of experience, running through various characters including Yesu (Malayalam name for Jesus) fails to

The complexities of conflicts, values and emotions, despite the turbulences and imageries in the story and the changes of leaders craving for power and wealth do not evoke emotional swings. The narrative style is not cogent enough and affects the readability of the novel.

K. KUNHIKRISHNAN

Announcement

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to The Hindu for review. While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under "New Arrivthe decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper. Receipt of individual books will not be acknowledged in response to enquiries.

Case for radical reforms

STRUGGLING TO BE HEARD - South Asian Muslim Voices: Yoginder Sikand; Global Media Publications, J-51-A, AFE, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025.

DO THE 35,000-odd madrasas a maulvi or a madrasa student in India, most of them following for some offence could justify centuries-old syllabi, antiquated teaching methods and insular mentality, need to change? Of course they do, but unfortunately the voices seeking reform come mostly from Hindutva outfits, and in a strident tone that dubs them terrorist organisations or jihad factories. Not surprisingly this is interpreted as an attack on Islam, particularly by those with a vested interest in maintaining the status quo in our madrasas.

Inter-faith dialogue

Against this background this book, a compilation of interviews with prominent Islamic scholars in India, who demand "radical reforms" in madrasas and stress the need for an interfaith dialogue between Islam and other religions, fills a niche.

Also including interviews with Pakistani scholars, the book strives to dispel the notion in Urdu schools, which made of Islam "as a bloodthirsty and violent" religion that is gaining simply too complicated for currency in the western world.

In the preface, Sikand reiterates the feeling in the Islamic world that after the collapse of the Soviet Union and communism, Islam had become the "new enemy" of the western world, particularly the U.S., posing a major threat. Muslim

Khan, editor of Milli Gazette and Muslim India, rubbish the allegation that Indian madrasas are involved in terrorist activ-

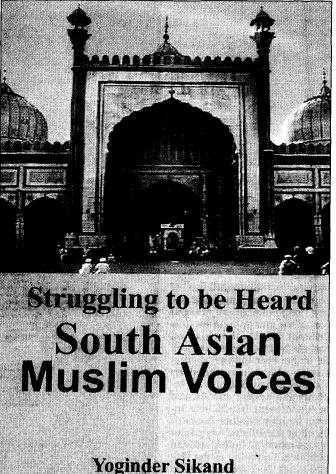
He wonders how the arrest of the branding of all madrasas as centres for spreading terror. Scholar after scholar flays the madrasas for using an outdated syllabus - mostly the dars-I-nizami, developed in the 18th Century A.D. and for training clerks and officials for the Mughal state.

Need for modernisation

They call for radical reforms in modernising the syllabus and introducing science, technology and other subjects to better prepare the students for jobs in sectors like IT, manufacturing, services sector and journalism, "instead of churning out vast number of maulvis," of which only some could be absorbed into the system.

Mohammad Aslam Parvaiz, editor of the Urdu journal, Science makes a plea to improve the quality of science education science appear "drab, boring or most students to comprehend. There is also a paucity of texts and supporting popular science literature available in Urdu."

He argues that students without a grounding in "scientific attitude will blindly believe" all that they are told. There are no two opinions on the urgent intellectuals like Zafrul Islam need for educated Muslims to



ask some questions of their

Intrepretation of Koran

One such relevant and tough

graduate of the Deoband Madrasa. Scathing in his criticism of a mosque being built at the Deoband Madrasa at a cost of Rs. 15 to 20 crores, he says that question is raised by Waris Maz- the Prophet and his companhari, editor of the Urdu monthly ions prayed in simple structures conquerors and hence the cor-

lavish expenditure on building palatial mosques, especially since the vast majority of the Muslim community lives in abject poverty?"

BOOK REVIEW

Liberal and educated Muslims who find questions on issues such as inter-faith dialogue or age old clichés often brushed aside, mostly by Muslim clergy who silence them by bringing the Koran into the picture, will welcome passages of Sikand's book that reiterate the need for a proper interpretation of the Koran.

ulema engaged in inter-faith ities.' dialogue, says the latter "is a binding duty, according to the Koran. The early Muslim travelled to various countries to of knowledge, interacting and openly discussing with people of other religions.

Some early Muslims who came to India studied Sanskrit and translated Sanskrit texts into Arabic. "When Spain was under Muslim rule, many Christians would come there to study even the Bible from Muslim scholars," he adds.

Other interesting voices include that of Siddiq Hassan Abdullah from Kerala, who talks about how Islam came to Kerala through close trade links with the Arab world and not through Tarjuman Dar ul-Ulum and a "often made of mud and earth. dial relations between Hindus

How can anyone justify such and Muslims in Kerala; Hamid Naseem Rafiabadi from Kashmir University, who says that Muslim intellectuals have failed to promote a dialogue between Islam and other religions because their "thoroughly westernised" education system gives them little knowledge of Islam and the legacy of their ances-

Gender inequality

The only feminist voice in the book is of Asma Barlas, one of the first to enter Pakistan's foreign service — even though she On the emphasis in the Koran resists the feminist label — who to gain "ilm" (knowledge) both welcomes the setting up of girls' of God and his creation, and the madrasas in South Asia, but need to promote inter-religious worries that education here "ofdialogue, Maulana Wahiduddin ten ends up justifying existing Khan, one of the few Muslim sexual hierarchies and inequal-

She says that as "gender inequality among Muslims is formulated in law" there is a need to "rethink certain legal stricpreach Islam, but also in search tures (such as those that legalise sexual inequality) as a way to bring about justice and equal-

A fascinating interview is with a Sufi custodian of the Miva Mir shrine in Lahore, who tells the author how many Sufis consider Baba Nanak to be a true Muslim in the sense "Muslim" means one who subjects himself to the will of God. And, how Miya Mir came to be the one who laid the foundation stone for the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Writers and publishers need to seek out more such voices from Muslim scholars in the sub-continent.

RASHEEDA BHAGAT

FROM THE BLURB

 Collected Papers in Theoretical Economics Vol. I — Development, Markets, and Institutions; Vol. II — Rationality, Games, and Strateg Behaviour: Kaushik Basu: Oxford University Press, YMCA Library Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001. Rs. 650 & Rs. 595

The field of development economics has witnessed dramatic change over the past two or three decades The subject, though still among the most challeng-ing sub-disciplines of eco-

nomics, has drawn on the benefits of the rise of game theoretic methods, strategic analysis and the availability of new data-sets. It not only entails the use of good

economic theory but also requires that the researcher keep an anthropologist's eye on reality. The first collection by this renowned economist who has played a significant role in the transformation of development economics illustrates his method of research well as it comments on a range of contentious subjects, such as the design of policy to combat child labour, the role of social norms in explaining why certain unwanted economic institutions persist and how literacy ought to

The second volume comprises his papers on game theory and more generally strategic analysis and includes both pure and applied theory. The theoretical papers lay greater emphasis on the philosophical foundations of rational and strategic behaviour rather than on the mathematical basis of game theory. The applied papers range over topics in the organisation and modelling of govern-ment behaviour, topics in industrial organisation theory such as entry-deterrence, psychology and pricing, and collusion and antitrust legisla

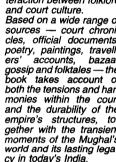
• Sexuality in the Time of AIDS — Contemporary Perspectives from Communities in India: Ravi K. Verma, Pertti J. Pelto, Stephen L. Schensul and Archana Joshi

— Editors; Sage Publications India Pvt. Ltd., B-42, Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi-110017. **Rs. 450.** In the context of the concern over the spread of HIV/ AIDS in India, this book seeks to contribute to the under standing of contemporary sexual behaviour and sexual attitudes in both rural and urban India and in different strata of society including adolescent girls, sex workers (male and female), college students and slum dwellers. Presenting case studies from around the country the essays in this book identify the contextual, cultural and social factors that contribute to the risk of infection and they cover three broad areas — an overview of the HIV/ AIDS epidemic in India and the response of both the government and the public; perspectives from diverse communities concerning premarital, marital and extra-

terms of research methodology and in the development of new approaches to HIV/AIDS. The Mughals of India: Harbans Mukhia; Blackwell Publishing, Australia, Distributed by Foundation Books, 4381/4, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Del-Explores the longest lasting empire in Indian history, the

marital sexuality: lessons learned at the national level in

Mughal presence in India from 1526 to the mid-18th Century A.D. through four new entry points: the sources of the Mughal state's legitimacy; the evolution and meanworld of the imperial Mughal family; and the in-teraction between folklore



ing of court etiquettes; the

Based on a wide range of sources — court chroni-cles, official documents, poetry, paintings, travell-ers' accounts, bazaar gossip and folktales — the book takes account of both the tensions and harmonies within the court and the durability of the empire's structures, together with the transient

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

What is the difference between "childish" and "childlike"? (G. Jyotsna. Jyotsna, Trichy)

Some cricket players when they win a match take their shirt off and start twirling it in the air. When a decision goes against them, they kick the ground repeatedly muttering to themselves, or run to the umpire and get into a heated argument with him. These kind of reactions we expect from small children, not from grown men. When you refer to an adult's behaviour as being 'childish", what you mean is that he is behaving immaturely; he is behaving like a small child. The word has a negative connotation.

*The childish behaviour of the teacher had everyone in

Unlike the word "childish". the word "childlike" has a positive connotation. It means having some of the attractive qualities that one normally associates with a child - innosimplicity, cence, sincerity.

*Revathi took part in the activity with childlike enthusiasm.

What is the meaning of "to soft pedal something"? (V. Balan, Chennai)

What is the government's reaction when something bad happens? They do whatever they can to play down the event. They try to tell us that nothing of significance has happened. When you "soft pedal" an event, you attempt to play it down. I understand the pedal refers to the soft pedal of the piano. When this pedal is pressed the notes that you play are somewhat muted.

*The university tried to soft pedal the enormous problems in the hostel.

*The new chairman refused to soft pedal anything. He wanted people to know everything.

Which is correct? "He arrived in time", or "He arrived on time"? (Saurabh Kumar

Dubey, Varanasi) Both are acceptable, but they do not mean the same thing. "On time" means punctually. For example, if a train! that is scheduled to arrive at 10 o'clock arrives exactly at 10, you can say, "The train arrived on time". Of course this seldom happens in our country, and perhaps this is one of the reasons why we are confused between "in time" and "on time". When you are "in time" for something, you arrive a few minutes early. If you arrive at the station at 9:57 for the train that arrives at 10, then you are "in time" to meet the train. If. on the other hand, you arrive at the station at eight o'clock. then you cannot say that you are "in time". In this context. you normally say, "I am very early". If you arrive at 10.01, vou are "late".

What is the meaning of "talk nineteen to a dozen"? (R. Sengottaian, Chennai)

This is an informal expression mostly used in British and Australian English. When you say that someone "talks nineteen to a dozen" what you. mean is that the individual talks very fast in a non-stop fashion.

*The two old women sitting behind us were talking nineteen to a dozen.

*I couldn't concentrate because the couple opposite me. were talking nineteen to a doz-

No one is really sure about the origin of this expression. According to some people, the numbers refer to the words spoken. Before you manage to open your mouth, the person talking to you gets in 19 words.

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure." -Clarence Darrow

S. UPENDRAN



OPEN PAGE

Rewriting of history

VER THE last several years, it appears, people have developed an increasing interest in history. They seem to be looking back to draw strength from their past to cope with the uncertainties of the future - of the looming threats of pollution, global warming, terrorism, nuclear catastrophe, water scarcity, war, communal tensions, and so on.

Most historians in the past like Herodotus or Plutarch or Livy seem to have been objective. Later historians such as Edward Gibbon and Sir William Jones also had set a high standard of objectivity. However, historians like Vincent A. Smith and Sir Percival Spear, while maintaining a high standard of objectivity, were slightly prejudiced in favour of British actions and personalities. Perhaps they themselves were unconscious of that latent prejudice. But no one can deny that their contributions to the writing of Indian history have been extremely valuable.

A tradition of objective writing

It was only after the British entered India that systematic efforts were made to record a largely reliable history of India. As far as we were concerned, we could not even put a date to the Ramayana and the Mahabharata in spite of indicators like the wheel, the horse and the chariot. Our own historians such as Sir Jadunath Sircar, R.V. Bhandarkar, R.C. Majumdar, Prof. K.A. Nilakanta Sastri and others have established a sound tradition of objective writing of

history, although they had to rely on British Unfortunately, within the last 70 or 80 and French historians to a large extent.

The discovery of the Indus Valley sites, and Sir John Marshall's painstaking reconstruction of that civilisation forced a revision of ancient Indian history. A vast new vista opened up of hitherto unknown people, their civilisation and of their wellorganised urban lifestyle. Writings of India or Egypt or Greece or Rome give strong indications of civilisations existing as far back as 6000 B.C.

Plato's hint about the existence of the continent of Atlantis in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean several millennia ago is one such intriguing reference. He had come across this information during his stay in Egypt. References in the Ramayana and the Mahabharata to vimanas or aerial vehicles, and asthras or missiles of various capacities, as for example, one missile knocking out or destroying an opposite missile in midair, eerily presage the modern era where we have such inventions as accepted facts of life. Were such weapons

really in existence so long ago? However, written history has to be based on physically and concretely established facts. These facts are based on archaeological findings, epigraphic records, first person accounts (like those of Fa Hien and Hieun Tsang, of Herodotus and Marco Polo and al-Beruni). If any educated guesses are made about some aspects of history, the historian should clearly indicate that they are only guesses albeit perhaps

based on deductions from established facts.

years references in literature, evidently of an imaginative kind, are being put forward as historical facts. Clearly established facts of history are either being denied, or are being discounted in importance merely on the basis of such references.

An undesirable trend

Over the last 20 or 30 years, the heightened divisive political feelings have led to what is being termed the rewriting of history, even to the extent of prescribing textbooks in middle and high schools clearly aimed at brainwashing young minds. This is indeed an undesirable trend On the other hand, prominent historians. enjoying a high reputation both in India and abroad, have accepted existing recorded history as complete and undeniable, even to the extent of blocking further research into our ancient and medieval history.

Both these trends are highly subjective, and militate against the real and objective task of determining the facts of history, and of recording those facts for the benefit of posterity. History serves the important purpose of enabling us to learn lessons from it so that, as far as possible, the mistakes of the past are not repeated, and so that great periods of history serve as an inspiration for the future. Historians should fulfil their important role in society in the most objective manner possible.

• Lt. Col. (retd.) K.C. PONNAPPA

ULFA's sinister design

OLLOWING THE incident of firing and the killing of seven colleagues by a CRPF jawan in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir recently, the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) chief, Paresh Baruah, was quick to claim that the jawan in question, who incidentally hailed from Assam, was one of their men. The ULFA chief also claims that there are at present 150 others infiltrated into various Indian

forces. This statement should be evidence enough for the people of Assam to realise that despite the tall claims of the outfit's pro-people policy and the promise of making a sovereign Assamese homeland a reality, its antipeople design needs no further elaboration. But such rubbish from the ULFA leadership is not at all in the interest of the people of Assam. It is going to jeopardise the job prospects of not only the Assamese, but also the people of the entire Northeast as every youngster from the region wanting to join the Army and other paramilitary forces would now, most probably, be viewed with suspicion. Besides, this kind of statement is

likely to put pressure on the boys already in service, and in some isolated cases, some of them may become victims of generalisation. Therefore even if Paresh Baruah's claim has some substance in it, the fact that he gave it voice is reason enough to understand how little the outfit cares for the welfare of the people.

There is, however, a silverlining to this Baruah rubbishing. The All Assam Students Union (AASU) has come out very strongly against such claim, and rightly charged the ULFA with trying to use the younger generation of the State as a pawn in their strategy to fight security forces. This quick reaction from Assam's apex student body not only sets aside all doubts about the AASU being the front organisation of the ULFA, but has also proved that it cares for the people of Assam much more than the ULFA

A word of caution

A word of caution for the officers in uniform would be that they should not take the statement of the ULFA chief seriously. Experience has shown that many underground outfits operating in the Northeast have often used the public as one of the tools to fight the security forces. Ambush in crowded market places, forcible use of innocent youngsters as couriers to transport weapons, and activating IEDs in public places are some

The ultimate objective of these subversive forces is to make sure that the public suffer at the hands of the

security forces so that the latter become unpopular among the people. ULFA's latest ploy in claiming the CRPF jawan as someone planted by it is no different. Therefore if at all the officers of different forces start doubting their men from Assam and the rest of the Northeast, ULFA would feel it has a reason to be happy.

In the present security scenario, where almost every State in the region is insurgency infested, the people of the Northeast are viewed with suspicion, especially in the light of such claims made by an outfit leader. Besides, the blunt nature of the people is sometimes interpreted as unpatriotic by the smooth and calculative colleagues of mainland India.

But the realities always are different from presumptions. The people of the Northeast have proved themselves no less patriotic than any other Indian. The names on the martyrs list of the Kargil war and those who sacrificed themselves in the fight against insurgency, militancy and terrorism to ensure the unity and integrity of this country are testimony to this. Therefore let no Indian force be hassled by such hollow screams. The sinister designs of an outfit like the ULFA should be defeated.

> • JOHN S. SHILSHI A police officer from Manipur

HE STRINGENT provisions incorporated in the Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961 (Central Act) have been largely diluted. Recent amendments and rules framed under the Act by State governments reinforce this perception. Whether the teeth provided in the Act had been plucked off as the injustice caused by it was too much, or whether cases filed under the Act and put to test acted as a catalyst for a rethinking about the provisions is a moot

When the Bill was introduced in Parliament it was said that its object was 'to prohibit the evil practice of giving and taking of dowry.' When a Bill was introduced to amend the Act of 1961, it was said that the evil of dowry had been a matter of serious concern in view of its ever increasing and disturbing proportions. Accordingly the Act of 1984 made some amendments in the Act of 1961.

Some women's voluntary organisations felt that the amendments were still inadequate. Hence the Amendment Act of 1986 further amended the 1961 Act. After the above two amendments, the Act became more stringent. The 1986 Act introduced new sections 8-A and

8-B. Sec. 8-A says that the burden of proving that one has not committed offence u/s. 3 (giving or taking of dowry or any abetment towards it) and u/s. 4 (demanding dowry) is on the person charged.

However, the Supreme Court (AIR 1996 SC 2184) has held that conviction cannot be based on such presumptions without offence being proved beyond reasonable doubt.

The amendments and Sec. 498-A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) were introduced presupposing that only genuinely aggrieved women would lodge complaints and that they would invariably tell the truth.

Victims of false cases

Some victims of false cases formed associations and expressed concern over the arrest of the accused husband, his family members and even remote relatives without proper investigation, and money mongering by wife and her relatives led to suicides by many men.

Recently a retired Assistant Director of Prosecution and his wife committed suicide fearing harassment as they were alleged to have committed offences under the Dowry Prohibition Act. A men's welfare organisation functioning in Karnataka made an appeal that punitive punishment should be imposed on those responsible for giving false complaints besides awarding costs and damages to the victims; that tax payer should not be made to pay for mala fide and frivolous complaints; that the process of courts should not be used for settling personal vendetta; that Sec. 498-A of the IPC and the amended Dowry Prohibition Act, which were meant to prevent the victimisation of women, were being increasingly misused by women to blackmail, victimise and harass innocent husbands and their relatives.

When the Dowry Prohibition Act was sought to be amended in 1986, Parliament with a view to checking the misuse of the Act, introduced Sec. 8-B which deals with appointment of dowry prohibition officers by State governments.

Dowry Prohibition Act — a boon or bane?

The Supreme Court in a number of judgments asked the State governments and Union Territories to immediately frame appointment of dowry prohibition officers under the Act.

The Punjab Government (Act 26 of .976) substituted Sec. 7 of the Act to stop misuse of the Act, brought in the effect that no police officer below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police shall investigate any offence punishable under the Act or make arrest thereof. Himachal Pradesh has also substituted the provision as

above. Punjab inserted Sec. 8-A as

hereunder: "8-A Institution of Proceedings: No prosecution shall be instituted against any person in respect of any offence committed under this Act without the previous sanction of the District Magistrate or of such officer as the State government may by special or general order appoint in this

so framed the Tamil Nadu Dowry Prohibition Officers and Advisory Board Rules 1998. Dowry prohibition officers were invested with the powers of police officers as per rule 4 of the above Rules.

Tamil Nadu gave more powers to dowry prohibition officers and to new rules called Tamil Nadu Dowry Prohibition Rules 2004 in supersession of the Tamil Nadu Dowry Prohibition Officers and Advisory Board

The Tamil Nadu Dowry Prohibition Rules define police officer as Deputy Superintendent of Police of he division concerned. In Rule 3 it is said that dowry prohibition officers shall exercise jurisdiction and powers u/s. 8-B of the Act. Dowry prohibition officers' approach as defined in the Rules is primarily preventive and remedial and for prosecution he can only recommend. Rule 7 further says that dowry prohibition officers shall submit a report before a competent

The government of Tamil Nadu almagistrate and the report shall be deemed to be a report u/s. 173 of

I do not think in any other statute in India, it has been mentioned that an enquiry should be conducted to collect such evidence from the parties as to the genuineness of the complaint. When the Rule 5 (X) insists that the dowry prohibition officers shall scrutinise the complaint and collect evidence from the parties as to the genuineness of the complaint, we can read between the lines a lot. Moreover, it insists that evidence should be collected from the parties, which means not only on the complainant side but also on the re-

spondent side. While disposing of a petition, the High Court of Madras (Justice A.K. Rajan) has said:

"It is true that demand of dowry, which originally prevailed among a small sect of people, has not pervaded the entire society due to the educational advancement. Further, due

to the constant attempts by various organisations women started complaining about dowry harassment to the police. Of course, it is a healthy sign. But at the same time, it is not uncommon that while such complaints of dowry harassment are made, even innocent in-laws are arrayed as accused. When such false complaints are made, some people, unable to bear such false accusations, go to the extent of committing suicide. This has to be taken note of by the authorities concerned and there must be restraint regarding

such complaints against in-laws, S. SAMBANDHAM Member, Tamil Nadu

Human Rights Commission

Announcement

Contributions to the Open Page will be considered for publication only if they are in electronic form and emailed. The length of the article should not. exceed 800 words. It may be addressed to the Open Page desk at openpage@thehindu.co.in

ting for nuke supercop's sca goes hunt

DAFNALINZER (Y U

Washington, Dec. 12: The ElBaradei's phone calls with Iranian diplomats and is scrual Atomic Energy Agency, accens of intercepts of Mohamed Bush administration has doztinising them in search of ammunition to oust him as director general of the Internationording to three US govern-

him could be.

istration has failed to come up But the diplomatic offensiwith a candidate willing to opve will not be easy. The adminment officials.

US intelligence on Iraq and is now taking a cautious approach on Iran. oose ElBaradei, who has run

the agency since 1997, and the

lieve they show ElBaradei lacks impartiality because he tried to help Iran navigate a nefarious conduct by ElBarad-The intercepted calls have ei, according to three officials who have read them. But some Others not produced any evidence of within the administration bediplomatic crisis over its nuargue the transcripts demonstrate nothing more than standard telephone diplomacy. clear programmes. re is disagreement among soand what the diplomatic costs of a public campaign against even on allies. is considered a well-worn tool of national secrate the lengths some within the administration are willing onal diplomat who questioned me senior officials over how hard to push for his removal, to go to replace a top internati-Although eavesdropping, urity and diplomacy, the efforts against ElBaradei demonst

"Some people think he one official with access to the sounds way too soft on the Iranians, but that's about it," said intercepts.

of thing goes on," said IAEA In Vienna, where the IAEA is headquartered, officials said they were not surprised about the eavesdropping. "We've always assumed that this kind spokesperson Mark Gwozdecky. "We wish it were other-

istan's top scientists.

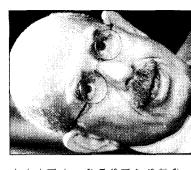
wise, but we know the reality." The IAEA, often called the UN's nuclear watchdog agency, coordinates nuclear safety

mpaign. Three weeks before the invasion of Iraq in March

2003, Britain's Observer newseavesdropping on UN diplopaper published a secret direc ty Agency ordering increased tive from the National Securi around the world and moniverted for weapons use. It has played pivotal investigative roles in four major crises in retors materials that could be di-

Short, who served in British Prime Minister Tony Blair's Earlier this year, Clare eavesdropped on UN secretary general Kofi Annan's calls she had read transcripts of the Cabinet, said British spies had during that period and that intercepts. cent years: Iran, Iraq, North Korea and the nuclear black market run by one of Pak-Baradei or other UN officials Each issue has produced some tension between the agency and the White House, and this is not the first time that Elhave been targets of a spy ca-

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES-HESHINGTON POST NEBS SERVICE



Mohamed ElBaradei

THE TELEGRAPH

ALT aims to become oice of S Asians in

By Rupal Shah

ithin the past decade, South Asian Americans have not only grown as a community, but they have also begun to make waves within civic and political sections across the US

South Asian American Leaders of Tomorrow (SAALT), a national non-profit organisation working to increase political participation and visibility for South Asian Americans, aims to take full advantage of the "vacuum of leadership in our communities," according to Deepa Iyer, executive director of SAALT.

Based in New York, SAALT opened a full-time office there in September of this year. India-West caught up with Iyer and Nicholas Rathod, SAALT's board chair, while they were in the San Francisco Bay Area to reach out to the South Asian American community here and spread the word about their long-term goals.

SAALT's plans include initiating programmes addressing issues that affect the South Asian communities, as well as opportunities for leadership development, volunteerism and civic engagement. Launched in 2000 SAALT's main objectives deal with providing a policy voice for South Asian Americans on issues pertaining to the community

or

"We as a community have a lot of voice concerning foreign policy issues, but really nothing related to people living in America," Iyer said. "We especially need a voice pertaining to immigration and civil rights," she added.

September 11, 2001, Iyer says, was a defining

moment for the organisation. SAALT took the reigns and began to address the issues surrounding the backlash, whether it was at a policy table or within the South Asian community.

SAALT published the first report archiving incidences of bias and hate crimes against South Asians after Sept 11, 2001. The report found that in the seven days after the attacks, South Asians reported 645 incidents of bias. Three months later, the organisation released a documentary on hate crimes affecting the community, which was shown at colleges and places of worship across the coun-

The reactions to the documentary were quite amazing, SAALT's board chair Nicholas Rathod said, adding that people from all over the country wanted to see it.

"People's responses to the documentary and to our presence highlights the need for an organisation like this to exist," said Iyer. "More and more South Asians are feeling like they are an invisible segment or that the class divides that exist within this community are really making certain parts of it more invisible," she added.

Iyer and SAALT's board of directors are hoping that they can galvanise people who want to get involved and create a forum to begin a dialogue about what the government and policymakers — both local and national — as well as other communities of colour really need to do to address the concerns and interests of the South Asian American community. India-West

O 4 DEC 2004

THE TIMES OF INDIA

5.1 million AIDS cases in India

Agencies New Delhi, December 1

WOMEN'S RIGHTS groups, NGOs, religious leaders and children today marched through the streets, drew paintings and put up cultural programmes to mark World AIDS Day with the message of awareness about the spread of the dreaded disease.

With India having the world's second-largest number of 5.1 million cases of HIV/AIDS, the Centre announced it would go to the international market to procure anti-AIDS drugs to guard against supply interruption and the West Bengal government said it would include the tenio of AIDS in the school of the second second

the topic of AIDS in the school curriculum from Class VI from next academic session.

Considering that the aware-

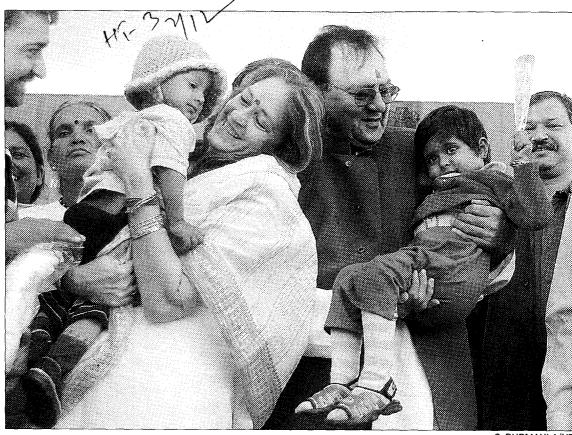
ness level is still low, the Centre also announced a national awareness programme was being conducted, especially targeting youth between 15 and 25

years of age.

Health Minister Anbumani Ramadoss said 1.5 billion condoms would be distributed nationwide in a year's time. In another initiative, the National AIDS Control Organisation (Naco) announced it would start airing a daily soap on Doordarshan from January 2005 and run special trains across the country to spread awareness about the disease.

The trains – with four coaches each – would run across the country for six months. Exhibitions and youth artists in the trains would help spread awareness among the rural population, Naco project director S.Y. Quraishi said.

He said the current stock of anti-AIDS drugs would last till March.



S. BURMAULA/HT

DESTINY'S CHILDREN Social activist Nafisa Ali and Union Sports Minister Sunil Dutt with HIV positive children during a run to mark World AIDS Day in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Mandela chooses Big B for campaign **Agencies** Panaji, December 1

AMITABH BACHCHAN was today appointed special ambassador for an anti-AIDS campaign headed by former South African President Nelson Mandela

son Mandela.
"I'm honoured, since
AIDS as a subject deals
with an issue like sex
and is often spoken of
with reservation. We'll

have to follow a pattern and design while making people aware of it", Bachchan — who is the first Asian to be appointed as the ambassador for '46664', the name lent to the Foundation by Nelson Mandela — said.

On the occasion, the superstar was presented a 'Red Shirt' with '46664' inscribed on it by John Samuels, the CEO of the Nelson Mandela Foundation. The 46664 campaign — named after Mandela's prison number — aims at raising the awareness of the global community about HIV/AIDS, as well as funds for the foundation.

The organisation supports programmes for the prevention, testing, care and support of those infected with the deadly virus.

0 2 DEC 2004

THE HIDUSTAN TIMES

BOOK REVIEW



• Iraq-2003 — The Return of Imperialism: Zafar Imam; Aakar Books, 28-E, Pocket-IV, Mayur Vihar Phase-I, Delhi-110091.

Rs. 225.

The Public and the Private — Issues of Democratic Citizen-ship: Gurpreet Mahajan, Helmut Reifeld — Editors; Sage Publi-cations India Pvt. Ltd., B-42, Panchsheel Enclave, New Del-hi-110017. **Rs. 595.**

hi-110017. Rs. 595.

Making History, Drawing Territory — British Mapping in India, C.1756-1905: Ian J. Barrow; Oxford University Press, YMCA Library Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001. Rs. 575.

Commissions & Conflicts: Asian Centre for Human Rights, C-3/441-C, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058. Rs. 300.

Down Memory Lane — A Mem-

Down Memory Lane — A Memoir: M.Y. Ghorpade; Penguin Books India (P) Ltd., 11, Community Centre, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi-110017. Rs.

Brainstorming Reinvented — A Corporate Communications Guide to Ideation: Linda Conway Correll; Response Books, a division of Sage Publications India Pvt. Ltd., B-42, Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi-110017. Rs. 350.



BRAINSTORMING REINVENTED

The Art of Electoral War -- IIlustrated by Irfaan: Madhuker Upadhyay; A New Adventure, 103, Samachar Apartments, Mayur Vihar-I, Delhi-110091.

Middle Class Values in India and Western Europe: Imitaz Ahmad, Helmut Reifeld; Esha Bateille, Social Science Press, 69, Jor Bagh, New Del-hi-110003. Rs. 425.

• The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid: C.K. Prahalad; Pearson Education (Singapore) Pte. Ltd., Indian Branch, 482 FIE Patparganj, Delhi-110092. Rs.

 The Power of Impossible Thinking — Transform the Busi-ness of Your Life & The Life of Your Business: Yoram (Jerry) Wind,Colin Crook; Pearson Education (Singapore) Pte. Ltd., Indian Branch, 482 FIE Patparganj,

New Delhi-110092. Rs. 499.
• Finding Fertile Ground — Identifying Extraordinary Opportuni-ties for New Ventures: Scott A Shane: Pearson Education (Singapore) Pte Ltd., Indian Branch. 482 FIE Patparganj, hi-110092. **Rs. 499.**

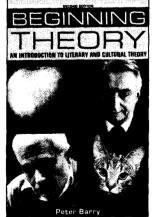
o Congress And The Raj — Facts of the Indian Struggle 1917-47: D.A. Low — Editor; Oxford University Press, YMCA Library Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001. Rs. 650.

 The Yoga of Sleep and Dreams
 The Night-School of Sadhana:
 A.S. Dalal — Compiler & Editor;
 Sri Aurobindo Ashram Publication Department, Pondicher-ry-605002. **Rs. 45.**

• Anthropology in the Margins of the State: Veena Das, Deborah Poole — Editors; Oxford University Press, YMCA Library

Building, Jai Sing Road, New Delhi-110001. Rs. 595.
The Road Taken: Michael Buerk; Hutchinson, The Random House Group Ltd., 20, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SWIV 2SA. £12.

 Beginning Theory — An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory: Peter Barry; T.R. Publications Pvt. Ltd., PMG Complex, I Floor, 8, South Usman Road, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 295.



Peace Studies - An Introduction to the Concept, Scope and Themes: Ranabir Samaddar — Editor; Sage Publications India Pvt. Ltd., B-42 Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi-110017. Rs. 480.

 Education and Society: Raosaheb Shinde; Ulhas Latkar, Ameya Prakashan, 207, Business Guild, Law College Road, Pune-411004. Rs. 175.

 BPO Digest: Deepak Shikarpur; Ameya Prakashan, 207, Business Guild, Law College Road, Pune-411004. **Rs. 500.**

 Before I Forget: Andre Brink; Secker & Warburg, Random House, 20 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SWIV 2SA, Disouted by Rupa & Co., New Delhi. £11.

 The History of Now — A Guide to Higher Yearnings: Andy Nathan: Unistar Books Pvt. Ltd., SCO 26-27, Sector 34 A, Chandigarh-160022. Rs. 160.

• Eat right, don't fight - A Practical guide to feeding children from birth to the pre-school years: JanO' Connell, Rosey

Cummings, Gina Ralston; Unistar Books Pvt. Ltd., SCO 26-27, Sector 34 A, Chandigarh-160022. Rs. 195.

By Design Science of God: Larry Witham; Unistar Books Pvt. Ltd., SCO 26-27, Sector 34 A, Chandigarh-160022. Rs. 195.

All That I have — by Laurent Joffrin: Adriana Hunter; William Heinemann, London, Distributed

Heinemann, London. Distributed by Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansari Road, New Delhi-110002. £ 7. Biology and Effects of Endo-sulfan and Dimethoate on Masulfan and Dimethoate on Marine Molluscs: T. Saradha; Nidhi Book Centre, 3421-A, II Floor, Narang Colony, Tri Nagar, Delhi-110035. Rs. 1200.

Writing Popular Fiction: Rona Randall; Unistar Books Pvt. Ltd., SCO 26-27, Sector 34 A, Chandianth 160023.

SCO 26-27, Sector 34 A, Chardigarh-160022. Rs. 175.
Reign in Hell: William Diehl; Arrow Books Ltd., Random House UK Ltd., London Distributed by

Co., New Delhi. £4. What to do when your children turn into Teenagers: David Bennett, Leanne Rowe; Unistar

Books Pvt. Ltd., SCO 26-27, Sector 34 A, Chandigarh-160022. Rs. 295.
From the Dusk of Life — Autobiography of Ratnamayi Devi: Konark Publishers Pvt. Ltd., A-149, Main Vikas Marg, Del-hi-110092. **Rs. 350**.

When You Lunch With The When You Lunch With The Emperor: Ludwig Bemelmans; Ebury Press an imprint of Random House, London, distributed by Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. £5.
 Tennyson's Gift: Lynne Truss;

Profile Books Ltd., London. Distributed by Viva Books Pvt. Ltd., 4262/3, Ansari Road, Daryagani, New Delhi-110002. **Rs. 195**.

 Making the Cat Laugh — One
 Woman's Journal of Single Life
 on the Margins: Lynne Truss;
 Profile Books Ltd., London. Disrribited by Viva Books Pvt. Ltd., 4262/3, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 195.

With One Lousy Free Packet of Seed: Lynne Truss; Profile Books Ltd., London. Distributed by Viva Books Pot. Ltd. 4262/3

Books Ltd., London. Distributed by Viva Books Pvt. Ltd., 4262/3, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 195. • Going Loco — A Comedy of Terrors: Lynne Truss; Profile Books, London. Distributed by Viva Books Pvt. Ltd., New Del-bi-110002. Rs. 195.

hi-110002. **Rs. 195.**

• Annie's New Life: Maureen Martella; Arrow Books, The Random House Group Ltd., London. Distributed by Rupa & Co., New Delhi. £ 4. Pompeil: Robert Harris; Distrib-

uted by Rupa & Co., New Delhi.

 Descent: Sabrina Broadbent; Chatto & Windus, Random House, London. Distributed by Rupa & Co., New Delhi. £ 7.
Towards Independence... (A
Collection of Selected Articles on

Collection of Selected Articles on Indian Nationalism): V. Venka-traman; Sudandhira Publications, 52-A, Nattukal Raja Street, Rajapalayam-626117. **Rs. 50.** Governance and the Scierosis

that has set in: Arun Shourie; ASA Publications, A-31, West End, New Delhi-110021. Distributed by Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansar Road, Daryagani, New Del-hi-110002. **Rs. 395.** All India Directory of Jobs

Through Competitive Examinations for 10+2 Graduates & Post-Graduates: Student Aid Publications, 43-A, Krishna Enclave (behind Kulachi Hansraj Model School) Ashok Vihar, Phase III, Delhi-110052. **Rs. 60**. Rule By Force: Howard Zinn on

War: Howard Zinn; Etch, an imprint of Natraj Publishers, 17, Rajpur Road, Dehradun-248001. Rs. 250. Rs. 250.
The Red Monster... and other Evocative Tales: Sudha Narasimhachar; Unicorn Books Pvt. Ltd., J-3/16 (opp. Happy School), Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 60.

Tamil

Gemini Canteen: ANS Manian; Santhi Pathippagam, 27, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002. Rs. 30. Vedaraman — Aranya Kandathil Aartha Viseshangal: Mukkur Lakshminarashimhachariar: Vanadhi Pathippagam, 23, Dena-dayalu Street, T. Nagar. Nagar, Chennai-600017. **Rs. 50.**

Vivekanandar Vazhvum Vak-kum: SN. Chockalingam; Poompuhar Pathippagam, 127 (Old No. 63), Prakasam Salai (Broad-way), Chennai-600108. **Rs. 120**. way), Chennai-600108. Rs. 120.
 Indiya Penmanigal — 3: Swami
 Vimurththanandar; Sri Ramakrishna Math, 31, R.K. Mutt Road, Mylapore, Chennai-600004. Rs.

Naladiyar: P. Saravanan Naladiyar: P. Saravanan — Compiler; Sandhya Pathippa-gam, Plot A New Tech Vaibhav, 77-53rd Street, Ashok Nagar, Chennai-600083. Rs. 150. Vazhi: K. Thamizhmallan; Tha-nithamizh Pathippagam, 64, Ma-riamman Koil Street,

Pondicher Thattanchavadi. rnattanchavadi, Fondicher-ry-60509. **Rs. 40.**• **Solakar Thoddy:** S. Balamuru-gan; Vanam Veliyeedu, 17, Pa-vadi Street, Bhavani-638301. Siththar Siththanthamum Sufi-

samum: Se. Ganesalingan; Kumaran Book House, 3(12) Meigai Vinayagar Street, Vada-palani, Chennai-600026. **Rs. 50**. iru Mugam: Se. Ganesalingan Kumaran Publishers, 3(12) Meigai Vinayagar Street, Vadapa ni, Chennai-600026. Rs. 60.

Hindu Madham — Advaitha Kotpadu: Sri Vidyatheertha Foundation, G-B, Sai Karuna Apartments, 49, Five Furlong Road, Guindy, Chennai-600032

• Kandy Mannargal: S.M. Karme-gam; Karsans Pathippagam, 21/ 17, Peters Colony, Royapettah, Chennai-600014. Rs. 50. Oru Thiyagiyin Kanavu: Amarendra Bharathi; Manimegalai Pirasuram, PB No. 1447, 7, Tha

nikachalam Salai, T. Nagar Chennai-600017. Rs. 28. Veerappan Vaazhvum Vadhamum — Unmaigalum Uruthalga-lum: N. Chokkan; Kizhakku Pathippgam, A Division of New Horizon Media Pvt. Ltd., 16, Kar-pagambal Nagar, Mylapore, Chennai-600004. Rs. 50.

Architect of stock market reforms

TWO SCORE AND TEN -- My Experiences in Government: G. V. Ramakrishna: Academic Foundation, 4772/23, Bharat Ram Road (23, Ansari Road), Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 595.

SITTING IN front of the TV watching the moving ticker announcing the changing price of every share in real time — along with objective expert reviews for the benefit of the small investors — one is apt to forget that the stone age of the Indian stock markets (which, according to the author, "consisted of the brokers and were run by the brokers for the benefit of the brokers") had persisted till as recently as just a decade ago.

Stock market reforms

The person who had initiated the reform of the stock market and put in place the regulatory not occur under the new mechanism against virulent opposition by the vested interests support by the government was G. V. Ramakrishna, a retired IAS officer, the first regular Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

In this book, Ramakrishna gives a graphic account of the ills besetting the functioning of the conventional stock markets (in which, often, the regulators were themselves the rule-breakers) and the step-by-step regulatory process initiated by the SEBI that resulted in breaking their stranglehold and protecting the genuine investors' inter-

The reforms relating to the primary market resulted in greater disclosure of relevant information in the prospectus and throwing additional responsibility on the merchant bankers. The "stock-invest" was an innovation that curbed the proclivity of the promoters to have a free run of the unsu cessful applicants' money wit interest-liability

unconscionable periods. Significant among the SEBI long-sustaining reforms of th secondary market under the au thor's chairmanship were th setting-up of National Stock Ex change with a professiona Board of directors, allowing for eign financial institutions to in vest in Indian stocks, and th prescription and enforcement of disclosure norms for mutual funds. It is not that stock-market-related financial scams candispensation, but the regimen initiated by Ramakrishna and - and in spite of lukewarm improved upon by his successors using modern information technology can warn alert regulatory staff to sniff the presence Chairman of the Securities and of a dead rat before putrefaction

Unique career

The author's career in administration was unique since it extended to nearly 50 years as against the normal 35 year-span of a career bureaucrat. (Hence ment four different Prime Ministers - Rajiv Gandhi, V. P.

the title of the book.) This was Deva Gowda - called upon him those "yes-men" currying fabecause, after his formal retire- to take up assignments, which vour with the top-bosses to get Singh, P. V. Narasimha Rao and author was perhaps one of vited Rajiv Gandhi's wrath by

Two Score and Ten

MY EXPERIENCES IN GOVERNMENT



4. V. Ramakrishna

involved breaking new grounds. plum posts after superannua-Perish the thought that the tion. He had, in fact, earlier in-

Quattrochi. Rajiv Gandhi later offered him a three-year postretirement tenure as Ambassador to European Economic Commission in Brussels.

The author records an interesting sequel to the unsuccessful attempts of Quattrochi to get the contract awarded to the Italian firm. A senior representative of the eventual winner of the contract, Spie Capag of France called on Ramakrishna and offered him a reward of - hold your breath! — Rs. 34 crores (five per cent of the contract value) for having processed the case in a clean manner without even a cup of coffee taken from them, gratuitously adding that it could be taken either in India or abroad.

Ramakrishna transferred the "reward" to the government itself by forcing the firm to reduce its bid by Rs. 34 crores on the threat that, otherwise, they could forget about the contract and go home. His later elevation as Member of the Planning Commission was the sequel to his treading, as the SEBI Chairman, on the toes of former Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's son.

Disinvestment issues

An Insider's View: Ganesh

207, Business Guild, Law

Rs. 225.

Natarajan; Ameya Prakashan,

College Road, Pune 410004.

IT IS said an Internet year is just

a couple of months - if you want

to work in cyberspace, you have

to be at least five times faster

than the real world. By that mea-

sure, Ganesh Natarajan's canvas

three years from mid- 2001.

A full chapter on his tenure as Chairman of the Disinvestment participant in the process. Commission (DC), appointed

scuttling all attempts of the by Deva Gowda, has an in-Prime Minister's Office to depth discussion of the various award the Rs. 680 crore welding issues relating to disinvestment work in the 1700 km Hajipur- of public sector units (PSUs) Bijapur-Jagdishpur (HBJ) gas such as the criteria for classify pipeline to Snam Progetti of Ita- ing them as strategic and non ly, represented in India by strategic, restructuring them before disinvestment and segregating the proceeds of the sales of the PSUs from the general revenues and earmarking them social infrastructure schemes. In the event, political compulsions rendered the three-year efforts of the DC resulting in 12 reports on 58 companies — practically infructuous.

The author has included his well-argued thoughts on various topics such as the development of the Indian construction industry to global standards, elimination of corruption at various levels in government, the importance of cattle to the national economy and the role of civil servants in a deregulated

Ramakrishna offers a solution to the problem of a hung Lok Sabha through the simple expedient of having different criteria for recognition of state and national parties, and reserving symbols for state parties only for election to the State Assembly and not to the Lok Sab-This is an altogether illuminating book that throws light on the issues and problems relating to the early stages of economic reform by an honest, brilliant and committed

K. S. RAMAKRISHNAN

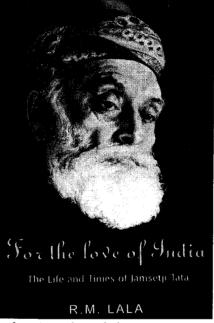
'A man of destiny'

FOR THE LOVE OF INDIA — The Life and Times of Jamsetji Tata: R. M. Lala; Penguin Books India Pvt. Ltd., 11, Community Centre, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi-110017. Rs. 395.

"A MAN of destiny", as J.R.D.Tata described him. Jamsetii Nusserwanii Tata was born in a Parsi priestly family in 1839. Engaged earlier on in the cotton trade and studying the textile mills in England at that time, he set up Empress Mills at Nagpur in 1877. The concept of Swadeshi appealed to Jamsetji, with Dadabhai Naoroji and Sir Pherozeshah Mehta, being his close friends. He emerged as the statesman of India's textile industry. He wanted India's silk industry to be revived, which led to the establishment of the Tata Silk Farm at Bangalore.

Philanthropist

The highest achievement of his life was to come through his contributions to education. Firstly, he created an endowment tnrougn which a distinguished line of I. N Tata scholars emerged including the late Raja Ramanna, apart from an array of distinguished ICS officials. He then developed his idea for a university of advanced research in science, arts and industry, offering the British Government a third or more of his entire fortune. But for his idea to take shape there was resistance from no less than a person than Lord Curzon, the then Viceroy of India. Unperturbed, Jamsetji found a way to establish direct contact with Lord Hamilton, Secretary of State for India in London. Towards meeting the annual expenditure, Jamsetii's endowment was the cornerstone with £ 8,000 and he appealed



to the princes then, of whom, Mysore came forward. Actually, the Indian Institute of Science was born, after Jamsetji's demise through the continued efforts of his son Dorab Tata. Incidentally, J. N. Tata's will dated December 16, 1896 makes very interesting reading in which a large part is devoted to the foundation of the university.

Entrepreneur Yet another great contribution of Jamsetji was the founding of the Tata Steel Com-

pany, in spite of tremendous obstacles on the way. This led to the apt description by Mahatma Gandhi who visited the Steel Plant in 1924, "Tatas represent the spirit of adventure." Yet another area where he made phenomenal contribution was in developing hydroelectric power, inspired by his visit to Niagara. A pioneer in town planning schemes, he was largely responsible for modernising Mumbai city. He thought of the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel

at a time when there were no decent hotels for the rising number of the British middle class business people visiting the city for trade. Even in these hotels Indians were not allowed. The story cited says that Jamsetji took a foreign guest to one of these hotels and at the door he was told that the guest could come in but, "Sorry Indians are not allowed." At that point he was supposed to have stated that he would build a hotel that would put them all in the shade. Incidentally, he himself was very fond of good food in which he indulged to the actual detriment of his health.

Visionary

On the whole, the book certainly succeeds in impressing upon the reader the tremendous farsightedness of J.N.Tata. Time has proved that his marvellous vision has not been in vain whether in founding the Indian Institute of Science, a century ago, which has now developed into a world class institution or Tata Steel which is one of the world's quality steel producers at the lowest cost. The life history of such a great son of India is certainly worth reading. M. S. S. VARADAN | extracts from his published co-

covers more than a decade of real time. In fact, this interesting compilation of his column in the fortnightly Dataquest covers just

Ringside view

Yet, so frenetic is the pace of change in the information technology (IT) business that many significant events tend to be ignored and important personalities forgotten. Natarajan shaped the IT trainer Aptech, as its chief executive officer for a decade, before moving to the Pune-based Zensar Technologies, a direct descendent of one of India's biggest mainframe computer companies, ICL. He remains an active member of industry bodies like the NASS-COM. This provided him a ringside seat from which to observe the great Indian IT "mela" and through judiciously edited

WINDS OF CHANGE: Indian IT- lumns, he shares his highly personal, yet authoritative perceptions of how the industry is moving in this book.

Nuggets of wisdom

A retrospective of Indian IT industry

On republic day, one year, he suggested that the entire Indian industry deserved one of those national awards - for succeeding when the rest of the IT world was reeling under the dotcom crash. At another juncture, he muses that female executives must be facing a "last mile problem" of their own in their journey to the chief executive's seat. He recalls former IT Minister, Pramod Mahajan's quip that Indians excelled at IT and beauty because these were the only two sectors without government involvement. Hence our nice reglobal recognition for IT icons like Azim Premji and Narayana Murthy. He also helps today's tech-whiz kids remember the historic contribution of early pioneers like Tata Consulting

The section on "Techno wisdom" has mostly been overtaken by developments - but there are enough nuggets of personal wisdom to make his backward glance at the IT industry, a rewarding exercise.

Services' F.C. Kohli.

ANAND PARTHASARATHY

• Short stories • Glimpses of a veteran leader Fiction anthology ● Unusual autobiography

TAMIL

IPPADIKKU INDIA: Pa. Pugazhendi; Sri Jambakaa Pathippagam, Old NO. 24, Krishna Street, Pondy Bazaar, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 35.

WITH THIS anthology of 12 short stories Pugazhendi has scored a hat trick having already made the grade with two significant collections earlier. The title story visualises an ideal bank manage-

ment to assess both the qualitative and quantita-

tive work done by each member of the staff with

strict adherence to the rules of discipline as in military service. "Oru Sarivikkuppin" gives the message, loud and clear, that all hate campaigns being carried on by a huge following will come to nought with the pragmatic approach of the rising generation. "Vidiyalukku Appaal" questions the extravagance

of the inauguration of a subway by a minister

with scant regard to the taxpayer's money. A spinster's total involvement in social service is pictured in "Arumbugal". The rest of the storylines are: filial duty; political influence of an alcoholic; rampant corruption; a son's ingratitude; the plight of a grandmother; poignant memory of an ill-fated beauty; the reward for honesty; and a dutiful son who could not fault his beloved mother on what transpired overnight. K.S. Subramanian's foreword reveals the mind of a

P. SUNDARESAN

AAGATTUM PAARKALAAM: Veerapandian; Thoorigai Publication, 28, Fifth Main Road, Kasthuribai Nagar, Adyar, Chennai-600020.

THOUGH BOOKS on Kamaraj and his dispensation in politics and public life with greater focus on his "sterling performance" as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu have flooded book stores in recent times, this volume under review records interesting anecdotes with unquestionable authenticity as the author, a journalist himself, has interviewed those who were not only his contemporaries but also rubbed shoulders with the leader. Some of them are no more. Interestingly, these

books lay greater stress on probity and honesty in Hyderabad-500044. Rs. 100. public life preached and practised by the veteran leader, well supported by interesting anecdotes, probably because the authors were obliged to make a comparative study of the events and happenings in the post-Kamaraj era. Or perhaps, they felt the absence of these qualities in modern day politics.

For instance, the author quotes the former Tamil Nadu Congress Committee president, R. Krishnasamy Naidu that Kamaraj, while in power, distanced himself from his relatives including his mother. When he was informed of his mother's desire to stay with him, Kamaraj had remarked thus, "I also love to keep my mother with me but once she is here, relatives will start coming in the pretext of seeing her and start using the telephone stating that they are speaking from the Chief Minister's residence. This would ultimately wreck the administration. So let my mother continue to live in Virudhunagar and I shall take care of all her needs." Is this not good material for a

comparative study? Another incident narrated by P. Nedumaran relates to Kamaraj's instruction to the police to initiate the required action according to the law, when his sister's grandson was arrested in a dispute. He was sentenced to five-years imprisonment when Kamaraj was the Chief Minister and when he came out on parole at the behest of Nedumaran to attend the funeral of Kamaraj's mother, the leader chided Nedumaran not to do such things as it would only reflect upon him. L.Valliappan who was manager of Satyamurty Bhavan narrates how he took care of the party funds. A few days before his death, Kamaraj insisted that a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs collected from the districts for the organisation should be deposited in the bank without delay. According to Valliappan, Kamaraj was very insistent that it should be done immediately. Probably, the great leader had a premonition about his end.

N. KALYANASUNDARAM **TELUGU**

KATHAVAHINI 2004: Rachana Sai — Compiler; Vahini Book Trust, 1-9-286/3, Vidyanagar,

THIS VOLUME is an anthology of 34 stories. The introductory story "Srikakule-Mahakshetre" (in the sacred land of Srikakulam), Veturi Sundararamamurty depicts cultural crosscurrents of a heritage town in charming neo-classical style.

Vedanidhi of Upadrasta Sai highlights the universality of Vedas. With electronic gadgets reciting mantras, Sambhudu the priest becomes disillusioned. While his other children prosper with modern education, Satyam, the youngest goes out in search of true knowledge. Sambhudu leaves his native place and reaches a famous hermitage near Mahabalipuram.

Choudary who offered his palace for the ashram was overwhelmed when the great saint prostrated before Sambhudu. Vedanidhi (Satyam) explained, "One thought there was no future for Vedic study and the other nourishes the same; both of you discover the divinity of the Vedas.' Jalandhara in her story Veluturu (light) shows how human susceptibilities are exploited by power-seekers. Unable to adjust to the lifestyle of her husband Mitra, a successful politician, Nandini leaves him only to be exploited soon by his opponent Verma.

Learning that Verma was planning to eliminate Mitra she rushes to her husband praying for his pardon and advice. He proclaims, "In this melting pot of politics and parties, profit and loss, ask vourself, 'Who am I?'." An effective message of the Hindu philosophical concept, "Know thyself." Rachana Sai has done a good job of presenting the best of the contemporary stories in a capsule.

P. V. L. N. RAO MALAYALAM

NIZHALUM VELICHAVUM — Autobiography by Baby Haldar: Translation from Hindi by P. Madhavan Pillai; DC Books, DCB Complex, Good Shepherd Street, Kottayam-686001. Rs. 75. THIS IS an unusual autobiography. The original in Bengali was translated into Hindi and then to Malayalam. It is a pathetic autobiography without frills and a reflection of the society. Baby was the daughter of a soldier and lived in places like Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. Fortunately, she

was educated up to the seventh standard.

When they shifted to Durgapur, the mother left them with a brother and the father married twice again. The stepmothers were cruel and the father helpless. Poverty and deprivation made Baby Haldar's life miserable and she was never loved by anyone. At the age of 12, she was married to Shanker

ents were kind. At that young age, she became pregnant and without anyone taking care of her, she had to undergo agonies of the worst kind. Since she was married and with three children, everyone forced her to put up with the sufferings. She decided to educate her children and for

and he also never cared for her, though his par-

that and to eke out a living, she worked hard. Her mother came to see her after 20 years and both

had no feelings for each other. Baby searched for her younger brother and by sheer willpower and despite being spurned by relatives, she resolved to be independent and worked as a domestic maid in the house of Prabodh Kumar, grandson of Munshi Prem Chand, writer and anthropologist. He not only treated her and the children well but also inspired her to write about her experiences. He helped her ir. getting it published and later translated it into

He always enthused her with the story of Ash. Poorna Devi, the renowned writer and compared her notes to the diary of Anne Frank. The book is a touching narration and has the sparks of a potentially brilliant writer.

K. KUNHIKRISHNAN

Announcement

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to The Hindu for review. While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under "New Arrivals", the decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper. Receipt of individual books will not be acknowledged in response to enquiries.

Festival light on F-16 sale, Bush visit

Washington, Nov. 11: The White House was lit up yesterday for Diwali, but the nearly 100 Indian Americans invited for the event used the occasion to get the Bush administration to throw light, instead, on its South Asia policy in the President's second term.

It was not the kind of Di-wali celebration the White House had bargained for.

Unlike last year when the Indian Treaty Room at the White House echoed to chants of Asato ma sadgamaya, Tamaso ma jyotirgamaya (Lead us from untruth to truth, lead us from darkness to light) and the function tamely ended with distribution of Indian sweets, this year Indian Americans threw anxious questions at the White House about its India policy.

It was left to Robert Blackwill, President George W. Bush's coordinator for strategic planning in the National Security Council, to pacify them with an assurance that no decision had been taken at the "lowest or highest level" within the US government on supplying F-16 fighters to Pakistan's air force.

Blackwill was constrained to clarify the issue when Sampat Shivangi, vice-president of the influential Association of American Physicians of Indian Origin, raised the issue as soon as an Indian American White House staffer finished welcoming the invitees.

The staffer, R. Venkaiah, threw the ball at Neil Patel, a senior aide to Vice-President Dick Cheney, but Patel found the question too sensitive for



Blackwill lights a lamp to celebrate Diwali in the White House. (PTI)

There was all-round anxiety about the F-16s and then Blackwill stepped in to clarify the issue. He said General Pervez Musharraf was cooperating with the US in fighting terrorism, especially now, on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border

But he denied rumours about the sale of F-16s, which have been swirling here ever since defence secretary Don-ald Rumsfeld was coy about the issue with a Track-II delegation from India which met

As a familiar sop to the agitated Indian Americans assembled in the Executive Office Auditorium of the Eisenhower Building, a part of the White House complex, Blackwill told them to required applause that Bush would visit India next year.

As a sweetener, Blackwill added that the US was not opposed to India's permanent membership of the UN Security Council and assured the group that India had the potential to be a world power.

Blackwill, who told the group that it was his last day at the White House and the Diwali celebration was his last public event in the administration, however, used the occasion to urge India to import more US goods to offset the bilateral balance of trade now in India's favour.

Blackwill said he had begun his tenure in the Bush administration in India and was ending it at an Indian American function.

Blackwill and Shivangi together lit the lamp and typically Indian sweets and coins with images of Indian goddesses, Laxmi and Saraswati. were distributed.

Indian American Republicans campaigning among their community during the recent US elections had often highlighted Bush's decision last year to celebrate Diwali at the White House for the first time as evidence of his interest in and commitment to India.

Last year's celebration, attended by Karl Rove, the "architect" of Bush's election win, was the result of a meeting between the President and six Indian Americans led by Shivangi in Jackson, Mississippi, on September 12 last

A one-page memorandum handed to Bush by the delegation pointed out, among other things, that while Judeo-Christian and — lately — Islamic festivals were celebrated in the White House, Hindu festivals were ignored.

Bush told Rove on the spot to correct this shortcoming and within a fortnight Shivangi was notified of the first ever Festival of Lights at the presidential abode last year.

12 NOV 2004

THE TELEGRAPH

India should be happy with the Bush presidency at the moment

India and the US polls

American voters have decided and decisively. President Bush will have a second term.
They, and especially middle America, have decided that they like Bush's clarity, simplicity, single-mindedness and lack of intellectual depth and sophistication. They preferred the certainties of his convictions to the complex uncertainties of Kerry.

Many voted against Bush, not because they thought Kerry was right but because they preferred anyone to Bush. This divided American electorate will not quietly revert to ordinary daily lives. They resented the verdict last time. This time they may keep erupting into protest on many divisive presidential deci-

With Republicans in control over both Congress and Senate, the many millions who voted against Bush can express opposition in two ways: take to the streets in protest, and through the media, many of which were against Bush. Every major presidential decision will receive opposition. A country in which people accept election verdicts and get on with their work might, for the first time, witness po-larization on almost every issue. (This is not unfamiliar to us but our political parties, lacking ideological convictions, are always polarized. But they reverse their poles depending on whether they are in or out of

Despite an uncertain mandate in his first term, Bush acted as if he had a clear mandate, not one given to him by a supreme court verdict. Many actions and consequences of the Bush administration decisions drew wide protest. The invasion of Iraq, its poor planning, the deaths of over a thousand American soldiers, the easy dismissal of the need to build cooperation with the rest of the world through the United Nations and the consequent loss of goodwill, the pro-big business and pro-rich policies in relation to the environment, tax rate reductions for the rich, rising deficits as a consequence of tax rate reductions and exploding expenditures, rising un-employment and increasing numbers falling out of health insurance, the loss of personal liberties, the racial and communal profiling the first Bush administration was feared and disliked by many Americans for many reasons

e is almost certain to pursue the same course on issues like support to Ariel Sharon against Palestinian interests, sanctions, boycott and perhaps military action against Iran and North

The author is former directorgeneral, National Council for Applied Economic Research

aril

COMMENTARAO

S.L. RAO

Korea, reducing the status and role of the UN reducing social expendi-tures, further increasing defence expenditures. His actions will lead to continuing high oil prices and a weak American economy with high deficits, a declining dollar, unemployment and rising interest rates. Does any of this matter to India?

Some change on Palestine policy can be expected. The root cause of violent and iihadi Islamic fundamentalism is Israeli actions to make a unified Palestine state impossible. The US might now push (especially with Arafat's going) for a settlement in Pakistan and economic growth. Bush will now control both Congress and Senate. He will soon have to appoint a new chief justice of the supreme court and other judges. He can influence American policy through these appointments for over twenty more years. If he picks obvious conservatives he will polarize the country further. He may also not get the appointments through because he does not have the requisite Senate majority. The chances are therefore that he will pick peo-

ple who are nearer the ideological

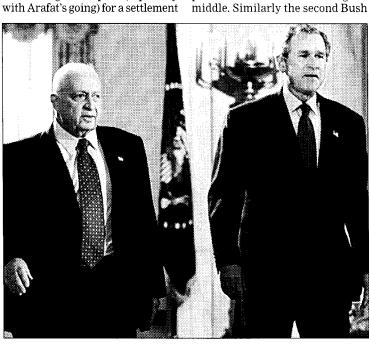
country that Bush might attack in order to disarm its nuclear capability. It might be more an economic attack. Bush may not want an Iranian war so soon. Iran's Islamic ideologues could put their weight behind a global anti-American movement using every possible economic (oil) and military (support to terrorist movements) weapon. Unrest in another major oil-producing country and more unrest in the Islamic world is not in India's interest.

Bush will use every means to improve the US's control over the major oil-producing regions. This is important for American energy security. The invasion of Iraq was a way to gain control over the second largest oil reserves in the world. The effect of this strategy to gain control over major reserves might well be more stable oil and gas supplies and prices. India can only gain from this strategy. If Islamic terrorism is contained by American action, it will also be to our benefit. But the danger is that the shortterm consequences of American action to increase control over global energy supplies will be the opposite: increased instability in these countries, most of which are dictatorships. India could also face the wrath of fundamentalist groups. within and from outside, hitting out at any major non-Islamic country.

ush in a second term will have to act in reducing the deficit. He might do so by reducing expenditures on social security and health, another cause for increasing disaffection in the US. He will encourage the dollar to fall in value. This may be good for India since the economy is now in the investment mode and will need massive imports. We can also expect massive foreign investment. At the lower rupee cost, it will help the Indian consumer because of lower capital costs and hence lower tariffs. The US economy might begin to show growth and increased employment because of the increased government defence expenditures. He is unlikely to be protectionist and India's BPO exports will be unaffected. The American economy will be weaker in the long term. But strong American imports will benefit the world economy. Policies in China and Europe to sustain growth will be the key to India's place in the global economy.

Bush is likely to leave India alone on nuclearization. He will see it as a counterforce to China, a bastion beyond the Arab world and a check on the Pakistani generals.

India should be happy with a Bush presidency for four more years. These are critical years for India's economy and his policies will help us. We must be much more on our guard against terrorism. But the economy and peace with Pak-



Bush has to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict which embitters Muslims everywhere

exploiters of their co-religionists. Pakistan will continue getting American financial and military aid. The pressure on President Musharraf will simultaneously increase. Bush will want more pro-active effort to stop terrorism and catch terrorists. As Musharraf tries

on the lines of the Clinton negotiat-

ed deal with Barak. He has to re-

solve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict

which embitters Muslims every-

where. If not, the terrorist attacks

on Israel will increase. They will ex-

tend to other areas as the Islamic di-

aspora reacts against all perceived

to comply, conflict within Pakistan with elements in the army and Islamic fundamentalist groups will increase. His position is very vulnerable and the Americans also recognize it. If he loses his position, similar pressure can be exerted on his successor. But they would prefer to deal with him than with a new president. His survival is important for India as well because he seems to have understood that a settlement with India is the only way for the pacification of the warring groups

lies who are now mostly hostile. Other divisive issues are getting resolved. Many American states have implemented measures similar to the Kyoto protocol. Stem cell research has been approved of by the Republican-led California. Gay marriage is not a wildly popular issue. On the role of the UN there might be a rethink. While he might continue his opposition to the world criminal court, there might be some face-saving formula on world population control policies that he has opposed in his first administration. He will push for UN restructuring and support a seat for India in the security council.

administration will perforce have to

build bridges with its European al-

Iran is the next major Islamic

China engineer freed, all abductors killed

Major General Shaukat Sultan in Rawalpindi. (Reuters)

Beijing grieves over death

Beijing, Oct. 14 (Reuters): China voiced grief at the death of a Chinese engineer killed today when Pakistani forces stormed a mud hut where he and a colleague were being held hostage by al Qaidalinked militants.

Beijing condemned the kidnapping as terrorist acts.

"We express our deep sympathy and grief over the unfortunate death of a kidnapped Chinese and express our deep condolence with his family," foreign ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue said in a statement on the ministry website (www.fmp-rc.gov.cn).

"The Chinese government strongly condemns this terrorist act of kidnapping Chinese citizens."

Chinese engineers Wang Ende and Wang Peng were working on a dam project in Pakistan for the state-run Chinese firm Sino Hydro Corp. when they were kidnapped in the South Waziristan tribal region on Saturday.

Surveyor Wang Peng had died in the rescue operation, Pakistani security sources said.

Hostage killed in rescue bid

Islamabad, Oct. 14 (Reuters): A Chinese engineer held hostage by al Qaida-linked militants in Pakistan was killed today but his colleague rescued in a commando assault that killed their five kidnappers, officials said.

Chinese engineers Wang Ende and Wang Peng were heading to work on a dam project in the remote South Waziristan tribal region when they were kidnapped on Saturday by Uzbek and Pakistani militants led by a former Guantanamo Bay detainee.

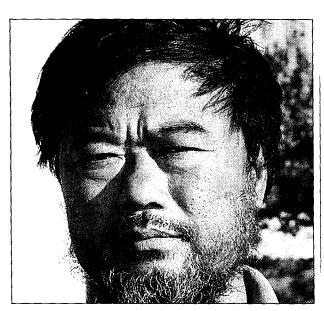
Wang Peng, who had worked as a surveyor on the project, was critically hurt by gunfire from the kidnappers and later died, said Pakistani military spokesperson Major-General Shaukat Sultan. Wang Ende was unharmed. Both men worked for state-run Chinese firm Sino Hydro Corn

The assault was carried out by commandos disguised as a tribal delegation, one of whom was seriously wounded, Pakistani security sources said. It was launched after a shot was heard from the compound where the hostages were held, Sultan said.

"The security forces heard firing from within the compound, which created a fear that the abductors had used violence against the Chinese engineers," he said. "Then immediately the security forces stormed the compound and killed all the five abductors."

Two Pakistanis held with the engineers were freed unharmed, Sultan said.

Pakistani foreign minister Khursheed Mehmood Kasuri said Pakistan shared China's grief and the kidnappers had tried to drive a wedge between



Rescued Chinese engineer Wang Ende in Peshawar. (AFP)

Pakistan and its "closest friend"

China's official Xinhua news agency said Kasuri told ambassador Zhang Chunxiang he felt sorry for the failure of the operation, but Zhang said Pakistan had tried its best. "I want to tell you this will have no effect on our relations."

A traditional ally of Pakistan, supplying it with arms and hundreds of millions of dollars in development finance, Beijing had urged Islamabad to do its utmost to rescue the engineers.

It was the second time this year Chinese workers have come to harm at the hands of militants opposed to Pakistan's role in the US-led war on terror. In May, three technicians working on a port project were killed and nine wounded in a bomb attack in the southern Pakistani city of Gawadar.

The kidnappers were three Uzbeks and two militants from South Waziristan's Mehsud tribe, a Pakistani security source said. They had been holed up with explosives strapped to their bodies in a mud house surrounded by security forces and their tribal allies in the Chagmalai area of South Waziristan.

Officials said the kidnappers had threatened to blow up themselves and their hostages if a rescue attempt was made.

Musharraf powers

Pakistan's lower house of parliament passed a Bill today to allow President Pervez Musharraf to stay on as army chief despite his pledge to give up the job by the end of the year. The Bill called for the President to be allowed to hold two offices to enable the incumbent to continue the fight against terrorism

15 OCT 2004

Jacques Derrida, 1930-2004

One of the most widely published and discussed

philosophers of our time, Derrida, best known for

his theory of deconstruction, was adulated and

denigrated in equal measure.

ACQUES DERRIDA, who died in Paris on Saturday at the age of 74, was the last in a line of dazzling 1960s philosophers in France that included giants such as Louis Althusser, Jacques Lacan, Jean-Paul Sartre, Roland Barthes, Gilles Deu-leuze, Michel Foucault and Pierre Bourdieu. France's intellectual community has been orphaned by his

Although Derrida was suffering from pancreatic cancer and had been admitted to a Parisian hospital three weeks ago awaiting an intestinal operation, sources close to the philosopher said the immediate cause of death was cerebral haemorrhage.

Derrida was one of the most widely published and discussed philosophers of our time, adulated and denigrated in equal measure. His work has been the subject of about a thousand books and dissertations. In the areas of philosophy and literary criticism alone, he has been cited over 14,000 times in academic jour-

nals in the past 15 years.

While Derrida authored over 80 works of a high philosophical order, he was best known for his theory of deconstruction — the re-reading or breaking down of a text to show the multiple meanings at work within harmonic forms of the property of the propert language. Focussing mainly on language, he contends that the tradi-tional or metaphysical reading of a text makes a number of false assumptions - that language is capaof expressing constant and unchanging ideas, that the author of a text is the only source of its meaning and that in the hierarchy of language, writing is secondary to

"His death is indeed a very great, an almost irreparable loss. Derrida was one of the most brilliant minds of the 20th century who made a substantial contribution to classical philosophical thought. But he was also a bridge between the often impenetrable and abstruse world of classical philosophy and the more immediate concerns of humanity, of human-kind," said Olivier Betourne, his publisher at Favard.

"De quoi demain ... " (roughly translated as And What Tomorrow
...) co-authored with psychoanalyst Elizabeth Roudinesco, he addressed questions of such burning immediacy as the death penalty, the relations between humans, animals and nature, new forms of anti-Semitism, and, with the advent of technologically-assisted procreation, the evolution of the institution of the family.

The cornerstone of Derrida's work, however, continued to be the theory

of deconstruction through which he attempted to show that language is constantly shifting and that a text has multiple legitimate interpretations. There could therefore be no absolutes in terms of truth, meaning or permanence. His concept found wide acceptance, particularly in the United States, and was applied to a broad range of subjects, including literary theory, linguistics, anthropol-

ogy, art, music, architecture and political science. This led to a re-reading of texts by Shakespeare or the Greek philosophers, which unravelled hidden biases and contradictions. As a result, Derrida was adulated by feminists, gay activists and other marginalised groups which applied his theories to show up discrimination and racial and sexist biases in accepted texts and ideas.

Derrida himself refused to give a pat definition of deconstruction, saying it had to be arrived at through a deconstructive re-reading of texts. "Deconstruction is to take an idea, an institution or a set of values, and to understand its mechanisms by removing the cement that constitutes one critic's definition.

Derrida's lectures drew overflowing crowds of enthusiastic students and academic colleagues. Always well dressed, with a deeply tanned, handsome face topped by a shock of prematurely white hair, his was a charismatic, even magnetic presence. His lectures were peppered with puns, rhymes and enigmatic statements.

But his writing, deeply influenced by the work of German philosophers Martin Heidegger and Edmund Husserl, as well as by Karl Marx and Sigmund Freud among others, was described by several critics as negative, abstruse, incoherent, nihilistic and destructive. "Many unmalicious people have been hoping for deconstruction's demise — if only to re-lieve themselves of the burden of trying to understand it," one of his critics wrote in The New York Times Magazine. And when the Cambridge University decided to award him an honorary doctorate, protests by a sizeable number of dons led to a vote that Derrida won 336-204.

Born in Algeria in 1930 to Leftist Jewish parents, Derrida attended France's most prestigious intellectual institution, the Ecole Normale Superieur, and then went on to teach at the Harvard University in America and the Sorbonne in Paris. He continued to teach in France and the U.S. throughout his life, becoming a professor at the EHESS or School of Advanced Studies in Social Sciences

Although Derrida was a serious classical thinker, he remained firmly rooted in the French tradition of philosophy combined with political activism, following in the footsteps of Jean-Paul Sartre who inspired the student revolt of May 1968 or Pierre Bourdieu, one of the torchbearers of anti-globalisation movement. His political commitment was resolutely Leftist although he steered clear of party politics. In the 1970s, he became known for taking a public stand against apartheid and the muzzling of intellectual freedom under communism (he was detained by the Czech Government for supporting the Charter of 77).

In the 1980s, he came out in support of voting rights for immigrants, and more recently offered a blistering and corrosive critique of the neo-conservative ideologies emanating from Washington. In his book, The Concept of September 11, Derrida de-constructs the neo-conservative doctrine, Project for a New American Century, expounded in 2000 by hege-monists such as Paul Wolfowitz, Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld and which led directly to the war in Iraq, coming to the conclusion that a philosopher must examine the transitions in global and political institutions and act thereupon. "Philosophy today or the duty of philosophy is to think this in action, by doing something," he said.

Derrida believed that one of the ways forward was through "messianicity without messianism," a coming together of the weak forces of this world without the input of organised religion. He harboured a certain utopian ideal of the weak inheriting the earth through just strife and struggle.

"One of the incarnations of this messianism without religion may be found in the alter-globalisation movements," he said in a recent interview. "Movements that are still

heterogeneous, still somewhat unformed, full of contradictions, but that gather together the weak of the earth, all those who feel crushed by the economic hegemonies, by the liberal market, by sovereignism. I believe it is these weak who will prove to be the strongest in the end and who represent the future."

Once divested of their contradic-ons these "alter-globalisation" tions these movements will march against the hegemonic organisations of the world, Derrida predicted. "Not just the United States, but also the IMF, the G-8, all those organised hegemonies of the rich countries, the strong and powerful countries of which Europe is a part. It is these movements that offer one of the best figures of what I would call messianicity without messianism ... in the shape of peace and justice, a promise inde-pendent of religion, a faith without

Derrida's prestige in the U.S. was damaged through a scandal at Yale University in 1987 when it was revealed that Professor Paul de Man, a leading defender of deconstruction analysis who had died four years ear-lier, had in fact contributed over 150 articles of an anti-Semitic nature in the 1940s to a pro-Nazi newspaper in his native Belgium. Derrida was criticised for standing by his friendship with de Man although he admitted that the late professor's positions during the war smacked of anti-Semitism. Equally damaging was the discovery, also in 1987, that one of his intellectual heroes, German philosopher Martin Heidegger, was a card-carrying member of the Nazi party from 1933 to 1945. Again, Derrida condemned Heidegger's Nazi past but maintained that it in no way reflected upon the validity of his philosophical work.

Derrida's French friends and colleagues bristle at Anglo-Saxon criticism, saying the fascist beliefs of two people he was closely linked with in no way detract from the quality and value of Derrida's own work. Alexander Adler, a well-known French commentator who was at university with Derrida described him "as one of the truly good people I have known."
Says Mr. Betourne: "Derrida gave a

fig for the snobbishness and worldliness that marks Paris intellectual life. He continued to live in a suburban detached house in [the] totally unfashionable area of Ris Orangis. Friendship, hospitality, generosity were the tenets by which he lived. Which is why our loss is so great, for he was not just a great thinker, he was an exceptional human being."

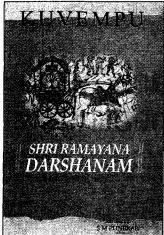
Ramayana retold

DARSHANAM -- by K.V. Puttappa 'Kuvempu': Shankar Mokashi-Punekar - Tr. in English; Sahitya Akademi, Rabindra Bhavan, 35, Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi-110001. Rs. 250.

ABOUT A thousand years ago there was a concerted move to produce a national culture without sacrificing regional variations. The Ramayana and the Mahabharata were rendered into local languages and in the course of the attempt the transcreators enriched their languages with sublime tones. Hence the transcreator's name is as holy to us as Valmiki and Vyasa. Each region reveres its literary benefactor: Kamban (Tamil), Kumara Vyasa (Kannada), Sarala Dasa (Oriya), Bhaskarabhatta Borikar (Marathi) and Krittivasa (Bengal) to name but a few.

Literary resurgence

The 20th Century saw a resurgence in epic creations. The epic tales were used to infuse the punditry-ridden regional languages with a strikingly modern idiom facilitating their entry into global literature. Great writers like Viswanatha Satyanarayana (Ramayana Kalpavrukshamu in Telugu), Maithilisharan Gupta (Saket in Hindi) and Srinivasa Iyengar



(Sitayana in English) have now become legends for retelling the tale of Rama

For Kannada K.V. Puttappa gave Shri Ramayana Darshanam. As with other poets of his stature, Kuvempu as he is known, greatly handles the sublime material. A famous novelist and dramatist, he has absorbed the best in western epics, subsumed the spiritual English epic Savitri by Sri Aurobindo and retained the original glow of Val-

Kannada poetry while transforming certain key passages in the Adikavya.

Translation style

Reading him in Kannada is a rare experience; absorbing his thoughts in Shankar Mokashi Punekar's stately English leads us to a state of exaltation. Ah. the long poem is alive; the ancient myths are relevant still: the English language can convey the Indian experience as clearly as the waters of Saravu in Valmiki's time.

Going through this work slowly (the poem calls for frequent meditation) one comes across many thought-provoking changes. As when Rama begs for Vali's pardon in a long passage:

Admitting irreparable wrong done is the mark Of knight templars: but ha! My mind seething hot Day and night by Sita's severance, dimmed reflectors And fuddled my thought.

I chose devious pathways

To quick finis. To the reader of this work there will never be a lack of such very interesting innovations. When did we ever hear of Rama proceeding to join Sita in the fire in Yuddha Kanda? A scene follows "as if the gateway of supersensuous was thrown open to the sensuous," and Rama is cleansed by the trial by fire.

Divided into four books (Avodhva, Kishkinda, Lanka and Shree), the epic concludes with Rama's coronation described in terms of the glory and grandeur of Mother Nature. The epic opens with Kuvempu's obeisance to world poets including Firdausi and Sri Aurobindo and concludes with the assurance that the rasa-laden poesy of the Ramayana is greater than Rama's incarnation itself.

Style and imagery

As for his own poem, Kuvempu says that he has built a monument to Rama "after the image of Kannada eyes." Nor has he ignored other characters. Even minor characters like Manthara and Anala gain in stature while Kuvempu's sustained animal imagery marks profound depths in understanding the legend.

This important publication by the Sahitya Akademi once again proves that the epic narrative continues to be alive and vibrant in the Indian clime.

Tamil Muslim identity

Orient Longman

BOOK REVIEW

MUSLIM IDENTITY, PRINT **CULTURE AND THE** DRAVIDIAN FACTOR IN TAMIL NADU: J. B. P. More: Orient Longman Pvt. Ltd., 3-6-272, Himayatnagar,

Hyderabad-500029. Rs. 550. THIS BOOK is another important one on Tamil Muslim identity from the author who has earlier brought out a pathbreaking work, Political Evolution of Muslims in Tamil Nadu and Madras, 1930-1947. This time his study pertains to Tamil Muslims in relation to print and Dravidian politics.

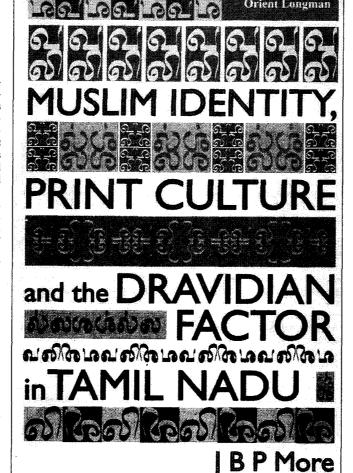
His first book focussed on Muslim politics in Tamil Nadu in the context of colonialism and their response to modernity in the two decades before India's freedom. Here the author recapitulates some of the themes and information but expands upon them in the backdrop of the spread of print in Tamil Nadu and in relation to Tamil identity politics as championed by the Dravidian moveunder E.V.Ramaswamy and Anna.

Islam in Tamil Nadu

The work begins with an extended account of the origins of Islam in Tamil Nadu and points to the differentiation within the Muslim community in terms of language and social background. He also draws attention to the dominance of Urduspeaking Muslims in Tamil politics well into the 1920s.

This historical parrative is followed by two sketchy chapters, one on Muslim literature in Tamil Nadu before the advent of print, which dates back at least to the 16th Century A.D.and another on Tamil Muslim literature after print became available to natives from about the 1830s.

These three chapters are followed by a summary account of global Islamic resistance to print as it was seen to be the handmaiden of Christianity.



Though More's account of dian movement and Tamil questions of orality and literacy in Islamic culture does little justice to extant studies on these issues, his chapter on debates and controversies — pan-Islamic, pan-Indian and local throws much light on the vitality and contentious nature of the world of Islamic culture.

Tamil identity

In the last part More expands on his path-breaking article in Contributions to Indian Sociology a decade ago, and explores the intimate but ambivalent re- DMK well until the mid-1990s. lationship between the Dravi- There is also a 100-page appen-

Muslims. If the Dravidian movement provided the context for Tamil Muslims to assert themselves over Urdu-speaking Muslims and provided Muslims secure place within a larger Tamil identity, the atheism of Periyar and the emphasis on an a-religious secularism bred insecurity in its turn.

Though More takes the story up to the early 1960s his narrative falls short of explaining the strong electoral support provided by the Tamil Muslims to dix where a catalogue, under various heads, of Tamil Muslim works up to 1920 is compiled. Critique

This extremely useful work is not without its faults. While More takes misdirected potshots at Imtiaz Ahmad, Louis Dumont, Susan Bayly and others who have emphasised the indigenous nature of various Indian Muslims communities, he himself is unable to reconcile the specificity of Tamil Muslim culture to the idealised vision of a monolithic and homogenous global Muslim community (Perhaps this is the reason why he expects Tamil Muslims to use lithography even when Tamil movable types were freely available! p.84).

While the author cites a number of Tamil Muslim works, he consistently disappoints by not delving into the texts them-The chronological selves. framework is also problematic because while the narrative part goes up to the 1960s, the catalogue itself stops at 1920.

For a book concerned with print culture, there is scarcely any mention of structures of print and publishing in Tamil Nadu, not to mention the complete silence about the surfeit of books published during the Khilafat movement which drew the surveillance of the colonial state to the Muslim literati. Also More does not see Tamil Muslim politics and literary culture in relation to the other religious communities.

However, all this is not to detract from the work that breaks new ground and is likely to trigger and enrich further studies on all the three themes mentioned in the title of the book.

Works such as these are likely to clear stereotypes about religious communities and foster better understanding among

A. R. VENKATACHALAPATHY

Astrology and matrimony

several different meanings. Your criticism of someone or something indicates your disapproval of the person or his action. A criticism can be einegative meaning. The main stress is on the first syllable. Here is an example.



KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

What is the meaning and origin of the expression "running from pillar to post"? (D. Srinivasan, Judgment of something — . Kaludaikurichi)

What is it that usually happens when you want to get some work done in a government office? You ask a clerk something and he grumpily tells you that you have to go to some other department; when you go there, you are told you are in the wrong place. You are constantly given the runaround. When you run from pillar to post, you are constantly on the move; you are made to go from one place to another, but you don't achieve anything at all. There is a lot of aimless running around. The idiom carries with it the sense of being harassed. The expression has been around for several centuries, and when it entered the language it was "from post to pillar".

*The students were made to run from pillar to post for their

mark sheet. According to some scholars, the expression comes from the world of court tennis — a game that I understand is very different from the game of lawn tennis that is played today. Another theory is that the expression refers to a form of punishment that was meted out to criminals. In the old days, criminals were first tied to a "post" in the marketplace and whipped. After that they were dragged to a pillory ("pillar"). This was essentially a wooden frame that had three holes in it. The prisoner was made to put his head and his two hands through the holes, and made to stand or kneel for days together. The public had fun throwing rotten vegeta-

victim. What is the difference between "criticism" and "cri-

bles and eggs at the hapless

tique"? (C. Sephr, Ernakulam) The word "criticism" has

*As far as I am concerned

The word can also be used to mean an evaluation or judgment of something novel, painting and film. In this case, you are giving your considered opinion of a work of art; you are highlighting its

good and bad qualities. The second syllable of "critique" rhymes with the words "peak", "beak", and "leak". It is this syllable which has the main stress. When you critique something what you are doing is giving in writing your judgment of something - it could be someone's work. You are highlighting the good and bad qualities of a piece of work. According to some people, "critique" is a high sounding word for "criticism".

*The article was a critique of my neighbour's latest novel. What is the meaning of "pushing the envelope"? (A Rajeev, Hyderabad)

This is an expression which first began to be used in the 1940s by the U.S. Air Force test pilots. When a pilot "pushes the envelope" he takes the plane beyond the recommended safety limits prescribed. He pushes the plane to the limits in order to determine what exactly the plane can do. The expression became popular thanks to a book by Tom Wolfe titled The Right Stuff. Nowadays, the expression is used in everyday contexts to mean, "going beyond the limits" and "to stretch the boundaries".

*The new company is beginning to push the envelope

in the world of technology.

How is the word "spinach" pronounced? (Mazumdar Navya, Guntur)

The first syllable sounds like the word "spin", while the "ach" that follows is pro-nounced like the "idge" in "fridge", "bridge" and "porridge". The main stress is on the first syllable. Spinach, as you know, is the leafy vegetable that the cartoon character Popeye eats whenever he wants to become strong. The character was created in order ther verbal or written; the to make spinach popular word always carries with it a among children in America.

> "Cheer up. The worst is yet to Mark Twain S. UPENDRAN

books with particular reference the ways of determining the to the do's and don'ts relating to matching factors through the

Success in life: Pandit Kaliyur Naravanan: Vazhkai Publishers. G-1, New No.13 (Old No.8 and 9), Nana Street, T. Nagar,

PATH TO PROSPERITY —

IT IS known that only some parents are very serious in scrutithoroughly PREMA NANDAKUMAR | compatibility factors in birth

Chennai-600017. Rs. 300.

charts while clinching marriage ious to match the horoscopes of alliances for their wards while prospective grooms and brides. others do it in a perfunctory manner. astrologers.

authored astrological "kuta" agreements has come as provision of tables. a boon to harried parents anx-

The book under review is one such publication with the Publication now and then of learned author explaining in a very simple and lucid manner

This ready reckoner is handy

so briefly outlined on the signif-Vastu sastra, icance of numerology, physiognomy, chakra system of fortune reading, fortune telling through cowrie shells and the pendulum method that seeks to lend a cosmic helping hand.

for reference. The author has al-

R. PARTHASARATHY

OPEN PAGE

Smoke. don't inhale

T F THE modalities of expression of public outrage over the Stephanie hitand-run case is any indicator, Indian nouveau riche society has been badly bitten by the 'smoke but don't inhale' bug. The Stephanie case [she was run over by a car driven by four youths, allegedly drunk] is but a microcosm of a crisis of identity that is looming, menacingly, over young metropolitan India.

It is interesting to note that the primary defence offered by the accused was that the victim was an 'acquaintance.' The implicit assertion here is the rather austere statement that good girls do not hang out with acquaintances at late hours of the night.

The existence of this puritanical streak is further supported by the evidence that, over the week following the incident, certain newspapers reported Stephanie as having been a 'night-club' dancer. We are confronted here with two puritanical presumptions. One, being a night-club dancer is a questionable profession. Two, it is less of a crime when it is a woman perceived as being 'easy.'

The question now is, given that bourgeois India finds the concept of open sexuality abhorrent, why is it that the metro yuppies insist on flaunting their liberated sexual mores so very insistently? Popular teenage perception, consistently reinforced by mainstream Bollywood, has raised, among other things, alcohol consumption and eve-teasing to the status of mandatory rites of passage to that exacting Holy Grail of 'coolness.

The trouble is that the archetypal urban dwelling 20-something metropolite derives his outlook upon life not from the reality of Indian society but from the unadulterated poppycock of MTV. Concomitant with the economic liberalisation of the early 90s, India witnessed a massive burst in the somnolent entertainment industry. Studio after studio, with little or no talent aboard, jumped on the cable telecasting bandwagon and to stay alive in the market, religiously adopted the trends of the U.S. industry ad libitum.

Unfortunately for us, while the American industry has moved on from its fixation with bubble-gum pop and while American society is in the process of moving on from its experiment with liberal sexuality, the Indian nouveau riche is caught in a cleft stick. When all the hoopla raised about pub-hopping and live-in relationships, etc., finally began to garner metro mainstream acceptance, they found that their American idols had moved on.

In a culture as hysterical and volatile as ours, there is little scope for rational demarches. Once the slide to decadence, euphemistically denominated 'emancipation from ossified medieval mindsets. had commenced, there was little the yuppies could do about it than to learn to like

And that is why, while farmers in the Andhra heartland starve and their crops wilt for lack of water, the booze flows without fail in the pubs of Hyderabad That is why, while a 21-year-old girl is chased at midnight and dies on the streets of Chennai, in all probability, a Tollywood film unit is recording a similar stunt for the hero to pull off not so very far away. Of course, in reel life, the hero can hold his drink like a man, drive like a maniac and still impress the adoring muse who, coyly, accepts his proposal for

marriage, cohabitation, sex, etc. If the above statement appears abstract, readers are invited to recall a certain Bajaj Pulsar ad, first telecast last year, where the hero commandeers his elder brother's bike and drives about town 'hitting on the chicks.' The protagonist's disc brakes allow him to spare the life of a rabbit that happens to blunder in his way. Stephanie, alas! She was not so lucky.

How can our youngsters be blamed if we, through the mindless commercialism of our entertainment industry, present them such ambiguous social messages? Where does machismo end and idiocy begin? Where does seduction end and molestation commence? For today's generation, these ethical boundaries are becoming increasingly fuzzy.

A dangerous dichotomy

In our zeal to ape occidental values, we have omitted to consider the fact that, such as they are, these values have evolved indigenously in a social milieu very different from ours. Our efforts to superimpose American ideologies on our own have resulted in the creation of a dangerous dichotomy between our societal archetypes and our ethical values. In simpler terms, society today wants to

smoke, but is not ready to inhale. It is the task of the media to mould the objectives of the entertainment industry to conform to our collective vision as a nation. To replace films about prostitutes and homo-sexuality with crude, unimaginative indigenous icons, as the government persists in doing, is to further propagate the myth of Western

superiority. A plant, in the absence of artificial splints, will grow to assume its natural sĥape. Likewise, gradual censorship of the MTV culture is likely to result in the maturation of metropolitan young India as a strong, vibrant social entity, in conformance with our cultural ethos.

NISHEETH SRIVASTAVA

Kill me once, not everyday!

T HAVE finally emerged a believ- than-perfect er in the female status of being unabated. 上 regarded as a "goddess" 🗕 of grooms-to-be and their families some of the most outstanding, exbeautiful, sharp featured, conventeducated, professionally qualified. preferably (which might mean definitely) working, cultured, homely, pleasant personality, and so on.

Whew! Only a goddess could possess all the above qualities and hence is proved my theory of exercise of finding the right match. Indians treating their women as no less than 'Divinity Personified.' How else would someone explain lessly about female foeticide and you about the misery that substithe ever-increasing innovation of infanticide — condemning it, de- tutes the gift of her life, mainly for adjectives used to sketch out the manding measures to reduce its in- two reasons — one, some crimes 'bride-to-be.' Can a human pos- cidence and supporting action are indescribable and too many to sess this wide array of qualities? against doctors and persons in- be counted; and second, you al-And so the search for the more-

But what is strange is the fact

which is so very much adhered to that even the worst of their lot, in our country. After all, thousands namely the molesters and rapists, don't put forward so many condilift women to the top by outlining tions while selecting their victims - they go about their jobs with the pected characteristics in matrimo- same vigour and enthusiasm, nial ads: very fair (or the aesthetic seemingly unperturbed by the facts sounding 'very gori'), extremely of whether their "chosen ones" are young or old, ugly or beautiful, dark or fair, traditionally-clad or outrageously under-clad! Imagine the fairness and equity practised by such "so-called" criminals - maybe bride-seekers should learn a lesson or two from the former in their

> I am also very touched by the nobility of people who talk end-

at or looking down upon their female colleagues in office, may be harassing the women in their family for dowry, may be regarding as useless the education of their daughters, etc.

But then...wait a second. So, is not female foeticide and infanticide a much more feeble crime than what harassment and torture women might be put through for the rest of their lives? Is not deprivation, illiteracy, domestic violence, molestation or rape more heinous a crime?

Those of you who are still unconvinced, just ask the person around the next corner who bears the stigma of being "the unwanted child." She need not speak to tell dulging in the same; while at other ready are aware of such miseries to

bride continues times, such people may be leering hear about them again since this mains a problem. One seems to be kind of 'unwanted species' is found everywhere — irrespective of class, caste or region.

Simple logic

Can anyone dare to imagine the trauma of a mother who deliberately writes death in the fate of her daughter — unborn or newborn so that the latter does not have to go through the myriad tortures of life that her mother went through? It's simple logic — why let your daughter suffer everyday in a family that detests her and in a society that is eagerly waiting to exploit her in every possible manner. Why not let her die an easier death at the earliest to save her from the daily killing of her desires, needs, dreams, ambitions, freedom and physical sanctity?

You may disagree, saying, "but this does not happen everywhere!" Yet my point is just that as long as this does happen somewhere, it re-

The second very important mis-

moving to a gender-liberalised scenario slowly, however this is still restricted to an exclusive minority. What is required, therefore, is not merely a ban on female foeticide and infanticide or gender-detection tests; but more so a ban on our negativity towards the girl child, the prohibition of discrimination against her in family life, the prevention of attacks on her self-esteem and her desire to progress. Or else nothing would free her from the clutches of everyday death, even if we save her from being a

victim of foeticide or infanticide. And yet, if we still cling on to this loathsome attitude and mindset. and we still decide to kill her in some or the other way throughout her life, then let us at least drop the façade of sensitivity and concern, and choose the least painful option where you kill the girl just once, rather than everyday.

• PRIYA MATHUR

Cooperatives at crossroads

of completing a century of its preswork, which is considered the world's largest. More than five lakh individual cooperative organisations and over 25 crore members make it numerically the largest movement in the world. A paid up capital base of more than 50,000 crore rupees, presence in practically all walks of life and covering almost all villages of the country, makes it economically and socially the most significant set of organi-

But then, the problems too are plenty. The general perception is that the cooperative sector is weak and inactive. Barring exceptions, the sector seems to be ill equipped to face the challenge of neo-liberal thrust. Even after a hundred years, most cooperatives are dependant on government patronage both for eratives would make us infer that their business and capital requirements. The future does not look bright if some structural changes are not effected to rejuvenate the sector and the movement as a

whole. There are two very important vices that we have inherited and two essential values we have failed to inculcate, which have marred the 'cooperative character' in our becoming politicians. In fact it

THE INDIAN cooperative sec-setting. The first of the vices is the would be a welcome development. tor is celebrating its centen- bureaucratisation and government But the other way round, which is officially brought the cooperatives movement. ence, this sector has built up a net- to India, they introduced the omnipotent Registrar, a position specially created by the government in rights with it and not to allow the cooperative sector to blossom as a people's movement.

The government of free India, cooperatives, not only retained this a long hierarchy of bureaucratic power centres. In fact, a government directed cooperative moveagainst the "logic of cooperative movement.'

The second vice, which we developed by ourselves, is the politicisation of cooperative leadership. One look at those who sit on the boards of a large majority of coopmost of them are primarily politicians and cooperators by default. They are in cooperatives either because they want to move up in the have temporarily failed to make headway in that route (cooperatives as rehabilitation centres). There is no harm in cooperators

Essential values

Our cooperative sector has order to have the final controlling clearly failed to inculcate two of the very essential cooperative values. The first is that of self-help. Selfhelp was envisaged as a basic tenet of cooperatives. Both Robert Owen while championing the cause of and Charles Fourier had seen cooperation as a process of creatkey position but also further added ing 'self-help communities.' In its very genesis the movement was opposed to Market and State, since both had failed to protect the inment is in itself a contradiction and terest of the common man. Both are, in that sense, forces which the

cooperators resist. Drawing support from such sources is essentially a modern day political compromise, and it would be against the cooperative ideology. We need to understand that governments both in centrally planned economies and free market domains were too eager and willing to provide financial and other support to cooperatives and political hierarchy (cooperatives as the sector fell prey to this temptabreeding grounds) or because they tion. A cooperative endeavour should necessarily depend on its own resources, energy and time, however small it could turn out to be. Its growth and expansion

should be evolutionary.

L ary this year. In the process control. When the colonial rulers the practice today, would kill the ity. Cooperatives by their very nature are inward looking organithe member community unlike the outward looking organisations such as the corporate which 'sells to any one so long as there is profit.' The focus of all activities of cooperatives should have been

> administration is to be carried out through member participation. Indian cooperatives generally do not stick to this value. It is increasingly felt that the pressures of globalisation will have to be addressed to a large extent through self-help initiatives. The

members. Business activities are to

be developed based on member

needs, policies are to be designed

according to member views and

talk of social capital as an input for development and self help groups as instruments of development is everywhere. This reinforces the need for cooperative endeavours. There is a definite credibility crisis for the cooperative sector. The process of withdrawal of the state from certain service areas should have in the ordinary course opened up the doors for cooperativisation

instead of privatisation. But no one

believes that the cooperative sector

is competent enough to accept this

Unless the sector moves away sing value is the member central- from the clutches of government control and comes out with norms for restraining politicians from sations. They are meant to serve making use of the sector as a ladder for their personal benefits, the movement is sure to slip down further. It is inevitable that a good number of our cooperative enterprises will disappear in the coming vears, since they are not strong enough to stand the trial of time.

However, inculcating the values of self-help and member centrality can give rise to cooperatives, which are not just 'enterprises' but instruments of creating 'cooperative communities.' The cooperative ideology is indeed too precious and realistic to discard. Hard introspection and commitment to further the cause is needed during the centenary celebrations.

• YASHAVANTHA DONGRE

Announcement

Contributions to the Open Page will be considered for publication only if they are in electronic form and emailed. The length of the article should not exceed 800 words. It may be addressed to the Open Page desk at openpage@thehindu.co.in

BOOK REVIEW





 A Screen from Sadness: Sitakant Mahapatra; Current Books, Round West, Kottayam-686001.

Rs. 75.

Networks in a Flash — Making Broadband Work for You: Hrair Aldermeshian, Thomas B. London, Unistar Books Pvt. Ltd., SCO 26-27, Sector 34 A, Chan-

SCO 26-27, Sector 34 A, Chandigarh-160022. Rs. 250.

Triumph Over Hepatitis C:
Lloyd Wright, Unistar Books Pvt.
Ltd., SCO 26-27, Sector 34 A,
Chandigarh-160022. Rs. 225.

Radio Advertising — A Guide
to Creating, Voicing & Producing
Great Radio Commercials: Alan
Bazzman, Unistar, Books, Put.

Barzman, Unistar Books Pvt. Ltd., SCO 26-27, Sector 34 A,

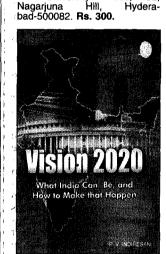
Chandigarh-160022. Rs. 140.
Sorrows of the Suppressed:
Balwant Singh; Ambedkar Mission Publication, A-215, Puana Avas Vikas Colony, Saharan-pur-247001. Rs. 380.

Customer Satisfaction and Complaining Behaviour: H. C. Purohit; Rs. 195.

The Bodo Movement and Women Participation: Sucheta Sen Chaudhuri, Rs. 350.

 Student Support Services And Open Learning: Rampelli Satyanarayana; Rs. 650. The above three books pub. by Mittal Publications, A-110, Mohan Garden, New Delhi-110059.

 Vision 2020 — What India Can Vision 2020 -- What India Can Be, and How to Make that Happen: P.V. Indiresan; Pub. by IC-FAI University Press, 52, Nagarjuna Hill, Hydera-



How To File Your Own Income Tax Return With Due Attention & Care: Shiv N. Majumdar, Celerity Consultants, A6, Nityanand CHS, Uthalsar, Thane (W), Mumbai-400601. **Rs. 95**.

• Venus and its Transits: S. P. Venus and its Iransits: S. P. Pandya, J. N. Desai, S. R. Shah, Vigyan Prasar, C-24, Qutab Institutional Area, New Del-hi-110016. Rs. 45.

Geology, Environment and Society: K. S. Valdiya, Universi-ties Press (India) Pvt. Ltd., 3-6-752, Himayatnagar, Hydera-bad-500029. Rs. 310. • Government & Politics in Co-

Ionial Bihar 1921-1937: Jawaid Alam, Mittal Publications, A-110, Mohan Garden, hi-110059. **Rs. 595.** New Del-Indian Muslims — Where Have

They Gone Wrong?: Rafiq Za-karia; Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Kulapati K. M. Munshi Marg, Mumbai-400007. Rs. 495.

Social and Cultural History of

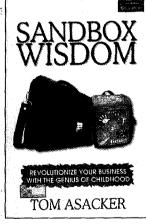
• Social and Cultural History of the Punjab — Prehistoric, An-clent And Early Medieval: J.S. Grewal; Rs. 465. • Buddhism, Diplomacy and Trade — The Realignment of Si-no-Inciden Relations, 600-1400:

Tensen Sen; Rs. 750.

Nuclear Risk Reduction Measures and Restraint Regime in South Asia: Zafar Nawaz Jas-

pal; Rs. 240.
Text and Context in the History, Literature and Religion of Orissa: Angelika Malinar, Johannes Beltz — Editors; Rs. 1150. The above four books pub. by Manohar Publishers & Distributors, 4753/23, Ansari Road, Da-

ryaganj, New Delhi-110002. Sandbox Wisdom — Revolutionalize Your Business with the Genius of Childhood: Tom Asacker; Pub. by Pearson Education (Singapore) Pte. Ltd., Indian Branch, 482, F.I.E Patparganj, Delhi-110092.



Who Cares for Tribal Development: Naresh Kumar Vaid; Rs.

The Mao Naga Tribe of Manipur — A Demographic Anthro-pological Study: Lorho Mary Maheo; Rs. 295.

Environmental Perception of Slum Dwellers: B. Hema, Sha-

gufta Jamal; Rs. 295. Gandhi and The Moral Life: Bindu Puri: Rs. 395.

Human Resource Development for Industrial Workers -With Special Reference to Tea Industries: Bishnu Prasad Sahu: Rs. 350.

The Hungry Millions — The Modern World at the Edge of Famine: Naunihal Singh; Rs. 795. The above six books pub. by Mittal Publications, A-110, Garden, Delhi-110059.

Communication Skills for Engineers: Sunita Mishra, C. Muralikrishna; Pearson Education (Singapore) Pvt. Ltd., Indian Branch, 182, FIE Patparganj,

The Good Country — Individuals, Situation and Society in Saurashtra: Harald Tambs-Lyche:

Manohar Publishers & Distributors, 4753/23, Ansari Road, Daryaganj New Delhi-110002. Rs. 795. Essentials of Environmental Studies: Kurian Joseph, R. Nagendran; Pearson Education (Singapore) Pvt. Ltd., Indian Branch, 482, FIE Patparganj,

Branch, 482, Delhi-110092. Delhi-110092.

The Secret to Conquering
FEAR: Mike Hernacki, Magna
Publishing Co. Ltd., distributed
by Alpha Land Books (P) Ltd.,
14, Jagannathan Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai-600034.
Rs. 175.

Lokmanya Tilak as Education-al Thinker: Chitra Naik — Editor; Indian Institute of Education, J.P. Naik Path, 128/2, Kothrud, Pune-411038. **Rs. 250.**

Hune-411038. Rs. 250.
How to Win With High Self-Esteem: Mack R. Douglas; Magna Publishing Co., Ltd., distributed by Alpha Land Books (P) Ltd., 14, Jagannathan Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai-600034.

Tamil

Sundara Kandam: V.T. Rama-subramaniam; Thirumagal Ni-layam, New Old No. 16, Old No. 55, Venkatanarayana Road, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 36. Kundrimani: Balakumaran; Rs.

60.

Nillungal Rajavae: Sujatha; Rs. 6961: Sujatha; Rs. 52.

24 Rupai Theevu: Sujatha; Rs.

24 Rupai Tneevu: Sujatna; Rs. 56.
Siru Siru Kathalgal — A Collection of Short Stories: Sujatha; Rs. 42. The above books pub. by Visa Publications, New No. 16, Old No. 55, Venkatanarayana Road, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017.
This podenals: Direct Salve nai-600017.

Thiraipadangalai Direct Selya Neengalum Katru Kollalam: P.C. Ganesan; Thirumagal Nilayam, New Old No. 16, Old No. 55, Venkatanarayana Road, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 55.

Maanbumigu Ulavuthurai: V. Ramanathan; Tamil Puthaka-layam, C-3/8 (15) Masilamani Street, Pondy Bazaar, T. Nagar,

Chennai-600017. Rs. 60.
Tamilaga Sivaalayangal — 308: V.T. Ramasubramaniam; Thirumagal Nilayam, New Old No. 16, Old No. 55, Venkatan-arayana Road, T. Nagar, Chennai-17. Rs. 100.
Thiru Vi Kavin Sor Pozhivugal:

V. Kalyanasundaranar; Mullai Nilyam, 9, Bharathi Nagar First Street, T. Nagar, Chen-nai-600017. **Rs. 20.**

nai-600017. HS. 20.

Thiruvarutpa Thean Part I —
III: V.T. Ramasubramaniam; Thirumagal Nilyam, New Old No.
16, Old No. 55, Venkatanarayana Road, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 615.

nai-600017. Rs. 615.

Kunangudi Masthan Saheeb Padaigai: M. Vadivelu Mudaliar, Mullai Nilayam, 9, Bharathi Nagar First Street, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 130.

Napoleon: M. Sivalingam; Shanti Publications, 27, Anna Salai, Chenai-600002. Rs. 125.

Vetri Enn Kaigaille: V. Natarajan; Sura Books (Pvt) Ltd., 1620 'J' Block, 16th Main Road, Anna Nagar, Chennai-600040. Rs. 60.

Vazha Kattrukkol – 2 (Swami Jagdathamanandhar): Kalyani Venkataraman — Tr. in Tamil;

Jagdathamanandhar): Kalyani Venkataraman — Tr. in Tamil; Sri Ramakrishna Mutt, R. K. Mutt Road, Mylapore, nai-600004. Rs. 100. Chen-

nai-600004. Rs. 100.

Ethaiyellaam Nambalama?: S. Kathiresan, Suguna Kathiresan; Sura Books (Pvt) Ltd., 1620 'J' Blcok, 16th Main Road, Anna Nagar, Chennai-600040. Rs. 30.

Indiya Penmanigal – 2 (Pictorial): Swami V. Moorthanthar; Sri Ramakrishna Mutt, R. K. Mutt Road, Mylapore, Chennai-600004 Rs. 25

Road, Mylapore, nai-600004. Rs. 25. Tamizhagam -- Pudhuvai Varalarum Pannbadum: S. Thillaivanam; Sivasakthi vanam; Sivasakth Pathippagam, 4, Pandian Street

Shanthi Nagar, Lawspet, Pondi-cherry-605008. Rs. 140. Sadhani Nayagan Sachin Ten-dulkar: T.V. Subbu; Sri Hindu Publications, 40, Pinjala Subramaniam Street, (Usman Road), P.B. No. 1040, T. Nagar, Chen-

Sindhanai Selvam: Anbupayam Nee; Valamburi Pathippagam, 7, 5th Main Road, Gomathipuram, Thiruninravur-602024. Rs. 30.

• Modelling Ulagam: R. S. Bala-

Modelini diagain. A. S. Baia-kumar; Rs. 32.
 Sirippu Varudu... Sirippu Va-rudu: R. Rangaswami; Rs. 36.
 Andha Kiramathin Kadhai: A.

R. Mariappan; Rs. 80.
Indha Thandanai Pothum: D. Kameswari; Rs. 70. The above four books pub. by Mani-megalai Prasuram, 7, Thanika-chalam Salai, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017.

Telugu

Cini Pithamahudu Phalkay — Biography of Dada Saheb Phalkey: H Ramesh Babu; K. Vi-jayalaxmi Yedula (Post), Gopal-pet (S.O.) Pin-509206, pet (S.O.) Pin-509206, Mahaboobnagar District. **Rs. 65.**

Nadopasanalo Namaparaya-na: Gotety Gowri Saraswati, D. Vidyeswari; Visalandhra Book House, 4-1-435, Vignan Bhavan, bad-500001. **Rs. 60.**

Veda Vignanam: Vedantam Lakshmi Prasada Rao; Saatvic Books-1, VL Prasada Rao, 320, Reserve Bank Colony, Vijayana-gar Colony, Hyderabad-57. Colony, gar C **Rs. 75**.

Dootya Saahityam: Vallivedu Vidyalatha; Visalandhra Publishing House, 4-1-435, Vignan Bhavan, Bank Street, Hyderabad-500001. Rs. 200.

Malayalam

Arogya Samrakshanam: C.L. Venkata Rao; Rs. 90. Balajanangalude Neethi Kath-akal: Rajesh Kavassery; Rs. 45.

 Jeevitha Vijayathinum Marganirddesangalkkum Penduka-vum Pyramidum: P.C. Ganesh; Rs. 40. The above three books pub. by Sura Books (Pvt.) Ltd., 1620 'J' Block, 16th Main Road, Anna Nagar, Chennai-600040.

Competition in the network age

THE FUTURE OF **COMPETITION** — Co-Creating **Unique Value with Customers:** C.K. Prahalad and Venkat Ramaswamy; Harvard Business School Press, Penguin Books India Pvt. Ltd., 11, Community Centre, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi-110017. Rs. 495.

THIS BOOK graphically depicts how the consumer role has changed from isolated to connected, from unaware to informed, from passive to active. Consumers now seek to exercise their influence in every part of the business system, interact with firms and co-create value. It talks of how the industrial system is evolving and how it will change the way competition will be in future.

The authors challenge the fundamental assumptions about value itself, value creation process and the nature of relationship between the firm and the consumer.

The volume reveals unprecedented opportunities for value creation and innovation and presents new lenses and contrasts them with the old set to recognise and capitalise these prospects. Co-creation model is presented through the process of DART (Dialogue, Access, Risk Assessment and Transparency).

Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC), whose online system gives customers complete visibility of the manufacturing process for their products while supplying them with

Case studies

mation supporting their design names. Customers can access TSMC engineering and supply chain information, its advanced technologies and processes technology road maps, product planning support, yield analysis, monitoring of process reliability data and more.

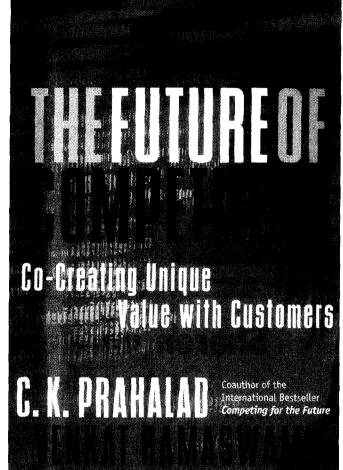
Yet another example given in "experience innovation" in cocreating value is TVS Electronics in the retail field about which it states, "As TVS developed the e-shop environment around a granular understanding of Indian retailing, it essentially expanded the experience space for the retail grocer. 'It has given me a new life', says Mariappan, a shopkeeper who participated in the process of innovating this new retail experience environment.'

Building an experience network with customers helps managers to compete on experiences. The John Deere example has been given, the century-old maker of farm machinery, which is experimenting with Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and bio-sensors.

Deere is making the farmer's life easier and more productive by providing access to vital information through an interactive system. The system connects farmers with similar problems, creating a thematic An example given of building community, increasing their blocks of co-creation is Taiwan collective expertise and spreading best practices freely and autonomously. The entire process is farmer-centric.

Innovations

a full array of up-to-date infor- guide business leaders in their trates this concept.



search for new strategic capital and in this process utilise consumers as a source of compe-

The example of Lego Mindstorms in engaging consumers The book's objective is to in the innovation process illus-

Mindstorm users have developed entire software development environments such as NQC ("Not quite C"), as well as customs versions of popular computer languages including PERL and JAVA.

Coupled with new robotic ex-

George L. Bernstein

periments by consumers, these advances have expanded the possibilities of Mindstorms enormously.

Rapid knowledge creation has been explained through seven layers of knowledge environment — training and development — build the skill base; information sharing — knowing best practices within the firm; using information — extracting contextual knowledge; leveraging sources of competence ease of access, visibility and dialogue; mobilising action teams - creating new initiatives; facilitating discovery — incorporating diverse insights; and co-creating value — creating best practices.

Decentralisation

The emerging framework for governance has been identified as hinging on new protocols of access to highly decentralised innovations and capacity to learn and flexibly reconfigure resources and accessing to competence and rapid knowledge creation.

The book is an invitation to think differently and behave differently as business leaders and also as consumers, employees, investors and global citizens rebalancing the relative influence of the individual and the large institution. It will be very useful to both

the academics in management studies as well as practitioners, as it contains numerous examples to illustrate the concepts. which is the real strength of the

M. S. S. VARADAN

Desika's hymn

GOPALA VIMSATI — With Word Meaning, Sanskrit and Manipravala Commentaries, Tamil and English Explanations by V. N. Vedantadesikan: Pub. by Srimad Andavan Poundarikapuram Swamy Ashramam, 43-A/13, Ashram Salai, Srirangam-620006.

Rs. 50. THIS BOOK is one of the 29 hymns of Vedanta Desika, the greatest poet-philosopher of the Srivaishnava tradition. It is in praise of Lord Krishna in 21 beautiful verses. Desika in his own style has mixed the religious and philosophical ideas in his hymns which would be rather difficult to understand without commentary.

There are several commentaries by many authors in various languages and in different scripts. Making all the commentaries available at one place with an English translation to a modern reader is the icing on the cake. V. N. Vedantadesikan has undertaken the task of compiling all the available commentaries on Vedanta Desika's Stotras with an English commentary.

The present work, Gopala Vimsati, is the second in this series, after Desika's Bhagavad Dhyanasopana. Parallels and comparisons are drawn from the Vedas and the Puranas in the commentary. For instance in the commentary on verse 13, the Bhagavata Purana is quoted and on the next. a verse from Desika's play "Sankalpa Survodaya" is quoted.

The author has given the philosophical concepts in a lucid language so that it is easy for beginners to follow. For this he deserves praise. This will be an asset for connoisseurs of literature in general and also for tradi-

S. PADMANABHAN

Britain's power status — exploding a myth

THE MYTH OF DECLINE -The Rise of Britain Since 1945: George L. Bernstein; Pimlico, London. Distributed by Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002.

YES, IT is true as Dean Acheson, Truman's Secretary of State, so succinctly phrased it, Britain has famously lost an Empire and still not found a role; true, the decline in British manufacturing is undeniable; there are still parts of Britain that are rundown and unbelievably shoddy for an industrialised economy; social mobility, while not rigid, is not very fluid either; and oh yes, the "special relationship" that Britain claims with America has had many — not to mention the three million who marched in London last year hoping to immoral plans to invade Iraq wondering if Britain has a for- social and moral standards in its eign policy independent of the litany of decline.

hyper-power. Ambiguity of decline

Yet, George Bernstein argues

there can be no denying that Britain today is a rich and vibrant society due to socio-political changes that took place over the years following the Second World War. Perplexed that he is by the

talk of decline even when it flies in the face of facts, Bernstein attributes it to the vested interest of the Left and the Right in harping on such decline. The Left resented the pene- the rest of the empire did not trative influence of capitalism really contribute to British powand Americanication and the of

fect they had on the native cul-

ture: the theme of decline was a convenient stick. The Right, on the other hand, used its suspicion of big government, opposition to an expansive welfare state, the advent of persuade Tony Blair to abandon moral relativism and the associated dissolution of traditional

'Erroneous premise'

Britain's power was rooted in a that claims that Britain is in de-cline are grossly exaggerated. Is worldwide empire. It was a problematic asset, and holding Britain has been able to make he right? Of course, he is. He on to the Empire was, in fact, a its weight felt in world affairs not endorse a full-fledged com- the country are truly multi-cul-

may be Panglossian at times but drain on Britain's exchequer: it was becoming impossible to de-

It was an erroneous assump-

tion that the Empire was the

cornerstone of Britain's power and with its fall started the de-Even before the First World War, the dominions were virtually independent; apart from India which had an army that helped Britain during the War,

er The image of prestige c oured the reality that it was hurting Britain economically to hang on to its Empire. However, post-1945 with competitors such as Germany and Japan weakened, Britain's leaders did dream of achieving a

standing - America and the Soviet Union. To be fair, they quickly got out of the self-delusion after de-

nower status on a near parity

with the remaining powers

It is open to debate whether fence spending became untenkey to this.

SINCE 1945

HE RISE OF BRITAIN

only in the capacity of a junior partner of the U.S. **Cross-cultural influences**

Bernstein rightly points out that Europe is the way forward if Britain wished to assume its full influence on the world stage; a common European stance on key foreign policy issues was the

Most Britons, however, will

would impinge on their sover-There was no escaping the influence of the U.S. outside the political sphere as well, be it in the youth culture, mass culture or women's liberation. Yet, these movements, while they incorporated American influen-

of these influences. Besides, it has not been all ma and fashion have received a warm welcome across the At-

Redefining identity

Elitism and the stratified society that it engendered in 1945 has been challenged, largely successfully; class, gender or race hierarchies still exist but have been weakened, and the changes are what make Britain

the open society that it is today. Class is less a source of identity than it was 50 years ago. Immigrants have enriched British society and significant parts of

mitment to Europe as this tural. Despite race relations appearing tenuous at times and despite the rabble-rousing efforts of right-wing parties such as the British National Party and some tabloids to whip up antiimmigrant hysteria, Britain has accepted and embraced its multi-cultural, multi-racial status. What better pointer than "tikka ces, developed independently masala" now being the national dish of Britain!

The Myth of Decline is a detailed history book and like all mon language and culture that maintain an objective account. Bernstein, though, cannot help express quiet sympathy for Thatcher's pet theme - individual self-reliance.

He feels that changes that she insisted on — cutting back on the role of the state for one were unavoidable but he admits that her reforms also left "a legacy of poverty and pathetic

public services. Though there are times when it appears the author has lost sight of the wood for the trees, one has to agree with him that there is more going right for Bri-

tain than wrong. ANANDHI SUBRAMANIAN

Biography of Bharati Existential questions Satirical essays Indian art and culture

TAMIL

BHARATIAR CHARITHTHIRAM: Chellammal Bharati; Amudasurabhi, A-7, Second Avenue,

Annanagar East, Chennai-600102. Rs. 60. AMUDASURABHI IS privileged to republish the celebrated Chellammal's biography of Bharati after a few amendments by their granddaughter S. Vijaya Bharati to make it more reader-friendly. Rétaining the basic structure, some significant improvements have been effected like the renovation of a sacred shrine.

The introduction of both the prologue and the epilogue assumes the grandeur of a flagstaff. Above all, the life-like cover portraits would inspire one to pay homage to the illustrious memory of the Bharatis. It becomes obvious how Bharati was at the crest of a wave of patriotism. Chellammal inter-

laces historical events with her own memories of

her ennobling husband. Her work has a timeless

quality. There is enough to steep oneself in Indi-

To mention some salient points: Thangammal Bharati's pivotal role in assisting her mother to write her father's biography; the compelling reasons for Chellammal's venture; the love-songs of bridegroom Bharati addressed to the bride Chellammal; the supposed inspiration of Bharati's Panchali Sabatham; how Bharati won over his aunt's husband Krishna Sivan who hated him for his unorthodox habits in Benares; with all his fascination for Tamil, he was something of a polyglot; a pat on his back for his command of the

English language; Bharati as a bibliophile; how

his excellent relationship with the Ettayapuram

Maharajah went sour; his dress sense; why Sister

Nivedita chided him and how he refused to be

dictated by anyone. It also describes Bharati as a journalist; his concern for the Harijans; how Muslims rallied round him for his eloquent exposition of the Holy Quran; his experiences in Pondicherry; how the Aurobindo devotees from France exhibited their love for Bharati; police harassment; his forgiving the levels of divinity and so would encourage the nature; his eccentricities; when and where he spirit of inquiry in each one of them. Effort and

broke into specific songs; a friendly and informal behaviour patterns are juxtaposed, the teaching person who gatecrashed at a Tiruvananthapuram moving towards the development in goodness in wedding just to bless the married couple; the li- one and all. on-hearted Bharati before the king of the jungle in a zoo and his last days in Chennai.

The bonds of affection between husband and fresh approach to metaphysics and rituals. wife as reflected in this classic biography stem from a high ideal and that respect and friendship provide a solid foundation for marriage.

P. SUNDARESAN TELUGU

MRUTYORMA AMRUTAMGAMAYA: Sri Sarvari; Pub. by Master Yogashram, Plot No. 80. Yogalaya, Krishna Enclave, MD Farm Road.

Tirumalgiri, Secunderabad-500015, Rs. 60. THIS BOOK has a well-meaning and high-sounding philosophical precept for its title which means "Lead us from death to that state of immortality" and slowly unveils the possibility of such an endeavour. Death has a meaning within the frame of life, but once the higher laws of nature are understood, the mysteries of life and death dissolve into oneness

The locale the writer has selected for his narration is an ashram of a Guru who teaches more by example. He helps the disciples come to their own understanding of life, the riddles of life such as death, Self-realisation and enlightenment. The Guru has all sorts of disciples with him and teaches them without imposing his ideas or attempting to influence them by his thoughts. Matters like the inner worlds of being, the gra-

dation of subtler worlds, concept of celestial beings and their relationship with humanity, the very existence of God in form and Godhead are discussed lucidly and radically. The casual style adopted helps for a gradual understanding by the readers. Sufficient light is thrown on the distinctive characteristics of body, mind, life and consciousness.

A relative approach between the terms "Atma" and God is achieved. The teacher makes it clear to his inner circle that he had sufficiently touched

The need for books of this tone and tenor is great now Whenpeople are turning towards a

N. C. RAMANUJACHARY KANNADA

HEEGONDU TOP PRAYANA — A Collection of Light Essays: Irappa M. Kambali; Charvaka Prakashan, D-154, J.B. Nagar, Bangalore-560075.

THE BOOK is a collection of essays. The satire is subtle but striking. The author is able to find humour in any situation. Having completed a long and hazardous journey sitting on the top of a bus - he could have done the trip within an hour had he chosen a different bus — he finds that such

travel is quite common. And finally when he says that travel on top of a bus is not allowed in Bangalore the others reacted, "How can it be called a bus which does not allow travelling on the top," such travellers on a bus are like deck passengers in a ship! On canines, the author has written several interesting

incidents Chambu's intonation often causes embarrassment and one woman took exception to his pronouncing the name Hubballi as "Ubballi" and thought he was making reference to her protruding front teeth. It happened at the bus stand as the bus bound for Hubli arrived. The very headings of the essays "Baralide khoja rajya," "Kesaribath purana" and "Masalege hoda maana" will

kindle the readers interest. "Undi Kaddavaru" is about two teenage boys who collected the discarded sweets which had been thrown into a dustbin by a marriage party. The cardboard boxes containing the sweets had been pushed under a seat in the Dharwad-Hubli bus. When the jolting caused a partial opening of the box the fragrance of the sweets resulted in their free distribution among the passengers. At the destination one boy rushed to retrieve the boxes which he found almost empty. Had the

passengers come to know from where the sweets

had come from they would have felt peeved. Besides an appreciative foreward by Jayanta

Kaikini excerpts of comments on the other works of the author are also given. K. SUNDAR RAJAN

HINDI BHARTIYA KALA AUR SANSKRITI: Bhagawati Lal Rajpurohit; Shivalik Prakashan, 27/16,

Shaktinagar, New Delhi-110007. Rs. 695. THIS BOOK gives an in-depth study on the rich Indian art and culture. The author has chalked out the influence of western architecture and culture in shaping and influencing Indian culture.

It is broadly divided into three parts. The first outlines the origin of arts and its various forms including the ancient ones covering specific details on the monuments and sculptures from different periods of history. It also gives the influences of arts, monuments and architecture from other cultures and religions. The second part in 30 chapters deals with envi-

ronment especially with respect to Nature such as the Earth, sun, moon, earthquakes, mountains, cyclones, forest and caves. He has highlighted the rich archaeological background of Madhya Pradesh and addresses the ecosystems

of the environment. The third part is about our culture which includes a picturesque description of the unique

MADHU DHAWAN

Announcement

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to The Hindu for review. While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under "New Arrivthe decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper. Receipt of individual books will not be acknowledged in response to enquiries.

Norwegian, American win Nobel prize for economics

JAN STRUPCZEWSKI & STEPHEN BROWN

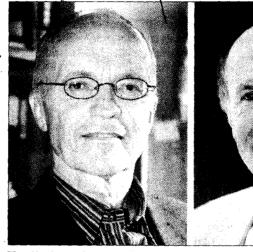
STOCKHOLM, OCTOBER 11

VINN Kydland of Norway and Edward Prescott of the United States won the Nobel economics prize on Monday for research that laid the groundwork for more independent central banks and explained business cycles.

"Their work has not only transformed economic research, but has also profoundly influenced the practice of economic policy in general, and monetary policy in particular," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in its citation.

"It is the greatest possible accolade. There is no doubt about that," Kydland, who teaches at Carnegie Mellon University and the University of California, told NTB news agency in Norway, where he is lecturing. Kydland, 60, shares the 10 million Swedish crown (\$1.36million) prize with Prescott, 63, who works at Arizona State University and the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s the two men transformed analysis which, with its focus on changes in demand like investment and household consumption, had been unable to explain the widespread phenomenon of "stagflation" -combination of high inflation with no growth and high unemployment. Their 1977 article on the "Time Consistency Problem" showed that policy makers tend to



Finn Kydland of Norway (left) and Edward Prescott of the US have won the prize for research that laid the groundwork for more independent central banks and explained business cycles. Reuters

abandon longer-term aims to milk shorter-term benefits ---- for example, setting out to keep prices stable, but then fomenting inflation to reduce debt.

This helped shift the focus of policy-making to independent and credible institutions, laying the groundwork for the creation of the European Central Bank, said John Hassler at Stockholm University.

"We have seen a move toward more independent central banks with various forms of inflation targets. This reform movement we think is a direct implication of the kind of research in Kydland and Prescott's first article," said Prof. Torsten Persson, chairman of the prize committee.

In 1982 the pair created a model

showing that supply-side shocks — - such as technological advances - are a driving force behind the business cycle rather than variations in demand alone.

"Whereas earlier research had emphasized macroeconomic shocks on the demand side of the economy, Kydland and Prescott demonstrated that shocks on the supply side may have far-reaching effects," said the Academy.

The economics award was not among the original prizes —— for chemistry, physics, literature, medicine and peace — -founded by Alfred Nobel, inventor of dynamite, in his will in 1895. It was instituted by Sweden's central bank in 1968 and first awarded the following year.

Deconstructing Derrida after death French Philosopher's Theory Became Code Word For Discourse

By Jonathan Kandell

acques Derrida, the Algerian-born, French intellectual who died on Friday, was known as the father of deconstruction, the method of inquiry that asserted that all writing was full of confusion and contradiction, and that the author's intent could not overcome the inherent contradictions of language itself, robbing texts— whether literature, history or philosophy— of truthfulness, absolute meaning and permanence. The concept was applied to the whole gamut of arts and social sciences, including linguistics, anthropology, political science, even architecture.

While he had a huge following larger in the United States than in Europe -- he was the target of as much anger as admiration. For many Americans, in particular, he was the personification of a French school of thinking they felt was undermining many of the traditional standards of classical education, and one they often associated with divisive political causes.



Derridaspeak: "Thinking is what we already know that we have not yet begun¹

Literary critics broke texts into isolated passages and phrases to find hidden meanings. Advocates of feminism, gay rights, and Third-World causes embraced the method as an instrument to reveal the prejudices and inconsistencies of Plato, Aristotle, Shakespeare, Freud and other "dead white male" icons of Western culture. Architects and designers could claim

to take a "deconstructionist" proach to buildings by abandoning traditional symmetry and creating zigzaggy, sometimes disquieting zigzaggy, sometimes disquieting spaces. The filmmaker Woody Allen titled one of his movies "Deconstructing Harry", to suggest that his protagonist could best be understood by breaking down and analysing his neurotic contradictions.

Toward the end of the 20th century, deconstruction became a code word of intellectual discourse, much as existentialism and structuralism— two other fashionable, slippery philosophies that also emerged from France after World War II— had been before it. Derrida and his followers were unwill-- some say unable—to define deconstruction with any precision, so it has remained misunderstood, or interpreted in endlessly contradictory ways.

Derrida peppered his lectures with puns, rhymes and enigmatic pro-nouncements, like, "Thinking is what we already know that we have not yet

THE TIMES OF INDIA

10 OCT 2004

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2004

TRADING IN TROPHIES

TO PROMOTE THE hunting of wildlife for trophies might appear to be reactionary in an era of 'enlightened conservation but two African nations have successfully proposed to do just that. This happened, of all places, at the Convention on In-'ternational Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) meeting that is on in Bangkok. South Africa and Namibia persuaded the convention to lift the ban on hunting the black rhinoceros and allow sale of the trophies under a quota system. The two countries permit the hunting of leopards and have sought higher export quotas for this big cat. These proposals and a request from Namibia to sell ivory are among 50 items on the agenda at this year's CITES conclave. While Japan's attempt to get the ban on trade in Minke whales lifted has been criticised by naturalists, measures to protect African lions fully and to regulate trade in the great white sharks, the Irrawady dolphins, and Ramin timber trees have received widespread support.

The CITES framework, which is implemented by 166 countries and signatory parties, works in tandem with other global agreements on conservation. It prohibits commercial trade in endangered animals and plants listed in Appendix I, allowing their transfer only under very special circumstances, and protects flora and fauna listed in other appendices. Progressive conservation decisions in the past led to the restoration of highly endangered species such as the black rhino and countries like Namibia now seek a relaxation of trade restrictions contending that there are sufficient numbers to resume hunting for trophies. It is a paradox that countries seeking permission to export hunting trophies try to justify it as an economic measure to raise funds for local communities who would then have a stake in survival of wildlife. But there is a real danger that any move to relax curbs on commercial trade in endangered species will give a fresh impetus to poaching; it can create new demand for animal products such

as rhino horn. Controlling people-animal conflicts and enabling the economic uplift of deprived sections of the population are genuine concerns of policymakers. However, poor enforcement of laws has meant unchecked deforestation, poaching, and illegal trade in several countries. Given such a background, it is no surprise that the debate on the proposals for trophy exports is sharply polarised. Conservation activists think the logic is deeply flawed: local communities do not benefit much from trade in game, and trophy hunting turns the clock back on decades of effort committed to protecting biodiversity.

Tough as they may seem, laws and conventions to regulate trade in wildlife depend on the competence and willingness of countries to enforce them. The CITES management authorities in India have, on several occasions, been found to be less than equipped to certify genuine programmes for captive breeding of Appendix I species. Advances in science such as DNA testing make it possible to track the import and export of specimens in Appendix I and attest captive breeding. The objectives of CITES are implemented in the country by an institutional mechanism that is involved in managing domestic wildlife. Yet the various wings have often been unable to decide on requests for certification and exchange of farmbred specimens, including non-native species, because they lack access and, in some cases, exposure to modern assessment methods. The CITES deliberations and the IUCN-World Conservation Union Conference, which will be held in November, provide an opportunity for India to take stock of its performance in these areas and institute forward-looking measures. A stronger inter-governmental enforcement regime in Asia is among the goals of CITES. India, which is rich in biological diversity, needs to get better prepared to play its

THE HINDU 11 OCT 2004

M Derrida, exponent of enigmatic thought

By Jonathan Kandell

who died on Friay, was one of the difficult philosophers of the late Algerian-born French intellectual PARIS, OCT. 10. Jacques Derrida, the most celebrated and notoriously 20th century.

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The French philosopher, Jacques Derrida, at his home in Ris-Orangis, south of Parls in this January 6, 2004, file picture. — AFP

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es Gramophone: Hear Say Yes in nent examples — could be off-putda and his followers were unwilling construction with any precision, so tory ways. Derrida was a prolific " "The Postcard: From Socrates Joyce," to mention a few promi-War II — had been before it. Derriit has remained misunderstood, or writer, but his 40-plus books on different aspects of deconstruction were no more easily accessible. Even their titles — "Of Grammatol-— some say unable — to define deinterpreted in endlessly contradicto Freud and Beyond," and "Ulyss-

damaged by a 1987 scandal involving Paul de Man, a Yale University Derrida's credibility was also ting to the uninitiated.

professor who was the most acclaimed exponent of deconstruc-

Semitic articles to a newspaper in Belgium, where he was born, while it was under German occupation during World War II. In defending Four years after de Man's death uted numerous pro-Nazi, antihis dead colleague, Derrida, a Jew it was revealed that he had contrib was understood by some to be condoning de Man's anti-Semitism. tion in the United States.

A devoted following

and 1980s, Derrida's writings and lectures gained him a huge following in major American universities in the end, he proved far more influential in the United States than in France. Derrida also became far Nonetheless, during the 1970s more accessible to the media.

plied, frostily, to Dinitia Smith, a He sat still for photos and gave interviews that stripped away his life. Late in his career, Derrida was ematician about difficulty?" he reasked, as he had been so often, formerly mysterious aura to reveal the mundane details of his personal don't you ask a physicist or a math what deconstruction was. Times reporter, in 1998.

construction, Derrida said: "It is "Deconstruction requires work, If deconstruction is so obscure, tures in the thousands? They feel stand more." Asked later in the impossible to respond. I can only do something which will leave me unsatisfied." — New York Times they understand enough to undersame interview to at least define dewhy are the audiences in my lec-News Service

THE HINDU

I POCT 2004

Jacques Derrida passes away 🙌



PARIS, Oct. 9.—
One of the bestknown philosophers, Jacques
Derrida, revered
as the founder of
the deconstructionist school, has
died at the age of
74, his entourage
said today.
Derrida, who had
been diagnosed
with pancreatic
cancer in 2003,

died in a Paris hospital last night. His prolific writings, criticised by some as obscure and nihilist, argue that there are multiple meanings in literature — and also in fields such as art, music, architecture — not necessarily intended or even understood by the creator of the work. "To 'deconstruct' is to take an idea, institution or value and understand its mechanisms by removing the cement that makes it up," one critic has said.

Born in Algeria in 1930, Derrida went to France's celebrated Ecole Normale Superieur in 1952, then became an assistant professor at Harvard in the USA and the Sorbonne in Paris. Throughout his life he taught in both countries. Among the influences on his thought was the German philosopher Martin Heidegger and the psychoanlayst Sigmund Freud. He was not always appreciated by fellow academics. When Britain's Cambridge University planned to award him an honorary degree in 1992, many staff protested and his writings were denounced as "absurd doctrines that deny the distinction between reality and fiction". In the end his degree was approved by 336 votes to 204. — AFP

THE STATESMAN

10 OCT 2004

Kenyan green activist gets Nobel Peace Prize

ALISTER DOYLE
OSLO, OCTOBER 8 1

KENYAN environmentalist Wangari Maathai became the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for aiding the continent's poor with a campaign to plant millions of trees to slow down deforestation.

"Peace on Earth depends on our ability to secure our living environment," the head of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, Ole Danbolt Mjoes, said in announcing the winner. Mjoes praised her "contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace."

racy and peace."

"Maathai stands at the front of the fight to promote ecologically viable social, economic and cultural development in Kenya and in Africa,"

Mjoes said.

Maathai won the prize, worth 10 million Swedish

Wangari Maathai is the 12th woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. The first woman peace laureate was Austrian Bertha Sophie Felicita von Suttner, Honorary President of the Permanent International Peace Bureau, in 1905

crowns, from a record field of 194 candidates. Maathai is founder of the Kenya-based Green Belt Movement, comprised mainly of women, which says it has planted about 30 million trees across Africa. Born in 1940, Maathai says that tree plantings slow desertification, preserve forest habitats for wildlife and provide a source of fuel, building materials and food for future generations to help combat poverty.

"I am absolutely overwhelmed," she told Norway's NRK television after confirmation of the award. "This is the biggest surprise in my entire life. When we plant new trees we plant the seeds of peace."

Maathai is the first African woman to win the peace prize and the 12th woman peace laureate since the first award was made in 1901. The 2003 prize also went to a woman, Iranian human rights lawyer Shirin Ebadi.

The prize was a surprise. The United Nation's International Atomic Energy Agency and its head, Mohamed El-Baradei, had been widely tipped to win.

—Reuters

INDIAN EXPRESS 9 OCT 2001



ুর্নুসাহিত্যে^{জ্}নোবেলজয়ী এলফ্রিডে য়েলিনেক

স্টকহোলম, ৭ অক্টোবর: সাহিতে এ বছরের নোবেল পেলেন অস্ট্রিয়া विष्ठिष्ठ लिथिका এनखिरा खिनत्व। ১৯৬৭ সালে এकी कविका সংকলন मिरा সাহিত্যে জগতে পা রেখেছিলেন এলফ্রিডে তার পরে অসংখ্য নাটক ও উপন্যানে গত তিন দশকে তিনি তাঁর স্বাতম্ব প্রমাণ করেছেন। কিন্তু সাফল্যে: সঙ্গেই দানা বেঁখেছে বিতর্ক যুদ্ধবিধ্বস্ত ইউরোপে ১৯৪৬ সাতে জন্ম হয়েছিল এলফ্রিডের। নাৎি জমানার উত্তরপর্বে জন্মালে এলফ্রিডের শৈশবে তার রেশ থেনে গিয়েছিল। তাঁর লেখার উপজীব বেশির ভাগই রাজনৈতিক। নিগ্রহে আবহে উঠে এসেছে নারীর যৌনত তার যন্ত্রণার কথাও। আর সমাজে এই আপাতবিরোধিতা ও অবদম নিয়ে বাদ-প্রতিবাদেই ঋদ্ধ হয়ে উঠে তাঁর লেখনী। সৃইডিশ অ্যাকাডেমি উল্লেখ করেছে সে কথাই।

১৮ টি ভাষায় অনুদিত হয়ে এলফ্রিডের লেখা। 'উইমেন আ লাভার্স' দিয়ে উপন্যাসের জগতে গ রেখেছিলেন এলফ্রিডে। ১৯৭৫ সাত প্রকাশিত এই উপন্যাস ইংরেজি অনুদিত হয়েছিল ১৯৯০ সালে ২০০১ সালে মাইকেল शानिः এলফ্রিডের আত্মজীবনীমূলক উপন্যা: 'দ্য পিয়ানো টিচার' (১৯৮৮, মৃষ সংস্করণ ১৯৮৩) निष्य ছবি করেছিলেন। খুব স্বাভাবিক ভাবেই ে ছবি খুশি করতে পারেনি গোঁড় সমালোচকদের। 'পর্নোগ্রাফি'র তক্য পেয়েছিল ছবিটি। যেমন সমালোচি হয়েছে তাঁর উপন্যাস 'লাস (১৯৮৯)। কারণ, যৌনতার কোন **मिक्टे अनक्षिए अन्ह्य त्रास्थ**ननि (**উপन্য!** উপন্যাসে। তাঁর 'ওয়াভারফুল, ওয়াভারফুল টাইমস'-(১৯৯৪, মূল সংস্করণ ১৯৮০) ছি নাৎসি জমানার উত্তরকথন। ড নিয়েও জলঘোলা হয়েছিল বিস্তর।

গত আট বছরে য়েলিনেকই
সাহিত্যে নোবেলজয়ী প্রথম মহিলা।
আর সাহিত্যের ইতিহাসে নোবেলজয়ী
মহিলাদের মধ্যে তিনি দশম। প্রথম
মহিলা হিসেবে ফ্রানংস কাফকা
পুরস্কারও শীঘ্রই পাচ্ছেন তিনি। এ
মাসের ২৮ তারিখ প্রাণে তিনি ওই
পুরস্কার নেবেন। ১০ ডিসেম্বর
স্টকহোলমে সুইডেনের রাজার হাত
থেকে নেবেন সাহিত্যে সর্বকালের
ক্রেষ্ঠ পুরস্কার। মানপত্র, স্বর্ণপদক এবং
দশ লক্ষ ডলার।

MILLAN JA. A.S.

Scent of a Nobel

Stockholm, Oct. 4 (Reuters): US scientists Richard Axel and Linda Buck won the 2004 Nobel prize for medicine or physiology today for work on genes that control the sense of smell — explaining how we recall months later the scent of a lilac.

The two found a gene pool which contains the blueprint for receptors or sensors in the nose that identify odours. They published their fundamental study in 1991.

"The sense of smell long remained the most enigmatic of our senses. The basic principles for recognising and remembering about 10,000 different odours were not understood," said the Nobel Assembly of Stockholm's Karolinska university hospital, in its citation for the 10 million crown (\$1.38 million) award. "Until Axel and Buck's studies the sense of smell was a mystery," said Prof. Sten Grillner of the Karolinska's panel.

The two described a large family of 1,000 different genes,



Linda Buck

three per cent of the total in the human body, that give rise to an equivalent number of sensors in the nose that identify smells, known as "olfactory receptor types".

These sensors sit on cells in the back part of the nose and are responsible for identifying smells. Each receptor cell has only one type of odorant receptor, which can detect a limited number of types of The receptor cells then send signals back to the parts of the brain responsible for smell. "Therefore, we can consciously experience the smell of a lilac flower in the spring and recall this olfactory memory at other times," the citation added.

The award said Colombia University professor Axel, 58, and 57-year-old Buck, of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre in Seattle, had clarified the olfactory system from the molecular level to the organisation of the cells.

The award, given since 1901, is formally called the prize for medicine or physiology—the study of living organisms. Hans Jornvall, secretary of the Nobel Committee at the Karolinska, said that in this sense the award was a "true physiology prize for humanity, something we use every day".

Fellow Karolinska expert Prof. Tomas Olsson said their discoveries had led to no medical breakthroughs.

THE TELEGRAPH

5 OCT 2004

In defence of the child

THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN INDIA - From Welfare to Rights: Ved Kumari; with a foreword by Upendra Baxi, Oxford University Press, YMCA Library Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001.

THE JUVENILE justice system in India is an offshoot of the criminal justice system. As a result of this its approach towards children has always been marked by the tension between the protective approach of juvenile justice and the traditional approach of dealing with crime.

Children caught in the system are often helpless with very little redressal. A rights based perspective, which by its very definition would involve an obligation on the part of the state, is often missing in the approach. Protection of such children is not seen as a right but as charity or welfare.

Crucial issues

This book addresses a range of issues critical to the juvenile justice system in India. The author starts by profiling juveniles and the available data relating to the patterns of juvenile delinquency in India and the categories of children included within the scope of the juvenile justice

She critically examines the definition of child by listing seven legislations which have difhighlighting the fact that there is no one universal definition of cussed in detail. child in India. She then moves on to focus on the historical de- the Juvenile Justice (Care and

period. Armed with an impressive array of data she skilfully traces the history of many of the bills and includes in her work the profile and gender of the debaters and the content of the debates in Parliament. She observes that juvenile justice is not on the agenda of any politi-cal party. While individual members of various parties have shown deep understanding of the problems faced by children in India, they have not organised either their objections or themselves against the present policy or the manner of its implementation.

Existing laws

The Juvenile Justice Act was enacted in 1986. In the 1980s journalist Sheela Barse's tireless campaign to free children detained in prisons across the country led to a public interest litigation in the Supreme Court. The apex court took upon itself to evaluate the implementation of the Act.

The author examines the extensive data generated by various orders of the court to highlight the levels of awareness, attitudes and responses of different categories of persons participating in its implementation. Other issues such as conflicting judgments of various courts relating to the determination of an age of a juvenile, problems faced by magistrates who are in charge of its implementation have also been dis-

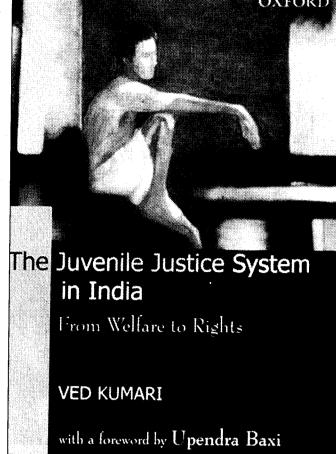
The author is highly critical of velopment of laws from the co- Protection) Act (JJ (C&P) Act

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HUMAN

RIGHTS

GLOBALIZATION



its implementation. Badly drafted, it has left activists and enforcing authorities extremely confused about its scope and ex-

The author points out that the Bill introduced by the then Min-discussions is a telling commen-

2000. The Act by its very nature ister for State for Social Justice has caused a lot of problems in and Empowerment, Maneka Gandhi was discussed only for a period of two hours in the Lok Sabha and then for an hour in the Rajya Sabha. It was not referred to a select committee.

The author's narration of the

tary on the way this Bill was implemented as law. Former Chief Justice of India, Ranganath Mishra who was a Rajya Sabha member pointed out 40 mistakes in the Bill and critically observed, " Madam, this house is entitled to a mistake free draft

BOOK REVIEW

The response of the minister was that they should not quibble over small things like "a"s and "the"s and grammatical errors and that they would be sorted out to avoid loopholes. No such care however was taken and the Bill is now law with all the loop-

The most shocking instance of this Bill according to the author is that it has completely omitted fair trial process for juvenile children, which was part of the Beijing Principles on which the Bill was supposed to be based.

Under the normative structure of the juvenile justice system of India, the author concludes that the JJ(C&P) Act has too many anomalies to ensure smooth operation under its existing provisions. She, however, offers suggestions for effec-

tive implementations. Leading agents of the legal system do not have adequate awareness about the conditions of children, their plight and their needs. Activists working in the area of child's rights do not have adequate knowledge of the law and the ways of the justice sys-

The book has an interdisciplinary approach to the issue and would be useful to all actors in the juvenile justice system.

GEETA RAMASESHAN

Rhythm in Carnatic music

KORVAIS MADE EASY: M. N. Hariharan; Pub. by the author, 108, Ponnambalam Salai, K. K. Nagar, Chennai-600078. Rs. 150.

IN ANY form of music, aesthetics and rhythm are the most essential ngredients and in Carnatic music both don stellar roles. "Shruti matha layam pitha" is a well known maxim. Ît is basically true that appreciation for melody is much more than for laya, perhaps due to general lack of awareness of the intricacies of laya. Melody enters smoothly through the ear and goes straight to the heart, but the mind is the target for rhythm and that happens only when there is understanding of the various aspects of lava.

This book written by a percusionist will help musicians and percussionists to compose "Korvais" (finishing solfa sequences) in different "Nadais" (rate of movement between each count) according to the "tala" and "eduppu" of the Sahitya. By referring to the book, the performer can easily gauge the "Alavu" of the "Korvai" to be played and then compose one accordingly. The artiste is helped to conceive "Korvais" in any "Nadai" each of the three times that are mandato-

ry to complete a whole segment. "Korvais" in 343 combinations in all the "Nadais" are given which provide a wide range for the artiste to select from. The procedure to find the exact measurement of "Korvais" is simple, enabling both the senior and the learner to employ the method. Details about how to use the book given in Tamil and English and explanations for the rhythmic terms are lucid and easy to com-

prehend. SULOCHANA PATTABHI RAMAN

PERFECT **KNOW YOUR ENGLISH**

This is an idiom that has been around for several centuries, and contrary to what many people believe, it is not of American origin. When you say that something is "in apple pie order", what you mean is that it is in perfect order. Everything has been neatly organised; things are in their

proper place.
*Bala puts his desk in apple pie order every evening.

According to many scholars the idiom is a corruption of the French "nappe plie" meaning "folded linen". But the popular story doing the rounds is that the expression became popular thanks to a Colonial (that's what Americans were called before they got their independence) wife who lived in New England.

The story goes that this lady was in the habit of baking seven apple pies every Sunday one pie for every day of the coming week. Once the pies had been baked and cooled, she would then proceed to place them on different shelves. The pie that was to be eaten on Monday was placed on the first shelf, the one to be eaten on Tuesday on the shelf next to it, and so on and so forth. The story goes that this lady was so meticulous that she made sure that all the pies were lined up just right. Hence the expression, "apple pie order". Interesting story, isn't it?

But then, that's all it is, a story. Is it ok to say "but then"? (Subodh Kumar Mishra, New

Yes, it is. We use it all the time in speech and in informal styles of writing. It has the same meaning as "but". For example, when we say, "Tendulkar is a gifted batsman, but then, so is Dravid", what we mean is that both Dravid and Tendulkar are gifted batsmen. Tendulkar is a gifted batsman, but so is Dravid.

Here is another example. "I would like to help you, but then my wife wouldn't like it." What you mean here is that you would like to help the individual, but you are not in a position to because your wife

What is the meaning and origin of "in apple pie order"? (S. N. Viswanathan, wouldn't like it. Maybe, she will get angry — and no husband wants to make his "better half" angry!

> What does "sine die" mean? (K. Manujula, Bangalore)

First, let's deal with the pronunciation. The "i" in "sine" is like the "y" in "my", "by", and "sky", while the following "e" is like the "i" in "pit", "kit", and "bit". The "i" in "die" is pronounced like the "i" in sine". The following "e" is like the "ee" in "bee", "see", and "fee". The main stress is on the first syllable of "die". This is one of the ways of pronouncing the word. "Sine die" is normally used in legal contexts and it means indefinitely, "without a date being fixed".

*The meeting was adjourned sine die.

What's the difference between a "militant" and a "terrorist"? (S. Ravisankar. Chennai)

Dictionaries define a terrorist as someone who uses terror to achieve his end. The individual resorts to violence in order to get what he wants; he uses violence in order to make a political statement.

The word is normally used with individuals and organisations and never to a country as a whole. This explains why people talk about countries that "sponsor" terrorism.

*The terrorists threatened to kill the hostages.

A "militant", like a terrorist, believes in something very strongly; but unlike a terrorist does not always make use of violence to achieve his ends. He will, however, not hesitate to use it if the situation demands it. He exerts a lot of pressure on others to get what he wants. Here is an example.

*The militants took shelter in an abandoned church.

"Let me tell you something that we Israelis have against Moses. He took us 40 years through the desert in order to bring us to the one spot in the Middle East that has no oil!" — Golda

S. UPENDRAN

FROM THE BLURB

 The Globalization of Human Rights: Jean-Marc Coicaud, Michael W.Doyle and Anne-Marie Gardner Editors; The Unit-ed Nations University Press, Tokyo in asso-ciation with Rawat Publications, Satyam Apartments, Sector 3, Jawahar Nagar, Jaipur-302004. Rs.

Examines the impera-tives of justice at the national, regional and the international levels by analysing civil, politi-cal, economic and so-cial rights. This book a product of a research

oject conducted under the auspices of the Peace and overnance Programme of the United Nations Universi-

ty, Tokyo comprises a collection of articles by an in-ternational team of scholars. Tthe core premise is to reach a more ethical understanding and arrangement between individuals and the institutions governing them. The end of the Cold War and the normative and political changes that have ensued at the international level in recent years have reinvigorated the critical importance of the international effort to determine human rights and this volume is a contribution to that discussion

What the Raags Told Me: Vasudev Murthy, Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansari Raod, Daryagani, New Del-hi-110002. Rs. 295.

A mystical exploration of the realm of Raags by an artiste inspired by the legendary Pandit V. G. Jog seeking the essence of the wondrous music of India. The narrator sends his spirit on a mission to unveil the secrets of the Raags and it returns with vivid images and esoteric per-sonifications of the Raags each with its own story to tell, thus bridging two worlds of creativity in this unique book illustrated by artists from Inner Voice, Mumbai.

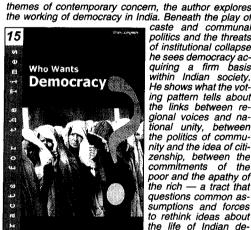
Mental Health — An Indian Perspective — 1946-2003: S. P. Agarwal — Editor; Pub. by the Directorate of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Wel-

fare, Nirman Bhavan, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi-110011 and Elsevier, a division of Reed Elsevier India Private Limited, 17A/1, Main Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi-110024. Not priced.

Presents a wide spectrum of views on the state of mental health in India primarily from a public health perspective. It includes an overview of the Indian scenario; traces the early years of mental health in India with particular em phasis on the British influence; and the origin and growth of general hospital psychiatry and The National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) launched in 1982, which has recently been reoriented into a comprehensive mental health delivery system. Intended for libraries, health professionals and policy-makers, the book is a compilation of the views of practising professionals in mental health institutions from all over the country.

Who Wants Democracy?: Javeed Alam; Orient Longman Private Limited, 1/24, Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 175.

In this monograph in the series Tracts for the Times, which attempts to provide meaningful information, critical perspectives and theoretical reflections on various



politics and the threats of institutional collapse he sees democracy ac-quiring a firm basis within Indian society. He shows what the voting pattern tells about the links between regional voices and na-tional unity, between the politics of commu-nity and the idea of citizenship, between the commitments of the poor and the apathy of the rich — a tract that questions common as-sumptions and forces to rethink ideas about the life of Indian de-

OPEN PAGE

Red tape and decision making

lady with a morbid imagination, going up in the elevator of a multistoried government building, speculated loudly how horrible it would be if the cables snapped. To which, a hard-boiled and long suffering old gentleman in the same lift, replied that it would never happen. It was because the elevator was not run on cables, but on red tape which never snaps, since a government of-

fice was located in the building. It is this never-snapping red tape that has become the bane of our administration, and a variety of people are its victims. It may be the grant of pension to the retired government servants or the release of scholarships to the poor students or the dispatch of foodgrains to areas where they are urgently needed. Whatever the urgency, the government machinery takes its own sweet time to move things from its end.

It is understandable that a certain amount of delay is inevitable, when an important matter pertains to several departments, demanding a coordinated decision. But an inordinate delay in the disposal of urgent and vital matters. affecting the very livelihood of individuals (for instance, pensionrectification.

dy can be easily identified. The first is a certain callous indifference on the part of those in the lower rungs in all offices, whose targets of work are not clearly fixed in the day-to-day work of the office. They get away without any kind of punishment for failing to accomplish the task before them within a reasonable period of time. The drawback here is built in the system itself, which does not give the head of the office any powers to award a summary punishment (like a fine or some such suitable punishment) to his subordinate for dereliction of duty. A case has to be built up in the form of a file, stretching over a period of some months, before an inquiry is instituted. The inquiry itself may last a few months, and the results are very uncertain.

This leads to tension in the officer, who is always afraid that he may be let down badly at any moment by a subordinate, whom he cannot punish summarily for his lapse. The tension is much more pronounced in a dishonest officer, who fears exposure by the subor-

HE STORY goes that an old ers) surely calls for effective of their subordinates than the who alone have a correct and full sation, he always succeeded in oublic, who, they feel, can be eas-Two chief causes for this malaily hoodwinked or browbeaten. An officer's reluctance to sign any paper unless he sees the endorsement of all the subordinates concerned, either on the office copy or the fair copy, is traceable to his fear of being "sent for a toss" by the subordinates.

Decision making The second cause for the inordinate delays in civil administration stems from the deplorable state of the mechanics of decision making. At various levels, the field administrators, who form the vital levers in the administrative machinery, suffer from a paralysis of will and initiative, like the Prince of Denmark. They feel diffident even about their sincere and public-weal-oriented decisions being approved by the demi-gods of higher administration at the Secretariat or the Directorate. So, the average officer, after playing safe as far as his part in the collection of information is concerned, passes on the responsibility of taking the final decision to his superiors. Always, the golden rule is "follow

knowledge of a given situation. In contrast with this, the procedure in the Army equips an officer

with powers to deal summarily with any lapse on the part of the subordinate. Powers like awarding corporal punishment, confinement in the Quarter Guard, house arrest, etc., are vested in the officers at various levels, which are deterrent and consequently make for a quick disposal of business.

In view of these powers, the officer's responsibility is also great. For any lapse or delay in the sphere of his duties, he is personally held responsible. And he accepts it cheerfully and never shies away from it. As a nation, we do need "the rule of the baton" for some time until we show a

marked improvement. About 50 years ago, our NCC Group Commander used to find the civilian procedure intolerably cumbersome and time-consuming. He would sometimes boldly go ahead with his decisions, declaring, "To hell with these audit objections! They are as old as the hills, and I will answer them when they come up." As he was a person the file." In this way, enthusiasm motivated by a high sense of duty dinate any moment. In most of the and initiative are smothered and a deep commitment to the ef-offices, the heads are more afraid among the field administrators ficient functioning of the organi-

convincing his superiors about the soundness of his actions, in spite of the audit objections.

In view of the above, the first requisite for toning up adminis-tration is to invest the field administrators with powers to mete out immediate and deterrent punishment to the subordinates for their failure to carry out their tasks within a reasonably stipulated time. It is obvious that more work can be turned out by fewer people whose targets and responsibilities are clearly fixed, than a large body of people whose targets and reonsibilities are not clearly

Secondly, there must be a maximum decentralisation of the decision making process, giving more powers to the lower echelons, which will surely go a long way in removing the bottlenecks in administration. The third step is not to allow the tyranny of seniority to get precedence over merit, initiative and efficiency. For, instances are not lacking where persons lapse into a mood of indifference after getting promotion by the mere passage of time, and cease to show any enthusiasm, initiative, and dedication.

• K.S.S. SARMA

On social capital

O LAND, labour and capital, the traditional factors of production, economists added technology when it became a dominant force. Economists have now added social capital. A vast literature on it has cropped up with definitions, indicators and techniques of creation and measurement. It is also projected as a factor explaining why projects fail in some societies and succeed in others

Social capital is defined as the web of social relationships in a society, group or organisation which facilitates constructive collective action by its members.

It falls into two categories — that which binds the members together into a cohesive bond in furtherance of their common interests (bonding social capital), and that which reaches across to other groups and widens the frontiers of collective action (bridging social capital). The definition is value-neutral and is not concerned with the virtue of such collective action. We are concerned only with social capital which progood governance motes socio-economic development.

Is social capital a new discovery? Is it really economics?

Greek City States had direct democracy with the entire population (barring slaves and women) assembling in a public place and debating and deciding governance issues. Irrigation tanks in India were maintained by the villagers without any government involvement until the post-Independence administration replaced it with a bureaucratic system. During natural calamities, the entire population participates in relief operations voluntarily. The Kisan Mazdoor Shakthi Sanghatan's fight for fair wages is a classic recent example of social capital in action. Mahatma Gandhi mobilised the entire country against the British in the freedom struggle. During a war against another country, the whole nation

Dormant and diffused

Social capital is, therefore, something hat has existed all the time dormant and diffused and gets activated by a combination of demanding situation and committed leadership. Dramatising the demands of a situation and managing the collective response is quintessential change management and not economics. Moreover, economics deals with scarce resources having competing alternative uses. Social capital is a virtually unlimited resource waiting to be activated. Its use in one situation not only does not preclude but actually makes its

use easier and more likely in other areas. Should the term social capital denote even unusual, short-lived responses as during a war or a natural calamity and rare in less sensational situations, or should it describe only a relatively durable, easily evoked readiness? We are aiming at the latter, but it is only through learning from both the former and planned cooperative projects that the latter type of readiness be-• B.N. HAREESH comes an in-built response. Community

development and panchayati raj experi ments had this aim though they failed due to political and administrative antipathy. However, collective action undertaken under coercion or a feudal local leadership benefiting only some sections of society is not genuine social capital.

Should the term cover only micro-level phenomena or also macro-level phenomena? The term is equally applicable to all levels, but it is much easier to activate social capital at the micro-level than the macrolevel. The latter involves influencing a much larger population and identifying a common cause equally exciting to all of them. The Indian freedom struggle is a classic example.

The following aspects of social capital eserve notice:

' Unlike the Athenian democracy, an indirect democracy has an inevitable gap between the people and their government which could be bridged by social capital. For this very reason, self-seeking elected representatives may prevent its activation

(as in the panchayati raj experiment). 'In Indian society, feudal and deeply divided on the basis of religion, language and economic status, it is easier to activate bonding types of social capital based on clannish interests than the bridging types. It requires extraordinary leadership as well as a common benefit transcending such divisions before bridging social capital can be

Awareness is the key to social action. Information is the key to awareness. The right and access to information is, there-

fore, the key to an activable social capital. A chain is as strong as its weakest link. The 'capabilities' (to use Amarthya Sen's phrase) of the poorest citizens have to be upgraded before collective action can produce synergy.

Social capital, being trust-based, enables an organisation to avoid bureaucratism. (Bureaucracy could be defined as a form of organisation which consciously minimises social capital).

* Exposure to the concept as well as pracopportunities for collective work should be built into the curriculum of both formal and informal education.

In spite of efforts to econometrise it, social capital remains essentially a managerial-cum-sociological concept. For it to be activated sustainably, all sections of society should see lack of development as a common threat and development as a common opportunity.

• P.K. DORAISWAMY

Announcement

Contributions to the Open Page will be considered for publication only if they are in electronic form and emailed. The length of the article should not exceed 800 words. It may be addressed to the Open Page desk at openpage@thehindu.co.in

Road map to build a peaceful society

TE DO not belong to any religion or caste. We are bound not by gods or were highly isolated. Each of these myths, but by a distinct set of living practices. Religion is nothing but a distinct way of living and caste is simply your present job. Doesn't it sound strange?

Does treating religion or caste from this new perspective bring any difference? The answer is 'yes.' A strong binding to the religion or caste may make some blind. Though none of the holy books speaks of violence required to safeguard the image of their religion, some selfish leaders promote it to bring a mad unity among masses for self elevation. This madness has massacred many innocents in various communal riots in India. The same madness has destroyed invaluable glorious monuments

constructions. The human civilisation began thousands of years ago. It underwent many turmoils and raises and finally resulted in today's societal life. People living in a spec-

specific groups formed one religion. To create a cordial environment, the people in that group set some rules and regulations. They also followed systematic practices. So, logically, religion is a distinct way of living followed by a section

Society is composed of people with different attitudes. It accommodates people from diversified races, income levels, age groups, etc. Living together needs some discipline. A societal life demands a lot of self controls. This is akin to following the traffic rules. Violation of traffic rule by one results in accidents to many. It disrupts the traffic and creates chaos at cross-

In olden days, science was communicated to the people in the name of god. For example, Hindus use turmeric in daily life. Turmeric possesses anti-bacterial properties and kills harmful microbes. This message could not be com-

ganisms also exist with us. Thereturmeric was alwavs fore. associated with goddesses. Its use was promoted by projecting it as a symbol of divinity. Similarly, Muslims fast during the month of Ramzan. This commits them to bind to their decision firmly. Not taking water and food during the day enhances their tolerance. Though all these are practised in the name of god, they have scien-

tific reasons to justify. Similar practices exist in all religions. Some people like the living practices followed by others and shift to that. It need not necessarily be changing religion. When we think that we are not bound by a religion but by a set of living practices, we start searching for good practices'in other communities also. If we appreciate a practice followed by others, we can simply adopt it. There is no reason to hesitate. Ultimately, what we want is 'a set of best living practices.'

Our society believes that the character of a person is governed by his caste. Basing on the past examples, society has standar-dised or productised the behaviours of people belonging to a particular caste. The caste system evolved long

back. People took up different activities to make their village selfsufficient. The activities were selected basing on their interest and skill. Barter system allowed them to exchange their services and products. As joint family system was in vogue and society was introverted, the new generation adopted the same skills from their parents. This balanced artisan system has continued for centuries and is still continuing in many

villages. Logically, "what job you are in" decides your caste. If the same logic applies today, then the new castes are bankers, software engineers, lawyers, doctors, pilots, politicians, etc. Probably, these new castes will not erode anyone's dignity of labour. Even if it does,

then the next generation has the flexibility of changing their caste. A lawyer's son completes the medicine course and since then his caste name is 'Doctors.

A person needs to be judged based on his own behaviour, not by his caste or religion. In this liberalised and urbanised world, people are no longer living in closed societies. Nuclear families. immigration, cyber friendship, International TV channels contribute a lot to multi-cultural behaviour in humans.

The religion or caste system should bring harmony among humans rather than ripping them

Needless to say, this concept is utopian. However, a small process towards this would make us realise how selfcentric and narrow-minded we are. One step towards this ideology is sufficient for building a peaceful and fearless society on

Philosophy of Advaita THE FUNDAMENTALS OF

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BOOK REVIEW

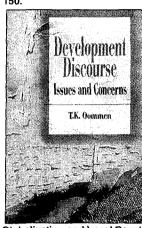


- Reading in Indian Government
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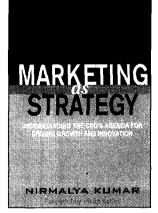
 Selected Malayalam Short Stories: Rajendra Awasthy Editor; Fusion Books, X-30, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase, Il New March 1998. Industrial Area, Phase-II, New Delhi-110020. Rs. 95.

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- emy of Business Studies, 24/ 4866, Sheeltara House, Ansari Road, New Delhi-110002. Rs.
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- Globalization and Local Development in India — Examinina the Spatial Dimension: Frederic Landy, Basudeb Chaudhuri: Manohar Publishers & Distributors, 4753/23, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. Rs.
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- A Study of Palmistry Science A Practical Treaties on the Art Commonly Called Palmistry: William G. Benham; Bharativa Kala Prakashan, 3421-A, II Floor, Narang Colony, Tri Nagar, Del-hi-110035. **Rs. 350.** Quota-
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- dents Success Handbook (for Parents and Students of IX to XII Standards): V. Natarajan, Sura Books (Pvt) Ltd., 1620 'J' Block, 16th Main Road, Anna Nagar, Chennai-600040. Rs. 50.
- The English Novel: Terry Eagleton; Blackwell Publishing, U.S., distributed by Atlantic Publishers & Distributors, 7/22, Ansari Road, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110002. **Rs. 695.**
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- n. V. Hajwade, Academy of Business Studies, 24/4866, Sheeltara House, Ansari Road, New Delhi-110002. **Rs. 390.**Looking In, Looking Out: P. Chandy Mathew; Unisun Technologies (P.) Ltd. Kodaya Samaja Build. (P) Ltd., Kodava Samaja Building, 7, I Main Road, Vasanthnagar, Bangalore-560052. Rs. 250. Farmers Suicides in Andhra
- Pradesh and Karnataka: R. Vidyasagar, K. Suman Chandra; National Institute of Rural Development, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030.
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Tamil

- Windows Media Playarai Moozhumaiyaga Kattrukkol-lungal: Rajamalar; Manimegalai Prasuram, PB No. 1447, 7, Thanikachalam Salai, T. Nagar Chennai-600017. Rs. 80. Tamizh Siddhar Marabhu: T. N.
- Ganapathi; Ravi Publications, "Rajkamal", 45 (21), 4th Avenue, Ashok Nagar, Chennai-600083.
- Rs. 150.
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- Madhaveri by Bipin Chandra: A. Kumaresan — Tr. in Tamil; Bharathi Puthakalayam, 2, Kuyavar Veethi, East Jones Road, Saidapet, Chen-nai-600015. **Rs. 20.**
- Vellore Puratchi: N. Sanjeevi; Kaavya, 14, First Cross Street, Trust Puram, Kodambakkam, Chennai-600024. Rs. 50. Sakthi: Indira Soundarrajan; Rs.
- Sri Gayathri Mahamanthra Homam: Pandit Ragavacharyar Rs. 55
- Thandavamaalai Tharum Yoga Vilakkam: S. P. Subramanian; Rs. 65. The above three books pub. by Thirumagal Nilayam, New No. 16, Old No. 55, Venkatanarayana Road, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017.

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- Haryana Mein Apradh: Raj Ku-mar Bhardwaj; Haryana Shodh Avam Adhyyan Sanshthan, 597/ 20, Prem Nagar, Jail Road, Roh-tak-124404. Rs. 150.
- Adhunik Hindi Kavita Men Shabda-Prayog: Madhubala Nayal; Granthayan, 398, Sarov-day Nagar, Sasni Gate, Aligarh-202001. **Rs. 400.**
- Pashchimi Himalay Sanskriti
 Evam Sahityik Vidayan:
 Dayand Gautam; Book India
 Publishing Co., 68-C, LIG DDA
 Sector, Rampura, Delhi-110035. Rs. 350.
- Dheep Se Dheep Jale Darsa-nik Gan Bhag 1: Shukracharya; Gnanthara Press, Neelambhar Bhavan, RZH-2/94A, Bengali Colony, Mahaveer Enclave, Palam, Delhi-110045. **Rs. 50.**
- Development of Cities in North India — 600-1200 A.D.: Dilip K. Chakrabarti; Book India Publishing Co., 68-C, LIG DDA Sector, Rampura, Delhi-110035. **Rs.**

'The Earth is my ball'

Patwant Singh

n Asian View

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO WASHINGTON

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO WASHINGTON — An Asian View: Patwant Singh; Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002.

TWENTY YEARS ago, a cartoon headed "The World According to Ronald Reagan" showed, for example, Canada as "Acidrainia: a wholly-owned U.S. subsidiary", a reference to the U.S. economic dominance and to its unchecked air pollution which was destroying Canadian forests to the advantage of the U.S. timber producers.

Patwant Singh shows the truth behind the cartoon, but starts earlier. The European empires left their former subjects with a permanent sense of cultural and racial inferiority. This was no accident; the fabled wealth of India attracted European commercial adventurers whose technical sophistication, fixity of purpose and ruthless instrumentality enabled them to exploit the internecine hatreds in an ossified, caste-ridden Indian society devoid of national feeling or loyalty.

Imperialistic designs

Although China suffered too - the contracts forced upon it by Britain and Tsarist Russia could have been templates for the contracts forced upon Iraq by the U.S. - it stands up to bullying "better than India does." In South Asia, however, India and Pakistan "cripple themselves" with military spending while their arms suppliers laugh "all the way to the

The U.S. enters after the World War II, destroying the Indonesian President Sukarno's independent-minded social de-

had called 300 years of the whip and the club.

In the next 30 years, President Suharto's dictatorship killed a million people in Indonesia and the U.S. corporations got their hands on Indonesia's immense natural resources, including oil. Today, Indonesia, one of the world's poorest countries, even imports rice; all its major economic activities are under foreign control. Similar things were induced and engineered by the U.S. in Iran and mainland South-East Asia.

The motivation amounted to outright racism; even a prowestern Japanese journalist wrote of American helicopter gunships in Vietnam that they fired "for fun, using the farmers for targets...They are hunting Asians.

The rhetoric is bewildering. The bombing of North Korea in the 1950s was called an expression of sympathy and support for the people of Korea; the way to help Vietnam was to bomb it back into the Stone Age."

Today, the way to liberate Iraqis from the monster who had been armed and supported by most of the world's major powers is for those same powers to saturate Iraq with what even the Pentagon says is 320 tonnes of depleted uranium, which remains radioactive for 4.5 billion

Even the imperium realises that these are not justifications, so it arrogates to itself the right to do wrong, and propagates its wrongs through corrupt elites and vicious dictators.

Media coverage

Donald Rumsfeld, when in the Reagan cabinet, lavished praise on Saddam Hussein; the mocracy and renewing what U.S. sold Saddam anthrax and one Dutch governor-general the U.K. sold him botulinum.

This would be more widely to contrast the BBC's Iraq covknown if the media corporations were not so powerful. War coverage — but not of wounded and dying civilians — boosts TV audiences

Secondly, many journalists are staggeringly ignorant; one, told that he was on the Tigris and not the Ganges, "Yeah, one of those biblical rivers." Thirdly, many journalists readily inter-

erage favourably with much of the American coverage, we must remember that a senior BBC correspondent said, live on TV, that the war had been "clean", with very few casual-

He ignored the thousands of dead Iraqis. Further, the New York Times and the Washington nalise politicians' thinking. Post have publicly admitted that they were mistaken in advocat-Post have publicly admitted that ther.

ing invasion at the expense of informed evaluation.

The U.S. that emerges from the analysis has a puppet government controlled by a handful of oil and arms corporations, a population ignorant of most of the world and a political culture convinced of its right to exploit the planet and to destroy anyone or anything by any means it chooses.

Small wonder then, that the U.S. Government squandered the sympathy expressed for the country throughout the Islamic world after the September 2001 attacks on it.

Informed dissent

Fortunately, that is not the whole picture, and the author shows both that the truth does emerge in the U.S. and that there is substantial dissent

President Eisenhower, in his valedictory address in 1961, explicitly warned against the military-industrial complex and other eminent politicians have cautioned against global instability caused by arms sales. Sharp criticism of Israel comes from those Jewish Americans who support justice for the Palestinians and opposition to the continuing occupation of Iraq increases daily.

There are signs too, that the Democrat presidential candidate, John Kerry, knows that the U.S. has to share the planet with everyone else.

Nevertheless, until the U.S. voters make their decision in November - and possibly thereafter - the attitude described by the author will hold; the Earth is my ball, and if I can't do what I want with it, then nobody else can have it ei-

ARVIND SIVARAMAKRISHNAN

as follows: Brahman is the only reality and it is the logical significance of the Upanishads; the indeterminable Maya/Avidya is responsible for the appearance of Brahman as Isvara, the Jiva, and the world; the Jiva is none other than Brahman; the world is non-real like the silver which appears where there is only shell; the direct knowledge of the true nature of the Jiva as Brahman is the sole means to liberation; and liberation can be attained here and now.

Post-Sankara preceptors

In 12 well-structured chapters, the author expounds in a systematic manner the philosophy of Advaita as presented by Sankara and by the post-Sankara Advaitins like Vachaspatimisra, Prakasatman, Vidyaranya, Sri Harsa, Madhusudana Sarasvati, Appayya Dikshita and

Avidya or maya is the pivotal principle on the basis of which the epistemological and the metaphysical inquiry in Advaita proceeds. The nature of avidya. and proofs in regard to its positive nature, the theories of error according to the realistic as well as the idealistic schools, the five definitions of mithyatva, the pramanas according to Advaita, the theories of reflection and delimitation that explain the nature of Jiva and Isvara, nature of liberation and its means, and the concept of Jivanmukti — all these have been explained in an accurate and authoritative

manner. The whole treatment is scholarly and comprehensive, unified and well-proportioned. Thoroughness in presentation and dispassionate objectivity of exposition coupled with erudi-The style is easy and unpedantic. It is marked by a happy combination of adequate detail critical evaluation and fairness. It is unquestionably the fine account of the philosophy of Advaita and it is a volume every serious student of Indian phi-

losophy should possess. N. VEEZHINATHAN

Pen portraits of eminent men

GLIMPSES OF THE GREAT: S. Ramakrishnan; Collated by Seshrao Chavan, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Kulapathi Munshi Marg, Mumbai-400007. Rs. 650.

S. RAMAKRISHNAN WAS the moving spirit of the Bharatiya Vidva Bhavan till his death. He was intimately associated with all the leaders of the freedom movement and also a large number of saints, scholars and statesmen, both in India and a profile and quite some insight

into each. Biographical sketches

In the first section, there are brief biographical sketches about renowned saints like Adi Sankara and Kanchi Paramacharya (Ramakrishnan had acincluded in this book too), Swami Sivananda and Abhinava Vidya Teertha and Pandrimalai Swami.

He has also included penportraits of Pant Maharaj of Bhagavat Katha fame and Tulsidas Vishram, a great crusader for the cause of cow protection, 'glimpses", he offers more than ation with great patriots and

Rajaji, Vinoba Bhave and a host

statesmen like Gandhiji, Nehru,

Revealing vignettes A close associate of K.M. Munshi for long, the author knew most of them intimately

companied C. Subramaniam and we have revealing vignettes words which are worth recalland their conversation with the about everyone. His general ob- ing. "I have tried to serve the Paramacharya on secularism is servation is that these leaders, whatever the differences in outlook, were above personal pet-

He recalls Nehru visiting Rajaji in Delhi, even as they were exchanging hot words from opposite premises. Kripalani, while convalescing in a Bombay hospital, decided to sever little known in the south so far. his association with a national In the second section, we trust as its chairman, just beabroad. Though modestly titled have recollections of his associcause the secretary of the trust put a long distance call from Delhi about a matter which Sardar Patel, Acharya Kripalani, could have waited or warranted only a postcard. He would not work with those who were lib-

eral with public money. He and Jayaprakash Narayan were instrumental in unseating the Congress in 1977 and the very next year, he did not mince a self-commiserating Nehru

me. It has been a labour of love. I had no connection with any government before or after Independence. As a human creation, I consider governments imperfect; only

some less than the others."

Lighter asides like Kripalani climbing a coconut tree. K.M. Munshi and R.R. Diwakar wondered whether they should congratulate or console each other on their be-

> appointed as Governors of U.P and Bihar. Sri Prakasa, a classmate, told

ing eased out of the cabinet and

ters reducing the governors to nation for the last 72 years with mere figureheads. whatever ability God has given The author salutes C.D. Deshmukh for his refinement and Y.B. Chavan for his able ad-

that it was wrong on his part to

deal directly with chief minis-

ministration and M.C. Chagla

on his correct definition of a

Hindu, which would go a long way in promoting communal harmony The author is grateful to Lord There are lighter asides too Mountbatten and Margaret Thatcher for their support in the U.K. for Bhavan's activities

in spreading Indian culture.

The book will elicit mixed feelings in the reader. But, we can also be proud that we belong to the same country where such men walked the Earth

once. A. S. PADMANABHAN

Malayalam novels in translation Anecdotal stories Metaphors of life and death Celebration of love

TAMIL

MOHA THEE — Tamil translation of M. Mukunthan's two Malayalam novelettes by Sura: Ramaprasanth Publications, 106/4, Jani Jahankhan Road, Royapettah, Chennai-600014.

THIS BOOK is a translation of Mukunthan's two novelettes, "Moha Thee" and "Raasa Leela" in Malayalam. His masterpiece "Mayyazhippuzhayude Theerangalil" (On the bank of Mayyazhi) vividly describes the political and social background of his native place Mahe, the former French colo-

ny, in the past, in a mystical way. In "Moha Thee", he portrays the lust of Ramunni, head of the old Mithaledathu family towards the voluptuous Savithri, wife of a low caste Neelakantan. The lust begins to burn as fire in his mind when Neelakantan pledges his wife's gold waist chain to Ramunny for money to fulfil his drinking habit. Throughout this novel one can see Ramunni's blind love for Savitri through this ornament symbolically like a lunatic, despite having a beautiful wife and grown up children.

"Raasa Leela" is a different novel. It begins with the receiving of Krishnan who has lost his vision, at a city railway station by his friend Balan, after a long journey from his home village. They had both lived together in the same city in one room and worked for their livelihood before Krishnan lost his vision.

Though there is not any visible change in the narrow room with its unhygienic surroundings Balan gives an entirely different picture to his friend of all the places they visit and persons they meet now. Their visit to the flat of Leela, Krishnan's former beloved, is touching and the author's skill is evident in that scene The novel ends on an optimistic but with the

are well and not as in the past when he lived here with his friend. Sura's translation brings to the Tamil readers the attractive form and content of the Malayalam

false impression of Krishnan that at present all

ULLANGAIYIL ULAGAM — by Sudha Murthy: Charukesi — Tr. in Tamil; Kalaignan Pathippagam 19, Kannadhasan Salai, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 80.

peared in English in a book form, with a few addi-

originals without losing their charm and spirit.

THIS IS a collection of stories that originally ap-

NEELA PADMANABHAN

translations were published in the Tamil maga-

The genesis of most of the 33 stories is in the everyday experience of the author. She puts down her observations of life as a granddaughter, college student, teacher, computer professional, chairperson of a well-known foundation and as a social worker. Some episodes stress on pride in the national heritage and the need for national unity; some indicate signposts for progress and hold out hope

for a better tomorrow; some talk of simple virtues

such as contentment and compassion for the

poor. Evident in all are the author's joy of life, a

spontaneous urge to share it with the reader and a narrative energy in conveying her feelings with candour. One anecdote recounts how she became a teacher quite early in her life. As a 12-year-old girl she used to read aloud a serial in a Kannada weekly to her unlettered grandmother. The older person was so absorbed in the story that she just

could not take it when she missed a chapter while the granddaughter was away. So at 62 she expressed a desire to learn to read Kannada from her. The ebullient voungster began the lessons at once and in due course the grandmother began to read by herself. The im-

portance of education, more so women's educaion, is emphasised elsewhere. There are many stories within stories that keep up the anecdotal nature of the book. However, some incidents such as Sudha's action in dashing off a postcard to J. R. D. Tata on the then gender discrimination in employment policy and her admiration for a poor, old priest in a remote village who politely turned down her munificence, have been repeated several times in writings and pub-

The Tamil translation, by a writer in his own right, is good. The large font is easy on the eye, but the reader often stumbles on the comma which, with its indistinguishable tail, looks like a full stop.

C. G. RISHIKESH MALAYALAM

KURUTAN KOOMAN — Persian Novel by Sadeq Hedayat: S. A. Qudsi — Tr. in Malayalam; Mathrubhumi Books, Kozhikode, Rs. 45. SADEQ HEDAYAT is an influential writer of the

piece "Blind Owl" is a very disturbing and powernarrative, often turning bizarre and surrealistic. He was tremendously influenced by European literature and his images are similar to those of Franz Kafka and others.

The book was published first in India as Buf-I Kun, while the author lived among the Parsee Zoroastrian community in Mumbai. The narrator in "Blind Owl", a young painter, writes to his shadow, which looks like an owl and witnesses his confessions. The novel is about frenzy and disappointment and the protagonist in his feverish nightmares sees the omniscient metaphors of death. The narration is lyrical and the varied dimensions of imageries symbolising life and death are evident in the story, making it transcend the

barriers of nationality. There are lingering problems of sexual fear associated with death. The symbolic reflections of women in different contexts are illuminating about the perceptions of the novelist about women. Woman becomes the focus of life and death. The eyes and face in different moods of woman represent the creative reflections of the narrator's

swinging attitudes of creative identity There is a strong view that through this book the writer is expressing his concerns over the so-

cial changes of Iran, his motherland. The first Malayalam translation of the novel Vilasini" was by a well-known novelist, (M. K. Menon). The present one is better in many shades, capturing the magic spell of the original. The study on the work and the biographical sketch with a few pictures of Hedayat and his expres-

sions add to the value of the book. K. KUNHIKRISHNAN HINDI

PREM-TAPASVI: Ambika Prasad Divya; Bharatiya Jnanpith, 18, Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New

Delhi-110003. Rs. 150. THIS BOOK is the fictionalised life-story of a folkpoet of the Bundelkhand region blessed with an extempore poetic composition who reeled out light, musical songs called "phaag" usually associated with the Holi festival mostly in praise of the dearly loved one. He lived in the era of the princely states and his "phaag" songs survive on-

ly on the lips of rural folks. The preface mentions the author's tour to the villages in transcribing and collecting the songs,

tions specially for this edition. Some of the 20th Century and a cult figure in Iran. His master- stories and other traditions of the poet whose life was a continuous penance of steadfast love, celebrated through his songs. Though his early love for his girl-playmate did not materialise it kept alive the flame of his poetic creativity and caused the unfortunate reverses and ultimate success in society. Obviously the liberty of a fiction writer to add imaginative details to a truthful core of facts gathered by him. has been exercised here.

The story begins with the poet as a boy developing love for his playmate. The two separated by their caste divisions get married to different persons but the memories of childhood love persists steadily in the boy's heart who has an inborn genius for composing emotionally appealing phaag" songs; he celebrates this undying love of his early age with his effusions which attract everyone and causes a rift in the married life of the girl whom he names in all his rhymes.

The boy's poetic talent is recognised by a neighbour who encourages him; this neighbour is mistaken as the real composer of ribald lovesongs with the innocent boy as his medium of expression, and is imprisoned by a rural court. Meanwhile the boy's songs fascinate the local chieftain who employs him as his agent.

But while doing his duties the poet gets severely beaten up by the husband of his former lover. He is later dismissed on the basis of false accusations made against him. Disowned by his father too, he leads a vagrant life. Unproved charges are levelled against him and he gets convicted. But he is released through a sympathiser's influence.

The story revolves round the rural background of the princely states where the land disputes of Zamindars and machinations of land-revenue officials whom they bribe for their ends, are the focal points.

J. PARTHASARATHI

Announcement

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to The Hindu for review. While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under "New Arrivals", the decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper. Receipt of individual books will not be acknowledged in response to enquiries.

The US concept of global terrorism is everybody's staple diet

A terror in every bush

hus spake the army chief of staff: as if the Armed Services (Special Powers) Act applies not just to Kashmir or Manipur, but to the entire country, including its judicial process. A judicial commission is investigating the circumstances leading to the death of Thangjam Manorama Devi; the army itself has instituted its own court of inquiry into the matter. Such facts are apparently of no consideration for the general lording over our army's affairs: how dare anybody cast a slur on his men posted in Manipur? They are the salt of the earth; ergo, they are above the

Going by his pronouncement, the chief of staff is totally insensi-tive to the situation that the forces under his overall command have created in Manipur. The populace of that particular tract of our country has risen unitedly in revolt against a Centre whose army, they firmly believe, is soaked in the notion that bestial torture is the sole instru-ment of policy at the disposal of a practising democracy. Enough evidence has already been collected to pour doubt on the army's version of the Manorama Devi episode. In view of the turmoil currently on in the north-eastern state, the least one would have expected of the army chief is a temporary suspension of bluff and bluster. He is, alas, incapable of exercising such a restraint. This attitude on his part is perhaps influenced by an honest belief that everything is fair and square in the war against terrorism. He having said what he has said, his continuance as the country's principal army officer may well be reckoned as a further affront by the people of Manipur. Even otherwise, an individual with such open contempt for the nation's judicial system is ill-suited to fill in the most sensitive position he is occupying.

t is, moreover, not a simple issue of manners alone. The army is supposed to be the protector of the country's defence and integrity. But the happenings in Manipur and, there should be no qualms in adding, those in Kashmir over the past decades — bear testimony to a rather unpalatable truth: in certain circumstances, the army can actually be a threat to the nation's integrity. The alienation of the civilian mind, in Kashmir as well as in the north-eastern states, is a cold, harsh reality. The impact of this reality is however yet to affect the de-cision-makers in the nation's capital. They go about as if Manipur, for instance, is a speck of dust which can be flicked away by a shuffle of one's little finger. Their underlings, including army and police personnel, follow their lead and behave in the way the army chief of staff has

CUTTING CORNERS

ASHOK MITRA

exemplified. Call it callousness, call it the meanderings of an absentminded administration, but its implications for the nation's future can be ominous.

The pattern is, by now, fairly predictable. Discontent brews in this or that outlying state; the administration leaves the problem to be tackled by army and security forces. The latter commit *faux pas* after *faux pas*, thereby aggravating the situa-

they must arrange a brief photo session with President Putin too. The issue of inducting the assistance of foreign money and foreign advisers in chartering the country's development design hogs the headlines. Nobody bothers to address even a mild letter or reprimand to the army chief of staff; he has a free hand to counter terrorism, whether domestic or international.

The overwhelming concern is



A Nepalese soldier walks past the idol of Akash Bhairav in Kathmandu

tion. While resentment of the people grows, official policy remains unchanged. Army and security advisers are given their head: they proceed to suppress, with ruthlessness, discontent of all manifestations, including open or clandestine acts of rebellion. Budgetary allocations are jacked up for army and security forces. The consequence is predictable. At one end, the degree of oppression intensifies; at the other end, funds for development purposes, including health and education, come under increasingly greater strain.

Meanwhile, ruling politicians are busy with their preoccupations. They have to address the annual session of the United Nations general assembly. They have to talk Kashmir with Pakistan's head of state, and promise more abstract strides towards the restoration of peace in the valley. They have to seek a teand-sympathy get-together with the president of the United States of America. For appearance's sake,

the containment of terrorism. Consider the matter of official Indian assistance to Nepal, again to fight terrorism. The Maoists by now control two-thirds of Nepal's countryside. Their urban constituency is hardly negligible either. That landlocked country continues to flaunt an absolute monarchy whose horrendously repressive role has assumed legendary status. The monarchy is further boosted by the oligarchy of the Ranas, who have legal claim over most of the country's arable land. They also exercise control over the handful of industries that exist. Agriculture is still severely exploitative, the industries are mostly in the nature of assembling or processing activities, generating very little income and employment for the Nepalese people. Along with the Ranas, the co-beneficiaries of this exploitative system are a select group of Indian traders and industrialists. The Maoists have put to excellent use the collective resentment of Nepal's masses against the monarchy, the Ranas and the carpet-baggers from India; they are waging, in effect, a three-in-one war of national liberation.

in-one war of national liberation. But never say die. With the American concept of global terrorism now everybody's staple diet, the Nepalese establishment looks forward to tackle domestic upheavals with recourse to international support. The Americans have already arrived in Kathmandu to open another, albeit minor, front against global terror, of which the Maoists are taken to be an integral constituent. Now the regime in New Delhi, led by the Indian National Congress, is also seemingly itching to join the crusade: it has agreed to supply Nepal's monarch a substantial cache of arms and other logistical support to put down Maoist terror. And this, when India's minister for home affairs is addressing chief ministers of states afflicted by disturbances fomented by Maoists, suggesting that domestic discontent of this kind is often the product of social and economic inequalities, and therefore beyond the ken of mere law and order stratagems. There is a total disjunction between the country's domestic and external policies. Or is the home minister dissembling?

onceivably, many of those now at the helm of the nation's affairs have not even heard such names as those of Bhagat Singh, Surya Sen, Binoy Bose and Raiguru. The contributions of such individuals were part of the total effort, which ushered in the country's freedom. The British however persisted to describe these national heroes as terrorists --- and worse, anarchists. Descriptions are the prerogative of whoever presides over description-allotting ceremonies. The US administration will be more than happy to find the government of India as its comrade-inarms in the war against global terror in Nepal, where a Maoist putsch is threatening to overrun the ruling tyranny. At the next stage, Ameri can advisers may bear down hard on New Delhi: what is sauce for the Nepalese goose should be equally sauce for the Indian gander; wait a while, US army and security personnel will be only too glad to fly in to put down successfully such local species of international terrorists as a massive strike by bank employees in Calcutta or by port employees in Mumbai; all that will be needed is a certain flexibility in the definition of global terror.
As Bertolt Brecht once said, the

As Bertolt Brecht once said, the truth unites: those reluctant to tick off an erring army chief of staff for a gross act of indiscretion are the same people who dole out arms to Nepal's monarch to suppress the uprising of land-hungry and employment-seeking multitudes. *No pasaran!* to global terror.

Ahead of debate, a blast from the past



FROM DENVER POST

KAREN E CRUMMY DENVER, SEPTEMBER 30

THE White House and Air Force Reserve officials in Denver were scrambling on Wednesday to explain the sudden appearance of a record written and signed by President Bush resigning from the US Air Reserve in 1974 because he had "inadequate time" to fulfill his duty obligations.

The document surfaced on Wednesday afternoon and was publicly released on Wednesday night after the White House was asked about it by *The Denver Post*,

A White House spokesman said the Department of Defence apparently had the record since it was filed in November 1974, but it had somehow failed to provide it in February when the

Networks to defy camera rules

■ LOS ANGELES: The US television networks plan ning live coverage of the presidential debates said on Wednesday they would disregard ground rules set by the two campaigns to control camera shots of the candidates. And the nonpartisan Commission on Presidential Debates said it could not be expected to enforce strictures on network coverage of the four debates, the first of which starts 6 am ist on Friday. At issue are rules that bar the networks from airing "cut-



away" shots of either president Bush or John Kerry while they are waiting their turn to speak. The first debate, in the University of Miami Campus, will focus on foreign policy. —Reuters

President ordered that all of his service records be released.

"We've continually asked DoD to make the President's records available, and obviously, it would've been preferable if this had been released at the same time as the others," said White House spokesman Jim Morrell. Earlier in the day, Defence officials had denied knowledge of the records' existence. It was later confirmed by a spokesman at Denver's Air Reserve Personnel Center, then by the White House.

The emergence of the new document raises questions about what else might surface in the five weeks before the November 2 election. In February, Bush said that all his records were released to the public.

Morrell downplayed the significance of the document, pointing out that it was signed

on November 8, 1974, a year after Bush notified the Texas National Guard that he was relocating from Houston to Cambridge, Mass., to attend Harvard Business School.

As reported previously by The Boston Globe, Bush had promised in 1973 to find a Guard unit in Massachusetts to complete his six-year commitment or face immediate call-up to active duty. Instead, he was officially transferred by May 1974 to an inactive assignment as an executive support officer at Denver's Air Reserve Center, records show.

Bush apparently never reported to Denver, then wrote the discovered "Tender of Resignation" in November 1974, in which he says he wants out because he has "inadequate time to fulfill possible future commitments." He was discharged from the Reserve two weeks later. —NYT

INDIAN EXPRESS

1 OCT 2004

Nepal-bound plane with U.S. arms in Indian airport

By Amit Baruah

Saturday, awaiting permission to fly out to Kathmandu. NEW DELHI, SEPT. 28. An aircraft vate Bulgarian cargo company, ting at an Indian airport since munition to "combat" the Maoists in Nepal, has been sitoperated by Vega irlines, a pricarrying explosives and am-

Government engaged Vega Airlines, which mostly has Russian-made AN-12 aircraft (see the Airlines' website www.vegaair.com).ih its fleet, This newspaper has been retold that the United to ferry the explosives and am-States

"anti-terrorist" training facility in Nepal.

Sources in the Ministry of External Affairs claimed that the aircraft had not been "detained" while officials in the Directorate-General of Civil Hindu that "as of 9.30 am this morning" the aircraft was at Aviation (DGCA) told an Indian airport.

In Ahmedabad airport?

ting at the Ahmedabad airport, but N.S. Jaldhari, Ahmedabad airport director, was reluctant At least two sources confirmed that the aircraft was sit-

munition to Kathmandu for an to give away any information. that any aircraft had been He initially said he had no information, but later denied "detained."

A source in the Indian secu-December 1995, had not been rity establishment said that the "ghosts of Purulia," the sensational arms drop in Purulia district of West Bengal in forgotten in New Delhi. The ated by a five-member Latvian crew, is a parallel that few fact that the Purulia arms drop was by an AN-26 aircraft, operwould ignore

tailed procedures had been The source also said that de-

is concerned. but in place at Indian airports that the aircraft had been sit-following the Purulia arms ting in Ahmedabad since the drop, which even entitled avia- weekend, the officials responsaid clearance from a "number of agencies" had to be obtained in such cases. weekend, the officials responded, "Let it sit." The officials

craft overflying Indian air space to land and match its

tion authorities to ask any air-

own as far as building up an Clearly, the Vega Airlines case signals that the United cussing the Nepal situation with India, is also acting on its anti-terrorist capability in the States Government, while diskingdom Himalayan concerned.

> Vega Airlines' aircraft. "As of not received clearance from the Ministry of External Affairs to let this aircraft go," the DGCA officials told this corre-

The DGCA, at least, is not taking any chances with the 9.30 am this morning, we have

Clearance not received cargo with its manifest.

hidden its irritation as far as foreign involvement in Nepal In the past, India has not

When it was pointed out

ing their way to Nepal does not, however, surprise officials in the External Affairs Minis-The fact that arms supplied by the United States are mak-

However, it appears that the establishment is not so sure in the case of the Vega Airlines aircraft

Denial

contacted Angel Petrov, Vega Airlines' Commercial Director in Sofia, Bulgaria, by tele-phone, Mr. Petrov first denied that any Vega aircraft was at When this correspondent

said he would see "what in this correspondent to senting an e-mail. When pressed, Mr. Petro about the aircraft and aske formation could be shared an Indian airport.

spondent again telephoned th Vega Airlines office only to b told that Mr. Petrov was in bouncing back, this corre Since the e-mails kep

A detailed message provid response was forthcoming til Airlines office, but no furthe ing this writer's contact num the time of writing. "meeting.

THE HINDU

p 3

BOOK REVIEW

Ladakh's fauna

BIRDS & MAMMALS OF LADAKH: Otto Pfister; Oxford University Press, YMCA Library Building, Jai Singh Road, New Dellhi-110001. Rs. 795.

THE WORLD is divided by animal geographers into several arzoogeographic regions on the basis of their animal life. These areas, also known as faunal regions, roughly coincide with major continental land masses and are separated by geographical features such as oceans and mountain ranges

Each of these regions has a distinct fauna on account of its habitat and isolation from the other regions. Almost all of India falls within the faunal region known as the Oriental or the Indomalayan region.

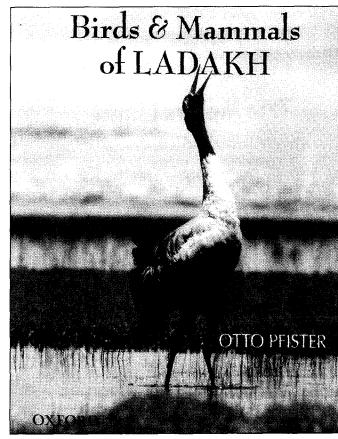
Inhospitable terrain

Ladakh, in contrast, with an extent of about 117,000 square kilometres and forming the western part of the Tibetan Plateau, belongs to the Palaearctic region, which includes Europe, Northern Africa and Northern Asia — thus it has a fauna very different from that of the rest of India.

The appeal of Ladakh's wildlife lies not only in this uniqueness. It also derives from the remoteness and harshness of the land. Ladakh, consisting mainly of high plains, brackish

tural life of the Assamese socie-

in Assam.



lakes and deep valleys, is situat-

and cattle remain indoors for ed 2700 metres above the sea much of the year. It gets less level. It is very sparsely populat- than 10 centimetres of rain on ed and it is so cold in places like average annually. Its vegetation

pass of this book. **Documentation**

It deals with 276 bird species and 30 mammals of this land, nearly all the birds and larger mammals reported from Ladakh. The species accounts make up the major part of this well produced book. They are written in an easy, readable style. All the details normally expected in a field guide, such as a description of the animal, its habitat and the calls it makes are provided. The "typical areas of encounter" and "similar species" sections in each account will be particularly useful for lo-

cation and identification in the

Migratory birds

One finds among the birds many species that are not found in most other parts of India, the Tibetan Snowcock and the Blacknecked Crane for instance. Others, such as the Pintail and Redshank, that winter in the rest of India are passage migrants or summer visitors in Ladakh. Understandably, there are a number of birds, particularly among the passerines, that one associates more with Europe than with India — the Linnet is an example. Among the mammals of La-

dakh, there are carnivores such is stunted. It is the wildlife of as the elusive Snow Leopard,

this land that forms the com- the Brown Bear and the Wolf. There is a diversity of ungulates, including the Tibetan Wild Ass and sheep species. Among the smaller mammals are hares, voles, pikas and marmots. The author does not describe any bats, smaller rodents or insectivores.

Wildlife hot spots

The illustrations that follow the species accounts are noteworthy. Every species has been illustrated with at least one colour photograph and most of these have been shot by the author. This sets a benchmark for future field guides in India.

The author writes that wildlife is not very wary of humans in Ladakh. Even so, given the difficulties that fieldwork in this inaccessible and bleak region must have entailed, this is very impressive. Even birds such as the Yellow Wagtail that visit the rest of India are interesting to look at in the photographs. The plumage they sport in Ladakh is normally not seen elsewhere in the country.

The introductory chapters on Ladakh are brief but are nevertheless informative. The sections on wildlife hot spots, protected areas of Ladakh and different ecosystems are helpful. The volume will be invaluable for the birdwatcher and the wildlife enthusiast.

KUMARAN SATHASIVAM

Between fact and fiction

ENTRAPPED IN ACADEMIA: Laxmi Parasuram; Writing Inc., 56 B, Block D, New Aligere,

Calcutta-700053. Rs. 150. ACTUALLY, ONE is never entrapped in Indian academia There is no pre-destination about the self-imprisonment. In earlie days, lovers of scholarship en-tered the portals of scadenic institutions as teachers out of their free will.

Attempting to write Tache

(somewhere between had and fiction), it is sad that the author has not been able to substime her real-life experiences as a captivating tale. We just trundle along with Nalini Menon who has entered the university in a suburban town as a new recruit in the English department. It is a per-fectly depressing view of Indian academia all the way. To underline some phrases that pepper the narrative: the riff-raff have taken over, the place is a happy hunting ground of politicians, students can do anything here, university administrators are paralysed today, caught in a vice and nailed to inaction, and it is the local thugs who actually run the university, they are the ones who punish and reward, award degrees and give references to employers.

The ingredients of a time-pass narrative do raise their head at intervals. Perhaps the book may yet help the UGC cleanse the Augean Stables!

PREMA NANDAKUMAN

Ram, Chennai)

hat is the difference be-

In terms of meaning there is o difference. The word homemaker" is the politically correct way of referring to a "housewife". "Homemaker" "Homemaker" sounds much better than Processife", doesn't it? Here are a few more words which are considered politically correct office assistant (secretasignificant (husband/wife/boyfriend/

deliriend), and horizontally chaffenged (someone who is

What's the difference be-tween "deal with" and "deal in"? (J. Priya, Vizag)
When you "deal in" some-

thing you are in the business of buying and selling things. *The new shop around the corner deals in stolen goods. When you "deal someone n", you are permitting the in-

*No way! I don't think we should deal in Laya.

When a book or an article deals with" something, it is about a particular subject. *The book deals with the

pread of AIDS. The expression can also be used to mean, "to manage someone or something".

There must be a way to deal with this problem.

*Bala finds it difficult to deal with Ganesh. When do we normally use

the expression "if only"? (B. Sailaja, Hyderabad)

Whenever we watch our overpaid underachievers (our and "got", while the one in the cricket team) in action. You normally use the expression "if only" when you wish things were different. You don't like the way things are now. "If only" means the same as "I lable. This is one way of prowish", but it is considered to be much stronger.

*If only I were a few inches taller. *If only Sehwag would mie". The word is usually used stop purring in ads and start roaring on the field.

Is the word "unwell" used only with pregnant ladies? (P. of bonhomie. Nagarajan, Chennai) When a lady becomes preg-

to her as being "unwell" those days are gone. As for tent."- Josiah Stamp your question, the word "un-

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH well" can be used with anyone

not just pregnant ladies. *Jai began to feel unwell after his stroll in the park.

What is the meaning of "icing on the cake"? (Sainath, Bangalore)

When you get cake to eat, it a pretty good deal. If the cake has frosting or icing on it, then the deal is that much sweeter. When you say that something is icing or frosting on the cake, what you are implying is that the addition or inclusion of something makes a really good situation even better. A great deal, becomes a wonderful deal. When used approvingly, "icing on the cake" is used to refer to an unexpected extra good thing to have happened when you have already had some luck.

I was thrilled to get a big bonus. When my boss told me that I had also been promoted. it was really icing on the cake.

*Geetha was pretty excited when her book was published dividual to take part in somewinning the Pulitzer prize was icing on the cake.

The expression can also be used to show disapproval. There is no point in adding anything to something that is already good. The thing that you have added is unneces-

sary — icing on the cake. *Having a glossy cover for our new magazine is both unnecessary and expensive --- icing on the cake.

How is the word "bonhomie " pronounced? What does mean? (K. Kunthala, Chennai)

The "o" in the first syllable is like the "o" in "hot", "pot", second syllable sounds like the "a" in "china". The final two vowels are like the "i" in "sit", "pit", and "hit". The main stress is on the first sylnouncing the Good-natured friendliness is usually referred to as "bonho-

in formal contexts. *After winning the championship, the captain was full

"Education: the inculcation of nant, I don't think people refer the incomprehensible into the ignorant by the incompe-

S. UPENDRAN

the Zanskar region that people Mother Goddess worship in Assam

KAMAKHYA — A Socioand Tantricism as followed in Cultural Study: Nihar Ranjan Mishra; D. K. Printworld (P) Ltd., 'Sri Kunj', F-52, Bali Nagar, New Delhi-110015. Rs. 950. THIS BOOK provides an insight and the puja rituals being perinto the religious and socio-cul-

ty with special reference to the temple complex. worship of Goddess Kamakhva Among the traditions, rituals, in the temple located on the Nilachala Mountain in Guwahati It also provides information about the different royal dynasties of various ethnic communities including the Ahoms, Bodos, Devrichutiyas, Khasis,

practices still continue to a certain extent in the State.

Lalungs and the Rabhas who

had worshipped Mother God-

forms in the past. Some of these

the Kamakhya temple, the author opines that the Goddess probably has a folk origin. This s corroborated by Her name formed at various levels by different ethnic communities in

festivals and the taboos followed in Assam, the author specially brings to attention one ritual that is followed in the Kamakhya temple. It is called "Ambuvaci" or "Ameti" in Assamese which refers to the Devi's yearly turn of menstruation pe-

During this time people redess in Her different names and frain from going to the temple and doing any auspicious work including digging the soil. To avoid any calamity or any While explaining the close dreadful disease, people often ship is very popular in the tant shrines visited by people

or simply a plate of vegetarian food to Kamakhya.

Besides Goddess Kamakhya, people also worship the major Goddesses Durga, Kali, Jagaddhatri and Lakshmi. Among the minor Goddesses, Apesvari is popular even among the Muslims. She is associated with the nymph Apsara.

In the northern parts of Kamarupa people believe that nymphs frequently cast their shadows on the ground. It is believed that if by any chance a child stamps on these shadows. it will be cursed with epilepsy or paralysis

Forms of worship

Ethnic communities worship Sitalamata as Ai and believe that she is the remover of all diseases. Kumaripuja or virgin worconnection between Saktism offer a pair of pigeons or goats Kamakhya temple. The temple often.



of Dikkaravasini in Sadia region, the Kamakhya temple at Silgat in Nowgaon District of the central region and the temple of Mahamava in the western border district of Dhubri are imporand Assamese. The Kalika Purana and the Yogini Tantra in Sanskrit give the legend of Kamakhya in detail. The unwritten or oral literature consists of Karati mantras and Dharani mantras which are curative and preventive in nature respective-

Assam has a rich stock of Sak-

Socio-cultural tradition

While explaining the sociocultural life of the people in the temple complex of Kamakhya, the author explains the family system, their livelihood and some of the social taboos. Since the temple celebrates several festivals as well as rituals, the residents include Brahmins and other communities.

The author discusses the important myths still prevalent in the temple complex. These are

desses Kamakhya and Kumari-priya and that of Vamachara ta literature in both Sanskrit practice. With regard to the exquisite

related to the origins of God

artefacts of Assam, the author writes that the people are experts in arts and crafts and they make various kinds of art materials exclusively based on the architectural aspects of the Kamakhya temple. Lastly, the book conveys the

message to the readers that Kamarupa now called Assam is the most sacred place on this Earth. Kamakhya is the "Yonipitha" and hence the fountain head of all creation.

This book will be useful to cholars and others interested in knowing about the temple of Kamakhya and the rituals asso-

HARIPRIYA RANGARAJAN

OPEN PAGE

Judicial restructure

THE LONG distance between the far off districts and the seat of the High Court in the capital of the State as also the escalation in the cost of litigation are stated to be the main reasons for the ongoing agitation by the advocates in Karnataka seeking the establishment of a Bench in the northern region of that State. These are equally valid and just reasons for seeking Benches of the Supreme Court in Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and perhaps in Andhra Pradesh too.

The agitation by the advocates of Tamil Nadu in the recent past for a Bench of the High Court in Madurai and now the agitation in North Karnataka for a Bench in their region has something more than the stated reasons for their justifica-

The advocates do have an innate desire to enhance the stature of the Bar in their regions and increase their own status in society. This motive is highly laudable particularly at a time when the long cherished standards and ethics of the legal profession have nose-dived into the ocean bed.

Judiciary's role

However, enhancing not only the stature of the regional Bar but also the subordinate judiciary has to be uniform throughout India and cannot be confined to particular regions. Or else, in the near future there will be more and more agitations for Benches in different regions ultimately resulting in the disintegration of the High Courts or even the Supreme Court.

Administration of justice, constitution and organisation of all Courts, except the Supreme Court and the High Court was originally entry 11 in List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India 1950, which meant that the State legislature had the exclusive power to legislate on the constitution and organisation of the subordinate courts. But then, by section 57 of the Constitution (Forty Second Amendment) Act of 1976 this entry was transposed to the Concurrent List as entry 11A with effect from the January 3,1977.

This means from that date, Parliament too has the power to legislate on the constitution and organisation of the subordinate judiciary. But the structure of the judiciary remains the same and has not undergone any alteration despite the change of times

Neither Parliament nor the State legislatures have lent a thought to expanding or restructuring the judiciary to meet the increasing needs of the litigating public.

Additional tiers

It is perhaps time to expand the judiciary by adding some more tiers to its structure. Even smaller countries than India have a better structure of the judiciary. For instance, Malaysia, which is smaller than India and where the quantum of litigation is much less than here had recently re-structured the system by constituting a Court of Appeal in between the High Court and the then Supreme Court which was consequently re-named as the Federal Court.

Having transferred the legislative entry pertaining to the constitution and organisation of courts to the concurrent list, at least now, after inaction for the last quarter century and more, Parliament and the Central Government should think in terms of establishing Regional Courts of Appeal in between the High Courts and the Supreme Court. This will not only disburden the Supreme Court of arrears but also avert any further agitation for Benches of the Supreme Court in

various States. The State legislatures and the State Governments too should establish a Court of Appeal at the district level by whatever name called. Such additions should be most welcome for not only the litigants but

the legal fraternity too. Workplace atmosphere

Advocates are supposed to be pursuing a profession that is noble and learned. But the places where the advocates are to espouse the causes of their clients, the court buildings particularly in the rural areas, are reminiscent of abandoned railway cabins or haunted houses. Those in charge of constructing these buildings do not seem to have any sense of what grandeur and majesty can be. In the all too low degree of India's visible development, these courthouses appear to have been the victims of the worst attention.

Even the necessary infrastructure is woefully lacking. There are a hundred aspects to be attended to but when politics of men is to the fore, the process of development is shown the door!

• K.V.PADMANABHA RAU

Corporate Mandal — a Manmohan reform?

ANDAL COMES back to sections of society need a helping the lack of efficiency as well as ramhaunt the nation once hand to join the mainstream of soof mediocrity. The UPA government with the corporate world about the modality of introducing reservation for the SCs. STs and the OBCs. The UPA government has also hinted at parliamentary intervention to effect its intention. The message goes loud and clear that the politics is in for a

Ambedkar had reluctantly agreed for reservation just for ten years. The reason behind was the need for an effective empowerment of the weaker sections than going for "quick fix simplistic solutions". The Constitution gave the right to make "positive discrimination" in favour of the weaker sections of society to the government (Ar. 15(2)). But successive governments chose to feast on the politics of populism ignoring the aberrations.

Impact of reservation

The socio-psychological explanation has been that the disadvantaged

again thanks to the politics ciety. At the same time, years of deprivation instil a sense of has appointed a committee to talk incompetence in the psyche of the mented with a non-discriminatory need to identify with the immediate role model of their own community to act as motivator. In the realm of public services, it is said that the people of the disadvan-

> likely to do better than others for the improvement of their lots. policy has been highly divisive, spreading hatred and discord among people. The assumption that the benefits will percolate down the social strata has been belied, with the affluent classes pocketing them in a

taged community are better equipped to empathise with the de-

prived sections of society and are

The concept of a creamy layer, applicable only for "other backward castes", has failed to serve any purpose. The culture of guilt that the reservation policy instils in the bene-

pant corruption infecting the system. To instil a culture of pride, the "policies based on positives" compledisadvantaged people. Also, people procedure is required. And it is pride that keeps people committed and efficient, not otherwise.

Those who suffer because of the reservation policy exhibit "apathy and contempt" and do not identify with the system, contributing to less

than the desired performance. The corporate model

Ironically the initiator of "reform" The social impact of reservation in the economy with the twin principles of "efficiency and competition" is asking the corporate sector to compromise on the lifeline of the modern

economy. The corporate sector ruthlessly practises the principle of "perform or erish", and that has brought out the best among their employees propelling them to higher standards of excellence. Why should they let the petty politicians wreck their hard built culture of excellence? With the WTO reficiaries may also be contributing to gime around, does the government

ating substandard employees on their pay-roll?

Lack of initiative

In the last one decade, economic development has left much to be desired. Regional disparity has led to the compounding of socio-economic malaise, with utter neglect of human resource.

Schools and colleges are still wallowing in the obsolete traditional methodologies removed from the demands of the modern economy. The politicians of the States suffering from a "culture of poverty" find no answer to the unmanageable unemployment, leaving them to harp on the much milked reservation bogey to keep their vote bank intact.

The government and the community leaders had the option to impart the skills and competencies to enable the people to compete and excel with others. The special education scheme imparting traditional knowledge as well as vocational training with industry interface could have been an option to explore. The re-

expect companies to compete toler- quired socio-psychological support system could have filled the gap in the emotional level. The government chose the bureaucratic approach that distanced it from the

The intervention at the elementary levels lacks the professional requirements. The end result has been a mismatch between the requirements and the provisions. And with failure looking deep into the eyes of the politicians, they find the easy way out to fall back on the pol-

icy of reservation. The response

Industry has shown much enthusiasm in supporting and conserving the initiatives to develop and promote excellence, knowledge, and skills. They have made it clear that if there were sincere efforts in this regard, finance will be no problem at all. Will the polity rise to the occasion and respond to the demands of the people in an objective, imaginative and visionary manner?

• MANISH ANAND

Civil Services exam: selective downgrade

posal to make the twelfth standard the benchmark for taking the Civil Services examination and to pursue a three year 'Civil Servicesoriented' course has triggered a debate among academicians and students across the country. It is beyond doubt that this proposal stirs a hornet's nest, and is going to shake the whole education system that is bound to debate its pros and cons. As part of the Civil Services reforms recommended by the Y.K. Alagh Committee, this proposal acquires a lot of significance and requires a thorough debate before it is actually imple-

The need of the hour is appropriately trained manpower to lead India towards a 'knowledge economy'. For this, educational reform has to be free from a utopian framework to ensure that practical needs are taken

Negative consequence

mented

The proposed reform will have a negative impact as it would transform 'education' into an 'industry' and commercialise teaching methodologies; the current educational policies in vogue in various States have clearly alienated poorer sections from the higher or professional education sector due to the exorbitant costs. This new proposal would

ses in higher education.

It appears that the concept of the three year 'Civil Services oriented' course and again selecting probationers after three years to obtain formal training as Civil Servants for two years does not have any practical utility. The current format that specifies graduation as eligibility for Civil Services Examination is delivering goods. But for Medicine, all the other graduate courses are three/four year programmes. After including the one-year selection process and oneyear training component, it normally will not stretch beyond five years in the current procedure assuming that the candidate gets selected in the first attempt. Viewed from the angle of time frame there seems to be no novelty in the new scheme except

that it is 'old wine in new bottle.' Reforms of the Civil Services were much anticipated, but not at the cost of traditional graduate programmes like B.A., B.Sc., and B.Com. This is so for various reasons. There will be no takers for these courses after Plus Two and eventually all the related post-graduate programmes would

lose their feeding.

Leaving aside the meagre percentage of people pursuing their postgraduation courses to do further research in the subject, the universities and their affiliated post-graduate the process of transformation of the

ventures. The knowledge and exposure emanating from different combinations of subjects at the graduation level would become futile if the new proposal gets implements

Education as industry

The qualifying examination for the Civil Services would clear the way for educational institutions functioning in the corporate style to capitalise on the craze, thereby preventing meritorious students from poorer sections to attempt the civil services. States like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka bear ample testimony to the 'corporatisation' of education at the Plus Two level. A similar situation would certainly recur in the Civil Services scenario. In the long run, an 'education industry' would flourish across the country.

Apart from the graduates/postaduates in Arts, Commerce and cience disciplines, many engineers, doctors, and management professionals would lose their chances of staking claims for bureaucratic positions under the new pattern. The denial of knowledge workers from the Civil Services selection would amount to the denial of expertise in specialised disciplines. As a result,

The Central Government's pro-further aggravate the prevailing cri-colleges would become loss-making knowledge economy will be dis-

Socio-economic divide

Lack of awareness about the Civil Services and the importance and relevence of personality development the Plus Two level create bottleecks among students with a rural had ground and the meritorious from among them will lose, once for in their chances of taking the exam-

ination in the new pattern. It would be a gross injustice to rurai youth who cannot compete with urbanites and this creates a socioeconomic divide between the urban and rural youth in many layers aifecting the social fabric, which is already quite delicate.

The very argument that it is expected to save time in deciding the fate of aspirants is irrational as the selection is not final and leads to the emergence of another pool of unemployed youth in the market. Once the graduate/post-graduate colleges and universities lose their relevance, it leads to a decline in enrolments. Educated and unemployed youth, who had been preparing for years for the civil services examination may be disqualified in future following the

new pattern. By and large, this further institutionalises unemployment.

In the current pattern, the Civil Services examination is a test for 'selection' as it is open to all streams of knowledge. In the proposed pattern could be a test for 'elimination' and there will be no scope for creative talents.

Focus on 'training pattern'

The government instead should aim at revising the syllabi and scheme of examination rather than adopting the elimination procedures in the name of Civil Services Reform. The reform of 'training' methods is more essential, not the 'selection' pattern. Instead of promoting nealthy standards in the educational system it would trigger the mushcooming of 'enterprises' in educa-

• RADHA MOHAN CHEBOLU

Announcement

Contributions to the Open Page will be considered for publication only if they are in electronic form and emailed. The length of the article should not exceed 800 words. It may be addressed to the Open Page desk at openpage@thehindu.co.in

Ramanna & the nuclear programme

p/20/0x

taken by Indira Gandhi emerged that India would not join the NPT, no matter what the blandishments

AJA RAMANNA and I met for L ter joining the Department of Atomic Energy in September 1955, Colaba, close to the Gateway of Innadaised Tamil. We were among a reactor. Ramanna went on to build a when I returned to India, afin the same block of apartments in sub-group of the Mysore Iyengar small group of young scientists and engineers selected by Homi Bhabha. the first time in early 1956, community speaking a highly Kan-We worked on building the Apsara strong research group in nuclear dia. We both belonged to a small reactor, India's first nuclear research in London. By a coincidence we lived physics while I embarked on the con struction of India's first nuclear pow

Kingdom were pressuring other countries to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Sarabhai was peared to be weighing India's gains and losses from joining the NPT.
At that crucial time, Homi Sethna icy and L.K. Jha, Secretary to Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri and lat-After Homi Bhabha's untimely sion. It coincided with the time when the United States and the United death in an aircrash in January 1966, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commiser Adviser to Indira Gandhi, ap-Vikram Sarabhai was appointed new to the intricacies of nuclear poler station at Tarapur.

engaged his attention, especially after his stint as Scientific Adviser to

An impediment to going nuclear was ic sanctions the West would impose kistan, increasing day by day, indicated that it was making rapid progress in the enrichment of uranium and that China was extending the feeling in Delhi that the economon India might become unbearable. the Defence Minister (1977 to 1980) In the mean time evidence from Pa was to use nuclear energy for peace-ful purposes, the Chinese nuclear weapon test of 1964 posed a major security dilemma for India. The situation was greatly compounded given the reverses suffered by India in the border war with China in 1962. A While the avowed policy of India

The legacy of Raja Ramanna is that he helped technologists to address the country's needs build up a large pool of scientists and of energy and national security.

plant for extracting plutonium from irradiated nuclear fuel, built under the leadership of Sethna at Trombay, had been commissioned in 1964.

uncertainty prevailed for some years about India demonstrating its nuclear capability. These were set at rest in Due to the changes in leadership 1974 when India carried out the Poknran-I test under the leadership of at Delhi and Bombay and the pressure applied by the U.S. and the U.K. Sethna and Ramanna.

dia's geo-strategic interest could be secured only by India becoming a nuclear weapon power. During the period when Ramanna was Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission (1983 to 1987), this question Ramanna was convinced that In-

became evident that Pakistan had a his principal associates had moved ahead substantially on the weaponsubstantial support to Pakistan going nuclear. By the end of the 1980s it early in 1987, he had made sure that few nuclear weapons in its basetinue the policy of ambivalence but ment. India's response was to conwith a high degree of preparedness. While Ramanna retired from the AEC isation programme.

Given the progress made on nuclear weapons by Pakistan, India had to respond beyond routinely telling the simha Rao reportedly gave clearance the mid-1990s, Prime Minister Naracountry that its security would be ensured under all circumstances. By to carry out a weapons test and prep-

pressure on Mr. Rao resulted in his countermanding the earlier approval. It is to the credit of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee that he took the dian economy had in the meantime firm decision to go ahead with the grown robust enough to withstand the economic sanction that the U.S. Pokhran-II tests of May 1998. The Inand its allies imposed on India.

Contrary to the fears in some sections of Indian opinion, relations with the U.S. actually improved after lowed Pakistan acquiring nuclear nuclear weaponisation in India fol-India became overtly nuclear. Also weapon capability. India, with a nuclear arsenal, even if limited, is better able to support universal nuclear disarmament, which continues to be In-

The legacy of Ramanna is that over a half century of his association with tists and technologists who could ogy to address the country's needs of energy and national security. Homi clear science and technology for na-tional progress, it would find the the atomic energy programme, he Bhabha had foreseen in 1944 that experts needed for the purpose in India. Raja Ramanna exemplifies in full measure the realisation of that helped build up a large pool of scien taken on new and challenging prob lems in nuclear science and technol when the time came for applying nu dia's goal.

The writer is a former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.)

BOOK REVIEW HOLD



 Gandhi, Bose, Nehru and the Making of the Modern Indian Mind: Reba Som; Penguin Books India Pvt. Ltd., 11, Com-munity Centre, Panchsheel munity Centre, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi-110017. Rs.

• The Linnet Bird: Linda Holeman; Headline Book Publishing, a division of Hodder Headline, 338, Euston Road, London NW1

3BH. £11. Kaleidoscope in Black Gold: Eugene Er; The Eugenes, 105, Nagarjuna Princess Manor, Princess Road, Mysore-570020. Rs.

 Testament of Love — Philosophy of Love & Life: S. Prabhanjana Swami; copies can be had from V. Satyanarayana Murty, 7-71, near Post Office, Indrapalem,

Bombay Meri Jaan: Fiona Fer-

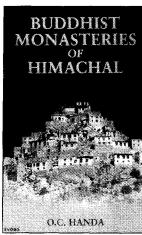
nandez; Rs. 95.

The Scholar Scientist: S. Chandrasekhar; Dilip M. Salwi; Rs. 195.

• Method in Madness: Kishore Kumar: Derek Bose: Rs. 395. • One Yesterday: Saif Hyder Hasan — Editor; Rs. 395. The above four books pub. by Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansari Road, Darya-

 The Mountain of Light: Claire Allen; Headline Book Publishing, A division of Hodder Headline, 338, Euston Road, London NW1

• Buddhist Monasteries of Himachal: O.C. Handa; Indus Publishing Company, FS-5, Tagore Garden, New Delhi-110027. **Rs. 650.**



 Alchemies of Violence — Myths of Identity and the Life of Trade in Western India: Lawrence A. Babb; Rs. 550.

• Multinationals in India - Ma naging the Interface of Cultures: Jai B.P. Sinha; **Rs. 350.**

 Identity and Religion — Foundation of Anti-Islamism in India: Amalendu Misra; Rs. 295.

Transformative Links Between Higher and Basic Education: Karuna Chanana — Editor; Rs.

650. The above three books pub by Sage Publications, B-42, Panchsheel Enclave. New

 Karumuttu Thiagaraja Chettiar
 The Textile King: Radha
Thiagarajan: Vanathi Pathippakam, 23, Deenadayaju Street, T.

 Chemadayaju Street, T. Chennai-600017. Rs.

 Vedic Records on Early Aryans: L. N. Renu; Bharatiya Marg, Mumbai-400007. Rs. 225. Freedom's Way — Engage Your Potential: ZT Bloch-Jorgensen; Freedom's Way Press India, Freedom's Way House, 2, Panch Devaria Road, o/s Chand

than-313001. **\$.18.** The Dirty Girls Social Club: Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez; Arrow Books, The Random House Limited, 20, Vauxhall Road, London, SWIV 2SA £ 3.

 Western Realism and International Relations — A Non-Western View: Aswini K. Ray; Foundation Books, 4764/2A, 23 Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. **Rs. 595.**

Western Realism and International Relations



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Bridge Road, London SWIV 2SA. £ 7. Dynamics of Capital Market: Raj Kumar, Rs. 200.

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plslamic Education Theory and Practice: Zafar Alam; Adam Publishing & Distributors, Exports & Importers, 1542, Pataudi

House, Darya Ganj, New Del-hi-110002, Rs. 150.

Careers in Merchant Navy: Student Aid Publications, 43-A. Krishna Enclave (behind Kulach Hansraj Model School), Ashok Vihar, Phase III, PO Box 8502, Delhi-110052. Rs. 75.

Electronics — Theory and Applications: S. L. Kakani, K.C. Bhandari; New Age International (P) Ltd., Publishers, 4835/24, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. **Rs. 245**.

Hamsa Sutras — Nine Gems on Enlightenment: K. N. Venkatkrishnan (Krishnaji); Paramarth Seva Pratishtan Charitable Trust, 6/75, Gita Sadan, Central Avenue Road, Chembur, Mumbai-400071.

Tamil Anga Asaivugalin Moolam

Aduthavargalai Purinthu Kollungal: C. S. Devanathan; Rs.

Padithalae Siripputhan: T. N. naian: Rs. 28. • Ilakkiyangalilirundu Thamizh Inbaththaen: S. Eswaran; Rs.

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Indhiya Pattriya Vinadi Vina Vi-daigal: K. S. Subramani; Mani-megalai Prasuram, PB No. 1447, 7, Thanikachalam Salai, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 40. Sivaneri Thirattu: Arumuga Adigal; Valamburi Pathippagam, 7, Fifth Main Road, Anna Nagar,

Chennai-600040. Rs. 30.
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runinravur-602024. **Rs. 35.**

S. Anandhan; Manimegalai Prasuram, PB No. 1447, 7, Tha-nikachalam Salai, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017, Rs. 25. Thagaval Thirattu: Muthu Renuka; Sura Books Pvt. Ltd., 1620, 'J' Block, 16th Main Road Anna Nagar, Chennai-600040.

Rs. 40. Sarabendhira Boopala Kuravarapendnira Boopala Kuravanchi Nadagam: Aranga Srinivasan; Yai Veliyeedu, AP-1108
Thendral Colony Third Street,
Anna Nagar West, Chennai-600040. Rs. 40.

Telugu

Dalith Lives: K. Asaiah; Society for Dalit Educational Research & Development, 12-2-500/21, S-2, Venkateswara Apts, Saigarden Mehdipatnam, bad-500028. Rs. 75.

 Sufi Kavitvam: Deevi Subbarao; Navodaya Book House, Street Opposite Arya Samaj Hyderabad-500027. **Rs. 125.** • Dalit Jathi Ratnalu: K. Asaiah

Society for Dalit Educational Research & Development, 12-2-500/21, S-2, Venkateswara Apts, Saigarden, Mehdipatnam, Hyderabad-500028. Rs. 75.

 Taarana — Kavitha Samkala-nam: T. Sriranga Swamy — Edi-tor; Sreelekha Sahithi, H.No. 14-5/2, Opp. MRO Office, Ha-Warangal-506371 Indradhanussu Yedo Rangu

South Africa Vimochanodya-nam: Bharateeyulu: Pennepalli Gopalakrishna; Prajasakthi Book House, 1-1-187/1/2, Chikkadapalli, Hyderabad-20. Rs. 75. Aanaatimuchchatlu: Mudigon da Shivaprasad; Copies can be had from the author, 2-2-647/

132B, Central Excise Colony Hyderabad-13. Rs. 100. Dukhabhasha Vaddeboina Sri-nivasa Poetry: 35-4-115/2, Ra-hamatnagar, Kazipet-506003, Warangal. Rs. 15.

Rytu Kavita - Anthology of Agrarian Poetry: Papineni Siva Sankar — Edited & Compiled; M. Rajyalakshmi, 102, Sri Kota Residency, Near Police Station, Hyderabad-500050.

Satyanarayana (Satakotta-mam): G. Subramanya Sastry; Copies can be had from G. Kumaraswami, 219, Dattasai Apart-ments, RTC Crossroads, Hyderabad-20. **Rs. 20.**

Enupagajjela Talli: Singamane ni Narayana, Santhi Narayana; Copies can be had from SS Apartments, Ram Nagar, Ananthapuram. Rs. 50.

• Ugadi Pachchadi Kathavali: N.S.N. Murthy; Soundarya Flat No. 11, Vikasapuri, Sanjiva Red-dy Nagar (P.O.), Hydera-bad-500038. **Rs. 100.**

Challenges of globalisation

GLOBALIZATION AND SOUTH ASIA - Multidimensional Perspectives: Achin Vanaik Editor: Academy of Third World Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia. Manohar Publishers & Distributors, 4753/23, Ansari Road, Darvagani, New

Delhi-110002. Rs. 745.

THIS VOLUME is the result of a four-day conference on "Globalisation and South Asia" organised by the Academy of Third World Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, with the active collaboration of the Indian Social Science Institute. The objective of the conference was to familiarise those teaching social sciences with the complex issues of globalisation and its multiple im-

The organisers viewed globalisation in the broadest sense of the term, so as to cover not only economic issues but also issues relating to society, culture, politics, education and science. Scholars of eminence made presentations and the participants were drawn from the teaching community.

Impact of globalisation

The volume contains the presentations made in the conference and also a record of the lively discussions that followed the presentations. The verbatim reproduction makes the book very readable, but its academic worth would have been enhanced, if these presentations were properly edited. It should also have contained a detailed introductory chapter by the edi-

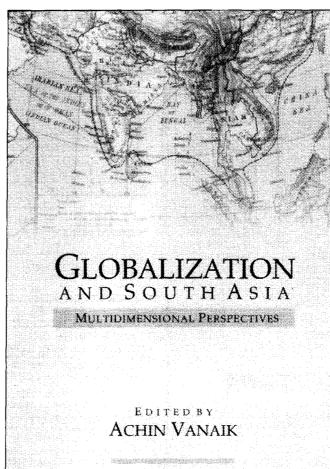
tor, highlighting the signifi-cance of globalisation and its impact on the developing world.

The book can be broadly divided into three parts. Part I covering the first two chapters, highlights the impact of globalisation on the Indian economy; Part II comprising the next four chapters, analyses the challenges of globalisation in neighbouring countries - Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. The last part, in 10 chapters, goes beyond the realm of economics and deals with a wide spectrum of allied subjects ranging from science and techenvironment and nology, health, to education, media and

Liberalisation in India

The Indian experience with globalisation is mired in controversy. And the first two chapters mirror prevailing contradictory views on the subject. Arvind Virmani points out that the old paradigm "of the morally benevolent and all powerful state" has failed; it has not yet been replaced by a new paradigm and there is a "huge deterioration in the functioning of the government.

Arun Kumar characterises the changes that have taken place after 1991 as "only one phase of globalisation." He adds that India had been globalising for the past 250 years, but we were "globalising to somebody else's are coming from outside." design." While Kumar does not have any problem with global- reference to India's marginal isation per se, he is extremely role in the international eco- than what it was 40 years ago,



worried about "one way glob- nomic system. Globalisation alisation", where "all influences Sajay Baru makes pointed

MANOHAR

should naturally lead to India playing a bigger role, but India's share in the world trade today is only 0.7 per cent, which is less

Patnaik pinpoints two facets of globalisation, first the clamour for reduction of tariff barriers. which would pave the way for free trade and second, substantial increase in the mobility of finance. The two tendencies "feed upon one another."

One aspect of the financial flow is, "The finance is not invested necessarily in any project, but finance that is here today, is gone tomorrow; that is in the nature of hot money flows.

As far as the Indian experiment is concerned, Prabhat Patnaik points out that despite 6.5 per cent annual growth in the GDP, there is only a "marginal fall" in rural poverty. What is more, the emergence of one superpower in a unipolar world is leading to the establishment of a "surrogate world state."

Sri Lankan experience

The first country to experiment with liberalisation in South Asia was Sri Lanka, P. Sahadevan has dealt with the Sri Lankan experiment. After the landslide victory in the 1977 elections, Javewardene ushered in the era of liberalisation in Sri Lanka. For Javewardene, the model to be emulated was Singapore and he wanted to make Sri Lanka the Singapore of South Asia.

In the political side, he introduced an authoritarian form of government; in the economic book still further. side, he followed the prescrip-

namely 2.0 per cent. Prabhat and tried to introduce an export-oriented economy. During the initial phase, Sri Lanka did register economic growth, but the development strategies suffered a severe setback when the ethnic conflict erupted in 1983.

The Government had to divert lot of money for defence and the protracted civil war set the clock back as far as economic progress was concerned. The only redeeming feature was the large migration of Sri Lankan labour to foreign countries.

Their remittances helped, to a certain extent, to ease the difficult foreign exchange situation. The experiences of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal have been analysed by C.P. Chandrasekhar, Abhijit Sen and .N. Mukherjee.

Globalisation is not merely an economic phenomenon; it impinges on the political system, media, culture, science, technology and health. For example, privatisation of education has made higher education very costly and, in many cases, beyond the reach of the poorer sections of the people.

Privatisation of health has resulted in good medical services for the urban rich, but the poorer sections cannot avail of these

Written in a simple and lucid style, the volume would be extremely useful to the student community in South Asia. A detailed bibliography and an index would have enriched the

V. SURYANARAYAN

Dilemmas in poverty alleviation

Forgotten Face of Rural Poverty: Abraham M. George: EastWest Books (Madras) Pvt. Ltd., 571, Poonamalle High Road, Aminjikarai, Chennai-600029. Rs. 295.

A FRIEND, Raj, once visited a small town in Gujarat. Got talking to a young man, Deepak, who said, "Come see my home." Rai had a few minutes, so they strolled through the town, through a patch of garbage and a stinking overflowing drain, to some lean-to shanties set among some thorn bushes -Deepak's little community's

Raj knelt and looked into his home, said hello to his wife and daughter. Then it was time for

Need for empathy

On the way back, Deepak suddenly stopped and said to Raj in Hindi, "Don't ever lose the feeling for the poor I can see you have in your heart." Raj says he was speechless, suddenly close to tears. It was both a compliment always to be treasured and the saddest thing he ever heard.

words showed how novel an experience even that was for Deepak. That was a glimpse into a sad reality - the prejudice and lack of basic humanity that are part of everyday life for the rural

I read Abraham George's book in the hope that he had stories like this, and insights from them, to share. He did have them and he does share them.

The problem is, there is so much else in his book that by the end, you have lost track. It is hard to say that, really. Because George is clearly passionate, committed, persevering and crystal clear about what he wants to achieve and he

Initiatives

His Shanti Bhavan School in districts is set up on admirable lines. It selects its students in just the right way. The health care initiatives he has taken are what the rural poor need. And no doubt all this is making a difference to people's lives. And that's just the point. This book should have been

All Raj had done was spend a about exactly those things. It philosophy, ethics and foreign few minutes with Deepak, as should have told us some of the policy, besides quotes from

with anyone else. Yet, these myriad experiences the author Flaubert and Macchiavelli, has undoubtedly had along the way. It should have told us the lessons he has learned.

those things. But they just get drowned. Maybe what I'm trying to say is, George should have focussed this book. It would have had much greater impact.

His grasp of the problems that weigh India down is impressive, his breadth of knowledge about them even more so. But after 300 pages, you start to wonder, wait a minute, was there really stuff here about rural poverty? Because on the 300th page,

you read that the U.S. Senator Alan Simpson once said, "If you have character, that is all that matters. And if you do not have character, that is all that matters And this is in a discussion on "Fair and truthful reporting."

And that is after reading about AIDS, terrorism, corruption, bureaucracy, the Kyoto Protocol and the Earth Summit, Gujarat 2002 and lead poisoning and ahead in the book are journalism, arts and culture, Hindu

Gandhiji and Picasso. And much more. Perhaps all of these have some bearing on the face And again, it does tell us of rural poverty; certainly the author knows a great deal about

ATWS

Certainly he has worked hard on most of these issues, whether learning about them or doing something about them. But the question is, should they all have been in this book?

Dilemmas

The author once received a large shipment of American The customs officer wanted a bribe, which, "as a matter of principle," George refused to pay. Eventually, he had to burn | 1960s.

Looking back, says George, he is not sure he made the right decision. "On an ethical principle, I sacrifice(d) the welfare of several hundred children and poor people and allowed the destruction of a valuable food item." Hold on to your ethics? Or feed needy kids? That is the sort of tragic dilemma poverty in India throws in your face. My friend Raj knows.

A landmark in mental health care

THE GOVERNMENT MENTAL HOSPITAL KILPAUK, MADRAS - Memoirs of the Fifties:

O. Somasundaram; Pub. by the author; New No.17, Old No.30, 23rd Cross Street, Besant Nagar, Chennai-600090.

CHRONICLING HISTORY is by itself a daunting task. Doing that for an ancient, albeit premier mental hospital, with little or no documentation, or easily accessible records makes the task even more formidable. However the author, one of the leading psychiatrists in Chennai and a former superintendent of the wheat for kids in Shanti Bhavan. hospital, now rechristened The Institute of Mental Health, has done this effectively by narrating the history of the hospital till the

> One of the remarkable milestones in the history of medicine of the mind. Treatment of the mentally ill has undergone tremendous transitions — from the era of mere custodial care to fancy treatments such as water therapy, insulin coma to neuroleptics, rehabilitation, and familv work.

This book captures this transformation in a very interesting DILIP D'SOUZA fashion through the contribu-

tions of W. S. Krishnaswami Naidu. N. Subramaniam and A.S. Johnson that the author has reproduced verbatim in this publication.

Humane care

He then describes certain specific aspects of care of the abnormal offenders, mentally retarded, those with coexisting physical conditions such as leprosy and tuberculosis. In his inimitable style, the author has blended humorous anecdotes with facts and events. Inviting us as he does to take a tour of the hospital with him, he provides readers an insight of the kind of odds they had to contend with in providing humane care - lack of infrastructural facilities, trained psychiatrists, absence of social workers and psychologists, both was the introduction of neuro- of whom form the backbone of leptics or drugs to treat disorders any treatment centre now and the special problems with neurosyphilis, a clinical entity we rarely encounter now.

> The book could have been made more visually appealing. This is an interesting book, not just for the mental health professional, but also for all interested in the historical development of institutions.

R. THARA

The Nagarathar heritage • Anthology of short stories Telugu literary criticism • Autobiographical novel

TAMIL

INAIYARRA ILAIYARRANKUDI: S. A. P. Jawahar Palaniyappan; Kumudham Publication, 306 (151), Purasawalkam High Road, Chennai-600010. Rs.

interesting information, unique style and beautiful get-up — these are the constitutive factors pertaining to this book. It deals with the first Siva temple built by the Nagarathar - the Chettiar community of "Nattukottai" at Ilaiyarrankudi. Their contributions by way of promoting and patronising Saivism through the construction

and renovation of temples for Lord Siva, estab-

higher education and serving the noble cause for

THE GLITTERING pages, illuminating pictures,

literature and indigenous music can never be un-This work commences with a historical account of the Chettiars of Nattukkottai including their growth and prosperity in Chettinad and

The temples they have built and the list of their native villages with illustration show their generosity. To substantiate the main title of this work prominence has been given extensively to exemplify the imminent role of the Nagarathars in rebuilding the Siva temple in Ilaiyarrankudi. The events connected with this are narrated like a novel. The subsequent pages deal with the temple and its presiding deities.

The hymn Abhirami Andadi is also included and the benefit for chanting each verse is mentioned. Incidentally the lives of four Nayanmars belonging to the Nagarathar community are portrayed. However, the said saints were not conscious of their birth but dedicated their life to Lord Siva and fellow devotees for their redemp-

The quintessence of Saiva religion and philosophy is well ordained in the Sivapuranam hymn of Saint Manickavachakar. Probably this may be the reason to include this here. The outer and inner structures of the massive VYASA GAUTAMI — Essays on Telugu

residential buildings of the Nagarathars are fasci-

nating with aesthetic appeal. Their role in the print media is highlighted towards the end. The pictures of Gods, Goddesses, saints, sages and other individuals are excellent.

R. GOPALAKRISHNAN PUDUMAIPPITHAN SIRU KATHAIKAL — Vol. 1: S. Subash Chandra Bose — Compiler: Pavai Publications, 142, Jani Jan Khan Road,

Royapettah, Chennai-600014. Rs. 75. THE EPONYMOUS literary giant of this book was a legend in his lifetime. Though this initial compilation carries only seven long pieces, the five volume project is intended to cover all his short

"Thunbakkeni" is the harrowing tale of the un-

stories. The pick of this volume in a nutshell:

lishing several academic institutions to foster lettered in the Dalit community, the womenfolk of which suffered to the extreme including sexual assaults. The locale was the tea estates of Ceylon, now Sri Lanka, where a hapless woman had gone to eke out a meagre existence. What happened to her husband and his so-called daughter? Thereby hangs a tale. Naasakkaara Kumbal" is about a barber who,

> locked in a property dispute with a landlord, received a good thrashing which illogically provoked him to be converted. "Chellammal" is a moving story of an ailing housewife in her deathbed with her husband in

> financial straits. The premonition attributed to her makes the story all the more poignant. "Kadavulum Kandasamippilaiyum" is an imaginary conversation between man and God to focus on human frailties. "Kapaadapuram" which takes the reader to a visionary world comes close

> to science fiction. The book is vitiated by numerous misprints. It would have been wonderful if the original source in which each story was first published was made available as in A.R.Venkatachalapathy's mega collection. But the compiler's preface and the publisher's introduction deserve mention.

literature: B. Rambrahmam; Pub. by Appajosyula

P. SUNDARESAN

TELUGU

Vishnubhotla-Kandalam Foundation, U.S. Copies can be had from Visalandhra Publishing House, 4-1-435, Vignan Bhavan, Bank Street, Hyderabad-500001. Rs. 120.

THIS IS a compilation of 18 literary essays, written and published on different occasions by an expert in literary criticism. In the opening essay, the author pictures the individuality of the Telugu literary genre and

says, "other than reading, reflecting, enjoying

and authentically displaying the modes, their ex-

cellence, there is nothing we could do to pay back

the earlier poets for the long legacy they had left us." He quotes extensively from the early writings to illustrate his point. The essays touch upon the depth, imagination and expression of poets like Nannayya, Pingali-Katuri, Rangajamma, Srinatha, Kopparapu brothers, Madhunapantula, Viswanatha, E Krishnamacharya and others. Some essays are devoted only to the science or techniques of transcreation giv-

constitutes literature and their standing. His rendering on Panduranga Mahathmiyam of Tenali Ramakrishna, highlighting the sustenance of the family system as the ultimate purpose is very imaginative and touching. The numerous ways and modes of living are illustrated indicating the very purpose of literature as a

ing the original ideas of the writers as to what

source for maintaining social equilibrium. He traces the literary journey of Madhunapantula, the creator of Andhrapuranam. In his earlier Khandakavyas, from Ratnapanchalika to Ratna Panchasika; presents the "Sabda Brahmopasana" (variant and effective use of words) which places

the poet on a high pedestal. In the short essay on Tenali Ramakrishna's literary work, Utbhataradhya Charitra, the writer lists out a series of riddles that must be attended to. Ghatakarfura Kavyam, in 22 verses, attributed to Kalidasa is appended and again a series of doubts is raised over the authenticity of author-

He annotates the excellence found in four verses. These essays are of value to the general reader and also the scholar. The author deserves praise for coming out with this book.

N. C. RAMANUJACHARY

MALAYALAM

UCHALYA: Lakshman Gaikwad in Marathi, Kaliyath Damodaran — Tr. in Malayalam; Current Books, Round West, Thrissur-680001. Rs. 110. THIS NOVEL created much excitement in Marathi literary circles when it first appeared in 1987. The following year, it won the Central Sahitya Akademi award for the best work in that language. It has taken 17 years for this major work from a sister language to find its way into

Malayalam. The autobiographical novel tells the story of a member of the Uchalya tribe, who overcomes the disabilities arising from the circumstances of his birth and emerges as a leader of the dispossessed people. As he goes along, he gets wise to the ways of the rich and the powerful and recognises the inadequacies of the Dalit leadership.

Lakshman Gaikwad's work is as much sociological as it is literary. He presents a realistic picture of the life of the Uchalyas, who have to put up with extreme humiliation and harassment for survival. They have to bribe policemen even when they have not committed any crime. Apart from laying bare the tyranny of the caste

system, the novel exposes the primitive ideas of crime and punishment that prevail in our society. It also provides insights into the ethical standards of the thieving community - by implication it raises an important question: what is the stake of the dispossessed people in the Indian nation? In the past the translator, Kaliyath Damodaran

has introduced to Malayalam readers the works of other Marathi writers like Godavari Parulekar and Arun Sadhu.

B. R. P. BHASKAR

Announcement

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to The Hindu for review. While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under "New Arrivals" the decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper. Receipt of individual books will not be acknowledged in response to enquiries.

BOOK REVIEW



- The Thirteen Principal Upanishads Translated from Sanskrit: Robert Ernest Hume; Shivalik Prakashan, 27/16, Shakti Nagar, Delhi-110007. **Rs.**
- The World According to Washington An Asian View: Patwant Singh; Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002.
- Administrative Reforms: Initiatives and Impact — A Study in the Context of Rajasthan: Nandita; Aalekh Publishers, Duggar Building, MI Road, Jaipur. **Rs.**
- An Interview with Self Simple Ways to Unravel the Power Within: J. L. Dhar; Wisdom Tree, C-209/1, Mayapuri II, New Delhi-110064. Rs. 145.

 The Gheranda Samhita — Text
- with English Translation a Treatise on Hatha Yoga: Sri Chandra Vasu Tr in English; Shivalik Prakashan, 27/16, Shakti Nagar, Delhi-110007. Rs. 125.
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- Khasi-Jaintia Folklore --- Context, Discourse and History: Sou-men Sen; National Folklore Support Centre, 7, 5th Cross Street, Rajalakshmi Nagar, Ve-lachery, Chennai-600042. Rs.
- India Waiting For Dawn India Waiting For Dawn — A New Vision, A New Hope: Shan-tanu Dutta; G.L.S. Publishing, Udyog Bhavan, 250-D Worli Col-ony, Mumbai-400030. Rs. 120.
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ndra Prasad Road, New Del-

- Mirch Masala: Rakesh Sethi; Popular Prakashan, 35-C Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya Marg, Popular Press Building, Tardeo, Mumbai-400034. **Rs. 89.**
- A Journey Through Life: R. Chandrasekaran; Ante Publishing, 17, Jamalia, Perambur, Chennai-600039. **Rs. 85.**
- Rajasthan An Oral History Conversations with Komal Kothari: Rustom Bharucha; Penguin Books India (P) Ltd., 11, Community Centre, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi-110017. Rs.
- Business-Social Partnership An International Perspective Sunita Singh-Sengupta (Editor); Aalekh Publishers, Duggar Building, MI Road, Jai-Building, MI Roa pur-302001. **Rs. 650.** Road,
- A Brief History of Islam: Tam-ara Sonn; Blackwell Publishing Ltd., U.K. Distributed by Atlantic Publishers & Distributors, 7/22, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. **Rs. 375**.



- Mass Media & Political Perceptions: Narendra Nigam; Mangal Deep Publications, Duggar Building, MI Ropur-302001. Rs. 495. MI Road,
- Landscapes of Urban Memory
 The Sacred and the Civic in India's High-Tech City: Smriti Srinivas; Orient Longman Pvt. Ltd., 3-6-752, Himayatnagar, Hyderabad-500029. **Rs. 475.**
- For The Love of India The Life and Times of Jamsetji Tata: R.M. Lala; Pengin Books India (P) Ltd., 11, Community Centre, Panchsheel Park, New Del-
- 110017 Rs. 395. The End of Saddam Hussein History Through the Eyes of the Victims: Prem Shankar Jha Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 395.
- Chandani Lokuge: Turtle Nest; Penguin Books India (P) Ltd., 11, Community Centre, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi-110017. Rs.
- Rendering Unto Caesar: Bradman Weerakoon; New Dawn Press (an imprint of Sterling Pub-lishers (P) Ltd., A-59, Okhla In-dustrial Area, Phase II, New Delhi-110020. £.18.

- Yoga 4 You An easy-to-do guide for Yoga: Kapila Maharshi Research for Resources, D.No.
- Research for Resources, D.No.
 8-3-1060/B2, Il Floor, Post Office
 Building, Srinagar Colony, Hyderabad-500073. Rs. 95.
 Chandella Art: S. K. Sullerey;
 Aakar Books, 28-E, Pocket-IV,
 Mayur Vihar Phase-I, Del110091 Rs. 75. hi-110091. Rs. 75.

 The Moral Foundations of Poli-
- tics: Ian Shapriro; Aakar Books, 28-E, Pocket-IV, Mayur Vihar Phase-I, Delhi-110091. Rs. 550. Origins of Modern Europe — Medieval National Conscious-ness: Abida Shakoor; Aakar Books, 28-E, Pocket-IV, Mayur Vihar Phase-I, Delhi-110091. Rs. 950.
- Perspectives in Women's Studies Globalisation: Malini Bhattacharya; Tulika Books, 35 A/1, (Third Floor), Shahpur Jat, New Delhi-110049. Rs. 295.
- Writers Workshop Books —
 The Looking Glass: Chandni
 Kapur; Rs. 100; It Happens Like
 This: Aysha Viswamohan; Rs.
 150; A New God and Other Poems: Kishori Lal; Rs. 150;
 The Mahababasa of Visco
- The Mahabhrata of Vyasa—
 Vols 268 to 287: Rs. 100.
 The Gold Comb & Other Poems: Jelena Narayanan; Rs.
- An Exotic Tree: Abdul Rashid Bijapure; Rs. 100. Shadows Don't Live in Walls: Samartha Vashishtha; **Rs. 150.** The above books pub. by Writers Workshop, 162/92, Lake Gardens, Calcutta-700045. **Rs. 150.**
- Nitya Yoga The Yoga of Constant Communion Essays on staffic Commonitor — Essays out the Srimad Bhagavad Gita: Va-namali; Aryan Books Internation-al, Pooja Partments, 4B, Ansari Road, Darya Ganj, New Del-hi-110002. **Rs. 350.** Test It, Fix It Pre-Intermediate
- English Verbs and Tenses: Kenna Bourke; Oxford University Press, YMCA Library Building, Jai Singh Road, New Del-hi-110001. **Rs.** 145. From Pluralism to Separatism — Qasbas in Colonial Awadh: Mushirul Hasan; Oxford Univer-sity Press, YMCA Library Build-ing, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001. **Rs. 650**.

Tamil

- Neethiyarasar Mohan: K. Jeevabharathi; Rs. 120. Jeevavum Naanum: Tha. Pan-
- dian; Rs. 80. Agayathukku Adutha Veedu: M. Mehta; Rs. 50. The above three books pub. by Kumaran Pathippagam, 3, Muthukrishnan Street. Chennai-600017
- Kalaignarin Pasumai Ninaivu-
- gal: Rs. 50.

 Manohara: Rs. 25.

 Kalaignar Sonna Kathaigal: Rs. 30. The above three books authored by M. Karunanidhi;

 Sulaba Jodhidam: R. Vijaya-
- lakshmi; Rs. 50.

 Kirubanantha Variyarin Ramayana Virivurai — Kamba Ra-mayanam — Part I: Rs. 90; Part II: Rs. 60. The above two books written by Thirumuruga Kiruba-nantha Variyar; The above books pub. by Bhaarathe Pathippagam, 126/108, Usman Road, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017 • Vettrikku Mel Vettri: Kavida-
- san: Rs. 40. Sadikamudiyum:
- Kavidasan; Rs. 30. Kanneer Pookkal: M. Mehta; Rs. 50. The above three books pub. by Kumaran Pathippagam, 3, Muthu Krishnan Street, Pondy Bazaar, Chennai-600017.

 Vikramadithan: Nanjil Sri Vish-
- nu; Rs. 30. Pattinathar: Nanjil Sri Vishnu; Rs. 30. The above two books pub. by Sri Ananda Nilayam, 29/5, Ranganathan Street, First
- Chennai-600017.

 Katreel Oru Sadhuram: Madhu Keshav; Anugraha Pathippa-gam, 18/1, Housing Board Colony, Fourth Street, Durga Nagar, Tambaram Sanatorium, Chennai-600047. **Rs. 60.** Saneeswara Bhagavanum
- Saneeswara Jodhidamum: R. Arumugam; Pengalin Jadhaga Palanai Arivathu Eppadi?: P. C. Gane-
- san; Rs. 40. Netaji Subash Chandrabose Vaazhkkai Varalaru: R. V. Pathy; Rs. 35. The above three books pub. by Sura Books (Pvt.) Ltd., 1620 'J' Block, 16th Main Nagar, Chennai-600040.
- Thamaraparanik Karaiyinilae: S. Gannan, Manimegalai Prasuram, P.B. No. 1447, 7, Thanikachalam Salai, T. M. Chennai-600017. Rs. 36.
- Sadanai Padaikkum Chakara Naarkaligal: K. J. Ramanaraya-nan; Annai Puthagalayam, 3, Si-vananam Street, 2nd Floor, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 59. Virpanaiyil Viyaththagu Sad-hanaigal Padaikalam: H. Nata-
- rajan; Manimegalai Prasuram, P.B. No. 1447, 7, Thanikachalam nai-600017. Rs. 40 Kadi Jokes 500: Azhagu Shan kar; Azhagu Pathippagam, 21, Teachers Guild Colony, Rajaji
- Nagar Extn., Villivakkam, Chen nai-600049. Rs. 20. Kambanil Kalantha Nadhigal:
- A. Arivoli; Rs. 70. Aaraichimani: Thanjai V. Na-rayanaswami; Rs. 40.
- Srimath Pamban Swamigal Varalaaru: K. A. Panchapakesan; Rs. 30. The above three books pub. by Vanathi Pathippa gam, 23, Deenadayalu Street T.Nagar, Chennai-600017.
- Saddam Maranathin Nizhalil P.J. Rajaiah; Nakheeran Publi cations, Chennai-600014. Rs.
- Periyaradangal: Rs. 125.Nannan Annal Ninavu Parisu Potti (AD 2004) — Short Stories Part I: Rs. 100. Urai Nadaiya? Kurai Nadaiya?:
- Thavarindri Thamizh Yazhuthuvom: Rs. 35. The above four books authored by M. Nannan; Eegam Pathippagam, PB No. 2964, 3, Pillaiyar Koil Street, 2nd Lane, First Floor, Triplicane, Chennai-600005.

CHRONICLE OF AN IMPOSSIBLE ELECTION --The Election Commission and the 2002 Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Elections: James Michael Lyngdoh; Penguin Books India Pvt. Ltd., 11, Community Centre, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi-110017.

Rs. 395.

FIRST THINGS first. This book is much more than a mere account of the 2002 Jammu and Kashmir Assembly poll. The chronicle of this "impossible" election figures only in the second half of this slim volume, but even here the Gujarat election, held in the same year, competes

for space. As for the first half, the book begins with a potted history of Jammu and Kashmir, but sud- bit by bit - with the aid of novel denly and quite unexpectedly shifts narrative gear. It digresses into relating the story of the and court judgments, which evolution of the Election Commission (E.C.) — from a body my of this constitutional body that was once subservient to the Executive to one that has slowly acquired full-fledged autonomy.

The unusual structure of the book is perhaps a result of Lyng- or drive of one CEC or the other. doh's belief that the 2002 Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election - which was remarkably free and fair - must be unsertiveness of the E.C. The and Kashmir election was easily the highpoint of Lyngdoh's unbending and combative tenure as Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) — "a landmark event" as the blurb on the book jacket

Towards autonomy

In the public mind, the first stirrings of defiance - or more accurately assertiveness - in the E.C. began with T.N. Sesh-

Lyngdoh's truth

back much earlier. He begins in 1981 when Sham Lal Shakdher, then CEC, resisted pressure from the Congress Government not to hold the Garwhal Lok Sabha by-election and then declared a repoll of the entire constituency when he found substance in the complaints of massive rigging. It was also Shakdher who made the first move to use electronic voting machines (EVMs), an experiment that faced a plethora of obstacles before its eventual acceptance.

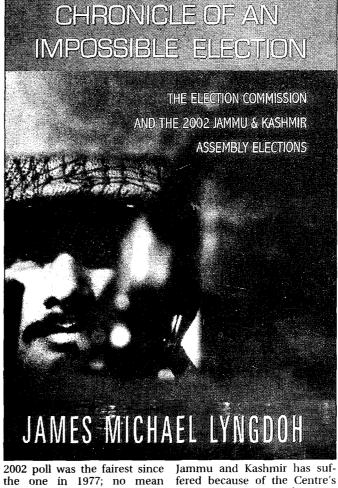
The story of defiance flows from then on and there was no looking back after the E.C. survived the Government's crude attempt to rein in Peri Sastri in 1989. In Lyngdoh's account, the E.C.'s independence was won decisions (introduction of EVMs and model code of conduct) have strengthened the autonoin taking decisions that are vital for the conduct of free and fair elections. It was not something that was won, as the press often assumes, by the mere charisma

Moving to Jammu and Kash-

mir election, Lyngdoh observes it was "a complex spider's web" - one that did not begin with derstood in the context of the the announcement of the elecgrowing independence and as- tion or end with the counting. Among other things, the strands somewhat misleading title is involved included computerisaeasier to explain. The Jammu tion and updating the electoral rolls in Urdu - a challenge that Lyngdoh recounts in some detail. Tensions across the border, the threat of terrorism, fractious political parties and — perhaps, just as importantly - a pervasive cynicism about the possibility of a free and fair election were only some of the other challenges that the E.C. had to contend with.

Fair election

As it turned out (and as the an. Lyngdoh takes this story results clearly underlined) the aware, a string of elections in



achievement The credit for this of course must primarily go to the E.C. But Lyngdoh fails to adequately acknowledge another quarter -Atal Bihari Vajpayee. In fact, he records his unease and embarrassment because of the former Prime Minister's promise of a free and fair election on the somewhat technical ground that this is something that can be guaranteed only by the Commission.

But as Lyngdoh himself is

On Gujarat poll

On Gujarat, where the As-

manipulative tactics. If Morarji Desai can be credited for the 1977 election, then it would seem reasonable to pay some due to Vajpayee's commitment to making the 2002 poll what it

sembly was prematurely dissolved a little after the communal carnage, Lyngdoh is at pains to explain why he deferred holding the poll until afsix months of the

every six months) applies in all cases; that is to existing Assemblies and those dissolved prematurely. However, it held that Article 174 must give way to Article 324

dissolution. The E.C. had taken

the view that Article 174 (which

mandates that Legislative As-

semblies should be convened

(which guarantees free and fair elections) and that, in the event this leads to a breach of the sixmonth rule, the Centre could avert a constitutional crisis by declaring President's rule (invoking Article 356). The E.C.'s decision was re-

ferred to the Supreme Court under Article 143. Oddly, while Lyngdoh sets out the E.C.'s case in detail, he glosses over the fact that the Supreme Court strongly disagreed with this. The Court maintained that

Article 174 applied to only exist-ing Assemblies — a position that Opposition parties such as the Congress had adopted. Moreover, it held the E.C.'s advice about the invocation of Article 356 as "gratuitous" and "misplaced".

This omission is perhaps in keeping with the nature of the book, which is unapologetic, the work of a man who is convinced he did the right thing (which he did for the most part). But it does leave the reader with some unanswered questions and a vague feeling of discom-

His ill-tempered remark which referred to Gujarat officials as "a bunch of jokers" is explained away as "a censorious comment from senior to junior" and something that was thrown back at him because "everything was bugged". There are flashes of an over-

bearing self-assurance elsewhere too, but these do not detract from the essential value of the book, which is both revealing and informative.

MUKUND PADMANABHAN

Democrat among Gods

GANESHA — The God of India: Sunil Vaidyanathan; English Edition Publishers and Distributors (I) Pvt. Ltd., 5/10-11, 105, Jogani Industrial Complex, V.N. Purav Marg, Chunabhatti, Mumbai-400022. Rs. 395.

THIS BOOK is a fitting tribute to a sumptuous deity. The ele-phant-headed God is indeed a delightful mix of sheer transcendence and ready accessibility. He is so majestic that in any ritual he has to be propitiated

As Vighneswara, he is an enfant terrible causing obstructions when offended or ignored; but when pleased he is also a guardian angel removing all impediments in the devotee's path. Even his father, Lord Mahadeva, had to propitiate him before the Tripuras could be vanquished.

At the same time Ganesha is a democrat; he is easy to worship. No doubt there are magnificent temples enshrining him, as the Ashtavinayaka temples, but at home he can be invoked in a little mould of turmeric paste. Children love him and rely on him. His imposing form is highly symbolic. The massive head stands for keen intelligence and the

enormous belly for infinite knowledge. His long trunk can haul a heavy log or pick up a pin from the ground. And his vehicle, the rat, is our own rapacity that he keeps under check. Sunil Vaidyanathan's lavishly

and tastefully coloured photo essay invites us to a thrilling journey through a galaxy of charming Ganapathi legends and festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi. With an enthusiasm bordering on addiction the accomplished photographer has collected icons from many parts of India and spread before us a veritable feast to the

This coffee-table tome adoring Ganapathi Bappa is bound to become a family treasure. Only a small caveat. Why call Ganesha exclusively as the God of India? Is He not really the darling of humanity?

C. S. RAMAKRISHNAN

Essays of a fiction writer

PEARLS & PEBBLES — A Collection of Essays: Neela Padmanabhan: Reliance Publishing House, 3026/7H. Ranjit Nagar, New Delhi-110008.

of the senior-most fiction writ- mangala with the much-acclaimed first he has been regularly offering Tamil readers a number of short stories and novels.

One of his novels "Pallikondapuram" has been on the Aadan Pradan programme of the National Book Trust and the novel has been translated into a number of Indian languages. Way back in 1972, a person no less than the veteran man of letters Ka. Naa. Subramanyam translated "Thalaimuraigal" in-

to English and it was published Meeran. Padmanabhan's bibli Pocket Books of New Delhi. in Russian and German

NEELA PADMANABHAN is one funct Tamil periodical Subha- er by the elder Tamil writer B-42, Pancheel Enclave, New ers in Tamil today. Beginning fictionists and poets to grant in- lent introduction to the differterviews and write essays on a ent facets of the mind of the | THE BOOK is a welcome addinovel "Thalaimuraigal" in 1967, regular basis and here you have a confirmed fictionist Padmanabhan bringing out a collection of essays in English.

The essays touch a number of subjects but they do not fail to give a feeling that they are preliminary attempts at writing larger essays. Two of the pieces are brief reviews of the Tamil novels "Thyaga Bhoomi" by Kalki R. Krishnamurthy and "Oru Kadalorathu Gramathin Kathai" by Thopil Muhamed

as "Generations" by the Orient ography of Tamil poets and poems is limited but interesting. Padmanabhan has a novel each There are two interviews of Padmanabhan, one by the senior writer and journalist of New | Practices: Sudhir Naib; Sage Perhaps it was the now de- Delhi, R. K. Murthi and the othwhich coerced Nakulan. Murthi's is an excel- Delhi-110017. Rs. 700. reflection.

The book also contains a comprehensive bibliographic part of the economic reform account of Padmanabhan's writings in the four decades of his literary career. One essay which stands out is the one on modern Tamil writing. Incidentally, it is also the longest. The book is a must for the writer's aficionados.

The privatisation experience DISINVESTMENT IN INDIA -Policies, Procedures, and Publications India (Pvt) Ltd.

writer while Nakulan's is a kind | tion to the growing literature on of one-line prodders to lengthy | the public sector disinvestment programme, which has become a critical though controversial

> early 1990s. The author is a seasoned civil servant with hands on experience with matters concerning the Indian public sector.

Quite refreshingly he has dealt with the subject without **ASHOKAMITRAN** any ideological bias. The Minis-

try of Disinvestment has now-though been downgraded to a mere department under the Finance Ministry. Budgetary expectations from the public sector sue the other method used programme have been drasti- before the sale of shares cally pruned down.

Current policy This year's target at Rs.4000 crores is less than a fourth of

what was achieved last year (Rs.14, 500 crores). Yet there is programme that began in the hope that the programme will be revived, though with a different orientation.

Strategic sales of public sector units are out. This method (applied to Balco, VSNL and earlier to Modern Foods) reaped good dividends al

simultaneously heightened the controversy. However, the new Government at the Centre might pur-

through the stock market. Here ownership remains with number of outside investors get to participate in the process. Therefore a book on disinvestment will never lose its topical-

Sudhir Naib has done a signal service in providing well-researched theoretical inputs on the subject. There is copious data as well. The book is recommended for all serious students of a critical reform process.

C.R.L.NARASIMHAN

Champion of social reforms Short stories Fiction with a message 'A political diary'

TAMIL

ACHARATIRUTHA VYASANGAL: G. Subramania Aiyar; Marutham Padhippagam, 38, Komutti Street Orathanadu-614625, Thanjavur. Rs. 50.

THIS BOOK of essays was published as early as in 1914. It deals with the revolutionary suggestions for modifying certain religious and social practices and Hindu customs in tune with changes occurring in various spheres, which have relevance even today.

The author, one of the founders of *The Hindu* and the founder of the Tamil daily Swadesamitran, boldly championed the cause of women's education and widow marriage. He held the view that the world was becoming small and India had to compete with developed nations and socioeconomic progress could be achieved only if some modifications were accepted in our customs and practices, as many other countries had

done it. He firmly believed that child marriage practised in those days deprived women of their ability to act as a catalyst for the overall growth of the family and the society at large

On treatment meted out to the marginalised, he warned that this anti-social practice would weaken the Hindu society. He was a staunch advocate of making the mother tongue the medium of instruction in schools.

Concern about the disturbing behaviour noticed among the youth was a subject of debate in those days. The author was unequivocal in his assertion that whatever might be the quality of moral instructions in educational institutions, elders should become role models for their wards and imbue in them valued based qualities.

Laying great stress on women's education, he suggested that besides school education women should have training to manage the home as a working partner and felt that if women started evincing interest in national problems it would not run counter to convention.

In the editorials he wrote in Swadesamitran, Subramania Aiyar voiced his opinion that when vast changes took place in governance, social habits, education and trade, customs and practices evolved years ago could not afford to remain stagnant. His core message was that education of abroad for education and show of love and affec-story should usher in a silent revolution in tion for those born in lower castes would not run society counter to Hindu dharma and practices.

N. KALYANASUNDARAM

NEELA MEJAI: Manubharathi: Sindian Publication. J-16 Turnsbulls Road, First Main Street, Nandanam, Chennai-600035. Rs. 90.

THIS COLLECTION of nine short stories is refreshing and evocative. The title story "Neela Mejai" revolves around a table that serves multifarious purposes and is witness to day-today activities that take place in the household. The narrator, like other members of the family, grows up and goes his way in pursuit of his avocation, but the beloved furniture remains embed-

The author has startling images - the table losing height when its legs are sawed off is likened by the reminiscent narrator, now married to a Mexican woman, to his wife suddenly losing inches when she takes off her high-heeled shoes.

ded in his memory.

"Mann Pillayar" also yearns for times and practices that are left behind by people displaced from their home and hearth. Every Vinayaka Chaturthi day is looked forward to by the members of the family, as its head in an elaborate exercise, makes the Pillayar image from out of lumps of clay. But nothing is permanent in this world and nothing can be taken for granted.

The narrator is now averse to returning home on the festival day and is content with tracing a picture of Pillayar in the night sky as he lies on his back on the terrace.

A travelogue that unfolds the life of a woman who has missed marriage and a story that offers hope to a fallen woman are among other selections. C. G. RISHIKESH

TELUGU

KATHAA VAARSHIKA 2003: Ampasayya Navin; Pub. by Madhurantakam Rajaram Sahitya Samstha, 5th B, Balaji Residency, Munireddy Nagar, Tirupati West-517502. Rs. 50. KATHAA VAARSHIKA is a commemorative vol- ANTARDRISHTI: P.V. Narasimha Rao; Translated

women, widow marriage, sending children Madhurantakam Rajaram, who believed that a original "The Insider". Pub. by Loka Shikshna

This compilation, fourth in the series, comprisbesides an overview of around 500 stories of the offering scope for a creative work of art, it turns year by A. Navin along with a list of 54 select out to be a political diary.

This sort of qualitative analysis helps the discerning reader to separate the chaff from the grain. Navin observes that usage of remote dialects in most of the stories creates problems of comprehension. Samaagamam (union) by Olga, the well-known

feminist, conveys a message through allegorical technique. Lav and Kush show mother Sita a beautiful garden nourished by a deformed lady. Sita recognises her as Surpanakha and develops empathy. She compliments that the latter's inner beauty

is manifest in the garden. Both the women agree

that men take revenge against their opponents

through their sisters and wives. Vyasanam (addiction) by S.V.Prasad depicts the life struggle of a famine-starved farmer, who returns from the town with a pesticide bottle for committing suicide. Way back near the field he suddenly sees rain and thinks with a prospective good harvest, he could redeem all the debts. This makes the agriculturist live on hope and die in distress. This moving story reflects the plight of

the farmers of Andhra Pradesh. Ashok Kumar's Tegina bandhaalu (broken bonds) is about a breakdown of rural community bonds with the emergence of modern innovations in the performance of marriages and other functions. Human values are now measured

It is no easy task to select a few stories from a large corpus; the editors have done an excellent job in presenting the best and deserve congratulations.

P. V. L. N. RAO KANNADA

ume brought annually on the veteran writer, by Mathooru Krishnamurthy from the English

Trust, Bangalore. Rs. 250. THIS WORK, a translation of the book by a former Prime Minister has its quota of hindsight here es eight of the best stories published during 2003 and there. Though covering an eventful period

> Land reform policy is taken to illustrate how the game of political power is played using popular issues as a foil with little or no benefit to people. In the finale, the hero, with a modest background, is inducted accidentally as it were,

Some gleanings of wisdom offered are: loyalty to the boss pays; know when to be silent; crisis finds the man; scoundrels and charlatans surround the leader in the inner circle impairing her/his power of discrimination. One wonders, whether the system works or somebody works the system?

P.V. Narasimha Rao avers that by the time Indira Gandhi became Prime Minister for a second term, a new generation had come to power, education had spread and people were desperate for jobs and not for land anymore.

He says the leadership of the day was late to notice this change, hinting perhaps, at a reason for loss of power to the Congress and also why he himself took to reforms. But then surely it marked the beginning of the decline of the rural economy and the Congress lost power again?

The translator is reputed for his good Kannada prose; but this one seems to have been done in a hurry. Albeit a good read and of documentary

K. S. PARTHASARATHY

Announcement

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to The Hindu for review. While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under "New Arrivals", the decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper. Receipt of individual books will not be acknowledged in response to enquiries.

Thinking of you, Lilly Samarine

e recognize the dreadful moments now, even as they happen. None of us who ever saw the photograph of the young girl running naked down the rice-paddy road in Vietnam, grief burnt into her face, will ever forget it.

None of us can ever drive past a road sign pointing to "Dunblane" without thinking of the sorrow it enshrines. No September 11 can be the same again. Srebrenica is no longer the name of some charming medieval town in eastern Bosnia. It, too, has become a label attached to suffering. The modern world is crowded with Gethsemanes.

Now there is another. What was Beslan until a couple of days ago? It was, quite literally, to us, nothing. And if you look at the television pictures of the catastrophe there, you can see the outlines of "nothing" lurking in the background: the usual Russian mess, the slightly ramshackle, jerry-built sheds and offices, the cars parked here and there, the electricity lines across and along the potholy roads, the scurfy grass around them, the feeling, which Russia shares with America, that there is too much room in the vast continental spaces of the country for a great deal of care to be taken with the immediate details.

It was anywhere and nowhere, a normality, a fragment of the average.

Now, though, Beslan has taken its place in the list of cruelty and wrongness. Its name will be inseparable from the suffering of children and their parents, from the most terrible irruption of wickedness into innocent lives.

Precisely a year ago, just at the beginning of the school year, I was in Russia, in St Petersburg and, with her mother, I took a little girl, half-Russian, half-English, to her first day at school. Juliana Ivanovna Samarine, who is called Lilly by those who know and love her, took with her, as every other child did, a bunch of flowers for her teacher.

From 8 am, the pavements of St Petersburg, the embankments along the canals, with the sunshine glittering up onto the palace façades beside them, were filled with rivers of children walking to school for the first Watching the images of blood-soaked children on stretchers, is it possible to maintain that this is a good world? asks **Adam Nicholson**

day of term, each one with an enormous bunch of flowers in her hand. The little girls held them up above their heads like flags. At the school doors, the teachers stood receiving the tributes from their pupils, the headmistresses drowning in the biggest bunches, gardenfuls of flowers clustered to the bosom.

It was, as of course it was meant to be, a picture of innocence and affection...a small opening sign of encouragement, gratitude and optimism about the coming year. All over Russia this week, in Beslan as everywhere else, those rivers of flowers would have flowed along the streets, the whole continent of the country running with streams and cataracts of the dahlias, gladioli and chrysanthemums the Russians had picked

from their allotment and dacha gardens, the private gestures of a traumatized country whose century-long sufferings are still, it seems, far from over.

Why does the sight of wounded and bleeding children hurt so much? Because they summon all sorts of archetypal memories. In their thinness and nakedness, the children look like vulnerability itself.

The small bodies slumped in men's arms, hanging there as loosely folded as a length of heavy cloth, are each of them a *Pietà*, the archetype of pity. Each is a Cordelia carried on at the end of Act V, the cruellest moment in any play ever written.

Each carried body is a bitter parody of a sleeping child cared for in the arms of its father, in which every line is the same as it should be, but the meaning of every line is the opposite of what you hope it might be. The death and wounding of children — by women terrorists, for goodness sake — shown like this, when the wounded parents must do the carrying, and carry on doing the carrying after the crisis is over, is the denial of everything that matters most in life: the chance that the future might be better than the past; and the hope, which is in each child's face, that the world will be good to them.

It is a reminder that pitilessness lies near the heart of the universe. You only have to read the ancient texts to understand that. Psalm 77, written in the Iron Age, more than 2,500 years ago, stares straight at the dreadfulness of things. It is a lament in the face of unapproachable sorrow.

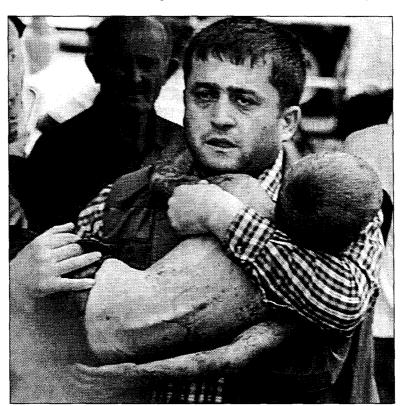
"Will the Lord cast off for ever?" the Psalmist asks. "And will he be favourable no more? Is his mercy clean gone for ever? Doth his promise fail for ever more? Hath God forgotten to be gracious? Hath he in anger shut up his tender mercies? And I said, this is my infirmity."

There is no consolation in that. It simply states the cruelty of things and, when faced with the painful and distressing events that happen every week in the world, it seems clear to me that an understanding of that kind goes further than any form of sugared, consoling religion, or any creed that implies somehow that god is good and capable and has organized a good and kind universe.

aced with Beslan, with the blood-soaked children lying on the stretchers, with the grief-shattered faces of the waiting parents, with the knowledge that the pain you see is only the beginning of the pain to come, I don't understand how anyone could maintain that this is a good world.

I think of Lilly Samarine, and of what I would be feeling now if it had been her school to which this had happened, if it had been her little body burnt and wounded on the stretcher. Would I ever trust again that this is the best of all possible worlds?

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH



The cruellest moment

The Chernes American friends N ENORMOUS head of Russia's role in helping the U.S. res- far better information and images those of the U.S. administration steam has built up behind tructure the "Greater Middle East" from Beslan than their Western com- Although the White House iss

the view that Russian Presi-Ldent Vladimir Putin is somehow the main culprit in the grisly events in North Ossetia. Soundbites and headlines such as "Grief turns to anger," "Harsh words for government," and "Criticism mounting against Putin" have abounded, while TV and radio correspondents in Be-

the same line as that expressed by

petitors. This harshness towards Mr. Putin is perhaps explained by the fact that, in the U.S., the leading group that pleads the Chechen cause is the American Committee for Peace in who are its members is a rollcall of Chechnya (ACPC). The list of the selfthe most prominent neoconservastyled "distinguished Americans" tives who so enthusiastically support

the "war on terror."

chens and the Al-Qaeda. These people peddle essentially chen atrocities. The centre has also days blaming Mr. Putin for the Chein arguing against Moscow's claims that there is a link between the Chehas been quoted repeatedly in recent been assiduous over recent months

Chechen leaders themselves, such as Ahmed Zakaev, the London exile

that the people there blame Moscow

as much as the terrorists. There have been numerous editorials encouraging us to understand — to quote the Sunday Times — the "underlying bels" to describe people who shoot gence in the face of extreme

children shows a surprising indul-

On closer inspection, it turns out that this so-called "mounting criticific group in the Russian political spectrum - and by its American supporters. The leading Russian crit-

cism" is in fact being driven by a spe-

the widespread use of the word "re-

ally Russian authoritarianism), while

causes" of Chechen terrorism (usu

slan have been pressed on air to say

The Washington neocons' commitment to the war on terror evaporates in Chechnya, whose cause they have made their own.

who wrote in the Guardian on September 7. Other prominent figures who use the Chechen rebellion as a was granted political asylum in the U.K., although the Russian authorities want him on numerous charges. stick with which to beat Mr. Putin include Boris Berezovsky, the Ruszovsky of funding Chechen rebels in sian oligarch who, like Mr. Zakaev, Moscow has often accused Mr. Berethe past.

other media sources are putting it about that Russian TV played down state. But this view of the Russian By the same token, the BBC and the Beslan crisis, while only Western channels reported live, the implication being that Mr. Putin's Russia remains a highly controlled police media is precisely the opposite of the impression I gained while watching both CNN and Russian TV over the past week: the Russian channels had

shows the undemocratic nature of Mr. Putin's Russia, and cultivates The ACPC heavily promotes the idea that the Chechen rebellion support for the Chechen cause by emphasising the seriousness of hucasian republic. It compares the ionable "Muslim" causes, Bosnia and national intervention in the Cauca-In August, the ACPC welcomed the grant, to Ilyas Akhmadov, foreign Chechen crisis to those other fash-Kosovo — implying that only intersus can stabilise the situation there. award of political asylum in the U.S., and a U.S. Government-funded nembers represent the backbone of man rights violations in the tiny Cauminister in the opposition Chechen Sovernment, and a man Moscow describes as a terrorist. Coming from the U.S. foreign policy establishnent, and their views are indeed

ics of Mr. Putin's handling of the Beslan crisis are the pro-United States politicians Boris Nemtsov and Vladi-

mir Ryzhkov — men associated with the extreme neo-liberal market re-

economy under the West's

forms, which so devastated the Rus-

beloved Boris Yeltsin — and the Car-

negie Endowment's Moscow Centre. this influential think-tank - which operates in tandem with the military-

Funded by its New York head office,

Ė.

stance in producing policy papers on political Rand Corporation, for

Hopkins University, U.S. pressure will now increase on Moscow to achieve a political, rather than military, solution — in other words to Although the White House issued a tage-takers, its official view remains that the Chechen conflict must be solved politically. According to ACPC member Charles Fairbanks of Johns negotiate with terrorists, a policy the U.S. resolutely rejects elsewhere.

Allegations are even being made in Russia that the West itself is someis to weaken Russia and to drive her out of the Caucasus. The fact that the Chechens are believed to use as a ing Georgia, a country which aspires how behind the Chechen rebellion and that the purpose of such suppor base the Pankisi gorge in neighbourto join NATO, has an extremely pro-American government, and where itary presence - only encourages even seemed to lend credence to the the U.S. already has a significant mil such speculation. Mr. Putin himsel idea in his interview with foreign journalists on Monday.

ing military force against the U.S.'s ment would be difficult to obtain, but themselves such questions when the Proof of any such Western involveso-called terrorist enemies also insist is it any wonder Russians are asking same people in Washington who de mand the deployment of overwhelm

John Laughland is a trustee of the British Helsinki Human Rights Group www.oscewatch.org

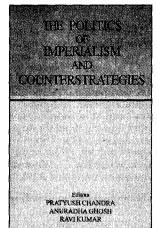
on and the

10 SEP 2004



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- Bangalore-560075. Rs. 50. Rabindranath Tagore — A Biography: Uma Das Gupta; Oxford University Press, YMCA Library Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001. Rs. 225.
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- Nagar, Delhi-110092. What The Raags Told Me: Vasudev Murthy; Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 295.
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Tamil

- Avala Nilayil Thamizhaga Aa-rugal: S. Janakarajan; Kalachu-vadu Pathippagam, 669, K.P. Road, Nagercoil-629001. Rs.
- 95. Sri Rudra Ekadasi Enlarged Edition-3: R. Sridharan — Compiler; Copies can be had from the author, Swarnapuri Trust, Swar rapuri, Ploi No. T-7, Ist Cross 46th Street, Nanganallur, Chennai-600061. **Rs. 140.**
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 1000: Muthukumaran; Sankar
 Pathippagam, 21, Teachers
 Guild Colony, Rajaji Nagar Extn.,
 Villivakkam, Chennai-600049.

The identity imbroglio

THE INDIA MOSAIC -Searching for an Identity: Bibek Debroy, D. Shyam Babu -- Editors: Academic

Foundation, in association with Rajiv Gandhi Institute For Contemporary Studies, New Delhi, 4772/23 Bharat Ram Road (23 Ansari Road), Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 495.

NOT FOR the first time are we reminded what a complex mosaic India is; yet the state of affairs it depicts is intelligible, though why it does not inflame us to rebellion is baffling. The figures alone are shameful; the U.N. Human Development Index (HDI) puts India 124th out of 173, just behind Morocco (and most Middle Eastern states).

The total student enrolment rate is 55 per cent, while Namibia's is 78 per cent. Indices not even used for the HDI are worse. India immunises 68 per cent of one-vear-olds against tuberculosis; Egypt immunises 99 per cent. The Indian infant mortality rate is 69 per 1000 births; the Sri Lankan figure is 17. India's maternal mortality rate is 540 per 100,000 live births; Venezuela's is 60.

The figures for the poorest classes, castes and communities are much worse. Several contributors describe the chasm between the aggregate success of India's democracy and the everyday functioning of Indian institutions. The idea of representation as publicly accountable action on behalf of the electorate has collapsed into a vicious politics of interests based on region, caste and religion, in which identities and claims are beyond discussion or evaluation.

Purported identities

Most of these purported identities are spurious; for example, few know that the Hindu Civil Code is anything but secular or uniform and that there are several Hindu codes, including variations within states. The dark possibility runs through the collection that the Indian civilisation cannot sustain the commitments to shared space on which substantive democracy depends.

Some of these in turn depend on apparently administrative processes; surprisingly, no contributor mentions the problems

SRI TIRUMAZHISAIPPIRAN'S

TIRUCCHANDAVIRUTTAM —

Text with a free translation

N.Rajagopalan, 'Srinidhi' T-37

A&B. 16th Cross Street, Besant

Nagar, Chennai-600090. Rs. 50.

AMONG THE 12 Azhvars of Sri

Azhvar is esteemed as the incar-

nation of Vishnu's Chakra (Su-

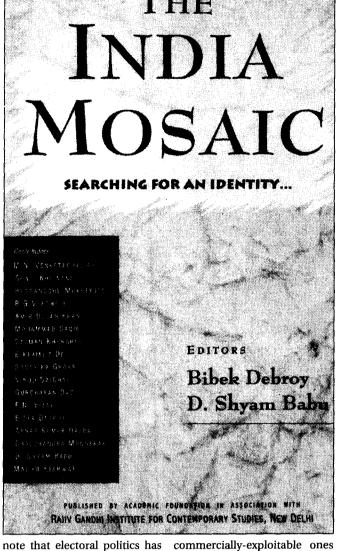
Tiruvandadi in 96 verses dis-

plays his reflections and asser-

and commentary: N. Ranganathan; Pub. by

Vaishnavism.

darsana).



become rank opportunism. Secondly, the way Indian institutions work reveals some unpalatable truths.

How institutions function

India has neither repealed colonial legislation nor redesigned public institutions. Indian elites, whether the ruling castes, landowners, administrators or the urban business classes, have suborned colonial institutions, which were never designed to serve the Indian public and have become market-dominant minorities.

For example, where the colonials, who grossly misinterpreted Indian customary laws, obliterated customary rights in caused by the simple majority forests and replaced species

the Upanishads with its elabo-

rate description of the five

forms of the Supreme Being —

The author has done a valua-

ble service by his excellent ren-

Para, Vyuha, Vibhava, Antarya-

mi and Archa.

Vishnu in greater measure than kan Tiruvandadi.

chandaviruttam. He had earlier he goes along.

like teak, pine and deodar, the Indian state has arrogated to itself absolute jurisdiction over forests and has in effect handed over forests to the rich and the powerful. No attempt has been made to articulate a synthesis between the various types of customary rights and the contemporary republican jurispru-

A similar situation has hap-

pened to political parties. The Indian National Congress according to documentation gave in to mass movements in the 1940s; many of these were anything but Gandhian and one contributor notes that the Congress accepted a truncated electoral system, though some used by forest dwellers with transfer of power in order to

A mixed bag The collection as a whole, like most collections, is variable. Some contributors are clearly

out of their depth, and compensate with empty assertions rem-Furthermore, the American spelling-checks and sloppy proofreading have done the text no favours. Nevertheless, the good papers are of very high quality with authoritative empirical de-

Politicisation

Devotional hymn in translation tions on the supremacy of published the Azhvar's Nanmu-The citations under each

not need a single identity. But

search itself is educative. If

courses in ordinary colleges and

universities, our students would

ARVIND SIVARAMAKRISHNAN

chandaviruttam which in 120 close translation of the text and great variety of scriptural texts like the Upanishads, Puranas, verses reaches to the heights of the word-by-word interpreta-Ramayana, tion with critical comments fol-Brahmasutras, lowing each verse provided by hymns of the other Azhvars, Manusmriti, Sri Rangaraja Sta-He has followed the comva, Stotraratna and the Vaish-

> nava Agamas. This work of great devotion and rare scholarship is a gem of a book on the Prabhandam.

J. PARTHASARATHI

Educationist with a vision

SHAPING YOUNG MINDS ---The Kuruvila Story: Usha Jesudasan; Pub. by Kuruvila Jacob Birth Centenary Celebration Committee, Madras Christian College Higher Secondary School, 78, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai-600031. Copies available from S. Viswanathan (Printers & Publishers) Pvt., Ltd., 38, McNichols Road, Chetput, Chennai-600031. Rs. 100.

gain power itself. While the mo-

saic commands close attention,

Despite all attempts to di-

minish the status of Urdu in or-

der to exclude Urdu from school

the ludicrous claim that San-

skrit is a modern language and the clumsy official attempts

to replace Arabic and Persian

words with archaic Sanskrit

words which nobody has heard

of, hundreds of millions of ordi-

nary Indians continue to speak

Hindustani. And the claim that

madrassas teach sedition is

monitored madrassas following

list the staff and students in

large numbers of very poor peo-

ple will receive and that their

curriculum needs to include the

contemporary sciences.

Hindu donors.

- several northern states made

it is never completely bleak.

DESCRIBED variedly as " a man No Indian has been found with a vision", "a gentle giant", among any of the various inter-"a doyen of the headmasters", national terrorist groups who and "a colossus in the history of claim to be propagating Islam. modern education in India", When the Uttar Pradesh police Kuruvila Jacob (1904-91) was the first Indian headmaster of the Gujarat pogroms in what the Madras Christian College looks like a sinister attempt to High School (MCC), one of the oldest schools in Chennai. He them, a newspaper discovered that some madrassas had Hindu held the post for over 30 years from 1931 to 1962. students and teachers as well as Later he served as principal

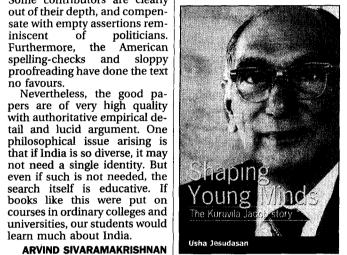
in two other prestigious schools Among officials, the Director in the country - Hyderabad General of Police of Rajasthan Public School in Andhra Praand Uttar Pradesh have condesh (seven years) and Bombay firmed that madrassas are not Cathedral and John Connon associated with anti-national School in Maharashtra (10 activities; there is other evidence that Wahhabi entry into He took charge of these Indian madrassas has simply failed. As to the heads of maschools under challenging circumstances and built them into drassas, they are well aware that they provide the only education model institutions offering val-

Reminiscences

est order.

At a function held in Chennai in the first week of August, many distinguished alumni of the MCC School reminisced

ue-based education of the high-



about "the golden age" of the school under their "beloved HM". In moving speeches they gratefully remembered how Kuruvila shaped their young minds and shared pleasant me-80s and 90s.

A memorable day indeed it should have been for the alumni. And also to many others in the audience, who have not had the opportunity to be his stu- man with a 'vision' - a vision of dents but had listened to his speeches at public forums or read his spirited writings in newspapers, his is a name to history." conjure with in the nascent In-

dian Republic's efforts in the 1950s and 1960s to evolve a national policy on education, particularly school education.

Idealist and pragmatist

His love for sports and eagerness to interest his students in games, besides studies and extra-curricular activities were amazing. Kuruvila was really more than a headmaster. He was a progressive educationist fired by high ideals, a visionary with a practical approach and a pious believer but secular in outlook.

His commitment to the cause of "quality education to all at affordable cost" was total and it inspired him to fight ceaselessly until a few years before his death in Vellore in 1991. These and other aspects of his multidimensional life have been well brought out in this work.

The book is more than a biography, or a mere portrait of Ku-Jacob as humbly described by the author in her note. It succeeds to a fairly large extent in helping the readers to get to know "the real person" she has written about.

The journalist-broadcaster. who had long, weekly sessions with the Jacobs almost at the fag end of their lives before commencing the book, writes, "To begin with Kuruvila Jacob was formal. He told me the simple story of his life. As his biographer I didn't like to stop with just what was told the first time. delved deeper...asked more questions...stretched his memory further...and got to know the real person I was writing about. He was warm. He was caring. He was gentle. He was formidable in some ways. He was passionate about many things. It was a privilege to get to know nim in a way that rew others did.'

Institution-builder

This kind of "delving deeper" into the life of Kuruvila has helped bring out his basic traits that enabled him to live a full and purposeful life and win the hearts of three generations of students. The author identifies "faith in a God who was the creator of all life and the architect of all plans" as the most important element of his life.

The biography gives graphic accounts of his efforts to build the institutions left to his care, the interest he showed in bringing out the best in every student verse relevant to the text make | mories of their school days with and his love and affection for his probably later and obviously

The excellence and the extential the work a veritable feast of hundreds of school-mates and each one of them, even while more mature work, the Tiruc- sive reach of this work lie in the scholarship as they are from a masters, many of them in their remaining a hard taskmaster and strict disciplinarian.

For Usha Jesudasan, Kuruvila Jacob was a special man. Writes she, "What made him so special at the time was that he was a something new in education, of something so necessary and easily acceptable at this point in

S. VISWANATHAN

Bastion of fine arts Survey of Telugu literature ◆ Literary criticism ◆ Voice of rebellion

TAMIL

Tirumazhisai

His Nanmukan

TIRUKKOVIL NUNKALAIKAL: K.A. Pakkirisami Bharati; Kuchelar Pathippagam, 5, E.V.R. Street, Nesapakkam, Chennai-600078. Rs. 90.

HINDU TEMPLES particularly in Tamil Nadu are the archives of our fine arts like music, dance as well as visual arts, especially painting, sculpture and architecture. Their part in the preservation and development of these arts can never be overestimated. The rich heritage handed down to generations of art lovers is mainly stored in these temples.

A comprehensive and historical study of this subject in Tamil was long overdue and the author, an eminent musicologist and prolific writer, has now come forward to fulfil that need.

The book first deals with paintings and mentions that Mahendra Varman (600-30 A.D.) was the earliest monarch to encourage painting in cave temples. The Sittannavasal paintings are superb specimens of Pallava art. Excellent paintings are also found in the temples in Thanjavur, Srirangam and Madurai.

As regards inscriptions, the most precious ones are to be found in temples as the rulers thought that they were the best places for passing on information to posterity. The Brahmi and the Pallava Grantha scripts were used first but clear Tamil letters are found in the inscriptions of Rajarajan (985-1014 A.D.)

The music of the Divya Prabandham of the Alvars, collected by Nathamuni and the Tevaram of the Nayanmars, compiled by Nambi Andar Nambi, was first introduced only in temples. The Arayar and the Oduvar traditions have been described in great detail in the respective chapters.

Bharata Natyam also owes its preservation and development to temples which engaged a large number of dancers to perform ritual dances like the Navasandhi during festivals and to enact Kuravanji dance dramas pertaining to the respective temples. Several temples in Tamil Nadu have musical pillars carved out of granite which produce musical notes when tapped.

The book is the result of the author's painstaking research. It deals with the contribution of

temples to fine arts with great clarity and depth. T.S. PARTHASARATHY

the commentary.

dering into English of the drawn attention to some of the

Azhvar's larger work. Tiruc- niceties of the commentary as

mentary of Periavacan Pillai

"the emperor of expositions" on

the Prabhandam and has also

TELUGU

TELUGU SAHITIVYASA MANDARADAMAM: Mandagondi Naresh; Visalandhra Publishing House, Vijnan Bhavan, Bank Street,

Hyderabad-500001. Rs. 150. THIS BOOK is a miscellany of 33 articles on Telugu literature. The poets and their works with specific references are discussed. It opens with Nannaya, the first poet of the language. While the presentation of the poet and his genius are discussed in the first essay, the next two deal with the anecdotes of Udanka and Bhrigivamsa Sam-

keertana. Tikkana, the poet who completed the translation of the Mahabharata after Nannaya, is discussed in the next three essays, with particular reference to the Virata Parva and Udyoga Parva. Pothana, Srinatha, Molla, Peddana, Dhoorjati and Pingali Surana are annotated in later essays.

Modern poets like Viswanatha Satvanaravana. Kasula Purushottam, Rayaprolu Subbarao, Devulapalli Krishnasastri, G. Jashua, Sri Sri and C. Narayana Reddy have also been discussed. Two articles deal with Gurazada as a writer of the drama, Kanyasulkam and short stories. Chalam is included as a writer of the play Savitri while his major contribution to literature is that he is a trendsetter of short stories and musings.

Novelist Ravisastri, Acharya Atreya, a dramatist and Kanuparti Varalakshmamma, a pioneer in feminist writing also find a place. Nanduri Ramamohanarao, Volga and Biruduraju Ramaraju are discussed for their contribution. An anthology of modern poetry compiled by Papineni and Penugonda and an anthology of short stories brought out by the Kalasagar Institute read more like book

While one cannot expect a comprehensive study and criticism of the poets and writers in a book of this kind, it is possible to bring in a sort of comprehensiveness to the work undertaken. The end notes appended to the essays are more explanatory and educative

N. C. RAMANUJACHARY

KANNADA

TEJASWI KATHANA: T. P. Ashoka: Akshara Prakashana, Heggodu, Saagara, Karnataka-577417. **Rs. 80.**

POORNACHANDRA TEJASWI, the subject of the book under review, is one of the important Kannada writers. His contributions are considerable, influential and often trendsetting, be they stories, novels, essays, travelogue or the monumental

millennium series. His stupendous output on scientific subjects offers childlike awe, instruct and provoke, covering varied subjects such as organic cultivation, theory of evolution, ecology, flying saucers, birds of Karnataka and information technology. One wonders if moved by an innate zest, he proceeds to instructs himself first and then moves on with a missionary zeal to share it with his readers through his compelling narration and inimitable prose. One is not sure if Tejaswi could be termed an iconoclast after Shivarama Karanth, but this self-confessed Lohiaite is a cultural icon for his

admirers. This significant book contains 11 literary evaluations of Tejaswi's most important works, four of which are dated and others written fresh for this volume. The introductory essay "Tejaswi Kathana" is a worthy effort to examine the writer and his works in their entirety, conceptualising them in their contemporary setting in general and within the Kannada literary world in particular and in the process looks for a possible bind-

ing element amongst them. But then the ever-seeking restless Tejaswi, never stopping to surprise may refuse to be thus con-

K. S. PARTHASARATHY MALAYALAM

INDULEKHA - Novel: O. Chandu Menon; Publication Division, Calicut University. Rs. 60. INDULEKHA IS the first classic novel in Malayalam. The novelist had originally intended to translate Benjamin Disraeli 's Henrietta Temple but abandoned the idea and depicted a familiar story. Indulekha became a landmark in the histo-

ry of Malayalam literature and initiated the novel

as a new flourishing genre. The book became significant and there have been innumerable critical studies on it. One has only to evaluate whether anything new has emerged in its study and in that respect the one by E.P. Rajagopalan is commendable and analytical, placing the novel in perspective.

clash between two generations, the old and the young, and between tradition and modernity. It deals with the decline of the feudal system in Kerala and of the emergence of an educated middle class. Suri Nambudiri represents the decadence of feudalism, its caste oppression and polygamy. In-

The novel highlights the eternal conflict and

dulekha, the novel's educated heroine, dramatises the resistance of a progressive woman. She refuses to succumb to the oppression of the Nambudiri and marries Madhavan, who stands up to the social evils of the period. It heralded the voice of rebellion against such customs and traditions that stood in the way of humanisation. Social issues have been forcefully debated in the novel through the experiences of

the characters reflecting contemporary society.

The critical study clearly brings out the aspects of

modernity of the novel and of its essential imper-

ative of synthesis between tradition and modern-It also deals with the significance of the novel resulting in many sequels and adaptations in novels, plays and other literary forms. The im-

pressive bibliography bears testimony to it. K. KUNHIKRISHNAN

Announcement

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to *The Hindu* for review. While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under "New Arrivals", the decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper. Receipt of individual books will not be acknowledged in response to enquiries.

Advocacy of a global ethic

ONE WORLD — The Ethics of Globalization: Peter Singer; Orient Longman, 3-6-752,

Himayatnagar Hyderabdad-500029. Rs. 325.

PETER SINGER, an American liberal and a philosopher teaches bioethics at Princeton University. In the space of six tightly argued chapters, he advances the thesis that the independent sovereign state with its well-defined political boundaries, laws and institutions has become more or less a mere cartographic entity today.

Such has been the sweep of forces like trade, foreign aid, global environmental concerns and human rights that states with and without their express consent are moving, albeit haltingly, towards the political philosopher's vision of one world. That goal is still far away but, as the author asserts rightly, the definitive first steps have already been taken.

Need for ethics

What distresses him, however, is that the vessel of globalisation is yet to find its ethical rudder in the absence of which it is buffetted by gales of selfinterest, indifference, opportunism and worst of all blatant arrogance on the part of the developed world towards the developing countries.

underpinning globalisation has suit with the result the protocol become an opportunity for a has yet to come into effect.

new form of colonialism.

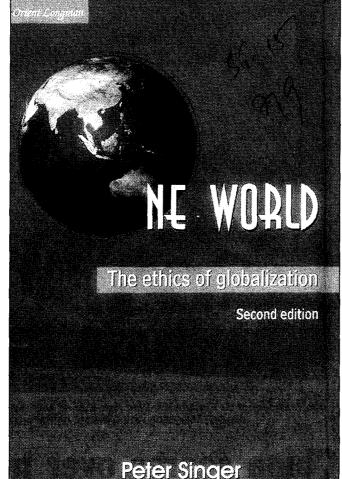
Singer picks on the U.S. as being particularly guilty of this derisive attitude as evidenced by its approach to issues like global warming, human rights violations, unilateralism in trade relations and adoption of double standards in its efforts to aid the underprivileged at home and the starving millions in the rest of the globe.

The U.S.' policies are guided more by national self-interest than global altruism. Did not General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the time of the ethnic cleansing of Bosnian Muslims by Serbs, quote with approval the words of Bismarck that all the Balkans were not worth the bones of one of his soldiers?

On global warming

The phenomenon of global warming is a grim reality and its anticipated consequences even within this century are frightful. The U.S. is the largest contributor to this phenomenon through its greenhouse gas emissions, but citing adverse impact on its economy, has been stalling the ratification of the Kyoto protocol, which seeks to limit such emissions to certain acceptable levels over the period 2008-12.

The U.S. example has en-In the absence of an ethical couraged many others to follow



Dwelling on international the World Trade Organisation trade relations, Singer though (WTO) laments over its discerappreciative of the setting up of nible tilt towards free trade at

the expense of fair trade. Fair trade has several dimensions. High tariff walls and hurdles of environmental and labour standards erected by some of the rich members of the WTO to ward off imports from poor countries come to one's mind

BOOK REVIEW

Fair versus free trade

What is less noticed is the ambivalence of the rich in dealing with countries with a poor record of human rights. Thus, the U.S.-China bilateral trade flourishes, "blood diamonds" mined in Rwanda find ready buyers in the West and military dictatorships like Nigeria earn more than six billion dollars a year from oil exports. Trade, in the scheme of the WTO, is neutral to human rights — a pity.

Singer questions the legitimacy of any country wedded to democracy and human freedom doing business with countries ruled by governments that are corrupt and despotic.

Taking the issue further, he lays down the proposition that rulers who came to power against the democratic will of their people have no right to dispose of their country's national resources be it oil, miner-

To strengthen democracy

His prescription to strengthen democracy is to reform the U.N. and its trade wings like the

WTO to reflect the political and economic value of their membership.

In support of his contention, he points to the progressive democratisation in the countries of Eastern Europe as they move to join the European Union.

Intervention

The piece de resistance of the book is its advocacy of a moral and ethical need for outside intervention in the internal affairs of a nation riven by civil war or large-scale violation of human rights. He urges military intervention under the aegis of the U.N. and economic intervention through the WTO.

Again, he notes with sadness the double standards adopted by the powerful in choosing to intervene or not to intervene depending on their self-inter-

He concludes forcefully, "National sovereignty has no intrinsic moral weight. The limits of the state's ability and willingness to protect its people are also the limits of its sovereignty... if it is at all possible to prevent such atrocities, they should be prevented."

On going through the book one recalls the emphasis placed on good governance at the Johannesburg Summit in 2002. One World is a thought-provoking book, a book to be chewed and digested.

N. R. KRISHNAN

hey survive the next

FROM THE BLURB

• Archaeology as History in Early South Asia: Himanshu Prabha Ray, Carla M. Sino-poli — Editors; Pub. by Indian Council of His-torical Research, 35, Road New Delhi-110001 and Aryan Books Interna-tional, Pooja Apart-ments, 4B, Ansari Darya Ganj, Delhi-110001.

Rs. 450. Collection of papers by scholars exploring the possibilities for in-

creased interaction be tween archaeology, anthropology and history within the framework of the history of pre-modern South Asia arising out of the work and drawing on the work done by the editors of the volume. The papers cover the following major areas: history of archaeology in South Asia; methods, techniques and chronology; ethno-archaeology in South Asia; archaeology of the sacred space; and gen Elementary Education in India — Analytical Report 2003 — Where Do We Stand?: Arun C. Mehta; Pub. by National Institute of Educational Planning and Admin-17-B, Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi-110016. Price not mentioned.

Report on the data of elementary education in India in case of 18 states for the year 2003 and wherever pos-sible the average of 461 districts is also presented. It presents not only the data up to elementary level but also brings in many new dimensions of elementary education into focus. The report is divided into three parts: schools and school-related indicators; enrolment and enrolmentbased indicators; and teachers and teacher-based indicators. Also incorporates data on children with disabilities, examination results, medium of instruction and students' flow. The author presents his views and con-

clusions based upon the data received from the states. The Hindu World: Sushil Mittal and Gene Thursby -Editors; Routledge, an imprint of Taylor & Francis Group, 29 West 35th Street, New York, NY 10001.

This book in 24 chapters written by an international team of scholars brings Hinduism up-to-date and provides a comprehensive and critical guide to the various litera-tures, traditions and practices of Hinduism organised unsix headings: oral teachings and textual traditions;

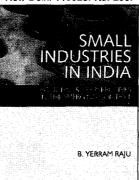
theistic and devotional movements; cosmic order and human goals; social action and social structure; vitality in person and in places; and linguistic and philosophic analysis. Intended as an introduction and a definitive source book, it reflects upon the impact of recent post-structuralist approaches while emphasising Hinduism's classical heritage and everyday customs.

Violence, Law and Women's Rights in South Asia: Savitri Goonesekere — Editor; Sage Publications India Pvt. Ltd., B-42, Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi-110017. Rs. 390.

Critically analyses the law and law enforcement in three South Asian countries - India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in order to assess the response of the criminal justice stem to violence against women, which range from domestic violence, sexual violence and down related violence connected with discriminatory inheritance rights, low social status and economic deprivation. The contributors assert that the gap between reality and the practice of laws in these countries is unfortunately very wide and explore the opportunities to change the legal systems and make them more responsive to women's human right justice and freedom from violence.

• Small Industries in India - Policies & Perspectives

Raju; Pub. by Gitam Institute of Foreign Trade, Rushikonda, Visakhapatnam-530045 in association with Excel Books Private Limited, A-45, Naraina, Phase I, New Delhi-110028. Rs. 290. An attempt to address some of the following key issues — what is the future for small and medium enter-prises in India? Will they entire the port



phase of global com-petition; Which are the high-growth sectors that are likely to emerge in the next few decades; when are the changes needed in the legal and institutiona small industries fulfil tial? Also examines

velopment of the small sector in India in the area of

PERFECT

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

"shilly-shally"? Dharmaraj, Trichy)

When a person is unable to make up his mind about something, then he is said to be shilly-shallying. It is a word that is mostly used in informal contexts, and when used, indicates disapproval.

*I think it is about time that you stopped shilly-shallying. *Rekha shilly-shallied for two months. It drove Amitabh up the wall.

Any idea where this word comes from? What is the question that we normally ask ourselves when we are undecided about something? It is, "Shall I? Shall I?" It is from this that the word "shilly shally" comes from. With the passage of time 'shall I, shall I" changed to shill I, shall I?" Later, the "I" became part of "shill" and 'shall", and we finally ended up with "shilly-shally"

Is it OK to say, "The subscriber you are calling is switched off"? (M. N. R. Nair, Changanacherry)

People wili understand what it means. When an individual "switches off" he stops paying attention; he stops lis-

*The lecture was so boring that many people switched off after five minutes. *Whenever I am with my

aunt, I tend to switch off. Your example suggests that the "subscriber" is not picking up the phone because he is not paying attention. But that is not the case here, is it? He is not picking up the phone because he has switched off the phone; as a result, he cannot hear the phone ring. It is not the subscriber that is switched off, but the phone. A better way of saying the same thing would be, "The subscriber that you are calling has switched off the phone", or "The number that you are calling has

been switched off." What is the meaning and pronunciation of noire"? (Br. Britto Pinto, Thoothukudi)

The first word is pronounced like "bet"; the "n" is like the "n" in "net", "nip" and 'nest". The sound that follows the "n" is like the "w" in "water", "was" and "wet". The vowels are pronounced like the "ask", "task" and

That is the meaning of "mask". The "r" is silent, and the main stress is on "noire". This is one way of pronouncing the word. When you dislike someone intensely, you can refer to him/her as your bete noire. These are mostly people that annoy you greatly. The word can be used with objects

as well. *Rajeev's bete noire is at-

tending weddings. What's the difference between a "fanatic" and a "bigot"? (C. Sreeram, Palakol)

A bigot is someone who has very strong opinions and preiudices — usually political or religious. He will not change his mind even if you prove him wrong; he is blindly devoted to his beliefs. He is very obstinate and has contempt for those who do not share his beliefs. "Bigot" is a much stronger word than "fanatic" and is always used to show disapproval. The first syllable is like the word "big" and the "o" that follows is like the "a" in "china". The main stress is on the first syllable.

*The religious bigots among the guests ruined the party.

The first "a" in "fanatic" is like the "a" in "china", while the following one is like the "a" in "cat", "bat", and "act". The main stress is on the second syllable and not the first. When you describe someone as being a political or religious fanatic you are showing your disapproval of him; you think his opinions and behaviour are rather extreme.

*Some of his closest friends include some well-known religious fanatics.

Unlike the word "bigot" which is limited in its use, the word fanatic can be used with other activities as well. If you say that someone is a fanatic about jogging, what you are implying is that in your opinion, the individual is obsessively enthusiastic about jogging. When used in this manner, the word carries with it a hint of irrationality or madness. It is from the word "fanatic" that we get the word - meaning enthusiast.

Smoking kills. If you are killed, you've lost a very important part of your life." — Brooke Shields

S. UPENDRAN

OPEN PAGE

N THE morning of March 16, 1968, as many as 500 unarmed civilians were massacred by American forces in My Lai in Vietnam. It was the single worst act of atrocity committed by the U.S. military on foreign soil after World War II. The response by the political leaders was eerily similar to what we are seeing today in the aftermath of Abu Ghraib. President Nixon termed the killings at My Lai an aberration, an isolated incident. Though 25 men were charged, including a General, only a few were tried and only one, Lt. William Calley, was found guilty. Calley was sentenced to life. President Nixon announced that he would review the whole decision. Calley was released almost immediately on a judicial order and pending an appeal to the Supreme Court, he was paroled by the Army and released on bail. In the end, his sentence was reduced and was released in 1976. A recent effort by the survivors of My Lai to bring a civil case against Calley and his associates failed before U.S. courts which decided that these claims were too old. Thus, what was perhaps the worst, most publicised massacre by U.S. forces that was clearly a gross violation of the U.S. and international law, has resulted in no accountability for the wrongs committed by U.S. soldiers

Lack of mechanism

Though more than 30 years have passed, the prospects of accountability for the abuses at Abu Ghraib are no better and perhaps worse. The biggest impediment to accountability in the U.S. is the lack of any real mechanism to express public outrage and demand accountability. This is no different from My Lai, when polls showed that an overwhelming 78 per cent of the U.S. public disagreed with the decision of the military court to convict William Calley, but they did so partly because they thought that Calley was being made a scapegoat. There was simply no mechanism for translating the widespread public anger and revulsion into a series of concrete steps towards accountability of senior officers and civilian

leaders, not just the low-level soldiers. The seven soldiers who have been chargesheeted for abuses at Abu Ghraib are likely to elicit a similar public response in case they are convicted. Accountability of senior leaders such as Rumsfeld or Bush is simply not on the political agenda. Evidence of this comes from the two reports on Abu Ghraib recently, one conducted by the Army itself and the other by a civilian panel appointed by Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Neither points the finger at the top civilian or military leadership and instead chooses to treat Abu Ghraib as a case of a few bad apples. This is exactly how My Lai was han-

What's worse, with the passage of time, public outrage may be dissipating about the Abu Ghraib abuses. A major reason for this is the sense, never expressed in public, that the abuses at Abu Ghraib do not really

amount to torture though they may consti tute violations of civil rights. Unlike My Lai, there was no massacre. And making prisoners at Abu Ghraib subject to hooding, loud music, or sexual humiliation do not seem to ring the alarm bells that much more horrific forms of torture will, in the minds of many.

This belief is patently wrong since there s plenty of documented evidence that the abuses at Abu Ghraib and elsewhere were worse than reported and form a pattern when considered together with the detentions at Guantanomo and Afghanistan. Besides, the abuses at Abu Ghraib do constitute torture under international law.

But it is not implausible for many to believe that civilised, democratic nations ought to have a measure of discretion to apply some force and wring truths out of arrestees, especially in classic ticking bomb scenarios. This belief rests on a comparison with the practices of other allegedly democratic nations such as Israel, which had approved moderate physical pressure on detainees as defined by its Landau Commission, until it was outlawed by the Israeli Supreme Court in 1999. Other democracies such as Britain, France and India are no different in approving, whether de facto or de jure, varying levels of torture.

Despite the recent growth of international criminal law and a raft of institutional experiments for accountability around the world, almost none has involved the prosecution of any leader or soldier from the West. This must end. The West must subject at least its most egregious abuses such as the U.S. detention and interrogation practices after 9/11 to penalties. Here, there s the sense that the wheels of domestic justice will inevitably, though slowly, move towards accountability. In particular, the U.S. military is believed to have an effective internal mechanism of accountability.

However, judging by the record of the last half a century at least, the U.S. military is good at maintaining discipline and punishing soldiers when they commit ordinary crimes as when it charged two U.S. soldiers in South Korea for a fatal traffic accident recently. But it has a weak track record of sanctioning its soldiers, especially senior officers, for acts abroad that may constitute violations of the laws of war or crimes against humanity. As Human Rights Watch and other groups have argued, what is needed, as a minimum, is an independent domestic mechanism such as a Special Prosecutor to inquire into the Abu Ghraib abuses to establish credibility in the American justice system.

of the world can accept as just. Otherwise, what the world may be left with is, effectively, institutionalised impunity for U.S. leadership while allowing some ground soldiers to be made scapegoats.

Ideally, there is also a need for an in-

ternational commission of enquiry, which

can render an objective verdict that the rest

• BALAKRISHNAN RAJAGOPAL | answer. Even as the Internet has share their experiences at the in-

Impunity from My | Preventive detention an anachronism

tries in the world where laws ▲ allowing preventive detention enjoy constitutional validity even during peacetime. In contrast, the European Court of Human Rights has long held that such laws are illegal under the European Convention on Human Rights regardless of the safeguards inherent in them to prevent their misuse.

Normally preventive detention is resorted to against enemy aliens in emergencies such as war when the evidence in possession of the detaining authority is not sufficient to secure the immediate conviction of the detenu by the normal legal process. In India the history of preventive detention dates back to the early days of the British rule when under the Bengal Regulation-III of 1818 (the Bengal State Prisoners Regulation) the government was empowered to detain anybody on mere suspicion. There was also Rule 26 of the Rules framed under the Defence of India Act 1939, again a war time legislation, which allowed the detention of a person if it was "satisfied with respect to that particular person that such detention was necessary to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial" to the defence and safety of the country (Emp. vs. Sibnath A. 1945

preventive detention laws should have lapsed after India attained Independence; but perhaps as the per Entry 9 of List I and Entry 3 of Republic of India had its birth amidst the ravages of civil coming that the situation in the counmotion involving huge loss of lives try at the time of Independence and property, the framers of our warranted such legislation, there Constitution decided to retain is still no compelling wisdom in preventive detention as a means allowing these laws to continue to curb anti-national activity. Thus, the Preventive Detention Act was passed by Parliament in 1950. After the expiry of this Act in today. Moreover, in the absence of 1969, the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) was enacted in 1971, followed by its economic adjunct the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act (COFE-POSA) in 1974 and the Terrorism and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA), in 1985. Though MISA and TADA have been repealed, COFEPOSA continues to be operative along with other similar laws such as the National Security Act (NSA) 1980, the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Essential Commodities Act 1980 and the draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) 2002; not to mention laws with similar provisions enacted by

the State governments. It is unbelievable that our Constitution allows the government to pass preventive detention laws

name of national security and "maintenance of public order" as List III of the Constitution. Assumparticularly when the circumstances identified in the aforementioned Entries do not exist proper safeguards, preventive detention has been grossly misused, particularly against the Dalits and the minorities. For instance, in May last year a Division Bench of the Madras High Court penalised the Kancheepuram Collector and a police Inspector to pay a sum of one lakh rupees for illegally detaining one Thameem Ansari under the Goondas Act. (The Hindu, May 3, 2003).

Another law which is misused is the COFEPOSA, under which a person found in possession of contraband can be imprisoned without trial and bail for a period of one year despite the possibility that the person may have been duped into carrying the contraband, because, it is often seen that baggage carried by people in good faith on behalf of their friends or beas corpus petition is filed and

TNDIA IS one of the few coun- In the normal course of things against its own citizens in the and they end up in prison under till such time the detenu languish-COFEPOSA. Unfortunately, the law does not recognise innocence even in such genuine cases. Normally before a preventive the High Court, a three member

High Court Judge is constituted by the government to examine whether the detention is justified or not. Surprisingly, the proceedings of the Board are confidential except for that part of the report which expresses the opinion of the Board. But what is more appalling is the denial of the detenu's fundamental right to be represented by a professional lawyer before the Board. This is a blatant violation of human rights and goes against Article 22(1) of the Constitution, which says "No person who is arrested shall be detained in custody without being informed, as soon as may be, of the grounds for such arrest nor shall he be denied the right to consult, and to be defended by a legal practitioner of his choice." Thus in a majority of cases the Advisory Board upholds the detention due to lack of proper legal representation on behalf of the detenu.

It takes up to six months or sometimes even more before a harelatives contains smuggled goods taken up by the High Court, and

es in prison under extremely try ing conditions. No wonder, as per the NHRC report released in May last year, out of a total of 3,04,893 detention case is brought before prisoners in India, 2,25,817 are awaiting trial. In other words, Advisory Board headed by a sitting more than 74 per cent of the total prison population are undertrials. It is therefore clear that preventive detention is harmful to a secular democracy like India as it is extremely prejudicial to personal liberty. As the existing laws are more than sufficient to deal with any offence, the government must seriously consider abolishing all preventive detention laws which have consistently exposed not only the shabby investigative skills of the sponsoring authority, but also their illogical and mechanical anplication by the detaining authority.

> • A. FAIZUR RAHMAN Executive Committee Member,

Harmony India (The article was part of a memorandum presented to the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and Ms. Sonia Gandhi when the author met them on August 6 as a member of a minority community delegation led by the Prince of Arcot Nawab Mohd Abdul Ali.)

On seeking the right question

Barbara Ehrenreich on July 15, 2004 set me thinking: "Our standardised-test-driven schools reward the right answer, not the unsettling question." She was of course commenting on the role of the American establishment in the Iraqi intelligence debacle. The literal message conveyed in that quote is profound on the state of evaluation in the educational sys-

This is especially true in India where we are focusing primarily on how fast a student can come up with the right answer. What this measures is simply the recall power of the student. Yes, sound memory is an essential part of a successful student. However, in this age of Google, answers are just a few keystrokes away for even the most dumb and forgetful among us. Give me an Internet connection and I will give you the

activities, including this blogging, it poses a serious challenge to eroding creativity in our educational system from cheating at high school levels to plagiarism at research levels.

Increasingly, it is becoming hard for educators to even design exams that can evaluate the rote memorisation. If a group of students create a website, pool their collective memory and post every single question that was asked in their exams for a period of five years, say, then a majority of their juniors will benefit immensely. This makes it hard to grade them as they all fall in one big group often with abnormally high scores. The situation became so worse that a few years back GRE exams in Asia had to be cancelled because of an epidemic in ques-

tion sharing. In chat rooms in China, prospective visa seekers to the U.S.

QUOTE from a recent op-ed column in *NY Times* by spawned a wide range of creative ed column in *NY Times* by spawned a wide range of creative one activities, including this blogging, one amusing story goes like this: a course, the teacher conducts an about anything that is thrown at idea where he said his desire for higher studies was to do research that could help his handicapped mother have cutting edge prosthetics. Needless to say, the consular officer relieved at hearing a strikingly fresh motivation (rather than the usual drone on becoming a great professor and getting a Noel prize), rewarded him with a visa. Within hours, the story goes on the chat rooms and every visa interviewee the next day has a prosthetic research ambition.

The question then is what is the alternative? Free speech cannot be limited because of a few rotten apples. The solution in my opinion is turning the tables. Instead of seeking the right answer, the educational evaluation should be based on seeking the right question. Renaissance was born out of this questioning attitude. Imagine a

One amusing story goes like this: a course, the teacher conducts an a student came up with a creative exam which goes like: "Ask 5 most creative questions about topics you have learnt in this course and attempt to answer them. You will be graded on the creativity and uniqueness." There is no surprise in this exam. The exam format is well known. Right from day one, students are forced to think and massage their brains. The creativity part encourages them to ask hard questions. When a question excites them, they naturally go and seek the answer with vigour. The uniqueness part discourages them to share their questions with others. This is to ensure that the whole class does not come up with the same top 5 questions. The more creative ones will closely guard their 'classic' questions or subtle variations thereof but still venture out in their discussions

with others to seek the answers.

. Sound thinking and sharp citi-

about anything that is thrown at them. Only such citizens can contribute to a democracy and make it flourish. Blind followers created by a spoon-fed system can at most become drones in society. It is time we steered our education system from rote repetition to creative intellectual speculation. As the Bhagavad Gita exhorts "pari preshnena": ask questions.

• DEEPAK R. KARUPPIAH

Announcement

Contributions to the Open Page will be considered for publication only if they are in electronic form and emailed. The length of the article should not exceed 800 words. It may be addressed to the Open Page desk at openpage@thehindu.co.in





cise Biography of Avatar Adi Da

Samraj: Carolyn Lee; copies can be had from Surendra Singh,

F-168, Shree Love-Ananda Marg, Rampath, Shyam Nagar

Studies in Occultism: H.P. Bla-

The WTO and India - A Drone

quill Explainer: Narendar Pani; Dronequill Publishers Pvt. Ltd.,

777 M, 13th Main, Ist Cross, HAL

The Voice of Wisdom — Economic, Political and Social:

nomic, Political and Social: S.L.N. Simha; Southern Econo-mist, 106-108, Infantry Road, Bangalore-560001. **Rs. 250.**

Waves of Emotion: Jagadguru

Thakur; Babaji Seshanana Das Shanti Anandashram, PO Shan-

tidham-752017, Puri, Orissa. Rs.

Love Sutras from the Master

Love Sutras from the Master

 Books I & II: Vikas Malkani;
 Lotus Press, 4263/3 Ansari
 Road, Daryagani, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 50.

 The Blissful Dawn and Other Poems: M. G. Narasimha Murthy; The Triveni Foundation, 656, Chikkadpally, Hyderabad-500020. Rs. 40.
 In Search of Excellence — In-

In Search of Excellence — India's Quest for Olympic Gold?

D. K. Mittal; Friends Publications (India), 101, 4787/23, Ansari Road, Daryagani, New Del-

Tamil

Thegam Santhegam: Naraya-nareddy; RSP Publications, 106/4, Jani Jhankhan Road.

106/4, Jani Jhankhan Road, Chennai-600014. **Rs. 40.**

10 Porutthangal Podhuma?: Ve. Lakshmanan; Rajamanick-

Gen, Tailors Hoad, Kilpauk, Chennai-600010. Rs. 25. Suyal Koodiyatchl: Ramasaba-pathy; Copies can be had from the author, Old No. 1, New No. 3,

Java Bharatham Street, Raiaram

• Rangamani Ammavin Anuba-

va Samayal: Rangamani Ammal: Karpagam Puthagalayam, 50/18, Rajabadher Street, T. Na-

gar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 25. Sri Dikshita Kirtanamala

Part I: A. Sundaram Iyer, S. Ven-katesan — Editors; Music Books

Publishers, PB No. 379, Mylapore, HPO, Chennai-600004. Rs. 50.

Mahadevi Akkavin Arulmozhi-

gal: Kalyani Venkataraman — Tr. in Tamil; Sri Taralabalu Ja-

gadguru Bruhan Mutt. Sirigere 577541, Chitradurga, Karnataka

Rs. 150. Kalvik Kadavul Saraswathiyin

Varalarum Perumaigalum: G. Ganesan; Manimegalai Prasuram, No 4, Thanikachalam Salai,

Theradi Kadai Street, Chidam baram-608001. Rs. 45. Tharaththudan Eyangi Thara
 Chandrithazh Pera Sulabamana Aalosanaigal: Gee Gee; Ma-nimegalai Parasuram, No 4, Thanikachalam Salai, T. Nagar,

Chennai-600017. Rs. 65. Analaga Thendral; Thendrala-ga Anal: V. Kulandaivelu; Pada-

ma Pathippagam, 21, Lokanathan Nagar, Second Street, Choolaimedu, Chen-nai-600094. **Rs. 100.**

Karangalil Thiruppali Swarancan be had from the author. Vi vanalaya Isai Payilagam, 6, Madhavan Street, Nehru Nagar,

Chromepet, Chennai-600042.

Telugu

Dharmapadam: J. S. Raghu pathirao; Copies can be had from S. K. Gargi, Atmaramash-ram, Gowthami Nagar, Kovvur,

West Godavari District. Rs. 40.

Maanava Yantramu: S. Janardanachari; distributed by Visa-laandhra Publishing House, 4-1-435, Bank Street, Hydera-

• Anantham: Tethali Ananda Pra-

sadarao; 101, SMR Habitat Road, No. 7, Street No. 4, West

Vakyam Rasatmakam: Acharva Phaneendra, Copies can be had from Poornendu Sahiti Samskri-

tika Samstha, 102, Srinivasa Ar-Marutinagar

Bhava Tarangalu — Gnana Kusumalu: Pavuluri Siva Naravana:

Copies can be had from the author, H.No. 56-2-4, Pavuluri Bha-Vijayawada-520010. **Rs. 75.**

Hyderabad-500040. Rs. 50.

bad-500001. **Rs. 40.**

Marredpalli, Sebad-500026. **Rs. 120.**

T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Nagar, Chennal-600017.
 Siddharkalal Koorappatta Eli-yamural Mooligal Maruthava Sikitchal Nool: K. Chinnaswa-mi; Copies can be had from 7/1,

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gam, 28/7, Nandhivaram.

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nal_Veliyeedu, 3, Appa Gar-

Kilpauk

Road, Daryaganj, hi-110002. **Rs. 295.**

Second Stage, ore-560008. **Rs. 250.**

Extn., Jaipur. Rs. 225

 Adi Da: The Promised God-Man is Here — The Authorised Con- Thematic Volumes on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel — Economic Policy & Foreign Affairs: P. N. Chopra — Editor; Konark Publishers Pvt. Ltd., A-149, Main Vikas Marg, Delhi-110092. Rs.

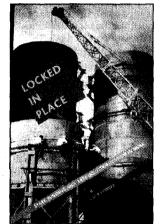
Great Women of India - Volume 1 (Pictorial): S. Ramani; Sri Ramakrishna Math, Mylapore, hennai-600004. Rs. 25

vatsky; New Age Books, A-44, Nariana Phase-I, New Del-hi-110028. **Rs. 195.** Thus Spake: Agarala Easwara Reddi; Copies can be had from the author, Madabhusi Anantha Bhajan Madhuram: Bankim Gossai — Compiler; Maha akshmi Vidya Bhavan, Honor Sayanam Institute of Public Affairs, 137 TP Area, Tirupa-Park, Forest Hill, London SE29 3LE, U.K. Rs. 295. ti-517501. Rs. 250.

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Bangalore-560001. Rs. 250.
Monte Carlo Methods in Statistical Physics: K.P.N. Murthy; Universities Press (India) Pvt. Ltd., 3-5-819, Hyderguda, Hyderabad-500029. Rs. 195.
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Glory of Tamil: R. Alagappan; Tamil Surangam, 50 A, Venkatesa Nagar, I Main Road, Virugambakkam, Chennai-600092. Rs. 10. Locked in Place — State-Building and Late Industrialization in India: Vivek Chibber; Tulika Books, 35 A/1 (3rd Floor), Shahpur Jat, New Delhi-110049. Rs. 630.



Sai - The Age of Cosmic Family: Sudinam; Lotus Press, 4263/3, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Dethi-110002, Rs. 75. Board (CBEC) on Customs —

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Urban Administration in India
 Experiences of Fifty Years: U.
 B. Singh; Serials Publications, 4
 BSS Hall, Khyber Pass Market,

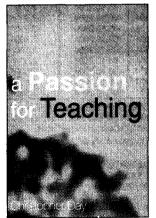
Civil Lines, Delhi-110054. Rs. • Winte Whispers — A Poetic Journey: Arun Sharma; Frog Books an imprint of Zzebra, A to

Z Business Chambers, Fort, Mumbai-400023. Rs. 60. Adholok: Manohar Lal Vashisht; Vashisht Publications, 49, Indira Nagar, Phagwara-144401, Pun-

jab. Rs. 200.

• The Green Dragon — An Illustrated Children's Book: Anurad-ha Gupta; Frog Books an imprint of Zzebra, A to Z Business Chambers, Fort, Mum-

Chambers, For bai-400023. Rs. 95. A Passion for Teaching: Christopher Day; Foundation Books Pvt. Ltd., 4764/2A, 23, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Del-hi-110002. **Rs. 250.**



The Mystery of The Jhalana Fort: Santosh Magazine; Indica Publishers, 1680-81, Mehta Market, Nai Sarak, Delhi-110006

Rs. 50. Rs. 50.

Rosary of Saints: Meer S. Sashital; Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Kulapati Munshi Marg, Mumbai-400007. Rs. 275.

Take The Plunge!!!: Lalit Maga-

zine; Indica Publishers, 1680-81 Mehta Market, Nai Sarak, Delbi-110006 Rs. 150. Born in October: Binoy Varakil; Pappiyon, B-8, Vikas Building, Railway Station Link Road, Koz-

hikode-673002. Rs. 200.

Gulde To Service Tax: P. Veera Reddy; Asia Law House, Opp. High Court, Hyderabad-500002.

 Advanecs in History — Essays in Memory of Professor M. P. Sridharan: Kesavan Veluthat, P.P. Sudhakaran — Editors; Pro-fessor M. P. Sridharan Memorial Trust, 6-102, Calicut II. Rs. 300. Gandhi's Way --- A Handbook of Conflict Resolution: Mark Juer-

gensmeyer; Oxford University Press, YMCA Library Building, Jai Singh Road, New Del-hi-110001. Rs. 295. Journal of Communication Chaturvedi Rashtriva Patrakarita

 Tarangam — Collection of Sto-ries: T. Sriranga Swamy — Edi-tor; Sreelekha Sahithi, H.No. tor; Sreelekha Sahihi, 114-5/2, Opp. MRO Office, Hasanparthy, Warangal-506371. Vishwavidyalaya, Sanchar Parisar E-2/25. Arera Colony, Bho-

In search of a new metaphor MANHATTAN TO BAGHDAD that there is a frehness to a nar-Despatches from the

Paul McGeough; Pub. by Allen & Unwin, Australia, Distributed by Viva Books Pvt. Ltd., 4262/3, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 395. AS THE New York-based writerat-large for The Sydney Morning ish the last leg o his journey in a Herald, Paul McGeough has the dilapidated jeer. The interpretkind of assignment most other er, who was to take him on to

journalists can only dream of. From September 2001 to October 2002 he reported on the ter- don't you get a Toyota Hilux." rorist attacks on the city in which he resides, the campaign against the Taliban, the most intense phase of the Palestinian intifada and the preparations for the invasion of Iraq. In short, almost all the most important stories of that one year period.

frontline in the War on Terror:

Other journalists who do not have this degree of freedom to travel or the resources to do so in life. cannot but feel a twinge of envy. However, those who read the book under review will unhesitatingly agree that he is the kind of reporter who is on the

Not just despatches

The book is not a collection of despatches from frontlines around the world. He presumably filed his quota of reports for the Herald as the events were taking place and was surely traversing familiar ground

rative that is enriched by the inclusion of detals that do not

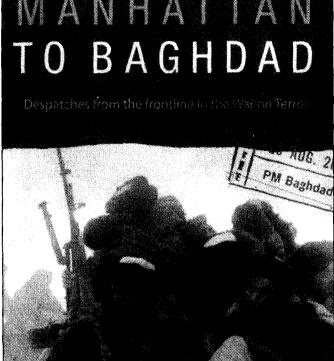
normally figure h news reports. For instance, n writing about his journey to neet the Afghan commander Mijahideen leader Ahmed Shah Nassoud the author narrates that he had to finmeet Massoud ook one look at the vehicle and sneered, "Why

This is the lind of material that will be ruthlessly excised by the news desk of any decent newspaper. But in the context of a book little details of this nature help the readers understand that even in the midst of a particularly nasty war those who do well for themselves retain an eve for the good things

Evewitness account

With this encounter in the background the reader is better able to appreciate McGeough's account of his meeting with Massoud. He writes, "The man who fretted about his half-finished house in the Panishir vallev and a lifetime's collection of books still in boxes dismissed me, saying 'I don't want to spend all my life fighting'.'

when he wrote this book. For all 11 the author refrains from yet ities of Mohammed Atta and his about what it felt like on the



p foreign correspondent In narrating the events of 9/ another recounting of the activassociates. Instead he writes

glish, Tamil or Hindi films of his

time; and he was fond of cricket.

with references to every team

PAUL McGEOUGH

subway, "The dust clogging my throat was a pulverised cocktail of office furniture and the glass, steel and concrete of the tow-

Or his description of the collapse of the second tower, "The world seemed to roar in pain as the floors detonated in quick succession, debris sprayed into the street and great spears of flying steel slashed at the surrounding buildings.'

Books of this sort usually do not contain material that journalists would view as "news"; something that has not been reported on before.

Since this reviewer did not read the Herald during the relevant period it is not clear whether McGeough wrote anything about the secret airlift from Kunduz near the end of the campaign against the Tali-

War crimes

However, he does mention that he and other journalists who were near Kunduz at the time were conned and missed a story that was later broken by Seymour Hersh. This story, which might be of particular interest to Indian readers, is about

ground as he rushed from his the U.S. administration allow-apartment to the site of the ing Pakistan to undertake a se-World Trade Center. Consider ries of airlifts that enabled an his description of the street uncounted number of Taliban scene as he emerged from the and Al-Qaeda fighters to escape from entrapment.

It was perhaps of the type of journalism that the author has the freedom to practise that he detoured through the smouldering debris of Jenin before he went on to report on the lead up

to the Iraq war. However, there is a symbolic element to this narrative because anyone who is familiar with West Asia knows that every regional crisis is connected to the fate of the Palestinians.

The book describes the destruction wrought by the Israeli army in the refugee camps as it fought Palestinian militants. However, as with the reports published after the raid into Jenin, the book tries but fails to answer the question whether the Israelis killed dozens of Innocents as the Palestinians had accused them of doing.

Books of this nature might not evoke much interest unless the writer can insert an element of personal narrative. The problem is that any account of personal feelings can go overboard and create the impression that the writer has put himself ahead of the story. McGeough does

KESAVA MENON

On men and matters

His admiration for Gandhiji,

THE KASI DIARIES -**Excerpts From the Diaries of** N. D. Varadachariar (1903-1945): N. V. Sampath, Malathi Rangaswami and N. V. Kasturi - Editors; EastWest Books (Madras) Pvt. Ltd., 571, Poonamalle High Road Aminjikarai, Chennai-600029.

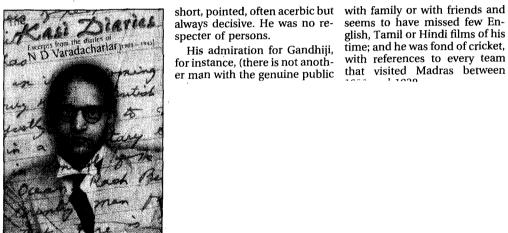
N.D.VARADACHARIAR, KASI to his family and friends was an advocate with wide-ranging interests and a wider circle of friends. He was the nephew of Salem C. Vijayaraghavachariar, who presided over the Nagpur Congress session of 1920 that adopted Gandhiji's civil disobedience programme.

Colony, Kodambakkam, Chen nai-600024. **Rs. 90.** His friends included very many public figures of his time. 1935. • Ariviyal Tamizh Ilakkiyam: T His close companions were S. Janakiraman; Arivan Pathippa-gam, 28/7, Jairam Nagar, Guduvancher Metchum Aachutch Thozil: R. ippagam, 24/2, Dr. Cheriyan (Victoria) Complex, Egmore, Chennai-600008. **Rs. 30.** chari in 1931 lasted till Kasi's

untimely death. Eventful period

Interaction with all these provided ample material for comment in the diaries, which he a reference to the Second World maintained meticulously from War. He could very well have 1916 till almost his death. He said it of his whole life. The was a Congressman in his early years 1919-45 were the most years, accompanying his uncle eventful period of India's nato the Nagpur session at the age tional movement and constituof 17, but the active association tional history. ceased in the 1930s.

He developed an early interest in constitutional issues and



Government of India Act of

At the instance of R.K. Shan-Parthasarathy, son of S. Sriniva- mukham Chetty then the Desa Iyengar and V.K.Thiruvenka- wan of Cochin, he drafted a tachari, Advocate-General of constitution for that state. Im-Madras in the 1950s, while a mediately before his death, he friendship struck up with the drafted, at the instance of Alladi kindred soul T.T. Krishnama- and T.R.Venkatarama Sastri, a proposal for the enlargement of the jurisdiction of the World Court.

He says, "I have lived through this eventful period of the world's history. Thank God," in

Marked by objectivity

Kasi observed all the events specialised on the position of of these years and made pithy the princely states under the comments in his diary. They are

Art of managing people

RELATIONS — The Art of er man with the genuine public that visited Madras between Leading People to Leverage

neur-cum-CEO and his patronising grandfather in the locale house.'be משתיים:

THE POWER OF HUMAN young and impetuous entrepre-

BOOK REVIEW Window to Indian architecture

THE GUIDE TO THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

Takeo Kamiya; Translated by Geetha Parameswaran; Annabel Lopez, Bevinda Collaco -Editors; Pub. by Architecture Autonomous, No. 674, Near Nisha's Play School, Torda, Salvador do Mundo, Bardez, Goa-403101, **Rs. 1200.**

TRAVELLERS AND historians have excavated architecture literally and metaphorically to understand and construct the past and the present. From early Greek travellers, Huan Tsang, "Domingos Paes through to Ferguson many have travelled the length and breadth of the counatry and have been awed by its wariety and the culture that pro-... duced it. The variety is not limit-, ed to typology and scale. The , variety is about landscape, multiple views it embodies and the craft skills it celebrates.

From the 18th Century onwards travellers and historians have attempted to produce a grand explanation built on race and states without attempting and other misplaced theories and grossly misrepresented Indian architecture. This is by now a familiar story and has been excellently documented in Parta avoids the pitfalls of race, reli-Mitter's work.

The variety in Indian architecture has been so bewildering Festival exhibitions unwisely that it has consistently challenged any attempts to build a Ilmited notion of nation and na-'tional style. This includes recent attempts by contemporary arbe chitects and archaeologists to

build a limited representation of national architecture.

Labour of love

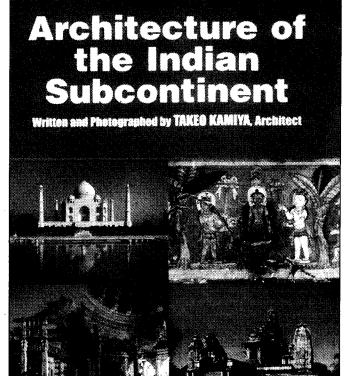
Takeo Kamiya's guidebook under review reiterates the variety that characterises Indian architecture and is a welcome reminder. The book is a labour of love. Kamiya has been visiting and studying Indian monuments for almost 20 years. He has compiled the many wellknown and not so well-known sites totalling about 612 and meticulously organised it for the convenience of the discerning traveller. The author himself has photographed all the sites.

The book contains beautiful drawings from different sources and they are included for appreciating the monuments better. It is oriented to travellers who are interested in heritage tourism, especially the architectural heritage. This explains the useful travel information it carries.

Kamiya has wisely arranged monuments according to zones any stylistic categories. Indian architecture has never yielded to classifications based on styles as in European history. He also gious and other orientalist categories, which even the India

Firsthand account

Penguin Guide to Monuments edited by Mitchell and Davies



has served as an important ref- Penguin Guide, Kamiya has not counts, but as the postscript approach then could also ex-

erence for this book. Unlike the relied on second-hand ac-

makes it clear, he has visited all tend and include Pakistan and the sites and inhabited the space pave the way for a larger volume and buildings and recorded them. Where the Penguin and Blue Bell Guides score over this book is at the level of historical information they convey.

The author is not a profeswho has a feel for the buildings and space, and understands them. Be it a small temple at Srinivasanallur or a large metropolitan complex like the Fathepur Sikri, the text expresses these qualities. They are simple but useful architectural explanations. This leaves the reader with the choice to seek other sources for more detailed historical information.

It is indeed a difficult task to make a compilation of Indian architecture in a single volume. This is bound to provoke debates about inclusion, exclusion and representation. However, a fair if not exhaustive representation of colonial and contemporary architecture of India would be useful and be consistent with the book's desire to include a wide variety of architectural representation and not limit itself to the ancient.

Comments

The book includes monuments of Bangladesh even though it is a different nation; the reason being that the Bengali culture is contiguous and cannot be divided by national boundaries. This appreciative of the subcontinent.

For many who are used to the descriptions of the British travel writers and historians, a guide book by an Asian and in particular by a Japanese architect sional historian but an architect opens new anticipations. This anticipation is neither met in the introduction nor in the body of the text nor in the postscript. Much to our disappointment, the book hangs on to the contestable ideas of Fergusson like that of his views on the architecture of sentiment and architecture of reason.

In the promotional lectures that accompanied the book release, Kamiya insightfully brought out the similarities and differences between Japan and Indian architecture. His views about how Japanese traditional architecture is inhabited by paintings and that of Indian by sculptures were insightful. Even a brief mention of such views would have added value to this otherwise good compilation of Indian monuments.

What this book leaves after a sumptuous presentation is the question why architectural guides continue to focus on the spectacular. Why should the past be only understood and the culture represented through the monumental and religious buildings? The architecture of everyday life and the rural continue to be overlooked. This good work too is not an excep-

A. SRIVATHSAN

For the Raj aficionado

THE GWALIOR OF SCINDIA'S: J.W.D. Johnstone: Spring Books. Gurgaon. Copies available from Shubhi Publications, 15, A.K.D. Towers, Sec-14, Gurgaon.

34. 6

1.

THIS IS a quaint book redolent of the Raj. One cannot quite fathom why the book has been republished for there is nothing as the unloading of the luggage much here for the common reader. But for Raj aficionados and those interested in history and the princely states, the book provides an amusing skim

It is an account of the visit of the Prince and the Princess of then Maharaja, Madho Rao Scindia II played host and did the honours as only the princes book for it tells you in gory decould in pre-Independence In- tail how the majestic animal is

dia. He wished the event be recorded and entrusted the task to I.W.D. Johnstone.

The writer took his job too literally it appears because even the minute details are provided. So we have to wade though trivia like the names of the officers nominated for special duty such and the distribution of carriage

Royal pastime

Shocking in these days of environmental awareness and the realisation of the need to conserve wildlife are the details Wales to Gwalior in 1905. The about the hunting of the tiger. The description of the "shikar" is the most repellent part of the

laid out as a feat for the guest. The arrogance is appalling, "Hopes run high that My lord Tiger would be obliging and make his appearance where and when he was required," says Johnstone.

The diabolic planning and execution has 800 men (beaters) to rouse the animal and bring it to the required spot. This is followed by the shooting and the inevitable photograph of the cowardly hunters and the brave hunted. The Prince of Wales, it is stated proudly, shot three tigers during this visit and six more within the next six months

Rise to power

The book carries a brief histo-

trapped and the whole shikar ry of Gwalior and traces the ancient Gwalior fortress, which dias in the title?) The author has Scindias' rise to power. The Maratha Peshwa Baji Rao obtained Malwa and shared his newly acquired territory between his trusted officers Malhar Holkar and Ranoji Scindia. The Scindias began to rule Gwalior from the 18th Century. Madho Rao Scindia I was a courageous and noteworthy king.

The Scindias' initial clashes with the British gave place to a policy of compromise and appeasement which later turned to a feudatory attitude. The Princes received sops in the form of contrived titles. The Gwalior princes were the recipients of the Knight Grand Cross of the Hessian Order of Philip the Magnanimous!

A chapter is devoted to the

from the time of its capture by Outb-ud-din in 1196 A.D. until 1858 A.D. was continually "the scene of war and tumult." The tomb of singer Tansen and the mausoleum of Mohammed Ghaus, a spiritual leader during Akbar's time are described.

When the writer talks of the state banquet in the magnificent Jai Vilas Palace, he mentions the much written about miniature silver train of the Scindias "consisting of an engine and six cut glasses for passing wine and cigarettes around

A Raj diary

This is a typical Raj diary that reads like a gazette. (And why is there an apostrophe in the Scintried to wax eloquent wherever he can.

But how much scope can there be for that in a document that is obviously sycophantic and seeks to reiterate the Scindias' loyalty to the Crown and the greatness of the rulers who felt the Sun would forever remain at noon.

Much water has flown under the Gwalior bridge. With the royal family immersed in present day politics, one would think the book would be somewhat of an embarrassment for them in a free democratic India. But then this is history and like quite a few royals they might be willing to face accounts of the past chin up.

KAUSALYA SANTHANAM

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

V. Srinivasan, sic"? (P. Chennai)

When you decide to do everything goes completely wrong, how do people react? Usually they criticise you; sic", you accept the criticism or punishment that is in store for you. In other words, you take responsibility for your mistakes.

*The partners ran away and poor Venu was left to face the music.

*Listen Meera, sooner or later you will have to face the music.

There are several explanations as to the origin of this idiom. According to some scholars, it comes from a practice that was common in the British military. When an officer was court-martialed, the charges against him were read out for all to hear. The man was made to stand in front of the military band and while the charges were being read out, drummers used to tap their drums. Since the prisoner was facing the band and the drums were being played, he was literally "facing the music". This practice of tapping the drums while the charges were read out gave rise to another expression as well — "drummed up charges".

Is it okay to say, "The convict would be hung tomorrow"? Umar. Kadayanallur)

No, it isn't. Careful users of the language would prefer the use of "hanged" rather than "hung". The word "hung" is usually used with objects and not with human beings. Here are a few examples.

*Sarita hung her new coat on the doorknob.

*The outlaw who had killed 12 people was hanged at noon.

Secondly, in your example, you should say, "will be hanged" rather than "would be hanged". The use of "would" suggests that the event may not take place. For example, if you say, "I would help you", it implies that you want to help me, but for some reason you are not in a posi-

What is the meaning and tion to. "I would help you if I could. But I can't". The use of could. But I can't". The use of "would" suggests a condition. "I would marry you," for example, implies that you would something on your own and consider marrying the person if certain other conditions were met — perhaps if he/she had more money, or had been sometimes, they even punish more handsome/beautiful! you. When you "face the mu- These conditions are not going to be met; therefore, you are not going to marry the person! Your sentence should be "The convict will be hanged tomorrow.'

How is the word "suite" pronounced? (P. K. Varadurajan, Hyderabad)

It is pronounced like the word "sweet". When you reserve a suite in a hotel, you get a set of rooms — a bedroom, a sitting room and a bathroom. Many big hotels have a "Honeymoon suite". The word "suite" can also be used with reference to furniture. It refers to matching pieces of furni-

What is the difference between "dispute" and "argument"? (M. Naresh, Madurai)

An argument is usually a verbal disagreement between two people; it may or may not be something serious. The word is always used as a noun.

*The couple got into an argument over which movie to

*The argument got pretty serious. I could hear the Manager shouting.

A dispute, unlike an argument, is something which can last for a very long time and is frequently marked by heated exchanges. It is something serious, and takes place between two parties — they can be two organisations, countries and individuals. The word can be used as a noun and a verb.

*The dispute between the two countries has been going on for several decades.

When you dispute something, you are raising serious objections. You are stating very strongly that you are objecting to it.

*I dispute the claim that we have the best cricket team in the world.

***** ***** ****

"She has as much originality as a Xerox machine."

- Laurence J. Peter S. UPENDRAN

BOOK REVIEW minus

WILD PARROTS

TELEGRAPH HILL

A Love Story ... weth

MARK BITTNER



 Jane Austen — Introduction and Interventions: John Wiltshire; Macmillan India Ltd., 2/10, Ansari Road, Daryagani, New Del-hi-110002. Rs. 295.

 Rayalaseema During Colonial Times — A Study in Indian Nationalism: P. Yenadi Raju; Northern Book Centre, 4221/1, Daryagani, Ansari Road, New Delhi-110002. **Rs. 600.**

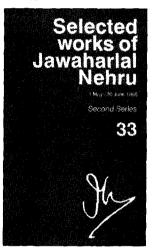
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Divinity of Numbers The SAlence of Numerology: Nor-man Shine; Thapovanam Pub-lishers Pvt. Ltd., 9/10, Silver Arcade, Marol-maroshi Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400059.

Rs. 200. Selected Works of Jawaharia Nehru — Vol. 33 — 1 May-20 June 1956: Pub. by Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund Teen Murti House, New Delhi-110011. Rs. 500.



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Morality of Markets: Parth J. Shah — Editor: Academic Foundation, 4772-73/23, Bharat Ram Road, (23 Ansari Road), Darya Delhi-110002

 Homi J. Bhabha — Architect of Nuclear India: Dilip M. Salwi; Ruvagani, New Delhi-110002, 195. tegrating The Rural Poor into Markets: Bibek Debroy, Amir tion, 4772-73/23, Bharat Ram Road, Daryagani, New Del-hi-110002. Rs. 695.

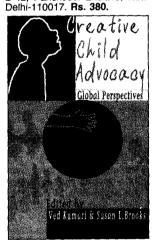
Lahore Loved, Lost, and thereafter: Sahdev Vohra; Indian Publishers Distributors, 156-D Kamla Nagar, Delhi-110007

Rs. 295.

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 Muslim Identity, Print Culture and the Dravidian Factor in Tamil Nadu: J.B.P. More; Orient Longman Pvt. Ltd., 1/24, Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi-110002. Rs.

Creative Child Advocacy -Global Perspectives: Ved Kumari, Susan L. Brooks — Editors; Sage Publications India Pvt. Ltd., B-42, Panchseel Enclave, New



 Sonia Gandhi: Arun Bhanot, Surai Prasad Verma; Diamond Pocket Books (P) Ltd., X-30, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase II, New Delhi-110020. **Rs. 95.**

 Translation as Recovery: Sujit Mukherjee; Pencraft International, B-1/41, Ashok Vihar II, Delhi-110052. **Rs. 380**.

 Gender and Social Equity in Primary Education — Hierarchies of Acess: Vimala Ramachandran — Editor, Sage Publications India Pvt. Ltd.,

B-42, Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi-110017. Rs. 390.

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Chandigarh-160022. Rs. 250. E-Government From Vision to Implementation: Subhash Bhatnagar; Sage Publications India Pvt. Ltd., B-42, Panchseel New Delhi-110017.

Rs. 280. Cane Cultivation and Sugar Industry in Andhra Pradesh (1930-60): Movva Srinivasa Reddy; Copies can be had from Sai Lakshmi Towers, 'A' GF1, 56-12-8/1, Opp. Rameeza Ortho Hospital, Bhavineni Koteswara Rao Road, Patamala, Vijayawada-520010. Rs. 150.

 St. Thomas Christians of Malabar Through Ages — A Fresh Look into Biblical and Historial Evidences: N.M. Mathew; Christava Sahitva Samithy, Tiruvalla,

Rs. 75. • Embers & Dew Drops: Mangalam Ramamoorthi; Copies can be had from the author, 8, Tribhuvan, 7&9, Bhimanna Garder nai-600018. Rs. 50.

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ulam-682011. Rs. 90
• India and Regional Developments — Through the Prism of Indo-Pak. Relations: J. N. Dixit; Gyan Publishing House, 5, Ansari Road, Daryagani, New Delhi-110002. **Rs. 540.**In Praise of Prejudice: John

Stuart; The Lotus Collection ar imprint of Roli Books Pvt. Ltd. M-75 GK, II Market, New Del-hi-110048. **Rs. 95.**

Leaves from My Personal Life: V. R. Krishna lyer; Gyan Publish-ing House, 5, Ansari Road, Da-rya Ganj, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 540.

 Photos of the Gods — The Printed Image and Political Struggle in India: Christopher Pinney; Oxford University Press, YMCA Library Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001. Rs. 1750.

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 The Harmonium Handbook — Owning, Playing & Maintaining the Devotional Instrument of India: Satyaki Kraig Brockschmidt; Rs. 175. Mother of the Universe - Vi-

sions of the Goddess and Tantric Hymns of Enlightenment: Lex Hixon; **Rs. 225.** J. Krishnamurti — Great Liberator or Failed Messiah?: Luis S.

R. Vas; Rs. 195.

Happy For No Good Reason — Learn to Meditate: Become Stronger, Calmer and Happier: Swami Shankarananda; Rs. 225. The above four books pub. by Motifal Banarsidass Publishers Pvt. Ltd., 120, Royapettah High Road, Mylapore, Chen-nai-600004.

Course in Algebra: T. A. Ramsubban; Pub. by the author, Copies can be had from 1, Mooparappan Street, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 180.

 Yoga Vaashistam — Gnanathin Nuzhaivaayil: C.V. Sivaramak-rishna Sharma; Narmadha Path-ippagam, 10, Nana Street, T. Chennais 600017. Chennai-600017 Nagar, **Rs. 100**.

 Sivan Atruppadai: V. Naraya-naswami; 1, Sapthagiri Towers, 14, Ramar Koil Street, Ramna-Coimbatore-641009.

Pudhiya Savalgal: Chinthai Jayaraman; Vinodh Publication, 11, EB Colony, Lakshmipuram, (Near Avadi), Thiruninra-vur-602024. Rs. 10.

ochiraimuthukkal: V. Radhak-rishnan; Jose Anthony Pathippa-gam, C/o CS Srinivasan, 137/2, Pammal Main Road, Pammal,

Chennai-600075. Rs. 55.

Konjam Sirikkalaam Vaangal Kamala Kandasamy; Narmadha Pathippagam, 10, Nana Street, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017.

Rs. 35. Indhiya Thathuva Gnana: Va-larntha Kadhai: P.C. Ganesan; Puthiya Puthaga Ulagam, 52-C, North Usman Road, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 50.

Adhi Parasakthi — Maariam-mangal Varalaru: S. S. Ragava-charyar; Narmadha

Pathippagam, 10, Nana Street, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 60.

• Thanip Padal Thirattu: Siva Kanniappan; Mullai Nilayam, 9, Bharathi Nagar First Street, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. **Rs. 90**. Selavillatha Sulabha Vaithiam: N. Janarthanan; Narmadha Pathippagam, 10, Nana Street, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017.

• Mogathee: Sura — Tr. in Tamil; Ramprasanth Publications, 106/4, Jani Jahankhan Road, Chennai-600014

 Sirukathaigal: Sura — Tr. in Ta-mil; Sarhuprabha Publications, 105, Jani Jahankhan Road, Royapettah, Chennai-600014.

• Ellam Tharum Engal: Ve.

Lakshmanan; Rajamanickam-mal Veliyeedu, 3, Appa Garden, Taylors Road, Kilpauk, Chen-

nai-600010. Rs. 35. Chinnakuthusi; Surangam: Nakkheeran Publications, Chennai-600014. **Rs. 50.** · Russia: M. Mugunthan; Ram-

prasanth Publications, 106/4, Ja-ni Jahankhan Road, Royapettah, Chennai-600014. Rs. 25. • 150 Kodi Muslimgalin Parvayeil Islam: A.H. Hatheeb; Bagavi Pathippagam, 16, Maideen Palli Street, Nagore-611002.

• Jothidam — Arindhu Kolla Ven diya 1008 Kurippugal: Ve. Lakshmanan; Rajamanickam-mal Vellyeedu, 3, Appa Garden, Taylors Road, Kilpauk, Chen-nai-600010. **Rs. 30.** Mai-600010. **NS. 30. Krishnayizam:** SAP; Sarhuprabha Publications, 105, Jani Jahankhan Road, Royapettah, Chennai-600014. **Rs. 30.**

THE WILD PARROTS OF

TELEGRAPH HILL: Mark

York. \$ 39.95.

Winged friends in suburbia fore it became the book and film. His wild parrot compan-Bittner; Harmony Books, New

SOMEWHERE TOWARDS the end of his fascinating tale of a flock of wild parrots in suburbia, Mark Bittner is overcome by the realisation that nature has a sweeping power over all man-made spaces. Given enough time, it can replace the dry and monotonous character

of cities with the vibrant colours

of natural life. Bittner is the central figure in very personal story of companionship, love, sharing and sacrifice that revolves round a group of exotic wild parrots in suburban San Francisco. Frisco the city is, to most people, a tribute to the zest for life, its cultures in confluence.

Arrival of wild parrots

For Bittner, however, the city of the Golden Gate Bridge really comes alive only when his winged friends arrive from Walton Square, breaking the silence of the morning with a burst of vibrant green in the sky. His favourite cherry headed and blue crowned conures or parrots, descending on Telegraph Hill, transform his dull and listless existence into a compelling and fantastic tryst with nature

Bittner's story reads like a fairy tale, but it is very real. It was first made famous by newspapers and television shows be-

ions are almost certainly escapees from the bird trade, tracing their origin to Peru, Argentina and Ecuador.

Turning point

With the arrival of the birds, Bittner, a failed musician, a lone, dissolute and homeless soul yearning to understand the meaning of life, is turned into a romantic for life.

He arrives in Telegraph Hill as the caretaker of a house running errands for the owner, but is mesmerised by the wild parrots that would change his life

The cherry heads and the blue crowns are so clever and individualistic that he comes to recognise most of them, and gives them names such as Mandela, Chomsky, Dogen and Connor in his image of their likeness to real people. If one parrot reminds him of a musician, he calls it Paco, while a mafia-like personality earns another a name like Sonny. Of course, some parrots are more loveable than the others and Bittner has his own favourites.

The wild parrots of Telegraph Hill have twinkling eyes that communicate emotion to Bittner and they read his own feelings for them unerringly. Over months and then years.

his bowl of sunflower seeds on universe, unfailingly attracting the fire escape of the house he the flock each day for a sumptutends becomes the centre of his ous feed.

of the group inevitably cast him aged

on a journey the kind of which smuggler-captors or owners their lifetime. There is joy, pain, an alien land. violence and death in the parrot community and Bittner virtually becomes a part of it. Birdwatching is an all too familiar hobby, but Mark Bittner pursues it with intense feeling for his subjects.

A lifetime passion

that birds must be free in the nurse sick birds and set them introduced species. free. This book that results from his studies of the conures provides a rare perspective on these intelligent and colourful

The account is all the more fascinating because these parakeets are a free-living flock of most incongruous of places in city. The book is as much memoir as behavioural study on species that are ruthlessly pursued for the wild bird market of the U.S. and elsewhere.

Wild-caught conures, which are listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) cannot be imported under U.S. law after 1993. Bittner explains, advancing the hypothesis that the flocks on Telegraph His periodic missions to res- Hill and elsewhere in San Francue sick and injured members cisco are those that have man-

few can hope to experience in and return to their wild wavs in

For birding enthusiasts

They must be left free to find their fortunes rather than be hounded on the ground that they are exotics and hence potentially dangerous to the endemic flora and fauna, he argues. One might take a sym-He always reminds everyone pathetic view, considering that the house sparrow, like many wild and not in cages. True to other plants and animals, has his law, his first instinct is to thrived in many countries as an

The parrots, photographs of which are found in the book and on a companion website (www.wildparrotsbook.com), make this delightful work compulsive reading, despite Bittner's occasional philosophical digressions into Dharma, Buddexotic birds, in perhaps the hism and communion with the natural world. His chapter on America — a crowded and big the "science of it" provides sufficient education for the birding enthusiast, while others would find his story to be simply ex-

traordinary. In the end, this account of a wild parrot flock is a reiteration of the simple joys that nature brings even to the inhospitable and often forbidding confines of a city. If the urban environment can make some space for trees, parks and lakes, it can convert dour concrete vistas into a colourful landscape.

G. ANANTHAKRISHNAN

A feel of Sri Lanka

THE ROAD FROM ELEPHANT PASS: Nihal De Silva; Rs. 400. EXODUS 2300: Carl Muller; Rs. 350. The above two books pub. by Vijitha Yapa Publications, Unity Plaza, 2, Galle Road,

Colombo-4. THE ELEPHANT Pass of Sri Lanka is the fort that the Dutch built in 1776, an isthmus that was strategically important for the island as it linked Wanni with Jaffna peninsula. It became a tourist resort after independence with the A-9 Highway (Jaffna-Kandy Road) running through it and went into a blaze of battle-publicity when the

LTTE tried to capture it in 1991. The Tigers failed but Prabhakaran's steady strategy to Comprehensive Refresher weaken the base of the huge settlement paid dividends a few years later. On April, 23, 2000, Colonel Bhanu raised the crim- Science fiction son-and-gold flag of the Tigers promising to see the end of the Tamil symbol that proclaimed the en-

slaving of a free people.

Page-turner Nihal De Silva's novel opens exactly a month prior to this triumphant flag-hoisting ceremoin the Elephant Pass. Naturally, we are in for a breathless tale. However, the novelist is also a naturalist and nately for us, Muller has turned so it is not merely the cruelties to serious science fiction now and shudderings of attack and and deserves our cheers for predefence that we have in The Road from Elephant Pass. We also gain a feel of Sri Lanka as the gentle favourite of Mother Na-

gion when running away from the Elephant Pass to the safety of Colombo. Never an easy moment for us as they eat stale bread, dare a leopard with a kitchen knife and carry away its kill, get the better of deserters who want to kill him and rape her, are never an inch away from kraits and bears and happily irritate each other with words till they become lovers.

But since the blurb assures us that they get to Colombo after all, we remain relaxed in our easy chair. Nor is the final double-twist a total surprise. Wasuntha goes back to the front and is reported missing. Files closed. So is the novel but not before identifying a capable story-teller in De Silva.

Carl Muller bakes a different pie in Exodus 2300. There has been an uneasy feeling with his fans that the enjoyment value seems to be going down gradually, with each succeeding book. We did love his recipe regarding the manufacture of flavoured jams with tonnes of sweet pumpkins. Ah, while nothing succeeds like success, nothing fails like excess either! Fortueffective senting

extravaganza. Extravaganza it is for we are chirruping in and out of holy ure. thoughts—St. John of the Cross, the Diamond Sutra, the Gita,

and the informer Kamala do not the Bible, Confucius, yes, even have it easy in the wooded re- an old Templar hymn. The years roll on towards 2300 as this invisible neo-Wotan seeks to master humanity by the death-flames of science and technology. His minions proceed to build a new world order and impose the peace of the Asura on the world. Are we then in humanity's sunset? What do we have here but "superscopes in space, geostatic orbits making them look like the sleek soup platters and tureens, their immense antennae probing the depths of the universe and be-

A glorious superpower then

brings down the black umbrellas that have been raised above nations, and just when we have had a retching session with the public fornications (Muller has to sell the book I guess), a good bit of decent humanity escapes On education the Black Hole while anding supernova sucked into tself." Among those who surive are the President of the U.S. and the President of Sri Lanka. ertainly enough to convene the first World Government Conference. So what actually happened? Read the book and you will know. And if you read Muller's "after write" you will learn that "the only weapon the sages and the prophets, the avatars and the many divine incarnations" suggested against all the evils within man and without was Love. As Dante concluded his Divine Comedy — love that moves the sun and the stars.

Considered opinions of a seasoned statesman

CS SPEAKS — A Collection of Articles by C. Subramaniam: Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Kulapathi Munshi Marg, Mumbai-400007. Rs. 325.

THIS VOLUME comprises C. Subramaniam's critical comments as a neutral observer in his retirement. As an experienced administrator and seasoned minister, he could speak with authority

on a variety of issues of national concern. While communalism and other divisive force were causing concern, he met the Kanchi Paramacharya in 1991 accompanied by like-minded citizens. The Acharya talked at length on the iniury caused to the concept of secularism by communal parties and suggested a ban on them contesting elections either on their own or in alliance with other parties. He called upon all national political parties not to seek any alliance or support from such parties and recalled, much to Subramaniam's amazement, a resolution passed by the Constituent Assembly in this regard in

Talking about education, C.S. stresses the need to relate education and training to our manpower needs and development requirements. He wants universities to establish close linkages with industry and research institutions for raising the standards of teaching and research and produce

more creators of jobs than seekers. In his letter to Kajiv Gandhi, immediately after the elections in 1984, he suggested priorities needing his urgent attention. He advised that ministers should confine themselves to policy and keep away from postings, transfers and contracts except to the extent of enforcing general

Institutional reforms

ivine Comedy — love that stars.

Lamenting in 1999 that institutions starting from the Presidency and the Judiciary were in disarray, he suggested some constitutional re-

forms which include minimum qualification for MLAs and graduation for MPs.

The alternative of experience in the functioning of the Panchayati Raj institutions or public service in a recognised voluntary service orga-

nisation is also acceptable. The German method of a constructive no-confidence, size of the cabinet to be limited to 10 per cent of the total members of the House, not more than two terms for a prime minister, appointment to the Judiciary by the president assisted by an expert panel, time limit of six months for trial from the date of framing charges and confiscation of ill-gotten property from corrupt public servants are some of the other recommendations

In 1969, the Congress Party forged an alliance with the Swatantra and the Janata Parties in Bihar to avoid a hung assembly. C.S. did not approve of the inclusion of a particular person in the Congress cabinet, as he had come to the adverse notice of the courts. He submitted his resignation as member of the Congress working committee and forced the issue till the Bihar ministry was recon-

Commitment to values

That he could apply such pressure even when Indira Gandhi was Prime Minister speaks volumes for his commitment to upholding certain values. But, on issues of national priority, not all his suggestions were acted upon and he is not clear whether it was political compulsion, legal hurdles or bureaucratic apathy which stood in the way of transforming intentions into reality. The gentleman in him perhaps did not want to spill the beans. A politician panders to public taste. A statesman tries his best and reshapes the taste itself into public interest. In the writings and speeches of C.S. the statesman eclipses the poli-

A. S. PADMANABHAN

Lineage of preceptors Ramana's hymn on Arunachala Comparative aesthetics Administrative challenges

TAMIL

SRI KAMAKOTI PARAMPARAI: Published by Association for Hindu Dharma, 28/16 Rajagopalan

Street, West Mambalam, Chennai-600033.

Rs. 140.

SANKARA HOLDS a unique position in the lineage of preceptors of Vedanta. In a short span of 32 years he established various Maths in different corners of India to perpetuate the doctrine of Advaita. The Kanchi Kamakoti Peeta is one of them. All the works dealing with the life history of Sankara known from the Sankaravijaya refer to his consecrating Goddess Kamakshi and Srichakra in Kancheepuram. This Kanchi Math has been adorned contin-

uously by an unbroken succession of great pre-

ceptors. It serves as a beacon light for the

spiritual guidance of all devotees who come there

with sincerity and devotion. The preceptors of

this Math bearing the title "Indra Sarasvati" have

enriched the Advaita literature by writing commentaries on Sankara's works and by writing independent treatises. The Punyaslokamanjari and the Gururatnamala are the two works that speak about the glory of the Acharyas of the Math since 1500 A.D. The former, written by Sarvajna Bodhendra Sarasvati, the 56th pontiff, relates to the age of Mukti of the earlier preceptors of the Math. The latter narrates

This volume of 30 articles culled from the above two texts describes the life history of the earlier preceptors and the history of the Math. Chandra Sekharendra Sarasvati (Paramacharya) was the 68th pontiff of the Math and his period can be called as the golden age of the Math. He was the embodiment of all virtues. His successors Jayendra Sarasvati and Sankara Vijayendra Sarasvati, the 69th and 70th pontiffs, have been shaping the spiritual destiny of the Math's followers.

the history of the Math.

the three saints. The get-up of the book is excellent. It richly desrves a place in the personal collection of everindividual.

S. REVATHY

SRI ARUNACHAL AKSHARAMANAMALAI: Ramanasree P. Amthaswami; T. N. Pranatharthi Haran — Tr. in Tail; published by Meenakshi Ananthaswami, 20 lamelumangapuram, Chennai-600004. F. 75. THIS BOOK is a Tail translation of the discours-

es of Ramanasri Aanthaswami rendered in English. It is an exaplification of devotion and wisdom as envised by Ramana Maharshi in simple and luciderses. When he was going around the Aruchala hills, he sung these hymns and hendthis work is also called the Girivalappattu. Tse hymns not only highlight devotion but also ilosophical truths. References to Bhagavan'se are also given. The title indies the unwithering garland

woven with the flers of aksharas (letters) suitable for adornii Lord Arunachala. Another meaning of the tel "aksharam" is imperishable. Hence, this work ntains the fine-flavoured as well as imperisha garland of immortal hymns. It describes thorm, fame and grace of Lord Arunachala. Whene devotees asked the meaning of these vers Ramana replied that the devotees must combend the meaning as these hymns were notitten but the spontaneous outpourings frome "Greater Master". A detailed stud the work reveals the follow-

ing truths — the out souls must qualify themselves to invoke blessings of Lord Siva by relegating all evil dencies and temperaments. The aspirants miprefer to visualise the Lord internally than hag a glimpse of Him outwardly. Love of the Loff Arunachala must be spontaneous and the ine illumination becomes a prerequisite for ehtenment. Only the grace of Devotees will be indebted to the authors for Lord Siva will gr salvation to the strife-torn providing a detailed account of these three Ach-souls. The soul'mited intelligence must be

aryas. The book ontains many rare pictures of made unlimited and the perennial bliss of the Lord must be enjoyed at every moment.

Those who want to know more about spiritual

lore, religious pursuits, moral uprightness and

mystical trance must read the work. R. GOPALAKRISHNAN TELUGU

SRISRI KALATATWIKATA: Donepudi Varesbabu; Maithri Books, 248-C, LIGH, Sanjivareddynagar, Hyderabad-38. Rs. 45. SRIRANGAM SRINIVASARAO, popularly known

as Srisri, is a trendsetter poet in Telugu. He is revered for his many works of poetry, primarily the Mahaprasthanam. This work is a study which is not concerned with Srisri's poetic excellence directly but is related to his references to "aesthetics and Rasa doctrine" in his essays and po-Terms such as "critic", "commentator" and

"Lakshanika" are juxtaposed and examined in specific reference to the poet. A comparative study of literature, aesthetics and poetics is attempted. Srisri relies upon "Reeti" and "Dhwani". The soul of the work is "Reeti", the progression of thematic ideas. The author aptly relies on certain literary articles of the poet. Emotional upsurge of a poet affords an extraordinary perception. His work then becomes infinite and he becomes a "seer". He shares his ecstasy of joy and bliss with the reader.

The author says there is not much critical study on the poet's work. This work is a novel attempt. It is divided into six chapters and gives the reader a complete understanding of the author's point of view. He has coined the term "Kalatattwasastra" which is equivalent of the word "aesthetics". It is to display the philosophy of artistic presentation of work, either literary or any fine art.

The book will be a valuable addition to poetry in general.

N. C. RAMANUJACHARY

KANNADA

Legislative, Executive and Judiciary: B.G. Banakar; Pub. by Kannada Books Authority, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560018, Rs. 200. THIS BOOK, a rare one, gives the perspective of a

SAMAGRA NOTA — Articles on Administrative,

rural person about the many problems faced by the country. The author, former Speaker of the Karnataka Assembly, has written many articles over a 30 or 40-year period which are marked by clarity and foresight. The food scarcity in the country in the 1960s

and the sky-rocketing prices taking food beyond the reach of the poor is a matter of despair for him. How the administration can win the respect and trust of the people and corruption are the other interesting subjects dealt with. The manner the legislative bodies are functioning and how to improve them is considered

in the section on legislature. The oppressive tax-

es, how the revenue is wasted and how to plug the loopholes are dealt with in the section on the executive. The section on Judiciary is a very interesting analysis about the role and functions of the village courts and how the higher judiciary functions. The responsibilities of the lawyers and the

judges are well-analysed.

G.D

Announcement

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to The Hindu for review. While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under "New Arriv als", the decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper. Receipt of individual books will not be acknowledged in response to enquiries.

My only crime is greed, says Lakhani

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON, AUGUST 22

BRITISH businessman of Hemant Indian origin Lakhani, who was arrested on charges of trying to smuggle a shoulder-launched surface-toair missile into the US, has expressed doubts about the legitmacy of the "informant" who led to his arrest and said his only crime was greed. After a year in custody, Lakhani, 69, broke his silence about his arrest on terrorist offences, the FBI sting that exposed his alleged arms dealing, and his doubts about the legitmacy of the informant who led the secret services of America, Russia and Britain to his door.

"They say I am a terrorist who wanted to shoot down a passenger plane. But there was never any missiles," Lakhani was quoted as saying by the *Daily Telegraph*. Lakhani, who will appear in court on November 3, faces upto 25 years in jail.

Painting himself not as a threat, but as a greedy businessman unable to say no to the one man he thought could help seal his refinery deal, Lakhani says it was only weeks after the 9/11 that he unwittingly spoke to an FBI informant.

The dirty war for Colombian oil

bia after decades of civil war, it the army on August 5. The men were Venezuela. They were murdered by will come too late for three citiregion of Arauca, on the border with oring to 30 the number of unionists L zens of the oil-rich north-east all trade unionists, and their killings

I met the men on a recent visit to varo Uribe, designated their area a Saravena, a town in Arauca at the epicentre of the Government's security ing, they and other trade unionists described the conditions they had struggled with after the President, Alspecial security zone. Armoured cars policies. Armed soldiers stood on every street corner. At a packed meetcruised past the building, as though warning those inside that we were all cilled in Arauca so far this year. being watched

taken to the sports stadium where vember 2002, more than 2,000 people were rounded up at gunpoint and they were interrogated, photo-graphed and marked with indelible The codename for this mass abuse of The stories they told were of mass arrests, kidnappings, intimidation and murder. On one occasion, in Noink. Hooded informers pointed out individuals, who were then arrested. civil rights was Heroic Operation.

dertaking but civilian authorities Heroic Operation was an army unrants on the spot, on the word of the informers rather than any judicial investigation. Of the 2,000 rounded up, cooperated: officials from the attorney general's office issued arrest war-Months later, 35 had been released for lack of evidence. When they final

ly returned home, many faced death low. The reality of the security zones threats from paramilitary groups. About 40 of the 50 who remained in detention were trade unionists.

ment they endured and the alarming The returnees talked of the harassunion activists were being killed in appalling numbers. The latest three victims were prominent local union officials. The Government claims were guerrillas, but two had death rate among civilians in Arauca ership. Teachers, health workers and who assumed any position of lead-

poses the question of whose security

they are designed to enhance. There are seven municipalities in The four municipalities to the south ramilitary groups, notorious for their abuses of the civilian population preme court ruled the security zones the department of Arauca, but the special security zone was only imposed in the three northern municipalities where the oil pipeline runs. are dominated by illegal far-right pabut they were excluded. The su-

troversial 18th Brigade, the main arfunds the 18th Brigade, apparently cused of abuses against civilians and Arauca, has funded the army's conmy force in the department. The United States Government also unconcerned that it has been acof cooperation with paramilitaries.

paramilitary groups, targets Last year, the U.S. gave Colombia \$99m to protect the pipeline, to be split between the 18th Brigade and a to Arauca to train the brigade. Given rectly or through its collaboration this involvement of the oil companies and the U.S. Government in the new mobile unit. President Bush also sent 60 U.S. special forces personnel brigade's activities, perhaps they can explain something the Colombian Government does not care to: how does it enhance the security of the health workers, trades unionists, es indigenous and peasant commupeople of Arauca when the army, dijournalists and human rights defenders and forcibly displacnities who lived near the pipeline? teachers, unconstitutional because of the ex-

A year ago, in a meeting in Lonfwelve months on, the U.N. reports ions, and on others Colombia has a long list of recommendations from the U.N. Human Rights Commission. Colombia's Vice-Presiden signed a commitment to implemen that there has been almost no pro gress on most of the recommenda-

nature did not commit the country to claims that the Vice-President's sig ©Guardian Newspaper moved backwards. Limited 2004

Trade unionists are the prime target of the U.S.-funded 18th Brigade as Colombia's oil pipeline is paid for in blood and dollars.

been under the special protection of he Inter-American Commission on

through a pipeline that has been a The oil is pumped to the Caribbean major target for guerrilla forces. Now - rightwing paramilitaries and the is oil. It is home to the Cano Limon a complex mosaic of armed groups army, often working closely together, and leftwing guerrillas — struggle for control of the lucrative pipeline and oilfield, which accounts for 30 per cent of Colombia's oil production. Why has Arauca been singled out or "enhanced" security? One answer

The civil war is decades old but has Mr. Uribe was elected on a promise armers, oil workers, health workers of the conflict and need peace more of security. The civilians of Arauca grown more complex in recent years. than anybody, but for them Uribe's promises have proved

These are tough times in Colombia change the facts on the ground. Now are designated rehabilitation tough measures are necessary. But ombian human rights ombudsman es increase, but the security situation and the Government argues that key officials who look at whether these measures work point out that they are counterproductive. The Coland the procurator general reported that not only did human rights abusin Arauca deteriorated after the spethey are designated rehabilite and consolidation zones more than a change in name.

es by the army and paramilitary cial security zone was set up. There was a documented increase in abusgroups, with no decrease in the danger to civilians posed guerrillas.

course, for an oil company. Occiden-It may be a different matter,

nybody, but for them Mr. promises have proved hol-

THE HAVING

Why was the terror intelligence withheld?

By Praveen Swami

concern over the withholding of terrorism-related information by the United States — information New Delhi believes could be key to saving lives.
India's worries about coun-NEW DELHI, AUG. 19. Indian intelvoiced ligence officials hav

in Dar-es-Salaam.

tion cen-owing the r made to July 13 arrest of Muhammad Khan, a top Al-Qaeda operative es Intelliter-terrorism cooperat tres around events follo a double age Pakistan's Inter-Servic who was 'turned work as

al Bureau veral key twide, inand the Mr. Khan led the ISI a United States' Federal of Investigation to seve Al-Qaeda figures worldw

No material available

plans.

have generated interest in both the Intelligence Bureau and the No material has been made available to India on what Mr. Khan has told the ISI and the FBI, but elements of the case Research and Analysis Wing. serted that Mr. Khan's handlers Western media reports have asmade him send e-mail to Al-Qaeda cadre worldwide

Aside from the United States itself, Mr. Khan is reported to have established contact with sia, Bangladesh — and India. However, Indian intelligence officials are yet to learn who operatives in Indonesia, Malaythese Indian contacts were or a Tanzanian national wanted ing the United States Embassy since 1998 for his role in bombcluding Ahmad Khalfan Gailani, He is also understood to have provided a mass of evidence on Al-Qaeda's current operational

what Mr. Khan may know about Al-Qaeda activity in this country — or, in the alternative, that the reports about e-mail to Indian Mr. Khan's revelations, coupled with a string of other arrests in recent weeks, have led tan-based terrorist groups operating in India may be sharing to a mass of evidence that Al-Oaeda, the Taliban, and Pakiscontacts were incorrect.

Several of the 13 men arrest-

about what has been learnt from these arrests at the regular liaison meetings held in New agents from the United King-dom and United States, Mr. Ak-Delhi with the basis of Mr. Khan's disclosures are suspected of having links to Jammu and Kashmir-foed in the United Kingdom on cussed terror groups in Pakis-

camp run to prepare personnel for the jihad in Jammu and Kashmir. Mohammad Suhail, a Taliban ed in Afghanistan last month, is known to have been trained in a cadre of Pakistani origin arresttan.

htar's case is instructive.

Terror networks

Fazl-ur-Rahman Khalil and Qari Saifullah Akhtar, who were aralso ran extensive terror net-works in India. Top Jihadi leaders, Maulana charges of aiding the Taliban, rested earlier this month on

As in the case of Mr. Khan, formation about very real Indian intelligence organisa- threats to the lives of Indian cititions have been offered nothing zens."

One explanation for the silence is that the U.S., which runs a massive technical and human intelligence apparatus tion, may be reluctant to incur in Pakistan with official sancthe political costs of passing on

counter-terror

assets in Pakistan," the official said, "will each day be picking munications intelligence on the activities of lihadi groups operating in Jammu and Kashmir. The fact is that not one single er been passed on to us. By contrast, we're regularly mined for information to India. "The United States' technical piece of this intelligence has evup enormous volumes of com-Now, although U.S. agents have questioned Mr. Akhtar, "The bottom line," says a senior Intelligence Bureau official, "is that we are being denied in-Western intelligence agencies pushed India hard for informathe kidnapping of five hostages by his former organisation, the tion on the terrorist leader after

Harkat-ul-Ansar, in 1995.

nothing has come back.

tablishment is deeply angered by the defection of RAW official Rabinder Singh to the U.S. earlito disquiet over what some see as Washington's unwillingness to facilitate ongoing Central Buwhatever we know about these er this year, an event that added reau of Investigations inquiries into the 1999 hijacking of Indian groups." India's intelligence es-Airlines flight IC 814.

'No operational use'

nior intelligence source told The Hindu that much of what was passed on was "vague in the extreme and almost never of expanded Although counter-terrorism greatly in recent years, the sehas operational use. cooperation

THE HINDU

2 N AUG 2004



• Atalji — The Pathfinder — Vols. I and II: Ramesh Patange; Weekly Vivek, 5/12, Kamat Industrial Estates, 396, Veer Savarkar Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai-25. Rs. 700.

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G. S. Aurora — Editor; Academic Foundation, 4772-73/23, Bharat Ram Road, (23 Ansari Road), Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002.

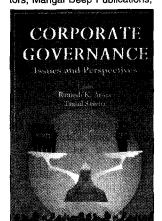
Rs. 595.

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Doctor At Home — The Comprehensive Handbook on Fitness & Health for Today's Proactive Family: John Daniel, Jagjit Daniel; East West Books (Madras) Pvt. Ltd., 571, Poonamelle High Pool Ampiliers) malle High Road, Aminjikarai, Chennai-600029. **Rs. 275.**

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cellence and a Better Future: R. Venkataraman; S.K.M. Consultants, 8751 Sector C, Pocket 8, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070.

Rs. 595. e-finance — Log in to the Future! V.C. Joshi; Response Books, A division of Sage Publications India Pvt. Ltd., B-42, Panchshed En 205. hi-110017. Rs. 295.



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Boyce, Rs. 180.

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Search for Humanity from Kash-

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Acharya; Rs. 45. Sri Aadhi Parasakthiyin Siddhi Tharum Sakthi Peedangal-64: S.S. Ragavacharyar; Rs. 100.

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Venu Ganam - Part II: Hari Mathuresh Karna; Copies can be had from "The Sruthilaya, 93/3, R.H. Road, Mylapore, Chennai-600004

The debt of nations

DEBT RELIEF FOR POOR COUNTRIES: Tony Addison, Henrik Hansen and Finn Tarp Editors; Palgrave Macmillan, U.K. Available at 5A/12, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. £ 19.99

SINCE THE 1980s the debt of nations has become a much discussed and controversial topic in the area of international finance. The sharp price in oil prices in the 1970s made many transnational banks eager to lend their funds and many countries in Latin America badwere willing to borrow from

them. But servicing loans and repayments soon became a problem and many borrowers found themselves in unenviable debt traps. What started out as individual instances became, in less than a decade, a matter seriously affecting the global financial system and international efforts such as the Brady Plan had to be resorted to in order to avoid a collapse. Reduction of rates and rescheduling of payments were II. the routes out of the debt crisis.

Debt crisis

In the 1990s it was the turn of many African countries to face the debt crisis. A big difference was that unlike the middle income Latin American Countries, the debt-ridden African nations — Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Malavi, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Zambia and others - were among the poor-

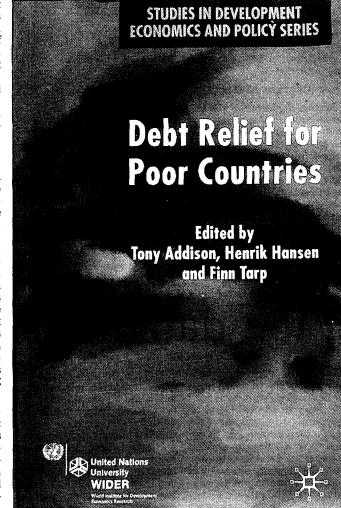
est countries of the world. Debt obligations were serigrowth in these countries and it appeared that the burden was being borne by the poor in these lands. The debt crisis of these countries, therefore, was more than a financial matter; it took on moral dimensions. Influential religious groups and many NGOs in the West campaigned on their behalf and pleaded that the debts be writ-

Relief initiatives

In 1996 the World Bank and the IMF, the primary lenders to most indebted African counly in need of foreign exchange, tries, launched what has come to be known as the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative to provide comprehensive debt relief to the poorest and most indebted countries. Following global consultations the initiative was enhanced in 1999 to provide more intensive and faster debt relief linking up these efforts with specific poverty reduction programmes designed by the countries concerned. This has come to be referred to as HIPC

> While these efforts were going on, the absence of academic appraisals of a variety of aspects related to them became embarrassingly evident. Many questions had to be answered. In particular it had to be examined whether HIPC and HIPC II initiatives were succeeding in augmenting growth and reducing

Whether debt relief was turning out to be helpful for debt sustainability - the ability of ously hampering economic the debtor to maintain debt ser-



vices, for instance — also had to be empirically studied.

Relief appraisals

To consider these and related nised a conference in Helsinki

issues the United Nations University and the World Institute for Development Economic Research (UNU-WIDER) orga-

ies brought together in this volfrom that arose conference.

studies may be of interest to the ment is highly specialised. The methods and procedures used by these studies will be of interest to those who are concerned with empirical testing of the impact of global factors on economic growth and poverty reduction. What conclusions do the studies lead to? The results of the debt relief are seen to be generally positive.

One of the studies estimates that the HIPC initiative may contribute to increases in per capita growth by about one per cent for countries that are scheduled to receive assistance. provided that they sufficiently reduce macroeconomic and structural distortions.

Another study focussing on the potential gain to the social sectors from the resources released by debt relief estimates that on an average in HIPCs debt services are equivalent to between 60 and 70 per cent of total public spending on education and health. Hence a redeployment of resources can contribute to human welfare.

If debt relief enables larger public spending on primary education, it will have not only long-term, but even short-term impact on poverty reduction as the cost of households on education will get reduced.

Why debts?

A couple of studies address the more basic question: Why

in August 2001. The dozen stud- do poor countries go in for external debts in the first place? A theoretical exposition suggests that the political preference of The themes covered by these governments for present economic activities lead them to general reader, but the treat- borrow now, passing on the burden of debt to the future. That appears to be a rather su-

perficial view. Another study challenges it with theoretical arguments and empirical evidence suggesting that poor countries fall into debt essentially because of "external shocks"

Most poor countries in Africa are producers of primary commodities. Their foreign exchange earnings depend on the export of these commodities, frequently just one such as co-

coa or coffee. Their export earnings, in turn, depend on the terms of trade they come to have, over which they have virtually no control. Consequently they are extremely susceptible to large external shocks driving them into debts and more debts.

If the latter is the more valid explanation, as appears to be the case, debt relief alone will not solve the basic problem of the HIPCs or even their immediate debt problem.

They need to be provided a more stable and sustainable position within the global economy if they are to be prevented from recurring debt crises and stalled economic development. That this theme does not get the attention it deserves is the main draw back of the otherwise indepth analyses in the volume.

C. T. KURIEN

When memory fails

LEARNING TO SPEAK ALZHEIMER'S — The New Approach to Living Positively with Alzheimer Disease: Joanne Koenig Coste; Pub. bv Vermillion, an Imprint of Ebury Press, Random House, 21 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London,

SW I V 2 SA. £ 5.80. THERE ARE several chronic disthose causing a total change in a person whom we know and love, now reduced to a hazy shadow of his/her former self and struggling to deal with life and the world around him. Schizophrenia, dementia and some disorders of the brain can do this. A ew decades ago, a diagnosis of any of these signified a death knell, but today the discovery of new drugs and social forms of treatment has indeed infused

much more hope in families. This book describes itself as a new approach to living positively with Alzheimer's disease (AD). Backed by nearly three decades of work with patients and fam- For caregivers ilies, this is indeed a refreshing outlook on the process of caring for a person with AD, a process often tinged with frustration, hopelessness and helplessness.

Symptoms

The book has 14 chapters in three parts. These deal sequentially with learning about the dishabilitation and beyond habili-

These highlight the cardinal not imply total dysfunction of symptoms of AD such as memory lapses leading to grades of memory loss, resultant confusion, the chaos in activities of daily living which replace organised functioning, changes in personality and the impact all these have on the physical, funcorders, but none so painful as tional, social, sensory, emotional and communication domains. The list of early signs and symptoms will benefit readers.

As a mental health professional, I have observed that most caregivers dichotomise brain functioning, as an all or none phenomenon. Either the person has all his faculties intact or is a total write-off requiring complete care. This results in the caregiver taking total control of the sufferer's life-making decisions, choices, taking over his life in toto, thereby denying any chances of improvement or even maintenance of his faculties.

The author rightly warns caregivers not to adopt this approach but provide room and time for these persons with AD to deal with their lives to the extent they can. A constant and powerful message in the section on habilitation is that the recognition and optimisation of residual noease, the five tenets of tential of persons with AD does

the brain, but until the terminal stage is only a patchy affliction leaving intact several parts functioning reasonably well. Changes and modifications in the physical environment such as ensuring smooth and even flooring to prevent falls, avoidance of loud noise and very bright lights are often very helpful to the person

The need to recognise that 'emotions behind failing words are far more important than the words themselves," and the need to validate them is highlighted well in the chapter on communication. The family members will do well to look for that hidden emotion since it is a critical link of the dying brain to the outside world, a link worth fostering and nurturing. Difficulties with language are common and have to be dealt with by using simple words, phrases and idioms that do not aggravate the existing

Day-to-day management

Nearly 20 pages of the book are devoted to the help that is often required for activities such as dressing, bathing, and toileting, eating, drinking, going for short walks and sleeping. Readers will find some of the practical suggestions helpful in the dayto-day management. Coping indeed form the basic core of with behavioural changes is tation. Several, well-knit vi- care giving. This of course needs probably the most challenging

gnettes mark the first section. the understanding that AD does task for the caregivers. For these are not only unpredictable and inconsistent but also appear irrational with no insight. The author has suggested a number of | Rs. 120. strategies to deal with such situations.

The statistic that 30 per cent of all care partners of persons with AD die before the people they care for is indeed ominous. It underlines the need for partners to take care of themselves by the use of COPE — the strategies suggested being Communication of their needs, Organisation of their lives, Prioritisation and Energising their minds and bodies. Carers should not become this section extol the virtues of leisure, rest, drawing of support from friends and extended family members and support groups f available in the process of car-

Although some sections of the book are applicable only for Americans, it is still a useful and well-organised companion for caregivers of persons with AD. The author, in fact, has displayed sensitivity to point this out in the publishers note at the very beginning. If this book can encourage some caregivers to form a support group, then it will indeed be a rich tribute to the

I am seeking, I am not lost, I am forgetful, I am not gone. R. THARA | Chidambaram. Nambi was also

Citadel of arts

MUSIC AND DANCE IN THE THANJAVUR BIG TEMPLE: Gnaanaa Kulendran; Krishni Padippakam, 101, North Chitrai Street, Srirangam, Trichy-6.

THE BRIHADISVARA temple in Thanjavur called Rajarajaswaram popularly known as the "Big Temple" is an internationally recognised world heritage site. The temple complex has a wealth of research material for scholars in history, archaeology, architecture, sculpture, and A considerable painting. amount of literature already exists on these aspects of the tem-

Patron of arts

Chola King Rajarajan I (985-1014 A.D.) who was a liberal patron of arts like music and dance and had the appellation "Nritta Vinoda" built the temple. The present book deals with the magnificent services rendered by this monarch to performing arts which made the temple a veritable citadel of music and dance during 11th Century A.D. and beyond.

The author is a noted researcher with more than a dozen books on Tamil music and dance to her credit.

Rajarajan retrieved the Tevaram padikams by deputing Nambi Andar Nambi to salvage the manuscripts from a locked room in the Nataraja temple in

able to trace the relevant Panns

and Rajarajan appointed 50 singers to sing the verses in the temple. The author has discussed the lakshanas of 24 Panns in great detail with the help of Swami Vipulananda's Yazh Nool and a manuscript from the Tiruvavaduturai Math.

Hub of classical dance

The latter part of the book describes how Rajarajan made the temple a hub of classical dance by bringing in 400 dancers and 100 accompanists from different parts of his kingdom and settling them around the big temple. Out of the 108 Natya Karanas, 81 were also sculpted

sanctorum. The author has given full information about the role played by the artistes. The 11 dance items mentioned in the Silappadikaram have also been de-

scribed in great detail. The last chapter deals with Kuravanji dance dramas in general and those performed in the temple in particular. The list of 115 Kuravanjis furnished by the author will come as a revelation

to dance scholars. The author deserves praise for the meticulous manner in which she has presented the subject with colour pictures of murals, thus making it a valuable addition to our existing literature on Tamil music and dance.

T. S. PARTHASARATHY

Literary criticism Architects of federalism • The world of pottery • Political writings

TAMIL

KI RAAVIN SIRUKATHAIP PADAIPPAALUMAI: Si. Mangaiyarkkarasi; Copies can be had from Kaavya, 14, First Cross Street, Trustpuram,

Kodambakkam, Chennai-600024. Rs. 100. THIS BOOK is a study on the short stories of the renowned writer Ki. Rajanarayanan in six chapters. The first deals with the background of Ki Ra's writing. The second discusses the various kinds of experience of the people of the "karisal" land, which might be considered the inner voice and glowing spirit of his writings. Traditional beliefs, day-to-day life, habits, customs and manners are also taken up for discussion in the

The characters of the stories are found to be true representatives of the people of the "karisal" land. Each character can be considered as a token of a certain type. The fourth examines the form of the stories including various techniques employed by the writer. The linguistic style is carefully analysed in the next chapter. He has made use of the regional dialect to make the characters more lively and real. The last chapter briefly presents the essential outcome of the research work.

The author is quite aware of the current trends in short stories and novels in Tamil. She has rightly chosen a writer who is known for his original and innovative contributions. The present volume, is a significant contribution to modern Tamil literature.

TELUGU FEDERALIST PATRALU: Hamilton, Madison and Jay; A. Gandhi - Tr. in Telugu: Peacock Classics, People's Trust, G14, Pragathi Enclave,

Bhagyanagar Colony, Kukkatpally, Hyderabad-500072. Rs. 75. THIS BOOK, first of the envisaged four parts, is a nataka, Tiruneelakantar of Tamil Nadu, Bhakta

Madison and Jay published in 1787-88 in the New York Pocket and The Independent Journal. Hailed as a locus classicus on federal government, these papers stand on a par with Plato's Republic and Aristotle's Politics.

existing 13 States should be separate independent countries or part of a strong federal republic enjoying full autonomy. The soul-stirring appeal of these essays made the States plump for the second alternative. As architects of the modern U.S., this indomitable triumvirate changed the course of human history. These papers, a constitutional bible, have be-

In the wake of the American Independence,

there was a controversy as to whether the then

come the cornerstone of the U.S.' political evolution. Today, it has 50 flourishing States standing as a testimony to the vibrancy of the federal structure. India can learn a few lessons from this

Gandhi's translation sustains the reader's interest. With a fitting introduction by Jaya Prakash Narayan of Lok Satta, this book will be a valuable asset to students of history and political science as well as to leaders for understanding the basics of governance.

P. V. L. N. RAO KANNADA

KUMBARA JANANGA: Basavaraja Kunchuru; Shree Chakra Prakasana Kunchuru Harapanahalli Trust, Davanagere, Rs. 200.

THIS BOOK is a veritable encyclopaedia on pottery. The topics span sources from publications duly acknowledged, personal talk with the artisans, a study of their social life — it differs from region to region — legends and beliefs that may defy reason sometimes, pen-sketches of devotees - the list includes Shalivahana Sarvagna of Kar-Telugu translation of 22 essays out of 85 federalist Ghora Kumbara, Srihari Bhaktaraka Kumbara of

It has been divided into 10 chapters, beginning with a general delineation of the pottery community. The second chapter depicts the different groups of Kumbaras, their way of living and their social customs as ordained by elders. The very headings of the chapters rouse the interest of

It also contains information on pottery centres in the country, workshops, musical instruments (ghatam is prominent), tardy use of modern technology to help the industry and notes on porcelain and terracotta. "The history of ceramics is the history of all

humanity" is the lead line for a very interesting chapter which suggests that pottery is the extension of the stone age. Pottery as reflected in literature is focussed in detail.

The book is the result of 40 years of research on pottery and will certainly be useful for further research. The author deserves praise for this task.

The foreword is thought-provoking. K. SUNDAR RAJAN *MALAYALAM*

EMSINTE SAMPOORNA KRITHIKAL -- Vol. 31: E. K. Nayanar — Editor; Chintha Publishers,

Thiruvananthapuram. Rs. 150. THIS VOLUME covers E. M. S. Namboodiripad's speeches and writings of the critical period in Kerala's recent history from January 1964 to September 1966. The Communist Party of India, which had tasted power in 1957-59, had split into

A predominantly Christian faction had broken away from the Congress and formed a regional party called the Kerala Congress. When the State went to the polls in 1965 the fragmented polity threw up an Assembly that was so fractured that

no government could be formed. The House was dissolved without meeting even once. It was this experience that led to the

papers of three young intellectuals, Hamilton, Maharashtra — in all 13 legendary figures appear. era of coalitions, which still continues. In his political writings E. M. S. fired at both the Congress and the residuary CPI. His assertion on the eve of the 1965 poll that the Left would win and rule

proved wrong. However, as the 1967 elections approached he could repeat the assertion with confidence, having completed the groundwork for forging a sev-

en-party alliance under his leadership.

Defending the inclusion of the Muslim League in the alliance and the offer of ministerial posts to it, he said, "Examined in a broad context, the programmes and policies of this minority organisation are democratic.' He even justified the CPI (M) working closely

with the Jana Sangh, which "even has Muslims as members." The only issue, he said, was what attitude a party took towards the Congress and its Government The work includes two documents which

throw light on the Communist interventions in the literary field. Both are responses to criticism that the party was instrumental for the split in the progressive literary movement. The crux of his argument is that the mistakes

the Party committed during 1948-51 should not be used to drive a wedge between politics and

B. R. P. BHASKAR

Announcement

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to *The Hindu* for review. While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under "New Arrivthe decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper. Receipt of individual books will not be acknowledged in response to enquiries.

Suspending civil rights has become the norm in fighting terror

Uncivil wrongs

we want the ricemilling industry to be regulated? Do we want rent control in Delhi or elsewhere? Do we want the rates of wages of working journalists to be fixed by an external agency? Most, but not all, people will argue we no longer need such laws. Times change and in each of the examples I have mentioned, we had an appropriate law in 1958. What was appropriate in 1958 is not necessarily appropriate in 2004. And we have yet another law enacted in 1958 that is now the matter of some controversy. I am referring to the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act of 1958 which is "An Act to enable certain special powers to be conferred upon members of the armed forces in disturbed areas-in the State of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura". In 1958, the statute covered Assam and Manipur. The other states were addons in 1972. It is fair to state that there is a great deal of ignorance about the North-east in mainstream India. And there is also a tendency to lump all the North-east states together, as if it is a homogeneous entity, which it isn't.

The average mainstream Indian may not even be aware what this 1958 statute does. For a start, under Section 3, some areas can be declared disturbed areas. "If, in relation to any State or Union Territory to which this Act extends, the Governor of that State or the Administrator of that Union Territory or the Central Government, in either case, is of the opinion that the whole or any part of such State or Union Territory, as the case may be, is in such a disturbed or dangerous condition that the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary, the Governor of that State or the Administrator of that Union Territory or the Central Government, as the case may be, may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare the whole or such part of such State or Union Territory to be a disturbed

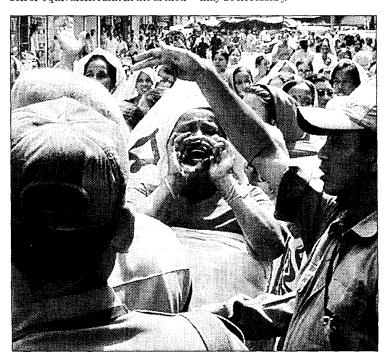
here is bound to be subjectivity in determining what is disturbed. For instance, fairly objectively, one can argue that some parts of Bihar or even West Bengal should be declared disturbed. Indeed, in a court case that challenged this statute, it was stated, "The term defies any definition. A disturbed area has to be adjudged according to location, situation and circumstances of a particular case as the term implies only such area as disturbed area where there is absence

The author is director, Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies ,New Delhi BIBEK DEBROY GAL

of peace and tranquility."

Once a state or part of a state is declared disturbed, civil rights, as we understand it, cease to exist, because fundamental rights are overtaken by the deliciously vague objectives of maintaining public order and ensuring public interest. Accordingly, under Section 4 of the 1958 statute, the armed forces have special powers. "Any commissioned officer, warrant officer, non-commissioned officer or any other person of equivalent rank in the armed

cognizable offence and may use such force as may be necessary to effect the arrest; (d) enter and search without warrant any premises to make any such arrest as aforesaid or to recover any person believed to be wrongfully restrained or confined or any property reasonably suspected to be stolen property or any arms, ammunition or explosive substances believed to be unlawfully kept in such premises, and may for that purpose use such force as may be necessary."



forces may in a disturbed area - (a) if he is of the opinion that it is necsary to do so for the maintenance of public order, after giving such due warning as he may consider necessary fire upon or otherwise use force, even to the causing of death, against any person who is acting in contravention of any law or order for the time being in force in the disturbed area prohibiting the assembly of five or more persons or the carrying of weapons or of things capable of being used as weapons or of fire-arms, ammunition or explosive substances; (b) if he is of the opinion that it is necessary to do so, destroy any army dump, prepared or fortified position or shelter from which armed attacks are made or are likely to be made or are attempted to be made, or any structure used as training camp for armed volunteers or utilized as hide-out by armed gangs or absconders wanted for any offence; (c) arrest, without warrant, any person who has committed a cognizable offence or against whom a reasonable suspicion exists that he has committed or is about to commit a

Suing Assam Rifles for compensation becomes difficult if, like Thangjam Manorama Devi, you happen to be dead

Notice the clauses about suspicion and search and arrests without warrants. Even firing and causing death. And in such cases, under Section 6 of the statute, no prosecutions can be instituted against the offending officer without the permission of the Central government. Even if Assam Rifles happens to kills some civilians, as it is alleged to have done in Malom in 2000. Admittedly, there is an apparent safeguard in Section 5. "Any person arrested and taken into custody under this Act shall be made over to the officer in charge of the nearest police station with the least possible delay, together with a report of the circumstances occasioning the arrest." But this has been flouted in the past and in an actual case, Assam Rifies has also been asked to pay compensation for violation of Section 5. But in how many cases is it actually possible to sue Assam Rifles for compensation? And that becomes even more difficult if, like Thangjam Manorama Devi, you happen to be dead.

id we solve the Punjab problem through such statutes, and will we ever solve the Kashmir <mark>problem with such laws? I</mark> doubt it. Indeed, there is a 1983 Armed Forces (Punjab and Chandigarh) Special Powers Act that mirrors the north-eastern one, except that it has some additional sections. For instance, officers can "stop, search and seize any vehicle or vessel reasonably suspected to be carrying any person who is a proclaimed offender, or any person who has committed a non-cognizable offence, or against whom a reasonable suspicion exists that he has committed or is about to commit a non-cognizable offence, or any person who is carrying any arms, ammunition or explosive substance believed to be unlawfully held by him, and may, for that purpose, use such force as may be necessary to effect such stoppage, search or seizure, as the case may be.

In addition, "Every person making a search under this Act shall have the power to break open the lock of any door, almirah, safe, box, cupboard, drawer, package or other thing, if the key thereof is withheld." These provisions are missing in the north-eastern statute and should we argue that the north-eastern problem persists, but the Punjab one has been resolved, because Assam Rifles lacks sufficient teeth?

Unfortunately, everything goes in the name of fighting terrorism and violence, and the suspension of human rights has become the accepted norm. Not just in India, but also in developed countries like the United States of America. People get agitated and talk about the rights of the victims of terrorism and violence.

The problem is the dividing line is sometimes thin and there are completely different instances where one happens to transgress into territory that is the wrong side of the law, for no fault of one's own. When that happens and civil rights cease to exist, not everyone is powerful enough to fight the system, institute habeas corpus petitions or write books after the episode is over. The poor suffer the most and in the last resort, terrorism and violence are about poverty, under-development and marginalization. That's where we need to fight the battle. Not with laws.

SC rulling a boost for doctor or sur- nonishment. SC rulling a booter or sur- nonishment. SC rulling a booter or sur- nonishment.

required to be proved should be so high as can be described as "gross negligence" or "recklessness". nal liability on a doctor or surgeon, the standard of negligence For conviction of a doctor for dard should be proof of recklessalleged criminal offence, the stanness and deliberate wrong-doing blameworthy conduct... It is not i.e. a higher degree of morally NEW DELHI, Aug. 5. — In what will come as a big relief for the medical fraternity, the Supreme Court (coram, Sabharwal, Dharmadhikari, JJ) has held that doctheirs. However, this could create tors cannot be made criminally iable for every careless act of

"Where a person's death results merely from error of judgment or should be attached to it. Mere an accident, no criminal liability inadvertence or some degree of want of adequate care and caution would not suffice to hold him criminally liable," the court observed. civil liability, the court ruled.

negligently causing a patient's death, under Section 304A, IPC,

nst a plastic surgeon, charged for

Quashing criminal charges agai-

merely lack of necessary care, att-

ention and skill," the court noted

the court said that for every

mishap or death during medical

treatment, the medical men can

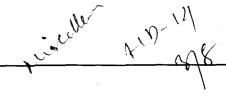
would be doing great disservice to nal liability on hospitals and doctors for everything that goes the community at large because if wrong, the doctors would be more worried about their own safety than giving the best treatment to their patients. This would lead to opinion pointing to their guilt "Criminal prosecution of doctors without adequate medical the courts were to impose crimishaking the mutual confidence between the doctor and the patient," the court stated.

The patient, a 34-year-old man Suresh Gupta, who ran a clinic in with no history of any heart ail-

Delhi, operated on him for a the patient had died of asphyxia caused by seepage of blood into mortem report had revealed that the respiratory passage. The inci-dent happened on 21 April, 1994. minor nasal deformity. The post

Both the trial court and the High Court had convicted the doctor for criminal liability holding that he was guilty of gross negligence in making an incision at the wrong place and not taking course of surgical operation to prevent such seepage of blood into the respiratory tract, but the Supreme Court today quashed it. However, the doctor was liable under the law of tort, the court the necessary precautions in

THE STATESMAN E WILL SULVY





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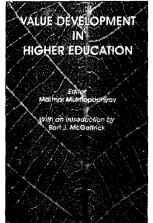
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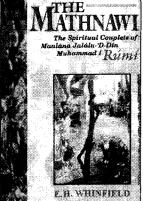
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Malayalam

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Democracy in political discourse

INDIAN DEMOCRACY --Meanings And Practices: Rajendra Vora and Suhas Palshikar — Editors; Sage Publications India Pvt. Ltd., B-42, Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi-110017. Rs. 680.

AN ACADEMIC work on contemporary Indian politics is an inherently risky enterprise. It is expected to take the reader beweekly cover story; to discern reasonably durable patterns of behaviour and consequences; to prescribe institutional innovations or solutions to cope with the recurring "crisis"; and, if ambitious, it can try to offer theoretical insights.

By these yardsticks the collection under review is a mixed bag, especially because it does not help the reader prepare for the kind of qualitative change in the Indian political scene produced by the 2004 Lok Sabha elections.

weakened by inclusion of a few old and tired among the contributors who remain satisfied with their three-decade-old indictment of the Indian state and its democratic procedures and pretensions.

But it does stand enriched by those contributors who are intellectually agitated enough to ask the question as to how the matters could be improved, normatively or morally. In particular, the editors have contributed papers, which bear the pirations. He demarcates three tional.

stamp of a robust and penetrating mix of conceptual formulations and analytical skills.

Democracy in practice

The question, "How meaningfully democratic has India's democracy project been?" has preoccupied the political science community. The Marxist fundamentalism has not exactly helped explain the durability of yond the hourly news-bulletin the democracy project; the neoand the daily headline and the Marxists too remain classbound and have to make conceptual leaps to achieve any kind of analytical coherence, but they also remain committed to debunking the democracy project; the Talcot Parsons-inspired "system" analysis, or what one contributor calls "normal political science" that puts much faith in procedural exactness, fails to explain the fascinating political developments; and, then, there is a small group of South Asia-centric analysts who insist on depicting the Indian democracy as a non-sub-The collection is somewhat stantial enterprise, which cannot be conceded any kind of superiority over the existing political systems in Pakistan or Bangladesh. All these trends are reflected in this collection as contributors grapple with the theme of "the substantialisation

Types of democracy

of democracy."

In perhaps the most energetically argued piece, Palshikar posits the interplay between domination and democratic as-

AND RELEASED TO SERVICE MEANINGS AND PRACTICES

> types of democratic claims that get made over the society's collective resources and values appropriational, aspirational (mobilisational) or transforma-

Rajendra Vora and Suhas Palshikar

And he grades the three types of claims in an ascending order of "authenticity". But he soon runs into a conceptual cul-desac and he gets out only by invoking the concept of "hegemo-

between a democratic state and its undemocratic behaviour which is sought to be overcome 'with the help of hegemony." Instead of seeing democracy

as providing a level playing field for the competitive interplay of social forces (which are essentially representing certain class interests), Palshikar conceptualises democracy essentially as a captive of the "ruling classcisation of the democratic experience. In an insightful comment he

notes, "while there is talk of the retreat of the state (probably meaning retreat from welfare responsibilities), the capitalist class will need the state more than ever because the regulative task will increase. The state will be expected to manage (democratically) the popular agitation. The state will be crucial in providing necessary "nationalist" backing during the process of globalisation." This insight helps explain, in part, the arrival of so many industrialists in the Rajya Sabha.

In politics

Gopal Guru offers a harsh indictment of the Dalit political parties, which according to him, "have lost the historical role of mobilising the Dalit for the final takeover of the state.

He is critical of the Dalit leaders who have compromised their authenticity and autonomy and have allowed themselves to be co-opted and in the

ny". He sees a "disjunction process have squandered away their "moral hegemony".

The Dalit leaders practise, what he calls, thick emotionalism, allowing them to talk a radical rhetoric against the Hindutva forces but at the same time continuing with internal "socially conservative" practices, particularly against their

He argues that this approach es" and warns against "romanti- has to be challenged but does not say who will provide "the emancipatory strategy and politics." Rajendra Vora offers a similar assessment of the limits of caste majoritarianism. He finds Bahujanwad getting away from the radical vision of Phule, Ambedkar and Lohia.

What, then, is the potential and prospect of transformative politics? It is painfully obvious that electoral politics as has been practised these last two decades tend to produce morally untenable arrangements.

No political party or the leader is able to speak in a morally robust voice, as Gandhiji did for most of his life or Jayaprakash Narayan did for a little while.

The result is, as Jayant Lele "the daily struggle against oppression continues to be isolated and divided along the boundaries of caste, language, region or religion." The collection offers too many indictments but little intellectual help as to how to rectify the sit-

these creatures has increased.

The author's skill and re-

sourcefulness as a researcher is

evident in each page. His metic-

ulous investigations have yield-

ed valuable data in the form of

record of sightings and strand-

ings of whales, going as far back

as 1827. He has a simple and

confident style of writing in

which he packs the information

With the stamp of authority

he puts them in the larger con-

text of the creatures of the

Investigations

he has collected.

HARISH KHARE

Comrades-in-arms?

A MATTER OF HONOUR - An for a significant and well-re- prevalent in different parts of Account of the Indian Army, Its Officers and Men: Philip Mason; Nataraj Publishers, 17, Rajpur Road, Dehradun-248001.

A MAN in olive green will say, "I serve in the army," whereas the rest of us will identify ourselves with the respective organisation as it deals with the behavioural in which we work. This simple difference in identification distinguishes the Indian Army through the ages. Supremacy of command and unity in action are the mantras of the army. During the British period it grew slowly and uncertainly. But du- tre of power that extended ty of the most exemplary order its influence over Asia into and dedication for the cause the Mediterranean and Cape was the bedrock of morale and routes. The birth of a new Indi-

many ups and downs, some- was one of the main pillars of times of victory, sometimes of the British Raj and of the Pax dogged endurance and defeat; Britannica. there is much that both the British and the Indians may be proud and also that about which both should be ashamed.

Writing military history

Writing history itself is a difficult task and attempting to write military history certainly The book covers 200 years of more difficult. This is due to inaccurate information and lack of facts about statistics, decision-making process, efficiency-deficiency matrix, tactical and strategic manoeuvring. In vast knowledge of caste, comthis context, the author of this munity, local sentiments, lan-book needs to be complimented guage and martial culture

searched work. It is largely narrative but it does give vital information and viewpoints on important dimensions of military history under the British.

Interdependence

This book in a sense is unique pattern of British officers and Indian men and their unusual relationship. It attempts to answer certain questions about their interdependence. Their confidence in each other established an empire in India, a cendevelopment of an effective war an Army and comradeship for the rest of the 200 years includ-The story in this book traces ing the high Victorian period

> Content, facts, incidents, events and viewpoints are based on well-known standard works, memoirs and regimental history together with some personal knowledge of Indian rulers, culture, customs, language and ethnic dynamics of Indians. military history and events, particularly the Presidency armies - Bengal, Madras and Bombay - as well as the Indian Army.

> The author has displayed his

India that were utilised by British masters with remarkable skill towards the furtherance of their politico-military objectives to establish a powerful military apparatus based on their politics of "divide and

Mutinies

Fascinating details of events before, during and after the mutiny, and its impact have been depicted. The mutinies at Vellore and Barrackpore throw light on the grievances and discontent. According to this book Vellore and Barrackpore set the tone for the Mutiny in 1857 and the Britishers did not heed the warning bell. It presents interesting details

about how the British made use of Indian men during the First and the Second World Wars and imparted training to them between those Wars. It also provides insight into

the Mughul, Maratha and the Sikh armies, their development and art of war, weapons, strategies and tactics vis-a vis the British. The author gives a psychoanalysis of Indian men and the British commanders during the battle scenarios outside In-

The book is well-documented with comprehensive indexing and appropriate list of references and notes.

Mammals of the seas MARINE MAMMALS OF INDIA: the ocean, our knowledge of

Kumaran Sathasivam; Pub. by the WWF in association with Universities Press (India) Pvt. Ltd., 3-5-819, Hyderguda, Hyderabad-500029. Rs. 250.

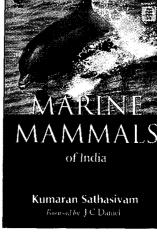
WHEN WE talk about the wildlife of India, we rarely think of dolphins and dugongs. The sea around us is not taken into consideration as a habitat. The country has a long coast-

line, more than 600 islands and anyone who has spent some time in the seaside area would have seen the dolphins. There are other much less seen mammals in our seas such as whales and the elusive dugongs and we know very little about them.

The author has come up with sets the tone for the book. this authoritative field guide to these mammals of the seas, covering 30 species. This is one fourth of the world's 120 species of marine mammals.

In fact, it is much more than a field guide. In this comprehensive survey, he gives the natural history and ecology of each mammal, thus making the book useful both to the layman and to the researcher. For example, he points out

that in many countries the value of live whales, emphasised by growing crowd of whale-watchers was balanced against their dead value and the live whales won. The cryptic remark of Gas-GOPALJI MALVIYA kin "We simply do not know"



with which the author begins

Even though the ocean is home to large mammals such as the whales, we have very little them and we know much less about their lives.

is because "these animals live in difficult to study and observe."

mense use to researchers. There

an environment alien to humans, terrestrial beings and are Still he has taken up the daunting task of writing about them and has succeeded in coming up with this impressive

work. In the last few decades,

with the satellite monitoring

and other equipment to probe

The author explains that this

ocean. Books such as this one are milestone publications and will open new areas of research to students of wildlife biology

and new area of interest to the uninitiated. It has been produced with painstaking care. The colour illustrations of the dolphins and whales have been done accurecorded information about rately. The long bibliography and the index will be of im-

> are exhaustive indices. With this work the author joins the string of non-professional wildlifers, such as Jerdon and Whistler who have contributed significantly to our knowledge of Indian wildlife and to its conservation. The WWF-India has done well by backing up such a worthy project.

S. THEODORE BASKARAN

Commentary on the Gita ● Novel based on the Mahabharata • Of school friendship • Fiction in travelogue form

TAMIL

BHAGAVAD GITA: Text and commentary in Tamil by T. Narayana lyengar; Copies can be had from T.N. Parthasarathy, Flat No.101, Abhilash Apartments, Plot A, 21 and 22, Bapuji Nagar,

Nacharam, Hyderabad-500076 and D. Krishnaswamy, Flat No.12/7, Giri Street, Narangi Flats, West Mambalam, Chennai-600033. Rs. 50. THE BHAGAVAD Gita is perhaps the one Indian classic that has been translated in most of the languages of the world. Of the more than 3000 commentaries on the Gita in various languages, the chief are the ones by the three famous Acharyas, Sankara, Ramanuja and Madhva with further glosses by their followers like Anandagiri,

Vedanta Desika and Jayatirtha. Krishna commences His preaching with an exposition on the nature of the soul and proceeds to explain Karma Yoga, Jnana Yoga and Bhakti Yoga. After defining the characteristics of Para Brahman, the Lord concludes with advocating Prapatti or Self-surrender, as the sure means to salvation.

This commentary is crisp and clear in simple

Tamil and is based on the Visishtadvaita tradition. Along with Tamil transliteration of the Sanskrit verses, a brief summary is provided for each A little more explanation would have been apt for some of the verses like 2-47, 2-48, 2-62, 3-20, 3-28 and 3-35 to avoid confusion. The meaning given for some verses like 1-41, 7-16, 7-21, 7-23,

15-18 and 17-20 is not fully correct; while the interpretations given for some like 5-2, 6-1 and 6-2 are not in order. An index of verses could have been provided to facilitate easy location. The printing mistakes, appearing throughout, not infrequently, may be corrected in the next edition. Written briefly and yet covering the essentials,

the book will be useful for a beginner to delve deeper into the nectarine beauty of the Gita.

PARUVUM - Kannada novel 'Parva' by S.L. Byrappa: Paavannan — Tr. in Tamil; Sahitya Academy, Ravindra Bhavan, 35, Ferozshah Road

New Delhi-110001. Rs. 350. THIS IS a voluminous novel on the Mahabharata with the war as the focus. The entire story is retold through flashback and the recollections of the various characters.

The author has tried to read "in between" the

lines of the original, reinventing the story of the

emotions and the urges for action he envisions as

lying beneath the surface. A fiction writer's licence to innovate redeems the framework with alterations to the original story after his painstaking study over the years. The book omits the philosophical portion of the epic. In line with the original, it stretches expansively with a succession of situations with

humanised characters acting in response to vari-

ous stimuli in different environments. The author elaborates a final reconciliation scene after the war between the Pandavas and Dhritarashtra and Gandhari with Krishna as the mediator. The aged king's hidden enmity towards the Pandavas persists and he hides a sword aiming to kill them, particularly Bhima, when

they prostrate before him. This attempt is foiled by Krishna who is cursed for it. He is also made to remove the cloth over Gandhari's eyes and take her in His chariot to see her dead sons and the battlefield as wished by her. Recreating the epic in the form of fiction demands sustained creative labour worthy of our appreciation. The translation is readable.

J. PARTHASARATHI TELUGU

POLERAMMA BANDA KATHALU: Mohammad Khadeer Babu; Kavali Prachuranalu, 1-13-6, old town, Kavali-524201. Rs. 70.

THIS BOOK comprising 25 stories first published in Andhra Jyothi depicts the escapades and expe-V. N. GOPALA DESIKACHARIAR riences of four school students including the au-

society. Crossing social barriers and cultural hurdles, these little heroes stand at the vanguard of true friendship.

The book is a trendsetter. Spontaneous flow of

humour in real life situations is its hallmark. The

first person narrative with a cultivated twist in local dialect sustains the interest of the reader who will be reminded of his own school life. The first piece describes the hilarious scenes witnessed during school admissions. Tricks played for extracting money from parents to go on excursion, efforts to befriend a boy who owns a cycle and purchase of second-hand books at

economic prices all related to school life are the

topics of these stories. There is a mix of bravado

and innocence in their speech and action. When these friends come to 10th class, things change including the dress code. Before long farewell quotes are prepared for writing in autograph books. One such gem "In life's book, high school is a beautiful chapter",

sums up the essence of the book in a nutshell. The illustrations by Mohan are attractive. Cast in the mould of R. K. Narayan's Swami and Friends, this work earns the author a coveted slot in this genre of literature. It deserves to be preserved as a memento of friendship.

P. V. L. N. RAO MALAYALAM

PROFESSOR IN AMERICA: K. L. Mohanavarma; D.C. Books, D. C. B. Complex, Good Shepherd Street, Kottayam-686001. Rs. 50.

THIS NOVEL provides a running account of a professor, who just back from a tour of the U.S. is eager to write a travelogue as his personal contribution to the betterment of society. After all, he has a duty to give his countrymen the benefit of

his intellectual attainments. If in the process he qualifies for the Nobel Prize he will not, of course, refuse it. He seeks out an

thor hailing from different strata of semi-urban old student of his, who has already made his mark as a writer, to help him write the magnum

> The professor visited the U.S. shortly after 9/ 11. As a part of the preparation for the visit he went to a parlour and got his beard trimmed. However, he removed the beard before boarding the plane lest overzealous security personne should mistake him for an Al-Qaeda terrorist.

> There was plenty of adventure from the word "go". The woman at the check-in counter at Sahar airport impressed him with her smart appearance and English pronunciation. He thought she was Dutch but she turned out to be an Indi-

an, either Punjabi or Sindhi. This experience convinced him of the need for an agency like the National Council for Educational Research and Training to address the problem of unifying the pronunciation of English, which is spoken in 15 different ways in India. His U.S. recollections cover a wide range of subjects from sex to ISKCON, not to mention the Non-

Resident Keralites of America. Mohanavarma's smooth-flowing narrative is marked by a keen sense of humour. Several of his previous novels bear thematic titles such as Cricket" and "Ohari" (Share). By the same token, this work could have been called "Conceit" since its essential theme is the smugness and arro-

gance of the Malayali intellectual. B. R. P. BHASKAR

Announcement

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to The Hindu for review. While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under "New Arrivals", the decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper. Receipt of individual books will not be acknowledged in response to enquiries.



 The Greying of India — Population Ageing in the Context of Asia: Rajagopal Dhar Chakraborti; Sage Publications India Pvt. Ltd., B-42, Panchsheel Engels 1988 -New Delhi-110017.

Kings and Untouchables — A Study of the Caste System in Western India: Rosa Maria Perez; D.C. Publishers, D-27, NDSE Part-II, New Delhi-110049. **Rs. 525.**

hi-110049. Rs. 525.
Careers for 10+2 Computer & Information Technology: Student Aid Publications, 43-A, Krishna Enclave, Ashok Vihar, Phase III, Delhi-110052. Rs. 75.
Twisted: Jeffrey Deaver; Coronet Books, Hodder & Stoughton, a division of Hodder Headline, 338, Euston Road, London NWI 3BH. Rs. 200.

Storming Heaven: Kyle Mills; Coronet Books, Hodder & Stoughton, a division of Hodder Headline, 338, Euston Road, London NWI 3BH. Rs. 200.

 Tomorrow's God — Our Greatest Spiritual Challenge: Neale Donald Walsch; Hodder & Stoughton Ltd., a division of Hodder Headline, 338, Euston Road, London NW13BH.

- The Power to Suc-ZeNLP ceed: Murli Menon; Response Books, a division of Sage Publi-cations India Pvt. Ltd., B-42, Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi-110017. Rs. 185.



 Impact of Judicial Pronounce ments on The Status of Women in India and USA — A Comparative Study: P. Hema-latha Devi; Indian Institute of Public Administration, Andhra Pradesh Regional Branch, Hyderabad. Rs. 100.

Everything You Need to Know About Operational Manage-ment & Business Studies: Julie Lewthwaite; Viva Books Pvt. Ltd., 4262/3, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 595.

Birds and Mammals of Ladakh: Otto Pfister; Oxford University Press, YMCA Library Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001. Rs. 795.

 Child Care — 50 Answers You Always Wished To Know: Vidya Bhavani Suresh: Skanda Publi-Chennai-600004.

 Shoveling Smoke — Advertising and Globalisation in Cotemorarv India: William Mazzarella Oxford University Press, YMCA Library Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001. **Rs. 595.**

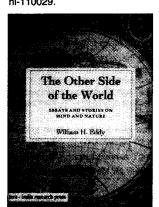
• What is Odissi?: Vidya Bhavani Suresh; Skanda Publications, 9/1 (Old No.), Palathope, Myla-

pore, Chennai-600004. Rs. 70.

• Youth Entrepreneurship Everywhere — To Turn Job-seek-ers into Job-creators: A Peter; Applied Interdisciplinary Development Research Inst., 11, Nel-

Rs. 350. The Other Side of the World — Essays and Stories on Mind and Nature: William H. Eddy; Tara-India Research Press, B-4/22, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029.

Choolaimedu, Chennai-600094.



Torch-Bearers of Krishna Cult: N. Suman Bhat, Rs. 30.

Benefactors of Mankind: V. Krishna Murthy; Rs. 30.
Eminent English Writers: Srinivasan; Rs. 30.
Vanilla — The Green Gold: A. Anandan; Rs. 60. The above four books pub by Sura Books. four books pub. by Sura Books (Pvt.) Ltd., 1620 'J' Block, 16th Road.

Skills — The Internal Consultant's Guide to Value-added Performance: Mark A. Thomas;

Rs. 195. Competing For Choice — De-

veloping Winning Brand Strate-gies: Lars Finskud; Rs. 165.

Essential Economics: Matthew

Bishop; Rs. 295. The above three books pub. by Viva Books Pvt. Ltd., 4262/3, Ansari Road, Daryagani, New Delhi-110002.

The Kasi Dlaries — Excerpts from the Diaries of N.D. Varadachariar 1903-1945; N. V. Sam-

path, Malathi Rangaswami; EastWest Books (Madras) Pvt. Ltd., 571, Poonamallee High Road, Aminjikarai, Chen-nai-600029. **Rs. 200.**

• As With Shadows: Sulekha Nair: Dronequill Publishers Pvt. Cross, HAL Second Stage, Bangalore-560008. Rs. 250.

Hi-Rum-Cherry — Poems from Delhi, Mizoram, Pondicherry: B.
 V. Selvaraj; The Word Publications, P.B. No. 727 GPO, Pondicherry-605001. Rs. 150.

 Finance Directors — A BDO Stoy Hayward Guide for Growing Businesses: Rupert Merson; Rs. • The Critical Path — Building Strategic Performance Through Time: Kim Warren; Rs. 165. Successful Selling Solutions — Test, Monitor and Constantly

Improve Your Selling Skills: Julian Clay; Rs. 195.

H-CRM — The Key to Lifelong Business Relationships: Kallol Das; Rs. 195. The above four books pub. by Viva Books Pvt. Ltd., 4262/3, Ansari Road, Da-

ryagani, New Delhi-110002.

One World — The Ethics of Globalization: Peter Singer; Orient Longman Pvt. Ltd., 3-6-752, Himayatnagar, bad-500029. **Rs. 325.** Tamil.

liakiyathii Thiruneeru: T. Selvaraj; Amaravathi Pathippagam, 59, Adam Street, Mylapore, Chennai-600004. **Rs. 30.**

Rajaji: P. S. Mani; Poongudi Pathippagam, 14, Chitrakulam West Street, Mylapore, Chennai-600004. Rs. 55.

Sundapoovakkarl: M. S. Sharma; Pinaky Publications, 10, Marappan Street, Pollachi-642001.

Rs. 40.
Pirabanja Sakthiyai Oru Ma-nidhan Payanpaduthuvadhu Eppadi?: N. Thammanna Chet-tiar; Rs. 40. Sadbhamsam Tharum Yogam Kuzhandhai Chelvam Kidalkkuma?: S. P. Subramanian;

Rs. 50.
• Vetri Tharum Numerology: P

Vetri Tharum Numerology.
C. Ganesan; Rs. 30.
Sahadevar Aruliya Naadi Jodhildam: A. Pragaspathi; Rs. 65.
The above four books pub. by Pathippagam, 10, Narmadha Pathippagam, 10, Nana Street, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017.

Sri Gayathri Maha Manthra

Saaram: S. S. Ragavacharyar; Puthiya Puthaga Ulagam, 52-C, North Usman Road, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 45. Oruvaakkum Veenagatha Therdhal: S. S. Mahalingam; Manachatchigudam, 44, Third Street, Karunanidhi Nagar, Ton-

Pudhaitha Nilam: Sivaraj; Kaavya, 14, First Cross Street, Trust-

puram, Kodamba Chennai-600024. **Rs. 35.** Kodambakkam,

Thamizhnadan Kavithaigal:
Thamizhnadan; Kaavya, 14,
First Cross Street, Trustpuram,
Kodambakkam,
nai-600024, Rs. 125.
Buddharin Neeyum Buddhanel: V. Siddharth; Leo Book Publishers, 1047, Poonamallee High Road, Arumbakkam, Chennai-600106. Rs. 35.

Thamizhnadan Kadhaigal: Maha Nivedhanam; Kaavya, 14, First Cross Street, Trustpuram, Kodambakkam, nai-600024. **Rs. 125.**

Homeopathi Marunthugalum Payangalum — Parts 1 & II: K. Arumugam: Anuragam, 19, Kan-nadhasan Salai, T. Nagar, Chen-

 Tauliasari Salai, 1. Nagar, Cherrainai-600017. Rs. 190.
 Zen Kadhaigal — Kavithaigal:
 Subramanian; Kalaignaan
 Pathippagam, 19, Kannadhasan
 Salai, T. Nagar, Chen Salai, T. Nagar, nai-600017. **Rs. 50.**

Insurance Virppanalkku — Vetri Vazhigal: R.L. Saravanan:
Arunthathi Nilayam, 19, Kannadhasan Salai, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 75.
Arivukku Sila Kathaigal: N.C.

Deivasigamani; Kannappan Pathippagam, 19, Kannadhasan Salai, T. Nagar. Chen-Salai, T. Nagar, nai-600017. **Rs. 30.** Chen-

Muchamaya Pavai Ilakkiya Varunanaigai: A.R.A. Mahalaksh mi; Ammani Publications, C4/15, Bhoopathy Nagar, Chen-Bhoopathy Nagar, nai-600024. Rs. 30.

Veettu Valdhyam: S.A. Susaira ja; Kannappan Pathippagam, 19, Kannadhasan Salai, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017, Rs. 25.

Ananda Vall: Irukooran; Ammani Publications, C4/15, Bhoopathy Nagar, Chennai-600024.
 Rs. 36.

Manavar Needhikathaigal: N.C. Deivasigamani; Kannappan Pathippagam, 19, Kannadhasan Salai, T. Nagar, nai-600017. **Rs. 20.**

Mama Vijayam: Ekavan; Ammani Publications, C4/15, Bhoopathy Nagar, Chennai-600024.

• Kural Nerikkathaigal: S. Leela; Kannappan Pathippagam, 19, Kannadhasan Salai, T. Nagar,

Chennai-600017, Rs. 30. Vadamozhi Elakiyangal: Muktha Srinivasan; Gangai Puthaka Nilayam, 23, Deenadayalu Street, T. Nagar, Chen-nai-600017. **Rs. 25**.

▶ Kambar Karuvoolam: M. Say-abu Maraikayar; Gangai Putha-ka Nilayam, 23, Deenadayalu Street, T. Nagar, Chen-nai-600017. Rs. 110.

 Bhagavathgithaiyum Thirukkuralum — Oor Oppeedu: R. Muthumaran; Sura Books Pvt. Ltd., 1620, 'J' Block, 16th Mair Road, Anna Nagar, Chennai-600040. Rs. 120.

Kalki Life Style Malar 2004: Sita Ravi — Editor; pub. by Bha-rathan Publications Pvt. Ltd., 47, Chennai-600097

Telugu

 Ravindra Kathavali — by Rabindranath Tagore: M. Suri —
 Tr. in Telugu; Sahitya Akademi, Central College Campus, Dr. BR Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalars 560001, Pp. 199 lore-560001. Rs. 180.

Sriramuni Davachetanu...: Va sundhara; Vahini Book Trust, 1-9-286/3, Vidyanagar, Hydera-bad-500044. **Rs. 100.**

Andhra Patrika Charitra — History of Andhra Patrika: C.V. Raja Gopala Rao; for copies, Press A-cademy of Andhra Pradesh, 5-9-166, Chapel Road, Nampally, Hyderabad-500001. Rs. 120.

Kathavahini 2004: Rachana Sai; Vahini Book Trust, 1-9-286/3, Vidyanagar, Hyderabad-500044. **Rs. 100.**

Of deprived childhood SMALL HANDS IN SOUTH guments and results presented ASIA - Child Labour in in each one of the papers in the Perspective: G.K. Lieten, Ravi book - a bird's- eye view of the Srivastava and Sukadeo Throat

- Editors; Manohar Publishers & Distributors, 4753/23, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 695. THIS BOOK is an outcome of

the international conference held in Delhi on Child Labour in South Asia funded by the Indo-Dutch Programme for Alternatives in Development (IDPAD) and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). The 13 essays by academicians, policy makers and activists, offer varied perspectives on the is-The introduction provides a

succinct summary of the papers, places them in context, and brings into focus various controversies in analysing the phenomenon of child labour. While dealing with the political sensitivity of the issue, the hidden agenda of Western govern-Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) are pointed out, "Western Governments and industries, particularly in the U.S., are eager to include child labour in the social clauses of international trade agreement, thereby providing them an extra weapon to impede imports from 'low-salary' countries.'

Some NGOs "...tend to exaggerate the extent and wretchedness of child labour in order to garner more finances from funding agencies." Given the space constraint, it is difficult to highlight the nuances of the ar-

broad consensus that emerges,

vided below. Child rights

Considerable attention has been paid to evaluating the magnitude of child labour in South Asia, in particular in India. In this context, a case against inclusion in the count of child labourers of "nowhere children", and children engaged in activities such as weeding and looking after cattle which may be considered as light and non-hazardous work, has been advanced (chapter 1). Such a position accords primacy to securing certain negative rights/ freedoms, such as the freedom from blatant exploitation and the freedom from threats to life and limb.

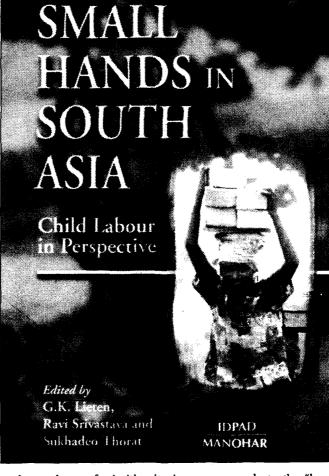
and the controversies that per-

sist on important issues are pro-

The considerably more liberal position treating all activities ments and industries, and of that interfere with schooling of children as labour is advanced in many of the essays, particularly in essays five and 12. This line of reasoning emphasises the importance of securing certain positive rights/freedoms such as the right to development, the right to education, and the right to childhood (these are enabling rights).

Categorisation

In this context it is clear that securing certain privileged positive freedoms for the child should also ensure protection of his/her negative freedoms. To oritisation may lead to restrict- al factors (chapters 3 to 5) point



"wretchedness" of such labour, pects of child labour. but excessive attention to pri-

evolve a scheme of priorities, it ing concern only to the "hard is important to categorise child cases", while ignoring a great labour based on the extent of many routine and endemic as-

Attempts to identify the caus-

to the limited explanatory power of income poverty, and bring out the importance of "generalised" deprivation as a determinant of child labour/work. Government intervention to

remove malnutrition, to enhance access to drinking water, to create schooling facilities and to provide free education (chapter 11) is emphasised as a means to ending child labour. In a situation where the state is in withdrawal mode, it is important to remind the state of its responsibilities to provide for the basic necessities of life.

Sociological and demographic determinants of child labour (chapter 8) have been studied: the consequence of high fertility and the social attitude towards child labour are identified as promoting labour market participation of children. Chapter two, an interesting one, argues a case for ensuring gender equality in access to education to end child labour.

Empirical studies

The India, Pakistan and Bangladesh related case studies of child labour in industries such as match, carpet, glass bangles, diamond cutting and polishing, "bidi" and incense stick making, sack-stitching and prawn-peeling, garment industries - vide chapters six, seven, eight and 11 provide vivid accounts of the

wretchedness" of child labour in these industries. The nimble finger (special skills) argument for the use of child labour has been dismissed. A case for compensating the

loss in family income due to

withdrawal of child labour is es-

Law and interventions

Legislative state intervention is elaborately dealt with in chapters nine and 10, and covers the ground of context, provisions, loopholes, impact, and enforcement. The insensitivity of the judiciary, the delays in judicial process, the onus of proof of age on the prosecution rather than on the accused, ambiguities in defining the authority to certify age, and inadequate personnel in the labour department are cited as important impediments to enforcing the various child labour laws.

The laws prohibit employment of children in hazardous occupations only in factories, and do not cover the household sector. The industries exploit this loophole by sub-contracting or farming out production (resorting to the putting-out system). Hazardous work in a factory when carried out under the supervision of the parents becomes non-hazardous!

The review of the interventions by the NGOs (chapter 12) stresses the importance of different approaches to the problem, and the need for organising the poor to assert their right to minimum wages and improved education system for their children to end child

In a nutshell, the book is useful, but could have been better if the editors had resorted to the services of a professional editor.

D. JAYARAJ

Festschrift to a 'lawyer extraordinary'

NANI PALKHIVALA: Maj.Gen. Nilendra Kumar — Editor; Universal Law Publishing Co., C-FF-1A, Ansal's Dilkhush Industrial Estate, G.T. Karnal Road, New Delhi-110033.

NANI PALKHIVALA carved out a niche for himself among distinguished Indians of the post-Independence era not only by his distinctive contribution to constitutional law and governance but also by living a life of a responsible citizen committed to democracy and human val-

A festschrift in his memory reflecting the views of eminent persons from all walks of life is indeed a magnificent tribute coming as it does from a soldier of the status of the judge Advocate-General of the Indian

Palkhivala did not live long enough to see "India Shining", a dream which he cherished and wrote about. He even provided a road map towards achieving that goal based on his understanding of the Constitution and the aspirations of, "we the people of India" whose cause he championed ceaselessly and fearlessly. Yes, as the editor of the volume emphasises. Palkhivala's life and writings have a special appeal to the youth of otherwise his opinions would corporate vision" and "living

the country who constitute, in- have carried greater weight with the life of a real Karmayogi". cidentally, the majority of citi- the people of India. zens of the world's largest

Dynamic advocacy

Seldom does one come across a lawyer who commands the respect and admiration of the Bar and the Bench alike. Even those in the profession who did not agree with his ideological moorings and advocacy of the cause of the rich and the powerful, have acknowledged his intellectual brilliance, principled stand on public issues and ethical conduct as a profes-

He was indeed a lawyer exthe three excellent books he wrote towards the end of his ca-

Sorabjee thinks his clarity of thought, precision and elegance of expression, ability to think on his legs, innate humility and phenomenal memory have been part of the armoury of Palkhivala, the lawyer.

Palkhivala's corporate connec-

formance before the 13 Judges in the Keshavananda Bharati case (1973 Supp. SCR1) to the effect that " The height of eloquence to which Palkhivala rose on that day has seldom been challenged and never surpassed in the history of the Supreme Court." There can be no better testimony of professional excellence of the man than what is said in this quote from one of India's greatest judges.

Palkhivala's multi-faceted traordinary as Rajeev Dhavan personality apart from his procharacterised him. Every law fessional career is little known student must not only read the to people outside his circle of cases he argued but also study friends and colleagues. This book brings a large number of contributions of people from all walks of life who had interacted with him and found in him "integrated consciousness". "disillusionment with Indian brand of socialism", "disenchantment with too much of government and too little of governance", "compassionate Fali Nariman believes that reaction to human suffering", "a total commitment to the contion with Tatas was a mistake as cept of Dharma", "an astute

P.P. Rao quotes Justice Khannomics, taxation and public fina's remark on Palkhivala's perpost-liberalisation era.

His understanding of eco-

nance has been of a very high order which found expression in his annual speeches immediately after the presentation of the Central budget. One would wonder what India's economic destiny would have been had he been our finance minister in the It is revealing to find that Palkhivala had a special rela-

tionship with the men in uniform and the Armed Forces reciprocated by inviting him regularly to their varied pro-He advised for a long time investment of the Army's Group Insurance Fund and rendered

professional services to the wel-

fare of all ranks of the Indian

army. Lt.Gen. Chandrasekha-

ran's tribute brings out this little known connection of Palkhivala to Indian army. The book contains views and opinions, some of them too casual and perfunctory conveying very little to the reader. Nonetheless, the volume inspires one to know more about Palkhivala and his life and the secret of his

N. R. MADHAVA MENON | savings and credit operation left

From penury to security

WOMEN'S OWN -The Selfhelp Movement of Tamil Nadu: C. K. Garivali and S. K. Vettivel: Pub.by Vetri Publishers. 11. Vasant Apartments, New Delhi-110057. Rs. 200.

STRUGGLING IN private worlds of poverty, nothing empowers the poor more than money. Sometimes all it takes is a brigade of people with a changethe-world brand of rage.

Daring women, some credit and a sense of hope has, in fact, put the country's rural poor in a self-reliant mode. The self-help movement has sprung surprises in doomed areas. From being penury, women now laugh their way to banks and feel secure.

Silent revolution

Over a decade ago, microcredit became a means for women's empowerment aimed at reducing poverty, promoting self-employment and development-based activities. From Rajasthan to Andhra Pradesh, Haryana to Tamil Nadu villages, need-based and timely credit has become a powerful instrument with the responsibility of

to organised women's groups called the Self-Help Groups

While government and NGOs have collaborated in this silent revolution, the "socio-economic-political empowerment of women" has become a hackneyed subject for debate or research. Yet, it is imperative to record such efforts to inspire replication.

This book jointly authored by C. K. Gariyali and S. K. Vettivel, is an example. For recordsake, it is heartening to note that despite skewed priorities despondency does not overwhelm the State's poor. Between 2001 and 2003, the number of SHGs in the State grew by 190 per cent while SHG membership was up

Savings and credit mobilised by SHGs registered "remarkable progress". Several success stories cited prompt the authors to say that "soon, there will be no poor women in Tamil Nadu, onwomen in the process of enriching themselves." One hopes change of governments at any level will not ever hamper such

by 186 per cent.

SOMA BASU

Devotional hymns Novel based on history ◆ Cartoon collection ◆ Fostering a culture

TAMIL

BHAKTIP PAADALGAL: Cho. Po. Chockalingam; Pumpuhar Pathippagam, 127 (Old no. 63), Prakasam Salai, Broadway, Chennai-600108.

THIS BOOK is a collection of 45 verses of the author who needs no introduction to readers of devotional hymns in Tamil. The verses amply demonstrate the poet's felicity with words that

stay easy and lucid in verse form. A prayer, which invariably renders itself in a persuasive and direct second person format, has always had a universal appeal. Here conviction becomes an inalienable and primary ingredient in devotion. That way, as a piece of dedicated verse staying close to a pristine form, the one on Lord Muruga, excels both in content and clarity. Among abstract pieces, the first one "Ulagam

ingay sorgamagum" (the world becomes a paradise here) stands out. As a collection of efforts that appeared over a period of time, one can see the logic of verses on

all major deities of the Hindu pantheon. The poet appears to have succeeded in making a neat and tidy addition to his contribution to the segment of devotional verse in Tamil that has a

sizable and active following. V. VIJAYARAGHAVAN

JANAGANAMANA: Malan; Kizhakku Pathippagam, 16, Karpagambal Nagar, Mylapore, Chennai 600004. Rs. 40.

ACTUALLY THIS is not just fiction. Malan has PARAHUSHAR - Shekar Cartcons: Chetana. 1produced a very readable and thought-provoking document for the younger generation at home on the killing of Gandhiji by Nathuram Godse. It is easy to condemn such a killing (an old, defenceless man who was already suffering from possible kidney failure shot down in the land of Mahavira), but difficult to present a sustained defence for the killer.

All that the author wants us to know is that it was the proverbial last straw when Gandhiji announced a fast unto death to force the Indian Government to give Rs. 55 crores to Pakistan. Godse had a point in thinking of it as "black-

mail politics", for already the situation was tense with the raw cases of suffering and loss experienced by millions crowding Delhi and other plac-

What Malan has on hand is material for a mega fiction, and the short novel has not given him adequate moving space. Unless one is wellversed in the history of the times, a good deal of his hard-wrought insertions may go unnoticed. While the real characters do breathe in the fic-

fictive Ramanan remains in the shadows, probably because his dream of Gandhiji's assassination much before it happened seems unreal by its ry attention to realistic detail. However, Malan has floated a wish that he might produce a novel with Ramanan heroically battling the Emergency imposed by Indira Gand-

hi. We will definitely take it as a promise from an

author who realises how difficult it is to get at the

intelligibility and inner spaces of historical char-

tion (oh dear, was Apte such a womaniser?), the

acters, whether it is Gandhiji or Godse or Mohamed Ali Jinnah. Salutations to the author's mother representing the generations of women who found freedom to act and achieve in the Gandhian ambience; and to K. Rajendran for an accurate summing-up of the agile and cautious Tamil nov-

el in his foreword. PREMA NANDAKUMAR TELUGU

4-113, Bholakpur, Kavadiguda, Secunderabad-80.

Rs. 50. THIS WORK is the wake-up call of a watchman asking people to be alert. As the watchdog of society, a cartoonist performs this task through caricatures and portraitures of men who matter. This is evident from the book which contains over 100 cartoons by Shekar first published in Andhraprabha and Prajasakthi. An extra self-explanatory mini cartoon in each page is a bonus.

Although modern cartoon is considered a British legacy, India has a long tradition of folklore and folk arts. A nation which boasts of the Pan-

lack of sense of humour. A good cartoon first provokes laughter and then thought. Nehru used to enjoy cartoons on him published in the Shankar's Weekly. There are a number of eminent Indian cartoonists today. The ubiquitous common man with a bald head and a striped coat of R.K.Lakshman tickles mil-

lions of readers every morning. The excellent cartoons here not only makes up chuckle but also think. The captions themselves tell a lot. The first cartoon is on global meal where the common man is served ATMs, E-mails and televisions except food. A politician at the bank counter gets token number 420. Twisted names like "Ayyo Bihari Vajpayee", "Chandrabomb Naidu" and "Abdul Missile Kalam" also tell the fate of

At a time when regional cartoonists do not get enough recognition, this book comes as an eyeopener. Addition of English version of captions could have ensured wider reach. Shekar deserves

KANNADA

a place among Indian cartoonists. P. V. L. N. RAO

DASA SAHITHYA MATHU SANSKRITHI: S. K. Ramachandra Rao; pub. by Kannada Books Authority, Pampa Mahakavi Road, Chamarajpet,

Bangalore-560018. Rs. 150. ONE OF the main aims of founding of the Vijayanagar Empire, helped by Vidyaranya, was to save and preserve the ancient culture and civilisation of India. The aim was largely achieved and one of the key figures who helped in this endeavour was Purandara Dasa, along with other Haridasas. In this book the author traces this aspect of the

South Indian cultural history through essays. It is astonishing how Purandara Dasa singlehanded, through his reforms, rescued classical music from near disintegration and also revived the Haridasa movement, giving new strength to it. He also in his own way laid a sound foundation to the newly-evolving Hosa (new) Kannada, a

contribution hailed by Kannada litterateurs. Rao highlights three or four points. After Indi-

chatantra and Tenalirama is today blamed for its an music in the North assumed a different shape due to the Persian-Muslim influence, the pure older Indian music that survived in the South came to be called Karnataka music because Vijayanagar, which included both the Telugu and Kannada areas, mainly fostered this music. Vijayanagar was also being popularly called Karnataka or Kannada rajya. Peddana, the eminent

growths.

Telugu poet, called Krishna Deva Raya as Kannada Rajya Ramaa Ramana. The Dasa's songs are composed in such simple Kannada that even illiterate people can sing them and understand the spirit behind them. By integrating scriptural texts in these songs the Dasa brought the scriptures closer to the people, till

then available only to the scholars. The author is however on slippery ground when he asserts that the raga rasa is determined by the sahitya because a raga by itself does not represent any rasa. This is not so. From the days of Matanga, it has been made clear that every

swara and every raga has distinct moods, and the sahitya is tailored to fit in with this mood. Kanaka Dasa is another person extensively dealt with. His contribution to music is as valua-

ble as Purandara Dasa's. There are many other articles that deal with basic musical traditions and the present day plight of "sampradaya sangeetha". The book is valuable and should be made available at least in English, if not in other Indian languages. The publisher deserves praise for bringing out this

G.D.

Announcement

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to The Hindu for review. While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under "New Arrivals", the decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper. Receipt of individual books will not be acknowledged in response to enquiries.

BOOK REVIEW MY



• Fluent Bodies - Ayurvedic Remedies for Postcolonial Imbalance: Jean M. Langford; Oxford University Press YMCA Library Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001. **Rs. 625.** • Cascade — Verses of Wisdom in Kan-

nada Jhari by Jaraganahalli Shivasan-kar: C. Naganna — Tr. in English; Shubhada Publications, Jaraganahalli, JP Nagar Post, Bangalore-560078.

 History of Freedom of India — 1857 Movement and 1919-1947 Movement: National Gandhi Museum, Rajghat, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 1000. Unwritten Flaws of Indian Bureau-

cracy: Barun Kumar Sahu; Pustak Mahal, J-3/16 (Opp. Happy School) Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002.

Tightrope Walking — The Agony and the Ecstasy of Translation: K. G. Seshadri; Allied Publishers (P) Ltd., 751, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002. **Rs. 250.**

 Cash Before You Crash — A Complete Manual on Credit and Accounts Receivable Operations, EDI, Supply Chain Management and ERP Environment: A. K. Guha, N. H. Atthreya; Viva Books Pvt. Ltd., 4262/3, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002.





 Pali Grammar: E. Miller; New Bharatiya Book Corporation, Shop No. 18, 5574A, Il Floor, Ch Kashi Ram Market, Durga Complex, New Chandrawal, Delhi-110007. Rs. 150.

Politics and Society in Changing India: K. Seshadri; Mangal Deep Publications, Sales Office, Duggar Building, MI Road, Jaipur-302001. Rs. 350.
 Revealing Advaita Vedanta: P. K.

Sasidharan Nair; New Bharatiya Book Corporation, Shop No. 18, 5574A, II Floor, Ch Kashi Ram Market, Durga Complex, New Chandrawal, Del-

hi-110007. Rs. 450.

The Riddle of Sadhu Sundar Singh: Eric J. Sharpe; Intercultural Publications (P) Ltd., A-1/1270 Sec. 4, Rohini,

tions (P) Ltd., A-1/1270 Sec. 4, Rohini, New Delhi-110085. **Rs. 450.**• **Vyaktiviveka** — A Critical Study: C. Rajendran; New Bharatiya Book Corporation, Shop No. 18, 2nd Floor, 5574-A, Ch Kashi Ram Market, Durga Complex, New Chandrawal, Delhi-110007. **Rs. 450.**

The Angel Investor's Handbook — How to Profit from Early-Stage Investing: Gerald A. Benjamin, Joel Margulis; Vision Books Pvt. Ltd., 24, Feroze Gandhi Road, Lajpat Nagar III, New Delhi-110024. Rs. 595.

Delhi-110024. Rs. 595.

The Vidhana Texts — A Study — The Secondary Application of The Vedic Texts — A Study: Pradnya S. Kulkani; New Bharatiya Book Corporation, Shop No. 18, 2nd Floor, 5574-A, Ch Kashi Ram Market, Durga Complex, New Chandrawal, Delhi-110007.

The Business Speaker's Handbook: Patrick Forsyth; Vision Books Pvt. Ltd., 24, Feroze Gandhi Road, Lajpat Nagar III, New Delhi-110024. **Rs. 145.**

Autobiography of a Spiritually In-correct Mystic: Osho; Osho Mevlana Meditation Centre (A unit of Mahaveer Foundation Charitable Trust), Mahavir House, 506, 5th Floor, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad-500029. Rs. 295. Joint Forest Management in India

Spread Performance and Impact: N H. Ravindranath, P. Sudha; Universities Press (India) Pvt. Ltd., 3-5-819, Hyderabad-500029.





The Soul Theory of The Buddhist -With Sanskrit Text: Theodore Stcher batsky; New Bharatiya Book Corporation, Shop No. 18, 2nd Floor, 5574-A, Ch Kashi Ram Market, Durga Complex, New Chandrawal, Delhi-110007

• Sankara Stotra Ratnakaram — A Treasure Trove of Sankara's Hymns: Rema Gopinathan Nair — Tr. in English; Swati, 'Swati' Palakad-13.

▶ Dreams After Darkness — A search for the life ordinary under the shadow of 1984: Manraj Grewal; Rs. 395.

Selections from the Saptaks: S. C. Narula - Tr. in English; Rs. 295. Through the Closed Doorway -

Collection of Nazms: Shahryar; Rs. 195. The above three books pub. by Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. Rural Development in Mizoram — A

Study of IRDP: Kalpana Das; Mittal Publications, A-110, Mohan Garden, New Delhi-110059. Rs. 395.

Cancer & Nutrition — A Ten-Point Plan to Reduce Your Risk of Getting Cancer: Charles B. Simone; Health Harmony an imprint of B Jain Publishers (P) Ltd., 1921, Street No. 10, Chu-na Mandi, Paharganj, New na Mandi, Pahar Delhi-110055. **Rs. 110.**

• Reforming Reference — Guidelines for Librarian: Ratan Kumar Khan, Swapna Banerjee; Mittal Publications, A-110, Mohan Garden, New Del-

hi-110059. Rs. 350.

Rewrite Your Life --- Scripts for Success: Eve Ash, Rob Gerrand; Health Harmony an imprint of B Jain Publishers (P) Ltd., 1921, Street No. 10, Chu-na Mandi, Paharganj, New na Mandi, Paha Delhi-110055. **Rs. 175.**

Indian Folktales and Legends: Tapas Guha (Illustration); Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New

7/16, Ansari Hoad, Daryagani, New Delhi-110002. **Rs. 95.**Heart Therapy — Regaining Your Cardiac Health: Anita Maximin, Lori Stevic Rust; Health Harmony an imprint of B Jain Publishers (P) Ltd., 1921, Street No. 10, Chuna Mandi, Paharapai, New Politi 110055. **Pp. 150**

narganj, New Delhi-110055. Rs. 150. or Comrade in Arms: Dibyendu Palit —
Tr. in English; Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 150.
From Battlefield to Boardroom —

Winning Management Strategies for Today's Global Business: Dennis Laurie; Leads Press an imprint of B Jain Publishers (P) Ltd., 1921, Street No. 10, Chuna Mandi, Paharganj, New Delhi-110055. **Rs. 250.**

Bureaucracy and Decentralisation: Arvind K. Sharma; Mittal Publications,

A-110, Mohan Garden, New Del-hi-110059. **Rs. 295.** Speak Right for a Call Centre Job — A Complex Training Guide for Interna-tional Telephone Interface: Arjun Rai-na; Penguin Books India (P) Ltd., 11,

Community Centre, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi-110017, **Rs. 250.** International Mediation in the Inter Ethnic Conflict in Eastern Europe:

Ethnic Conflict in Eastern Europe:
Amitabh Singh; Academic Excellence,
42, Ekta Apartments, Geeta Colony,
Delhi-110031. Rs. 550.

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Publications, 43-A, Krishna Enclave
(Behind Kulachi Hansraj Model
School) Ashok Vihar, Phase III, Delbi-11052 Ps. 120.

hi-110052. Rs. 120.

General Psychology: S. Dandapani;

Rs. 150.

• Methods of Teaching English: Shaikh Mowla; Rs. 120. Educational Technology: M. Vanaja;

Rs. 120. Educational Management Supervision School Organisation: Jagan-nath Mohanty; Rs. 150. The above four books pub. by Neelkamal Publications Pvt. Ltd., Sultan Bazar, Hyderabad-500095

Gathering the Meanings — Essential Teachings of the Buddha: N. H. Samtani — Tr. in English; Dharma Publishing, 2910 San Pablo Ave, Berkeley, CA94702. \$ 25.

Tamil

Patanjali Yoga Soothram: K. N. Saraswathi, Bala Arthanareeswarar — Compilers; Kadalangudi Publications, 38, Natesa Iyer Street, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 80.

Bhoomiyil Vaikundam Guruvayoor Varalaru: K. Varadarajan; N. Ayyap-pan Nair, Guruvayoor, Kerala. Rs. 18. Chanakiyarin Arthasasthram: R. S. Rao — Editor; Jaisankar Publications, 38, Natesa Iyer Street, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. **Rs. 60.**

Mandhiriyin Magathuvam: Venkataraman; Sri Anandha Nilayam, 29/5, Ranganathan Street, Ist Floor, T. Na-gar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 45. Madhi Valarum Poovanam: Meivazhi

Jana Gajana Ananthar; Arunthathi Nilayam, 19, Kannadhasan Salai, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 80.

The Glory of the Nagarathars: SAP

Jawahar Palaniappan; Kumudam, 306, (151) Purasawalkam High Road, Chennai-600010 Rs 100

Sam Walton: Rs. 60. Vetri Thantha Anugumuraigal:

• Palkhivala: Rs. 55. The above three books are written by Ravindar and pub. by Arunthathi Nilayam, 19, Kan-nadhasan Salai, T. Nagar, nadhasan Salai, Chennai-600017.

Alaya Dharisanam: Bharaneedha ran; Kalaignaan Pathippagam, 19, Kannadhasan Salai, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017 Rs 75

Vetri Tharum Chinthanaigal: Brama-nandam; Anuragam, 19, Kannadha-san Salai, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 25.

Kasi Ramaswera Yathirai: Bharaneedharan; Kalaignaan Pathippagam, 19, Kannadhasan Salai, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. **Rs. 105.**

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lai: Devanatha Swamigal; Narmadha Pathippagam, 10, Nana Street, T. Na-gar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 20. gar, Chemiar-Gouolt, Rs. 20.

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S. Devanathan; Kalaignaan Pathippagam, 19, Kannadhasan Salai, T.Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 45.

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 Rajayogam: Govindaraju Ramakrishna Rao; Visalandhra Book House Bank Street, Hyderabad-1. Rs. 30. Sri Varamahalakshmi Vratamu & Sri Mangalagouri Vratamu: Yellaprag gada Sarada Devi — Compiler, Adi Sankara Publications, 8-2-293/2/F, Panchadasi Road, No. 12, MLA Colo-ny, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-34.

Andhra Saraswatha Parishad Vajrotsva Sanchika: Acharya C. Naraya-na Reddy — Editor, Andhra Saraswatha Parishad, Tilakar Road, Hyderabad-1. Rs. 250.

Hindi

• Vaidika Adhyayana: Shashi Tiwari Rs. 440. Dharma aur Darsan: Kiran Kumari:

Homoeopathy Aur Darshan: R.K Chaturvedi; Rs. 450.

Manusmriti Vols. 1 and II — With Dhrishti Commentary: Praveen Pra-layankar; Rs. 600. The above four books pub. by New Bharatiya Book Corporation, Shop No. 18, 2nd Floor, 5574-A, Ch Kashi Ram Market, Durga Chandrawa New Complex, Delhi-110007.

 Sur Nahien Sureele — Sanryu Po-ems: Sideshwar; Sardar Patel Sahitya Prakashan 'Thristi', U-207, Shakarpur Vikas Marg, Delhi-110092. Rs. 125.

• Varadaraja's Tarkikaraksasarasan-

graha with Commentary Vivrti of Harihara Diksita: Copies can be had

Harinara Diksita: Copies can be had from 503, Vishnu Residency, 522, Balaji Colony, Tirupati-517502. Rs. 500.

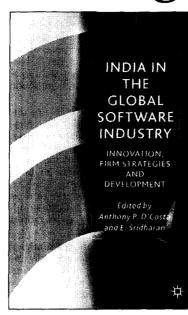
Jharate Ashru: — An Anthology of Stories: Madhu Dhawan; Penman Publishers, 7308, Prem Nagar, Shakti Nagar, Delhi-110007. Rs. 95.

Poised for growth

INDIA IN THE GLOBAL SOFTWARE INDUSTRY — Innovation, Firm Strategies and Development:

Anthony P. D'Costa and E. Sridharan Editors; Palgrave Macmillan, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS & 175, 5th Avenur, New York, NY-10010. Price not mentioned. WITH INDIAN software skills creating a recognizable global brand, there is no shortage of 'experts' queuing up to put the industry under a scanner and reading a full gamut of messages from sobering to ecstatic. But genuine studies that go beyond exclamation mark-peppered instant judgments, can be counted on one's fingers. The collection of papers that make up this volume belongs to this minority of worthy compilations. Jointly edited by Anthony D'Costa, Associate Professor of Comparative International Development at the University of Washington and E. Sridharan, Delhi-based Academic Director of the University of Pennsylvania's Institute for the Advanced Study of India, the volume consists of eight contributions by veteran industry watchers, book-ended by the editors' own studies and

D'Costa begins with a sobering premise, "India's position in the global ICT (Information and Communication Technology) market is low, suggesting a disconnection between software development and a domestic hardware base," he writes. Sridharan points to the skewed pattern of Indian expenditure in R&D — overhelmingly on the part of a few generously funded government departments like Defence, Space and Atomic Energy which have siphoned off over twothirds of the national kitty for hightech research. But D'Costa is either wrong or at least out of date when he says Indian firms are structurally unable to contribute to the



generation or retaining of intellectual property rights (IPR). This view is another of those myths that have been overtaken by events. This reviewer has been privileged to observe the industry here at close hand for nearly two decades. besides making occasional forays to size up the competition in the original Silicon Valley.

There is more IP generated (much of it in the embedded systems space) per hundred metres of office space on the Airport Road in Bangalore today than in many iconic place names like Santa Clara and Sunnyvale where the number of "to let" boards now exceed the IT big names. The contribution by Rishikesha T. Krishnan and Ganesh N. Prabhu taken from a 2002 issue of "Science, Technology and Society" is a welcome reminder of innovative Indian products that have come from six companies. And not all of it, is about cutting edge technology, but often about timely and affordable delivery. Eastern Software Systems (ESS) something of a maverick in the

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) sector, has created a solution that is a godsend for small enterprises that cannot afford the fancy price tags on the global big name products. Another Delhi based firm, Concept Software is possibly the first player to build a fully digital Arabic script tool, that is now a de facto standard in the Middle East.

AnnaLee Saxenian, Professor at the University of California, Berkeley compares regional developments in Taiwan, China and India. She makes a pertinent point about the much hyped IIT product. These paragons and prima donnas, provided a costly education, heavily subsidised by the Indian taxpayer, think nothing of selling themselves to the highest bidder at annual campus recruitment drives and leave the country in droves every year. "This group or even a small subset of them could play a technological leadership role in India in the coming decades.... As it is, too few remain or return to make an impact," she writes Rakesh Basant and Pankai

Chandra of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, assess the relative roles of domestic firms and academia as well as multinational companies in capabilitybuilding. Examples from a dozen MNCs running R&D facilities in India as well as the work done in IIT Madras by Ashok Jhunjhunwala's team, underline one harsh truth in the whole business; in high-tech as in politics, there are no permanent friends or enemies; only permanent interests.

The editors have done a sterling service in putting together this thought-provoking volume; and while parts of it might need to be revised in the light of fast changing events, the essence of their message will be an amber signal for an industry which is in danger of believing all the uninformed hype it encouraged in the first place.

ANAND PARTHASARATHY have its uses.

Contemporary Tamil literature

KANAIYAZHI KALANJIYAM — Vols. ill & IV (Tamil): N. S. Jagannathan — Compiler; Kalaignan Pathippagam, 10, Kannadhasan Salai, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 300 each.

THE TWO volumes under review bring together the writings published in the Tamil literary magazine Kanaiyazhi during 1985-95. While the two earlier volumes published a few years ago were devoted to the first two decades of its existence, the third decade has two volumes to itself. Kanaiyazhi, especially during the first few decades of its existence, provided the space for self-consciously serious writing that could not find a place in the mainstream commercial press.

Volume three consists of over 70 short stories. Apart from senior writers like A. Madhavan, R.Chudamani and Adhavan many young writers who emerged as major writers in the later half of the 1990s such as Jeyamohan, Perumal Murugan and S. Ramakrishnan, as well as promising new voices such as Uma Maheswari are represented in this volume. Somewhat inexplicably over 10 short stories are carried over to the fourth volume as well.

Apart from two plays by Jeyanthan, a selection of poems and essays form the meatier part of the fourth volume. Poetry was never Kanaiyazhi's forte, which is reflected in the selection included here, though it includes Kalyanji, Gnanakoothan and the then promising poetic voices of Yuma. Vasuki and Manushya Puthi-In the last section consisting of es-

says many seasoned hands are at work. Included are some of the impressionistic essays that Ka.Naa. Subramanyam wrote during the last years of life which reveal his fine, if controversial, literary tastes. The details that he provides of literary culture at the dawn of Tamil modernity

Indira Parthasarathy's columns provide offbeat views on contemporary Tamil culture. Sujatha's superficial column called "Kadaisi pakkam" which drew many readers to the magazine is also adequately represented. Gnanakoothan's forays into poetics are useful to the uninitiated. Obituaries of Ka.Naa.Su. and Adhavan and interviews with veteran writers Chitti and La.Sa.Ramamrutham are the other highlights.

A debate on the Dravidian movement, which produced more heat than light, initiated by the "progressive' writer Ponneelan is also reproduced. This debate would make more sense when read in conjunction with the contemporary exchanges in the literary supplement of Dinamani. A significant absence in these volumes is Ashokamitran, an editor of Kanaiyazhi himself, who wrote regularly in its pages.

Undoubtedly these volumes that reproduce substantive selections from not easily accessible journals is particularly welcome. The editor should be complimented for taking care to provide first publication details, which were absent in the first volume published earlier. However the selections seem rather arbitrary and no organising principle is evi-

The serious and the frivolous jostle ogether and distract the reader. An introduction detailing the origin and growth of the journal, which also situates it in the literary context of the times, would have been apt. It is disappointing that a seasoned editor such as N.S. Jagannathan has not attempted it.

These volumes are a part of the series brought out by the publisher to reproduce selections from major Tamil journals, the archival value of which cannot be gainsaid. The publishers deserve praise despite the many misprints and typos.

A. R. VENKATACHALAPATHY

Self-effacing industrialist

VIJITATMA - Pioneer-Founder Ardeshir Godrej: B. K. Karanjia; Penguin Books India Pvt. Ltd., 11, Community Centre, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi-110017. Rs. 350.

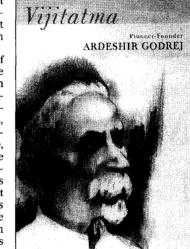
THIS BOOK, a biography of Ardeshir on the many faceted personality of the founder of the Godrej empire, drawn from the Bhagavad Gita meaning "one who has conquered himself.

old once flourishing industries, while simultaneously the British were for the banks all over the country. making huge fortunes from an unfair

instruments and this turned out but to be a non-starter, since after producing a quality product he just could not market it successfully as an Indian made product in that era.

Then he pitched upon the idea of Godrej (1868-1936) is a revealing one locks, for which demand existed. He patented the springless lock, which was the earliest of 36 patented Gowho had great vision to battle against drej inventions. This was a great sucall odds in a hostile colonial era for cess. From there he moved to safes, establishing a flourishing enterprise after going to the European counwhich has stood the test of time. The tries to study how safes are made, title "Vijitatma" is interestingly and succeeding in producing fire lades. "The power of Swadeshi" was a fire burning with him and he went Ardeshir Godrej, started his career all out to prove that Godrej safes as an unsuccessful barrister. Quick to were as good in quality as any made see the tragic decline of India's age in the world. This led to his foray in safe deposit vaults and strong rooms

An inventor in spirit, he then monopoly of trade and industry, Ar- moved to making soaps, which had a deshir was determined to make a long and romantic history behind quality product that would be as them. He got encouraged by Lokagood as the British. He chose surgical manya Tilak who administered the



Swadeshi vow in respect of soap, necessitated by foreign soaps that flooding the market. A unique contribution was making stable toilet

soaps from vegetable oils instead of animal fat as was the accepted practice in most countries. His experiment in the establishment of a farm and an agricultural colony for the poor Parsis turned out

to be a failure and haunted him till the end. The idea of a cooperative farm never took off. Another facet of his life has been brought out in "A man of prayer" which brings out his immense faith Fund. Mahatma Gandhi was fulsome in the supreme power. He had an in- in his praise for this, the biggest doquiring mind as brought out by his nation he had received for the fund."

dia Brittanica and learning all about the history of soap making and lock making which went back a thousand of vears. The human frailties are not missed out either. The book starts with the difference between him and his brother who used to write letters to each other and did not choose to dis-

cuss issues face to face. However, he

was gracious enough that once his

quest for invention was over, he

would turn over the business for long term commercial gains to his brother. As stated in the preface which is very well written. "He could be whimsical and quite contradictory at times. He paid his brother Pirojsha a pittance of Rs.100 a month for working in the Lalbaug factory. Yet he gave the magnificent (unheard of at the time) donation of Rs. three lakh for Harijan uplift to the Tilak Swarai His simplicity is appealing; "Ar-

deshir travelled by public transport almost to the end of his days. The sight of him patiently waiting at bus stops, engrossed in reading a newspaper or a book, created a lot of talk in the community.' On the whole the book is extreme-

ly well written and brings to light in a fascinating manner the life and times of a great pioneer. It provides an en-

M.S.S.VARADAN

• Non-violence in practice • Fiction with a touch of realism Assamese short stories Patriotic fervour in Urdu poetry

TAMIL

AHIMSA: Swami Guruparananda: Sastraprakasha Trust, Chandra Vilas Apartments, A-3, No.9, 8th street, Dr. Radhakrishnan Salai

Chennai-600004 THIS TINY book sets forth "ahimsa" (non-violence) — abstention from violence in thought, word, and deed to all living things — as the cardinal virtue for not only the renounced but also for householders and brahmacharis.

Non-violence is refraining from causing sufferings to others and also to one's own self. By being revengeful we harm ourselves by becoming victims of anger; to save ourselves, it is necessary to develop equanimity and forbea-Mahatma Gandhi incidentally has shown

through his writings and in practice the virtue of non-violence in all its implications as they are elaborated in this book. Practising non-violence does not exclude the use of violence against enemies of society or evil-doers whose punishment or elimination is essential in the interest of the majority.

Similarly, the resort to a little violence for correcting children and adults or other offenders has to be considered only as non-violence, committing a small "himsa" for the sake of greater ahimsa. In all these cases the violence inflicted on the offender has to be done not with hate of the person but only the evil concerned, wishing for his betterment

Non-violence adopted as a way of life brings ennoblement of the human personality and the author has expounded in detail the causes giving rise to violence on one's part and the ways of cultivating non-violence to safeguard one's higher development and bringing happiness to others as well

J. PARTHASARATHI *MALAYALAM*

VANCHANA -- Novel by Premchand: E. K. Divakaran Potti - Tr. in Malayalam; Current Books, Round West, Thrissur 680001. Distributed by Cosmo Books. Rs. 120. PREMCHAND is a pioneering figure in modern Hindi literature as he created the genre of serious fiction both in Hindi and Urdu. He was one of the initiators of realism in Indian fiction

porary Indian society. His powerful fiction is aimed at societal reform.

This novel Vanchana is a typical example and it portrays the power of women and how a determined wife can transform not only her husband but also the family and society. The narration powerfully brings out the evils of local administration and the cruel system of policing turning even the innocent into criminals.

The women characters stand out as models of virtue and fight for justice. Rich metaphor and felicity of language make the narration powerful. The locales are set in a small town in Uttar Pradesh and in Kolkata. The story revolves around Jaalpa who is married to Ramanathan; during their early days of marriage Jaalpa demands gold ornaments and to please her he had to embezzle money.

When it was about to be detected Ramanathan runs away to Kolkata where he hides under a saviour, Deenanathan. Jaalpa reaches the family and with an iron will saves her husband; a lady of easy virtue, Johari, also helps Ramanathan. Finally, everything ends well and Ramanathan is back to his town serving peo-

The outstanding quality of the novel, apart from reflecting the middle class societal life of the 1930s, is the espousal of human values and causes, worthy of emulation. The translation is superb and even after a lapse of nearly half a century it stands out.

K. KUNHIKRISHNAN HINDI

LAL NADEE — Assamese Short Stories: Indira Goswami - Tr. in Hindi; Bharatiya Jnanpith; 18, Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003. Rs. 150.

THIS BOOK is an anthology of 10 short stories by Inanapith award winner, Indira Goswami. Most of the stories apart from telling a tale delineate the socio-cultural milieu of Assam adding, at times, an exotic touch to the narration. One story "Nanga Sahar" having New Delhi as the backdrop is an exception.

The ambience is not relegated to the backdrop; it takes on the dimensions of a fullfledged character. Most of the stories feature the lower class, the so-called dregs of the socie-

with reformist stories on the evils of contempoverty that stalks them permeates the stories with a gloom that is unmitigated throughout and leaves a hangover.

But Goswami's women strike you as fighters, no matter how heavy the odds are. They have a as religious, social, cultural and patriotic and is will of their own and are loathe to being puppets in men's hands even in adverse conditions. So Padmapriya takes a revenge on her husband who had deserted her by luring him back, making him own the child she is expecting in public and finally breaking it to him in private that the child is not his. There is Phuswari and her daughter badly bent but not

Elements of sex and eroticism are characteristically present in her stories many of which are in the classic mould having ends that hit. But the concluding story "Nanga Sahar" is a dark and haunting one about a lady lecturer in Delhi whose husband has gone abroad never to come back.

She is trying to piece together the broken pieces of her life but the men who come as friends in her life turn out to be vultures eveing her flesh. The story ends with a "shock treatment" because even the urchin whom she had picked up from the street to educate ends up as

The readers will no doubt be in thrall of the stories; they are also provoked to look at the society with a discerning eye and not allowed to miss its warts.

BIBHUTI MISHRA

URDU

HINDUSTAN KI TEHRIK-E-AZADI AUR URDU SHAIRI — Indian Freedom Movement and Urdu Poetry: Gopi Chand Narang; Pub. by the Council for Development of the Urdu Language, Ministry of Human Resources Development (Govt. of India), West Block 1, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110066, Rs. 300.

THIS BOOK is the last in the trilogy of books the author was commissioned to write for the Council for Development of the Urdu

In this series, Narang maintains that Urdu poetry, despite being closely linked with the

Iranian and Islamic traditions, still reflects the Indian milieu in all its diverse manifestations. Urdu verse, the emblem of a composite culture, in his opinion, has invariably been public-spirited in presenting Indian themes such

a remarkable symbol of liberal, humanistic values so close to the Indian heart. Right from Amir Khusro to Nusrati, Mushafi, Mir, Ghalib and Momin, the metrical compositions of most Urdu poets are reflective of their great love for India. As for Urdu poetry's contribution to the Indian Freedom Movement, justly recapitulates the names of Ashfaquilah Khan and Ram Pershad Bismil of the Kakori case, and the couplet which Bismil continued to recite until he was hanged to death.

With their exhilarating patriotic songs, poets like Iqbal, Zafar Ali Khan, Hasrat, Jauhar, Firaq and Josh inspired millions to fight for the liberation of India.

The last chapter of the book speaks eloquently of Urdu progressive poets like Jazbi, Majaz, Makhdoom, Jafri, Majrooh, Sahir and others, who nourished patriotism, especially among the deprived sections of Indian society, disregarding religion as having any relevance to the demands of nationalism.

Reviewing a work of such academic excellence animated with historical research, cresensitivity and sociological perceptiveness, within the limitations of space and word length, is a demanding task.

Even so, one can venture to pronounce that this document of astounding scholastic inquiry by one of the leading post-modern Indian literary critics deserves serious attention from all lovers of Indian poetry.

ALI ASGHAR

Announcement

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to *The Hindu* for review. While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under 'New Arrivals", the decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper. Receipt of individual books will not be acknowledged in response to enquiries.

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Ramachandran — Editors; Institute for - Issues and Policies: S. Mahendra TOWARDS A FOOD SECURE INDIA Building, IIPA Campus, I.P. Estate, Human Development, Old IAMR Economic and Social Change, Delhi-110002, and Centre for Mahatma Gandhi Marg, New Dev, K.P. Kannan and Nira Hyderabad. Rs. 750.

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public concern but also a theme for serious academic debate. The book, inar, contains 21 contributions and has not only been the cause for wide which is a product of a national sem-IN RECENT years, the deepening paradox of "hunger amidst plenty is divided into five parts.

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the papers could be seen spanning two themes, one essentially dealing icy, problems and prospects of availability of food and the other with the issue of household level physical and But, for the purpose of this review, with the macro-dimensions of poleconomic access.

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tors set out the issues and provide a succinct overview of the papers. Though there is no unanimity on the estimates of future demand for and there is agreement on the ability of the country to domestically produce adequate quantity in the future. By supply of foodgrains in the country, native scenarios of productivity, Kuprehensive introduction by the editaking into consideration the alter-The brief preface and a very com-

mar and Mittal's paper on supply of foodgrains, estimates production possibility ranging from 248 to 289 million tonnes by 2020.

mated at 241 million tonnes which is taking into consideration the lower than even the lower end estimates of supply. The future producinvariably draws attention to the changing global context and the policy strategy to face it. The paper discussing the impact The future demand for foodgrains changing trends in the household consumption basket (Bansil) is estiscenario tion þ

reflective and nuanced attention in a food cultural development that includes ncrease in public investment, reductivity and removal of restriction on trade within the country. These and related aspects of policy receive economy of India to the vagaries of of the Agreement on Agriculture as a cost technologies are likely to be problem of reduced subsidies and ductions in costs, increase in propaper by Vyas that cautions against part of the WTO (Dev) implies that the threat posed by emerging low much more challenging than the nence the need for a strategy of agrithe immediate exposure of international trade.

with poor producers and consumers It is argued that in a large country there should be no compromise on the policy of food self-sufficiency at least until the workforce dependent on agriculture is reduced to less than

text of more vulnerable groups and regions. Examining food security in drought affected regions of Karnataka, it is suggested that it should be built as a part of the strategy of agricultural development of such regions by more resource allocation (Rao and Deshpande).

access to common property resources as sources of food security, plays a more important role in the Bengal (Mukherjee) or remote villages of Garhwal (Mira), the seasonality and women's vulnerability become ployment becomes important in both the regions. But protection and shows that hardly one-fifth of the security here lies in large scale emimportant issues. Off-season empoor have access to the so-called revamped PDS (Sarap and Mahamallick). The answer to effective food ployment generating activities. Whether it is the tribal belt of West

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portion of the poor. They suggest geographical targeting, which echoes the suggestion in the context of prehensive analysis, conclude that the TPDS has succeeded neither in viding food security to a greater proreducing food subsidy bill nor in pro-

targeting was, as the changes in the budget for 2000-01 confirm, the first step in the dismantling of the PDS in drought prone Karnataka. In the other article the indictment of the TPDS is categorical. "The Targeted PDS was an ill-conceived measure and the introduction of

high across the States that there is ments against the TPDS comes from of calorie intake is so low and the incidence of calorie deficiency is so little scope for eradicating the inciing a targeted policy uniformly yet another paper which focusses on dence of calorie deficiency by pursu-He points out that "the average level nutrition security (Suryanarayana) Additional strength to the argu

policy on such critical area like food note that a solution to the paradox of book for an ordinary reader but it is a must reading for everyone who would like to have a say in public The last paper closes on a hopeful mobilisation (Dreze). It is a difficult hunger would come from political mounting food stocks and growing across the regions.

NARASIMHA REDDY

until the economy overcomes the foreign exchange constraint; and un-til multinationals in food trade ad-The next 14 papers, though they 50 per cent; until a stage when large number of households spend substantially less proportion of their incomes on daily requirements of food; here to the "rules of the game'

ly on the physical and economic access to food, with a sharp focus on Distribution System (PDS). The micro experiences draw grassroots experiences, are essentialattention to food security in the conrefer to the diverse regional

India. The two papers in the last part of The hunger hotspot, Kalahandi

the book with special focus on the PDS read justifiably like the impeachment of the Targeted PDS (TPDS) that was introduced in the handi do indicate the gathering winds against the TPDS. But these The papers in the earlier part of the book on Kerala, Rajasthan and Kalawinds turn into a thunder in two palate 1990s as a part of the reforms.

Jha and Srinivasan, in their com-

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SATURDAY, JULY 10, 2004

CONFRONTING AIDS

THE ACQUIRED IMMUNE Deficiency Syndrome, or AIDS as it is better known, is already being called "the Black Death of our time." During 2003, almost five million people became newly infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) that causes AIDS, "the greatest number in any one year since the beginning of the epidemic," points out the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in its latest report on the global epidemic. Nearly three million died of AIDS during 2003; over 20 million have died since the first cases of AIDS were identified in 1981. HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death worldwide among people in their most productive years (15 to 59 years), notes The Lancet Infectious Diseases. The scourge has devastated countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the worst affected region in the world, leaving many on the brink of economic collapse. In India, HIV infection was first confirmed among sex workers in Tamil Nadu in 1986 and by 1994 there were 1.75 million infected people. The number rose to 5.1 million by the end of 2003; only South Africa has more infected people. Although the prevalence of HIV/AIDS is still low in India, no part of the country is free from the disease. In 1994, only Maharashtra reported that more than one per cent of the women coming to ante-natal clinics during their pregnancy were HIV-positive, a danger sign that the disease had spread from high-risk groups to the general population. Now, five more States — Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur, Nagaland, and Tamil Nadu -are in that category.

Towards the end of 2003, the Union Government announced that it would start supplying antiretroviral drugs free of cost to 100,000 people in the six high-prevalence States. It is estimated that one-fifth of all those infected could

require such therapy, which means drugs might need to be provided to over a million sufferers in India. Indian companies are producing generic combination drugs whose efficacy has now been demonstrated, and the cost of these medicines has dropped. As a result, first-line drug combinations now cost about Rs.1,000 a month while second-line combinations cost six to seven times as much. In providing free drug therapy to all who need it, finding the money is only part of the problem. According to experts, patients who fail to take the medicines regularly can, in a matter of months, develop forms of HIV that are resistant to the first-line drug combinations. Therefore, a large-scale antiretroviral programme must minimise the risks of drug resistance through proper training of physicians so that they strictly follow treatment guidelines; and by finding ways to foster patient compliance.

Antiretroviral drugs do not cure the disease; they only reduce the viral load in the body so that the person can lead a normal life. The spread of HIV/AIDS can be stopped only through prevention strategies that help people avoid contracting the infection. As sexual contact is the primary route for infection in India, prevention programmes must encourage people to adopt safer sex practices (such as by using condoms). Increasingly it is women within marriage who are being infected with HIV, showing that effective prevention strategies that help married couples are badly needed. Senior officials of the World Bank have pointed out that South Asian countries should avoid "the trap of inaction and denial" and must scale up their anti-HIV/AIDS activities exponentially. India needs a comprehensive national effort to stop the spread of HIV and to offer hope to the afflicted.

Guantanamo, Gaza and India

By Rajeev Dhavan

HE AMERICAN Supreme Court's decisions of June 28, 2004, on the Guantanamo Bay detenus merit far greater scrutiny than the generally euphoric applause that has greeted them. Guantanamo Bay is a modern day Star Chamber and medieval Tower of London — all rolled into one. No autocrat could have asked for more. It is an illegal black hole where absolute powers can be exercised absolutely. It is America's Gulag — only recently upstaged by American atrocities in Abu Ghraib and other prisons in Iraq.

In the Guantanamo cases, the lead judgment of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is full of the good phrases that everyone wanted to hear, including sentences like "a state of war is not a blank check for the President" or "essential liberties remain vibrant even in times of security concerns" or the detenus "unquestionably have the right to counsel." These phrases have given the judgment a media tour de force. But while the judgment exposes the arbitrariness of Guantanamo, it goes no further. The majority judgment takes many wrong turns which surface for recognition in the minority judgments.

The Court was concerned with three cases. Adopting the evasive ap-proach invented by the American Supreme Court years ago in Marbury vsMadison (1804), the Court denied relief in the Guantanamo cases to remand the matter to the appropriate forum. Two of the cases — Yaser Esam Hamdi and Jose Padilla — concerned 'foreign origin' U.S. citizens who had been taken out of Guantanamo to be placed in naval custody on the mainland. The third case was a pure Guantanamo case. In Hamdi's case, the 6:3 majority provided the right to counsel permitting a limited future challenge to the legality of the detention in an appropriate forum. By contrast, the minority judgments of Justices David H. Souter, Ruth Bader Ginzburg and Scalia would have released Hamdi immediately. This courage failed the majority.

In Padilla's case, a 5:4 majority held that it was the immediate Commander holding Padilla in detention and not the Secretary of Defence, Donald Rumsfeld, who could be arraigned as responsible. By contrast, Justice Souter's judgment for the minority approved the District Court's finding on Secretary Rumsfeld's "familiarity... and personal involvement in the handling of the Padilla case." The majority seemed to absolve higher-ups in favour of those who put the handcuffs on. So, Padilla has to start afresh after dropping the person truly responsible, Mr. Rumsfeld, from the case.

The Guantanamo Bay majority judgments effectively authorise American forces to detain anyone — innocent or otherwise — in the war zone, leaving them to challenge not the basis but broadly the conditions and length of detention.

The core question before the Court was whether the U.S. administration had the power to detain what it called 'enemy combatants' — a phrase which, according to the Court, eluded exact description. Unable to find a source for such a magnum power of detention, the Court traced the power of detention in the Afghan situation to the Authorisation for use of Military Force (AUMF) Resolution of 2001. But even the AUMF does not authorise 'detention' but merely gives a broad power to use "all necessary and appropriate force"

propriate force" against "nations, organisations and persons" associated with the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Dissenting Justices Souter, Ginzburg and Scalia rightly point to the Constitution and Congress' statutes to underline the most simple of propositions known to every law student that no detention is valid unless it is backed by a clear legal authorisation. Ergo, no law, no authorisation, no detention. The minority would have released Hamdi. The majority condemned him to another round of litigation before the appropriate court to challenge only aspects of the legality of, but not the power of detention.

of, detention.

The idea that an administration can detain people without clear provisions authorising detention is wholly subversive of the rule of law. The Guantanamo Bay majority judgments effectively authorise American forces to detain anyone - innocent or otherwise — in the war zone, declare them to be 'enemy combatants' and interrogate them, leaving them to challenge not the basis but broadly the conditions and length of detention. This effectively confirms the absolutist imperial military power of America to preserve the lawfulness of the legal black hole while allowing some fragments of legality to penetrate its density. Detentions in Guantanamo Bay are lawful. Limited challenges to the legality of time, place and conduct may be permissible.

Normally, courts are very reluctant to interfere with what the military does. But recent judgments show how courts can become the conscience keepers of the army. Even though most of the Israeli Army's military strategies are harsh, Chief

Justice Aharon Barak of the Israeli Supreme Court led the way in putting humanitarian restraints on the Army's manoeuvres. In the Physicians for Human Rights judgment (May 30, 2004), the Court refused to go into military strategy questions of Israel's presence in the Gaza Strip, but directed the provision of water, electricity, evacuation of the wounded, investigations into firing and medical support in the area. On July 1, 2004, in the Boundary Fence cases, the Israeli Supreme Court decreed that 20 miles of security fence through Palestinian land would have to be realestinian land would have to be reale

Palestinian land would have to be rerouted even if it compromised Israeli security because the old route 'severely' violated the freedom of movement and livelihood leaving villages in 'chokehold'.

There are several thresholds of judicial intervention. At the lowest level is the American Guantanamo Bay judgment, which condones and legit imates the unlawfulness of America's military actions while affording a minimal due process. At the next level, come a large number of judg-ments requiring a humanitarian due process from the army. In 1980, the Indian Supreme Court awarded compensation to chastise the army in 'disappearance' cases. NHRC (National Human cases. India's Rights Commission) continues to investigate the Punjab 'disappearance' and canal murder cases. But at a slightly higher level of scrutiny, Indian courts faltered in the Naga Peoples' Move-ment case (1998) to permit 'shoot to kill' powers to the army. Not wanting to upset the applecart on court-martials, in 1990 the Indian Supreme Court refused to require recorded reasons for 'reviews' by army brass in court-martial cases. The second Israeli Boundary Fence judgment takes us to a more exacting level of scrutiny by protecting human rights even where military strategy is involved.

India can learn from the canvass of these decisions. There are grave allegations against the army's brutal violation of human rights. About five years ago, the NHRC called a meeting of the army staff and others. The Chief of Staff and many generals pleaded that the Indian Army does not want the reputation of a transgressor of human rights. Years of discussions between the Indian Army

and the NHRC have yielded dividends. Under the Act of 1993, which constitutes the NHRC, the NHRC cannot investigate the army but has to be content with post-office justifications in writing. In the celebrated Bijbehara massacres (as unjust as Gujarat's Best Bakery case), the NHRC was abruptly denied docu-ments to court-martial proceedings, which acquitted everyone allegedly involved. However on May 27, 2004, the NHRC reported a greater awareness of human rights violations as the Army punished 131 personnel (including officers) for human rights violations including two given life imprisonment, 59 rigorous imprisonment, 11 dismissals, and various othpunishments. These encouraging indications that India's military actions fall under the canopy of human rights and due process.

Let us return to Guantanamo Bay. If 'terrorism' is invasive of human rights, the power to deal with terrorism can subvert the very human rights that counterterrorism measures claim to protect. Apart from national legislation to curb civil freedoms, America has declared itself the most capable imperial military to launch attacks on every state on the basis of over-broaddoctrines of anticipatory self-defence and humanitarian intervention anywhere and every where. In this process, it created the black hole of Guantanamo Bay. People from the 'war zones' could be randomly picked up as 'enemy combatants' and thrown indefinitely into the black hole.

The American Supreme Court had an excellent opportunity to effective ly prevent such military detentions. But the majority judges in the Guantanamo cases blew it. After the Guantanamo judgments, America can randomly pick up supposed 'enemy combatants' to detain and interrogate them. To the extent, that American courts have jurisdiction to consider limited aspects of any detention the judgment deserves some applause. But the applause cannot be full throated. An imperial judiciary has permitted an imperial America to act imperially subject to myopic scrutiny through long-drawn legal processes. The Guantanamo decisions have different meanings for different people. For liberal Americans, some light is shed on a legal black hole. For all of us, America's military powers are enhanced with a thin coat of sugar. For the cause of American civil liberties, these judgments are a step forward. For the rest of us, they leap backwards to legalise the patently unlawful. American justice simply does not offer enough on Guantanamo.



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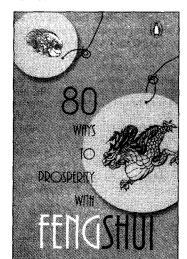
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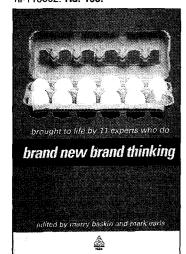
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Brought to Life by 11 Experts Who Do: Merry Baskin and Mark Earls — Editor; Kogan Page India Pvt. Ltd., 2/13, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. **Rs. 195.**



 Profiles of Indian Prime Ministers —
 Pt. Jawaharial Nehru to Dr. Manmohan Singh: Manisha; Mittal Publica-tions, A-110, Mohan Garden, New Delhi-110059. Rs. 695.

 Rise & Fall of Vajpayee Government: O. P. Gupta; Mittal Publications, A-110, Mohan Garden, New Delhi-110059. Rs. 695.

 Prevention of Immoral Traffic and Law: G. B. Reddy; Gogia Law Agency, Opp. High Court, Hyderabad-500002.

• In the Eye of the Storm — The Life of General H Norman Schwarzkopf: Rog-er Cohen, Claudio Gatti; Natraj Publishers, 17, Rajapur Road, Dehradun

 The Citizenship Act 1955 & Rules 1956: Gogia Law Agency, Opp. High Court, Hyderabad-500002. Rs. 170. Court, Hyderabad-500002. Hs. 170.

Benign Flame — Saga of Love: B. S. Murthy; Self Imprint, F-9, Nandini Mansion, 1-10-234, Ashok Nagar, Hyderabad-500020. Rs. 150.

Siva Aeva Karanam — Siva Alone is the Root Cause of This Universe: Rs. 180.

• Srowta Mevahi Dharanam Linga-

sya: Rs. 150. The Greatness and Antiquity of the Neelakanta Bhashyam and Saiva Maha Deeksha Swaroopam: Rs. 200. The above three books translated by A. Subba Rao; copies can be had from Siva Jnana Lahari, D. No. 1-9-1113/30, First Floor, V.S.T. Road, Vidyanagar, Hyderabad-500044.

Tamil

Pugazhalargal: G. Bakthavatsalam; Thirukkural Pathippagam, 66/1, Peri-yar Street, M.G.R. Nagar, Chen-nai-600078. Rs. 50.

 Tamizh Kalanjiyam: T.K.C. Rasika-mani; Mahakavi Bharathi Aranilai, 62, G.V. Residency, Sowripalayam, Coimbatore-641028. **Rs. 50.**

 Sri Bhagayathi Anthathi: Siva Selva raj; Samarasa Suddha Sanmarkha Sathya Sangam, 18-259, Mani Illam Kanyakumari-629702.

Nanyakuman-629/02.

Sarkarai Noi, Eratha Azhuththa
Noyaligalukkaana Sirappu Unavu
Vagaigal: Priya Baalu; Puthia Puthaga Ulagam, 52-C, North Usman Road,
T. Nadar. Chennai-600017 Rs. 50.

ga Ulagarri, 52-C, North Usman Road, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 50. J. Krishnamurthy Yendra Mama-nithar: K. C. Ahahamudainambi; Kumaran Pathippagam, 3, Muthuk-rishnan Street, Near Pondy Bazaar, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 100. Udal Uyir Aathma: G. Johnson; Rs.

Sondhangal: Ummusalma Iqbal; Rs.

Manoragham: Sakthishanthan; Rs.

Manobhavam: Sakthishanthan: Rs

Samarasa Boomi: Jeyakumar Kumarasamy; Rs. 80. The above five books are distributed by llampiral Pathippagam, 32/8 (375), Arcot Road Kodambakkam Chennai-600024

Sakthangal Annathin Vishesham Bojana Vidhigal — Part 3: A. Sub-baraman; Copies can be had from Maharishi Garden, 18A/9, 5th Cross Street, CIT Colony, Mylapore, Chennai-600004.

 Vadu: Priyakumaran; Kaavya, 14. First Cross Street, Trust Puram, Kodambakkam, Chennai-600024. Rs.

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 Sandhyavandhanam — Yajurveda Murai: A. Subbaraman; Copies can be had from Maharishi Garden, 18A/9, 5th Cross Street, CIT Colony, Mylapore, Chennai-600004.

Viviliyat Tamil: A. Alice; Rs. 40.

Baradha Venba: Panditha A. Gopalaivan: Rs. 80.

yan; Rs. 80.

Navalar Na Mu Venkatacami Nattar:
S. Krishnamoorthy; Rs. 50.
Aruntamil Aringnar A. Ca. Na: S. Krishnamoorthy; Rs. 50.
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Aruntamil Nur Kavalar Adikalar: V. R. Madhavan; Rs. 55. The above six books pub. by International Institute of Tamil Studies, Il Main Road, CIT Campus Taramani Chennai-600113

Tamil Studies, Il Main Road, CIT Campus, Taramani, Chennai-600113.

Thodarum Thavippu: Poongueil; Thamizhkulam Pathippagam, New No. 33, Narasimhapuram, Mylapore, Chennai-600004. Rs. 60.

Maranaththirkup Pinnaal — V. R. Krishna lyer: Era. Su. Muthu — Tr. in Tamil; Sura Books (Pvt) Ltd., 1620, J. Block, 16th Main Road, Anna Nagar. Block, 16th Main Road, Anna Nagar Chennai-600040. **Rs. 100.**

Podhu Insuransum Neengalum: P. Anandan; Copies can be had from the author, A6, Raviram Apartments, New No. 75, Arya Gowda Road, West Mambalam, Chennai-600033. Rs. 75.

Iniya Sindanaigai — Parts 1 & 2:

Shantha Varadarajan; Surya & Bros., 3, Station Road, West Mambalam, Chennai-600033. Rs. 70.

Dravida Maayai: Singaravelan; Unarchi Kavignar Pathippagam. 2, Cauvery Salai, Devathanam, Tiruchirapal-ly-620002. **Rs. 100.**

Shri Shreedi Kaavivam: A. S. Vaz hiththunai Raman; Azhagu Pathippa gam, 21, Teachers Guild Colony Rajaji Nagar Extn., Villivakkam, Cher nai-600049. **Rs. 40.**

Kaudilyarin Chanakkiya Neethi Ennum Samooga Arasiyai Nerimuraigal — Artha Sasthiram: P. S. Aacharya; Rs. 120.

 Pathanjali Yoga Suthiram — Eliya Tamizh Vilakkam: P. S. Aacharya; Rs. 110.Jadhaga Alankaram: C. Mahalaksh mi; Rs. 350. The above three books pub. by Narmadha Pathippagam, 10,

Street, T. Nagar, Chen Itham: R. Kannan; Copies can be had from the author, 146, R.K. Mutt Road, Mandaveli, Chennai-600028. Rs. 25.

Vedantamum Naveena Ariviyalum Vedantamum Naveena Ariviyatum:
 Swami Ranganathanandar; Sri Ramakrishna Math, Mylapore, Chennai-600004. Rs. 20.
 Sundara Kadam — Valmiki Ramayana Moolam: R. Sridharan — Compiler;, copies can be had from the author, Swamapuri; Plot No. T-7, I Cross, 46th

Street, Nanganallur, Chennai-600061 • Puratchi Thuravi Ramanujar: G. Ala

wandhar; Rs. 70. Nalam Kakka Vaanga Vazhalam 2: G. Sivaraman; Rs. 50. Pudhumaipiththan Sirukathaigal: S

Subash Chandra Bose; Rs. 75.

• Therdhal Arasiyal: T. Sigamani; Rs 60. The above four books pub. by Pavai Publications, 142, Jani Jan Khan Road, Royapettah, Chennai-600014. Kannada

 Bhasheya Belaku — A Book on Fun damentals of Language: K. L. Gopala Krishnaiah; Navakarnataka Publications P. Ltd., Embassy Centre, Crescent Road, Bangalore-560001. Rs. 70. Asprushyaru-Ondu Parisheelane:

M. Venkataswamy; Navakarnataka Publications Pvt. Ltd., Embassy Cen-Crescent Road, lore-560001.Rs. 70. Gorooru... Nenapugalu: Gorur So-mashekara; pub. by the author; No. 885, 3rd Cross, 8th Main Road, 3rd

Stage, J. Rs. 100. , JP Nagar, Bangalore-560078 Samskritada Moru Meru Krithigalu

A. S. Nanjundaswamy; Rs. 60. Moulyaadhaaritha Jeevana-Gandhi jiyavara Parikalpare: N. Kasturi - Tr.

in Kannada; Rs. 50. Sarojini Devi — Biography in English by Dr. Pramila Lochan: B. Narayanas-wamy — Tr. in Kannada; Rs. 50.

• Vinobha's Hundred Faces: S. Krish naswamy, Savithri Srikantaiah; Rs 50. The above four books pub. by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Gandhi Kendra, 43/1, Race Course Road, Bangalore-560001.

Karnatakadalli Poorva Prathamika

Shikshana: M. S. Talawar; Ullasa Prakashana, L5, Jnana Bharathi, Banore University, Bangalore-560056

 Jivananandara Kavitegalu — Jiva-nananda Das' Bengali Poems: Meera Chakravarthi, M. R. Kamala — Tr. in annada; Rs. 70. Damodar Mauzo's

Award Winning Konkani Novel: S. M. Krishna Rao - Tr. in Kannada; Rs Mahakavi G. Shankara Kurup — M

Leelavathi's English Monograph: N. Damodara Shetty — Tr. in Kannada HS. 29.

Rajanagara — Amiya Bhushan Ma-jumdar's Award Winning Bengali Nov-el Rajnagar: Meera Chakravorty — Tr. in Kannada; Rs. 185. The above four books pub. by Sahitya Akademi, 35, Ravindra Bhavan, Ferozshah Road, New Delhi-110002. EXILE AS CHALLENGE - The Tibetan Diaspora: Dagmar Bernstorff and Hubertus von Welck - Editors: Orient Longman Pvt. Ltd., 3-6-752. Himayat Nagar, Hyderabad-500029.

THE TIBETAN refugees are one of the most resilient and successful refugee groups in the world. Secluded as they were for several centuries in the "roof of the world" with hardly any contact with other societies and cultures, they have in exile successfully adapted themselves to changed circumstances.

Their achievements are remarkable in three facets of life; the community has been able to stand on its feet, economically they are able to maintain themselves and enjoy a standard of living better than the lifestyle of the people in surrounding villages; an educational revolution has taken

From a largely illiterate society, the Tibetans, within two generations, have become a fully literate society; and third is the introduction of democratic reforms

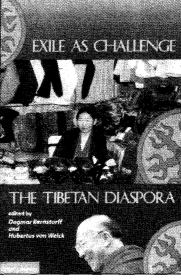
The Dalai Lama, the temporal and spiritual head of the Tibetans, has relinquished his power step by step and has introduced

democratisation in the society. How does one account for the success of the Tibetan community in an alien environment?

First and foremost, the Tibetans are a hard working people. Second, the Tibetan society has been transplanted into South Asia with its own social organisation, its culture and religion and its own leadership.

Tibetan settlements have come up in lands leased to the community by various State Governments where the refugees have rebuilt their lives. This is in sharp contrast to the Sri Lankan Tamil and the Chakma refugees who are settled in provisional camps. Equally important, the Tibetan women work as hard as the men, if not more. Finally, the Tibetans have a natural aptitude for trading.

Social scientists, who have done fieldwork among the Tibetan refugees, are of the unanimous view that the Tibetan experience is a success story. There is very little manifestation of the "dysfunctional behaviour" commonly associated with "refugee syndrome". There is hardly any incidence of internal or external disorder; there had been no reported incidents of



Tibetans in exile

The book is a revised and updated English edition of the German publication Tibet in Exil (Baden and Baden, 2002). Three new chapters have been added. It is a valuable contribution to the growing discipline of refugee

It is instructive because it throws new light on the Tibetan community and New Delhi's policy towards them, in the backdrop of

the twists and changes in India-China relations

The book is divided into three parts. The first part, consisting of six chapters, provides the historical and political framework. It presents an outline of Tibetan history and culture, the issue of Tibetan independence before Chinese occupation and the perceptions of the two major actors, India and

Section two, comprising 13 chapters, entitled "Tibetan Society in Exile", looks at the structures and the institutions the Tibetan community has developed. The last section in six chapters titled "Planning the Return to Tibet" highlights the problems and challenges associated with the return of the Tibetans to their nomeland.

From an Indian point of view, Gvaneshwar Chaturvedi's contribution "Indian visions" is invaluable. He highlights the ambivalence that characterised New Delhi's policy towards Tibet and how the policy underwent changes over a period of time.

In the first phase, New Delhi accepted the status of Tibet as an independent country; it may be recalled that Tibet, along with China, participated in the Asian

Relations Conference in New Delhi in March-April 1947.

In the second phase, Nehru subscribed to the view that Tibet should enjoy a degree of internal autonomy under overall suzerainty of China. In the third phase, Nehru was reconciled to the status of Tibet as a province of China.

The Joint Declaration, after Prime Minister Vajpayee's visit to China in June 2003 where it was stated "the Indian side recognised that the Tibet autonomous region is part of the territory of the Peoples Republic of China" is, therefore, not a new departure; however, the policy is stated more clearly and unambiguously.

In the foreword the Dalai Lama has mentioned the terms and conditions under which the Tibetans would be prepared to return to their homeland. He has characterised his approach as the "Middle Way"

The Dalai Lama is prepared to acknowledge China's interests in Tibet "in the context of genuine autonomy for the Tibetan people that allows for the preservation of our unique cultural heritage and identity." The ball is in Beijing's

V. SURYANARAYAN

Analysis of Left writings on Indian politics

WRITING POLITICS — Left Discourses in Contemporary India: Devesh Vijav: Popular Prakashan Pvt. Ltd., 35-C, Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya Marg, Popular Press Bldg., Tardeo, Mumbai-400034. Rs. 275.

IN THE preface to this book, Devesh words and their relation to the world, world, but also constitute it in complex ways." Words or writing, and ways of dealing with the world or politics, form the basis for his work falling under these labels have on Left discourses in contemporary

Even among the several streams of the Left, there is no consensus on what constitutes a "Left" perspective. Indeed, from the time of Karl Marx, there have been disputes over is often used to describe the relationship of words and ideas to the real

From reflection to mediation to superdeterminism to viewing it as the national and international conpart of one flux, several theories text. abound on the word-world relationconsciousness and action, thought and reality, freedom and constraint. Many of these conflicting versions owe their origin to the vast body of Marx's own work. After all Marx wrote over a period of 40 years, and it is futile to tear out of context

any one explanatory theory. If the work of Marx lends itself to such multiple readings, then the "Marxist" writers can pass almost anything in the name of Left discourse. Almost.

make a contribution. Attempting to

ist writings on contemporary India, production relations and income he first clarifies the differing usages of familiar words. The first hurdle, of course, is in distinguishing the 'Left'

from "socialists" and "radicals". For a start, Vijay sets apart the "Left" as giving explanatory primacy to class, the "socialists" as seeing in Vijay sets this out as his view on caste a defining category, and the "radicals" as constituting an incon-"Words do not merely articulate the gruous mix of humanists, communitarians and postmodernists. However, the author himself notes at the outset that many of the writers

"changed positions over time" or

'expressed varying perspectives in different contexts. The book covers the period between 1984 and 1998, from the assassination of Indira Gandhi to the Bharatiya Janata Party assuming the base-superstructure model that power at the Centre. The rise and fall of the third front, which sought to provide a Left-supported alternative to the Congress and the BJP, and the collapse of the Soviet Union provide

Vijay's own discourse on Left disship or the unity of theory and prax- courses analyses the shifts and ambiguities in the use of dominant categories in Left writing such as "class", "ethnicity" and "culture" from an acknowledged "Left-liberal" position.

In "Class, Economy and Social Formation", the author delineates the movement from a preoccupation with "economic base" to an exploration of cultural and political issues motley group of contemporary involving inequality based on caste, gender and ethnicity too.

According to him, despite many Left writers continuing to insist on This is where Vijay's book seeks to the primacy of the "economic", there is a discernible shift to the analysis of identify the different strands of Left- forms of inequality that go beyond

categories as a predicate of "class". If studies of "class" have generally tended to incorporate divisions of "caste" in some form or the other, they reveal radical differences in dealing with "religion".

The book recognises three types of Left writers, characterised by their approaches to religion; those who are dismissive of religion, those who want to use the potentialities of religion as a popular tradition, and those who want to develop a critique of religion. The last type could bridge the differences between the other two and provide an analytical tool that neither ignores religion nor endorses its negative role as an illusioncreating, reality-masking "opium of

The dilemma of the major Left parties in reconciling their desire for preserving the unity of the Indian state with their demand for state autonomy also receives attention in the book. Vijay notes that in keeping with the changed circumstances, Left writings have shifted in favour of electoral participation and represen tative politics.

the masses"

Liberalisation and globalisation, the development paradigm of the last few years, have also exposed differences within the Left stream. At the same time, there is a consensus on opposing the Hindutva brand of politics and on the goals of equality, social justice, democratic rights and secularism.

As the book makes clear, the theoretical differences, fiercely contested within their own realm, have not threatened the larger goals that mark out the Left parties as the progressive forces of Indian society.

SURESH NAMBATH | Church has supported slavery,

A theological vision of social justice ONE RELIGION OF LOVE: Rs. 90.

THEOLOGY OF A CLASSLESS SOCIETY: Rs. 70. THE SIN OF BEING RICH IN A POOR WORLD: Rs. 60. The above three books authored by Dr.Geevarghese Mar Osthathios: Pub.

by Christhava Sahitva Samithi.

Kurisukavala, Tiruvalla-1, Kerala.

THE THREE monographs under review were published one after another, by way of carrying on the discussion on one subject, that of social justice which the author had initiated in the Indian context.

They contain short chapters on topics such as "The quest for a classless society" and "Amartya Sen's economics". The author, consecrated Bishop in 1975, is a well-known theologian and a former student of Reinhold Niebur and Paul Tillich. Understandably, he has been influenced by the liberal theology of his teachers and this is reflected in his works.

The best among the three titles is the Theology of a Classless Society in which the reader gets introduced the ideas of thir Paul Freire and Dietrich Bonhoeffer and also to Indian theologicans such as V.Chakkarai Chettiar and P.Chenchiah

He points out that in our times many of those who oppose oppression do not realise that they control the means of production and the mass media that help exploitative outfits.

He mentions that some of the greatest Christian hymns were written by slave trading planters aboard the shins that transported the slaves to the U.S. He also says

that in the last 2000 years the

feudalism and capitalism. He argues, quoting Max Weber, that accumulation of wealth in a few hands arose from the protestant work ethics, from Luther and Calvin. Though the Bishop's

ideology is progressive and liberal,

his writings lack focus and force. If one were to trace the main emphasis of his writings it is on a classless society. He points out that capitalism has created an unbridgeable gulf between the employer and the workers and has led to the exploitation of natural resources unto a danger point. The path he shows to a classless society is through parliamentary democracy, legislative activism and

through love. While talking about the possibility of a classless society, he says "any true Christian theology is a theology of a classless society. May be, but he fails to grapple with the issue of caste within the

church. Most Indian theologians have swept this issue under the carpet. In fact one of the failures of the Church in India is that it has failed to address this issue of caste within

the church. One Religion of Love is the translation of his book Munnam Sahasrabdathil Snehathinte Eka Matham (One Religion of Love in the 3rd Millennium). He addresses his books to believers and assumes faith in a transcendental God on the part of the readers. To that extent the appeal of his writings

The books would have done well with some copyediting. Even well known names like Amartya Sen have been misspelt.

will remain limited

S.THEODORE BASKARAN

Biographies in verse ● The Dravidian movement Teachings of Ramana Maharshi ● Voice against apathy

TAMIL

IVARGAL INNAMUM IRUKKINRAARGAL: Kavignar Vali; Vanathi Pathippagam, 23, Deenadayalu Street, T.Nagar, Chennai-600017.

THIS BOOK is a collection of biographical sketches of 100 eminent persons in a rich poetic prose form. They lived in the recent past and are still living with us through their great achievements, spiritual attainments and praise-worthy contributions in different fields. The list includes saints, poets, scholars, writers, cine artistes, journalists, social reformers, politicians and patriots.

Kavignar Vali is one of the most reputed poets in Tamil. The portrayals are eminently readable and enjoyable to the reader. Every chapter is a beautiful piece of art work, which is by itself complete. Vali has closely understood the men of achievements and depicted every one of them in a most impressive manner. The contribution of the portraitist, Ma. Se. especially in this book, is appreciable and

admirable. The volume contains valuable information pertaining to the contemporary history of art, literature and culture on the one hand and religion, philosophy and politics on the other. It may also be considered as a valuable historical document. The author, has applied the best words in the right place. As usual, his language is rich, beautiful, powerful and effective. The book can be read at one stroke.

By producing this wonderful work, the author, publisher and the portraitist have done a great service to the Tamil society. The author deserves praise for this work.

Raman Pillai Street, Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu. Rs. LEVELLING SUBTLE and open criticism of the

Talarchiyum: R. Andi; Oviakil Pathippagam, 51,

DRAVIDA IYAKKAM - Valarchiyum

Dravidian movement, a frank analysis of their prevarications and their precept and practice before and after assumption of power in Tamil Nadu form part of a striking aspect in this book

dom and jumbled, the author in a candid way surveys the circumstances that necessitated the debut of the Dravidian movement, and its subsequent growth and debilitation. Well-focussed are the crucial roles played by E.V. Ramasami (Periyar), one of the stalwarts of the Dravidian movement and the founder of

Though the contents appear somewhat ran-

ter, C.N. Annadurai, in popularising rationalism and waging the struggle for translating the ideals of the Dravidian movement into a reality In a way seeking to downplay the break up of the Dravidian movement spearheaded by the Dravidar Kazhagam founder, "Periyar" E. V. Ramasami, leading to the emergence of parties like the DMK, AIADMK and the MDMK, the

author refers to the inevitability of such splits

and cites the similar fate that overtook the

the DMK, and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minis-

Communist Party and the Congress. Copious are the references to the relentless struggle waged by E.V.Ramasmi to the cause of social justice, upliftment of the oppressed, women's welfare besides the campaign against untouchability and superstitions. Equally touching are the tributes paid to the memory

of Annadurai. R. PARTHASARATHY *MALAYALAM*

VACHANAMRITHAM - Spiritual Talks by Sri Ramana Maharshi: Saraswathy S. Warrier Tr. in Malayalam; DC Books, Kottyam-686001.

THIS BOOK is a compilation of Sri Ramana's DHARTI KA ARTANAD — Collection of Hindi conversations and clarifications given to his Poems: Shiela Gujral; Pub. by Bharatiya

political parties that owe their origin to the disciples and visitors during 1935-39. It is Jnanpith, 18, Institutional area, Lodi Road, New translated from Tamil, the original of which Delhi-110003. Rs. 70. was in English compiled by Munagala Venket-

aramayya. Sri Ramana was born in Thiruchuzhi, near Madurai, on December 30, 1879 and grew up as on ordinary boy. At 12 he lost his father and the family was with his uncle in Madurai.

He heard the name of Lord Arunachala at the age of 16 and soon he set forth to the holy hill place becoming deeply spiritual. He attained self-awareness and shed his ego.

Reaching Arunachaleswara temple in Tiruvannamalai at 17, he is said to have experienced ecstasy and unspeakable joy and went into deep meditation. The book brings out the essential philosoohy of Ramana Maharshi, who loved all living

beings as equal creations of God. Happiness

alone is the cause of love. Mind consists of

thought and thought is the first to arise in the

The process of enquiry is not easy. All disciplines such as breath control and meditation help the mind to become quiescent and onepointed. For that path of knowledge, Self-enjuiry is the principal means. Then the Self shines in splendour. This is realisation and cessation or non-cessation of the body has

nothing to do with the release. The style of translation does not make for easy reading and the nuances of philosophy of the sage do not really come out. It lacks the treatment of the deft blue pencil. A summary of the excellent biography of the sage by T.M.P. Mahadevan would have greatly added to the value of the book.

K. KUNHIKRISHNAN

HINDI

THIS BOOK is a collection of Hindi poems. The poems are classified into three broad categories. The first addresses the mother Earth, her plight and misery as a result of encroachments and plunder by human beings, the second based on individual experience and the third covers aspects of life and behaviour of human

Shiela Gujral's work has largely arisen out of her active involvement with various groups of society. The present work focusses on the violence done to the Earth. The whole issue has been highlighted from a multi-dimensional perspective including the prevailing social, cultural, economic and political systems.

An attempt has also been made to develop innovative practical strategies to ensure the elimination of violence against the Earth.

Her command over the language is very powerful. The second section explores various aspects of the problem.

The poems call for attention not only for the element of suspense, but also for the memorable lines in which she expresses her philosophy of life, her humour and irony. She proves her proficiency in use of suitable words. Her language is conscise and picturesque.

MADHU DHAWAN

Announcement

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to The Hindu for review. While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under "New Arrivals", the decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper. Receipt of individual books will not be acknowledged in response to enquiries.



- Indian Internet Directory 2004 A Comprehensive Guide to Indian Webtes: Pub. by MJ Net Services, 10/2, Primrose Apartments, Jawaharlal Nehru Street, T. Nagar, Chen-nai-600017. **Rs. 300.**
- The Highway: Will Marks; Frog Books, Zzebra Communications, A to Z Chambers, Tamarind Lane, Fort, Mumbai-400023. Rs. 150.
- Multipar-400023. Rs. 150.

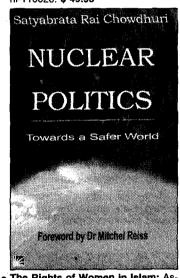
 Natural Therapies to Boost the Mood and Mind: Mim Beim; Unister Books Pvt. Ltd., SCO, 26-27, Sector 34A, Chandigarh-160022. Rs. 195.
- Law of Mines & Minerals: S. A. Chari; Asia Law House, Opp. High Court, Hyderabad-500002. Rs. 1295. • Low-Budget Online Marketing for
- Small Business: Holly Berkley; Uni-ster Books Pvt. Ltd., SCO, 26-27, Sector 34A, Chandigarh-160022. Rs. 135.

 The Instinct to Heal: David Servan-Schreiber; The Book Factory, (A Unit of Diamond Publications), X-30, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase II, New Del-hi-110020. Rs. 195.
- hi-110020. Rs. 195.

 Pata Collecting Methods and Experience A Guide for Social Researchers: Manohar Pawar Editor; New Dawn Press Group, New Dawn Press, 244, South Randall Road, 90 Elgin, IL 60123. £15.

 Another Love, Another Sky: Aruna Jethwani; Sterling Paperbacks, an Imprint of Sterling Publishers (P) Ltd., A-59, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase II, New Delhi-110020. Rs. 150.
- New Delhi-110020. Rs. 150.

 Nuclear Politics Towards a Safer World: Satyabrata Rai Chowdhuri; New Dawn Press (An Imprint of Sterling Publishers Pvt. Ltd.,) A-59, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase II, New Del-hi-110020. **\$ 49.95**

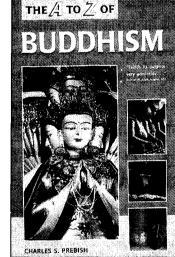


- The Rights of Women in Islam: Asghar Ali Engineer; New Dawn Press Group, New Dawn Press, Inc., 244, South Randall Road, 90 Elgin, IL 60123. £15.
- Due Diligence for Global Deal Making: Arthur H. Rosenbloom — Editor; Vision Books Pvt. Ltd., 24, Feroze Gandhi Road, Lajpat Nagar III, New
- A Hand Book on Law of Insurance: Veerappa Chandran; Yegam Publications, PB No. 2964, 3, Pillaiyar Koil, 2nd Lane, First Floor, Triplicane, Chennai-600005. **Rs. 150.**
- The Jewish Obsession: Soroor Ahmad; Global Media Publications, J-51-A, First Floor, Abul Fazl Enclave, Okhla, New Delhi-110025, Rs. 195,
- Journeys to Freedom Dalit Narra-tives: Fernando Franco, Jyotsna Macwan; Mandira Sen for Samya, an imprint of Bhatkal and Sen, 16, South-
- ern Avenue, Kolkata-700026. Rs. 600.

 Understanding the Muslim Leadership in India: S. Ubaidur Rahman; Global Media Publications, J-51-A, First Floor, Abul Fazl Enclave, Okhla, New Delhi-110025. Rs. 175.

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Critique of nationhood and gender

FROM GENDER TO NATION: Rada Ivekovic, Julie Mostov - Editors; Pub. by Zubaan, an associate of Kali for Women, K-92, I Floor, Hauz Khas Enclave, New Delhi-110016. Rs. 350.

THIS IS a book long overdue and could not have come at a better time. The editors in particular and the authors of different papers in the book have in several ways tried to grapple with two important identity constructions, that of gender and of nation-building.

The book not only brings out very ably the manner in which the relationship between gender and nation-building is constructed but, more important, it underscores very emphatically the point that the problem of patriarchy cannot be solved without undermining the constitution of the nation.

The central argument of the editors (articulated in different ways by other authors) is that, "maintaining patriarchy is not only the wilful activity of (some) men" but that "a gender sensitive analysis of the mechanism of nation and state building is also an analysis of the mechanism of patriarchy." The two processes are however not identical, they move at different speeds; worse, since. very often they are not transparent to each other they end up clashing with one another.

Feminist critiques of the nation offered in the book provide farreaching analyses of the relationships of power involved in the state and nation-building projects; these critiques simultaneously lay bare the fact that, if and when, the nation is no longer able to rely on the hierarchy of gender, "its identity and claim for continuity will be shattered, and with it, a powerful form of domination.'

The collection of articles in the book is based largely on the emerging and still evolving "nations" following the

DIVINE SOVEREIGNTY AND OUR

FREEDOM: Neduntheru S. Kannan

Srinivasa Educational and Social

Main Road, Kottur Gardens

Chennai-600085. Rs. 100.

Trust, D-2, Adyar Apartments, 4th

PHILOSOPHY IS speculation of the

whole Reality by a critical examin-

ation of facts and prevalent doc-

philosophy, especially Vedanta, is

God-centered and encompasses eth-

is also very important. Vyasa's Brah-

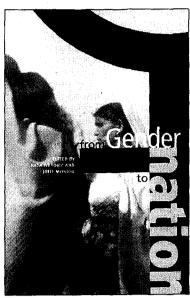
masutra (II.3.4), asserts that human

(God). An interesting question arises;

The ontology of Brahman (or God)

effort is dependent on the Para you reap.

ics, do's and don'ts and faith.



dismemberment of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

Three other articles deal with India, two reflecting on the Partition, while the third analyses the continued attempts to define and redefine the national and the international while keeping intact the essence of "Indian culture"an exercise that "neither addresses the well being of people, nor is determined 'within' the nation, but is increasingly a transnational production that is gendered on both counts — the national and

the transnational.' The introduction provides a brilliant thematic discussion of the several ways in which the central argument of the book is articulated by the different authors. For example, the editors point out how "borders" become significant in the gendering of boundaries and spaces and in the collectivising of 'our women" and "their women".

Women's bodies serve as symbols of the fecundity of the nation and vessels for its' reproduction as well as territorial markers. As markers and as

Guide to spirituality

self-consistent model in this area of

thought. The soul is eternal; it has

rebirth; its action is influenced by

past Karmas. As such, God is said to

Practical illustrations are cited;

guite a few are included in the book

under review. Thus an individual is

prompted by the impact of his own

previous actions, which are similar

to the waves in a sea. As you sow, so

Conscience is God's presence in

man action?'

trines. Western philosophy is an indifferent, then He permits and fi-

"Has man got a free will to act or is he man. Man knows — and ought to

intellectual avocation. But Indian nally He induces.

merely dependent on the sovereign influence of God? What decides huwrong-doing, God then lets him do

Ramanuja's school has devised a that God is unkindly; nor can He be

property, women, as mothers, daughters and wives, require protection of patriotic sons. Thus fantasised, it becomes easy to reinforce sexual imagery and stereotypes - the feminine is passive and the masculine active.

The Motherland provides a passive, receptive and vulnerable image in contrast to the active image of the Fatherland, which is the force behind government and military action - invasion. conquest and defence.

In the same vein, while "our women" are to be revered as mothers (and therefore all women's bodies need to be controlled), the "other's women" are enemies as reproducers, multiplying the number of outsiders and therefore conspiring to destroy "our nation" by their numerous offsprings.

The book offers a rich, but not often lucid, ethno-national discussion of how women can recover and create emancipatory practices by moving away "from history as fatality to history as possibility, from hierarchical community to complex, diverse society.

But this agenda is premised on our understanding and investigation of how nation-states have constituted exclusive national identities through gendered representations, hierarchies and narratives.

The interchangeable use of the terms "feminist critique" and gender analysis" throughout the book, however, is problematic. In the particular context of the book, creating a nation that is gender equal is not just enough but not good at all since the underlying role model for the female is still the male; on the contrary, we need a feminist agenda that is aimed not merely at assimilating but one that can create a world that is worth assimilating into.

PADMINI SWAMINATHAN

and go down in sin and suffer. Not

partial. If one is good and does good,

His vast equipment in religious lit-

erature has helped him produce a

nice guide that is instructive, infor-

mative and elevating. Spiritual seek-

he will go up and God helps.

serve as a moral guidebook.

excellent paperback.

Politics of democracy

MANIFESTO FOR GLOBAL **DEMOCRACY** — Two Essays on Imperialism and the Struggle for Freedom: Arjun Makhijani; The Apex Press (An imprint of the Council on International and Public Affairs), 777, United Nations Plaza, Suite 3C, New York, NY-10017. Price not given.

THE COLLAPSE of the Socialist States in the late 1980s and early 1990s led to much churning and de-bate within Left activists. Many who refused to accept the triumphalism of the liberal-democrats and conservatives, conceptualised forms of anti-capitalist activism which also rejected Communist politics for its alleged lack of democracy.

The book under review by an eminent nuclear scientist and long time peace activist, Arjun Makhijani falls under this category. It is an amalgamation of his earlier book From Global Capitalism to Economic Justice published in 1992 and a long essay titled On Freedom and Equality published this year. It also includes, as an appendix, an essay on restructuring the international monetary system which the author published jointly with Robert S. Browne in World Policy Journal in 1985-86.

The book, written in the format of a classical manifesto, analyses and illustrates the central features of freemarket democracies. It argues that



"capitalism and democracy are as related in the global economy as they (we)re in (apartheid) South Africa. Further, this manifesto lays down what should be the essential features of a true global democracy, both economic and political, and then elaborates the politics needed to achieve

In this manner, man has free will, The author's vision of justice and but he will rise or fall, as he deserves. have a three-phase role. First He is He cannot merely put the blame on freedom draws heavily on the politi-God. The author has marshalled cal legacy and ideas of the three greatest non-Marxist freedom fightts and philosophical concepts to ers of the last century - Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela. He sees in their politics the possibility of overcoming the glaring inequalities engendered by global capitalism, while at the ers will stand to benefit from this same time avoiding the pitfalls of Marxist politics, namely lack of free-V. N. VEDANTA DESIKAN dom and totalitarianism.

The inequalities generated by capitalism are illustrated well and are shown to be endemic to the system. One of the strongest parts of the book is where Makhijani argues against the view that democracy and capitalism are partners in human

He persuasively explains that global capitalism is necessarily based on a political system which denies freedom and basic human rights to the overwhelming majority of the world's population living in the under-developed and developing countries, while at the same time giving democratic freedom to people in the developed capitalist countries.

He draws parallels between this unequal global system and the apartheid system in South Africa saying that apartheid replicated "inside the borders of one country" the system of inequality which works on a global scale between countries under capitalism.

He argues that only with the use of open and massive coercion can this highly unequal system function. This coercion is crucial to the working of capitalism and therefore should properly be labelled a "War system". This War system is headed by the U.S. which has the strongest economy and the mightiest military of global capitalism. He urges that this system is a threat to the very existence of humanity and needs to be replaced by a global peace system.

Ideas of activists like the author have enriched the politics of democracy and have been vital contributors to the rise of myriad social and political movements in all parts of the world. Unfortunately, many of these ideas and politics have lacked theoretical rigour and programmatic coherence, the great strengths of Marxist inspired politics. This manifesto too suffers from a similar drawback. It vacillates between a trenchant critique of "imperialism" and support for the Left-wing of the Democratic Party of the U.S.

On the one hand, it exposes the inherently destructive nature of Trans-national corporations, while on the other, it considers workers participation in the management of Japanese corporations as an example of economic democracy. It confuses between private property and personal property in its economic analysis. While it critiques both capitalism and socialism for ignoring the nonmonetised labour of women, it proposes a system of international monetary exchanges which solely depends on monetised labour.

It critiques the current U.S. "War on Terror" in Afghanistan and Iraq as an inevitable symptom of the War system, but at another point gives a completely utilitarian and law-andorder driven alternative to stopping terror attacks on the U.S. These, unfortunately, overshadow the strength of the book - its insights into the working of global capitalism and its military machine, "The War system".

ANIKET ALAM

Art of translation Novel depicting social ethos Namboodiripad's writings Oriya short stories

TAMIL

MOZIPEYARPPU NUTPAM ORR ARIMUGAM The Art of Translation: An introduction: E. Murugaiyan; Kumaran Puthaka Illam, 3, Meykai Vinayakar Street, Kumaran Colony, Vadapalani, Chennai-600026. Rs. 85.

IT LOOKS as though we can never have grammars for poetry and translation. One has to draw inspiration from planes beyond mental consciousness to come out with a good poem or a correct translation. However, there can be guidelines to smoothen the work on hand and that is exactly what the author has done.

Aspiring translators trying to bridge Tamil and other languages will find this book fully justifying the sub-title "an introduction." For those who are engaged in translating documents for official purposes, the book will provide invaluable help. Each language has its own genius ignited through handling it down the centuries, and hence words become important components in any work.

The author patiently teaches the aspirant how to respect the words in a language and the easy ways of using a dictionary or a thesaurus for the purpose. There are then the idioms and proverbs which call for cultural translation since literal translation would be invited disaster. The placements of adjectives need careful consideration so that violence is not done to the significance of the original.

Naturally, translation does call for a certain amount of linguistic flexibility, and an import of foreign terms often becomes a necessity. As long as this element does not overwhelm the genius of the original, it may be welcomed. The author also welcomes the increased turn towards the English language in the context of the globalisation scenario.

At the same time he warns that this should

not lead to rejecting one's own linguistic heritage, a kind of "selling oneself". He calls for encouraging multi-lingualism in the present context, while giving precedence to mastering one's mother-tongue. A seasoned approach to the translation scenario today, this work is also enriched by a

note on the history of translation in the Tamil

with

context beginning

Marakkavar.

PREMA NANDAKUMAR

Seethakathi

TANDU - Kannada Novel "Datu" by S.L. Pyrappa: Sesha-Narayana — Tr. in Tamil; Sahitya Academy, C.I.T. Campus, T.T.T.I. Taramani, Chennai-600113. Rs. 350.

THIS NOVEL brings alive the urban-rural scene around Bangalore and Tumkur in Karnataka where age-old traditions of temple-worship and ingrained social customs jostle with the reformist sense of democratic equality and Gandhian social uplift.

The story revolves round inter-caste marriage between the daughter of a temple priest and son of a politician. The enraged father of the girl goes to Bangalore where she is a college-lecturer and thrashes her till she bleeds with wounds; the father of the boy fears the loss of his community votes and the mother dreads the divine displeasure that will bring ill-effects. The boy gets unnerved and is dissuaded from the marriage and he is married to the daughter of a politician of the same

community. The bride however dies in illness contracted during the delivery of her child. He is free to seek the hand of the priest's daughter again. Meanwhile she turns into a woman of ascetic maturity. The priest's daughter advises her former lover to marry a Harijan girl (daughter of a Gandhian who is a friend of the family) work-

ing as a teacher but this is scuttled by the girl. The story interest is diversified by the author's lively descriptions. The novel ends abruptly with a flood engulfing the village. We have here a slice of contemporary Kannada life with its inhibitions and tensions and this makes it worth reading. The translation preserves the narrative flow.

MALAYALAM

EMSINTE SAMPOORNA KRITIKAL — Volumes 29 and 30: Edited by P. Govinda Pillai, Chintha Publishers, Thiruvananthapuram. Rs. 100 each.

THE VOLUMES under review contain E. M. S. Namboodiripad's speeches and writings during the period from September 1961 to January 1964. The lack of sincerity in the Congress's socialistic professions and the Centre's neglect of Kerala were among his major themes. With the CPI-led farmers' union launching agitations in support of its charter of demands and the party extending support to illegal encroachers resisting eviction, he wrote copious- was alive (in the story "Krur") or Narangi get-

to the achievements of his short-lived ministry. which was dismissed by the Centre in 1959, dwelling in particular on its efforts to help tenants and farm workers. He was unsparing in his criticism of the Congress-Praja Socialist Party Government that came to power in the State in the 1960 elections.

He relentlessly exposed the internal dissensions that hampered the government's smooth functioning. He also commented on major foreign developments like the assassination of Patrice Lumumba and the growing U.S. influence on Europe.

It was a period of schism in the international Communist movement. The ideological warfare between the Soviet and Chinese parties precipitated a deep division in the CPI. The border conflict between India and China added to the CPI's woes. In an attempt to avert a split, the party reorganised its set-up. S. A. Dange became its chairman, and EMS was appointed general secretary. However, EMS soon resigned the post because of differences with

The volumes contain little material that throws light on these momentous developments. In the introduction to Volume 30, the editor acknowledges that this is a grave weakness. "This weakness is not something that can be fully remedied," he says, "Although from the beginning EMS took an impeccable stand on the India-China dispute, he did not write anything during this period beyond making some press statements and speeches." He offers no explanation for the absence of material on the issues involved in the acrimonious Si-J. PARTHASARATHI no-Soviet ideological dispute.

B. R. P. BHASKAR HINDI

NIRUTTAR — Oriya Short Stories by Pratibha Ray: Dr.Rajendra Prasad Mishra — Tr. in Hindi; Published by Bharatiya Jnanpitha 18, Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New

Delhi-110003. Rs. 85. THIS BOOK is a Hindi translation of Pratibha Ray's 10 stories in Oriya which take man, his family and his relations as nodal points and thus traffic in essentially human feelings and emotions mired in quotidian details. Sumati loudly bemoaning the sudden demise of her husband whom she cursed everyday when he

ly on the agrarian situation. He drew attention ting worried when her drunkard husband turns over a new leaf and stops beating her (in "Narangi") or Ambika ostensibly shattered by Sarojini's death but privately consulting a voodoo-man to exorcise fear of her ghost (in "Main") — these little quirks of human behaviour invest Ray's stories with an unfamiliar charm.

> The opening story "Paduka-pujan", an emotion-filled one is about the joint family system while "Ketaki-ban" is a sweet nostalgic throw back to an inchoate affection between a tutor and his girl-pupil who meet after more than three decades. Marital discord especially in lower class seems to be a pet theme of Ray and while dealing with that she paints the woman in earthy and realistic colours focussing on all

> the sacrifices she makes for the sake of family. "Aaankhen" is a haunting story where the perfectly sane woman is packed off to a loony bin and her son comes looking for her and ends up in the juvenile ward there! But the writer is not always biased against men; in "Dhun" it is the woman who breaks up the family. "Moksha" is very unusual in its theme portraying the relationship between two aging

persons in a lonely house. While "Anath" is more of a sketch with rich symbolism, "Niruttar", the title story throws up a number of questions about a man's personal and social responsibilities while detailing the turmoil of a man in the wake of a midnight call from the police station to come and identify a

dead body. The stories at times suffer from inept endings. Unnecessary comments from the writer mar the flow of the narrative too. The translation though competent sacrifices fluency and flair for regional flavour with use of a few words which are typical of Oriya but not common in Hindi.

BIBHUTI MISHRA

Announcement

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to The Hindu for review. While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under "New Arrivals", the decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper. Receipt of individual books will not be acknowledged in response to enquirier

BOOK REVIEW Virtual mys

Contemporary developments in Asia

ASIA ANNUAL, 2003: Mahavir Singh — Editor; Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata, and Shipra Publications, 115 A, Vikas Marg, Shakarpur, Delhi-100092.

Rs. 550.

THIS VOLUME is the fourth issue of the multi-disciplinary annual publication of the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata. The current issue is relatively richer in content both in terms of the areas covered and the regions from which the contributors are drawn.

In addition to well-known Indian specialists in international relations, contributors include scholars from China, Japan, the U.S., Mauritius and Indian scholars based in Australia and Russia. The 19 articles cover a wide range of subjects — cultural, economic, political, educational and security issues.

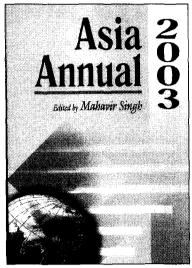
The focus of the annual is mainly on the contemporary developments in neighbouring Asian countries. Analytical articles dealing with the role of the Pakistani army by scholar-diplomat G. Parthasarathy; Indo-Pakistan relations in the changing strategic scenario by Jayanta Kumar Ray; turbulent domestic developments in Nepal by N.K. Jha and the significance of India's "Look East Policy" by S.D. Muni are important highlights of the issue. As usual Central

Asia and Eurasia are dealt with exhaustively and there are good contributions by Devendra Kaushik, Poonam Mann, Suchananda Chatterjee and Anita Sen Gupta.

Special mention should be made of two articles devoted to culture; "The Gita in Urdu" by Rafiq Zakaria and "The One and the Many — Dialogue among Cultures" by well-known German scholar, Helga Zeppe-LaRouche. Readers familiar with the problems of Indian communities settled abroad would find the contributions of Sarva Daman Singh, Satteeanund Peerthum and Satyendra Peerthum interesting.

The annual is also enriched by two other good articles, one on India's development as a knowledge society by K. Venkatasubramaniam and the second Bush War and the aftermath by well known specialist in international law V.S. Mani.

In a brief review, it will not be possible to discuss all articles, but three of them will be of great interest. In the present context of India-Pakistan rift and growing Hindu-Muslim differences, Rafiq Zakaria's article comes as a whiff of fresh air. One of the accusations made against the Indian Muslims is that they live in isolation like frogs in the well; they neither make efforts nor have they shown any interest to understand



and absorb the rich cultural and religious traditions of the Hindus.

In a pointed reference to the Muslim community, the former Deputy Prime Minister, L.K. Advani once asked whether there is any good work on the Gita in Urdu language. There was no reply from the audience. But Zakaria has exploded this myth. With facts and figures, he has described the contributions of Muslim scholars, through the ages, in this fascinating area.

Translations are to be found both

in prose and poetry. In a national seminar on the Gita organised by the Department of Urdu in Bombay University, references were made to the contributions made by Urdu scholars. The beauty and grace of the sacred text comes out vividly in the poem written by Hasrat Mohani, "Every note of Krishna's flute, is, indeed, a message of eternal life."

Former High Commissioner to Pakistan, G. Parthasarathy has provided an analytical account of the role of the armed forces in the domestic politics and foreign policy of Pakistan. He quotes General Pervez Musharraf, who soon after the Lahore Summit, rubbished the Summit as nothing but "hot air". Musharraf pointed out that India will remain a "hegemonistic" power and "low intensity conflict" with India would continue even if the Kashmir issue were resolved.

Following the ouster of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the subsequent disintegration of the Soviet Union, General Musharraf and the Pakistani army believed that jihad and appeal to militant Islam are essential tools in the pursuit of strategic objectives. It is no surprise, therefore, that in Kashmir the ISI has sought to attain its objective of "bleeding India with a thousand cuts" through violence in the garb of

jihad by extremist Wahabi oriented groups like the Jaish-e-Mohammed, the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen and the Lashkar-e-Taiba.

Parthasarathy has described the perquisites and privileges the armed forces enjoy during their service career as well as in their retired lives. The result is, as he has written, "while most armies exist for the security of the State, it would not be incorrect to assert that in Pakistan the State exists for the security of the army."

S.D. Muni has analysed the challenges and opportunities of India's "Look East Policy". Geographical proximity, India's abiding cultural contributions to the region, shared historical heritage and strategic and economic convergence have brought the two regions closer.

It is also interesting to note that India's Look East Policy gathered momentum at a time when Southeast Asian countries were looking for multiple options in their foreign policy. While India has made commendable progress in its Look East Policy, it must be stated that there is a long way to go and lot of potentials remain untapped. *Asia Annual 2003* is a good reference tool for all students of Asian affairs.

V. SURYANARAYAN

The informal sector

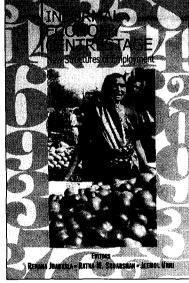
INFORMAL ECONOMY
CENTRESTAGE — New Structures
of Employment: Renana Jhabvala,
Ratna M. Sudarshan, Jeemol Unni —
Editors; Sage Publications India Pvt.
Ltd., B-42, Panchsheel Enclave, New
Delhi-110017. Rs. 495.

THE INFORMAL sector holds an important position in the economy of several countries, especially the less developed ones. Though it has been in existence for a very long time, its visibility occurred as late as 1970 when Keith Hard did a study of the labour market in Accra, Ghana for the ILO and the term "informal sector" was coined. It appeared as a residue of the formal sector, which is regarded as the mainstay of the economy.

It was then believed that as these countries develop, their formal sectors would expand and the informal sector would be absorbed in it. In other words, street vendors would be replaced by departmental stores and casual labour would be absorbed as permanent labour. This was mere optimism. It so happens that the informal sector has continued to grow even in the developed countries and there are no signs of its abatement.

In India 93 per cent of the working population is engaged in the informal sector and only recently has the government shown some interest in tackling the problems of the workers in this sector. This book is an important contribution to understanding the dynamics of this sector.

The case for a better understanding of this sector can be focussed in many ways. One can impress upon its vast numbers, and how it is important for providing employment to a large section of the working pop-



ulation. One can also build up a case on the basis of poverty and helplessness of the workers involved, the need for government intervention to protect them. The purpose of this book is different.

The contributors do talk of numbers and the problems of measuring this economy, but they do not advocate sympathy for these low paid workers just because they are poor. Instead, the book forcefully puts forth the argument that this sector is a major contributor to the country's development and it should be recognised as such.

In the opening chapter, Sudarshan and Unni state that the informal economy "creates productive work, self and wage employment; creates value added through production of goods and services; creates savings and investment which is eventually

converted to capital formation; and provides revenues to the government through taxes." Therefore this is not merely a sector of poor people who deserve our sympathy. It is a dynamic sector that contributes to the growth of the economy in several ways.

In fact Renana Jhavala argues in the concluding chapter that protection and security to the informal sector workers is a matter of their right borne out of their contribution to the economy and not a sign of charity to the poor.

The book contains eight chapters dealing with different aspects of the informal sector. The first chapter explores the dimensions of the informal economy and the problems faced in measuring it.

The other chapters deal with income, employment, gender and poverty, volume of manufacture, savings generated from this sector and insurance schemes for the workers.

After going through the book one gets a holistic view of the informal economy. Each chapter is well researched and the methodology is explained clearly. It is evident that the editors have taken great pain in ensuring the quality of the articles included.

The book is undoubtedly an important contribution to the study of the informal sector. Its methodology will be useful for researchers intending to do further research on the topics covered.

It also contains a lot of valuable quantitative data that the authors have sifted from different surveys and the census. It will be of interest not only to academics and planners but also to NGOs and trade unions.

SHARIT K. BOWMIK

Essentials of Hinduism

HINDUISM REDISCOVERED: Anbil Ramaswamy; copies can be had from the author, 25 (22), 2nd East Park Street, Prithvipakkam, Ambattur, Chennai-600053. Also at Sri Nrisimha Priya, 30, Venkatesa Agraharam, Mylapore, Chennai-600004. Rs. 480.

THIS BOOK, a collection of articles contributed earlier by the author, presents the evolution of Hinduism and more particularly Vaishnavism.

Starting with a description of the Vedas and the Upanishads, the author goes on to the Smritis dealing with the code of conduct for daily life and the Pui mas; and explains the three philos phical categories: sentient, non-satitent and Isvara. After elaborating a Para Brahman, Lord Narayana, I is characteristics, His five forms a the Karmatt including to summum bonum, liberation.

Next come an analysis of duties. ways of good living e four stages of life. obligations a of a man and Karma, Jnana, nakti Yogas and Prapatti (Self-sur nder) are then discussed and the process, a of the contents of chapter-wise g. Sara, the magnum the Rahasyatray opus of Vedant. Desika, all aspects of Prapatti and he mystic and abstruse meanings of the three secret

mantras of Vaish lavism, are given.
This is followed by a brief sketch of the Azhwars and their works and Acharyas like Nathamuni, Alavandar, Ramanuja and Vedanta Desika, and their contribution to Vaishnavism. The differences between the three major systems of philosophy, Advaita, Visishtadvaita and Dvaita, are next dealt with and the book concludes with a description of the evolution and devolution of matter and

Extensive quotations from western scholars and scientists, given at appropriate places throughout are

very apt and lively. The esoteric significance of idol worship, performance of rituals and Karma theory, the specialities of Hinduism, which attract frequent criticisms from other religionists, have been well explained by the author.

The real-life situations and incidents narrated every now and then, to supplement the topic presented, add spice and help a clearer understanding. The book also serves as a practical guide for good living and high thinking and will be useful in the present-day world of fast life, full of tensions.

A few factual mistakes have crept into the life history of Ramanuja. Peria Nambi and not Tirukkachi Nambi took Ramanuja to Srirangam to meet Alavandar. Ramanuja, to fulfil the wishes of Andal, offered sweet rice to the Lord at Tirumalirum Cholai (Azhagar Koil) and not at Srivilliputtur. Alavandar's son Chottai Nambi was not Ramanuja's disciple, but Nambi's grandson was.

While mentioning about Nadadur Azhwan, the biographical data of his grandson Nadadur Ammal have got mixed up. Referring to Vedanta Desika, the honorific "Kavitarkika Simham" was proffered by Desika's contemporary scholars and not Appayya Dikshita, who came three centuries later.

The explanations for "Pancha Mahayajna" and the three stages of Bhakti like "Para Bhakti" are not quite correct. There are quite a few mistakes throughout, while transliterating Sanskrit words into English like "Chandokya" for "Chandogya".

This comprehensive and fairly extensive volume is a noble attempt to present the essentials of Hinduism and Vaishnavism and the author has to be congratulated for succeeding in his mission.

V.N. GOPALA DESIKACHARIAR



 Indian Epistemo Jy: A Suguna; Copies can be had meth Street, Chen-23, Somasund-75, nai-600023. Fics and Machinery:
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P. Stass/24, Ansari Road, DaryaLtd.New Delhi-110002, Rs. 110.

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Ini-110020. Hs. 190.
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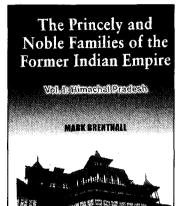
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People-Delight — Innovative Ideas to Motivate Your Team: Rajiv Khurana; Vision Books Pvt. Ltd., 24, Feroze Gandhi Road, Lajpat Nagar III, New Delhi-110024. Rs. 125.
Divine Sovereignty and Our Freedom: Neduntheru S. Kannan; Srinivasa Educational and Social Trust, D-2, Advar Apartments. Fourth Main Road.

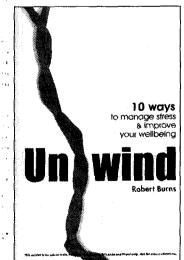
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Deutschmann; Rs. 450.

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nai-600033. Rs. 50. Tamil Cinemavin Parimanangal: Vittal Rao; Nizhal, 31/48, Rani Anna Nagar, K.K.Nagar, Chennai-600078. **Rs.** 100.

Kannada

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Samudaya Sanghatane: H. M. Marulasiddaiah; Rs. 80. The above four books pub. by IBH Prakashana, No. 645/6, 10th B Main, Fourth Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560011.

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galu: K. Srikantaiah; Sahitya Mandi, Bangalore-560019, Rs. 160.

Essays on globalisation ECONOMIC JUSTICE, GLOBALISATION AND QUIEST FOR Phasises the need for justice and inclusiveness as the corner stones of local plan for global justice

ECONOMIC JUSTICE, GLOBALISATION AND QUEST FOR ALTERNATIVES: M. A. Oommen: Konark Publishers Pvt. Ltd, A-149 Main Vikas Marg, Delhi-110092.

IN THE foreword to this book the former Prime Minister, I. K. Gujral says; "The dangers of decoupling of relations between production and finance and the close nexus between transnational capital and transnational banking in facilitating the hyper mobility of finance capital in search of quick profit and in the process reordering the world economic relations have gone too far to be ignored... It appears expansion and exclusion can coexist." These sentences sum up the 10 essays brought together in the volume.

At the outset the author argues that if the economy is viewed as society's arrangement to provision the material needs of its members, economics, the science that deals with that arrangement cannot concentrate on growth alone ignoring or neglecting the distributional aspect. That contemporary globalisation with its exclusive concentration on profit and growth that benefits one section of the population, national and global, also brings misery to another, is the author's thesis.

Further, he shows that the relentless pursuit of profit and growth destroys the environment also. Some of these contentions have been and will be contested, but in each one of the sub-themes that he deals with the author pursues the argument with clarity. His concern for the wretched of the Earth and for the Earth itself comes out in all the essays. The defi-drives the rapid spread of globalisanition of globalisation as " a process tion. The quest for alternatives em-

Economic Justice, Globalisation and Quest for (\bigcirc) Alternatives

of transnationalisation of capital and production based on a single global logic of exchange" maintained holds the throughout together.

The sub-themes are: the nature and functioning of transnational corporations and international institutions dealing with capital, currencies and trade; the crisis of national sovereignty in the context of global economic integration; reforms in the financial sector and banking operations; globalisation and poverty; ecexpansion

environmental deterioration. In dealing with these diverse topics the author exposes some exaggerated claims about the market, competition and efficiency and brings out the power of ideology that currently

inclusiveness as the corner stones of a new social and economic order and suggests that "an appropriate mix of Marx and Gandhi has both theoretical appeal and pragmatic relevance.'

The essays were written over a decade from 1992 to 2001, most of them in the first half of that period. Apart from the fact that some arguments and quotations get repeated, there is the more serious limitation that the information and data are dated. Any collection of data-based essays written over a period of time will face this problem, but globalisation of the past couple of decades has been something of a galloping phenomenon and perceptions and positions have been changing rapid-

Witness, for instance, how rapidly the U.S. till recently the major champion of globalisation, has come to view it with suspicion as business process outsourcing has become a common practice among corporates. However, for those who wish to be informed about the early days of the Indian economy's globalisation process and issues related with it this volume has much to offer.

The theoretical stance of the author is a critique of the dominant neo-classical paradigm which champions the unhindered working of the market. The critique is, on the whole, well founded, but the author goes overboard when he says; "I venture to hypothesize that the ongoing struggle for cultural identity including religious fundamentalism is due to the moral and cultural emptiness of the neo-classical paradigm of development.

C. T. KURIEN

Historical overview of Chennai

CHENNAI THROUGH THE AGES: P. Rajaraman; Poompozhil Publishers, No. 7, 20th East Street, Kamaraj Nagar, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai-600041. Rs. 300.

BEFORE the British, there was no Madras. After Madras, there grew the India of today. It is a story still awaiting full-length documentation. Rajaraman's slim volume adds just another chapter to the narration various writers have done to date.

Talboys Wheeler's Madras in Olden Time traces the story from the city's founding in 1639 A. D. to 1748 A. D. in some detail, using a wealth of East India Company records. Col. Henry Davison Love in 1913 A. D. took the narration up to 1800 A. D. in Vestiges of Old Madras, using the same sources but offering greater detail in three volumes.

Then to celebrate the Tercentenary of Madras, C.S. Srinivasachari, benefiting from Wheeler and Love, re-told the story up to 1800 A.D. then proceeded the story up to 1900 A.D. and from there up to 1939 A.D. providing in his original contribution a rather cursory overview but yet the best we have till today of this period.

The reviewer's Madras Rediscovered owes much to all these three diligent recorders of the past as well offer a history of the city; rather, it might have contained.

pays greater attention to its institutions and landmarks that are symbols of its growth and importance.

The latest contribution in this line is from Rajaraman, who unlike the rest, takes time to look at the history of the region (Tondaimandalam) before Madras and the political scene in the city in the 20th Century, but, though the first publication of the book was in 1997, stops the story with the DMK coming to power in 1967. He then adds a postscript looking at Chennai's post-Independence problems — population, the slums, its waterways, the traffic, urban congestion and the rising cost of living.

These chapters, "new" in any history of Madras, are what could have been the most valuable chapters of the book, but they are, regrettably, only outlines. I hope they are the outlines for what will be a definitive work on the city. The Tondaimandalam chapter is basically a listing of successive rulers of the region based on inscriptions found in temples in the region or in "digs".

The author lists inscriptions found in Velacheri, Padi, Tiruvottriyur, Poonamallee, Triplicane and Santhome referring to the reign of Rajaraja Chola in the area from 995 A. D. to 1010 A.D., but offers no informaas several others, but really does not tion about what these inscriptions

Rather more comprehensive are two chapters on the period from the birth of the Indian National Congress and the Justice Party to the emergence of the DMK and its attaining power. But their brevity only whets he appetite for more.

The history of Tondaimandalam goes into the first half of a second chapter, the second half of which is devoted to "the advent of the Europeans" till the time of Sir Thomas

Surely such a well-documented period deserves more, particularly a detailing of its latter period, from Munro to the governorships of Arthur Hope and Archibald Nye, a 120year period? As it is, this period does not exist in the book except for the survey of rising Indian nationalism during the latter part of it.

Despite its omissions and lack of ed to all those interested in the city and to every institution concerned with teaching its students the history of Chennai. There are, at least, here, the bare facts on which everyone can and needs must — build with a little effort. Without those facts we would never be able to develop a biography of the city, a biography that would reflect the history of Madras that is Chennai.

THE AGE OF CONSENT - A Manifesto for a New World Order: George Monbiot; HarperCollins, 1 A. Hamilton House, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001. Rs. 250.

THERE IS a dilemma all of us who criticise things face, whether injustice in India or Bush's assault on Saddam or other such subjects. This dilemma: what do we do? I get asked this often, and often don't have much of an answer. "Raise awareness" or "be the change you want to see" are good as mantras, but there's something unsatisfying about them. They don't seem concrete enough; perhaps they smell of an essential vagueness

We all wish the world could be a better place, preferably here and now. Yet, few of us are likely to pick up a gun and go about shooting bad guys. So how do you bring about change, real change? George Monbiot thinks about this question too, and this book is his

This is his articulation of the way forward: an explicit articulation that goes beyond the protests of Seattle and Genoa, past the talkfests of the World Social Forum (WSF). Indeed there is a great deal of talk, even a cacophony, in what the author calls the "movement" the forces that drive events like the WSF. Infinite and diverse voices are its strength, but they are also its ball-and-chain, slowing any concerted move to fashion society on newer, more just lines.

Monbiot wants to cut through that. He starts with solidarity for the movement, recognises that it taps some very real discontent. But he tries to show that there are ways to turn angst and anger into reality - the new world order that the movement yearns for.

Sure, it will be a long and bitter fight — those entrenched in the current world order will hardly roll over and make way - but Monbiot's thinks it best to set out the terms of the fight and then get to it. And in a sense that is the greatest virtue of this book, that it lays down the lines of battle, spells

This is a book waiting for someone to say, like a brave heart did on one of the 9/11 planes, "Let's roll!" The author's details of plan are best discovered in his book. But here are just two points that struck the reviewer about it. One — he advocates the use of

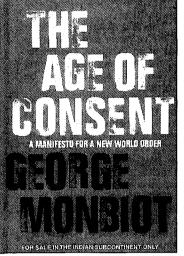
an unconventional, yet immensely powerful weapon. "How do we overthrow the system which works for the powerful," he asks, "and replace it with one which works for Answer: "The very injustice of

the existing system ... has provided the poor nations with the weapon required to overturn it. That weapon is their debt. In other words, the spiral of

S. MUTHIAH indebtedness that so many

developing countries are sucked into must be seen not as an enormous liability, but as an asset. This makes sense, if you are willing to see it that way. I once got out of a loan I could no longer hope to pay, by doing two things; first, stopped the monthly payments so the bank realised something was

Second, offered them this deal -I would pay a portion of the amount owed if they let me off. Either that, or I would default on the whole amount. They took the deal. We automatically think there is something unethical about not paying debts. But really, debt is a sword that cuts two ways.



Monbiot says that it must be used like that. Enormous debts, he, suggests, mean "the poor world owns the rich world's banks." And it is time the poor world used that power to shape the world to its

This is the spirit of Monbiot's action plan; unconventional ways of looking at the world, lateral thinking if you like, that in turn offer ways to change the world. The second point running

through the book is an assumption about this "poor world", that it seeks common purpose in a monolithic way. Yet to me this is the weak link in Monbiot's thesis.

What is the evidence that the 'poor" nations have ever sought this common purpose that they will in the future? Are Liberia and Sierra Leone, or India and Laos, likely to join hands on anything, let alone do unified thinking on debt?

He himself clearly has doubts. The world's poor, he tells us. should understand that "unless they act in concert they may as well not act at all." But have they understood that? Have any of us? Will we? No, from where I am

Applaud the author's passionately argued case, sure, and bravo to his many thoughtful insights. But I am too cynical to believe this "concert" will play any time soon. Though perhaps all it needs is for someone to say, "Let's

DILIP D'SOUZA

• Lectures of J.Krishnamurti • Sri Lankan Tamil communities Ancient management precepts Famous speeches

brand.

TAMIL

VANMURAIKKU APPAAL — Beyond Violence: J. Krishnamurti; Translated by N. Ramachandran; Narmadha Pathippagam, 10, Nana Street, Pondy Bazar, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 100.

THE 20TH Century was a glorious time for the spread of Indian spirituality abroad. The West has always drawn from Indian philosophy. Twentieth century has been a different story. Buddhism and Vedism have been merrily abroad. But violence continues to stalk mankind. J. Krishnamurti did his best to spread awareness for peace through his lectures in the West (the U.S., England, Rome). N. Ramachandran has done well to translate an anthology of lectures delivered in the West, which has been

published in English as Beyond Violence. Krishnaji almost always appealed to the mind of his listeners. He was never in favour of a rigid methodology. One could of course make use of impulses from nature but intuitive leaps were not given importance in his philosophy. Consciousness was vast and it was silly to compartmentalise it in any manner whatsoever. Think for yourself! Once we start to think about violence it becomes clear that it is the ego that propels us towards violence. Is it enough to know the disease? How about the remedy?

The reasoning of Krishnaji contained an amount of disarming tactics. When he says violence and love are but the same power, there is nothing more to be said. This experience of the totality as One which wipes out differences by transcending the self is the mystic's finest flight. Unless there is such a freedom from all categories of human behaviour, violence would remain vibrant as ever among mankind.

Genuflecting to an ideal, again, was not the way of Krishnaji, as that too would breed violence. It may be easily seen from the above that translating Krishnaji is no joy-ride. What a pleasant surprise that Ramachandran has done no violence to the original and made all the talks (on subjects ranging from freedom and religion to meditation) come alive in the soft tones with which Krishnaji enchanted his listeners whether they were seated under the banyan tree at Adyar or in a conference room from the passions of the world. PREMA NANDAKUMAR

ILANKAI-T-TAMIZHAR DESA-VAZHAMAIKALUM SAMUHA

VAZHAMAIKALUM: C. Pathmanathan; Kumaran Book House, 3, Meigai Vinayagar Street, Kumaran Colony, Vadapalani, Chennai-600026, Rs. 200. SRI LANKA was under the Portuguese and

Dutch rulers in the 17th and 19th Centuries before the British took over and the old records arising under these administrations codifying the social customs, laws of property and succession, territorial set-ups and allied matters have been preserved in the British Museum in

The author, obtained photocopies of them when he studied in London and has brought them out in this book with detailed explanations along with their historical setting clarifying the situations of their origin. He has provided facsimiles of the original records; these however are not legible enough to be readily correlated with the statements in the body of the work about them.

The laws and customs relate to the society as whole (Teca-vazhamai) and to different groups (Samuha-vazhamai). The Teca-vazhamai is the general law of the area of Jaffna, applicable to all Sri Lankan Tamils, codified in

the 18th Century. The documents also detail general and caste-group customs and laws of the Northwest regions along with Jaffna, Trincomalee and Mattakalappu where the matriarchal system of inheritance prevailed.

The customs of the Mukkuvars, a community chiefly engaged as divers in pearl fisheries, (not included in the documents) have been provided with a Tamil translation of an English publication which is not extant. Two chapters deal with the laws of Muslims and the customs of the fishermen-communities settled mostly

in the coastal areas. A glossary of the many technical terms relating to usages is provided in the book. As it may attract non-Sri Lankan readers also, the glos-

in Santa Monica. Vanmuraikku Appaal is a sary needs to be more exhaustive. Also, it P.V.R.K. Prasad. Cover design and sketches by book to gift, to receive, to read and meditate would be more useful if the map provided had upon with a calm mind, firmly turned away indicated the notable places of settlement with names of localities of the communities whose customs have been described.

> The author has provided valuable documentation together with the relevant political history of the Tamil communities of Sri Lanka. It will be of interest to antiquarians, linguists, and all students of Sri Lankan society.

J. PARTHASARATHI

TELUGU

BHEESHMA @ MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE: Prayaga Ramakrishna; copies can be had from the author, 12-2-826/A/8, LIC

Colony, Mehdipatnam, Hyderabad-500028.

THIS BOOK suggests that management existed even during the days of the Mahabharata. Along with American and Japanese models, Indian management has now become a distinct

The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs)

today apply principles enunciated in the Vedas and the epics in solving crucial corporate problems. In 36 chapters the book highlights this emerging phenomenon with an innovative approach At the behest of Lord Krishna, Bheeshma lying on the bed of arrows, imparted basic tenets

governance to Pandavas. The author dis-

plays consummate skill in developing these

ancient precepts into modern management Solutions to topical issues conveyed through anecdotes and parables make the book interesting. The volume converts Bheeshma "pitamaha" (grandfather) into "pita" (father) of

management. Managerial concepts such as leadership, education and time management are discussed with a blend of tradition and modernity. Exposition on a host of similar issues is

well-balanced. The author succeeds in this experiment of providing a new thrust and direction to Indian management. It has a fitting introduction by

Chandra are attractive. P. V. L. N. RAO

MALAYALAM ORU NOOTTANTINE NIRMICHA

PRASANGANGAL: Compiled by Dipavali Debroy: Translated by A. V. Sreekumar. Current Books, Round West, Thrissur-680001, Rs. 125. THIS BOOK is a translation of an English work Famous faces, famous speeches. It was a collection of 79 speeches by prominent personalities, Indian and foreign, since the dawn of the 20th Century. The volume covers a wide range of famous personalities which include Swami Vivekananda, T. N. Seshan, Lenin Helmut Kohl, Mahatma Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Amartya Sen and Jane Fonda. Vivekananda's speech is the one that he delivered in Los Angeles on January 4, 1900. Apparently the celebrated address at the World Congress of Religions in Chicago did not qualify for inclusion as it be-

longs to the previous century. The Malayalam version bears a title that differs from that of the original. It means "speechthat made a century". The speeches of Gandhiji, Nehru, Churchill, Mandela and Martin Luther King can be cited in justification of the change. But can it be said that Earl Charles Spencer's oration at Princess Diana's funeral and Seshan's redif.com interview contributed to the making of the 20th Century? While Hitler and Mussolini are part of history, their claim to be counted as "makers of the century" is also questionable. The merit of the volume lies in that it features all the major personalities of the

B. R. P. BHASKAR

Announcement

period.

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to The Hindu for review. While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under 'New Arrivals", the decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper. Receipt of individual books will not be acknowledged in response to enquiries.

Advocacy of human rights

THE WAGES OF IMPUNITY -Power, Justice and Human Rights: K.G. Kannabiran; Orient Longman Pvt. Ltd., 3-6-752, Himayat Nagar, Hyderabad-500029. Rs. 550.

IN THE human rights movement in post-Independence India, Kannabiran, the lawyer and social activist, has a special place. In his native State of Andhra Pradesh people identify him as a champion of revolutionary groups. Over the years he has projected himself as a political thinker seeking to find a constitutional balance between power, politics, dissent and violence. "If violence in society is perceived as a breach of the law, the law itself is equally violent..." writes the author.

To him abuse of power is synonymous with violence. Arbitrary exercise of power by state is violence with impunity. He finds even rule of law as an instrument that facilitates the deployment of violence for governance! Human rights protection is fundamental to rule of law if the interplay of violence and power has to be kept within limits. In the very first chapter he expounds this philosophy in relation to Indian political developments and the use or abuse of law in response to them.

Citing instances from the Emergency period he argues the case of revolutionary movements and condemns repressive force by the state which according to him, is treating "politics as crime". The anti-establishment slant of the author reveals itself in every subsequent chapter of the book.

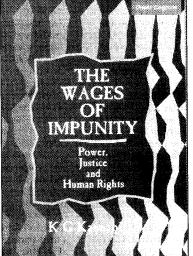
The author finds the colonial tradition of governance being practised by the rulers in India even today. Draconian laws, indiscriminate exer-

cise of contempt power, interpreting constitutional provisions in terms of colonial practices under the pre-Independence Government of India Acts are all indicative of a "colonial baggage being carried by the representatives of the people and even by the judges. And we blame the Constitution for our own sins and inadequacies.'

In a series of articles attacking the tendency of the state to suppress dissent, the author laments the progressive decay of democratic institutions and projects the "state as terrorist". He finds the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act more repressive than the infamous Rowlatt Act and cites instances to support his conclusion. He wants issues giving rise to political turbulence to be addressed instead of crushing it by what he calls "law-and-order methods". The author ridicules the setting up of the Human Rights Commission as a cover-up operation of the government.

Kannabiran writes strongly against "anti-secular" parties' right to govern. According to him these parties should not be allowed even to participate in the politics of the country after the Supreme Court judgment in S.R. Bommai's case (AIR 1994 SC 1918) declaring secularism as a basic feature of the Constitution. While arguing for tolerance vis-a-vis militant outfits in politics the author himself tends to be intolerant towards political parties.

He speaks not as a lawyer but as a political activist when he characterises the democratically elected Government of Gujarat as "Narendra Modi's Hindutva laboratory". He finds fault with the Supreme Court accountable.



for the rise of "theocratic politics" by its decision of "equating Hinduism to Hindutva and giving legitimacy to the bigotry of Bal Thackeray.

In half a dozen articles on lawyers and judges, he presents his perspectives on the functioning of the judiciary. In a serious indictment of the leaders of the bar he writes; "Professional leaders did not lift their gaze beyond the business values of the day. The aggressive competition within the profession never permitted practitioners to pay attention to the larger values propounded by the Constitution, which, to the practitioners, is merely a money-spinning document. This attitude has led to total indifference to the quality of justice. Neither professional bodies nor the high courts have seemed alive to the fact that the courts are public institutions which are socially

He sees a crisis within the system. He distinguishes between legitimate judicial activism and judicial "aggrandisement" and attributes the appropriation of power in the matter of appointing judges as an illustration of the latter. Finding fault with the manner in which the Supreme Court dealt with the Justice V. Ramaswamy impeachment matter, the author argues that "the rule of law is incompatible with absolutism in the judiciary... The power of judicial review of the stage before impeachment, and potentially to annul the impeachment, subverts the constitutional scheme itself," according to

In two incisive, well-researched pieces on liberty and freedom, the author gives expression to his appreciation of the liberal interpretation of two of the most cherished democratic rights enshrined in the Constitution. He would have liked the courts to be more liberal and responsive to the lessons of the freedom struggle. While in the beginning courts employed colonial interpretative techniques to define the scope of personal liberty and property, it changed in the post-Emergency period to the advantage of civil liberties. Analysing the way law and courts dealt with workers' struggles, the author historically traces the evolution of associational freedom and freedom of speech and suggests the path ahead if democracy were to take

In a concluding piece titled "In the First person", the author narrates a series of experiences he has had in defending unpopular causes in the civil liberties movement in Andhra Pradesh. He admits that doing politi-

cal cases made a big difference in his life and he adopted the strategy of "participate politically and operate insurgently." His advice to human rights lawyers and activists; " the first struggle is to establish credibility; not to become a pawn of radical or militant groups and be in a position to maintain your independence always. This is not possible if you are linked to a party.

The book is interesting reading on the professional life of a well-known human rights lawyer who identified himself with many Leftist, militant and revolutionary struggles and tried to use legal instruments to defend them. In the process he discovers the limits of law and the constraints of democratic institutions in directing change according to predetermined norms and standards. However, on his own admission he is not for compromise when it comes to human rights. This is where the book leaves the reader confused.

There are no rights without restrictions and, in a democratic society, the law will set the restrictions the reasonableness of which the courts will decide. It is only within these rules that the balance between power and violence can be achieved. In the process, compromise is inevitable and one's understanding of human rights therefore has to be dynamic. The reviewer hopes that Kannabiran's next book will take the debate forward to give politics a moral base which law can develop incrementally. All students of political science, history, law and social work and those in public life will find the book rewarding reading.

N. R. MADHAVA MENON

Festschrift volume

PARAMPARA — Essays in Honour of R. Balasubramanian: Srinivasa Rao, Godabarisha Mishra — Editors; Indian Council of Philosophical Research, Darshan Bhavan, No. 36, Tuglakabad, Institutional Area, New Delhi-110062. Rs. 450.

THIS VOLUME is a collection of essays in honour of Professor R. Balasubramanian. It contains 18 contributions by erudite scholars, besides a profile of him by the editor Srinivasa Rao. He has made varied and valuable contributions to the enrichment of Indian philosophy in general and Advaita in particular. Hailing from a cultured family, he has risen to eminence through merit, ability and industry.

Justifying the title of the book "Parampara" meaning tradition, the tradition in the right perspective editor writes that for him, the tradition of Advaita is essentially one of attempting to make sense of the "Srutiparampara" and that he believes tradition is a more reliable guide to truth than historical

Srinivasa Rao, has impressively brought out his notion of Parampara in the Indian context where there is scope for discovering the true import of our early "Sutra granthas" followed by the commentary tradition. Sankara himself says that he who does not know tradition must be ignored.

Out of the 18 essays nine bear witness to the admiration which these authors have for his writings. They are either in the form of

elaboration or critical analysis. The two essays by Kar and Veezhinathan directly relate to some issues in the English translations of the Taittiriya Varttika and the Naishkarmya Siddhi of Suresvara — the two major and monumental works of R. Balasubramanian, While Kar provides a new analysis of "Bhavarupa avidya", Veezhinathan offers a critique of some Advaita concepts in the Naishkarmya

G.C. Nayak highlights the salient features of Balasubramanian's typical essay "Philosophy for liberation". The author expresses his admiration for him for providing a definite direction for understanding the philosophical without any distortion. His insight into such Western philosophical concepts is brought out by G. Vedaparayana who presents a critical exposition of his critique of Sartre's phenomenological ontology

of consciousness. R.C. Pradhan equally excels in portraying his contention that the nature of the Self and the transcendental Reality could be traced out in Wittgenstein's Tractatus. Ramakant Sinari's essay "The mystery of subjectivity" effectively discloses his exposure to existentialism and Eastern phenomenology. Ramakrishna Puligandla highlights his view that Indian philosophy and Advaita Vedanta in particular are grounded on phenomenology.

The author seems to be in full agreement with Balasubramanian's explanation of Sartre's theory of the intentionality of consciousness. Panneerselvam's essay "Philosophy to hermeneutical pragmatics' establishes his viewpoint that being trained in both Western and Indian philosophical trends he tries to apply Western tools to interpret the Indian philosophical problems. The influence of the West on the Eastern scholars is indeed of great significance and its results are contemporary and tremendous. Mishra's article relates to his philosophical pilgrimage.

The remaining essays are mostly by scholars from abroad. Of these, Vivekachudamani and Upadesasahasri. Two essays deal with Sankara's views on Buddhism.

Other essays include linguaphobic epistemology, predetermination and freewill in the teachings of Ramana Maharishi, the problem of "Jnanakarmasamucchaya", "Ananda - A perspective" and "The object of perception: A debate in Advaita and Vishistadvaita".

The editors deserve praise for the task of carefully choosing the contributors who could ably interpret Balasubramanian's writings. The printing and get-up are excellent as in the case of the other ICPR publications.

S. REVATHY

Case studies on work attitude and behaviour

ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOUR: N. Ramaswami; T.R.Publications Pvt. Ltd., PMG Complex, First Floor, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 250.

THIS BOOK is a compilation of case studies on attitudes and behaviour from the Indian perspective.

According to the author, "Attitudes are generally thought to influence behaviour. Behaviour is often dependent on situational factors that may override the influence of the individual's preferences. Behaviour is what an individual actually does in a given environment or situation.

After an executive has been recruited, he must be trained and developed to meet the requirements of his job. The essence of executive responsibility is making decisions.

Decision-making skills can be improved by the use and application of many techniques, among which, the case study method has become increasingly popular over the last few decades.

There are three types of case studies — those asking the trainee to diagnose a particular problem; those which identify the problem, but require the trainee to recommend methods of redressal: and those which provide both the problem and the solution, but ask

the trainee to explain the rationale for the solution as well as the probable implications of that solution.

Case studies provide a unique opportunity to analyse complex and emotive problems in a detached environment, which facilitates learning to take place without the concern for the implications of an incorrect decision in real life.

The book is structured in two parts. Part one deals with attitudes, while part 2 deals with behaviour. Each part again comprises two sections viz., organisational behaviour, and industrial relations. In all, 64 case studies have been presented.

In the introductory chapter, the author elucidates the concepts of the terms as well as the origin of the case study method.

The author has published a companion volume on the same subject. The pertinent point is that in the Indian industrial training climate, this book responds to the dearth and dire need of case studies with an indigenous flavour.

Written in simple and lucid language, and creating every case study with a convincing and realistic ploy, the author has made a significant contribution to this branch of training literature.

R. DEVARAJAN

conography of Varahi

House, 40, Anand Nagar, Inderlok Rangarajan, Sharada Publishing Iconographic Study: Haripriya MAGES OF VARAHI — An

ed Goddess Varahi on the minds of the people may be gauged from the presence of this deity as a part of the group of seven Mothers — the Saptamatas — in every village in Tamil Nadu. In ancient India every village had temples dedicated to different deities located in appropriate direc-THE INFLUENCE of the boar-headtions, as prescribed in Vastu texts. Delhi-110035. Rs. 1750.

seventh Century A.D. dedicated to Saptamatas, often called as temple of "Pidari" or "Grama devata". A temple for the Saptamatas is a sands of such temples exist from the must for every village. Literally thou-

Haripriya Rangarajan analyses in tolled in the Upanishadic, Puranic this fascinating book to show that the Varahi images are nothing but the Goddess of Speech (Vak devi) exand other literatures.

extensive citations from the Rig Veda men is personified as Sakti, the feminine power which is responsible for fied with Goddess Saraswathi very

of them.

ical evaluation

show that the faculty of speech of

The value of the book lies in the meticulous documentation of all dess from various sources and a critconcepts and references to this God-

ence of Varahi as "Vakdevi" on the snout of Varaha, the author shows of Vishnu in His manifestation as navites, Saktas, and the Buddhists that this Vak is the power of speech "Yajna Varaha". The Saivaites, Vaishworship Her.

ble. Varaha is the embodiment of hi. Without speech nothing would be It is clear, remarks the author, that Brahman and His attributes is Varaneither good nor bad, neither the "Varaha and His Sakti are inseparaknown, neither truth nor falsehood,

dancing and wielding different weapons, like plough and noose, or Though Varahi appears as a part of She is portrayed seated, standing or the Saptamata group in most cases, pendent deity - Pradhana devata. She is also worshipped as an inde-Sankha and Cakra, or fish and pleasant nor the unpleasant." drinking bowl, and so on.

As a counterpart of Vishnu She She often carries a child in Her arm holds all the four emblems of Vishnu - Sankha, Cakra, Gada and Padma. and has Sesha naga, Garuda, "Mahisha" or a lion as Her vehicle. She dances with Siva in the Saptamata

human evolution. Vak is also identi-

Drawing our attention to the pres-

early in Indian civilisation.

group and is also identified with Ru-

drani.

Haripriya also draws our attention Vishnu in His incarnations as Varashipped in a highly secretive way by to Varahi appearing as the consort of ha, Rama and Krishna. She is worthe Saktas in Vama marga.

Her only during the night and the temple remains closed throughout This tradition can be seen in the Kalaratri temple on the banks of the Ganges where worship is offered to he day.

ganidra of Vishnu and holds in Her the commander-in-chief of Goddess Lalita and goes by the name "Dandawomb all the creations and hence is She is also identified with the Yoshown pot-bellied. Further according to Sakta tradition Lalita Tripurasundari manifested as Varahi and yet in another context She is said to be nayika" or "Dandanatha"

dya of the Sri Vidya tradition. In the Above all She is adored as Para Vi-Buddhist context Varahi appears in progenitor of the Moha family and three forms; first as Vajra Varahi, the secondly as the consort of Heruka

and thirdly as Marichi in a chario

of the Mother Goddess worship to sculptural representation, Mantras and Yantras relating to Her worship drawn by seven pigs. The author has divided the whole tions, iconographic details of Varahi, book into a well-structured treatise. beginning from the prehistoric origin the Vedic and other literary tradi followed by 99 illustrations.

The book is certainly a fine model of comprehensive research. It shows nificant Goddess turns out to be an pation of the devotees and also for how what was considered an insigattainment of miraculous powers. all.' encompassing primordial God-She points out that the Mantras and the Yantras are for the emanci

tures are superlative specimens of lustrations from which it may be art. It will remain an excellent refer-The author has taken great care in seen that some of the Varahi sculpcollecting rare and representative ilence work on the subject for

R. NAGASWAMY

Case for ecosocialism

THE ENEMY OF NATURE - The End of Capitalism or the End of the World?: Joel Kovel; Tulika Books, 35, A/1 Shahpur Jat, New Delhi-110049. Rs. 475.

THE AIM of the book is to provide an explanation not for ecosystemic crises such as toxic cloud or forest loss but for the ecological crisis at the holistic level to account for why these things are happening at such a rate, and how they are related to the whole society.

It is divided into three parts, "The Culprit", "The Domination of Nature", and "Towards Ecosocialism". The first part discusses what capital is and how it afflicts ecosystems intensively by degrading the conditions of production through ruthless expansion.

Based on a case study of the 1984 Bhopal disaster, which resulted in the release of 46.3 metric tonnes of methyl isocynate (MIC) from the Union Carbide factory, he concludes that the efficient cause of this accident lies in the capitalist system imposing upon the firm "the never-ending pressure to cut costs or, from the other side, to make profits." He argues that the culture of advanced capital aims to turn society into addicts of commodity consumption, a state good for business but bad for ecologies. His thesis is that capital is both ecodestructive and unreformable.

In the second part, the argument deeply in the philosophy of nature and human nature. He talks in terms of human ecosystems and

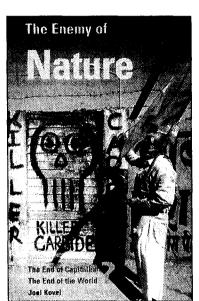
in the human fitted-ness for ecosystems. According to him capital is "a spectral apparatus that integrates earlier modes of domination, especially that by gender, and generates a gigantic force field of profit-seeking that polarises all human activity and sucks it into itself."

Part three deals with the question of what is to be done. In order to overcome capital he suggests two minimal conditions, namely, basic changes in ownership of productive resources and self-determination of productive power by people. He surveys existing ecopolitics including green economics, ecophilosophy, deep ecology, ecofeminism and social ecology and finds the strategies wanting.

He advocates ecosocialism as an alternative to capitalism. Ecosocialism refers to a society that is socialist in that the producers have been reunited with the means of production and also ecological in the sense that the limits to growth are finally respected.

The author is an activist. He was a Green candidate for the U.S. Senate in 1998 and a candidate for Green Party Presidential nomination in the U.S. in 2002. He admits that his views are at a great distance from "so called mainstream opinion." He underestimates the recuperative powers of capitalism.

The Keynesian Revolution of the 1930s demonstrated how the adverse effects of business cycles in a capitalist society could be minimised by assigning greater role



for government in macroeconomic stabilisation. Similarly, recent transboundary environmental concerns such as global warming, ozone depleting substances and biodiversity loss necessitated collective action at the international level in the form of multilateral environmental agreements.

Agenda 21 of the Rio Conference stresses the need for internalisation of environmental externalities in economic decision-making at all levels. Since pollution is a negative externality, it causes market failure. Government intervention in the form of regulation or/and use of economic instruments is necessary to correct the market failure.

However, institutional myopia and sectoral self-interest act as barriers to internalisation of the negative externalities.

The book does not address developmental issues such as the right to development and the role of developed countries in poverty eradication and in finding solutions to environmental problems. The developed countries are largely responsible for major environmental problems such as global warming, ozone depleting substances and biodiversity loss because of their unsustainable production and consumption patterns.

They have the resources and the technologies to solve the problems. Thus the Rio principle of "common "common but differentiated responsibilities" is highly relevant. But the responses of some developed countries to Official Development Assistance, ratification of the Kyoto Protocol and transfer of ecofriendly technologies on concessional terms to developing countries are far from satisfactory.

The book is well organised reflecting the author's deep understanding of Marxism, capitalism, ecology and ecopolitics. The presentation is lucid. Some readers would question the thesis that capital is unreformable but most readers would accept the reasoning that the ecological crisis is real and that continued inaction would only aggravate the crisis and make economic growth unsustainable.

U. SANKAR

Desika's hymn

NIGAMANTA MAHADESIKA — An Introduction (Tamil): Translated by A. Lakshminarasimhan; Published by Rasibham Trust, 104/2, Sivaswami Salai, Mylapore, Chennai-600004. Rs. 100.

THE PADUKA SAHASRAM is one of the most beautiful creations of the ripe intellectual grandeur and the poetic genius of Vedanta Desika. It is also, at the same time, an amazing monument of the unflinching devotion of the poet towards Lord Rang-

anatha in Srirangam.

Desika is said to have composed this poem of 1008 verses in one night and silenced a rival. In one of the verses he says that if the grace of the Paduka is there, he could compose even a hundred thousand verses. This hymn has some of the most beautiful verses in Sanskrit literature. It is in the list of sacred works which orthodox Srivaishnavas chant everyday.

There are of course, many translations of this hymn in several languages such as Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and English including wordto-word meanings, summaries and detailed interpretations.

The present one is aimed at presenting the meaning of the original work in simple Tamil for those who are unfamiliar with Sanskrit. Hence it is called an introduction. It contains the original verses in Tamil script followed by an easy and fluent translation in Tamil. It also contains beautiful colour photographs of some deities. It carries a benediction of Srirangam Srimad Andavan Swamigal.

This book will be of great help to those who cannot understand the original poem in Sanskrit. The translator is to be congratulated for his la-

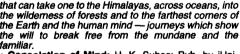
M. NARASIMHACHARY

FROM THE BLURB

 Journeys — Heroes, Pligrims, Explorers: Geeti Sen and Molly
 Suichal — Editors;
 Temparature Kaushal — Editors; Pub. by India Interna-tional Centre and Vik-ing, Penguin Books India (P) Ltd., 11, Community Centre, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi-110017. Rs. 495.

This volume of 22 es-

This volume of 22 es-says, photo essays and critical texts brings to-gether accounts of epic heroes, saints, pilgrims, trekkers, journalists, photographers, histori-ans and folklorists — travellers who chart their course across vast seas and countries other than their own in search of the unknown and the exotic While their search of the unknown and the exotic. While their search of the triknown and the exotic. While their narratives may be deeply personal, they are, ultimate-ly, voyages that are universal; at times these are pri-vate confessions that transcend details of geography and conquest to express the solitude of the traveller. These journeys are voyages of discovery, infinitely enriching explorations of the self and of the universe



familiar.

• Consolation of Mind: H. K. Suhas; Pub. by iUniverse, Inc., 2021, Pine Lake Road, Suite 100, Lincoln, NE 68512. USA. \$ 6.

Study of the Indian society in the context of globalisation which has resulted in shrinking of the world and vanishing boundaries. The author highlights the urgent need to enforce a minimum level of meaningful governance, which must address education, secularism or freedom of worship, nationalism and community living as these happen to be the critical elements of a happy, prosperous and contented society that will be at peace with itself and others.

Governing Power — A New Institution of Governance — the Experience with Independent Regulation of Electricity: S. L. Rao; Pub. by Teri Press, Darbari Seth Block, Paper 1988, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003. **Rs. 580**.

A pioneering attempt at examining the experience with independent regulation of electricity in India to assess its efficacy as an alternative form of governance. It compares the electricity experience with that of independent regulation in other countries, independent regulatory bodies in India and old-style regulation by government departments. It evaluates the Indian model in the context of its replication over other sectors of the prosperous and contented society that will be at peace with itself and others.

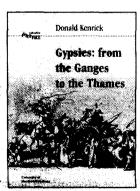
• Why Ethnic Parties Succeed — Patronage and Ethnic Head Counts in India: Kanchan Chandra; Cambridge University Press, The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK. Available from Foundations Books, 4764/2A, 23, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 350.

Drawing on a study of variation in the performance of ethnic parties in India, this book builds a theory of ethnic party performance in "patronage-democracies". The author shows why voters in such democracies choose between parties by conducting ethnic head

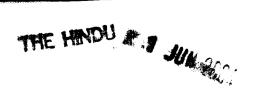
that can take one to the Himalayas, across oceans, into the wilderness of forests and to the farthest corners of ideological positions. Building on these individual mitheories about the origin of the Gypsies. Updating his the Earth and the human mind — journeys which show cro-foundations she argues that an ethnic party is likely earlier account of their journey from India to Constanting to the properties of the group it seeks to advancement and when the size of the group it seeks to obtain period and their journey into central and when the size of the group it seeks to mobilise exceeds the threshold of winning or leverage imposed by the electoral system.

Consolation of Mind: H. K. Suhas; Pub. by iUniverse, Inc., 2021, Pine Lake Road, Suite 100, Lincoln, NE 68512. USA. \$ 6.

Governing Power — A New Institution of Governation of the Indian society in the context of global-center which have received in the properties of the wide and account of the controversial and conflicting the control of the Gypsies. Updating his theories about the origin of the Gypsies. Updating his transported when it has competitive rules for intra-party introple, he follows their route to the Balkans during the obtained and their journey into central and conflicting theories about the origin of the Gypsies. Updating his theories about the origin of the Gypsies. Updating his theories about the origin of the Gypsies. Updating his theories about the origin of the Gypsies. Updating his decloration of the Gypsies. Updating his theories about the origin of the Gypsies. Updating his decloration of the G



feudal society. In conclusion he looks at the Gypsies' distant relatives who stayed in India or stopped off on the way west and who still carry on a nomadic life in Iran and neighbouring countries and explains how links were torred between the second parties and second parties are second to the second parties and second parties are second parties. plains how links were forged between Europe's last nomads and modern India, rounding off this unique history of the first immigrants from the Indian subcontinent.





 Ancient Indian Historiography Singh; **Rs. 575.**

 Republics, Kingdoms, Towns and Cities in Ancient India: G. P. Singh; Rs. 1000. The above two books pub. by D.K. Printworld (P) Ltd., Sri Kunj, F-52, Bali Nagar, New Delhi-110015.

Music Makers — Living Legends of Indian Classical Music: Ashok Roy; Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansari Road, Darya-New Delhi-110002

ganj, New Delhi-110002.

• The Gwalior of Scindia's: J.W.D. Johnstone; Shubhi Publications, 15, AKD Towers, Sec-14, Gurgaon. Rs.

Dances of India - 7 Vols: Alka Raghuvanshi — Editor; Wisdom Tree, C-209/1, Mayapuri Phase II, New Delhi-110064. **Rs. 1195.**

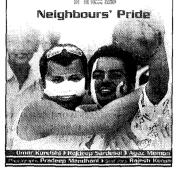
 Legal Language: Madabhushi Sridhar: Rs. 225.

Law of Seeds: Rs. 195.

Law of Affidavits — With Model Forms: Justice P. S. Narayana; Rs. 450. The above three books pub. by

Asia Law House, Opp. High Court, Hyderabad-500002. • Cricketing Ties — Neighbours' Pride: Roli Books, M-75, Greater Kailash II, Market, New Delhi-110048.

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Accidental Entrepreneur — Towards Self-Employment: Puneet Srivastava; Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansari Road, Darya-ganj, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 195. Pliable Pupils and Sufficient Self-Directors: Barnita Bagchi; Tulika Books, 35 A/I (Third Floor), Shahpur Jat, New Delhi-110049. Rs. 350.

Legend of Ram — Antiquity to Jan-mabhumi Debate: Sanujit Ghose; Rs.

Across the Wagah --- An Indian's Sojourn in Pakistan: Maneesha Tikekar; Rs. 750. The above two books pub. by Biblophile South Asia in association with Promilla & Co. Publishers, C-127, Enclave,

The On-time On-target Manager Ken Blanchard, Steve Gottry; Harper Collins Publishers in association with The India Today Group, 1A, Hamilton House, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001. Rs. 125.

A Study of the Language of the Tamil Inscriptions of the 7th and the 8th Centuries A.D.: K. Kanapathypillai; Kumaran Book House, 3, Meigai Vinayagar Street, Vadapalani, Chennai-600026. Rs. 300.

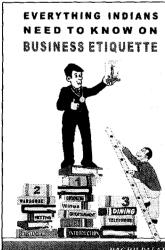
 Lenin — Revolution, State and Terror: Amal Datta; Saptaha Publications, 47, Sashi Bhushan Dey Street, Kolkata-700012. **Rs. 250.**

Explaining The Universe — The New Age of Physics: John M. Charap; Universities Press (India) Pvt. Ltd., 3-5-819, Hyderguda, Hyderabad-500029.

Rs. 315. A Teacher's Grammar of English — Linking Grammar with Communica-tion: K. R. Narayanaswamy; Orient Longman Pvt. Ltd., 160, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002. Rs. 225.

Musings From a Zamin — Letters of TNS Murugadoss Theerthapathy, the Raja of Singampatti: K. A. Manikumar — Editor, TNS Murugadoss Theerthapathy, Palace, Singampatti-627416.

ns. 50.
Everything Indians Need to Know on Business Etiquette: Raghu Palat; Distributed by Jaico Publishing House, 121, M. G. Road, Mumbai-400023. Rs. 195.



On Jim Corbett's Trail And Other Tales From Tree-Tops: AJT Johnsingh; Permanent Black, D-28, Oxford Apartments, 11, IP Extension, Del-hi-110092. **Rs. 295.**

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1999 A.D.: Kaushik Roy; Rs. 595.
Taxation of Income — An International Comparison: Indu Jain; Rs. 1195. The above four books pub. by Manohar Publishers & Distributors, 4753/23, Ansari Road, Daryaganj,

New Delhi-110002. Chaucer: Perter Ackroyd; Chatto & Windus, Random House, 20, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SWIV 2SA. £ 13. • Signal & Noise: John Griesemer; Hutchinson, The Random House Group Ltd., 20, Vauxhall Bridge Road,

London SWIV 2SA. £ 10. The Peacock Spring: Rumer Godden, Young Picador, a division of Pan MacMillan Ltd., 20, New Wharf Road,

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 The True Story of People Who Answered the Ultimate Question: Pon Bronson; Vintage, Random House, 20, March 2018 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SWIV

• The Master: Colm Toibin; Picador an imprint of Pan MacMillan Ltd., 20, New Wharf Road, London NI 9RR. £9.

 Like A Charm: Karin Slaughter — Editor; The Random House Group Ltd., 20, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SWIV 2SA. £ 17.

• The Wisdom of Sartre — A Selection

• The Wisdom of Freud; • The Wisdom of Gandhi: Trudy S. Settel — Compiler, The above three-books pub. by Manjul Publishing House Pvt. Ltd., 10, Nishat Colony, 74, Bungalows, Bhopal-462003. **Rs. 145**

Tamil

 Sri Bhagavath Dyana Shobhanam:
 V.N. Vedantha Desikan — Tr. in Tamil;
 Sri Poundarikapuram Srimad Andavan Ashraman, 43-A/13, Ashramam Road, Srirangam-620006, Rs. 50. Srimad Bhagawad Gita: T. Narayana lyengar, Copies can be had from D.
Krishnaswamy, Flat No 12/7, Giri
Street, Narangi Flats, West Mamba-lam, Chennai-600033. Rs. 50.
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hanan — Compiler; Leo Book Publishers, 1047, Poonthamalle High Road, Arumbakkam, Chennai-600106. Rs.

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Salai: Vibhathugalum Satta Villak-kangalum: P. Balakrishnan; Kalaivani Publications, Old No. 103/2, (New No. 22). Thans, Street, Burusawalkam

32), Thana Street, Purusawalkam Chennai-600007. Rs. 100. Porlyeeyal Thamizhakka Noolgal P. Anuradha; Ramani Pathippagam, 19, Main Road, Vijayalakshmipuram, Ambattur, Chennai-600053, Rs. 60. Thaeroodum Veedhi: Neela Padma

nabhan; Kavvya, 14, First Cross Street, Trustpuram, Kodambakkam, Chennai-600024. Rs. 400. Shankar Muthal Shankar Varai: Tamil Magan — Editor; Mathi Nilayam, 4(39), Thanikachalam Road, Brinda-van Apartments, T. Nagar, Chen-nai-600017. **Rs. 75.**

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Narbhavi Prasuram; 57-B Road, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017, Rs. 65. Annal Mahatma Gandhiyin Vazhvil Ariya Nighazhchikal: R.S. Rao; Sri Annai Meenakshi Publications, 38,

Natesa Iyer Street, T. Nagar, Chen-Natiesa iyer street, I. Nagar, Chennai-600017, **Rs. 45.**Kamban — Panmugapparvai: Salamon Pappayya; Madurai Kamban Kazhaga Arakkattalai, Distributed by Sanyodaya Ilakhiya Pangai 2015 Missi Sarvodaya Ilakkiya Pannai, 32/1, West /eli Street. Madurai-625001. **Rs. 80** Pathu Paattu — Ten Classics from Sangam Literature: M. Narayana Velu Pillai; Narmadha Pathippagam, 10,

Nana Street, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017 Rs. 45. Ammaippy Sara Thozhilalargai Onrupaduvom: Vetri Namathel: K. Shannughavelayudham; Unorga-nised Workers Federation, 3rd Cross Street, United India Nagar, Ayanavaram, Chennai-600023. Rs. 100.

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cations, 38, Natesa lyer Street, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 60. Ulaga Seerthiruththa Semmalkal: R.S. Geetha, Arthanareeswarar; Sr Annai Meenakshi Publications, 38, Natesa Iyer Street, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 45.
Somesar Muthumozhi Venba: Si-

Somesar Muthumozni Venda: Sivagnana Swamigal Peravai, 505E, Main Road, Vikramasingapuram, Tamil Nadu-627425; Rs. 150.
 Neerizhivum Pathukappum; K. Thi-

ruthanikachalam, Rathua Siddha Hos-pital, 750, EVR Periyar High Road, NSK Nagar, Arumbakkam, Chen-nai-600106. **Rs. 60**. Mahishasuramardhini: Nagercoil Krishnan; Narmadha Pathippagam, 10, Nana Street, T. Nagar, Chen-

nai-600017. **Rs. 35.** Sundara Kandam: Kurinchi Ghana Vaidyanathan; Prasuram, 35, Arcot Kodambakkam,

Hoad, Kodambarkam, Chennai-600024 Rs. 35.
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Telugu

 Sweeya Charitra Chittoor V. Nagaiah: R.K. Books, 2-5-868/2, Hyderguda, Hyderabad-29. Rs. 150. Muddulolike Mee Pillalaku Much-chataina Perlu: D. Vijaya Rao; Rs.

• Khana Khazana - 162 Recipes: D. Vijaya Rao; Rs. 30.

Unnadante! Kathala Samputi: Sarvaiit: Rs. 50. The above three books Visalaandhara Publishing 4-1-435, Bank Street,

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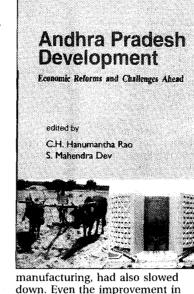
Vykuntapalee Communist Udyamamlo Na. Anubhavalu, Anubhutulu, Alochanalu: Mullapudi Suryanarayana; Copies can be had from the author, Vaddera Colony, Davaleswaram, Rajahmundry-533125.

Andhra Pradesh: reforms scene

ANDHRA PRADESH DEVELOPMENT — Economic Reforms and Challenges Ahead: C. H. Hanumantha Rao and S Mahendra Dev — Editors; Pub. by Centre for Economic and Social Development Studies, Begumpet Hyderabad-500016. Rs. 750. THE VOLUME under review assesses economic reforms in Andhra Pradesh but does not restrict itself to a mere critique. The contributors and the editors C.H. Hanumantha Rao attempt to chart out the most appropriate course of action the State should pursue. With 22 papers grouped into six sections a short review can at best deal only with the book's highlights. The contributors situate their analyses against the backdrop of the problems which the State confronted in the mid-1990s and which provided the trigger for the initiation of the reforms.

In their well-structured and comprehensive overview the editors remark that 1995-96 was a "watershed for the macroeconomic scene in Andhra Pradesh " The most pressing trigger appears to have been on the fiscal front which presented a dismal, if all too familiar picture of rising deficits and falling revenues compounded by untargeted subsidies and irrational water and power tariffs.

Despite being a front runner in the Green Revolution, agriculture showed decelerating growth rates between the 1980s and the 1990s. Industry, in particular,



per capita SDP was traceable to the rapid decline in population growth.

The editors and the other contributors to the sectoral/subsectoral studies agree that on the whole the State responded boldly and imaginatively to the challenges. There is also agreement that while the reforms are not an unqualified success they were necessary. The criticism is that in some cases they have been halting and incomplete. Another point which receives more or less general acceptance is that inadequate capital expenditure in the prereform period reduced the

development impact of public expenditure. This along with low rates of fixed capital formation served to depress growth rates via poor infrastructure.

The overall assessment of the

reforms may be summed up as follows. They have led to improvements in many areas but several components of the package involve time lags between introduction and outcomes. Visible improvement is noted in fiscal management. The positive indicators are rise in tax revenues as a percentage of SDP and improvement in the composition or quality of public expenditure. In the editors' view, all things

considered, the State can be said to have performed well. However, the paper on fiscal management draws attention to negative indicators such as the rise in public debt (mainly the result of repayment burden) and "inability to contain current expenditure and improve expenditure management." Fiscal management shares a nexus with irrigation and power because of subsidy and pricing of water and electricity. In these cases the record is seen to be uneven.

Up to the 1980s the State was performing well in power but it began to deteriorate from the beginning of the 1990s. Irrational tariff setting, especially for agriculture, and increases in transmission and distribution (T&D) losses (camouflaged as everywhere as agricultural

consumption), were the principal culprits. The deterioration has been arrested by tariff revisions and separation of generation from transmission and distribution. However the State is not fully out of the woods.

Both the overview and the sectoral papers urge an integrated approach with an overarching framework of equity which will blend rationalisation of surface irrigation charges, conservation of ground water and accountability to consumers. In irrigation a noteworthy innovation is the formation of Water Users' Associations, which however do not include ground water which is the single largest source of irrigation.

Industrial growth has been handicapped by poor infrastructure and the absence of an entrepreneurial class which led to surpluses being diverted to the service sector. The Government's expectation as stated in its Vision 2020 document is that over a 25year-period the industrial sector will multiply by 13 times its current size. This is received with well founded scepticism in the sectoral paper since the State ranks only eighth in investment attractiveness and is not a leader in terms of foreign direct investment (FDI) either.

The areas of future emphasis are identified. Agriculture has performed disappointingly due to low public and private investment coupled with declining total factor

productivity (and hence "unremunerativeness" of crop production). The plea here is for more context and agro-climatic zone-specific strategies.

On regional disparities the relevant paper, as also the overview, point to the existence of intra-regional imbalances. The critical factor in addressing these disparities appears to be irrigation, more so, given the slow growth of the manufacturing sector.

The progress of decentralisation is also reviewed. The non-centrality of rural local government institutions due to the introduction of parallel programmes and structures is forcefully recognised

The value of this volume would have been enhanced had there been a paper devoted to an examination of Vision 2020 which is frequently cited. Such an exercise would have helped towards an understanding of the political economy of the reforms.

At several places there are references to the Government's inability to pursue particular policies. One example is power tariff. Precisely what has inhibited the Government, a high profile apparently "technocentric" one, requires analysis since States are now major actors in the economic arena. That apart this a most welcome addition to the literature on economic reforms and worthy of emulation by other States.

V. K. NATRAJ

Voice of the oppressed

TALISMAN — Extreme Emotions of Dalit Liberation: Thirumaavalavan; Translated into English from the Tamil original by Meena Kandasamy, Pub. by Samya, an imprint of Bhatkal and Sen, 16, Southern Avenue, Kolkata-700026. Rs. 200.

THE 1990s witnessed a significant development in the socio-political history of Tamil Nadu - the Dalit upsurge and the emergence of a new, militant Dalit movement. This Dalit assertion of an unprecedented nature is seen as an offshoot of the massive mobilisation of this oppressed section for the celebrations of the birth centenary of the relentless fighter for their cause, B.R. Am-

That Dalits in the southern districts of Tamil Nadu, who had all along been silent victims of atrocities perpetrated by sections of people from the predominant non-Dalit became clear in several areas. The backlash soon spread to other regions, particularly the northern districts.

Thol. Thirumaavalavan is one of the two principal Dalit leaders with a substantial mass base, who emerged the other one being K. Krishnasamy. have been keeping lakhs of Dalits, often indifferent to the plight of the and blames the downslide on the adds that this has weakened the

particularly the youth, under their Dalits and turn a blind eye to the charismatic spell. Thirumaavalavan, atrocities against them. besides being a forceful orator, has also proved himself as an effective

This work is a collection of 34 essays he wrote for a Tamil magazine during 2001-03. These insightful essays cover a whole range of subjects pertaining to Tamil life, social, cultural, economic and political, besides highlighting the plight of the Dalits, who have been victims of caste-based discrimination and violence. The author's deep understanding of the crosscurrents at work in the State politics is quite amazing.

From Dalit upsurge to "the resurgent Tamil nationalist sentiment", rom the deep fissures in the Dravidian movement to the victous machinations of the Hindutva forces, from the casteist atrocities against the Dalits to the cruel forays into poor na-Presidential election to panchavat when they hit back with a vengeance polls, Thirumaavalavan deals with tration is serious about holding the almost every incident or event in his

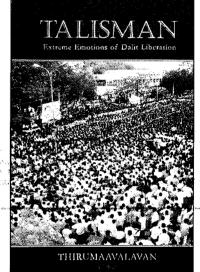
The first essay "What rules the nation: law or casteism?" discusses the challenge posed by casteist oppression to the civil society and calls for a from this movement of resistance, national debate on the issue. He ex- van explains how the principal Draplains how even the police, the state vidian parties have drifted away from Working in different regions they administration and the judiciary are the ideals of "Periyar" E.V. Ramasami

In fact, he says, the police themselves let loose a reign of terror against the victims, under the pretext of maintaining law and order. "This way, innumerable people of the cheri (where the segregated Dalits live, often outside the village or town) suffer as refugees in their own land. They run from village to village. But the manipulative administration takes no notice of them," he writes. He gives an account of atrocities

against the Dalits at different places on various occasions, with elaborate, well-written, footnotes. Some more articles are also there on violence against the Dalits. A couple of essays deal with the Government's failure to hold panchayat president elections in four Dalit villages, reserved for the Scheduled Castes, because no eligible person would dare contest the tions by the U.S. troops in the name elections against the wishes of the castes, were no more prepared to be of containing terrorism and from the dominant caste Hindu communities.

He wonders whether the adminiselections in these villages. Many of the essays, which relate to State politics, look at the developments in this respect from the Dalit perspective. In an essay on Dalit uprising vis-à-

vis Dravidian politics, Thirumaavala-



"competitive politics" since the 1970s, when the actor-politician, M.G. Ramachandran, was removed from the DMK following differences with Karunanidhi, who led the party, and formed his own Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam that later became the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.

The same kind of feud continues between Mr. M. Karunanidhi and MGR's political successor, Ms. J. Jayalalithaa, the author states and

movement to a great extent. In Thirumaavalavan's view though the principal objectives of the Dravidian movement included women's liberation, social justice, annihilation of caste system and struggle against Brahmin domination, the movement has in the last 50 years succeeded only in respect of ending Brahmin domination.

But the benefits arising out of it have all gone only to the intermediate castes, Backward and Most Backward Castes and this has led to a situation in which the oppression against the Dalits, according to him, has increased now, with the intermediate castes continuing the atrocities against the Dalits.

The author argues that the Dalits cannot, therefore, expect much support from the Dravidian parties in their struggle against oppression. Explaining how the Tamil society has been "slowly losing its identity" owing to the Hindutva forces' action in tampering with history, saffronising education and homogenising Tamils' religious life and the Dravidian movement's failure to counter these forces effectively, Thirumaavalavan reveals his mind stating that the alternative lies in building up resistance from below by appealing to the "Tamil sentiments", as the Dravidian movement once did.

S.VISWANATHAN

Flute-player of Brindavan Anthology of speeches Novel in translation Rights of the child

TAMIL

KRISHNA...KRISHNA...: Indira Parthasarathy; Drawings by K.M. Adimoolam, Mithra Arts Creations, 375/8-10, Arcot Road, Chennai-600024. Rs. 95.

IT IS a healthy trend that Tamil fiction is once again getting back to analysing ancient Indian literature in a positive manner. M.V. Venkatram gave us Nitya Kanni based on the Rishi Kalava-Madhavi episode in the Mahabharata. More recently Rajam Krishnan probed the sociological cauldron in the times of Satyakama-Jaabala linking it to women's condition today. In this work Indira Parthasarathy has now given a new reading of the tantalising myth of the Pandava ambassador.

But why Krishna? Haven't we had a little too much of this Yadava boy of the Indic world? Oh no, says Krishna Chaitanya in his challenging book, The Betrayal of Krishna (1991): "One will have to discover one's own Krishna and in the process seriously question the humanistic value of some hoary traditions.'

Indira Parthasarathy does that and experiments with racial memory to tack the past with the present. Subsuming the Yadava (Abhir, Aavar) hero, the "slaver of Kesi" (Atharva Veda). the Supreme's avatar in the Bhagavata tradition and the Kamasutraic presence in the court poets, he writes with an engaging style to show that Krishna was always on the side of

the downtrodden womanhood of His days. As the novelist glibly weaves his net with the crowded dramatis personae, we are made aware of the touch of tears in human relationships. For instance, the assassination of Dhrishtadhyumna and the Upa-pandavas. The narrative is peppered with English words which have been printed in English. Very apt inputs, though purists may decry them: killjoy, visa, yours truly and the rest.

But the style is sure to be a pleasure for the cerebral audience to find in ancient attitudes germs of globalisation, ultimate weaponry, wholesale (matrimonial) trade and existentialist dilemma. The brief note on the Gita capsule is delightful. And Radha? She too is here and the author's

innovation is Krishna returning to Brindavan

after the destruction of the Yadava race. He

learns of the existence of Grandma Radha. Re-

alising the futility of His Gita when it has to be

applied in His own case, Krishna just walks potential for employment and ancillary indusaway, hugging to Himself the lovely damsel of His younger days and hands Himself over to

Call it novel, essay, critique or purposive doodling while on holiday surrounded by tomes of ancient literature; call it what you will. It is a grand illusion which includes Krishna's forgetting His art in the hucksterings of political gamesmanship. A good read, as they say. And the Flute-player of Brindavan actually comes through unscathed, for the music continues to echo: now as Krishna...Krishna ...

PREMA NANDAKUMAR SATTAPERAVAIYIL ARUTSELVAR: K.

Jeevabarathy; Kumaran Pathippagam, 3, Muthukrishnan Street, Pondy Bazaar, T. Nagar Chennai-600017. Rs. 80. VIEWED IN the present context of the State

Assemblies witnessing forcible adjournments on a day-to-day basis triggered by pandemonium, walkouts and threats and counter threats held out by the Opposition and the treasury benches, this book containing the speeches of N. Mahalingam, well-known industrialist and philanthropist, made in the Tamil Nadu Assembly during his tenure as an MLA for three terms from 1952 provides a sharp and refreshing contrast

The tone and tenor of his speeches clearly bring out his sense of commitment to discharge his duties in highlighting in the process, the varied problems that confronted the State and his courage of conviction in airing his views solely influenced by his concern for the overall development of Tamil Nadu in every

His farsightedness and futuristic visions are bound to enthuse the readers as they go through the speeches covering vital subjects like industrialisation, education, prohibition, the need to study Hindi, provide more facilities to police personnel, have one trade union for one industry and exploit natural resources for the rapid development of the State.

Though he belonged to the ruling party life. (Congress), he never hesitated to pinpoint the shortcomings and deficiencies in the implethree Five Year Plans were implemented during his tenure, he never missed an opportunity Central Government projects with abundant crucial role of development of the alphabet as

He not only underlined the need for overhauling the examination system giving more value to the ability of students but also stressed the need for a three-tier system of technical education to create engineers, supervisors and skilled workers.

Mahalingam suggested one time election every five years for assemblies and local bodies as frequent elections not only caused waste of time and energy for the people but also drained the exchequer. Devoid of unwarranted adulation and flattery, the speeches are worthy of emulation by all those who are desirous of discharging their duties as true representatives of the people.

N. KALYANASUNDARAM MALAYALAM

FIFTH MOUNTAIN - by Paulo Coelho: Rama Menon — Tr. In Malayalam; DC Books, DCB Complex, Good Shepherd Street,

Kottayam-686001. Rs. 80. PAULO COELHO, the celebrated Brazilian writer, is one of the most influential and bestselling authors of our times. It was his second book, The Alchemist (1988) that made him a

global celebrity. The Fifth Mountain (1996) follows the same narrative technique, where the main character is far from his own country. The story is that of the Prophet Elijah of Israel, in the ninth Century B.C, during the time of King Ahab. Jezebel, the beautiful wife of the king orders the killing of Elijah, because he has denounced her false gods of Phoenicia. Elijah, ordered by God, makes an arduous journey to the Phoenician

city of Zarephath, also called Akbar. He stays there with an older widow and her son and develops a strong bond of love. When the child dies the blame falls on Elijah and is condemned to die on the fifth mountain. But he is blessed there and by the order of God descends the mountain and restores the boy to

This miracle makes him a sage and the Governor consults him though the high priest mentation of policies and programmes. As hates him. He is eager to return to Israel to restore the worship of one God. But the army of Assyrians attack and destroy the city of Akto make a strident appeal for getting major bar and Elijah has to rebuild the town. The

a vehicle of information is clearly brought out in the novel as well as the inevitability of fate

and the perils of quest. The translation does not bring out the force of the English version of the novel. It is very literal and to a large extent lacks readability, which is the best part of the author's works.

K.KUNHIKRISHNAN HINDI

SAKSHYA — Gam Mai Kopalae: Jahir Hussain Editor; Pub. by Bihar Vidhan Parishad. Rs. 100.

THIS ISSUE of Sakshya contains the childhood experiences of a few personalities who have shared their thoughts, and incidents, short stories, poems and anecdotes, issues relating to child labour, child abuse and child rights.

Article 24 of the Indian Constitution says

"No child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engage in any other hazardous employment." There are few organisations actively working

on this front. The Bihar Vidhan Parishad is one such organisation. In this context, the chairman of the Parishad, Jabir Hussain organised a conference for nearly one lakh children which was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Bihar, Rabri Devi. The book draws from Hussain's

remarkable investigation. He spent weeks interviewing children, employers and officials in work sites. He has put together the best data on the number of children in each industry, their age of entry into the labour force, and what happens to them as they grow older. More than 50 percent of the child labourers have expressed their desire to study after completing their work. His work is factual and unemotional but his central theme

MADHU DHAWAN

Announcement

is unmistakable.

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to The Hindu for review. While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under New Arrivals", the decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper. Receipt of individual books will not be ac knowledged in response to enquiries.

BLUE GOLD — The Fight to Stop the Corporate Theft of the World's Water: Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke; LeftWord Books, 12, Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi-110001.

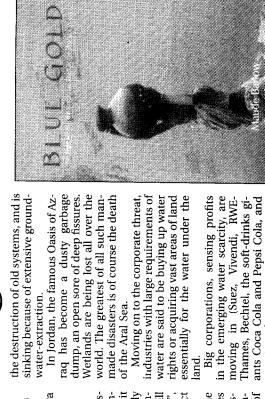
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elaborately with the theme of the impending water crisis, and the still larger theme of "endangered planet", before turning to the stated subject of "corporate theft". THE TITLE of the book gives the misleading impression that it is a pamphlet produced for a campaign, but it is much more than that. It deals fairly

It gives a detailed account of the threat to the world's water resources in because of the rapacious and unsustainable drafts on rivers, lakes, glaciers and aquifers, and because of the extensive pollution and contamination of those resources. There are thumerous examples drawn from many countries. The review cannot a many countries. The review cannot give an idea of the richness of the book, but a few random examples can be mentioned.

Big in the

These by the pre The very large Ogallala aquifer in the American mid-west is under servere stress. The Great Lakes, the largest repository of freshwater in the world, are losing water and have suffered considerable pollution and contamination. Mexico, once rich in twater, has become dry because of contamination.



dump, Wetlan world. made α of the

domestic and foreign, or of protecting their so on), and are trying to obtain control over the world's water resources. The growth of the global water lords and the emergence of water cartels

frightening reading.

The grow and the make frig

are undermined by such conditions. The WTO in particular is shown to be a formidable force, far more powerful than all earlier institutions. The horrendous consequences that the privatisation of water has had in many instances are set forth. water supply and sanitation services by the World Bank, IMF and the ADB, as conditions of loans or essen-tial elements in the Structural Ad-justment Programmes. supply and sanitation services e World Bank, IMF and the reinforced ie tendencies are reinforced prescription of privatisation of

The book then proceeds to argue that all is not lost, and that there have been several instances of suc-Any powers that governments in the poorer countries might have had of exercising control over the corpo-

cessful fights against these processes. Some of those stories are told; in es. Some of those stolites are particular, the well-known Cochabamba (Bolivia) case is narrated.

India's own Narmada case is mentioned with understandable admirathe two big fights in India, namely, Narmada and Tehri, has in the end tion, but the fact that the outcome or been disheartening, was perhaps no known to the authors at the time of

of a standpoint against these trends, and 10 principles are set forth such as "water belongs to the Earth and all species", "water should be left where it is whenever possible", and "water must be conserved for all time".

In the final chapter, the way for ward is outlined, and 10 steps to war 1 All this leads to the development

tion Acts, opposing the commercial trade in water, challenging the lords of water, promoting the "Water Commons Treaty Initiative", supporting a Global Water Convention, ter security are outlined: water lifeline constitutions, water governand so on. "The Treaty Initiative to Share and Protect the Global Water Commons" is in fact put right at the ance councils, national water protec-

beginning of the book.
Given the scope and sweep of the book, some errors were perhaps inevitable. For instance, this reviewer

from other countries. However, these are unlikely to vitiate the broad presentation of wrong policies and opments somewhat lacking in precision, though not significantly inaccurate, and there might be similar imprecision in the instances cited found the references to Indian develdire consequences.

The exposition, analysis and diagnosis presented in the book, and the grim picture of where we are today, are extremely valuable. Some of the material given in the book may come a shocking readers as revelation. many 2

The reviewer has some doubts about the desirability of describing water as a global commons or promoting a global water convention. These could be twisted and distorted to serve the purposes of the more powerful countries or of the global water lords, leading to the loss of na-tional control over natural resources, which is precisely what the authors want to avoid

the principles and steps, and not that the approach outlined in the book is wrong. The book is a very important one, and one hopes it will be widely read in this country. However, what this means is that me changes may be called for in

RAMASWAMY R. IYER

erary criticism in context edly the Indian answer to Diacritics).

REFLECTIONS ON LITERATURE, CRITICISM AND THEORY — Essays in Honour of Professor Prafulla C. Kar: Sura P. Rath, Kailash C. Baral and D.Venkat Rao — Editors; Pencraft International, B-1/41, Ashok rithar II, Delhi-110052. Rs. 550.

THREE OF the most devoted students of Prafulla C. Kar have brought out this festschrift volume that celesbrates his lifetime achievements. What unites the essays is their concern with contextualising modern theory and criticism and bringing it hinto a closer and enduring relationship with Indian literary scholarship. The collection comprises 22 essays: twelve on theory and theorising, nine on applied criticism and ene on films. Prafulla Kar, "an exemplar teacher, scholar, and profestional mentor to people in academica too many to count" in the inwords of the other content in the inwords of the other collection content in the inwords of the other collection content.

rather

academica too many to people in academica too many to count" in the iwords of the editors of this volume, has done a great deal by way of promoting and propagating theory and culture studies through his professional commitment and through the sjournal that he proudly edits, Journal of Contemporary Thought (purport)

culum of Indian literature. This involves foregrounding a vernacular and monoculturality; institutionalise Women's studies forcing the West-ern audience to take note of what volves foregrounding a vernacular text in the teaching schedule. Encourage multiculturality and multi-linguality that would seriously linguality that would seriously challenge English monolinguality In the Indian academic scene, stalwarts like CDN and P.S. Sastri have spearheaded long initiatives and movements for the establishment of Indian teleology that would help assimilating a large body of literatures in English which are alien to the Indian sensibility.

If this is not done, Indian scholarish will remain basely derivative ethics. rill remain basely derivative than interactive with the best

minds outside our country. It is most gratifying that latter-day scholars like Prafulla have extended the domains by continued and collaborative efforts; this festschrift itself is a sure pointer.

Makarand Paranjpe — if one leaves out his personal references and philosophic disquisitions as out of the mark — makes a three-fold pro-

Indian academic scene is wholly dominated by the upper class male into prominence when there was a need to decolonise English studies in India. With the spread of postcolotinal studies, this has lost its "local rhabitation and a name" getting subsumed into a wider umbrella. posal. Indian writing in English came crying need now is to include ular literature into the currisumed The c

vernacul

be human in the coming years." Mohan Ramanan regrets that the or associating the

play a significant cultural role, the Indian academics should inherit our hoary intellectual tradition — the Jawaharlal Nehru — which was at once inclusive and holistic in its tradition of Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi, Sri Aurobindo and happens here and now. Reread our epistemologists and be on the look out for the riches available with us. Translation and comparatism are the only ways by which these can be promoted.

Venkata Rao argues for the use of digital technology which would be the only way to help us "move across the verbally dominant literary studies and non-verbal semiotic cultural ities today is in exploring the radically novel and critical ways of relating tions. It is indeed this relating or connecting that will underwrite what it is practices in the Indian context." "The major challenge to the humanhuman articula-

broad sweep.

John Oliver Perry in his meta-criticism puts forward a two-fold recommendation for those who practise

mendation in India — one should be on one's guard when making judge-ments and in choosing critical ap-proaches (reminding us of Arnoldian personal heresy), one should devel-op sensitivity to verbally presented nuances by intensive practice with specific texts (reminding us of Leavirather than lean on clichés and abstraction drawn from Western theory sian close-reading and local analysis) of resentment in the words of

concluding essay by Martin an exquisite rumination that rumination that plays on gardening as a metaphor. Gardens which we normally associ-Jay

ate with thoughtfully organised places, diligently planted with scented flowers that gratify the mind and the senses, can also be understood as sites of power struggle and violence and "laboratories for unending human struggle. patricians who have "perpetrated an

plnous

elitism wholly unacceptable. If English departments

mates, permeates and penetrates. With the terrific explosion of the academic population in our country, we had better remind ourselves of our sacred office, the neglect of which would be an act of betrayal. Reflecways been a favourite theme of many critics and thinkers. Arnold, Eliot, Helen Gardner, Lionel Trilling, Terry Eagleton and a host of others come readily to one's mind. They have time and again articulated the need The function of criticism has alfor a criticism that informs and anitions is not just another anthology.

criticism and theory disclose to us that literary studies in our country have come a long way from the dreary academism or the notoriously ro-The essays, especially the ones on mantic impressionism associated with it some four or five decades ago.

M. S. NAGARAJAN

high levels of pesticide residue in Remember the debate over the



colas manufactured by some multi-nationals? In India, when we want to know if our guest wants to have a pesticide-laced drink (a cola), we How is the word "Lieutenant" pro-nounced? (A. J. Venkatasubrama-

drink (a cola),

wrong to ask someone if he wants a "cool drink"? Not in the Indian context. In India everyone would understand what you mean.

What is the difference between "I had a bad day" and "I have had as a "cool drink". Instead they use "soft drink", "soda" and "soda pop". They would normally ask, "Would you like a soft drink?" or "Would you like a soda?" So is it have a "cool drink". Native speakers of English do not refer to a cola as a "cool drink". Instead they use "soft drink", "soda" and "soda might ask them if they would like to pronounce this word differently. The English pronounce the "lieut" like the word "left". The "e" that follows is pronounced like the "e" in "ten", "pen" and "hen", and the final "a" sounds like the "a" in "china". The main stress is on the second syllable. The Americans, on the other hand, pronounce the "ieu" in the first syllable like the "oo" in "pool", "cool", and "school". They pronounce the remaining two syllables like the British. The main stress once again remains on the second syllable. Indians tend to follow the British pronunciation.

What is the meaning and origin of "hangdog expression"? (Athiya nyam, Bangalore)
The Americans and the pronounce this word

Chennai) Fathima,

a bad day?? (Vijaya, New Delhi)
When you say that you "had a bad day", what you are implying is that the events that made it a "bad day" are already over. They happened in the past, and are not continuing up to the present. Perhaps you had a bad day at the office yesterday. Maybe you had a bad day at the office, so the office today. But right now, you are no longer at the office, so chances are the "bad day" will no longer continue. It is over. When longer continue. It is over. When you say that you "have had a bad day", what you are implying is that the bad day is not over as yet. It may still continue. You are saying that you have had a bad day "so far" and chances are the rest of the day will be bad as well. The bad day isn't over as yet! The events that have made it a bad day began in the that". But did we listen? No way! We went ahead and did what we wanted to because we thought we Sometimes we do things we know that we are not supposed to. As kids, our parents kept telling us, "Don't do this" and "Don't do knew better. There were times when we got caught doing the wrong thing, and when this hap-pened what was the expression on our face? It was one of guilt. The term "hangdog" is normally used to refer to one's expression; an expression that suggests that one is ashamed of what one has done.

Here are a few examples. *When Kanthi was arrested, she

past and are continuing up to the present moment and with the kind

had a hangdog expression about her. *The hangdog air suggested that she had done something seriously

of luck you have been having, they may even continue into the future!

Here are a couple of more examples. "I had the car for twenty years" and "I have had the car for buring medieval times, it was yoomnon practice among Europenans to put not only human beings on trial, but also animals. Whenever an animal did something wrong, it was put on trial and if found guilty it was sentenced to die by "hanging". For example, if a dog bit a man and he died of rabies, the dog was put on trial for murder. In 1487 in France, beetles were formally charged for destroying a vineyard! The expression "hanged dog" was initially used to describe the look on someone's face who was considered fit to be hanged, days, the word is being used to mean "shamefaced".

"I have had the car for twenty years" suggests that you bought the car twenty years ago and you still have it. You still continue to be the

The second sentence,

have sold it.

"I have had the car for

of owning the car began twenty years ago and it still continues.
*Janani had a headache (yesterday/this morning). (She no longer

owner of the car. The "action" (as our grammar books would put it!) of owning the car began twenty

twenty years". The first sentence implies that you had the car with you for twenty years. But now you no longer own the car, perhaps you

Is it O.K to ask someone, "Would u like a cool drink?" (S. Revathi,

"Memory is what tells a man that his wife's birthday was yesterday." — Mario Rocco ll have a girlfriend) years. (I still

had a girlfriend for

one now

S. UPENDRAN

BOOK REVIEW Wind HOUSE

- The Diabetes Problem Server: Nancy Touchette; Rs. 395.

 • 101 Tips for Improving Your Blood
- Sugar: Rs. 135. 101 Nutrition Tips for People with Diabetes: Patti B. Geil; Rs. 135.
 Meditations on Diabetes — Streng-
- thening Your Spirit in Every Season: Catherine Feste: Rs. 195.

 101 Tips for Staying Healthy with Diabetes & Avoiding Complica-tions: Rs. 135. The above five books pub. by Viva Books Pvt. Ltd., 4262/3, Ansari Road, Daryagani, New
- Golden Chimes Herbert's New Nursery Rhymes & Short Stories: Rosalind Herbert; Copies can be had from author, Bonita, Plot No. 50, Senthil Nagar, Sowripalayam Road, Coimbatore-641028. Rs. 40.

 Land, Politics and Trade in South
- Asia: Sanjay Subraymanyam Editor, Oxford University Press, YMCA Library Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001. Rs. 595.

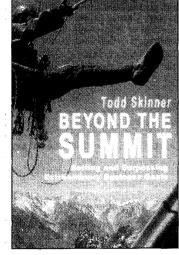


- Numerology Vols. I & II: Matthew Oliver Goodwin; Viva Books Pvt. Ltd., 4262/3, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New
 Numerology
- Delhi-110002. Rs. 395 each.

 Saga of Patriotism Revolutionaries in India's Freedom Struggle: Sadhu Prof. V. Rangarajan, R. hu Prof. V. Rangarajan, R. Vivekanandan; Sister Nivedita Acade my, Sri Bharati Mandir, Srinivasana-
- gar, Kithaganur Hoad, Krishnarajapuram, Bangalore-560036. **Rs. 100.** My Times An Autobiography: J. B. Kripalani; Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002.
- The Best of Laxman The Common Man At Large: R. K. Laxman; Penguin Books India (P) Ltd., 11, Community Centre, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi-110017. **Rs. 200.**
- Body Mind Intellect Triggering the Soul Force: Gulab Kothari; Rajasthan
- Patrika, Kesargarh, Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004. Rs. 495. Tea With Pandit Nehru and other Memoirs: Sumangali Chettur; East-West Books (Madras) Pvt. Ltd., 571, Poonamallee High Road, Aminjikarai, Chennai-600029. **Rs. 150.**
- The Connolly Book of Numbers, Vol. I — The Fundamentals; Vol. II — The Consultant's Manual: Eileen Connolly; Viva Books Pvt. Ltd., 4262/3, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, Delhi-110002. **Rs. 295** each.
- Communication The Soul of Evolution: Gulab Kothari; Rajasthan Patrika, Kesargarh, Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004. **Rs. 495.**
- How To Realise God Ways to Receive All His Blessings: V. A. Kuria-kose; Minerva Press, 5-E, First Floor, Jhansi Road, Jhandewalan
- , New Delhi-110055. Rs. 150. Diplomatic Divide — Cross-border Talks: Humayun Khan, G. Parthasa-rathy; Roli Books Pvt. Ltd., M-75, er Kailash II, Market, New Del hi-110048. Rs. 225.
- Beyond the Summit Setting and Surpassing Extraordinary Business Goals: Todd Skinner; Random House

 Business Publishers Communication

 Business Business Books, London. Distributed by Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. £ 11.40.



- Socio-Economic Thoughts of B. R Ambedkar: Deo Prakash; Manak Publications Pvt., Ltd., B-7, Saraswathi Complex, Subhash Chowk, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092. Rs. 650.

 Too Many With Too Little — The
- Challenge for India's Development Paradigm: George B. Assaf; Konark Publishers Pvt. Ltd., A-149, Main Vi-kas Marg, Delhi-110092. Rs. 300.
- Wonders That is Reiki First Steps in Healing through Reiki: David F. Ven-nells; Rs. 225. • Celebrating Death — Life and Death
- Beginning or End?: John Mumford; Rs. 175.
- A Complete Guide to Managing Stress: Bimal Chhajer; Rs. 195. The above three books pub. by Motilal Ba-narsidass, 120, Royapettah High Road, Mylapore, Chennai-600004.
- Imaging India Imaging Japan A Chronicle of Reflections on Mutual Literature: Unita Sachidanand, Teiji Sa-kata; Manak Publications Pvt., Ltd., B-7, Saraswathi Complex, Subhash Chowk, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092.

Tamil

- Thaimayae Vellum: M. Chidambaram; Valliappa Veliyeedu; 40, Luz Avenue, Mylapore, Chennai-600004.
- Nataka Vadivil Nala Venba: Rs. 38. Tamaraparani Karaiyinilae: Rs. 36. The above two books written by S. Gananas, Manimekalai Prasuram, PB No. 1447, 7, Thanikachalam Salai, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017.

- Kuzhanthaikalukku Inikkum Iniya Kathaikal: Saithai Selvaraj; Azhagu Pathippagam, 21, Teachers Guild Col-ony, Rajaji Nagar Extn., Villivakkam,
- Maariamman Varalaarum Vazhipaa-Maariamman Varalaarum Vaznipaa-tu Payanum: Sri Vedaviyasar; Sankar Pathippagam, 21, Teachers Guild Col-ony, Rajaji Nagar Extn., Villivakkam, Chennai-600049. **Rs. 35**.
- Thanippaadalil Navarasangal: C. S. Murugesan; Kurinchi, 20 A, Teachers Murugesan; Kurinchi, 20 A, Teachers Guild Colony, Rajaji Nagar Extn., Villi-vakkam, Chennai-600049, Rs. 65.
 Deivangal Vanangiya Deivath Thi-ruththalangal — Part I: Thellaru E. Mani; Sankar Pathippagam, 21, Teachers Guild Colony, Rajaji Nagar Extn., Villivakkam, Chennai-600049. Rs. 90.
- Rs. 90.
 Sakthi Peedankal 51: Thellaru E. Mani; Sankar Pathippagam, 21, Teachers
 Guild Colony, Rajaji Nagar Extn., Villivakkam, Chennai-600049. Rs. 125.
 Sivavakkiyar Padal Moolamum
 Uraiyum: M. A. Vadivelu Mudaliyar;
 Arunthathi Nilayam, 19, Kannadhasan
 Salai, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs.
 125.
- Amalanadhipiran Saram: S. Krishnaswamy Iyengar; Anuragam, 19, Kannadhasan Salai, T.Nagar, Chen-
- Kannadhasan Salai, T.Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 10.

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 Vetri Ungal Kaiyil: R. Kannan; Arunthathi Nilayam, 19, Kannadhasan Salai, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 35.

 Arumana Asalai, Samaiyal, Sam
- Arumayana Asaiva Samaiyal: S. Punithavalli; Anuragam, 19, Kannadhasan Salai, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 35.
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- Arumayana Saiva Samaiyal: S. Puni-thavalli; Anuragam, 19, Kannadhasan Salai, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs.
- Naan Yaar? Sathyanarayanan; Kumaran Pathippagam, 3, Muthu Krishnan Street, Pondy Bazaar, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 40.
- Thamizhannalin Vaahvarasi: Rama Chidambaram; Ammal Pathippagam Book Sellers & Distributors, 1, Kakkan Street, Sathya Garden, Saligramam,
- Chennai-600093. Rs. 54.

 Poochikalin Pudumai Ulagam:
 Ramkumar; Sankar Pathippagam, 21,
 Teachers Guild Colony, Rajaji Nagar
 Extn., Villivakkam, Chennai-600049.
- Thinayi Mayakkam: Nellai Jayandha; Kumaran Pathippagam, 3, Mutukrish-nan Street, T. Nagar, Chen-
- nan Street, T. Magar, Chennai-600017. **Rs. 40. Deivath Tamil:** C. S. Murugesan; Sankar Pathippagam, 21, Teachers Guild Colony, Rajaji Nagar Extn., Villivakkam, Chennai-600049. **Rs. 140.**
- Sitragal: Booma Eswaramoorthy, Latha Ramakrishnan; Arunthathi Ni-layam, 19, Kannadhasan Salai, T.Najayam, 19, Kannadnasan Salai, T.Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 150. Deivangal Vanangiya Deivath Thiruththalangal — Part-2: Thellaru E. Mani; Sankar Pathippagam, 21, Teachers Guild Colony, Rajaji Nagar Extn., Villivakkam, Chennai-600049.
- Rs. 60. Vazhvil Munnera Nallathaiye Seyy-
- ungal: K.S. Subramani; Rs. 28.
 Hageeyar Veettu Noonboo Kanchi:
 Mohammedan Raia: Rs. 35. Mohammedan Raja; Rs. 35.
 • Velicham Thedum Vizhigal: P.M. Si-
- vabharathi; Rs. 28.

 Vazhviyal Vasanthangal: Bala Vayeeravanathan; Rs. 40.

 Manachatchi: Elilarasi Menon; Rs. 27. The above five books pub. by Manimegalai Prasuram, PB No. 1147, 7, Thanikachalam Salai, T. Nagar,
- Oru Eenippana Kolai: S. Chandra; Swathi Pathippagam, 32, Ramakrish-na Nagar, Pondicherry-605003. Rs. 70.• Srimath Bhagavit Bar. Swami
- Santhananda Puri: Rs. 40. Valluvaththin Meetchi: J. Naraya-
- naswamy; Rs. 100. Jathagappadi Puthira Bhakiyam Undaa? Pirakkum Kuzhanthai Aanaa, Pennaa?: P. C. Ganesan; Rs. 40. The above three books pub. by Sura Books Pvt. Ltd., 1620, 'J' Block, 16th Main Road Anna Nagar Chennai-600040 Ulagail Sirandha Chinnanjiru Kath-
- aigal: Muktha Srinivasan; Rs. 40.
 Ariviyal Kalanchiyam Part 3: Athma K Bavi Bs. 35 Pattup Paravaigal: Madura; Rs. 45. Vainava Amutham: A. Ramabha-
- dran; Rs. 100.

 Mahaangal Bathil Alikkirargal: S. Lakshmi Subramaniam; Rs. 90. The above five books pub. by Gangai Puthaka Nilayam, 23, Deenadayalu Street, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017.
- Prabanda Thanippaadalkal: C. S. Murugesan; Senthamizh Pathippa-gam, 15/21, Teachers Guild Colony, Rajaji Nagar Extn., Villivakkam, Chen-
- i-600049. **Rs. 70.** Siddharkalin Pranava Soothiram Muppu — Part I: A. Raghavan; Kurinchi, 20A, Teachers Guild Colony, Rajaji Nagar Extn., Villivakkam, Chen nai-600049. **Rs. 90.**

Telugu

- Parahushaar: Shekar; Chetana, 1-4-
- 113, Bholakpur, Kavadiguda, Secunderabad-80. **Rs. 50.** derabad-80. Rs. 50.

 Sonia — Oka Jeevita Katha (by Johnson Choragudi): Rasheed Kidwai — Tr. in Telugu; Alakananda Prachuranalu, Publications Wing of Ashok Book Centre, Opp. Maris Stella College, Vijayawada-520008. Rs. 150.

 Madhuramaina Maamidi — A Book on Mango Cultivation, Production, Marketing & Processing: Kattamanchi
- Marketing & Processing: Kattamanchi Balakrishna Reddy; Chittoor District Agriculturists Service Society (Regd.), Suvera House, 15-2294, Balaji Nagar Colony, CB Road, Chittoor-517002.
- Rs. 100. • O Renuvu Sirikosam: Singisetti Sanjeeva Rao; Visalandhra Book House, 4-1-435, Bank Street, Hyderabad-500002. Rs. 30.

Kannada

- Ayyappa Panikkarara Krithigalu: C. Raghavan — Tr. in Kannada; Sahitya Akademi, Rabindra Bhavan, 35, Fero-zeshah Road, New Delhi-110001. **Rs**.
- Samagra Nota: B.G. Banakar: Rs.
- Shakespeare Eradu Natakagala Adhyayana: G.K. Govinda Rao; Rs.
- Jeevana Preeti: Kalegowda Nagava-ra Editor; Rs. 100. Samajika Nele: Shivaramu Kadana-kuppe; Rs. 100.
- Sisu Sangamesa Aayda Makkala Sahitya: Siddanna B. Utnal, Rs. 200. The above five books pub. by Kannada Pustaka Pradhikara, Pampa Maha Chamarajpet Bangalore-560018.

Vindication of truth

TRIUMPH OF TRUTH - The Rajiv Gandhi Assassination, The investigation: D.R. Kaarthikevan; Radhavinod Raju; New Dawn Press Group (An Imprint of Sterling Publishers (P) Ltd., A-59, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-II, New Delhi-110020. Rs. 500.

AT LONG last, we have an authentic and interesting narration of the investigation into Rajiv Gandhi's assassination, that rocked the country in May 1991, and that too from the horse's mouth — the head of the CBI's Special Investigation Team (SIT) - D.R. Kaarthikeyan and his colleague Radhavinod Raju.

The SIT did the country proud and re-established the credibility of the Indian Police Service by not just pinning the responsibility on the dreaded Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), but meticulously producing all the evidence to secure a conviction in the courts.

It was the first time ever that a human bomb was used to assassinate a political leader and starting from scratch, the SIT built the case, uncovered the plot and nailed the assassins.

It is entirely to the credit of the SIT that it was able to track down all the culprits and suspects involved in the assassination and wrap up the investigation in a matter of three months. Of course. it needed another nine months to put all those clues, the incriminating evidence and the details of "Operation Rajiv Gandhi" together to file the charge sheet before the Special Court on the eve of the first anniversary of Rajiv's

assassination. As Kaarthikeyan recalls 251 counts of charges were framed against the 26 accused with supporting documents and witness statements of over 10,000 pages. The prosecution cited as many as 1,044 witnesses and their statements were recorded and submitted to the court. The Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA) was invoked for the first time in Tamil Nadu in the Rajiv assassination case, for which a Designated Court was set up and S.M. Sidickk was appointed as the Judge. It was only on May 5, 1993 that the leader of the prosecution team P. Rajamanickam made the opening statement in the case. The accused and the defence team tried all they

trial and then delay it at all stages. The trial commenced on January 19, 1994 and it took a little over four years and more than 600 working days to complete the process. As the Judge was elevated, N. Navaneetham took over the task and delivered the verdict on this historic case on January 28, 1998.

could to prevent the start of the

Triumph of Truth GANDHI (SSASSINATION The Investigation

All the 26 accused were found guilty and sentenced to death by the Designated Court and there was an appeal before the Supreme Court.

D. R. Kaarthikeyan

Radhavinod Raju

Fortunately for the prosecution, the apex court heard the appeal in four months, but took another four months to deliberate upon and delivered the judgment on May 5, 1999. That verdict confirmed the death sentence of Nalini (which has subsequently been commuted to life imprisonment). Santhan, Murugan and Perarivalan, while altering to life sentence the three

accused — Robert Pavas. Jayakumar (both Sri Lankan Tamils and brothers-in-law) and Rayichandran, the chief of the since hanned Tamil National Retrieval Troops (TNRT). The other 18 were found guilty but the period of their detention was set off against their sentence and their release ordered.

What was more heartening for the SIT was the Supreme Court's observation, "There is not even a speck of doubt in our mind that the criminal conspiracy to murder Rajiv Gandhi was hatched by at least four persons comprising Vellupillai Prabhakaran, Pottu Omman, Sivarasan and Akila.

Though the LTTE had been involved in several killings and assassinations before in Sri Lanka, it had never been brought to book and convicted of the crime in any court. That way, the terrorist strategies of the LTTE and its suicide squads were fully exposed and nailed by the SIT in India. Even after Rajiv's assassination, the killings continue in Sri Lanka, but there has not been a similar, scientific investigation into its dastardly assassinations.

In the course of this book, Kaarthikevan has detailed every significant piece of investigation starting with the first arrests till the mass suicide in Konanakunte, a suburb of Bangalore, on August 19,

1991 when Sivarasan — the oneeyed jack - and his key assistants ended their lives to avoid getting caught alive. There are so many interesting anecdotes about the conspiracy — the way Sivarasan and Subha were smuggled to Bangalore in a petrol tanker and how all the communication equipment were tracked down and the codes broken, for instance.

There are some interesting details about how the LTTE functions - its political and intelligence wings, which act independent of each other, but got together after Raiiv's assassination in a bid to save Sivarasan. The network of Indian helpers and the LTTE activists and the way they got together on this job makes interesting reading too. In The Hindu we had a team of reporters working on this story and we had a good rapport with the SIT, though more often than not, information was difficult to extract.

After four decades, there may be many unanswered questions in the Kennedy assassination. Not so in Rajiv's. Perhaps the only nagging question is: could we have not got one of the prime accused alive? Sivarasan, Subha or Tiruchi Santhan for instance? Kaarthikevan has tried his best to answer this question too. You must read it.

V. JAYANTH

Overview of Indian theatre

ASIDES - Themes in Contemporary Indian Theatre: Nemichandra Jain; Published by National School of Drama, Bhawalpur House, Bhagawandas Road, New Delhi-110001. Rs. 300.

INDIAN THEATRE has a history of more than 2000 years. The first treatise on dramaturgy, the Natyassastra, was written by Bharata around the 2nd Century B.C. Sanskrit drama and its production has been a dominant factor in Indian theatre for nearly the

same length of time. comprehensive work on contemporary Indian theatre dealing with its evolution, transformation, past, present and future, and the nature of Indian theatre.

The author with his experience in the field over a period of five decades deals with the subject with subtlety and insight. In 19 chapters, he tries to handle different delicate components of Indian theatre with admirable ease.

There is a chapter on contemporary production of Sanskrit drama deals with dramatic writings in Hindi. Most of the author's analysis revolves naturally round the Sanskrit or Hindi plays because he is a Hindi poet, literary and theatre critique,

translator, editor and teacher. Very few mention of the works of Girish Kharnad or B V Karanth dealing with the Kannada drama or Shakespearean plays are found. As is usual in any such book, the South Indian drama does not find important place at all.

The chapter "Interface of tradition and modernity" reflects the crucial challenges confronting post-Independence India to Indian theatre. It was a time of confusion and incoherence, a period of cultural revivalism, deep-rooted patriotism and a period of urge for independent regional

identity The author gives the names of a number of writers and their works and significant contemporary directors of this period. Dealing with Sanskrit drama and particularly those of Bhasa, the author pays tributes to

Kavalam Narayana Panikar. In another chapter, he quotes extensively from the Natyasastra while dealing with theatre and Indian culture. It also deals with the dance drama tradition and the Bhakti The book under notice is a fairly movement in different parts of the country. Drama as a comprehensive form of art encompassing poetry, music, singing, dance, miming, painting, designing costumes and

masks is presented with examples. The chapter on audience participation in Indian traditional theatre gives amazing facts about spectators taking part in some of the dramas where there are no enclosures or tickets.

This deep-rooted relationship between society and theatre is found in some regional stage dramas perauthored by Bhasa. Another one formed in open theatre, in villages. Dramas of this kind have been illustrated with photographs.

> either Sanskrit dramas or translations were performed. It was during the mid-19th Century that original works started coming in different

The author deals with the history of Hindi drama right from the mid-19th Century. It not only deals with the drama writing but also production in Hindi with legendary personalities like Prithvi Raj Kapoor, Jagdish Chandra Mathur, Bhishma Shahani and others.

There are some plays which have changed the face of Hindi drama like

"Andha Yug" in 1953 and "Aashad Ka Ik Din" 1958. "Andha Yug" in a sense was a special kind of dramatic work which drew upon the classical Greek and Sanskrit drama as well as some of the conventions of the traditional Indian theatre. Stylistically, some of the dramas during this period have contributed to stabilising the trends in Hindi drama.

It was also the time when the directors dominated the Hindi theatre scene unlike in other Indian languages. "Andha Yug" was also the drama which highlighted the futility of war and violence as a means to solve social or political problems.

In fact Marathi plays have become pioneers and trendsetters in building vibrant Indian theatre. Bengali playwrights have also treated the question of war and violence highghting the evils and scars that they eave on the society.

Folk drama and spoken word in mythological plays have attracted the aesthetic sensibilities of a variety of audience. In Northern India, the romances from the Muslim countries like Laila Majnu and the regional tales of similar themes have become

The author discusses several There was a period of time when forms of drama with or without music in various regions which have been popular in their respective territories like Nautanki, Yaksha Gana, Khyaal, Tamaasha, Raasaleela, Bhavai, Teru Kuttu, Jaatra, Bhagavata Mela. Child plays like "Lava Kusha" and "Prahlada" and also the role of the Sangeet Natak Academy are dis-

cussed. This book cannot claim to be exhaustive because of the nature of the topic. A commendable work which scholars and researchers as well as

laymen will find useful. PAPPU VENUGOPALA RAO | Ascendant and the rest of the eleven

Astrology and marriage

STAR GUIDE TO LOVE AND MARRIAGE - The 7th House in Astrology: Pandit K. B. Parsai, Gargi Parsai; Rupa & Co, 7/16, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 95:

MARITAL AGREEMENTS — A Quick Approach: H. Boothalingam; copies can be had from the author, N-7, T.C.20/1678, Sastrinagar Karamana, Trivandrum-695002 Rs. 100.

THE MAKE or mar potential of the 7th House from the Ascendant or Lagna in the birth chart, denoting love, marriage and spouse is the pivot in the first book that exquisitely delineates for the benefit of harried parents how wedlock can be ensured for their wards through faultless match making.

How to go about the complex and exacting job is dealt with in an enlightening and most lucid manner in this book, pinpointing the interplay of the benevolent, adverse and destructive influence, planets, their combinations and mutual aspects bring to bear on the 7th House and the astrological way out to avert chances of marital disasters like separation, divorce, mutual hostility and death arising out of ill-matched hor-

The main focus is on the prime need to consider the longevity of the partners, their health, mental and psychological factors, more than one marriage aspect, extramarital affairs, besides the way of going about the task of judging the compatibility.

Another aspect emphasised is the importance of the agreement between the Navamsa chart of the bridegroom and the Trimshansha (one-thirtieth of the division of the

horoscopre) of the bride. After unfolding a synoptic picture of the likely fallout of the presence of benefic and malefic planets in the

Zodiacal signs in relation to the 7th House, the author presents a very absorbing account of Kuja dosha (Mars affliction when the planet is present in the Ascendant, 2nd, 4th, 7th. 8th and the 12th House) and cites how the generally dreaded Planet operates severely and sometimes savagely in the 7th and the 8th House (Mangalya Bhava) in a female

horoscope. Also presented is a grisly scenario that is triggered by the equally cruel planet Saturn while joining hands with Mars in the 7th or the 8th House or one of them occupying the 7th and the other remaining in the 8th House. The author gives suggestions on matching such affliction ridden

birth charts. Cautioning parents against down playing the importance of flawless matching of charts, Pandit Parsai, the author reveals his erudition and mastery over astrology by highlighting the crucial role planetary factors play in bringing about marital bliss

or disasters. The second book dealing with similar aspects relating to matching of charts, like the first book, should prove to be of immense help to parents in determining the c ity of birth charts and rejecting afflictions-laden horoscopes while clinching alliances for their sons and daughters and also preventing the parents from being taken for a ride by charlatans and half baked astrologers claiming themselves to be adept

in the art of matching. One of the valuable guidance given in the book is a very educative and informaive table showing the nature and number of agreements between girls' stars and boys' stars besides the chapter seeking to enlighten parents on Panasamyam, one of the essential

ingredients in matching horoscopes. R. PARTHASARATHY

Malayalam short stories Communist movement Fiction with a message Writings of EMS

TAMIL

MALAYALA SIRUKADHAIGAL -- Short Stories from Malayalam: Sura - Tr. in Tamil;

Rajamanikkammal Veliyeedu, 3, Appa Garden, Taylors Road, Kilpauk, Chennai-600010, Rs. 30. THIS BOOK is a collection of five Malayalam stories by three writers translated into Tamil by Sura. Three are by S. K. Pottekkatt. In "Nisagandhi" the narrator, after admitting that this is his most favourite flower, discloses that in his own garden he does not grow this plant.

The narrator in "Dharmasalaiyil...", set in Benares, is approached by a visually challenged singer who pleads with him that he vacate the choultry room for him for the particular night. Behind his insistence is a splendid gesture that becomes clear in a story within the story. The female companion who accompanies the man has another story, if sleazy. "Thozhi" is a tale of spontaneous and pure friendship between two girls that admits

of no social barriers. In Vaikom Muhammad Basheer's "Vatsarajan", a poor young man, by his noble deed earns the eternal gratitude of the narrator. As the good turn that he does is chronicled, we have a glimpse of the lives of freedom fighters and a cynical look at the state of the nation after Independence.

Kakkanadan's "Irandam Piravi" is a long story of an uncommon friendship between two respectable people in a village. It is packed with events but moves leisurely. People come and go but the focus is always on the central characters. Even the elements are a witness. Often one situation foreshadows another, encouraging readers to make their own inferences about the drift of the story. The serene atmosphere suddenly changes and events come to a head. The author's wry humour and shrewd remarks on current events are

The book is well got up. The names of the

this cannot be an excuse for the omission of a table of contents

C. G. RISHIKESH

COMMUNISM - Netru - Indru - Naalai: R. Jawahar; Nakkeeran Publications Chennai-600014. Rs. 60. THE BOOK is a collection of articles on the subject serialised in the popular Tamil weekly Nakkeeran over a year and now published in

book form with minor changes. It is divided

into three parts. In the first part, the author

compares the capitalist system with socialist

societies. He has projected with facts and fig-

ures the equitable distribution of social wealth and benefits in the socialist societies. The author narrates in detail the Russian Revolution led by Lenin and the Chinese Revolution by Mao, and their set back due to noncompliance with the correct Marxist ideologies by the subsequent leaderships taking a revi-

The second part details the history of communist movements in India, especially in Tamil Nadu and their splits into number of parties like the CPI, CPM and the CPML. The author emphasises that all the communist parties in India should merge with their trade

unions to build a new society in the country. The last section very briefly states that there is a revival of the communist movements all over the world with new young leadership for a better future arguing that a society which has existed with private property for over a period of 5000 years cannot be eliminated in 100 years. A low priced book with photographs in simple journalist language worth reading for anyone interested in the study of the commu-

SE. GANESALINGAN TELUGU

VELUGU VAKITLOKI — Anthology of Short Stories: Sriraj; Pub. by Vahini Book Trust, 1-9-

original writers are mentioned on the cover but 286/3, Vidyanagar, Hyderabad-500044. Rs. 60. THIS BOOK is a collection of 22 short stories by Sriraj, an expert in fiction writing. The stories make us read and reflect. We meet a person who repents for his misdeeds and acts only after it was too late. The youngster commits suicide because of failure in love in the first

story "Oka Kshan" (A Second). The title story "Velugu Vakitloki" (On to Enlightenment) is about an officer, mindful only of his personal achievements, highly corrupt and equally immoral, who was ultimately "blinded" by his own staffers after they named him "another demon". The narrative is interspersed with reminiscences of his life, presently in second person singular, advocating a moral conduct for others. The technique

adopted is highly commendable. The last piece named "The Last Case" deals with a criminal lawyer who unwittingly argues to get a rapist and murderer go scot free. On learning that the victim was no other than his own daughter, the lawyer gives up his profession. Social and human values are highlighted

and upheld in the story. N. C. RAMANUJACHARY MALAYALAM

EMSINTE SAMPOORNA KRITIKAL — Vois. 27 & 28: P. Govinda Pillai — Editor; Chintha Publishers, Thiruvananthapuram. Rs. 150 each

THESE VOLUMES of E. M. S. Namboodiripad's collected works deal with notes on international affairs that EMS wrote in the theoretical journal Communist during 1960-61. For the most part he used the monthly column in the magazine to enlighten partymen on the issues that occupied the headlines in those days such

as the Congolese and Laotian problems. Needless to say he applauded every triumph of the Soviet bloc and warned of the impending collapse of capitalism. Agrarian reform and industrialisation received special attention in his speeches and writings on national affairs.

In an article he has noted that the Communist Party of India (CPI) in assessing the manner in which his ousted Government in Kerala had conceived land reforms, had come to the conclusion that left sectarian tendencies on its part had driven large sections of middle-level

farmers and small landlords to the opposite He believed that industrialisation was the key to modernisation of the Indian economy and argued that heavy industries should get high priority. The Centre's neglect of Kerala was a recurring theme in his speeches and

During this period he campaigned vigorously against communal politics. He took the Congress to task for enlisting the support of the ndian Union Muslim League against his party in the 1960 mid-term elections and rewarding it with the speakership of the State Assembly. When the Speaker's death necessitated a byelection, he offered the CPI's support to the Congress if it put up a candidate against the

League nominee. The Congress decided not to contest but one of its members entered the fray. Namboodiripad explained that the CPI was supporting him in the interests of secular politics. Six years later he was to return to power, heading a seven-party coalition that included the Muslim League and to reward that party with a minis-

B. R. P. BHASKAR

Announcement

tership for the first time.

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to The Hindu for review. While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under "New Arrivals", the decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper. Receipt of individual books will not be acknowledged in response to enquiries.

Outsourcing business

Offshoring, Outsourcing and the Global Services Revolution: Paul Davies; Nicholas Brealey Publishing, International, London, Distributed by Research Press, P.O 7208, I Floor. Arun House, 2/25, Ansari Road, New Delhi-110002. £ 9.99.

THIS BOOK on outsourcing service jobs in offshore centres by the U.S. and the European countries is based on the author's firsthand experience in business process outsourcing. It is for India as the first choice on several a well documented work based on his personal experience in India, the U.S. and the U.K. in I.T. offshoring and business process offshoring. The presentation is lucid and highly

Developed countries moving the jobs to Asia is not new. It was manufacturing jobs that were moved about 25 years ago and it is now service jobs. While the movement of manufacturing jobs did not create ripples in those countries, the movement of service jobs, such as call centres and back office work invited resentment and organised protest. Even a liberal government like that of the U.S. has sympathised with the protest in a limited way. But the corporates have been moving the jobs from the U.S., the U.K., and Germany to the developing countries like India, Thailand and Philippines for their own survival and cost effectiveness, in the context of global competition in the backdrop of the growing conflict of interest of the corporates and the societies cial responsibility analyses the in these countries. The book under matter from the point of view of the

WHAT'S THIS INDIA BUSINESS? — in the context of the eagerness developing countries evince to capture business. The author has adopted a dispassionate and logical approach in his arguments. It is primarily meant for the corporates in the U.S. and Europe who are contemplating to move jobs to offshore centres for better profit and improved quality.

While he is not undermining the capabilities of several countries from Asia and Latin America, he is all out counts. Perhaps, other competing countries may have a grouse that he has been completely sold out to India. Any way his arguments for justification are based on solid personal experience. It is really a matter for great satisfaction and source of strength to Indian companies aspiring to make entry into the U.S. and European markets.

The entire subject is dealt with in 16 chapters. The first four are devoted to projecting India's unique position in the phenomenon of global services revolution. The next five deal with strategies to cope with India on a daily basis. Chapters 10 to 13 cover the operating procedures with focus on various pitfalls and tips to avoid them. A detailed account of the procedure to start and implement the project step by step is valuable.

The next two deal with long-term opportunities and also reciprocal business possibilities. The last chapter rightly captioned as corporate soreview is timely, relevant and useful countries involved and the long and

ment and documentation are based on his personal experience. But they are useful to everyone. His observations and suggestions in negotiation, What's This project review on core and non-core ssues are very interesting.

He is of the view that once a decision has been taken to go offshore, the first step must be to draw a business plan. It should include not only financial projection but also a realistic cash flow and ways to increase customer satisfaction, specify the assumptions behind the project and figures, benchmark to measure progress, details of cost benefit aspects, return on investments and hidden savings. It is also suggested that the existing employees perception of the project be assessed. He strongly recommends drawing up of a disaster plan for any eventuality. Next in importance is diligence and risk management. It calls for a critical look at the contract details, various agreements, exit strategy, contingent plan and regulations which may be source of some problem or the other.

Accounts management needs close attention. So also the composition of the project team to monitor project implementations. The chaper on negotiation and art of haggling in the Indian context is very interesting.

The book will be of use to the U.S. and European corporates who want to move the jobs and to Indian call centres or business progress organisations who want to take up the jobs.

S. ARUNAJATESAN

Value based education

EDUCARE — For Parents and Teachers: Hiramalini Seshadri, Seshadri Harihar; Pub. by the authors, copies can be had from: The Convenor, Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi, Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh. Price not mentioned

HUMANKIND is on the horns of a dilemma today, faced as it is with sweeping changes in lifestyle owing to the relentless march of technology on the one hand and crumbling value systems in society on the other.

Luckily there are beacons of light to save humanity and Sri Sathya Sai Baba's concept of "Educare" encompassing values of truth, love, righteous conduct, non-violence and peace is foremost. The nine chapters of this book delineate lucidly the various facets of "Educare".

Ego and self-interest are the serious stumbling blocks to the development of shared vision and teamwork and the authors bring this out clearly. They also point out how the business school affiliated to Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning has been teaching management students the use of "fundamental discrimination" based on what is good for all as opposed to "individual discrimination", which is guided by self-interest.

In spite of some portions of a repetitive nature, the book is a delightful tour of the vast region of "Educare". It will be of great value to both the laymen and the educational experts alike.

T. RAJAGOPALAN

FROM THE BLURB

INDIA

Business?

Offshoring, Outsourcing

Global Services Revolution

PAUL DAVIES

short-term benefits to each of them.

economy, religion, culture, road traf-

fic, hotel facilities, politicians and

civil servants reflect the true picture.

India's educational standard partic-

ularly that of the I.I.Ts and the I.I.Ms,

the style of Indian businessmen and

their behaviour pattern, language pe-

culiarities, communications prob-

lems are useful tips to foreigners

although they are neither adequate

The comments on Indians' time

consciousness and punctuality need

to be taken with a pinch of salt. His

opinions on financial analysis, cost

structuring, legal aspects of agree-

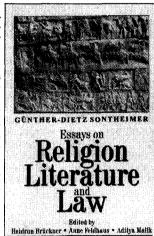
to deal with all the issues nor are they

totally correct.

 Gunther-Dietz Sontheimer – Essays on Re ligion, Litera-ture and Law: Heindrun Bruckner, and Aditya Malik — Editors Pub. by Indira Gandhi Nation al Centre fo the Arts, Jan-path, New Del-hi-110001 in with Manohar Publishers & Distributors.

ri Road, Darya-ganj, New

ganj, inew Delhi-110002.



Collection of 14 selected papers by the late G.-D. Sontheimer (1934-92) spanning a wide thematic and temporal range and reflecting his multidisciplinary approach, combining the methodologies of philology, anthropology, bitchey, archaeology, paigraphy, and product, commining the methodologies of philology, anthropology, history, archaeology, epigraphy and iconography. The essays are on the juristic personality of Hindu deities, the history and religion of pastoral groups in the Deccan and the interdependence of folk and scriptural religion; three articles illustrated with over a hundred photographs focus on hero and Sati stones of the Deccan and Western India, and two articles on Hinduism.

Lyrics of Thyagaraja — Cult of Devotion and Social Realism: T.V. Kuppuswami; Adroit Publishers, 4675/21, Ganpati Bhawan, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 250.

Study of Thyagaraja's lyrics, which is a recurrent source for academic discourse for they offer different perspectives because of their heterogeneous character. The lyrics present a socio-cultural unit and refer to a plurality of achievements. An uncontested view is that Thyagaraja stands for a single ideal of the culture of devotion.

• Livelihood and Gender — Equity in Community

Resource Management: Sumi Krishna — Editor; Sage Publications India Pvt. Ltd., B-42, Panchsheel Enclave, NewDelhi-110017. Rs. 680.

Critically examines the complex and many-layered

process of mainstreaming gender in natural resource management. The 18 essays build a richly textured "genderscape" of community resource rights in varied contexts; unravel the gender barriers in traditional practices, community institutions and modern systems of governance; document diverse approaches to livelihood; and present a strong case for gender equi-ty in sustainable resource management. The editor's overview provides a historical perspective of core issues and introduces the novel concept of "gender

Bonfire of Creeds — The Essential Ashis Nandy: Ashis Nandy; Oxford University Press, YMCA Li-

brary Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001. Rs. 595.

This anthology by a pioneer in radical critiques of development and modern science introduced by Gustavo Esteva and Madhu Suri Prakash invites the readers to participate in an open-ended, intellectual adventure by giving a comprehensive introduction to the democratic, post-secular sensitivities that shape Nandy's approach to transformative politics and his non-hierarchical, anti-technocratic ideas of people's

non-hierarchical, anti-technocratic ideas of people's knowledge. In the essays of this book, as in his entire intellectual life, the two pivots of his work have remained the political psychology of violence and the cultural psychology of knowledge.

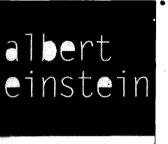
• History and Development of Prakrit Literature: Jagdish Chandra Jain; Manohar Publishers and Distributors, 4753/23, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 1095.

Traces the important role played by Prakrit language and narrative literature in the development of Indian guages and literature. The manifold contributions of Prakrit in the field of Ardhamagadhi, Sauraseni Maharastri and Paisachi language and literature, development of narrative literature in Maharastri, contributions in the field of Sanskrit poetics and drama have all been incorporated.

 Buffalo Nationalism — A Critique of Spiritual Fascism: Kancha Ilaiah; Pub. by Samya — an imprint of Bhatkal and Sen. 16, Southern Avenue, Kolkatzrooge Be 2006. Collection of articles published earlier in popular

newspapers forcefully championing social justice for the Dalit-Bahujans. Among the many issues he tack-

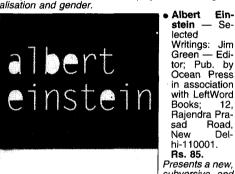
Backward Communities as providing muscle power to the Hindutva forces, the imperative need for the spread of English amongst all castes and for reserva-



subversive and declared by the Time magazine as "Person of the Century"—

opponent of war and racism, and a passionate cham-pion of human rights and socialism.

tion quotas in education and employ



with LeftWord Books; hi-110001. Presents a new, relatively less-er-known side

wants to paddle his own canoe.

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

WHAT IS the difference be-tween a "chauffeur" and a "driver"? (S. Rajan, Chennai)

The first syllable "chau" "chauffeur" sounds like the word "show". The following "eur" is like the "a" in "china". The main stress is on the first syllable. This is one way of pronouncing the word. "Chauffeur" is not used very often in our country; we prefer the word "driver". A chauffeur, in most western countries, is a man or a woman hired by someone to drive him around. The "drivers" of very wealthy people are called "chauffeurs" and so are individuals who transport people between hotels and airports. A chauffeur knows your destination even before he picks you up --- your trips are prearranged. This is not the case with a taxi driver — you inform him of your destination after you get in his car. Unlike a taxi driver, a chauffeur drives a great car (often a limousine) and is usually in uniform. This individual is paid for his services.

A driver, on the other hand, needn't always be paid for his services. Anyone can be a driver. When we drive our cars, scooters or motorcycles, we are drivers, not chauffeurs. Similarly, when we decide to drop a friend off at the station, or at the library, we are drivers not chauffeurs. A driver is someone who is at the wheel.

What is the meaning of "paddle vour own canoe"?

(Valli Kumaraswamy, Chennai) First, let's deal with the pronunciation of the word "canoe". The "a" in the first syllable is like the "a" in 'about" and "arrest"; while the following "oe" is like the "oo" in "cool", "pool", and "fool". The main stress is on the second syllable. A canoe, as you probably know, is a small wooden boat. The expression "paddle your own canoe" is mostly used in American English in informal contexts. If you have the ability to row (paddle) your own boat (canoe), what it implies is that you are capable of taking care of yourself. You are independent and don't require the help of others. Here are a few examples. *Kalyan has been paddling his

own canoe ever since he dropped out of college. *Havovi is hoping to paddle her

own canoe after graduating from *Mani quit his job last month. He

A man marrying a man and a woman marrying a woman. Is there a word for such a marriage?

(S. Bakthavathsalan, Gurgaon) The common terms that are being used nowadays to refer to such a union are "same-sex marriage" and "gay marriage". Such couples are called "gay couples". The word "gay" is no longer used to mean 'happy"

How is the word "heir" pro-

nounced? (L. Hamsa, Delhi) It's pronounced like the word "air". The "h" is silent. Many people in our country pronounce it like the word "hair". It is wrong to do so. What is the meaning and origin

(Sundaram Kumar, Chennai) When you burn the midnight oil what you are doing is working very hard; working late into the night.

"burn the midnight oil"?

Here are a few examples. *With exams around the corner, Revathi has been burning the midnight oil.

The assignment is due tomorrow. I guess I will have to burn the

midnight oil tonight. *With two of his workers on leave, poor John has been forced to

burn the midnight oil. This idiom has been part of the English language for several centuries. The expression came into the language when there was no electricity. People depended on oil

lamps and candles for light. Whenever you wanted to work late into the night, you had to keep the lamps burning. Why are the hottest days during

summer referred to as "dog days"? (M. Ramaiah, Kilapavoor)

This is an expression which has been around since the 16th Century. The hottest days during the summer (usually between 3 July and 11 August in Europe) are referred to as "dog days" because this is also the time when Sirius rises as the same time as the sun. Another name for Sirius is "Dog Star". People believed that it was because of the influence of this star that the weather turned hot. Hence the expression "dog days". Another explanation given by scholars as to why this season is called "dog days" is because many dogs went mad during this hot period. ***** ****

"Old Professors never die, they merely lose their faculties." ---

S. UPENDRAN

OPEN PAGE

A 'sorry' spectacle

N THE years before 9-11. I used to strictures on CIA excesses, all were seen heavy security at airports around the world, and the apparent lack of any in the U.S. I concluded that the United States must have a superb intelligence system. Big Brother must be watching everything. After all, the terrorists who were committing outrages elsewhere in the world must be trying to do so in the U.S. too. Only here, they were caught and dealt with even before they could enter the country - ergo, no need for overt security. I would grimace at the secrecy with which they must be dispatched, for one saw nothing of such intrusions in the news.

On September 11, 2001, this line of reasoning was revealed to be wholly fanciful. The terrorists, it would seem, were for a long while fooled by the adopting the same line with the Amersame notion as I was — they too must have thought that the absence of obvious security only meant it was total. Imagine their utter surprise when they discovered that the obvious was indeed

Given the much-maligned holes in American intelligence and security, was it ever impossible for any terrorist to different airports, and flown into some penetrate and punish America any time of the biggest landmarks in Washington during the last several decades? After asking the obvious question: why did it happen, can we also ask the less obvious but equally important question: why did it not happen earlier? After all, in all of the modern age, most of which the U.S. managed to survive without a Patriot Act, its apparent vulnerability seemed to do it little harm. Why?

There cannot be a definitive answer, but I think actor Charles Grodin came closest to one — ultimately, the greatest safeguard for America is that it is America. He had a point.

Why would anyone want to hurt a good natured, hearty, playful, inventive, brilliant, friendly, inclusive, generous and helpful people? Why would anyone wish to destroy the only nation in the world to come about as a result of ideas, and not geography, religion or

The other side

There is the other side as well. America's greed, its dirty wars, assassinations of foreign leaders, fostering of death squads, toppling of inconvenient regimes, and treatment of its own poor

and coloured, the list can be long. However, world opinion regarded America rather in the manner of Churchill speaking of his drunkenness -"But madam, I shall be sober tomorrow." The problems were seen as a blot on a basically idea (14) system. Amer-ica's own self-heal (3) be it via the Civil-Rights Act, Nîxon's ouster over Watergate, the Church Committee

marvel at the contrast between the as examples of an institutional autocorrection mechanism and a capacity for open national introspection unseen in other countries.

With Reagan, introspection was replaced by jingoism, which entered and soon took over the national discourse. It was epitomised by Bush the Elder's statement after the U.S. shot down an Iranian civilian airliner by mistake in 1988, "I will never apologise for the United States. I don't care what the facts are." This swaggering mood, raised to an art form by his son George W., has left the world aghast at the reality of a rampant superpower with no internal checks.

From saying "We can do no wrong" to the world, it was a short step to ican people. It was this attitude which led the administration to resist appointing a commission of inquiry for 9-11. Any way one looked at it, 9-11 was a catastrophic failure. If someone had written a novel suggesting that four different aircraft would be hijacked within the U.S., all within the same hour, at and New York, the author would have been panned universally. Did anyone resign for the failure? No one even apol-

ogised. Until Richard Clarke, counter-terrorism chief in the Clinton and Bush II administrations, did. For the first time in a generation, someone in authority had actually said sorry to the people, stunning even hard-boiled political

The Bush administration was left seething. They realised they should have apologised first, but doing so now would sound phony. In the event, their best bet would have been to say something gracious like, "We respect Mr. Clarke's contrition, and his apology echoes the sadness we all feel.'

Instead, they launched an all-out attack, from the talk shows, the White House briefing room, and even the floor of the Senate, ridiculing Clarke and belittling his apology, their paranoia made all the more shrill by Clar-

ke's calm and measured responses. This sideshow aside, there was something frightening about blue-ribbon commisioners and government witnesses speaking calmly about presidents ordering assassinations, even if the target was Osama bin Laden. Governments are supposed to capture and try outlaws, not engage in mafia-style rumination over hits and misses. The social cost of such brutalisation is

• NIRANJAN RAMAKRISHNAN

Can India prøsper, while its agriculture stagnates?

THE NDA leaders are making tall claims about achieving higher rates of economic growth which, according to them, would soon enable us to achieve the rank of developed countries. All these claims are bogus, based on figures of quarterly growth rates, and that too in the year of rebound of agricultural growth, after the serious setback suffered by it, due to severe drought, in the preceding year. Foodgrains production in the year 2001-2002 was 212 million tonnes which had declined to only 182.6 million tonnes i.e. by 13.9 per cent in the drought year of 2002-2003. This year, the foodgrain production will be about the same as in 2001-2002.

Due to this recovery, the overall economy will record an annual growth of more than 8 per cent. However, if we take a long-term view, the GDP growth rate, during the five years of the NDA rule, 1998-1999 to 2003-2004, will be no more than 5.8 per cent, the growth rate of GDP achieved during the preceding ten-year period, 1988-1989 to 1998-1999.

Now let us take a look at where India stands in the world context. The figures relating to average per capita GDP and indicators of quality of life in India, those in the developed countries, and the world as a whole, are presented in the following table:

INDIA IN WORLD CONTEXT Developed India World countries Life expectancy 78.1 63.3 66.7 Per capita GDP in PPP dollars 2,840 27,169 7,376 Human Development Index 0.929 0.590 0.722

From the above table, it is evident that we are far behind even of the world average, both in per capita income and human development. The per capita GDP of the world, as a whole, is 2.6 times that of India. We should first try to reach the level of the world average, and then talk about reaching the level of the developed countries.

Now let us take a look at the potential and performance of our

agriculture. India is richly endowed by Nature for agriculture production. Our arable to the total land area is 51 per cent against the world average of only 11 per cent. India already has the largest area of irrigated land in the world. Even if half of the total rainfall received over our country is preserved and delivered to fields, our entire arable land can produce two crops a year. We are also fortunate in having a temperate climate, which enables us to grow crops throughout the year; whereas in most parts of the world, due to severe winters, only one crop can be grown in

We are, however, not fully utilising our natural resources. More than 38 million hectares of our land, which though cultivable, has been left uncultivated, classified as "cultivable wasteland," or "old and current fallows." This area of 38 million hectares is more than the total cultivated area of four countries viz. Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Japan, which provide succour to more than 400 million people living in those countries.

Most of our rain water runs off to the sea, through nalas and rivers. Not only the rain water is being wasted, but more and more of our good top soils are being eroded, and our ground water is also getting depleted. The government has money for all the populist programmes, but very little to prevent the waste of our most valuable natural assets, land and water. Plan expenditure on "irrigation and flood control," which was 10 per cent of the total plan expenditure during the Sixth Plan period, was brought down to only 6.7 per cent during the Ninth Plan. Similarly, plan expenditure on "agriculture and allied activities," which was 6.1 per cent of the total plan expenditure during the Sixth Plan, was brought down to only 4.4 per cent during the Ninth Plan. Such reductions in plan expenditure on items, which can improve the productive potential of our agriculture, show how indifferent our policy makers have been towards agriculture. As a consequence, the "Green Revolution" has now withered away.

The performance of the farm sector during the Ninth Plan has been very disappointing, though in all those five years, rainfall was near normal. Against the target of 4.5 per cent per annum growth rate of agricultural GDP, the achievement was only 1.81 per cent per annum, and against the target of 3.05 per cent per annum growth rate of foodgrains production, the achievement was only 1.23 per cent which is much less than the growth rate of our population. Consequently, both poverty and undernourishment have increased in rural India.

It also needs to be noted that in spite of all the favourable conditions for agricultural production, our productivity per hectare of most crops is much less than the world average, and less than half of those already achieved in agriculturally advanced countries. Achieving higher productivity in agriculture is the surest way to reduce incidence of poverty. The two States, Punjab and Harvana, whose yields per hectare are the highest in India, are also the two States with the minimum incidence of poverty. Maharashtra, which is said to be the most industrialised State in India, has much higher incidence of poverty than Punjab and

Terms of trade

The main reason for the poor performance of our farm sector has been the long persisting adverse terms of trade against agriculturists. Even in recent years, the minimum support prices (MSPs) of wheat and paddy have been raised much less than the prices of "electricity for irrigation" and "diesel oil." Lower increases in prices of farm outputs compared to those of farm inputs have led to poor profits, poor capital formation and stagnation in the farm sector. Capital formation in agriculture as a percentage of total capital formation in the country, which was 15.4 per cent in 1980-1981, fell to 9.9 in 1990-1991 and to only 7.7 to 2000-2001. It is this sharp decline in capital formation in the farm sector that has led to its stagnation.

The Government of India claims that to provide support to farmers, it ery judiciously fixes MSPs of farm products, and buys those from farmers when they fail to sell their produce in open markets at prices higher than the MSPs. Both these claims are not true. MSPs of wheat and paddy have always been fixed at levels lower than the indices of wholesale prices of "all commodities," with base year 1970-1971=100. Farmers have been paying a higher level of prices for their purchases than what they have been receiving by sale of their produce. In other words, the terms of trade have always been against farmers.

The claim of purchases of farm products by the government from farmers at MSPs to prevent distress sales by them is also not quite true. An analysis of the government purchases reveals that no less than 75 per cent of the total government purchases of foodgrains are made only in three States, viz. Punjab, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh. The contribution of these States to the total national production of foodgrains is only about one-fourth. Farmers of rest of India, who contribute nearly threefourths to the total production of foodgrains in the country, hardly get any benefit from government purchases. Even the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices has, in its latest report, said, "If the procurement arrangements are not equitably expanded and extended to the new and emerging areas, it will send a wrong signal and minimum support prices for the farmers of these States will remain only on paper, leading to large scale discontentment." For 75 per cent farmers in the country, the promise of purchase of their produce at MSPs has so far remained only a promise on paper.

Our policy makers have ignored the fact that it is the people of any country who make or mar the future of that country, and not only the politicians, industrialists and technicians. The latter can, no doubt, play an important role in the economic development of the country; but if the vast majority of our people are left wallowing in poverty and ignorance, nothing much can be achieved. There is no large country in the world, which has attained the status of a developed country, without first developing its agriculture, and achieving nearly total literacy among its people. In India, our decision-makers have ignored both. If we really want to make progress, we should first pay more attention to agriculture and human development.

• BHANU PRATAP SINGH

Management by walking

HERE IS one concept called MBWA. which I thought I can share with your readers. This simply means management by walking around. I remember in one of the leading organisations the Chairman used to have the practice of walking around the office and going from desk to desk every quarter to meet the people. This move used to rejuvenate the people all around. The Chairman used to even speak to the car driver and office boy of that office. Over a few years he used to call people by their first name. What a motivation indeed!

I feel if one wants to manage an organisation he cannot do it sitting behind the desk. One can coach, train, inspect, communicate, lead and direct only when he is in direct presence of his employees.

Today more and more managers are hiding behind paperwork, meetings with all and sundry, busy schedules and a variety of avoidance techniques. If one is stuck in meetings and conferences I bet a crack in the communication will form. One will suddenly realise that the best employee has left, your best vendor is no more doing well and you are losing to the competition. Being visible allows you to do the following: Catch people doing things right and

recognise them. Catch people on the wrong foot and

take corrective action needed. * Keep in touch with the reality of de-

partment and organisation. * First time employees may not respond, but over a period, questions, concerns or the needs of your employees can be sorted

out. Listening itself will do the trick. * It gives a feeling of togetherness and a

nessage you care. Fix rumour before it breaks.

Break things that need to be broken. * Having lunch once in a while with employees in the lunch room enhances the esprit de corps (team work).

In many organisations, I am afraid, the gap between the top brass and other employees is getting wider not only in pay packets but also in knowing each other. There are organisations where employees are so scared to even make suggestions for improvement. It was Dale Carnegie who coined this phrase "hearty in approbation and lavish in praise." But I am afraid these quotes are nice to read but difficult to

S. NARAYANAN

Announcement

Contributions to the Open Page will be considered for publication only if they are in electronic form and emailed. The length of the article should not exceed 800 words. It may be addressed to the Open Page desk at openpage@thehindu.co.in

China faces fresh SARS attack

Press Trust of India

BEIJING, April 25. — China today reported four new suspected SARS cases in Beijing — two days after the government confirmed two cases linked to a local virus.

SARS. The people who have been patient who once lived in the same cases of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and six susestingly, every new case reported has ministry said. The ministry said the diagnosed with the disease are Ms Li's parents, aunt and a female ward with her. So far no patients who were in contact with the four have complained of fever, the min-With this, China has two conpected cases nation-wide. Interbeen traced to a single patient, the four suspected SARS patients were a nurse who was diagnosed with in close contact with a patient Ms Li istry said. irmed

istry said.

Ms Li's condition is stable, while 31-year-old suspected SARS patient Ms Yang is also stable, the ministry said adding, so far 337 people who were in contact with the afore-mentioned cases have been put under medical observation in Beijing.

medical observation in Beijing.
In Anhui province Ms Song, a patient diagnosed with the disease is recovering and none of the 133 people in close contact with her showed abnormal symptoms, according to

doesn't have SARS patients. TAINED AT A TAINNESS AT PAGE AT A TAINNESS AT TAIN

TAIPEI, April 25. — A Taiwanese researcher who was quarantined after developing a fever upon his return from China doesn't have SARS, a health official sald today. An airport scanner in Taiwan showed that the 40-year-old researcher had a fever, a key symptom of severe acute respiratory syndrome. He was immediately quarantined at a nearby hospital last night. But tests have cleared the man of SARS, Chou Chih-hou, deputy director of the Center for Disease Control said. — AP

April, apparently due to SARS.

The reporting of these four cases has sent a chill down the spine of residents of Beijing who vividly remember the panic the deadly respiratory disease had created last April. SARS first broke out in the Southern Chinese province of Guangdong in November 2002. It set off a global health crisis, killing 774 people around the world and infecting more than 8,000. China was the worst hit country with at least 349 deaths.

The World Health Organisation plans to send a team of experts in laboratory bio-safety issues to join a Chinese health ministry team to investigate possible links between

Institute of Virology in Beijing and the confirmed and suspected SARS patients. The laboratory had already been sealed off on Friday.

year, the Chinese government was China attracted a lot of criticism for the way it handled public information about SARS. The latest noliday short. Health officials are monitoring the situation cases come a week before Labour Day when tens of millions of Chinese are expected to travel. Last forced to cut the week-long labour before determining if such measures have been lifted, Nobody was found Anti-SARS quarantine: At least 78 people who had close contacts with "medical observation" in Anhui to prevent the disease from spreading further. Quarantine on another 33 to have fever, a provincial health Ms Song have been kept under deaprtment official said. will be necessary again. closely

SARS warning

The province has launched a SARS early warning and prevention system, Xinhua news agency reported. Tourism departments are required to be alert round-the-clock and keep channels open for information. Any fever cases must be reported immediately and the administration will deal with emergencies, the report



A water delivery man wears a mask as he goes on his rounds delivering bottles of distilled water in Beijing on Sunday. — AFP

THE STATESMAN 2 6 AP

Mujib, Tagore, Bose among 'greatest Bengalis of all time'

By Haroon Habib

DHAKA, APRIL 16: Bangladesh's founding leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, has been voted "the greatest Bengali of all time" in a survey conducted by the BBC. The BBC (Bangla service) conducted the sur-



Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

vey among its listeners covering Ban-gladesh, some parts of India (mostly West Bengal, Tripura and Assam) and overseas.

The Nobel Laureate, Rabindranath

Tagore, secured the second place in the list of 20 greatest personalities.

The highly regarded poet, Kazi Nazrul Islam, the Sher-E-Bangla A.K. Fazlul Haq, who was the Prime Minister of the undivided Bengal, and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose secured the third, fourth and fifth positions.

The BBC broadcast noted that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman secured independence for Bangladesh in 1971 through a war of liberation against Pakistan. Sabir Mustafa, BBC Bangla Service chief, told a private TV net-work that the 'Bangabandhu' had scored almost double the points than Tagore. He said they had nothing to do with the survey except compiling the opinion sent through e-mail and post.

THE HINDU

17 APR 2004

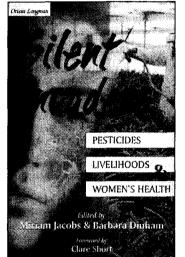
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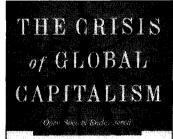
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Siddharthan: Thiruloga Seetharam — Tr. in Tamil; Nagu Veleeyeedu, AB 1108, Thendral Colony, Third Street, Anna Nagar West, Chennai-600040. Vedha Jothidam Oru Ariviyal: G. Su-

mathy; Thirumala Pathippagam, 104, (New No. 3), Periyar Pathai, Chennai-600094. **Rs. 30.**

Anbu Vazhi: Par Lagerkvist; Poongiyil Pathippagam, AB 1108, Thendral Colony, Third Street, Anna Nagar West, Chennai-600040. Rs. 60.

Yetrumathi Seyyalam Vanga: S. Muthusamy; Chandra Publications, Muthusamy; Chandra Publications, 23, Bharathi Street, Parinagar, Zaffarkhanpet, Chennai-600083. **Rs. 50**. Kannadhasan Aayvuk Kovai: M. Sayabu Maraikayar; Rs. 250. Arul Malargal: Gowthama Neelambaran; Rs. 35.

Nayanmar Varalaru: Thiru V. Kalya nasundaranar; Rs. 50.

Thirumurugatruppadai: N. Chandra-sekaran; Rs. 20. The above four books pub. by Gangai Puthaka Nilayam, 23, Deenadayalu Street, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017.

 Sri Kamakoti Paramparai: Associ ation For Hindu Dharma, 28/16, Raja-gopalan Street, West Mambalam, Chennai-600033. **Rs. 140**.

Anbukku Oor Annai: M.P. Gurusa my; Inba Seva Sangam, Sevapur, Karur District-621311. Rs. 30. Kamban Endrooru Manidan: Sami

Thiagarajan; Bharathi Desiya Peravai 21. Doctor Besant Salai, Kumbako • Kadalum Kizhavanum — by Ernest Hemingway: SDS Yogiyar — Tr. in Ta-

mil; Ainthinai Pathippagam, 279, Bharathi Street, Triplicane, Chennai-600005. **Rs. 40.** • Tabalkaran — by Rojer Martin Du Gard: Kn. Subramaniam — Tr. in Ta-

mil; Yaazh Veliyeedu, AB 1108, Then dral Colony, 3rd Street, Annanagar West, Chennai-600040. **Rs. 45**. Navagragangalum Dhasa Pukthi Palangalum: Bala Josier Swamy; Rs.

 Athirshta Engalum Arputha Yogan galum: Bala Josier Swamy; Rs. 30.

Anubava Jothida Aaraichi Vilakkam: Murugu Rajendran: Rs. 30. The above three books pub. by Bhaarathe Pathippagam, 126/108, Usman Road,

T. Nagar, Chennai-600017.

Thozhithurai Varaipadangalukku
Autocad: UTech. Manvizhi Thirugnanam; Perikam, 36, Azizmulk 2nd Street, Aayiram nai-600006. **Rs. 145.** Vilakku, Chen-

Wlaga Thirunaatkal: Siva Sooriyan; Narmadha Pathippagam, 10, Nana Street, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017.

 Sri Padukasahasram: A. Lakshmin-arasimhan; copies can be had from the author, 104/2, Sivaswamy Salai, Mylapore, Chennai-600004. Rs. 100.

Malayalam Vachanamrutham — by Sree Rama-na Maharshi: Saraswathi S. Warrier - Tr. in Malayalam; D.C. Books, Kot-

tayam-686001. Rs. 95 Premavikkunna Parasparam Sthreekal: K. C. Sebastian; Pranatha Books, Ashirbhavan Lane, Kochi-682018. **Rs. 40.**

 EMSinte Sampoorna Kritikal — Collected Works of EMS Namboodiripad Vol. 32, (1954 Jan.- 1961 Sep.): E. K. Nayanar — Editor; Chintha Publishs, Thiruvananthapuram. Rs. 150.

• Ladies Coupe: Anita Nair; D.C. Books, Kottayam-686001. Rs. 100. EMSinte Sampoorna Kritikal — Col lected Works of EMS Namboodiripad Vol. 33, (1961Dec-1963 Nov.) E. K. Nayanar — Editor; Chintha Publishers, Thiruvananthapuram. **Rs. 150.** Punarjanma Smaranakall: M.C. Joseph; Indian Atheist Publishers, 779, Pocket 5, Mayur Vihar I, New Delhi-110091. Rs. 50.

Governance — an insider's view JOURNEYS THROUGH BABUDOM snapshots of persons and events AND NETALAND — Governance in which he had mentally recorded

THE DUST jacket illustrating the plight of the poor Indian citizen says it all: a public tap gone to rust because of having been constricted with a 4-lever lock! And who are the villains who locked it and have thrown the key irretrievably away? The "netas" (politicians) and "babus" (bureaucrats) who, together, held defining sway over the destinies of India in the last 55 years — more particularly those who wielded power in the later decades.

India: T. S. R. Subramanian: Runa &

Co., 7/16, Ansari Road, Daryaganj,

New Delhi-110002 Rs. 395.

This indictment is not from a "neta" who had been destined to perpetually sit in the opposition, nor from a "babu" with reasons to be disgruntled for not having been vouchsafed his just desserts within the system.

The author had an illustrious and successful career in the Uttar Pradesh cadre of Indian Administrative Service and served as cabinet secretary in the Central Government. In the course of his journeys through the "babudom" and "netaland" (phrases he uses tellingly in their fullest pejorative import), he had eventful stopovers such as district magistrate, secretary to the then Chief Minister N. D. Tiwari, staff officer to former Governor, Channa Reddy, secretary in Union Textiles Ministry, and chief secretary to U.P. Government.

From out of acutely focussed

meaningful collage of the evolution of governance in independent India, the central theme of which emerges as, "Might and selfinterest (and not "right" and 'public interest") will prevail.' His pen picture of the "babus" is, "They contribute very little, rarely perform any useful function, are arrogant and rude to the

during all his stopovers,

Subramanian assembles a

general public, and at the same time subservient and sycophantic to seniors and their political masters. A civil servant generally creates and lives in his own makebelieve world unrelated to reality - that is why most of them have a faraway look when you see them — they will not meet you in the eye."

Such is his portrayal of the "netas", "In my four decades of public service, I have come across thousands of politicians, small and large, operating at the district or village or state or national level. I have worked closely with hundreds of them in one context or another. I am saddened to say that I have come across only a handful of honest politicians." And how does the "neta" himself view the "babu"?

He quotes the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Mulayam Singh Yadav addressing a conclave of IAS officers, "You all have such excellent minds and education; some of you are scholars; some of you have Nobel Prize minds; you will all succeed in any walk of life,

JOURNEYS THROUGH BABUDOM AND NETALAND Governance In India

wherever you turn your attention to; you have good jobs; you can educate your children well; and you are all respected by society; -(and then, the clincher, raising his voice) - Why do you come and touch my feet? Why do you come and lick my shoes? Why do you come to me for personal favours? When you do, I will do as you desire and then extract my price from you.'

Subramanian adds, "It was an amazing statement because it succinctly summed up the situation and pinpointed the reason for the collapse of the steel frame.

Among the personae whose feet of clay the author unveils is a

Judge of Allahabad High Court (circa 1963) who was piqued because the director of Indian Standards Institution, a "mere government official", would not yield a preferred suite in a private guesthouse in Ranikhet for His Lordship's stay, "You have the police under your charge; use them effectively. Check his car licence, find a reason to harass and to hound him, to teach him a lesson, was the exhortation to the young sub-divisional officer by this custodian of Indian Constitution and its enshrined civil liberties. Very few officers even in the IAS

get a ringside exposure to the wily ways of the U.S. Government's manipulations in order to subserve its own ends. Representing the trading interests of India during the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and pre-Uruguay Round negotiations, Subramanian had this dubious privilege.

His graphic description of how U.S. officials try to convert the vanity and gullibility of opinionmakers in the target countries into their own resources to achieve their goals makes gripping reading.

The book has a graphic account of the functioning of a highpowered review committee constituted under the chief secretary for the ostensible purpose of ensuring that cases of detention under MISA (the infamous precursor of POTA) were carefully reviewed once in six months as a safeguard against their unwarranted continuance.

The exercise consisted of this

presiding deity flipping page after page (each containing particulars of about 100 detenus) with a rhetorical question "any comments?" and interpreting the deafening silence of the other members as sanction for the continued incarceration of the unfortunate victims until a similar "careful review" six months hence, confirming that the only use of such draconian preventive detention law is its misuse.

But perish the thought that the narration must be cynical, grim, harsh, judgmental and full of bureaucratic jargon. Quite the contrary!

The presentation, in elegant and near-Wodehousian language, is predominantly anecdotal, and humour — subtle mostly and hilarious on occasion — is the author's strong suit.

Not only those involved or interested in public affairs --politicians, civil servants, journalists and academicians - but even the general reader whose staple is enjoyable literature will find the book absorbing.

Granted that it contains reminiscences of but a single civilian's experiences, that too within a limited area in the vast politico-administrative jungle of this nation; it is nevertheless a valuable socio-political record of the nascent years of India's freedom by a perceptive participant, and is bound to have an enduring historical value.

K. S. RAMAKRISHNAN

'Love affair with words'

CLASSICAL ARABIC POETICS -An Introduction: M. Iqbal Husain; Centre for Arabic Studies. Central Institute of English and Foreign Langauges, Hyderabad-500007.

"NO PEOPLE in the world manifest such enthusiastic admiration for literary expression and are so moved by the word, spoken or written, as the Arabs. Modern audiences in Baghdad, Damascus and Cairo can be stirred to the highest degree by the recital of poems. The rhythm, the rhyme, the music, produce on them the effect of what they call lawful magic'.' This excerpt from Philip K. Hitty, epitomises the influence on the Arabs, of poetry, classical or

modern. Arabic poetry is extremely beautiful. The classical Arabic poetry of the "Days of Ignorance" may not be highly regarded as good subject matter, but its use of language and diction, decorations, figures of speech and style is, to say the least, enthralling. According to the author, it is marked by "selfpride, self-respect and self-dignity."

The Arabs' love of poetry was brilliantly characterised by Ghazali when he said: "The Arabs will not discard poetry, until the camel puts down longing and desire." No wonder, the terms "literature" and "criticism" were not known to

ancient Arabs in the sense in which they are known to the West today since their concept of literature almost entirely revolved round poetry.

Even classical writers and critics had only a vague notion of literature and criticism, and in their works there was no reference to emotion, imagination, thought, interpretation of life or interest in the world of reality. Correct use of words was a

passion with them, and their love affair was with words. Thus, their obsession with poetry induced them to the analysis of the poetic texts, which, in turn, led to their study of grammar, lexicography, stylistics and rhetoric; along with grammer, the new science of rhetoric also played a substantial role in the development of

Nevertheless, the notion of the of miraculous uniqueness and inimitability had a notable influence on the development of literary aesthetics in all its aspects.

As in Plato, in the Qur'an also there are certain observations that go against the poets: "As for the poets, it is the seduced who follows them. Observest thou not that they wander about every vale? And they say that which they do not do." However, it is interesting to note

non-governmental organisations. The book

should reach the multitude of people in India

who do not know English. Giving in a nutshell

the macro vision for micro credit, the book is a

boon to all those who are eager to create an

SIDDHAR JYOTHIDAM: C. M. Somasundaram;

benefit of readers who are ignorant of the ba-

sics of astrology, the rudimentary details con-

then the purpose of this book, is understan-

Otherwise, the contents are not only scanty

but they also lack an independent and in depth

analysis of the topics chosen for elaboration.

This shortcoming is striking in the way in

which vital aspects like determining marital

compatibility and Mars affliction have been

Devoid of anything that could be considered

as an attempt to shed some new thinking or

reveal unknown facts, a serious reader is

bound to get the impression that most of the

contents of the book are the ones culled from

popular series on the science of astrology and

In a brief explanatory note on Mars afflic-

tion, the author does not refer to any classical

works or any authoritative sources to back up

his claim that the affliction (when Mars occu-

pies 2, 4, 7, 8 and 12th House in a birth chart)

would have to be reckoned with from the As-

Venus. He also suggests that Mars affliction in

a chart need not be taken note of when a pro-

spective bride and the groom are well past the

bhukti of the planets, the book provides a con-

cise profile of people born under each of the 27

constellations, significance of the 12 Ascend-

ants and their impact when the respective As-

cendant Lords occupy different Zodiacal signs

R. PARTHASARATHY

Besides giving the periodicity of dasa and

Sittu Noolagam, 9, Bharathi Nagar First Street,

T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 25.

GEORGINA PETER

impact on our economy.

dable to some extent.

that the celebrated Arabic critic, Ibn Rashiq encapsulates his defence of poetry with these words attributed to the Prophet: "Poetry is a speech compound (of various things); whatever is in agreement with truth is beautiful; whatever is not, lacks any goodness." One is reminded here of the famous Keatsian phrase: "truth is beauty,

As the author rightly points out, during the third century of the Hijra, the term "literature" was applied to pure literature, and during the fourth, criticism was included as a form of literature. According to him, even though

the Arabs were influenced by the ideas and logical methods of Aristotle, Aristotllan dominion over Arabic poetry and criticism was not powerful enough to change the extreme conservatism in Arabic literary theory. As for the modern Arabic writ

and critics, they are so deeply inspired by various European and American literary movements that they cannot take a stand different from the west. This broadly sums up the author's view regarding Arabic poetics. The author deserves to be

commended for his concise description of the classical Arabic literary scene.

Titans of Carnatic music

MUSINGS ON MUSIC AND MUSICIANS: K. S. Mahadevan Published by the author, 30, Krishnapivu, Chennai-600028. Price

THE AUTHOR is a well-known and respected art critic and has many feathers to his professional cap. He had the opportunitiy to associate himself with leading titans of Carnatic music and enjoy the privilege of their friendship, which he brings to bear in this book.

He speaks about the greatness and genius of Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar, a trendsetter. Maharajapuram Viswanatha Iyer, and Musiri Subramania Iver's contributions to Carnatic music as a performer, guru and administrator are mentioned in detail, as also his spontaneous hospitality to friends and visitors. The violin maestro Kumbakonam

the perfect accompanist and Umayalpuram Kothandarama Iyer as a consummate lava vidwan whose ghatam artistry received instant approbation and applause from the audience. Mysore T. Chowdiah was one vio-

Rajamanickam Pillai is described as

linist in those days who readily agreed to accompany lady musicians included. and violinist Papa Venkataramiah's scholar and the layman.

Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer out-ALI ASGHAR | standing career and his exceptiona-

service to Carnatic music, Palani Subramania Pillai and Palghat Mani Iyer, immortal geniuses of percussion, Alathur brothers, who blazed a new trail with their outstanding expertise in laya and colourful renditions of weighty Kritis and light classical songs, G.N.Balasubramaniam, M.D Ramanathan, K.V. Narayanaswami one of the prime sishyas of Ariyakudi, who developed a remarkable "bani" of his own, Flute T.R. Mahalingam, a maverick musician who was in an orbit of his own and was the first flautist to introduce the gamaka, the life and soul of Carnatic music, Flute T. Viswanathan, a scion of the illustrious Dhanammal family, who carried Carnatic music to the U.S. and trained a number of students including John Higgins, and M. L. Vasantha Kumari referred to as the delicate nymph of music are the greats dealt with at length.

Calcutta K.S. Krishnamurthi who was a musician scholar and a gurd par excellence, D.K Jayaraman's who was a musical repository and Mahu arajapuram Santanam perhaps the most popular male vocalist and two distinguished personalities, who were not musicians but true custodians of Carnatic music, T.T. Krish^T namachari and T. Sadasivam are

The author's effort would enable style of playing delighted both the the youth of today to appreciate the greatness of the masters yesterday.

SULOCHANA PATTABHI RAMAM

Women self-help groups ● Astrological treatise • Versatile scholar • Social novel

TAMIL

MAHALIR SUYAUDHAVI KUZHUKKALIN **EZHUCHIYUM THAARALAMAYATHIN** VEEZHCHIYUM: Bharathi Chinnasamy; Ezhilmathi Padippagam, 5/176, Poonga Nagar North, Thoppampatti Post, Coimbatore-641017.

TODAY'S WORLD is caught in a great economic crisis. Liberalisation has brought several multinational companies into developing countries. Due to this the local enterprises are unable to compete with the products that are better in quality as well as lower in prices. In this economic environment, the women selfhelp groups (SHGs) are building themselves up as a power to be reckoned with.

Currently there are more than one lakh women SHGs wherein 22.5 lakh women are functioning as members. Their total savings for

capital investments is Rs. 320 crores. Many political parties and women's organisations have failed to recognise the potential of this power. While the multinational companies have more money power, these groups have within them the extensive market potential of their own families and companies. When organised effectively, this could prove to be a true challenge to counter the influx and influ-

ence of multinational companies in India. This book points out this irrefutable fact and puts before the SHGs the possibility of creating their market for their own products, as well as ensuring a healthy competition in the existing market by enhancing the quality of their products. When done as a joint effort of thousands of SHGs, this is a real possibility and not just a

The author opines that when the SHGs create this possibility several spread-effects can be spawned. A few of these could be: the end of male domination, reducing the importance of cash by enabling group effort, when the group will automatically take care of the personal needs of the members and their families such as health care, education, employment and

The book is an eye-opener not only for

women, those already organised as SHGs asin a birth chart. well as those who are still watching from the side-lines, but also for banks, government and

incorporated.

age of 30 years.

KANNADA

SANGATI — A Felicitation Volume Presented to Dr. G. Ramakrishna: K. Marulasiddappa, N. Gayathri, and Ramalinga T. Begur — Editors; Published by the felicitation committee, No. 334, 12th Cross (B), 4th A Main, West of Chord Road, Rajajinagar 2nd Stage,

Bangalore-560086, Rs. 200. THIS VOLUME is a gracious and respectful salute to G. Ramakrishna by his students and IF THE author's aim is meant to provide for the admirers who have considered it their duty to record his contribution to the community at large as an extraordinarily gifted and accomplished personality, an intellectual, thinker, cerning some crucial aspects of the science, teacher, scholar, and social activist besides being a forceful essayist and writer. It contains a large number of articles which focus on the

versatility of G.R. as he is endearingly called. Special mention has been made of his deep commitment to Leftist thought and his active role in the major progressive movements and the exposition of their rationale.

The innumerable forewords he wrote to notable publications, namely, a review of post-Independence India and its career, are cited, in particular, for his deep and keen insight into contemporary Indian and world affairs. His writings on the various aspects of education policy in free India are considered critically

The volume opens with a longish and interesting interview with him conducted by Raghunandan, Ramajan Darga and Vijaya, and throws light on the career of G.R. starting with his student days. There is a moving reference to his dependence on 'Bikshanna' a noble institution of the olden days to highlight the vircendant (lagna) and not from Moon, Sun or tue of charity and compassion.

C. M. RAMACHANDRA *MALAYALAM*

VISHAYAVIVARAM — Novel: P. Mohanan;

Current Books, Round West, Thrissur-686001. NOVELTY IS what every reader looks at in a novel. Every narrative is an original story and offers a fresh style in technique, craft, narration and characterisation. So is the case with

the book under review, which traverses largely

on a hitherto unexplored path. It combines history, myth, rituals, black magic, fantasy and hallucinations and the different levels and machinations of man-woman relationships. But it is all condensed affecting easy readabil⁶ ity. The locale of this novel is a police training-

camp in a typical village near Thrissur. The main character finds parallels in the freedom movement in Ireland. The police training camp dates back to the pre-independi ent period and commandant John Connote is sympathetic to the cause of freedom, because it evokes the struggle his forefathers undertook

The couple have no children and are very sad about it but they are considerate and active about the welfare of the children of others through philanthropic activities and celebrate every occasion for children out of genuing love. But he is eccentric and discipline in a police camp is supreme. So Arthur Clerk replaces him and John Connote and his wife Juliette settle down in a nearby old traditional

house and figuratively name it Shambles. He has his old friend Brown to help. The camp has its hierarchies and they have their families, conspiracies and clandestine relations. One of the characters whose morals are threatening to the many in the camp at last

haunts them after her gory death. The novel is not simple in recounting as it is interwoven with myths, fancies and traditions: As typical of the times, it is also laced with superstitions and village deities and attendant fantasies. The narration has many dimensions and occasionally it has a lyrical charm. But at times it is disjointed and intricate and not in

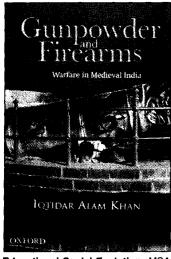
tegrated with the flow of the theme. K. KUNHIKRISHNAN

Announcement

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to The Hindu for review. While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under "New Arrivals", the decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper. Receipt of individual books will not be acknowledged in response to enquiries.



- 7 Mantras to Excel in Exams: Prem P. Bhalla; Pustak Mahal, 6686, Khari Baoli, Delhi-110006. **Rs. 80.**
- Other India Press, Above Mapusa Clinic, Mapusa-403507, Goa, India Rs. 150.
- Learning From Gandhi: Anu Bandyo-padhyaya; Other India Press, G-8, Britto's Apartments, Feira Alta, Mapu-
- sa-403507, Goa. Rs. 150. Librarian — An Administrator: Manorama Srinath — Editor; Tamil Nadu Library Association, 58, Baroda Street, Chennai-600033. Rs. 100.
- Trading Encounters From the Euphrates to the India in the Bronze Age: Shereen Ratnagar; Oxford University Press, YMCA Library Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001. Rs.
- The Ethics of Love in the Human Context: M. Stephen; Serials Publications, 4, BSS Hall, Khyber Pass Market, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054.
- Effective Study Methods Traditional and Modern Methods (Studies in English): Pappu Peria Nayagam; Samson Publishers, Leo Samson Il-lam, 7, New Street, Ponmalaipatti, Ti-ruchirapalli-620004. **Rs. 300.**
- Gunpowder and Firearms Warfare in Medieval India: Iqtidar Alam Khan; Oxford University Press, YMCA Library Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001. Rs. 575.



- Educational Social Evolution: MSA Ramsabapathee; Anna Ram Publishers, 82, NSKS Road, Kodambakkam, Chennai-600024. Rs. 90.
 Cooperative Values in Consumer
- Stores: Mrutyunjay Sarangi, M. Raman; Rs. 200.
- man; Hs. 200.

 Impact of Innovative Cooperatives in Tamil Nadu A Study of Excellence and Pride: Mrutyunjay Sarangi, N. Thanulingom; Rs. 200.

 A Study of the Impact of Cooperative Movement in Tamil Nadu: Mrutyunjay Sarangi, B. Subbyrai: Re. 250.
- tyunjay Sarangi, B. Subburaj; **Rs. 250.** The above three books pub. by New Century Book <u>House</u>, 41-B, Sidco In-
- century Book House, 41-5, Sidco IIIdustrial Estate, Ambattur,
 Chennai-600098.

 A Natural Life The Autobiography
 of David J. Bellamy: David Bellamy;
 Arrow Books Ltd., The Random Group House Ltd., 20, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SWIV 2SA. £ 5.
- Excellence Beyond The Classroom A Memoir of YGP: Y. G. Parthasarathy; Frank Bros. & Co. (Publishers) Ltd., 4675-A. Ansari Road, 21, Darva ganj, New Delhi-110002. **Rs. 250.**• Love and Lust — An Anthology of
- Erotic Literature From Ancient and Medieval India: Payan K Varma Sandhya Mulchandani; Harper Collins Publishers, 1A. Hamilton House, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001. Rs.
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- One of the Family The Englishman and the Mafia: John Pearson: The Random House Group Ltd., 20, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, SWIV 2SA.
- Letters from a Nut: Ted L. Nancy; Ebury Press, 20, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SWIV 2SA. £ 5. Earth and Ashes: Atiq Rahimi; Vintage, Random House, 20, Vauxhall
- Bridge Road, London SWIV 2SA. £ 3.

 Learning to Speak Alzheimer's The New Approach to Living Positively with Alzheimer's Disease: Joanne Koenig Coste; Vermilion, an imprint of Ebury Press, Random House, 20, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SWIV
- The Second Coming U.S. War on Iraq 2003 An Indian Perspective: Sreedhar, S. N. Malakar Editors; Academic Excellence Publishers & Distributors, 42, Ekta Apartment, Geeta Colony, Delhi-110031. Rs. 595.



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- Group Ltd., 20, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SWIV 2SA. £ 11. English Language Teaching — Principles and Practice: V. Saraswathi; Orient Longman Pvt. Ltd., 160, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002. Rs. 150.
- Exploring The Secrets of Your Dreams Guide to the True Meaning of Dreams: Niranjan R. Mudholkar; VMP Publishers & Distributors, 6, Princess Building, ER Road, Near JJ Hospital Traffic Signals, Mumbai-400003. Rs. 75.
- Manual of Midwifery Practical and Theory: Dr. Rashmi Patil; Vora Medical Publications, 6. Princess Building Road, Mumbai-400003, Rs. 200.
- The Ultimate Truth: Anil Kumar; Krantz Publications, C-18, South Extension Part-II, New Delhi-110049. **Rs.** 180.

- Hemu Life and Times of Hemchan-
- dra Vikramaditya: R. K. Bharadwaj; Hope India Publications, 85, Sector 23, Gurgaon-122017. Rs. 250. International Law Classic and Contemporary Readings: Charlotte Ku, Paul F. Diehl Editors; Rs. 595. Culture and Customs of India: Carl
- E. Henderson; Rs. 495. Development and Underdevelopment — The Political Economy of Global Inequality: Mitchell A. Seligson, John T. Passe-Smith; Rs. 495. The History of India: John McLeod;
- Democracy Indian Style Subhas Chandra Bose and the Creation of In-dia's Political Culture: Renee Schell
- Democracy in the Third World: Robert Pinkney; Rs. 595. The above six books pub. by Viva Books Pvt. Ltd., 4262/3, Daryaganj, New Del-Daryaganj, hi-110002
- Compendium of Numerology: Swa-
- Analytical Predictive Astrology: Swami Ambikajagadananda; Rs. 120.
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 A Treatise on Predictive Numerology: B. I. Bao: Rs. 60. The above four
- ogy: B. J. Rao; Rs. 60. The above four books pub. by Occult Publishing House, 3-28-12, Brundavan Gardens,

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- Unnakke En Mutharkathal: Thulasi-dasan; Thulasidasan Pathippagam, Kulathoor Post, Pudukottai, Tamil Nadu-622504. Rs. 70. Vazhum Kalal: Yuvacharya Mahasi-raman; Thulasi Mahapragya Sahitya
- Akademi, 34, Managappan Street Chennai-600079. **Rs. 50.** Chennal-600079. Rs. 50.
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- Ponnambaia Vathyar Street, Myiapore, Chennai-600004. Rs. 25.
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 Munsembagam (1-200): V. Gurunathan; Vadivel Pathippagam, 57-58,
 Rajiv Nagar, Medical College Post,
 Thanjavur-613004. Rs. 150.
- Tamizh Illakkiya Kotpadugal: Muthu Shanmugan; Mullai Nilayam, 9, Bharathinagar First Street, T. Nagar Chennai-600017. Rs. 130.
- Panneruvar Parvaiyil Bharathi: V. S. Ramalingam; Bharathi Iyakkam, Tiru-vaiyaru. For copies contact: Agaram, Plot No. 1, Nirmala Nagar, Thanjavur-7. Rs. 90. Kuralia Chinthanaigal: K. S. Anandan; Thangam Pathippagam, 99, Bha-
- Gobichettipalayam-638452.
- Chinthanaiyalar Periyar: Kaviya Pavalar Pannan; L-25, 3, 36th Cross Street, Besant Nagar, Chennai-600090. Rs. 60. Tiruvalluva Poonga: K. S. Anandan; Thangam Pathippagam, 72, Bharathi Street, Gobichettipalayam-638452,
- Frode District. **Rs.** 65.

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- Cross Street, Nandanam Chennai-600035. Rs. 50. • Kanavu Illam Year Book 2004: Business Excellence Publications, 18, Ma-
- riamman Koil Street, Peelamedu Pudhur, Peelamedu, Coimbatore-641004, Rs. 100. Oppilakkiyam Kolkaigalum Payil-muraiyum: M. Thirumalai; Meenakshi
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- yan; Puthiya Kalacharam, 18, Mullai nagar Commerical Complex, 15th Street, Ashok Nagar, nai-600083. Rs. 40.
- nai-600083. Hs. 40.

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 IInd Volume: M. Elangannan; Murugan Pathippagam, 158, 94th Street,
 15th Sector, K.K. Nagar, Chennai-600078. Rs. 90.

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- ya Kalacharam, 18, Mullai Nagar Commercial Complex, 15th Street, Ashok Nagar, Chennai-600083. Rs.
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transporting the first trans-

Station Leading

A TIME OF COALITIONS — Divided We Stand: Paranjoy Guha Thakurta and Shankar Raghuraman; Sage Publications India Pvt. Ltd., B-42, Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi-110017. Rs. 350.

THE CLICHE says, "coalitions are here to stay." This bucks the experience for the most of the first 50 years of independent India. In the early years the polity got used to stability and purposefulness represented by one political party.

The Indian parliamentary arrangement became the much-touted post-colonial model of "democratic success". Political scientists, especially from the West, posited a linkage between one-party dominance and successful state building and consolidation; on the other hand, "desi" political practitioners promised - and, even delivered - govstability ernmental developmental progress.

The one-party dominance did not last long because it could not cope with the overload of expectations and aspirations, all instigated by the egalitarian rhetoric and constitutional promise of a new dawn.

This systemic crisis got compounded because the dominant party, the Congress, became a one-family party, with all its attendant consequences, most of them inherently unhealthy. With the Congress not being able to find ways of correcting the one-family-induced systemic aberrations, the polity had to necessarily experiment with other forms of governing arrangements. The alternative was — coalitions. Is it an optimal alternative?

The authors of the book under review seek to answer this question. Their central contention is that coalitions are neither an aberration nor a temporary phenomenon. Nor does the coalition politics ipso facto constitute a "nightmarish scenario".

moaning the instability seemingly contribution to deepening and strengthening Indian democracy." After taking stock of the political

Their advice is that instead of be-

the authors' prescription is that "the sooner the parties recognise that idegovernments.'

SERVICE IN THE PHILOSOPHY OF

SRI SVAMI NARAYANA: Sarojini

the author, 47-A, Bhakthavatsalam

THE BOOK under review by the well-

known social worker is a study of

Svami Narayana giving emphasis to

social service. In the first chapter,

she gives the basic principles of Indi-

an philosophy and religions dealing

with the Puranas, the Itihasas and

Then she focuses on the liberation

of the soul from bondage wherein

the Upanishads and also the philoso-

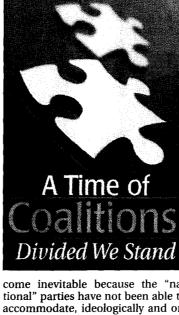
Hinduism.

important aspects of

she discusses very elaborately about any discrimination. His main contri-

Salai, Mylapore, Chennai-600004.

THE CONCEPT OF SOCIAL



come inevitable because the "national" parties have not been able to accommodate, ideologically and organisationally, the ever-increasing economic interests and ethnic/caste aspirations, articulated by ambitious

These "leaders" prefer to be big fish in small ponds rather than submit to the larger parties' leadership structure and organisational disci-

Proliferation of political parties is a natural phenomenon in a mass democracy. It is to be noted that after six years of a presumably joyful coexistence in the National Democratic Alliance, none of the parties is willing to submerge its identity with the Bharatiya Janata Party, even if it means experiencing the bliss of Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee's benign leadership.

While the book's preoccupation is with the workability of coalitions as a governing arrangement, the authors have given a rather comprehensive built into coalitions, the device account of the political developshould be seen as making "a major ments in the last five years, as seen through the performance of various political parties.

It is also the most updated acdevelopments of the last few years, count, covering developments as late as the assembly elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh ological affinity is the best guarantor and Delhi. To that extent it is a valuaof the longevity of alliances, the ble source for anyone wanting to fashorter will be the period of unstable miliarise oneself with the politics of recent times, more so at a time when The most subtle argument in the book is that the coalitions have be-

Philosopher and social reformer

losophy Navya Visishtadvaita. The

term was given to this tradition very

recently. It is known as Muni Sam-

of service in Svami Narayana. During

his time there were some unfortu-

nate social practices such as Sati in

Gujarat. He tried to convince people

that nobody should commit suicide

in the name of religion. He was also

against the performance of animal

bution is the prescription for the

He taught his tradition without

Chapter II deals with the concept

pradaya or Uddhava Sampradaya.

heading Navya-Visishtadvaita.

parties and leaders are total strangers to the idea and practice of coalition. At the state level, Kerala and West Bengal have shown the way; Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Tamil Nadu too have had coalition experience.

In fact, at least three possible coalition models are available at the national level: (1) the West Bengal/NDA model, with a coalition built around a Big Brother; (2) the 1996-98 United Front model, with the dominant partner staying out, letting smaller parties constitute the government; and (3) letting a smaller party head the government because the leader of the biggest party may not be acceptable as prime minister, a scenario tailor-made for the Sonia Gandhi-led Congress party.

However, it is still too early to say whether our leadership class has developed the requisite habits, attitudes and reflexes for give and take so central to running a successful coalition. For instance, had H.D. Gowda not brought to New Delhi the provincial itch of fixing the political rivals, his government would not have been such a short-lived affair.

Even the much-talked about "coalition dharma" is of little help in coping with the impetuousness of a Jayalalithaa (which destabilised the first Vajpayee Government) or the intractability of a Mamata Banerjee .

The tone of the book is rather monotonous. It falls between two stools a racy journalistic essay and a stodgy academic treatise; irritatingly, there are very few dates, no footnotes, and also no drama. Thakurta is the senior of the two authors and is widely respected as a senior member of that elife club of economic jour-

It is therefore somewhat disappointing that the book does not adequately address itself to the political economy aspects of the governing convulsions, though there is a good narration of difficulties in grafting a consensus behind economic re-

This shortcoming is all the more glaring because Mr. Vajpayee has presided over arguably the most business-friendly regime and it would have been helpful to be enlightened about which economic interests/corporate houses have gained and lost and how the coalition arrangement contributed to that loss and gain. Still, a good read. HARISH KHARE

The author records an important

change he had made in society by

eradicating the evil practice of the

Vama Margi of Sakta tradition. This

work is based on the book published

by Bochasan Vasi Akshar Purushot-

tam Sanstha which is an offshoot of

Svami Narayana tradition about 100

another book to supplement this

work collecting material from Vad-

thal group of Svami Narayana Sam-

pradaya to have a comprehensive

idea of Svami Narayana.

We hope the author would write

Politics of coalitions ME OF COALITIONS – Divided Politics of coalitions Challenges facing Indian agriculture

INDIA'S AGRARIAN STRUCTURE, **ECONOMIC POLICIES AND** SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT -Variations On a Theme: V.S. Vyas; Academic Foundation, 4772-73/23 (23, Ansari Road) Bharat Ram Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002.

THIS VOLUME is a collection of various public lectures delivered over the last 25 years by the author. V.S. Vyas is a member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. A key policy maker over the years, he has been a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet and also of the Agricultural Prices Commission.

In a phase of policy dominated by a chorus in favour of privatisation and globalisation, he sounds a note of caution. And reminds us of issues that have been long forgotten and suffered even greater neglect in the 1990s.

Vyas speaks of "immense harm to agriculture and to the economy" caused by a slowdown in public investment in Indian agriculture in the 1990s. In a report on "Food Security in South Asia" prepared for the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), he argues that private sector investment is generally complementary to public investment" and occurs when "public investment makes returns on private investment attractive.



According to him, the key areas of concern in Indian agriculture even in the "pre-reform period" were neglect of the dry lands and environmental issues, as also weak extension efforts and disregard of self-help institutions, such as taste in the matter of food. In this cooperatives.

This oversight has not only been aggravated in the 1990s, coupled with a decline in public investment and what he calls a "high subsidy, high prices regime", it has led to a virtual crisis in Indian agriculture. For the first time since

Independence, the 1990s witnessed a decline in per capita output in Indian agriculture, with virtually all foodgrains suffering a sharp decline in the rate of growth of output and

Vyas also laments the continued neglect of rural infrastructure as also the social sector (education, health and nutrition). India's K. K. A. VENKATACHARI | expenditure on these sectors

continues to be among the lowest in the world in comparative terms.

This is something even the World Bank has pointed out in various recent reports. It is in this backdrop that the author argues strongly against succumbing to pressure to move away from our policy of self-sufficiency in food.

In his Dantwala Memorial Lecture titled, "The Second Round of Reforms in Agriculture" delivered at the 83rd Conference of the Indian Economic Association Vyas argues that comparative advantage is at best a static concept. It ignores the dynamic role of technological and institutional change.

It also assumes that domestic producers can make quick and frequent changes in cropping pattern, while responding to fluctuations in international prices. He points out that international prices are subject to wider intraand inter-year swings than domestic prices and unrestricted exposure to international markets would increase risk and uncertainty

for Indian farmers. In his C.N. Vakil Memorial Lecture on Globalisation, the author outlines an aggressive, proactive strategy to be adopted by India at the WTO negotiations, based on alliances with other countries to change the rules of the

In an insightful discussion of food grain markets within India, he argues that the poor who buy and sell in small quantities and intermittently, incur high transaction costs and face discriminatory prices due to weaker bargaining power and asymmetry of information. Difficulty in enforcing contracts creates moral

This leads Vyas, in his presidential address to the Asian Conference of Agricultural Economists (2000), to outline a major pro-poor agenda of agricultural market reforms.

While he continually alludes to the importance of environmental issues and the need to move towards a truly sustainable agriculture, a reader looking for

insights on these issues would be

sorely disappointed. The author hardly even mentions the "man-made" crisis of groundwater caused in many parts of India through intensive tubewell

irrigation. This crisis is evident especially in those areas (65% of India's land mass) that are underlain by hard rock formations. But even in the alluvial heartland of the Green the levels of groundwater development have reached such unsustainable levels that farmers are being advised to move away from rice and wheat dominated

cropping patterns. Vyas has surprisingly little to say on the excessive emphasis in Indian agrarian policy on these two crops, not only in production technology but also pricing and procurement that has created major inter-crop and inter-regional inequity in Indian agricultural development over the last 30 years.

MIHIR SHAH

Mystical treatise Commentary on Tiruvoimozhi Revolutionary Kannada poet Social novel

TAMIL

TIRUMULAR TIRUMANDHIRAM — Mulamum Vilakka Uraiyum: G. Manickavachakan; Uma Pathippakam, 37, Pavalakkara Street, Mannadi,

Chennai-600001. Rs. 350. TIRUMULAR IS one of the 63 Saiva saints portrayed in the Periyapuranam, a Saiva hagiology. This saint is also considered as one of the 18 Siddhars of the Tamil tradition besides being called as a Yogi, Siddhantin, Muktha and

His biography states that a celestial being transmigrated into a cowherd's body known as Mulan and through him exemplified the truths of the Agamas in chaste Tamil with rhythmic composition.

Hence the Saivites revere this work as the outcome of divine grace. It is a philosophical treatise as well. It deals with variegated themes such as ethics, religion, metaphysics, tantric cult, mysticism and occultism, but the main focus lies in elucidating the basic tenets of Saiva religion and philosophy. This book contains the Tirumandhiram text

and the paraphrase rendered by G. Manicka-

vachakan. The commentator has given a sim-

ple and lucid explanation of the original texts

and also has provided word meanings wherever required, especially the significant features of mystic letters, the implicit meaning of Mantra, Tantra and Yantra are well explained. He should have concentrated on some research-findings with unique interpretation and commentary. However, this lacuna does not deter his earnest endeavour of giving a simplified meaning of the complicated and subtle texts. The Saivites and the Tamil know-

ing aspirants can acquire clarity by reading this

R. GOPALAKRISHNAN

BHAGAVAD VISHAYA BHAVA BODHINI: Tirupputkuzhi Narasimha Thathachariar: T. N. Aravamudhan -- Editor: Hayagriva Vidya Peetam. 22. Tiruvalluvar Street, Taramani, Chennai-600113. Rs. 50.

NAMMAZHWAR IS regarded as the chief among the Azhwars, the God-intoxicated

Vaishnavite mystic saints and his four Prabandhas are revered as equal to the four Vedas. Of these, the Tiruvoimozhi is equated to the Sama Veda in importance and content. Comprising 1102 scintillating, yet sublime verses, the Prabandha is divided into 10 centums of 10 decades each. This book is a commentary on the first cen-

phy of Svami Narayana under the Sadhus not to have any desire for

It must be made clear here that connection, the author quotes an in-

years later.

cident in Svami's life

Tirupputkuzhi Narasimha Thathachariar, based on the gloss of Tirukkurukai Piran Pillan the first commentator of the work. In this section, after declaring that Narayana is the Supreme Brahman, the Azhwar advises people to give up all worldly desires and seek refuge in the Lord, who is ever compassionate

tum of Tiruvoimozhi by the reputed scholar

and loving towards His devotees. He will surely grant the ultimate bliss of salvation. The author gives the text and word-for-word meaning, followed by a summary bringing forth the import of the verses in a simple and appealing manner. The gist of each verse, given in a single sentence, at the beginning of the

verse, is striking and impressive. The opening decade is highly philosophical in content and the Azhwar, in short, pithy phrases, refutes rival systems of philosophy. It is to the credit of the author that he explains the meaning in clear and lucid terms. The introduction to the decades 1-4 and 1-9 and the expositions on verses 1-4-1, 1-4-3, 1-4-7, 1-5-8 and 1-5-9 are particularly lively and enjoyable.

The philosophical terms could have been explained for the benefit of the common reader. This edition however abounds in printing mistakes that mar the beauty of the book. The name of the first commentator of Tiru-

vaimozhi, Pillan is printed as "Pullan" in many

places. Jnana, Ajna, and Pratijna are repeatedly printed as Gnana, Agna, Pratigna; Kurattalwan as Kurattalwar, Embar as Enbar, Bharata as Bhata and so on. The non-Sanskrit knowing lay reader may find it difficult to closely follow the commentary, being interspersed with Sanskritised

words throughout. For people with knowledge

of Sanskrit, it is a rich experience and pleasure

to read this scholarly commentary.

V. N. GOPALA DESIKACHARIAR

KANNADA

HARIHARANA RAGALEGALU-

SAMSKRUTHIKA MUKHA MUKHI; Shivananda S. Viraktamath — Editor; published by Prasaranga, Kannada University, Hampi,

Vidvaranva-583276, Rs. 100. THE WORK is a collection of the evaluation of the various facets of the poetic eminence of Harihara, a 13th Century Kannada poet who lived in Hampi, the capital of the Vijayanagar empire. His works have for their theme and focus the lives of Shivacharanas of the 12th Century and the earlier periods and the glorification of their heritage, steeped in the Bhakti

tradition. The poet is known for employing the "Ragale" genre of poetry and for his daring departure from the conventional pattern and shift to the easy style in order to cater to the interest of

He is considered as a revolutionary around whom was a legendary halo. The poet is given credit for his contribution to the broadbased institutionalisation of the Veerashaiva faith, inspired by the exemplary careers of the Sharanas more than the Vachana texts.

A great deal of research has gone into the study of his poetic eminence including doctoral studies by scholars. The Kannada University organised a seminar on the heritage of the poet in Kolar a few years back, which highlighted his contribution, poetic consciousness and his values, bringing to bear new and fresh insights into his works.

C. M. RAMACHANDRA *MALAYALAM*

DIVYAM - Novel by U. R. Ananthamoorthy: C. Raghavan - Tr. in Malayalam; DC Books, Kottayam-686001. Rs. 70.

IN THIS period novel the remote village in Shimoga district, Karnataka, vividly comes alive probably when the novelist was a youth and memories were entrenched in his mind as reflected in the narration.

True to the author's creative brilliance, the novel is perceptive and delves deep into the social hierarchy and the order of society in the

pre- and immediate post- Independence

The title literally means excellent and celestial; so is the book for its path-breaking and brilliant author who is also an influential social activist.

May be because the translator is equally familiar with the locale, customs and traditions of the story. While Ananthamoorthy's earliest novels disagreed with modernity, this one brings out the conflict of modernity with mysticism and religious experience; here he stands out as a con-

The translation is superb and captivating,

retaining the style and images of the original.

servative radical in a dilemma. He is aware of the sharp logic of modernism, but finds it difficult to part with tradition, customs and rituals. The main character, Ghanasyaman, who has returned from England to his feudal village and owns land and property, wants to bring in a sea change. He winds up the daily pooja to Bhoovarahamoorthy and consigns the idol to storage. But the logic of others changes his mind. He tries to undo the injustice done by his politic-

the flow of the theme. Similarly, Ganga's spirit entering her elder sister and Gauri's divinity is not convincing, as it does not contribute to the main story. Too many sub-plots make the main theme dilated and the climax looks contrived

ian father in one stroke, which looks illogical to

But, the author has stated in the preface that what appeals to the mind must be done after waiting for the inner voice, despite the application of rigid logic. And that is what he has done.

K. KUNHIKRISHNAN

Announcement

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to The Hindu for review. While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under "New Arrivals", the decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper, Receipt of individual books will not be acknowledged in response to enquiries.

Espionage in warfare

INTELLIGENCE IN WAR -Knowledge of the Enemy from Napoleon to Al-Qaeda: John Keegan, Hutchinson, London. Distributed by Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. £15.

SIR JOHN KEEGAN, one of the best-known military historians, has added another book to his long list of classics. His best-known book. which made his fame and fortune, was The Face of Rattle That book had sold in record numbers and set the author on the road to a knighthood. Sir John had, without ever having been in combat, produced a vivid account of the reality of being in battle and coming face to face with violent death, fear and courage.

His latest book looks at the role of military intelligence in the outcome of war. Is good intelligence a guarantor of success in war? Can military power compensate for shortcomings in intelligence? After all, U.S.'s substantial military capability could not prevent the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Examples are not wanting of good intelligence, when available, failing to obtain victory. Intelligence at strategic levels involves identifying or ascertaining long term plans of the adversary. It involves industrial and scientific espionage and penetration through moles of the security apparatus of the adversary. Philby and Maclean were part of the western

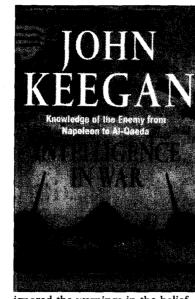
Market and the second second second

intelligence organisations and worked for the Soviets by passing on crucial nuclear secrets. Operational intelligence involves gaining and using information about terrain, weather and military tactics unknown to the enemy commander. Breaking the enemy's code for wireless messaging is one part of this intelligence war.

The British broke and then powerfully used the German signal codes with devastating effect during the Second World War. Alexander won the battle against Porus by identifying the latter's military weakness - an overdependence on slow moving elephants — before the battle was joined.

Psychological intelligence involves using the enemy's assumptions and presumptions to deceive him on one's plans. After its brilliant military victories against Egypt in 1967, the Israelis constructed the Bar Lev defence line on the Suez Canal. This led to their ignoring the implications of major military manoeuvres and concentrations conducted by the Egyptians on the canal.

Israel was on national holiday on Yom Kippur in 1973 when the Egyptians crossed the canal in strength and seized territories they had lost in the Sinai desert. In 1960s, the Indian military had repeatedly warned of Chinese military concentrations in Tibet. The political and intelligence leadership at the time in Delhi



ignored the warnings in the belief that China would never attack India. The humiliating military defeat of 1962 was the result.

Tactical intelligence includes information about enemy force deployments and tactics. In Kargil, information available about Pakistani purchases of large quantities of snow warfare equipment and moving of a number of military units into the sector were ignored, until Pakistan produced the fait accompli of its occupation of Indian territory. India's political leadership went to Lahore, ignoring the information that Pakistan's military had other

plans. In the Yom Kippur War, İsraeli military paid a heavy price in tank losses, by ignoring the role of man portable shoulder fired missiles, which the Egyptians had obtained from Russians. The list is endless, of intelligence indicators clearly pointing in one direction and political and military

leadership looking in another. Sir John's essential argument is that even with good intelligence victory cannot be had, without the necessary military power to obtain it. To use a financial simile, intelligence is like a cheque, which cannot be encashed without money in the bank.

Could India have avoided defeat in 1962, even if it had read the intelligence right? The army was ill equipped to fight in the cold and on heights. There were no roads to carry the guns and supplies needed to fight on the distant frontiers. Defeat would still have been the outcome.

Intelligence and espionage are esoteric subjects. From the glamorous Mata Hari to the thousands of faceless brave men and women, who run great risks for their country's safety, is always a stirring story. Yet, they are the foot soldiers in the army of intelligence.

The real breakthroughs come from those who sit in small offices filled with cigarette smoke under dim lights, poring over thousands of small facts to build a coherent picture of the adversary's mind. It

OPEN PAGE

is in such painstaking work that intelligence of value emerges. It is also the place where prejudice and presumptions can do great harm.

A famous scientist, raised to peerage by Churchill, had failed the system. Lord Cherwell, despite his great scientific skills refused to accept that a liquid fuel rocket was a technological possibility. He even went so far as to ruin the careers of iunior scientists who dared to disagree with him. This was despite evidence being brought in to the contrary. Much time was lost and a heavy price paid by this scientific prejudice.

The book under review breaks new ground by asserting that the best intelligence is no substitute for military capability to convert it into victory. He builds a number of case studies from historical facts ranging from Alexander, Nelson, the American Civil War, the technology of wireless communication and code breaking during the Second World War.

Those who know military history in good measure will find much in the book that is familiar. Sir John nevertheless demonstrates his renowned analytical abilities, by extrapolating startling conclusions from known facts.

He shows up the limits of what high-class intelligence can obtain without either military capability, or, political and military leadership competent to employ it.

V.R. RAGHAVAN

that it is impossible to set a river on fire. But if you manage to do it, what will be the result? People would start talking about you; you would become famous. That's what the expression "to set the Thames on fire" means, to achieve far-reaching success; to make a name for one-

WHAT IS the meaning of the idiom "To set the Thames on

The "th" in "Thames" is like the 't" in "ten", "tell", and "test". The

following "ames" sounds like "ems"

in "gems". "Thames", as you are

probably aware, is the name of a

river in England. Everyone knows

fire"? (R. Narayanan, Cochin)

*Everyone is talking about Indra's new play. It is really setting the Thames on fire.

*We thought that our team would do fairly well in the championship. We certainly didn't expect them to set the Thames on fire.

When the expression went to America, they replaced the word "Thames" with "river". Nowadays, it is much more common to hear someone say, "set the world on fire", instead of "set the Thames on fire". When you say that something is "not going to set the Thames/ world/river on fire" what you mean is that it is not very exciting or successful. Here is an example.

*The food in the new restaurant is good. But it's not going to set the world/Thames on fire.

What is the meaning of "chok-

ers"? (Bipin Kumar, Wayanand) When India lost the one-day series against Australia, some people commented that our team consisted of a bunch of "chokers". A "choker" is someone who doesn't perform well under pressure. When the going gets tough, the choker doesn't get going. He folds up like a

his potential. *You can't rely on Jai when the going gets tough. He is a choker. *Kim Clisters always seems to choke in the final of a grand slam. Is it ok to say "the shoe has a

pack of cards; he fails to perform to

fascination for me"? (George R. Manuel, Porayar) I suppose you could say it, prorided your shoe is alive and has feelings for you! Such things are possible in stories, but not in real life. It is you who has a fascination for the shoe, not the other way around. When you have a fascina-

tion for something or someone, it

means that you are fascinated by the object or person. Here are a few

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

examples. *Ananya has had a fascination for

cricket all her life. *According to the newspaper report, the killer has a fascination for blondes.

Which is correct? "Relieved of" or "relieved off"?

(K. Baburajan, Coimbatore) You usually relieve someone "of" something. When you relieve someone of something, what you are doing is removing the burden from the individual. Here are a few examples.

*After failing in three tests, he was relieved of his captaincy. *The Board wants to relieve Mr.

Narayana of his post. The expression can also be used in informal contexts to mean to take care/charge of something.

*Let me relieve you of your umbrella and sweater.

What's the difference between "endemic" and "epidemic"? (V. V. Ramana Rao, Vishakapatnam)

A disease which is endemic is always present in a particular region. It's common among the people who live there.

*I am told that the disease is endemic among sheep and cattle in the tropics.

The word can also be used figuratively. When you refer to a problem as being endemic, what you are implying is that it is a common problem, which cannot be dealt with easily.

*Racism is endemic in many cities in America.

*Discrimination against women endemic in our country.

An "epidemic" is a disease, which spreads quickly across a country/ state and affects a large number of people. It is an outbreak.

*The doctor warned me to be careful as there was a flu epidemic sweeping across the state. If an activity that you don't ap-

prove of is seen to be increasing rapidly, then you can refer to it as being an "epidemic". *The Principal said that cheating

in exams had reached "epidemic proportions". ***** **** ****

"I love women. They're the best thing ever created. If they want to be like men and come down to our level,

that's fine." — Mel Gibson S. UPENDRAN

FROM THE BLURB

Paracis Learning — The Literacy Paradigms Campaign in India: Malavika Karlekar — Editor; Sage Publications India Pvt. Rs. 375.

Panchsheel Enclave, New Del-hi-110017. Takes stock of the Total Literacy Cam-paign (TLC) assessing both its successes and fail-

ures in order to draw lessons for the future, based on detailed first-hand evaluations of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand and Raiasthar

the learners are also discussed while giving voice to the different perspectives including those of women and marginalised groups.

• Modern South Asia — History, Culture, Political Economy: Sugata Bose and Ayesha Jalal; Rs. 495.

This second edition takes into account the recent his torical research to bring the entire spectrum of modern South Asian history — social, economic and political — up to date. After sketching the pre-modern history of the subcontinent, the book concentrates on the last three centuries from 1700 A.D. to the present providing new insights into the structure and ideology of the British Raj, the meaning of subaltern resistance, the refashioning of social relations along the lines of caste, class, community and gender, the different strands of anti-colonial nationalism and the dynamics

Sikhism and History: Pashaura Singh and N. Gerald Barrier; Rs. 595.

A collection of representative essays covering a wide range of issues that define the contours of contemporary Sikh studies, each exploring a dimension of what constitutes modern Sikhism — the central concerns of a Sikh identity as well as the realities of the Sikh diaspora. The essays also explore the conscious codification of Sikh precepts during the Singh Sabha peri-od and the relationship between religion and ideology as embodied in modern politico-religious formations like the Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Commit-

 The Buddhism Omnibus: with an introduction by Matthew T. Kapstein; Gautama Buddha — by Iqbal Singh; The Dhammapada: S. Radhakrishnan — Editor; The Philosophy of Religion — A Buddhist Perspective: Arvind Sharma; Rs. 595.

The three works in this collection explore Buddhism as a rich source of literary legend, an austere ethical guide and a contemporary philosophy very relevant in the modern world, thus providing a basis for an under-standing of the life of the Buddha and his teachings as well as for a comparative view of Buddhism as a world

The above three books have been published by Oxford University Press, YMCA Library Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001. Yoga of Work — Conversations With Sri Krishna:

Ram K. Piparaiya; Rs. 295. Quoting extensively from the Bhagavad Gita this book evaluates its teachings against the works and lives of great thinkers and leaders. Based on the premise that

a person's choice of work and attitude to work is influ-enced by two forces — external rewards and inner fulfilment — and to be a complete person one needs to create a harmony between these two forces, the author identifies the crucial factors to bring about the harmony and discusses them in a conversational style with the objective to inform and inspire the reader to formulate a personal philosophy of work.

• Buddha Mind - A Secular Feast of Enlightening Quotations Fused With Enchanting Photographs: Conceptualized and edited by Ram K. Piparaiya;

An innovative rendition of the Buddha's life, his important teachings and selections from the Dhammapada juxtaposed with photographs from the Dinodia Photo Library and a foreword by The Dalai Lama. The book captures the wisdom of the Buddha who avoided meta-physical abstrac-



the construction of the co

logical explanations as to why it was in a person's own best interest to live virtuously. The above two books have been published by Indus-vista Editions (A Di-vision of Aridhi Hi-Tech Industries

Point, bai-400021.

tions or references to God by offering

Ltd.), C-106, Mittal Court, Nariman

The Madrid blasts:

tackling terror ↑ 7 TTH A few bombs, placed to inflict maximum damage on rush-hour commuters, the perpetrators of the outrage in Madrid changed the course of the Spanish elections, bringing to power the Socialist Workers Party, led by Jose Zapatero. With that, a change in Spain's Iraq policy seems very likely. Indeed Mr. Zapatero has promised to bring Spanish troops

Adopting a fresh approach using in-depth interviews

and group discussions, the researchers discuss not

only outcomes but also the processes and dynamics,

both organisational and interpersonal, that either facilitated or hampered the teaching-learning situation. The roles played by officials, volunteers, NGOs and

back home, calling the Iraq invasion a "fiasco.' American commentators, especially Republicans, have reacted with predictable outrage, accusing the Spanish public variously of succumbing to terrorism and of appeasement (a la Chamberlain?) With Spain having rejoined "old" Europe and the Polish President reportedly complaining about Poland having been led to war in Iraq on false pretences (read WMD), the U.S.-led coalition appears to be in danger of

unravelling. The Madrid blasts raise some interesting points. Did the terrorists actually plan to influence the democratic process? The blasts changed the minds of large number of voters, with a devastating effect on the party in power. Before too much credit is given to the sapience of the terrorists, we need to remember that a majority of the Spanish population was always against the Iraq war. However, Premier Jose Maria Aznar chose to support George Bush in defiance of popular opinion. After the blasts, the government promptly blamed ETA, the Basque terrorist organisation, for the blasts. ETA was prompt to deny responsibility. The blasts did not carry the ETA "signature." Further, ETA has generally not targeted the civilian population. This gave rise to the suspicion that the government was deflecting blame onto ETA in order to prevent the blasts being seen as a

consequence of its Iraq policy. It now seems that the Socialists had indeed been creeping up in the opinion polls, having reached a respectable 38 per cent to the government's 42 per cent, just before the blasts. The government's perceived mendacity tipped the balance. The poll results are, therefore, probably not the great upset they are viewed as.

Lateral thinking

It has been said that armies traditionally prepare for the last war and are usually unready for the next. No enemy bomber has ever penetrated American airspace. However, the September 11 attacks used American airliners filled with fuel as missiles, and aimed them at the most visible symbols of American military and financial might. The poll eve blasts in Madrid converted the disenchantment of the bulk of the Spanish populace into resounding defeat for the incumbents. Farlier, terrorists had attacked the USS Cole in the Yemeni port of Aden using an inflatable watercraft, loaded with explosives. Seventeen American sailors were killed. Were not the consequences so tragic, one could even say that these operations bear the hallmark of lateral thinking par excellence.

all over the world have tightened airline security, set in place no-fly zones and appointed sky marshals aboard aircraft. All this presumed that the next attacks would be similar. Some, more imaginative, thought that ships could be used to plough into harbours. No one imagined using train blasts to derail elections. The next attacks could well use an entirely different method.

After the September 11 attacks, nations

Combating the terrorist

The Al Qaeda is unique among terrorist groups in being only an umbrella organisation. It provides the ideological framework, and sometimes assistance in planning. The actual attacks are carried out by local groups. It has fostered groups in Indonesia, Morocco, the Philippines and many other countries. This is what gives the Al Qaeda its strength and makes it so difficult to fight. It has, in fact, perfected the art of decentralised management. Its strategy involves the use of every tool propaganda, military force and even the apparatus of democracy. The Al Qaeda has used technology to great effect, as witnessed in New York on September 11 Osama bin Laden's business background has enabled it to generate funds and to transfer them through front companies and offshore banks. It has been said that terror is not an absolute; it is only a tactic. To tackle the Al Qaeda, the democracies need to evolve a coherent broad-based strategy. Unlike conventional armed forces,

terrorists have no fixed bases which can be attacked. However, they still need a support base, money and recruits. Countries need to crack down on terror funding and the parallel banking system they use. They must address legitimate grievances, which terrorists exploit to find their recruits. They must also improve human intelligence. This should happen automatically as support for terrorism wanes. Technology, while useful, is only a tool and not the answer. The main battle is for hearts and minds, something every terrorist organisation knows, but which, it seems, governments have yet to learn.

The statements made by some U.S.

Senators and Congressmen after the

Spanish elections have no place in any

war on terror. Dealing with democracies

is always difficult. That is why, perhaps,

the U.S. has always preferred the

Musharrafs and the Pinochets. • R. SUKUMARAN

On whom does India shine?

A started rolling the 'India Shining' hyperbole of the ruling dispensation has taken the backstage. Nevertheless the ruling party spin masters have succeeded in influencing sections of the urban mind that Indian economy has taken rapid strides in the last five years. This has however been trashed by C. Rammanohar Reddy in his dispassionate analysis (The Hindu, March 17) that had exposed the mediocre performance of the economy in all parameters GDP (National), GDP (Agriculture), GDP (Industry), merchandise exports and invis-

ible exports. Worst performance is in GDP Agriculture where the growth between 1998-99 and 2003-04 has been a dismal 1.9 per cent. This perhaps led to the pointed remarks of the famed agricultural scientist, M.S. Swaminathan: "The much talked about 'feel good factor' among the economically privileged sections of our urban population should not blind us to the fact that we have the largest number of poor and under-nourished children, women and men in the world, a majority of whom live in the villag-

Let alone the poor and undernourished rural folk, India is not even shining on the farmers of the Cauvery delta, once the granary of South India.

India is not shining on 90 per cent of

S THE Election 2004 juggernaut has rural children who due to poverty and dis-ductive political-bureaucratic-business-ju-itation is well known. When saying this mal school conditions are unable to survive up to the matriculation standard.

India is not shining on 750 million of its people who have no basic toilet facilities: on 510 million humans with no access to essential drugs; on 300 million illiterate adults with no schooling; on its 60 million destitutes and widows without a roof and on nearly seven million suffering from

India is not shining on 750,000 MBAs, engineers, postgraduates, graduates and matriculates who had applied for the 35,000 Railway jobs of khalasis and gangmen requiring 8th standard as qualification! In fact this pathetic hunt for jobs had started an inter-State war between Assam and Bihar!

India was not shining on 10,000 educated, able-bodied youth of Tamil Nadu who were beaten up at an army recruitment camp for rushing to seek 80 non-combatant jobs of butchers and barbers!

India is not shining on 44 per cent of its people i.e. more than the combined population of the European Union and the U.S., living on less than one dollar a day! But then on whom does India shine? Indeed on many people who have the money

and muscle to influence things and terrorise people. India is shining on the corrupt, unprodiciary combine protected by the prevailing

'kleptocratic' system of governance. It is shining on the criminal-police mafia and the incompetent public functionaries squandering the country through scams and scandals. These worthies have succeeded in making even the most basic of human needs like safe drinking water a luxury beyond reach!

On the positive side, India is shining on the techno savvy executives benefiting from the BPO rush. It is also shining on the small investors and entrepreneurs reaping the fruits of stock market revival and mobile phone explosion. And India is certainly shining on the corporate bigwigs whose bottom lines have swelled following Godgifted monsoon.

An unrealised dream

Yet the fact remains that India has the largest population in the world that goes to bed without any food; the largest population who has no clothes to wear and the largest number of beggars. The fact that substantial sections of Indian population suffer from serious deprivations vis-à-vis a set of commonly acknowledged basic needs, such as adequate food, shelter, clothing, basic health care, primary education, clean drinking water and basic san-

publicly on the occasion of the Independ ence Day 2000, former President K.R. Naravanan minced no words:

"Fifty years into the life of our Republic we find that justice — social, economic and political — remains an unrealised dream for millions of our fellow citizens. The benefits of our economic growth are yet to reach them. We have one of the world's largest reservoirs of technical personnel, but also the world's largest number of illiterates, the world's largest middle class, but also the largest number of people below the poverty line, and the largest number of children suffering from malnutrition. Tragically, the growth in our economy has not been uniform. Many a social upheaval can be traced to the neglect of the lowest of society, whose discontent moves towards the path of violence."

This is an acknowledgement from India's head of state of the vast areas of darkness engulfing the country and the crucial challenges confronting the nation. It would be wise on the part of political parties to take up and overcome these challenges and spread light on every one instead of glowing on the narrow 'streak of shining' and wasting time and money on empty, meaningless

• M.G. DEVASAHAYAM

What ails secondary and Plus Two education

VERY important segment of school education comprises Classes VIII, IX **L** and X, known as secondary education and higher secondary education which consists of Classes XI and XII, otherwise called Plus Two. In most States, Plus Two is part of school; in a few, it is called junior college and is part of college education.

The number of secondary schools in India rose from 7,416 in 1950-51 to 1,16,820 in 1999-2000. Between 1990 and 1999, 37,000 secondary schools were opened. The First Five Year Plan allocation for secondary education was Rs. 20 crores which rose to Rs. 2,600 crores in the Ninth Plan — yet it is only one per cent of the GDP.

There are two reasons why secondary education should be considered important. First, it is the bridge between upper primary school and higher education or to the world of work, if one has opted for vocational education in these classes. So it is a watershed in one's learning career. Secondly, it consists of students between the years 14 and 18-20, the teen years, which are the most perplexing times in a child's life. These are the adolescent years when physical changes take place which affect the child in some form or other. Unless the right guidance is given during these crucial years, there is scope for the child to go offtrack, either through irresponsible sex behaviour, or recourse to bad company, leading to indulging in drugs and violence, and ultimately to depression and maybe even

In the first half of the 80s, the Plan com-

ponent for development purposes in this children, encouraging them to think segment of education was in the range of 8 per cent. In 1999-2000, this has dwindled to 0.97 per cent. Those in charge of educational policies and development have not given this sector the importance it deserves. Secondary education, one might say, is the weakest link in the chain.

It seems the Tenth Plan means to make amends for the neglect of this sector by focusing on revision of curricula with emphasis on "vocationalisation and employment oriented courses, expansion and diversification of the open learning system, reorganisation of teacher training and greater use of news information and communication

technologies, particularly computers.' Private effort has always been visible in the secondary school sector from British times and now it is even greater. Private initiative in the secondary school sector is very much in evidence in most parts of India, it being 54 per cent in Kerala.

Teaching skills

It is in this background that we look at the most important priorities to improve the quality in our secondary and higher secondary courses.

First and foremost, we have to look at the teaching skills that teachers have in their subject and in communication. This is important in any sphere of education but more important in the secondary stage and up. Classes have to be joyful and interesting and promote inquisitiveness in adolescent independently.

We have to look at the relative emphasis given to subjects in the curricula, particularly Maths and Science, which should not be lumped with other subjects for the SSLC examination.

Are there alternatives to the examination

system of cramming the notes given by the teacher and spilling out in the answers, where a great deal depends on good luck rather than a child's understanding and self learning? We need more libraries, books, laborato-

ries, playgrounds, physical education equipment, and excursion tours. The reading habit and the 'doing an experiment' and finding-out-for-oneself approach need to be greatly enhanced.

A good knowledge of two national languages and the regional language is to be promoted. It is said that communication skills are poor and there is much to be done

In what ways is value education being promoted? We need to follow what Gandhiji said: Live simply so that others may simply live. The spirit of tolerance must be fostered. This can happen through outreach activities where the rural and the urban, boys and girls, the rich and the poor, the able and the differently abled, learn to live with one another in a healthy and helpful way. Our schools have to become more "inclusive" and not neglect the hitherto "excluded."

Are students encouraged to discuss events happening in the neighbourhood/ community/nation to encourage them to see for themselves the right and the wrong in things? Is there a discussion of diversity issues? Are they encouraged to become upto-date in current affairs? This has to be in addition to taking part in extracurricular activities, in sports and other competitions which help in promoting team spirit. Activities designed to promote introspection of one's own attitudes to public and societal issues need to be encouraged in the teen

Vocationalisation has not been a success in our country. We have to ensure that we get the best teachers for vocational subjects and arrange for hands-on experience. Anvway, the view that only vocational schools should teach vocations and other schools need do nothing to teach life skills is a wrong notion. Driving, cooking, swimming these are coping skills and they should find a place in the curriculum.

• PADMA RAMACHANDRAN

Announcement

Contributions to the Open Page will be considered for publication only if they are in electronic form and emailed. The length of the article should not exceed 800 words. It may be addressed to the Open Page desk at openpage@thehindu.co.in

Vaccine for human' bird flu almost ready, says WHI Will almost ready, says WHI States two years to wipe out an outbreak and Cambodia pay for culling oper in the 1990s. "The threat to human and restocking thousands of small

Bangkok, February 26

and will take longer and more money to stamp out than previously thought, UN designing a human vaccine against the Asian bird flu that has killed 22 people SCIENTISTS ARE just weeks away from experts said on Thursday.

"Our laboratories are working active-ly on designing a new vaccine. We hope n a few weeks the design phase will have been completed," Bjorn Melgaard,

WHO's Thailand representative, said. Officials from 23 Asia-Pacific countries, UN bodies and donors kicked off a day with urgent pleas to intensify the three-day emergency meeting on Thurs-

fight against the disease. The virulent H5N1 avian influenza virus has hit seven Asian countries and killed 15 Vietnamese and seven Thais fuelling fears it could acquire the ability

ripe for the emergence of just such a pandemic strain of the influenza virus. ciency studies can be conducted." More than 100 million chickens have been culled across SouthEast Asia and China gaard told the meeting "the conditions in affected countries and elsewhere are munity. That has not happened, but Mel-A vaccine could be available shortly for vaccine manufacturers to begin small scale production, so that safety and effi in a bid to combat the disease.

It could be another three to six months before a commercial version of the vaccine is widely available.

among poultry despite the slaughter of 100 million birds. Japan and Cambodia are the latest countries investigating possible new cases. "It is clear that the avian flu epidemout, with new and recurring outbreaks The virus is proving difficult to stamp

ic is not yet under control," Melgaard said, noting that it took the United

States two years to wipe out an outbreak in the 1990s. "The threat to human health will last as long as avian influen-

za persists in the environment," he said. The Bangkok meeting will seek to exbird flu, with experts already pointing to a lack of resources for animal disease pose weaknesses in the fight against surveillance in the region.

bigger role in detection and reporting of The world animal health body OIE called for a national network of farmers trained in diseases and supervised by veterinarians, saying they must play a the disease.

losses linked with" outbreaks, OIE regional representative Teruhide Fujita "The cost of this investment is insignificant compared to the enormous told the meeting.

REUTERS

A poultry vendor checks chickens at a Mexico City market on Thursday.

come under pressure to help cash-stra-pped governments such as Vietnam, Laos Foreign donors at the meeting will

and Cambodia pay for culling operations and restocking thousands of small farms. Experts say culling is by far the most

effective way to combat the disease, but

it can also worsen the plight of poor age have fallen into massive debt because government compensation does farmers earning \$300 a month on aver In Thailand, the world's fourth-larges' chicken exporter, thousands of smal farmers unless they get help.

has not changed for centuries and is tions will need financial and technical help to overhaul a way of farming that And once this emergency is over, na partly to blame for the crisis. not cover all lost income.

"This is a call to donors, realising that the fight against bird flu will take longer than we thought, and it will be enormously costly," said He Changchui, Assistant director general of the Food and Agriculture Organisation

Bird flu detected in US

Worst over for Asia, says Thai Prime Minister Reuters Washington/Bangkok, Washington/Bangkok, February 7 Week, Scuse said. South Korea which.

February 7

THE FIRST case of bird flu appeared in the United States just as hard-hit Thailand said it hoped to clear the last out-break of an epidemic that has killed 18 people and decimated poultry flocks across Asia.

More than 12,000 chickens have been quarantined in the US state of Delaware and are due to be destroyed after they were found to have a strain of the virus which differs from the one that has killed people in Thailand and Vietnam, the Delaware State News reported on its website.

Delaware Agriculture Secretary Michael Scuse said the strain found in the US chickens was



REUTERS Chickens marked for slaughter at a poultry market in Shanghai.

known as H7. The killer Asian strain was H5N1. "We are trying to act as quickly as possible," Scuse said. "We are trying to protect an industry here that is awfully valuable

In addition to the destruction of the 12,000 chickens in Delaware's Kent County, all farms within two miles of the infected birds will be tested within the next

battling its own outbreak of the virus, reacted swiftly to reports of the discovery in Delaware, immediately halting imports of US poultry.

News of the US out-

break came on the same day the Prime Minister of Thailand — one of the 10 Asian countries hardest hit by the epidemic said he expected the last outbreak of the virus to be contained within days.

"There is only one red zone, in Bangkok at Lat Krabang. We hope to clear that within one or two days," Thaksin Shi-nawatra said in his weekly radio address.

Thailand, the world's fourth biggest chicken exporter has slaughtered 26 million fowl and was confident the virus was

Last week, Thailand had more than 140 of the "red zones", the five-km (three-mile) area around confirmed outbreak within which the government orders the slaugh-

ter of all poultry.
Officials say they will go back over all the former red zones to make certain the virus, which has killed 18 persons across the continent, including 13 Vietnamese, has been eradicated.

In neighbouring Vietnam, authorities in capital Hanoi ordered the cull of all poultry in the city. "At present Hanoi is applying some forceful measures including destroying poultry to protect its environment and to stop it from spreading to other localities," the health director said.

THE HIDUSTAN TIMES

8 FEB 2004

China culls 12 lakh poultry to ress Trust of India of Ilu by vesterday since he

Press Trust of India

BEIJING, Feb. 5. - While asserting that there has been no cases of human infection of H5N1 strain of bird flu so far, China today said that over 12 lakh poultry has been culled to prevent the further spread of the virus.

"There are no cases of human infections on the Chinese mainland due to the tight surveillance networks established after the outbreak of severe acute espiratory syndrome last year," vice minister of health, Wang Longde, told reporters.

At a press conference hosted by the ministries of agriculture and health in the wake of rapidly rising cases of bird flu in China, Wang said the government had worked out measures to prevent transmission of bird flu to human beings.

He said experts hold that there is a little possibility that human beings can be infected so long as the H5N1 strain of bird flu is not combined with other viruses of human beings.

In addition, the number of persons infected by bird flu is quite limited so far, he said.

Earlier, vice minister of agriculture, Liu Jian, said that China had reported five confirmed cases and 18 suspected cases of bird flu by yesterday, since the first confirmed case was announced on 27 January.

By yesterday, some 56,417 poultry had been infected with bird flu and 49,236 died. The country had slaughtered 1,215,057 chickens, ducks and geese to prevent spread of the disease, Liu said.



A farmer uses a stick to slaughter chickens in Vietnam's Thanh Oai district. — AFP

Taiwan: Lawmakers munched on crispy fried chicken today as the premier assured consumers that Taiwanese poultry was free of the bird flu virus, adds

AP from Taipei.

Although Taiwan has not reported any cases of the bird flu strain, a few farms have been infected with a milder strain of avian influenza.

Bird flu claims fourth victim in Thailand

Agence France Presse

BANGKOK, Feb. 3. — A seven-year-old boy died from bird flu today, becoming Thailand's fourth confirmed fatality from the disease, a health official said.

"He died just minutes ago. He is the fourth confirmed case to have died," disease control department director Charal Trinvuthipong told AFP.

As well as the four confirmed deaths, there are 18 suspected cases of bird flu infections in Thailand, of which 11 have died

in Thailand, of which 11 have died.

To fight the disease, 26.9 million chickens have been culled nationwide, with slaughtering continuing in seven of Thailand's 76 provinces but completed in the other 29 provinces where the deadly H5N1 virus has been detected.

China outbreak: China today confirmed a previously suspected bird flu outbreak in Guangdong province and reported five new suspected outbreaks, including in two new provinces, Gansu and Shaanxi, a

report from Beijing says.

"The ministry of agriculture on 3
February received the report from the National Bird Flu Reference Laboratory confirming a suspected case in Chao'an county, Guangdong province, as deadly H5N1 bird flu," the China Central Television station (CCTV) said.

The ministry today also received reports

of a total of five new outbreaks, two of them in separate provinces that had not previously been known to be affected — Gansu in the north-west and Shaanxi in the north.

The outbreaks were in Gansu's Lanzhou city and Shaanxi's Xi'an city, the CCTV report said. The other new outbreaks were in Anhui province's Fuyang city, Hunan province's Pingjiang county and Hubei province's Xiangfan city, CCTV news said. Those three provinces already had confirmed or suspected cases.

The report brings the total number of cases in China to 19 — four confirmed

and 15 suspected.

Germany: The German health authorities today said that a woman suspected to be Europe's first case of bird flu did not in fact have the disease, a report from Hamburg says.

"We are nearly sure that this is human influenza virus," a spokeswoman for the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine said. "It is not bird flu."

Further tests will be conducted at influenza research centres in Hanover and Berlin. The woman returned to Hamburg from Thailand on Saturday with symptoms similar to those produced by the disease that has killed a dozen people in Asia. Firefighters who transported the patient and a woman accompanying her to the Institute for Tropical Medicine wore protective clothing.



 Reflections on Literature, Criticism and Theory — Essays in Honour of Professor Prafulla C Kar: Sura P. Rath Kailash C Baral (Ed.); Pencraft International, New Delhi-110052. Rs. 550. Detective Stories: Chitra Shastri

Compiler; Rs. 60.
Fabulous Tales from Foreign Lands: Rs. 45.

• Leave It to Birbal: Rs. 45. The above three books pub. by Alpha Land Books
(P) Ltd., 14, Jagannathan Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai-600034.

• Atma Vidya Vilasam of Sri Sada Si-

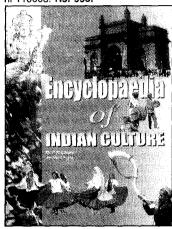
va Brahmendra Yogi: Kalluri Suryan-Sankhvavana Vidya rayana; Sankhyayana Vidya Parishat, H No. 2-12-34, Annapoorna Colony, Uppal, Hyderabad-500039.

Rs. 36.

The Mahabharata of Vyasa — Vols 232 to 267: P Lal — Tr. in English; Writers Workshop Books, 162/92, Lake Gardons Kolkata 700045

Lake Gardens, Kolkata-700045. Rs. • Encyclopaedia of Indian Culture: P.

N. Chopra, Prabha Chopra; Reliance Publishing House, 3026/7H, South Patel Nagar (Ranjit Nagar), New Del-hi-110008. Rs. 995.



Hindu Mythology: T.R.R. lyengar; Indu Chopra, Intellectual Book Corner, New Delhi-110002. Rs. 395.

A Liberated Venus & Other Short Stories: Usha John; Minerva Press, B-5/184, Second Floor, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-1100029. Rs.

 Work, Enjoyment and Progress Answering to 64 Questions: R.L. Kashyap; Sri Aurobindo Kapali Sastri stitute of Vedic Culture, No. 63, 13th Main, 4th Block East, Jayanagar, Ban-

 Main, 4th block East, Jayanagar, Bargalore-560011. Rs. 75.
 Twenty-First Century India — Population, Economy, Human Development, & the Environment: Tim Dyson, Robert Cassen — Editors; Oxford University Press, YMCA Library Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001.

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School Planning and Management

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Nair; Shìpra Publications, 115-A, Vikas Marg., Shakarpur, Delhi-110092.
Rs. 120.

The Dynamics of Technology — Creation and Diffusion of Skills and Knowledge; Roddam Narasimha, J. Srinivasan Editors, Sage Publications India Pvt. Ltd., B-42, Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi-110017. Rs. 560.

Value-Oriented Education in Schools — Theory and Practice: Ra-Value-Oriented inder M. Kalra; Rs. 120. Philosophical and Sociological Per-

pectives on Education: J.C. Aggar-

Child Development and Process of Learning: J.C. Aggarwal; Rs. 95.
 Teaching of Science for Primary and Secondary Pre and In-Service Teachers: Rajinder M. Kalra; Rs. 120.
 Population Education: J.C. Aggar-

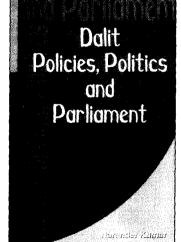
wal: **Rs. 110.** The above five books pub. by Shipra Publications, 115-A, Vikas Marg, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092.

Traffic Offences and Safety Driving

Regulations: M. Arulselvam: Malathi Publications, 7, (Old No. 4) Chellam-mal Street, Shenoy Nagar, Chen--600030. **Rs. 70.**

A Matter of Honour — An Account of the Indian Army, Its Officers and Men: Philip Mason; Natraj Publishers, 17, Rajpur Road, Dehradun-248001. Rs.

Dalit Policies, Politics and Parliament: Narendra Kumar; Shipra Publications, 115-A, Vikas Marg, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092. Rs. 495.



The Mythology of Sukla Yajurveda:

C.L. Prabhakar; Rs. 200.

Sociology and Philosophy of Sukla Yajurveda: C.L. Prabhakar; Rs. 100. Both the books pub. by Nada Vedadhyayana Kendra (Regd.), No. 4337, 17th Cross, 15th Main, V Phase, JP Nagar, Bangalore-560078.

The Mahabharata and Management: S.S. Gulshan, Mahatma Devesh Bhikshu; Sultan Chand & Sons, 23, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. **Rs.** 300.

• English for Success — A Guide to Ensure Success in Competitive Examinations: G. Radhakrishna Pillai; Emerald Publishers, 15A, First Floor, Casa Major Road, Egmore, Chennai-600008. **Rs. 120**.

Environmental Science: S. Ignacimuthu: Phoenix Publishing House Pvt. Ltd., 21, Prakash Apartments, 5, An-Road. Daryaganj,

Delhi-110002 Everybody's Guide to English: R. Sundaresan; Emerald Publishers, 15A, First Floor, Casa Major Road, Eg-more, Chennai-600008. **Rs. 50.**

A Highway Map of India With Tour-ist Spots: Shahanas Palazhi; Shahanas Publications Pvt. Ltd., Ist Floor, Markaz Complex, IG Road, Kozhi-kode, Kerala-673001. **Rs. 90.** Form and Function — A Communicative Grammar for Colleges: V. Sasikumar, V. Syamala; Emerald Publishers, 15A, First Floor, Casa Management jor Road, Egmore, Chennai-600008. Rs. 90.

Out of the Labyrinth: J. Donald Walters; Motilal Banarsidas Publishers Pvt. Ltd., 41 UA Bungalow Road, Jawahar Nagar, Delhi-110007. Rs. 295.
Fertilizers in Indian Agriculture—From 20th to 21st Century: H.L.S. Tandon: Entilizer Development & Consultation. don; Fertiliser Development & Consultation Organisation, 204-204A Bhanot Corner, Pamposh Enclave, New Del-

Corner, Pamposh Enclave, New Del-hi-110048. Rs. 500.

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Hindu Spirituality — Vol. II: K.R. Sun-dararajan, Bithika Mukerji — Editors; Motilal Banarsidass Publishers Private

Motilal Banarsidass Publishers Private
Ltd., 41, UA Bungalow Road, Jawahar
Nagar, Delhi-110007. Rs. 450.

The Road from Elephant Pass: Nihal
De Silva; Vijitha Yapa Publications,
Unity Plaza, 2, Galle Road, Colombo
4, Sri Lanka., Rs. 400.

Humanity Above Divinity: K. Natarajan; Andril Pathippagam, 55(25)
C.N.K. Road, Chepakkam, Chennai-600005. Rs. 65.

The Arbitration and Conciliation
Act, 1996: Sant Prasad Gupta, Satya Prakash Gupta: Allahabad Law Agen cy, Plot No. 33, 16/2, Mathura Road,

Faridabad (Haryana). Rs. 125. Human Rights: A.N. Sen, Siddharth Bawa; Sri Sai Law Publications, 1035, Sector 16, Faridabad (Haryana). Rs. God As A Therapy: K. Natarajan; Andril Pathippagam, 55(25) C.N.K. Road, Chepakkam, Chennai-600005.

Rights of Common Men in India: Om Prakash Tewari; Sri Sai Publications, 1035, Sector 16, Faridabad, Haryana, Rs. 150.

Tamil

Amarar S.S. Vasan Nootrandu Malar: S. Balasubramanian — Editor; Vasan Publications Pvt. Ltd., 757, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002, Rs. 100.

 Sanudra Kosham: Udayanan; Vaidehi Publications, Plot H Lakshmanan Flats, Thillai Ganga Nagar, 22nd Street, Chennai-600061. Rs. 110. Neethi Kathai Padalgal: Kavignar B Dorairaj; Vijay Enterprises, 2A, Ka-matchi Street, Lenin Nagar, Ambattur, Chennai-600053, Rs. 40.

Kutraviyal Needhimurai Seerthi-rutham Patri Mallmath Koovuvien Parinthuraigal: Makkal Kankanippa-gam-Tamil Nadu, 6, Vallabhbhai Road, Chokkikulam, Madurai-625002.

HS. 50.
Kuzhanthai Noigal — Part II: Dr. S.
Chidambarathanu Pillai; Siddha Medical Literature Research Centre, E-32,
Anna Nagar (East), Chennai-600102. Rs. 50.

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Dravida Iyakkam — Valarchiyum Talarchiyum: R. Andi; Oviakil Pathippagam, Andi Nadar Compound, 51, Raman Pillai Street, Nager-Raman Pillai Street, Nager-coil-629001. **Rs. 150. Malayala Sirukathaigal** — Vaikkam Mohamad Basheer: S.K. Potrekkot — Tr. in Tamil; Rajamanickammal Veli-

yeedu, 3, Appa Garden, Tailors Road, Kilpauk, Chennai-600010. **Rs. 30**. Communism — Netru-Inru-Naalai: R. Jawahar; Nakkheeran Publications,

Chennai-600014. Rs. 60.
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kamal Veliyeedu, 3, Appa Garden, Tailors Road, Kilpauk, Chen-nai-600014. **Rs. 60.**

Kalanjiyam — Part III: Chinnakkuthusi; Nakkheeran Publications, Chennai-600014. **Rs. 60. Baba:** Solai; Saaru Prabha Publica

tions, 105, Jani Jhan Khan Road, Royapettah, Chennai-600014. Rs. 25. Punithamana Kudikaran: Joseph Roth; R.S.P. Publications, 106/4, Jani

Jhan Khan Road, Royapettah, Chennai-600014. Rs. 25.
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Hs. 50.
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katha; Ram Prasanth Publications, 106/4, Jani Jhan Khan Road, Royapettah, Chennai-600014, Rs. 25. Kavithai Ezuthum Pen: Mathavikkut ti; Ramprasanth Publications, 106/4,

Jani Jhan Khan Road, Royapettah, Chennai-600014. Rs. 25.

Tirumurukar-rup-padai Urai: Samy

Sivagnanam; Sarasvati Mahal Library, Thanjavur-613009. **Rs. 350**. Aadavanin Uyavurku Perithum Ka-ranam Thaya? Tharama? Sakthi Pe-

rumal; Rs. 35.
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Kannada

 Jaaji Gidada Gubbigalu: Jaya Yaji Shirali; Seetha Krishna Prakashana, Housing Board, Jyothinagar, Chikmagalur. **Rs. 45.**

Bichhide Jolige — Autobiography: S.J. Nagalotimath; Athree Book Centre, 4, Sharavathi Building, Balmatta Mangalore-575001. **Rs. 75.**

Prastutha: U.K.V. Acharya; Pustaka Nidhi, Lakshmisadana, Gavaly PO, Hallady-Harkady, Kundapura-576210, Udupi, Rs. 30. Badukina Beru Vamshavahi: Gudi-bande Poornima; IBH Prakashana, 645/6, 10th 'B' Main Road, 4th Block,

Jayanagar, Bangalore-560011. Rs. Basavanna Matthe Shivaikyaradaru: R.T. Vittalamurthy; Sapna Book House, Gandhinagar, Banga-

fore-560009. Rs. 40.

Hokkula Sutta Nakshatra Balli: R.T. Vittal Murthy; I.B.H. Prakashana, 645/6, 10th 'B' Main Road, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560011. Rs.

Hindi

Aadigranth Mein Sangraheet Sant

Kavi: Maheep Singh; Rs. 75. Nirvasan: Urmila Shirish; Rs. 120. Sookhte Srota: Jainandan; Rs. 120. Shikargah: Gyan Prakash Vivek; Rs. 120. The above four books pub. by Bharatiya Jnanpith, 18, Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003.

The identity conundrum

HINDUISM IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE — Reform, Hindutva, Gender, and Sampraday: Antony Copley - Editor; Oxford University Press, 2/11, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110001. Rs. 595.

THE BOOK under review, which is a volume of essays, is an examination of the contemporary status of Hinduism under the shadow of Hindutva. The essays featured are a valiant attempt to disengage Hinduism from Hindutva as well as distance Indian identity from a distorted pursuit of an exclusivist idea of "Hinduness"

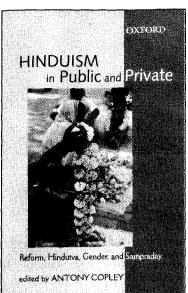
This rich and varied collection is circumscribed by two major themes. The first is to examine the possibility of ever approximating to an ideal of secular nationalism within the Indian context. This seems to most authors as a contentious issue, given their idea of Indian society as predominantly religious. The other theme deals with the distinction between the public and the private realms and the question of the rightful place of religion in these spaces.

Several other inferences follow from these two overarching paradigms. It is assumed that any semblance of collusion between religious Hindutva is to be viewed as a dis-

tortion. This, in turn, flows from the belief that the essential core, if any, of Hinduism was largely tolerant. The editor expresses horror at the cruel appropriation of "tolerant" and essentially "spiritually enriching" Hinduism for political purposes by the votaries of Hindutva: "But one can see how disturbing it must be for India's secular historians to discover that the history of its modern religious institutions has to take on a new resonance and that the ways in which the sadhus were/are organised and mobilised both in the past and the present are no longer part of the history of some exotic religious culture but directly relevant to the cut and thrust of political events." To put it mildly, this is naïve and self-indulgent.

Hinduism can hardly ever be seen as non-political or apolitical. This tendency to reduce Hinduism into an inward-looking, non-worldly and essentially tolerant faith helps in underwriting the dogmatism of the Hindutva brigade.

The tolerance of the "mild" Hindu is the very politics of Hindutva; it helps to portray Muslims, Christians and dissenting Hindus as the provocateurs. To argue that Hindutva is a reform movements in India and to do with a pristine, original form of



of a Golden Age that Hindutva so vociferously promotes.

It is instructive that the editor takes note of Wilhem Halbfass's formidable thesis about the repressive tolerance of the Hindus: the inability of the Hindus to confront other faiths in order to learn from them. Halbfass argued that this resulted in modern aberration and has nothing actual practice of intolerance. The unfortunate bit is that neither Copley Hinduism is to support the very idea nor any of the other contributors en-

gage with this very important formulation.

Of course, Halbfass's thesis is only partially true. Hinduism did "learn' from other faiths by caricaturing them in the first instance and then remodelling itself on them. These caricatures were not always negative; they could just be gross simplifica-

Vivekananda's oft quoted - Copley's introduction also includes it statement about future India being a synthesis of a Vedantic mind and an Islamic body belongs squarely to this

Look at the trajectory of this argument. Firstly, the mind has inevitably been privileged with the body subservient to it. Secondly, Vedanta would consider the body to be an entity engulfed in "Maya", prone to decay and, hence, transitory. To build a theory of tolerance on the basis of this quote is to practise self-delusion.

Neither does the distinction between the private and the public helps very much. The legacy of Hannah Arendt looms large over this distinction. Arendt romanticised the public sphere, reducing it to no more than a college debating society. (This is not to suggest that there is no distinction between the public and private. In fact it is just that, a

distinction, and not a set of mutually exclusive spheres or realms.) There is far too much premium put on secular nationalism as a consequence. The modern state in Europe and its theory is little more than secularised theological concepts, where the Omnipotent God has cosmetically given way to an omnipotent law-giver, either in the guise of a person or in the abstraction called sovereignty.

The question confronting India today is one of an alternative to Hindutva, not merely in political terms, but in the sense of constructing an alternate theory of reality that goes beyond the mindless parroting of homilies about Atman and Brahman. The way out lies in a clear understanding of Indian theories of materialism on the one hand and in looking afresh at Buddha's stupendous philosophical and ethical revo-

In more recent times, Ananda Coomaraswamy, Tagore and Gandhiji confronted these very issues of Hindu identity and emerged with dazzling insights. But as long as the Indian mind continues to partake of the serpent and rope logic, there is little hope. It is time now to ask why the sanctum sanctorum was dark in the first place.

JYOTIRMAYA SHARMA

Social work practice

social work 🗲

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SOCIAL WORK AND HUMAN RIGHTS: Elisabeth Richert; Rawat Publication, 3-NA-20, Jawahar Nagar, Jaipur-302004. Rs. 650.

THIS IS one of those rare books dealing with social work practice that can profitably be used in colleges and departments teaching social work, particularly at post-graduate levels. Focussing on the issue of human rights, it has not come a day too soon. Though more relevant to the American situation, it can serve as a model for future publications on similar lines in different countries and cultures

Outlining the purposes of the book and its contents, the author, in her introduction, says that while the American National Association of Social Work (NASW) has averred that social work is the only profession imbued with social justice as its fundamental value and concern, human rights encompass a more comprehensive and defined set of guidelines for social work practice than social justice. This is because the social worker not only has to make the clithem enjoy these rights as well.

The first chapter deals with the degious affiliation. velopment and history of human tional recognition was accorded for have existed well before that time. Important technical terms found in proclaiming these rights. human rights documents, such as "covenant", "declaration" and "ratification" are also explained in this chapter.

The next chapter focusses attention on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) proclaimed in 1948. The UDHR is the foundation for contemporary human rights concepts. Each UDHR clause is disuniversality and indivisibility are highlighted.

The subject of chapter three is the International Covenant on Civil and

than most countries to help accomdefeated. a foundation for

are also known as the International

policy and practice

LISABETH REICHERT

Bill of Human Rights. Chapter four has, as its theme, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, rights that every nation ought to confer on ents be aware of their rights but help all of its members regardless of their minority and ethnic status and reli-

The next chapter is of special inrights up to the present day. Internaterest to social workers in societies human rights in 1945 but there are and injustice. It deals with the rights historical traditions for the same that of women and focuses on international declarations and covenants

The other vulnerable groups whose human rights are routinely violated in many societies like children, the disabled, persons with HIV/AIDS, homosexuals (gays and lesbians), senior citizens and victims of racial and ethnic prejudices and discrimination form the subject matter of the next chapter.

Chapter seven titled "Internationcussed in detail and their collective al Aspects of Human Rights" says that social workers anywhere in the world should be concerned about human rights everywhere.

However, the author's well-mean-Political Rights, an instrument draft- ing statement that the U.S., with its ed by the U.N. to supplement the UDHR. These combined documents vast economic, military and technological strength, "is better positioned

plish this goal" (namely the enjoyment of human rights by all citizens of the world) should not be interpreted to mean that the U.S. should undertake the role of a global cop. Should that happen, the very purpose of human rights will be

The final chapter is about the application of social work techniques to problems of human rights affecting their clients. Appendices A to D consist of verbatim presentations of various covenants, protocols and declarations concerning human

It is interesting that the matter presented by the author, dealing with the applications of social work methods to human rights issues, forms just 10 per cent of the total number of pages in this book.

This is testimony to the fact that the world has just woken up to human rights problems and the application of social work techniques in bringing relief to the clients in this regard is still in the incipient stage. Understandably therefore, the number of illustrative cases presented for discussion and study is also small just less than 10.

Despite such limitations, this is a highly readable, interesting and useful book. The author has appended a number of pertinent questions to each chapter.

Students as well as practitioners will do well to look upon these as exercises that are worth carrying out. and as points for debate and discussion in classroom and public seminars.

The format, get-up, the binding, the quality of paper and print are quite neat and pleasing. The price is however too high, especially for students. A paperback edition would be less expensive and likely to prove popular with all categories of readers in this country.

This is a "must-read" for all social work practitioners and educators and for everyone concerned with the issue of human rights.

Biography of a polymath

APPAYYA DIKSHITAR --- A Biography (Tamil): Y. Mahalinga Sastri; Pub. by M. Rangarajan, No. 6, Ramanathan Street, Mahalingapuram,

Chennai-600034. Rs. 35.

THE WORK under review written on a brief scale gives a vivid account of the life and personality of Appayya Dikshita, one of the greatest and most vital figures of our intellectual history. Mahalinga Sastri, a gifted descendant of the Appayya Dikshita lineage is exceptionally fortunate in many respects especially in his excellent attempt at writing a biography of his great and gifted ancestor.

A profound Sanskrit scholar and a gifted poet, he brings to his task of presenting the story of his great ancestor's life and achievement a mind so wonderfully alert and efficient in the handling of evidences - both external and internal. Dikshita's was a family with an ex-

ceptionally distinguished record of intellectual achievement. Dikshita was a poet and a philosopher, a saint and a scholar, an incisive debater, a tireless and brilliant writer and expounder of philosophical subjects and religious ones.

His magnum opus is his Parimala on Amalananda's Kalpataru on the

Bhamati of Vacaspatimisra — a commentary on Sankara's Bhashya on the Vedanta-sutras. His "Nyayarakshamani" is a classical exposition of its chosen theme. His "Siddhanta-lesasangraha" is exactly what its title conveys. "Chaturmata-samarasya" is a classic of condensed and compressed exposition of the texts of the principal schools of Vedanta.

His contribution to literary criticism in Sanskrit is valuable. Great efficacy is attached to many of his mystical hymns in adoration of various deities. An ardent devotee of Siva and a classic commentator on Srikantha's bhashya, Dikshita shows in his "Ratnatrayapariksha" that his loyalty and devotion to Siva is not an exclusive or aggressive one. The two temples he built in his na-

tive village and his performance of several scripturally enjoined sacrifies testity to the faithful and dutiful performance of his religious obligations. One can go on assessing the work of this great mastermind.

The author has given an account of the works of Dikshita in the fields of Alankara, Mimamsa, and lyric poetry, and also of the events and circum-

N. VEEZHINATHAN

Musings on life

GREAT HEIGHTS - An Anthology of Poems: S. Padmapriya; Pub. by D. Ramabai, D-2, Bay View Apartments, Kalakshetra Colony, Besant Nagar, Chennai-600090. Rs. 50.

CURRENT AFFAIRS, the goings-on in the everyday world and the environment may indeed have been the stimulus of the poetess' first attempt at formal creative writing.

The result is this collection of 24 poems, which as she reveals in the introduction, covers nearly 14 years of her life. As the titles of the poems suggest - for example, "The Peepal Tree", "Peace in Kashmir", "Gun Culture" and "The Hippo", day-today events and their minute details that could have been normally lost in the wake of life, have, instead been registered and spun out into themes with a touch of the philosophical. K. N. GEORGE | This is borne out in random stanzas,

an example would be in "Great Heights", which incidentally lends its

title to the work In the end this compilation, which ensures a quick read on account of its simple language, may still reveal traces of the amateur. There are occasions when the reader could be lulled into thinking that a poem or two is, or may just be, a series of sentences broken up at appropriate

Once again, as the titles reveal, there is an element of optimism as the undercurrent, as a reader experiences a range of emotions, pondering at the mystical or even turning pensive after each poem. That the poetess is serious in her efforts is revealed in the blurb that talks of her

imminent second collection. **MURALI KRISHNASWAMY**

Anthology of short stories Purana in contemporary mould • Profile of modern society • Social activism

TAMIL

VEZHAVENDHAN SIRUKATHAIGAL:

Kaa. Vezhavendhan;. Vendhar Pathippagam, 78/ 103. Dr.Radhakrishnan Salai, Mylapore, Chennai-600004. Rs. 60.

A RECIPIENT of the 2002 Kalaignar award for excellence in Tamil language and literature, the author, a former minister, has evinced keen interest in short story writing right from his boyhood. In the delineation of characters, his heart is the best logician. His first ever anthology carried laudatory forewords from both Anna and Mu.Va and since then he has not

Here are 15 illustrated masterpieces some of which are selected from the original. The storylines: parochial attitude in match-making; unhealthy competitions carried to ridiculous proportions; portrait of an ideal wife; treachery and intrigue; marriage in haste; a heroine's soliloquy; a child's bold lead on a crucial occasion; the cruel hand of fate; womanhood; setbacks in one's life; a major emotional upheavel; love's labours lost; and incompatible

couples. The special introductions by three experienced writers highlight the author's individuality. In striking contrast to the run-of-the-mill stories, there is a subtle interplay of aesthetically pleasing prose and poetry, similes and metaphors within the framework of every short story. Such a lovely spectrum of lofty sentiments lifts the stories to almost Tagorean heights. This anthology may well become a

> P. SUNDARESAN TELUGU

BHAGAVATHA HRIDAYAMU: Ekkirala Krishnamacharya; Dhara Radhakrishnamurti -

classic.

Compiler; Master EK Book Trust, Swetha Dweepam, Chinamurishivada,

Visakhapatnam-531173. Rs. 80. SRIMAD BHAGAVATA is a sacred text wherein subjects besides cosmology and lineage, incarnations of God, characteristics of an ideal devotee and the process of attaining fulfilment in life are elaborately discussed. Pothana, a Telugu poet had translated the Sanskrit work into Telugu verse. Discourses on the text are popular, as this contains pointers for daily life and

E.K. had rendered Bhagavatha Rahasya Prakasa and Krishna Katha in Telugu in an effort to place before the discerning readers their deeper philosophical import for reflection. He derived much of his knowledge from theosophical texts coupled with the unfoldment of his deep-rooted learning. Selecting 66 topics from the voluminous

writings of the teacher, the compiler has presented the text under notice, with the keen desire to bring the inner core of the teaching of the wisdom to all. The topics include the spiritual expeditions of Narada, Bhishma, Kapila, Prahlada among others; the seven sages who head the course of

human evolution and development. The nar-

ratives vividly place before the reader the hid-

den meaning of the allegorical statements. A

perusal of the book will be advantageous to one and all who aspire to get at the root the indwelling spirit of the texts. The compiler has done a marvellous job in culling out the pieces. This book will stand as one presenting the Puranic thought to the con-

MALAYALAM VARSHIKAREKHA --- Novel: Valsalan

N. C. RAMANUJACHARY

temporary reader.

Vathussery; LC Books, Kottayam-686001. Rs.

A NOVEL always provides a more faithful image of everyday life than that can be achieved by any other literary form. There is always something novel in narrative, style and theme

and Varshikarekha (Annual Line) is no excep-It has an original theme and a commendable way in holding the readers' sensitivities. Though it is the story of a new housing colony around a factory, it is a true profile of the modern society, which still refuses to come out of

its orthodoxy and an arrogant attitude of un-Concern and humanitarian outlook are disappearing from our social fabric and this is the result of urbanisation and deviation from conventional societal values, which were en-

trenched in our system and psyche. There are tumultuous events that happen in the one-year period when Vasu, a factory worker from Gandhipuram colony, suddenly disappears. He is not a popular person as he is a stickler of truth and justice. His family has no one to depend on and the disappearance causes a storm in the lives of all people associated with him.

cute a murderer who confesses the crime, and the helpless wife, Sumitra, marries a friend and begets a progeny. Shocking everyone, after a vear, Sumitra receives a letter from the "murdered" Vasu, of his return. The climax is what makes the plot impres-

The police typically investigate and prose-

sive and the narration is a mirror image of the contemporary society. As a debutant the novelist holds enormous promise. The technique of weaving a theme around a central character who is unseen and unheard has been very successfully tried.

K. KUNHIKRISHNAN

HINDI

BARI BARNA KHOL DO - Novel: Sulochana Rangeya Raghava; Bharatiya Jnanpith, 18 Institutional area, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003.

THIS NOVEL is based on the life history of

Rs. 195.

Krishnaswamy Iyengar and his wìfe Janaki. It depicts the scenario of British rulers and their administration. Before freedom a few dedicated Indians had dreamt of achieving the Green Revolution and Krishnaswamy, acclaimed as one of the India's foremost agriculturists, was one among them. Though he was born and brought up in an orthodox South Indian Brahmin family, he

dedicated his life towards achieving self-sufficiency in agriculture among rural folk, eradicating superstition and blind faith, and empowering the women in society. It portrays Tirunelveli Iyengars, their language, traditions, and culture. His work and responsibilities were looked after by his wife

remarkable. The language in Hindi, Tamil and Gujarati is beautifully knitted. The novel highly reflects the reality of our society. It redeems readers' lives from dullness.

MADHU DHAWAN

with great efficiency and dedication which is

Announcement

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to The Hindu for review. While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under 'New Arrivals", the decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper. Receipt of individual books will not be acknowledged in response to enquiries.

lu fears rise as toll climbs to 12

bringing to 12 the number of (Reuters): Two more people have died after contracting bird flu, deaths in an epidemic that is sweeping Asia and which scientists fear may now be transmitted from person-to-person. Hanoi/Bangkok,

woman in Thailand and a teenage boy in Vietnam — come ganisation said two sisters who ably caught the virus from their - the first cases of human-to-human infection in The deaths — a 58 year-old a day after the World Health Ordied in Vietnam last month probthe current epidemic. brother

The brother also died, but he could be performed and so it was cremated before an autopsy could not categorically be determined if he was the original source. His wife also contracted Stock markets fell in Hong Kong and Thailand as economi bird flu but has since recovered

ry Syndrome outbreak last year bird flu could have a similar or even worse effect if it spreads lion and there are worries that The Severe Acute Respirato cost Asia an estimated \$60 bil more serious implications.

A student gets his temperature checked for bird flu symptoms in Hong Kong. (Reuters)

Rob Subbaraman, regional econfurther. "At the moment the disease is largely restricted to where the chickens are," said omist at Lehman Brothers.

transmission would have much

sts said the possibility of human

dence of transmission from human-to-human and there was a risk of it getting into crowded areas like shopping malls and "But if we got strong evi-

public transport, it would cause In China, home to the largest number of poultry in the world,

an economic disruption.

Eleven provinces and regions, about one-third of the country, have been affected by area — Gansu province in the bird flu was reported from a new northwest, state radio said today.

the virus and authorities there birds, including about 20,000 in have culled tens of thousands of

ture checks at its schools and increase patrols against illegal

poultry smuggling to stave off the flu that has gripped the is-land's neighbours, officials said. Taiwan will launch tempera-

Minh said the teenage boy who died today had caught the virus Hospital officials in Viet nam's southern city of Ho Chi after eating meat from a chicken with avian influenza.

"The boy was admitted to the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in Ho Chi Minh City on January 29 virus on January 31," said a doc tor. A hospital official added "We know he ate chicken that and tested positive for the H5N died from the bird flu virus."

woman who raised chickens in The latest Thai victim was a Suphanburi province 100 km west of Bangkok.

More details of her death ing the flu could mutate and lambasted the WHO for suggest-Prime Minister Thaksin Shi nawatra — under fire for react have yet to be released, bu spread to pigs and then ever ing slowly to the outbreak

searchers should only discuss low possibilities of such crossstrain spreads in labs, not in pub "Ethically speaking, more easily to humans. lic," Thaksin said

WHO said another Thai died several days ago from bird flu, but health ministry officials said the toll remained at three.

Human-to-human twist to flu

Hanoi, Feb. 1 (Reuters): Two Vietnamese sisters have died from bird flu, possibly after contracting the deadly virus from their brother in the epidemic's first recorded human-to-human transmissions, the UN health

agency said today.

The deaths brought to 10 the number of people known to have died after the virus, which has decimated poultry flocks across Asia mada the leant of humans.

Asia, made the leap to humans.
Scientists believed, and health officials hoped, that the disease could only be contracted through exposure to infected birds or droppings, and not from person to person.

person to person.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) said it could not be entirely be sure of how the Vietnamese sisters contracted the disease, because their brother had died earlier of respiratory ailments before any tests could be conducted on him.

But it said it "considers that limited human-to-human transmission, from the brother to the sisters, is one possible explanation".



A rooster puts his head out of a bag before being culled along with other poultry by health workers in China's Guangdong province on Sunday. (Reuters)

With the disease taking a foothold in 10 Asian nations, China's state television—lay reported five more areas—th suspected cases of bird flu in the world's most populou—country

The Vietnamese sisters, aged 23 and 30, died on Jar tary 23, the WHO said. Hanoi's National Institute for Hygiene and Epidemi

ology said last week it was certain bird flu was the cause of death. But the WHO waited for tests at a laboratory in Hong Kong to confirm the results. It said an investigation into the family's illness failed to uncover any contact with sick poultry or

"an environmental source". "At the same time, such expo-

sures cannot be discounted, either," it said.

Six other people have died from bird flu in Vietnam. The disease has killed two boys in Thailand, and two other Vietnamese have been confirmed as having the virus but have either

recovered or are still in hospital.

The WHO said it saw no evidence of "efficient" transmission of the H5N1 strain of the bird flu virus between people "in Vietnam or elsewhere". Human transmission is not unprecedented. The WHO noted that in the 1997 Hong Kong outbreat, there were cases of "limited" human-to-human infection, but said it never "developed into a significant public health threat."

Vietnam has stepped up its fight against the disease, banning the transport of poultry nationwide. Others nations are also battling to contain the virus. Bird flu fears in Bangladesh eased today when the health ministry said US tests had idea tified a mysterious illness which killed 23 people last month as encephalitis.

THE TELECHARY

S FEB SAME

সূত্রকতা চ্লাই, সঙ্গে কাণ্ডুজ্ঞান

র্গি-বাহ্বিত 'ফ্লু' প্রতির্রোধে কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার আগামী ছয় মাসের জন্য **ষা**বতীয় [\] পোলট্রি-জাত আমদানি নিষিদ্ধ খাদ্যসামগ্রীর করিয়াছে। এই ব্যাধির জীবাণু যাহাতে ভারতে প্রবেশ করিতে না পারে, সে জন্য যাবতীয় সতর্কতামূলক ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের সুপারিশও করিয়াছেন কেন্দ্রীয় কৃষি মন্ত্রী রাজনাথ সিংহ এবং স্বাস্থ্য মন্ত্রী সুষমা স্বরাজ। এই সতর্কতা সময়োচিত এবং যথাযথ, কেননা কিছু প্রতিবেশী দেশে ইতিমধ্যেই এই ফ্ল কালান্তক আকার লইয়াছে। ইহা অতিশয় সংক্রামকও বটে। এবং এই ব্যাধিতে কেবল যে পোলট্রি-জাত মুর্গিরাই মারা পড়িতেছে, তাহা নয়, মৃত্যু হইতেছে মানুষেরও। ইতিমধ্যেই এই ব্যাধিতে ভিয়েতনাম ও তাইলাান্ডে বেশ কিছু মানুষ মারা গিয়াছেন, রোগের প্রধান লক্ষণ তীব্র জ্বর ও সর্দিকাশি। আক্রান্ত হইয়াছেন আরও বহু মানুষ। রোগের জীবাণু পোলট্রি-জাত খাদ্য মারফত মানুষের শরীরে প্রবেশ করিয়া প্রাণহানি ঘটাইতেছে। বিশেষজ্ঞদের অভিমত, এই জীবাণ যদি মানবশরীরে অভিযোজিত ও বিবর্তিত স্বতন্ত্ৰ মানব-জীবাণুতে রূপান্তরিত হয়, তবে কেবল মুর্গির মাংস বা ডিম হইতেই নয়, তখন আক্রান্ত মানুষের সংস্পর্শই ইহাকে বিধ্বংসী মহামারির অনুঘটক করিয়া তুলিবে। বিশ্ব স্বাস্থ্য সংস্থা সহ বিভিন্ন চিকিৎসক ও বিজ্ঞানী সমিতি এ জন্যই এই ব্যাধির ব্যাপারে উদ্বেগ ও উৎকণ্ঠা ব্যক্ত করিয়াছেন।

উদ্বেগের কারণ একাধিক। এই রোগ বিশ্বের এমন সব দেশে দেখা দিয়াছে, যেগুলি তৃতীয় বিশ্বের দেশ বলিয়া গণ্য। এই দেশগুলি এক দিকে যেমন জনসাধারণের উপযুক্ত শস্তার প্রোটিনের জন্য একাস্তভাবেই পোলট্রি-জাত প্রাণী-খাদ্যের উপর নির্ভরশীল, অন্য দিকে তেমনই আবার এই সব দেশে জরুরি জ্ঞাতব্য তথ্য চাপা দিবার বন্দোবস্তও অত্যন্ত পাকা। ব্রিটেন বা আমেরিকার সরকার 'ম্যাড-কাউ ডিজিজ'-এর লক্ষণ প্রকাশ পাওয়া মাত্র বিশদে তাহার কথা মান্যকে জানাইয়া দেয়, সতর্কতা, নিষেধাজ্ঞা ইত্যাদি জারি করিয়া দেয়। পাশাপাশি ইতিমধ্যেই ব্যাধিগ্রস্ত কিংবা ব্যাধিগ্রস্ত হওয়ার আশঙ্কা আছে এমন যাবতীয় খাদ্য পত্রপাঠ ধ্বংস করিয়া ফেলে। মানুষের জীবনের দাম সেখানে কয়েকটি পশুপালক কোম্পানির ব্যবসায়িক লাভ-লোকসানের হিসাব অপেক্ষা অনেক বেশি। অথচ তৃতীয় বিশ্বে সর্বদাই অনুরূপ ক্ষেত্রে তথ্য চাপিয়া যাওয়ার মরিয়া প্রয়াস। প্রথমত এই সব

সরকার উদাসীন্য, শৈথিল্য ও দায়সারা মনোভাবের জন্য অপরাধী। তদুপরি উদাসীন্য পাছে ধরা পড়িয়া যায়, সে জন্য প্রাণপণে তথ্য গোপনে উদ্যোগী। কয়েক মাস আগে কালান্তক 'সার্স'-এর প্রকোপ লইয়া চিনে অনুরূপ দুর্ভাগ্যজনক মনোভাব দেখা গিয়াছে। অথচ যথাসময়ে রোগের শনাক্তকরণ, তাহার সংক্রমণ রোধে যে যুদ্ধকালীন তৎপরতা ও সতর্কতা অবলম্বন একাম্ব জরুরি, এ ক্ষেত্রেও ভিয়েতনাম ও তাইল্যান্ড সেই তৎপরতা দেখাইতে পারে নাই। ভারতের পক্ষে উদ্বেগজনক ঘটনা হইল, এই ফ্লুর জীবাণু পাকিস্তানে পৌঁছাইয়াছে। তা ছাড়া, দক্ষিণ-পূর্ব এশিয়ার যে অঞ্চলে ইহার প্রকোপ, সেখানে ভারতীয়দের যাতায়াত অবাধ। তাই বিমানযোগে কেবল পোলট্রি-জাত খাদ্যই সংক্রমণ বহন করিয়া আনিতে পারে এমন নয়, যাত্রীদের মাধ্যমেও ওই রোগ এ দেশে পৌঁছানো সম্ভব।

বিমানবন্দরগুলিতে সতর্কতা তাই দরকারি। ফ্লু-র লক্ষণাক্রান্ত প্রতিটি যাত্রীকে ভালভাবে পরীক্ষা করিবার জন্য যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন চিকিৎসকদের দল মোতায়েন থাকা জরুরি। একই সঙ্গে যাত্রীদের অকারণ হেনস্থা বা হয়রানিও বাঞ্চনীয় নহে। ভারতীয় আমলাতম্বের সর্ব স্তরেই ধরিয়া আনিতে বলিলে বাঁধিয়া আনার যে অস্বাস্থ্যকর প্রবণতা বিদ্যমান, এ ক্ষেত্রে যেন তাহা সংযত থাকে। অন্যথায় কাজের তুলনায় অকাজই বাড়িতে পারে। দেশের ভিতরে শস্তার প্রোটিনের যে বিপুল প্রয়োজন গত কয়েক বছরে পোলট্রি-বিপ্লব ঘটাইয়া দিয়াছে, নজরদারি সেখানেও সমান জরুরি। রোগ-লক্ষণ প্রকাশ পাওয়া মাত্র আক্রান্ত মুর্গি ও তাহার স্পর্শদুষ্টদের ধ্বংস করিয়া ফেলা দরকার। এ ব্যাপারে কোনও ঝুঁকি লওয়া অর্থহীন। মুর্গির খাদ্য হিসাবে যাহা ব্যবহৃত হইয়া থাকে, তাহার পরীক্ষাও জরুরি। মুর্গির মাংস এবং ডিমই ভারতের কোটি-কোটি মানুষকে প্রোটিন জোগাইয়া থাকে। পোলট্রি-জাত যাবতীয় প্রোটিন এক ধাকায় নিষিদ্ধ করিয়া দেশব্যাপী আতঙ্ক বা ত্রাস সৃষ্টির কোনও প্রয়োজন নাই। এ দেশে 'কাকে কান লইয়া গিয়াছে' বলিয়া রব তুলিয়া দিলে উড়স্ত কাকের পিছনে-পিছনে ছুটিবার লোকের অভাব নাই। তাই সরকারি ও বেসরকারি গণমাধ্যমগুলিকে সতর্ক ও দায়িত্বশীল প্রচার চালাইতে হইবে। এক দিকে কঠোর সতর্কতা অবলম্বন, অন্য দিকে অনাবশ্যক আতঙ্ক ছড়াইতে না দেওয়া— এই দুইয়ের মধ্যে ভারসাম্য রক্ষাই এই মুহুর্তের কৃত্য।

Bangkok: Thai officials on Friday reported four more supported hird fluthey would only common out a coloring. Changkai next the largest the largest flue of the common out a coloring.

ported four more suspected bird flu cases, including one death, and said the deadly virus had also been detected for the first time in the country's

"Officials have taken two suspected cases off the list and added four new suspected cases, including one 62year-old man who has already died in Nakhon Sawan," deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak told reporters. Thailand now has 12 suspected bird flu cases, seven of whom have died. Two Thai children have been confirmed as dying of bird flu and one other boy is battling an infection.

of the deadly H5N1 virus was also made in chickens in the country's south, with Phang Nga, nearly

The first detection

800 km south of Bangkok, listed as the 32nd province out of Thailand's 76 to be hit.

"One more affected spot in Takua Pha district in Phang Nga has been listed, so there are now 124 spots, lowered from 147 on Thursday," Mr Somkid said, referring to the precise locations the in provinces that have been declared "hot zones".

Warnings that the

virus is spread by wild birds has prompted a pigeon culling campaign in the capital. Authorities plan to scatter rice laced with whisky to drug the birds before they are collected and disposed of, the Thai news agency reported.

The city's numerous street food vendors have been warned to be cautious of birds on overhead cables from where their feces can land on carts. Bird feces is believed to be a main mode of transmission for the disease.

Meanwhile, Indonesia on Friday appeared to backtrack on a planned mass cull of chickens to curb the bird flu outbreak, with officials saying they would only carry out a selective slaughter.

President Megawati Sukarnoputri had on Thursday ordered the immediate killing of all poultry infected with bird flu following pressure from the world health organisation.

We have started culling. This is being conducted selectively on chickens that require immediate stamping-out," said agriculture ministry spokesman Hari Priyono.

The WHO recommends that all birds within a radius of three kilometers of any outbreak be killed but priyono said the government would not do

A girl plays with a bird at a market in Hong Kong on Friday

In Hong Kong, public aviaries and a huge bird sanctuary have been closed fearing that visitors may catch bird flu from wild fowl, officials said.

The closures are part of a wide-ranging government effort to prevent the disease from entering Hong Kong after spreading fast across where it has caused at least 10 human deaths from outbreaks in 10 countries.

The move came after health officials said they believed the avian influenza was being transmitted across the region by migrating and wild

China's Shanghai port, the largest in the nation, has tightened examination and control of poultry products from countries stricken by the deadly bird flu virus.

Inspectors found Vietnamese chicken meat on a Russian ship and a Panamanian ship from Philippines entering Shanghai port on Wednesday and kept the load for further sterilisation and quarantine treatment.

As Asian countries such as Thailand, Vietnam and Japan were hit by the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu virus, Shanghai immediately banned the entry of poultry products from AFP these regions besides

seizing up to 140 kg of poultry meat.

Passengers are from prohibited carrying poultry products from these countries through Shanghai port and those touring avian flu-stricken regions and showing bird flu symptoms such as fever, coughing and muscle pain are required to report hospital to quarantine departments as soon as possible.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has asked local governments and departments to earnestly implement

major measures in an emergent effort to prevent and control the spread of the bird flu virus in the country.

The US government has also warned Americans over the rapid spread of bird flu in Asia, advising them to avoid live fowl and poultry markets.

The state department said in a fact sheet that the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC), in common with the World Health Organisation, was concerned about the disease mutating into a form which could be passed among humans. Agencies

THE TIMES OF INDIA

: 1 JAN 2004

China denies bird flu source report

AP & PTI SI SOLI

BEIJING, Jan. 29. — China today rejected as "groundless" allegations that it was the source of the virulent bird flu outbreak that is wrecking havoc in neighbouring countries in the Asia-Pacific region and announced ban on import and export of poultry products from affected nations. "We believe that such an

"We believe that such an allegation is totally inaccurate and groundless, and doesn't respect science," a Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman said here.

Meanwhile, Asian countries free of bird flu were poised to crack down at the slightest sign of trouble today, with Hong Kong isolating a woman who returned from Vietnam with suspicious pneumonia symptoms and Singapore intensifying a campaign to cull crows.

Singapore said it would kill off all of its chicken stocks immediately if a single case is found there.

THE STATESMAN

3 0 JAN 2004

F. 4

Centre issues red alert on bird flu

Quarantine at airport, vigil at markets

HT Correspondent & Agencies Kolkata, January 29

WHILE THE Centre on Thursday banned the import of livestock products from Pakistan and some South-East Asian countries and declared a red alert to keep out bird flu, an avian quarantine unit of the Dum Dum airport was activated to prevent import of diseased chickens.

Heath officials at the airport said they are yet to screen passengers from infected countries as no such directive has been received from the Centre.

As part of the preventive measures, the Centre has decided to intensify vigil on passengers of Samjhauta Express. Health Minister Sushma Swaraj announced the measures after the first high-level coordination meeting of the ministries of health and agriculture.

The ban will be effective for six months. "More attention is being paid to border states like Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab, where a red alert has been declared," Swaraj told reporters.



REUTERS

A Thai farmer picks up a chicken for culling.

She said no case of bird flu has been reported in the country so far and state governments have been asked to report to the Centre any instance of mass death of chickens or poultry birds. "The situation is fully under control."

The Bengal government has formed a five-member committee to keep vigil on all state-run and private poultry farms. The Union health secretary will arrive in Kolkata on February 9 to review the situation and spell out the measures to tackle any outbreak.

measures to tackle any outbreak.

The Kolkata Municipal Corporation has also decided to keep a watch on the sale of chickens in the 23 markets in the city from Friday Pradip Ghosh, KMC Mayor-in-Council member (Health), visited some of the chicken stalls at Hogg Market, and directed KMC officials to monitor the situation and report to the head-quarters if diseased chickens are sold in any market.

The products banned include domestic and wild birds, turkey and other new hatched avian species, semen and fresh meat of domestic and wild birds.

Bangladesh flu: The death of two more persons on Thursday because of a mysterious flu-like disease took the toll to 20 in Bangladesh. But authorities insist it is not linked to bird flu. Fears have been fanned by news reports of the death of thousands of poultry at farms near Dhaka.

Pay 40 grand, get Prez behind bars

Syed Liaquat Ali New Delhi, January 28

INDIA HAS always been known as a country where the rich or powerful can easily evade justice, however serious their crime. Today, it was shown to be a country where an ordinary citizen might expect to get the President arrested — for no crime at all — by bribing a court.

A television journalist on Wednesday told a stunned Surrey Governs

A television journalist on Wednesday told a stunned Supreme Court how, as part of a sting operation, he had got a judicial magistrate in Gujarat to issue bailable warrants against President A.P.J Abdul Kalam, Chief Justice of India V.N. Khare, SC judge Justice B.P. Singh and former SC Bar Association president R.K. Jain.

R.K. Jain.
All the journalist had needed to do was pay Rs 40,000 to three lawyers who 'arranged' the deal—he wasn't required even to lodge a formal complaint against the four 'accused'.

The magistrate, who is from Meghani Nagar in Ahmedabad, ordered the foursome to appear before him on February 17 to explain the non-existent 'charges'.



APJ Abdul Kalam Warrant out

The journalist, who has filed a PIL with the apex court to expose abuse of the law in the country, alleged that businessmen in Gujarat often bribe courts to get even with their rivals. A shocked Chief Justice said: "If this is the state of affairs, God knows what will happen (to this country). By paying Rs 40,000, you can buy anything!"

The apex court asked the registrar-general of the Gujarat High Court to seize the files of the 'case' and submit them to it on Thursday. The PIL furnishes original and certified copies of the magistrate's order and a receipt showing the payment of court fee.

Fowl practices

Pakistan having joined Southeast Asia in slaughtering chickens to save humans, the so-called avian flu is uncomfortably close to home, never mind the Indian agricultural ministry saying safety is guaranteed by a poultry sector that doesn't import birds for either breeding or retail sale. Additional comfort has been sought in the fact that the flu strain found in Pakistan seems to be of the non-species jumping variety. Even casual studies of epidemiological history will reveal that such official and popular assumptions have often been proved dangerously wrong, that a vector of a disease has often been wrongly predicted and that erring on the side of caution is not the most sensible option, but the only option in situations

Therefore, the Indian government should recollect how it responded to the SARS threat and display similar controlled paranoia. A more serious research into past and current epidemiological events will reveal concerns larger and more alarming than ensuring tandoori chicken remains North India's munchy of choice in these preelection months. Modern farming practices and the costcutting "innovations" of the meat industry have created, so to speak, a level playing field for pathogens. Rearing farm animals and poultry in dense clusters and giving them a diet that increases value for the production chain but is grotesquely unnatural — cattle are fed ground sheep carcass, for example — have allowed viruses to both transmute to deadlier versions and to transmit to humans.

That livestock and poultry are often raised close to or where a lot of people live, a typical Asian feature, has made the continent, especially the Southeast region, both the host of the recent viruses as well as the poster destination for those looking for pandemic thrills. But remember mad cow disease was and is a Western contribution and experts have identified some regions in Europe, in northern Italy, for example, equally vulnerable to eruptions of new and, at least initially, untreatable viruses. The meat industry, in any case, finds its "technological" apotheosis in the West. Epidemiologists not afraid to see ahead and talk straight have been saying for sometime that the industry could become, if it is not already in the process of becoming, a production line for public health challenges.

Will anything change before something truly dreadful happens? Unlikely. Cheap and plentiful meat is part of a social contract in most countries. While the industry can and should be blamed for its ingenious production process perversities, the fact remains the incentive came from the demand that exists for the product. There's absolutely no sign that any of the real scares that the new pathogens have created has dented demand, except temporarily and coinciding with media coverage, for cheap flesh or fowl.

Take the Chinese practice of eating and therefore rearing a whole variety of animals, for instance. There are more than good indications that these practices were behind the earlier and recent outbreak of SARS in the Guangdong province. But people don't change dietary habits and relishes quickly. We are what we eat to we are what we don't eat — that's a tough transformation.

East by north-east

Kashmir remedies could work in other states

India's north-eastern states are among the most neglected parts of the country and many of them are racked by insurgency and conflict, both factors feeding off each other. Delhi's knee-jerk response to most insurgencies is to shower the region in question with financial sops, whose net effect is to breed a corrupt elite which prospers and acquires a vested interest in troubled times continuing. Lately it has been able to think differently on Kashmir where, for example, initiating regular bus services between Muzzafarabad and Srinagar might facilitate the entry of terrorists into the state, but the positive benefits far outweigh the risks. Likewise, fresh thinking is needed to break the stagnant cycle of insurgency and lack of development in the northeast. By stating that the northeast should be India's bridgehead to Southeast Asia Prime Minister Vajpayee is on the right track, but it is time now to walk the walk instead of just talking the talk.

South-east Asia and eastern China are some of the world's greatest growth regions, and Delhi must start building links to these regions via Myanmar, integrating the development of the north-east with its "look East" policy. BIMSTEC, or economic cooperation between Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand, is one such initiative in this regard, but it has remained on the cards for some time without really taking off. One of the problems is the refractory attitude of Dhaka, which remains paranoid about Delhi's intentions. Some form of transit through Bangladesh will be crucial to Delhi's attempts to integrate the north-east, and a strong diplomatic effort to calm Dhaka's fears about mutually beneficial trade and communication links with India is necessary. Such links will also help curb Dhaka's propensity for looking away from insurgent camps on its territory, thus improving the security situation in the north-east. Vajpayee also told a India-ASEAN business summit that the government is looking at constructing a railway line between New Delhi and Hanoi, but the Chinese have started work on a rail link between Singapore and Kuoming in southern China, with spur lines to most of the ASEAN region, which means ASEAN-China trade has a head start over ASEAN-India trade. Holding back India-ASEAN rail links are objections of the home ministry, which fears they could become a conduit for guns and drugs for insurgents in India. Objections similar to ones that were overruled in the case of the Srinagar-Muzzafarabad road link. It is time for comparably bold moves to be undertaken in the north-east.

THE STATESMAN

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WHO's global warning

Agencies

102 201

HANOI, Jan. 27. — Millions of people around the world could die if the H5N1 strain of bird flu in Asia combines with another human influenza virus that is moving towards the region, the World Health Organisation said today.

Dr Shigeru Omi, director of the UN health agency's Western Pacific office, said there was a chance the two viruses could meet and mutate, triggering a global pandemic. "In my judgment it is possible and so that's why we have to work very hard today, not tomorrow, to contain this, to prevent that mutation at the molecular level happening." "There is always potential that this kind of outbreak will result in serious global pandemic which will involve not just hundreds, but will kill millions of people globally," he added.

The flu claimed Asia's eighth human victim today as the deadly virus continued to spread with Laos becoming the ninth government to report the infection which has led to the slaughter of millions of chickens in the continent.

Thailand's second human victim was Kenchai Nenjan (6) from the northern province of Sukothai. The first human to die of the virus in Bangkok on Sunday was also a six-year-old. According to reports, 10 people were infected with the virus in Thailand and five had died. It is not yet confirmed if all the dead had been infected with the avian flu virus and



Chicken being injected with anti-influenza vaccine in Karachi on Tuesday. - AFP

lab results are awaited. Most of the deaths in Vietnam and the two in Thailand have been of children infected with the virus. The bird flu has been detected in 13 of Thailand's 76 provinces.

Laboratory tests in Laos today confirmed that bird flu had spread to the country. The tests were conducted after hundreds of chickens died on farms.

Pakistan yesterday confirmed that the disease which killed upto four million chickens in Karachi since November was a strain of the bird flu.

Meanwhile, an international meet has

been called by Thailand tomorrow to deal with the fast spreading flu. Millions of chicken have been slaughtered or buried alive in Asia as the infection spread. "Almost all the chickens in the outbreak areas have been culled," Thai Prime Minister Mr Thaksin Shinawatra said. Soldiers, volunteers and prisoners have been culling chicken in the affected farms. South Korea has killed 24 million chickens and ducks since the outbreak surfaced in December.

Singapore is not taking any chances and has drawn up battle plans to tackle the virus. The Straits Times said the public would be banned from visiting any of Singapore's seven poultry farms and 14 slaughterhouses while the workers there would be given flu shots.

China today became the latest victim of the virulent H5n1 strain of bird flu when three separate cases of the disease were confirmed, triggering a nation-wide alert. The latest death of ducks in south China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region was caused by the bird flu virus, but no infections in human beings have been found so far, Xinhua reported

Fish to replace chicken at KFC American fast-food chain KFC today said it will offer fish instead of fried chicken on its menu in Vietnam, where a bird flu outbreak has killed six people. Mr Pornchai Thuratum, general director of KFC Vietnam, said KFC's sales had dropped by some 30 per cent because of the flu scare.

India's steps: page 4

Delhi feverish after Karachi flu

OUR BUREAU (5/

New Delhi, Jan. 27: Even as a frisson of fear coursed through the capital on reports of a breakout of bird flu in Karachi's poultry farms, the government scrambled to slam the lid on the possibility of a chicken-vectored epidemic in the country.

The department of animal husbandry and dairying under the agriculture ministry has sent out letters to state governments suggesting a plan of action to head off an outbreak.

Until now, there has been no reported case of bird flu in the country. Officials in Pakistan confirmed two days ago that a virus strain had killed two million chickens in the Sindh province, where 10 to 25 per cent of the poultry stock has been affected.

The first step taken by the department of animal husbandry has been to try and insulate poultry farms along the border with Pakistan.

If an outbreak is suspected, the Indian Veterinary Research Institute and all regional laboratories have been asked to test the samples and send the morbid material to the high security Animal Disease Lab at Bhopal for confirmation.

ABOUT AVIAN AFFLICTION

What is bird flu?

It is an infectious disease of birds caused by type A strains of influenza virus

How do humans catch it?

Found in the intestines of birds, the virus is excreted through faeces. Humans get the infection — a rare occurrence — by inhaling the virus from bird faeces or through the eyes. WHO has not found proof to suggest the virus' transmission through food

• What are the symptoms in humans?

High fever, cough, breathlessness and pneumonia

• Is there no vaccine or cure?

A vaccine is four to six months away. Antiviral drugs are effective against influenza A virus strains but have some limitations

What is the big fear?

Some of the affected countries have shown the presence of the H5N1 strain of the virus, which can cross the species barrier into humans and kill them. The great fear is that the H5N1 virus might mate with human influenza and unleash a pandemic. So far, there is no evidence of it passing from human to human

● What can you do?

Cook thoroughly all poultry-based edibles, including eggs, as Influenza viruses are destroyed by heat. Cook meat till it's no longer pink

Do not handle any animal or eat the meat of any animal that shows unusual behaviour

All states have been sent guidelines for prevention and, in the event of an outbreak, for immediate action

The guidelines include immediate halt to the entry of new birds in the flock from outside sources and strict regulation of entry of personnel, material, visitors and vehicles to an area affected by the disease.

The guidelines state that culled birds and droppings should be buried deep or incinerated within the affected area.

No exchange of any material

and personnel between different farms in the affected area should be carried out. All farms should adopt a vigilance system for early detection and follow-up action.

If the vigilance team detects a suspected case, it should be reported to the farm authority and to the state veterinary department immediately.

In the event of detection of infection in the flock, the entire operation of the farm in terms of marketing of birds and eggs should be stopped completely till the disease is eradicated.

State officials have been asked to gear up the emergency response system by activating the entire machinery

The state governments have also been asked to draw up a plan to monitor and regulate the movement of birds from one farm to another and inter-state movement.

The government is also setting up an expert committee of officials from the department of health and the Institute of Communicable Diseases. It will take preventive measures and ensure surveillance. The committee will keep a watch on domesticated fowl to detect if there is a sudden increase in the number of deaths. (See Page 4)

THE TELEGRAPH

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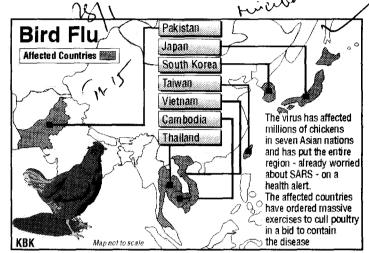
China confirms first case of bird flu

Beijing: China on Tuesday became the latest victim of the virulent H5N1 strain of bird flu that has wreaked havoc in the poultry industry in the Asia-Pacific region, when three separate cases of the disease were confirmed, triggering a nationwide alert. The latest death of ducks in south China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region was caused by the bird flu virus, but no infections in human beings have been found so far, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

hua news agency reported.

Guangxi shares several hundred kilometres of border with Vietnam, where at least six people have died from the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu. The report also mentioned two more cases of the bird flu in China—one at a chicken raising household in Wuxue city in central Hubei province and the other in a duck raising household in Wugang city in neighbouring Hunan province.

The World Health Organisation warned millions of people around the world could die if the H5N1 strain of bird flu in Asia combines with another human influenza virus that is moving towards the region, Dr Shigeru Omi, director



of the UN health agency's western Pacific office, said there was a chance the two viruses could meet and mutate, triggering a global pandemic.

In Thailand, avian flu claimed Asia's eighth human victim on Tuesday as the deadly virus continued to spread with Laos becoming the ninth government to report the infection which has led to the slaughter of millions of chickens in the continent. Thailand's

second human victim was sixyear-old Kenchai Nenjan from the northern province of Sukothai. According to reports, ten people were infected with the virus in Thailand and five had died.

Meanwhile, an international meet has been called by Thailand on Wednesday to deal with the fast spreading flu. EU, US, China, countries hit by the virus and experts are expected to attend the meeting. Agencies

BOOK REVIEW winder





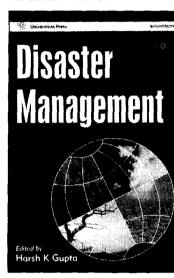
• Sarasvati - Volumes 1-7: S. Kalyanaraman; Baba Saheb (Umakanta Keshav) Apte Smarak Samiti, Yadav Smriti, 55, I Main Road, Seshadripu-Bangalore-560020. Rs. 500

• Footloose Fragrance: Ravinder

Footloose Fragrance: Havinder Singh; Rs. 180.
 Whispering Shadows: D. Veeru Reddy; Rs. 120.
 IGM's Shattered: Divik Ramesh; Rs. 190.

 40 Sonnets & A Song: James Martin; Acid Rain: Vrinda Nair; Rs. 100. The above five books pub. by Writers Workshop, 162/92, Lake Gardens, Kolkata-700045.

Disaster Management: Harsh K. Gupta; Universities Press (India) Pvt. Ltd., 3-5-819, Hyderguda, Hyderabad-500029. Rs. 470.



 Great Heights — An Anthology of Poems: S. Padmapriya; D2, Bay View Apartments, Kalakshetra Colony, Besant Nagar, Chennai-600090. Rs. 50. • 10 Steps to Become an Air Hostess: Vijay Lukose; BPI (India) Pvt. Ltd., 3, Tara Bhavan, F-344/1, Old M.B. Road, Lado Sarai, New Delhi-110030. Rs.

 Guide to Criminal Law & Procedure Alongwith Ready Reckoner of Offences: N. K. Acharya; Rs. 360.
 Text Book on Intellectual Property

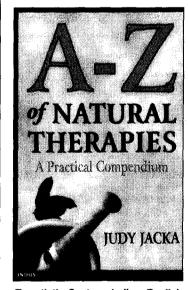
Rights - 2nd Edition: N. K. Acharya;

Rs. 250.

Code of Civil Procedure & Limitation Act: S. R. Myneni; Rs. 260.

Law of Negotiable Instruments & Dishonour of Cheques — 4th Edition: Justice P. S. Narayana; Rs. 545. The above four books pub. by Asia Law House, Opp. High Court, Hydraphad-2

Hyderabad-2.
• A-Z of Natural Therapies --- A Practical Compendium: Judy Jacks; Indus Publishing Company, FS-5, Tagore Garden, New Delhi-110027. **Rs. 200**.



Twentieth Century Indian English Fiction: M. K. Naik; Pencraft Interna-tional, B-1/41, Ashok Vihar II, Del-hi-110052. Rs. 450.

ni-110052, Hs. 450.
 A Cabinet Secretary Looks Back — From Poona to The Prime Minister's Office: B.G. Deshmukh; HarperCollins Publishers India, 1A Hamilton House, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001.
 Rs. 500.

Desert in Bloom — Contemporary Indian Women's Fiction in English: Meenakshi Bharat — Editor; Pencraft International, B-1/41, Ashok Vihar II, Delhi-110052. Rs. 450.

Social Work and Human Rights --- A Foundation for Policy and Practice: Elizabeth Reichert; Rawat Publications,

Satyam Apartments, Sector 3, Jawahar Nagar, Jaipur-302004. Rs. 650. nar Nagar, Jaipur-302004. Hs. 590.

Guide to Economic Indicators —
Making Sense of Economics — Fifth
Edition: The Economist in Association
with Profile Books Ltd., Distributed by Viva Books Pvt. Ltd., 7, Aziz Mulk Seventh Street, Thousand Lights, Chen-

nai-600006. Rs. 295.
The Concept of Social Service in the Philosophy of Sri Svami Narayana: Sarojini Varadappan; 47-A, Bhakthavatsalam Road, Mylapore, Chennai-600004. Rs. 100.

Vikram Seth — An Anthology of Recent Criticism: G.J.V. Prasad — Editor; Pencraft International, B-1/41, Ashok Vihar II, Delhi-110052. Rs. 400.

Health & Well-Being of Senior Citizens: Susanna Starr; VMP Publishers & Distributors, 6, Princess Building, E.R. Road, Near J.J. Hospital Traffic

Signals, Mumbai-400003. Rs. 70. Annual Handbook of Human Re-sources Initiatives 2003: Mahaveer Jain, Parth Sarthi — Editors; Mank Publications Pvt. Ltd., B-7, Saraswati Complex. Subhash Chowk, Laxmi Na-

gar, New Delhi-110092. Rs. 375.
Emotional Freedom Techniques:
Garry A Flint; VMP Publishers & Distributors, 6, Princess Building, E.R. Road, Near J.J. Hospital Traffic Signals, Mumbai-400003. **Rs. 65.**

Tamil

Tirumalaivaasan Yaar? Su.Pa. Ven-

Tirumalaivaasan Yaar? Su.Pa. Venkatraman; Ranganayaki Pathippagam, Sundaram Building, 81/47, Arcot Road, Kodambakkam, Chennai-600024. Rs. 60.
 Vadhaipadum Devathaigal: Bhagyam; Pengal Aaivu Meyyam, 39, Ramnagar, Dindigul-5. Rs. 40.
 Sevviyal Mozhi Mudhal Sedhu Samuththiram Varal: Dr. V. C. Kulandaiswamy; Rs. 100.
 Jothida Santhaegangalum Vilakkangalum: Murugu Rajendran; Rs.

kangalum: Murugu Rajendran; Rs.

Mana Amaidhiyum, Vazhkai Nilaiya-

maiyum: N. Pushparaj; Rs. 45. Thiruvarutpa Ennum Thaen — Selected Poems of Thiruvarutpa & Explanations: A. S. Vazhi Thunai; Rs. 50. The above four books pub. by Barathi Nilaiyam, 126/108, Usman Road, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Konguvellalar Thirumana Sadangu-

gal: Manimegalai Putparasu; Bhaarathe Pathippagam, 126/108, Usman Road, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs Sabarimalai Punitha Payanam: N. K.

Mangala Murugesan; Arthi Kandan Pathippagam, 13/3, Peters Road Col-ony, Royapettah, Chennai-600014. ony, R Rs. 70.

HS. 70.

Tam/Izhvazhi Ariviyal Kalvi: P.
Jayakrishnan; Kavya, 14, First Cross
Street, Trustpuram, Kodambakkam,
Chennai-600024. Rs. 150. Nalamodu Vazhvatharkkana Nalla

Kathiagal: Kasutha; SaiSurya Enter-prises, Old No. 24, Krishna Street, T Nagar, Chennal-600017. **Rs. 50.**Neengalum Varaiyalam: Meenam;
New Century Book House (P) Ltd.
41-B, SIDCO Industrial Estate, Ambat-

tur, Chennai-600098. **Rs. 30. Tholkapiyam**: Kalladar; Tamizhman Pathippagam, 2, Singaravelar Street, T. Nagar, Chennai-60017. **Rs. 170. Tholakatchith Tamizh**: Munavar V.

Nallethambi: The Parker 293

Tholalkatchith Tamizh: Munavar V. Nallathambi: The Parker. 293. Ahamed Vaniga Valagam, II Floor, Royapettah High Road, Royapettah, Chennai-600014. Rs. 100.
Patthirikaiyalar Balyew Sirukathaigal: Balyew; Jeeya Veeleyeedu, 6/352, Triplicane High Road, Chennai-600005. Rs. 65.
En Vazhkai Sariththram — Part I: Rs. 100; Part II: Rs. 75; Part III: Rs. 100. K. Natarajan; Andril Pathippagam, 55(25) CNK Salai, Chepauk, Chennai-600005.
Pass Mark: Bombay Balu; Baba Publications, Flat C, Plot No. 325, Kamarajar Salai, Alwarthirunagar, Chennai-600087. Rs. 50.
Pulippani Jothidam: K. S. Pathanjali

 Pulippani Jothidam: K. S. Pathanjali iyer; Rs. 80.

Aalaya Poojai, Homa Kaala Muthraigal Vilakkangal: S. S. Ragavaach

aryar; Rs. 45.

• Arubathonbathu Vizhukkadu: M. N. Ramasamy; **Rs. 65.** The above three books pub. by Narmadha Pathippagam, 10, Nana Street, T. Nagar,

ennai-600017. V.O. Chidambaram Pillai's Pearls of Wisdom: Ezhilamuthan; Rs. 25.

Ivalum Teresathan: Dhanalakshmi Nagarathinam; Rs. 32. Thural Kolangal: P. Chiranjeevi; Rs.

Innoru Por Vaal: C. Vijayan; Rs. 35.
Tamil Kadavul Muruganin Perumaigal: Sami Subramanian; Rs. 40. The above five books pub. by Manimekalai Prasuram, PB No. 1447, 7, Thanika-chalam Road, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017.

Kannada

Kathavahini-2003: Rachana Sai — Compiler; Vahini Book Trust, 1-9-286/3, Vidyanagar, Hyderabad-500044. Rs. 100.
 Khuthbath — Islamina Bunadigalu in Urdu: S. Abdul Gaffar; E.S. Sharfudin — Tr. in Kannada: Sharthi Parkada.

Tr. in Kannada; Shanthi Prakashana, Hidayath Centre, Bibi Alabi Road Mangalore-575001. **Rs. 90.**

Kumbara Jananga: Basavaraja Kun-churu; Shree Chakra Prakashna Kun-Harapanahalli

Churu Harapanananii Irust, Davangere. **Rs. 200.**• **Sri Venkatarya Krithi Rathnakara:**G.R. Krishnamachar; K.V. Achar Pra-kashana, 59-J, Ganesha Block, I Main

Rasiana, 59-3, Ganesia Block, 1 Main Road, 2nd Cross, Sheshadripuram, Bangalore-560020. Rs. 100. Mooliga Vignana — Siddha Pad-dathi: P.S. Narasimhaswamy; Copies can be had from the author, 1495, K.M. Puram, Mysore-570004. Rs. 88.

Voice against apathy

KARUKKUM MARUTHAANI — Darkening Henna (Tamil): Kanimozhi; Kalachuvadu Pathippagam, 669, K.P. Road, Nagercoil-629001. Rs. 40.

EMBALMING JOURNALISM within the covers of a book can be a rather self-defeating affair, but Kanimozhi's work that appeared in the Tamil *In*dia Today as solicited essays from its editor does need a chance to go to the libraries in book form. Slender produced with the eloquent symbol of a raised palm on the cover, this work speaks out against the smug imperatives of the Establishment.

The title essay is about the opposition from the Muslim fraternity voiced against H.G. Rasool's Mailanchi for raising questions against the patriarchal set-up in Islam. However, her argument wobbles when she compares Rasool's queries to M.F. Hussain's painting.

In a multi-communal land where passions are easily inflamed, the person with the pen or palette in his/her hand cannot afford to be insensitive to the feelings of others. Mailanchi

asks for equal status for women in the society; and that is the issue on hand, and not a painter's going out of the way to depict Indian women (the goddesses of the past, the actresses of the present) in unflattering/flattering terms.

Among the variety of issues dealt with in a very positive manner by the essayist are the deplorable smoking habit, autism, child-abuse and political chicanery.

She has no patience with brahmin-baiting: "If U.V. Swaminatha Iyer had not struggled to retrieve the Sangham literature from oblivion, they would have been eaten away by the white ants. Must we throw away the Sangam literature into the ocean because he was a brahmin? Or, is it possible to find out clearly the caste of the Sangham poets?'

The consistent sympathy of Kanimozhi for the poor and the marginalised is deeply moving. This book certainly reveals an alert thinker from the new generation raising the hopes of a better tomorrow for India.

PREMA NANDAKUMAR

India-Sri Lanka relations

THE INDO-LANKANS -- Their 200-Year Saga: S. Muthiah; Indian Heritage Foundation, Colombo. Distributed in India by EastWest Books (Madras) Pvt. Ltd., 571, Poonamalle High Road, Aminiikarai, Chennai-600029. Rs. 4750.

IN 1927, Mahatma Gandhi visited Ceylon to popularise Khadi and promote prohibition. He was struck by the abiding and seminal influences of India on all aspects of Sri Lankan life.

Addressing a public meeting, Gandhiji referred to Ceylon as India's "daughter state". The geographical contiguity, coupled with constant movement of peoples, led to benign India-Sri Lanka interaction. As Ambassador, Gopal Krishna Gandhi, writes in his foreword to the book, "Few Sri Lankans are, therefore, without some Indian derivation, recent or remote.'

These facts of history have unfortunately been twisted to serve narrow political ends. The projection of Sinhalese and Tamils as two antagonistic entities, at war with one another for several centuries, by Sinhala/Tamil chauvinist writers is an illustration of the well-known axiom that truth and objectivity are the first casualties in times of conflict.

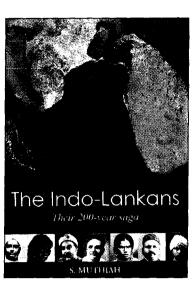
The distorted vision of India and Tamil Nadu in Sri Lankan minds can be summed up as follows: "While Sri Lanka continues to look upon North India as the cradle of its religion, it perceives its contacts with South India, particularly with Tamil Nadu, as having been by their very nature a source of perennial concern for its integrity as a nation state."

To look upon dynastic rivalries for territorial expansion as an expression of enmity between India and Sri Lanka or between the Sinhalese and the Tamils or between the Buddhists and the Hindus will lead to falsification of

Few Sri Lankan scholars want to subscribe to the objective truth that Buddhism was a virile religion in South India and the spread of classical Buddhism during the Anuradhapura and Pollanuruva periods had more to do with contacts with Buddhist centres of learning in South India than with the North.

As the author points out, in Sri Lanka faith often supersedes religion. The Gods of the Hindu pantheon are an integral part of the Buddhist religious life.

The Gods venerated by Hindus and Buddhists alike are Saman



(Vishnu), Vibhishana, Ayyanar, Karthikeya, Ganesha and Goddess

The deity of Skanda at Kataragama continues to be one of the most popular places of worship for Hindus, Buddhists and Christians alike.

This pictorial book graphically illustrates the India-Sri Lanka interaction for the past 200 years. The commentary is absorbing, while the pictures, some of them rare, are a delight to the eyes.

The whole panorama of India-Sri Lanka relations comes to life, starting with the early settlers; the labourers, who converted the malaria-infested forests into tea plantations and who laboured hard to construct the roads, the railways and the Colombo port; the early traders who rendered yeoman service by providing the essentials of life; the professionals who manned the civil service and the social services; the artistes, who enriched the cultural life; the entrepreneurs who laid the solid foundations of the economy; the faithful who added lustre to the religious life and the politicians and the trade unionists who safeguarded the interests of the working class in moments of crisis and turbulence.

The author is eminently qualified to undertake the editor's job and he has acquitted himself creditably. Born in a family, which had strong Ceylon connections, he was an evewitness to the tumultuous developments in the island after the Second World War.

Associated with some of the island's leading newspapers, he was a well-known commentator of men and matters. Unfortunately, like many people of Indian origin in the island he was also denied Sri Lankan citizenship. But what was Sri Lanka's loss turned out to be India's gain. He continues to advocate, through his speeches and writings, the necessity to strengthen India-Sri Lanka relations. This book, in many ways, is an expression of his commitment to India-Sri Lanka friendship.

The book is based on meticulous research by a team of scholars under the author's leadership. However, I find a few significant omissions.

There is no mention of Frank Moraes, who was the Editor of the Ceylon Times; Prof. K.R. Srinivasa Iyengar, the pioneer in the field of Indo-Anglian literature, who started his professional career in a Jaffna college; P. Ramaswamy, the Chief of the Reuters in Colombo during the war years and who later became the New Delhi correspondent of the Lake House group of newspapers and "Ceylon" Narayana Iver, the Assistant Government Agent in Kandy, who was adored by the plantation workers for his commitment to the Indian Tamil cause.

These omissions apart, the book is a welcome addition to the increasing literature on India-Sri Lanka relations.

V. SURYANARAYAN

Of obscurity and dishonour

ON TO THE GREAT BEYOND -- A Novel by M. Veerappa Moily in Kannada: Sumatheendra Nadig — Tr. in English; published by Sapna Book House, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560009. Rs. 195.

IN THIS dramatised anthropological study in the form of a novel, the author deals with the plight of the Koraga community, the tribal denizens of the forests of his native Karnataka. The poignancy of the story is heightened by facts, as the author ob-

serves, that the Koraga community is

the child of the soil and the Koragas were known to be the monarchs on the west coast line and a civilised princely tribe which lapsed into enslavement and was driven to forced obscurity and dishonour. A virtual miracle takes shape and sunshine beams on the career of the Koragas with the advent of a forest officer on the scene, Mallayva, who

proves to be a well-meaning and dogged reformist and an agent of change, who ignites in the community a sense of identity and urge for selfhelp and transformation towards a destiny of optimism and pride. With him in the task force, as it were, are Sadasiva, a courageous journalist who loses his life in the fight against corruption and criminal greed in high places, Dheeraj, a

tional skill and a young Koraga girl turned activist. A cluster of characters thrown in eminently support and sustain the narration of the scenario of the Koragas on the move. The novel should command a wide

young lawyer with marked organisa-

appeal, nationwide, in order that reformist activists are drawn into the mission of retrieving downtrodden communities

People on the move

NOMADISM IN SOUTH ASIA: Aparna Rao and Michael J. Casimir

 Editors; Oxford University Press, YMCA Library Building, First Floor, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001. Rs. 750.

PUBLISHED UNDER the auspices of the Oxford in India Readings in Sociology and Social Anthropology, the volume under review, the ninth in the series, is devoted to the customs and practices of nomadism in South

Edited by two well-known scholars with a long experience of working cross-culturally with nomadic communities, the book comprises 16 articles, divided into three sections, besides a rich and comprehensive introduction by the editors. That the future of nomadism is uncertain and contemporary nomadic societies will become sedentary in years to come is clear from the dedication the editors have made to the millions of South Asians "whose children may one day like to know more about the nomadic lifestyles of their ancestors."

Nomads are perpetually on the contact with a variety of people, from whom they acquire those traits that may be congruent with their cultures. They resort to various strategies (of submission, appeasement, threat and violence, retreating) at the same or different times to negotiate their ties with settled communities of peasants and townspeople.

Although nomads are traditionbound, they exercise exemplary flexibility with respect to learning from peoples with whom they interact. They are far from being conservative, thus, depending upon the contexts, C. M. RAMACHANDRA they bend rules, change strategies,

create niches for their existence, and if the situation demands, shift loyal-

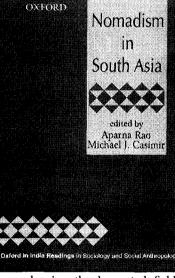
The nomads are fiercely independent. They cherish their political autonomy the most. By being constantly on the move, they are able to escape from the rule (often tyrannous) of the outsiders. They see sedentary existence as a vehement attack on their independence and autonomy.

And, whenever they have voluntarily settled down, they have chosen to set up their habitations - of flimsy huts that can be dismantled easily outside the village, so that they are able to enjoy some bits of untrammelled freedom. Thus, the presence of their abodes at the periphery of settled villages is not always an indication of their low and demeaning status.

The editors show in their introduction that settled communities of peasants and town-dwellers harbour an ambivalent attitude towards nomads. On the one hand, they are viewed as providers of services genmove in search of subsistence. erally unavailable in their settle-Whilst peregrinating, they come into ments. On the other, they are dismissed as a nuisance to be come quickly.

Pastoral nomads are welcomed in their animals eat away whatever is available and deposit dung, which is used as manure.

In many parts of India, agriculturalists pay them for herding animals in their fields. But, with agricultural fields becoming double-cropped (and even, triple-cropped), and natural manure being replaced with artificial fertilisers, the lands are never fallow for use by pastoral nomads, nor are their animals needed for vac-



uum-cleaning the harvested fields and manure.

As a consequence, the synergistic relations between nomads and settled populations have gradually become hostile. Peasants want to chase the pastoral nomads out of their which the latter mi

This culminates in confrontation, villages after the harvest, because in which sometimes casualties occur. Some authors say that the media blow these conflicts out of proportion, but undoubtedly, antagonism simmers between nomads and sedentary peoples.

The essays show that some nomadic communities are politically active. The Rabaris of Gujarat, for instance, want the government to provide boarding schools for their children. In a fieldwork with the Rai-

demanding armed security during the period of their migration. Many nomadic groups have demanded mobile schools for their children and adults. A strong leadership is also making its appearance among some of them. This, however, is not true of a large number of nomads, whose condition has worsened with the passage of time. Even those nomads, especially

agro-pastoral, who are relatively better off, have started facing myriad problems in continuing with their traditional lifestyle. Unsurprisingly, they do not want to pursue this. But, if they have no option, they

certainly do not want their children to take it up, for they know that nomadism will soon become anachronistic in the modern world. Unfortunately, there is no policy of affirmative action that can help the nomads. Thus, the sole option left for them

in the realm of education. The book forcefully argues that primary education must become a fundamental right, and compulsory. It must be made suitable to local needs so that the creativity of people flowers

To the best of my knowledge, this is the first volume of its kind that brings together different writings, from different cultural contexts, on

Planners and interventionists are urged upon to have a closer look at this volume because the people portrayed here urgently require culturally-rooted, holistic, and meaningful development, lest they depress into the ignominious ranks of abjectly poor and lumpen sections.

VINAY KUMAR SRIVASTAVA

Thought-provoking novel Philosophical work Anthology of short stories Paradoxes of life

TAMIL

SRIMATHI - by Sudha Murthy: Soudhamini Vasuki - Tr. in Tamil; Vanathi Pathippagam, 23. Deenadayalu Street, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017. Rs. 50.

IS THERE a price to be paid for success in the corporate world? Do achievers lose themselves in their single-minded pursuit of their goals? Does accomplishment in life mean only the making of a pile of money and the attainment of position, power and fame? Can persons at the top afford to ignore the steps of the ladder that took them there? These questions are addressed in this novel.

Srimathi and Srikanth are childhood friends who live in neighbouring houses. There is a friendly rivalry between them at college as each see-saws in getting the top ranks. They inevitably fall in love and proceed to marry, despite reservations expressed by elders in their families. Srimathi helps her husband in his career

steadily moves upwards. But there comes a time when some introspections are needed and a course-correction is to be made. The beginning of the novel is none-too-impressive (after reading three-and-a half pages one realises that it is not a first-person narrative), but there is enough substance to retain

reader interest. It stresses Indian culture and

and even quells her own aspirations as he

values with interesting sidelights on history. The translation is competent though one finds a couple of surprises in idiomatic expression. Variations in the spelling of "Dorothy" and "Louvre" could have been avoided. C. G. RISHIKESH

SANSKRIT-TAMIL

BRAHMA SABDARTHA VICHARA -Tirupputkuzhi Krishna Thathachariar: Navalpakkam Varadachariar - Tr. in Tamil; Hayagriva Vidya Peetam, 22, Tiruvalluvar Street, Taramani, Chennai-600113. Rs. 40. THE BOOK under review is a commemorative volume published on the occasion of the 181st birthday celebrations of Tirupputkuzhi Krishna Thathachariar Swami.

Vaishnavism, the Swami was a reputed poly-

In this book, the learned author, as the name itself indicates examines the meaning of the

most frequently used word in the Vedas and the Upanishads, "Brahman" critically from all angles. He explains that Brahman etymologically connotes two things — one who is great and one who makes others great. The former signifies one intrinsically being great and also great in qualities. In a wider sense it means one being greater than all oth-

great like strength, valour, knowledge, splendour and lordship. The latter means one who makes the Jivatmas also great by granting them salvation and infinite bliss. Again this includes the qualities in the Supreme that make others great by granting salvation, like compassion, mercy, magnanimity and benevolence. However, at times, we use the term Brahman, only out of respect, in relation to Jivatma, Prakriti (primor-

dial matter) and others. In the process of elucidating the implications of the term Brahman, the Swami penetratingly examines all possible objections and effectively answers them. He concludes by saying that Brahman denotes only the Supreme both etymologically and conventionally.

The text is in Devanagari, followed by Tamil transliteration. The Tamil version with further amplification as necessary has been provided by the eminent scholar, Navalpakkam Varadachariar.

Sanskrit and Tamil that could have been avoided by careful proof reading. Notwithstanding the general maxim that philosophy is a dry subject, for an interested student it is an invigorating and enlivening experience to study and of the piece. The publication will be a useful analyse abstruse points of philosophy. This book does provide such an engrossing opportunity. V. N. GOPALA DESIKACHARIAR

TELUGU One of the illustrious and exalted savants of PULIKANTI KATHAVAHINI — Short Stories: Pulikanti Krishnareddy; Viswambhara

math, spiritual guru, and author of several scholarly works, explaining abstruse points of Tirupati-517501. **Rs. 300.**

scholarly works, explaining abstruse points of THIS BOOK is a voluminous collection of seven short stories by Pulikanti Krishnareddy, one of the well-known short story writers in Telugu, whose pieces are often translated into oth-

er Indian languages. He is readily remembered for introducing the Rayalaseema dialect - Mandalika usage for the first time, though unaware of that feature. He did it successfully though many pieces remain in the usual style as he was accustomed to its usage. He is sensitive to his nativity. His ers and all other things, in all respects. So this experiences as a stage actor and a patron of term includes the qualities which make one Telugu drama stood him in good stead particularly in dialogue and description of the setting. The writer in him has enabled him to contribute his bit to the social needs of men

and women who came into his contact. His first story "Birds after their nest" (Goodu Kosam Guvvalu) depicts how a parrot, as also a grandson, get released from their captivity and dare to fly out to the areas of freedom and development. The grandfather's agony to drive the boy away, in the latter's interest, to the Boston school, in a planned manner reflects the levels of poverty, aggrandisement and aspi-

"Rights of admission" describes how a person gained the blessing and inspiration from Sri Aurobindo. The human need for development is highlighted here. "Parama Guruvu" (The ultimate teacher) brings out the behavioural changes in the student community and opens new avenues. The author deals with a variety of themes, yet all are based on the rural. his native environ upholding human values The printing mistakes are too many both in and perspectives. His descriptions, though long and heavy, stand to make an everlasting

> He provides value judgments at times, within the narratives; and this disturbs the art-form addition to the granary of Telugu short story.

Bengali of Nabaneeta Devsen: Chandrakiran

Rathi — Tr. in Hindi; Vagdevi Prakashan,

Chandansagar, Bikaner-334001. Rs. 120.

N.C. RAMANUJACHARY HINDI PALAASHPUR KI PICNIC — Short Stories in

THIS WORK is a collection of 13 short stories of Bengali writer Navnita Sen, wife of the Nobel laureate Amartya Sen. The stories display a sensitive observation of the paradoxes that confront one in life, the gulf between desire and fulfilment, age and childhood, and situations going contrary to expectations, evoking comic irony.

The title story is an account of a picnic of children on vacation at the country residence of their parents. We are given a lively description of the exploration of the jungle around the rock and the river flowing through it by the

young ones who give them new names. Suddenly they encounter a blind sadhu-like bearded man who lives on the flesh of the animals caught by his pet panther. Fearing him as a cannibal out to eat them, the children take to their heels. But he weeps piteously making them return. He then bares his heart that he is a convict in a bank looting case, who had escaped from prison. He has forgotten how many years he has spent in the jungle and the children offer to get him freedom after so many years, with the help of their lawyer uncle.

Other stories are moving vignettes of early childhood. The story of two Indian students at Cambridge attempting to scale the Alpine peak of Matter-horn and facing discomfiture and disappointment without the required equipment and experience and another of a dullard at school prospering with his expertise in Bengali cookery in America show the vagaries of human situations.

The Hindi rendering is faithful to the original depicting life's curious twists and the charm of imaginative childhood before it is lost with the growing years.

J. PARTHASARATHI

Announcement

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to The Hindu for review. While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under "New Arrivals", the decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper. Receipt of individual books will not be acknowledged in response to enquiries.

Bird flu leaps into ans in Thailand

Bangkok, Jan. 23 (Reuters): The bird flu eruption in Asia, which the WHO says could set off an epidemic worse than Sars, has leapt into humans in Thailand and appeared in Cambodia, officials said today.

A chicken butcher, one of six Thais being tested for the disease, died of pneumonia, said Charal Trinwuthipong, directorgeneral of the department of disease control. After days of declaring the country free of the bird flu which killed five Vietnamese, the Thai government said two boys, aged six and seven and from different provinces west of Bangkok, were "critical but stable" with the disease.

Three more people are being tested and the Bangkok government issued an urgent warning to anyone suffering from fever and bronchitis after being around poultry to rush to the doctor.

"Those who have contacted chicken and have high fever and bronchitis should report them-selves to doctors immediately," health minister Sudarat Keyuraphan said. Children appear most at risk. No one knows why,



A worker collects chickens before they are slaughtered at a farm near Bangkok. (AFP)

but four of the five killed in Vietnam were children.

The announcement that bird flu had struck threatened to devastate the Thai chicken industry, the world's fourth largest. The EU, the second biggest buyer of chicken from a country which

earns more than \$1 billion a year from poultry exports, promptly joined Japan, Thailand's biggest customer, in banning imports of Thai chicken.

Prime Thaksin Shinawatra shrugged off the bans, saying they would have only a "trivial" impact on exports which he expects to help the economy to grow eight per cent this year. "GDP will be hit by only 0.1 per cent and exports will be hit by 0.4 per cent," he said. But the WHO was clearly alarmed.

It said in a statement the near simultaneous bird flu outbreaks in Japan, South Korea, Vietnam and now Thailand and Cambodia were "historically unprecedented" and it was worried a new, virulent strain of influenza could sweep around the world.

That could happen, it said, if someone got human and bird flu at the same time, allowing the viruses to exchange genes and form a new strain which could pass easily from person to person.So far, there is no evidence that has happened, with all the known cases being infected by direct contact with chickens.

How Krishna Raj forged a virtual community of thinking Indians

The editor's editor

or close to 25 years now, the item in the post I have most looked forward to is the Economic and Political Weekly. It comes in a faded wrapper, my subscriber's address printed in barely distinct ink. The journal's cover has black type upon a white background, with a red band on the top left hand corner, representing a pathetic attempt at colour. The text inside is in small print, a nine point-size in an unappealing font.

All told, the *Economic and Political* Weekly, or EPW as it is known, is an emphatic triumph of content over form. No Indian journal is uglier to look at; and yet, no Indian journal is more interesting to read. The *EPW* is little less than an index to the life of the nation. On subjects as varied (and important) as the economy, caste politics, religious violence and human rights, the *EPW* has consistently provided the most authoritative, insightful, and widely cited reports and analyses.

Founded in 1949 as the *Economic* Weekly, the EPW acquired its present name in 1966. In its 55 years, the journal has had only three editors. Of these, one, R.K. Hazari, only served for a couple of years. For the first 20 years of its existence, the journal was run by its founder, an expansive Bengali grandee named Sachin Chaudhuri. For the last 34 years, it has been run by Krishna Raj, a shy Malayali trained at the Delhi School of Economics.

Some weeks ago, the founder of the EPW was the subject of a sensitive tribute in these columns by Ashok Mitra. The occasion was the centenary of Sachin Chaudhuri's birth. Now, sooner than any of us would have wished, it is my melancholy duty to pay homage to Krishna Raj on his death. He passed away in Mumbai on January 13, aged 67. He died as he lived, with a minimum of fuss, the victim of a heart attack suffered in his sleep.

n some ways, I stand in relation to Krishna Raj as Ashok Mitra once did to Sachin Chaudhuri. In the Fifties, when Ashok babu first started writing for the EW, Sachinda was the indulgent editor who allowed the young man to attack the then regnant "Nehruvian" consensus from the Left. However, by the time I came to read (and write for) the EPW, Marxism had become the hegemonic ideology of the Indian intellectual. True, it was not a party journal, yet its pages were dominated by Marxists of various kinds, whether CPI(M) types, Maoists, or Trotskyists.

The first essay $\tilde{\mathbf{I}}$ ever published in the

ramguha@vsnl.com

POLITICS AND PLAY

RAMACHANDRA GUHA

EPW, back in December 1982, was called "Ecological Crises and Ecological Movements: A Bourgeois Deviation?" As the title makes clear, the article was an attempt at persuading the Left that environmental problems fundamentally affected the lives of poor Indians; they were not, as the party faithful then supposed, a bourgeois deviation from the class struggle. Over the years, however, my interventions in the *EPW* were not so much a conversation with the Marxist Left as a kind of guerrilla warfare. I

the end I had to sue for peace. Life was

impossible without it.

For its contributors, however, the EPW was much more than a vehicle for the articulation of their prejudices. It was equally a vehicle for the prejudices of others. Well before the internet invented the phrase, the EPW was a "virtual community" of thinking Indians. It was where one kept in touch with the work of one's intellectual friends as well as one's intellectual enemies. In its pages, and nowhere else, were to be for his writers, for whom that sight of green in their mail box sent their hearts racing as nothing else in their lives.

he inland letter had printed on it the journal's address: "Hitkari House, 284 Frere Road, Bombay 400038". In time, the street, city and pin code all changed: to Shahid Bhagatsingh Marg, Mumbai, and 400001 respectively. But inside, the editor stayed the same Going to see him in his office was a kind of secular pilgrimage. Hitkari House lay between Victoria Terminus and the Reserve Bank of India: in a part of Bombay dense with memory and history, and, above all, humanity. The two grand buildings were joined by a street choc-abloc with shops, the road overrun with cars and cycles and pedestrians.

It was with some relief that one turned away from the street into the building that housed the journal. A dingy lift took one up to the sixth floor. It opened out into the *EPW* office; this a mass of cubicles linked by a narrow passage. Right at the end lay the cubicle of the editor. It was like any other; six feet by four feet, with a humble desk and still more humble chairs. There was, of course, no question of air-conditioning; the only luxury was a window which on a good day allowed in elements of a breeze.

Over the years. I must have made perhaps a dozen trips to that office. On the editor's desk there was always a pile of papers two or three feet high: submissions to be considered or rejected. On a shelf was a row of books, one or two of which would be offered to the visitor for review. Krishna Raj always looked the same: an oval-faced, handsome, whitehaired man, with inquiring eyes peering out from behind his spectacles. He was apparently ageless, but also tireless. From that dusty and crowded room, he ran what was unquestionably the most remarkable journal in the history of independent India.

oung and old met in the pages of Krishna Raj's EPW: so did leftwing and liberal, academic and activist. The journal was truly a broad church, as a single fact will testify. It was one of only two places where both Ashok Mitra (a deeply loyal communist) and the present writer (a professional com-munist-baiter) regularly contributed articles. But in the case of the EPW, Ashokbabu and I both wrote for free. Like countless others, now both of us shall miss Krishna Raj; miss his green letters, his gentle presence, his wise and sure hand. But I hope to be reading and writing for the *EPW* for a good many years yet. The life's work of Sachin Chaudhuri and Krishna Raj must go on:

for our sake, and for India's.

Handmade in India

Crafts producers and production

Nation as nostalgía: ambiguous spiritual journeys of Vengal Chakkarai

Guiarat: leaked White Paper on dam alternatives

A triumph of content over form

teased and provoked them: attacked them for their illiberalism and upbraided them for their hypocrisy. I cannot say if I had any impact, or indeed if the Marxists listened to me at all. But I was deeply grateful to Krishna Raj for giving me a voice. A more partisan editor would not have done so.

Twice I fought with the EPW and twice I made up with them. In this I was merely following the advice of a more esteemed contributor, the historian of education, Poromesh Acharya. Poromesh once told me about a sect of Gaudiya Vaishnavism where the devotee chastized the deity before merging himself in him. The *EPW* was like that to me: I could quarrel with it and scold it, but in found the best of India's social scientists: across the disciplines, and across the political spectrum as well.

This community was forged and orchestrated by a conductor named Krishna Raj. Self-effacing to a fault, he did his work from a small office in the heart of Bombay. He communicated with his authors via mail: that is, snail-mail. Getting the journal every week was excitement enough. But more thrilling by far was to get a letter from the editor. These were immaculately typed, and sent in a specially printed inland-letter form, coloured pale green. In recent years, Krishna Raj had so far forgotten himself to take to email; no doubt a gain on the side of efficiency, but a matter of some regret

THE TELEGRAPH 2 4 JAN 2004

The Springing Tigers

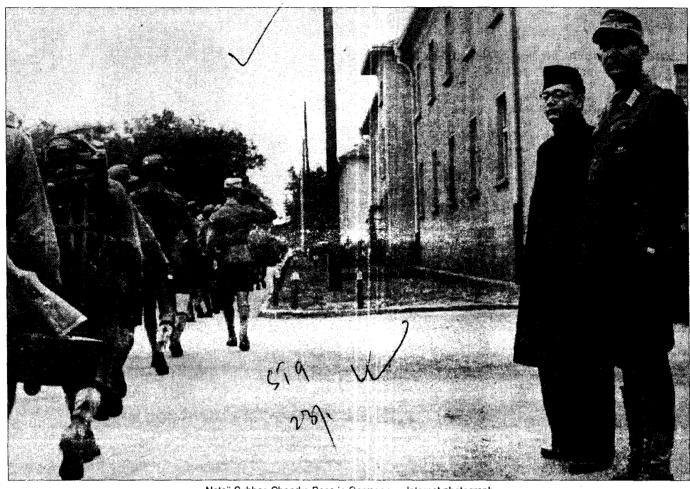
ETAJI Subhas Bose first displayed his forte in organising a professional military force on reaching Germany after fleeing his Calcutta residence in 1941. He arrived in Berlin and went on to interact with Wehrmacht. He earnestly conveyed to them that his ambition was to raise an army unit with the Wehrmacht's help for fighting the British. The German High Command was initially quizzical about it but later on agreed to his proposal, apparently farfetched, and prove willing to provide all possible help in this regard.

Netaji then collected the Indian prisoners of war who had been captured by the German army during the ongoing world war and drafted these ex soldiers as the manpower required for his force. He christened this force the "Indian Legion" using a springing tiger as its logo,

superscribed with a German motto that translated to read "Free India." The Indian Legion was formally inaugurated on 25 December 1941 at Frankenburg Camp

Netaji and the Berlin authorities drew up certain conditions in respect of the Legion. The German army was to undertake all aspects of training the legionnaires with the aim of producing a first rate infantry regiment capable of operating in inhospitable terrain. The Legion would not be mixed with German units and would be sent to Burma on completion of its training. It wouldn't be used for any operation in Europe. The legionnaires would enjoy the same privileges and remuneration during their stay in Germany as regular German soldiers other than special units.

Netaji found that his new recruits were ridden with severe psychological problems. They were mainly unhappy with the Spartan discipline and regimentation that they were obliged to undergo. Their existence was bedevilled by an alien environment, unfamiliar food habits, disagreeable weather and confusing political statements emanating from various sources. Most of all,



Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in Germany. — Internet photograph

the budding legionnaires lacked a hallowed cause for being thrust into a new war against their erstwhile British-Indian comrades in arms.

Netaii realised that these sensitive issues had to be addressed very carefully if he had to wield an effective fighting force with men whose

morale was undeniably low. His greatest dilemma was how to recondition a prisoner of war into a professional soldier all over again, a "twice person who would be ready to sacrifice for what was a nebulous objective as seen from distant

Germany - namely, freeing India from British rule. He began to deliver a series of lectures on manmanagement, military ethics, loyalty to the uniform and responsiveness in equal measure to the singularly helpful attitude of the Germans. The mixed class composition of the legionnaires was a hurdle at first but gradually and with enduring patience, Netaji was able to smoothen ruffled feathers and mould them into a composite body imbued with a fresh martial spirit. He abolished caste, creed and religious differences, successfully overriding these with his evocative greeting, "Jai Hind." He particularly ting. took great pains in creating a dedicated and motivated officer cadre who held their German counter-

The cooperation extended to the Indian Legion by the German army was far superior and more genuine than what the Indian National Army received from the Japanese

> parts as the epitome of leadership. The Indian Legion began to grow

in size as well as in military prowess. From a paltry 200 odd strength, it finally peaked to well over 4,000. It was organised into four battalions, complete with supporting arms. The Wehrmacht went out of their way to help in setting up an artillery battalion composed solely of suitably trained legionnaires. Heavy mortars and medium machine guns were also roped in. The Legion was

ready for action by 1944. Netaji had, of course, left Germany for Japan by then and his able second in command, Claude Nambiar, continued with the programme so deliberately worked out by him and his supreme commander.

The Normandy campaign of June 1944 unfortu-

nately turned the tide against Germany. It wasn't possible to dis-patch the Indian Legion to Burma as Netaji had desired and instead this highly charged combat unit was deployed as part of the total covering force for the German

withdrawal from France.

The legionnaires were exemplary in their courage and devotion to duty as witnessed in the battles fought by them along the River Creuse, at Sancoins, and on the Beaune-Nuits St George line. Their bravery was acknowledged and appreciated by both the Germans as well as the advancing Allies.

These bravehearts were all set to ioin the German counter offensive through the Ardennes - commonly known as the Battle of Bulge December 1944 but were held back at the last minute. They were ordered to participate against the perceived Allied two-front attack on Berlin. Their "last man, last round" grit in the defence of Berlin so awed the overall garrison commander, General Gothard Heinrici, that he wanted to give them an Iron Cross as a unit gallantry award. Sadly, this could not materialise since Berlin fell to the Allies soon thereafter. The legionnaires were captured and deported to India. An Indian Legion offifrom Kolkata, cer Captain Gora Chand Dey, still recounts the historic life span of the intrepid fighting force that he had proudly served.

A significant fact stands out. The cooperation and concern extended to the Indian Legion by the German army was far superior and more genuine than

what the Indian National Army received from the Japanese. This was plainly evident not only during the face-to-face fighting between the Allies and Netaji's two respective irregular units but more importantly when the Axis forces began to retreat. The Germans never left the legionnaires' side all the way from the Normandy front to Berlin while the withdrawing Japanese divisions simply dumped the INA when the Allies headed for Rangoon. This vast difference in attitude between the Germans and the Japanese military has remained inexplicable. Truly speaking, the Indian Legion's overall performance in the war excelled that of

The story of the Indian Legion must be compiled as a separate epic and disseminated at large. Our countrymen need to get familiar with this lesser known phenomenon that is very much connected with India's freedom movement. In the realm of epoch making, the Indian Legion more than matched the status secured by the INA.

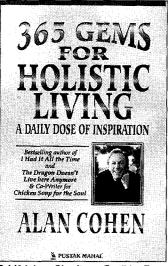
(The author is a retired Lieutenant Colonel of the Indian Army.)

BOOK REVIEW





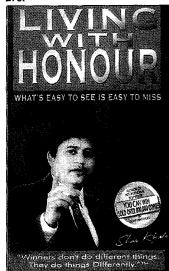
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- ga Publications, 25, 8th Street, Sow-rashtra Nagar, Choolaimedu, rashtra Nagar, Choolaimedu, Chennai-600094 Rs. 100. • Vishnu Nama Sahasrakam with
- meanings in Sanskrit & English according to Tatvasara: Copies can be had from K. Sripada Rao, Flat FOB, (IV Floor Flat B) 12, Jethnagar I Main Road, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai-600028. **Rs. 100.**
- Panchayati Raj Finances in Madhya Pradesh: S. K. Singh; Concept Publishing Co., A/15-16, Commercial Block, Mohan Garden, New Del-
- 365 Gems for Holistic Living A
 Daily Dose of Inspiration: Alan Cohen;
 Pustak Mahal, 6686, Khari Baoli, New



- Sri Krishna Charitam: Pratibha Rastogi; Rs. 270.
 • With Malice Towards None — An
- With Malice Towards None An Autobiography: S. H. Belavadi; Rs. 160. The above two books pub. Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Kulapati Munshi Marg, Mumbai-400007.
 The Young Magician & Other Poems: Arijit Mukherji; Rs. 50.
 Collected Poems of Syed Khwaja Moinul Hassan; Rs. 150.
 Essays on Higher Education: A. M. Ghose; Rs. 250.
 Days of Life: Rashmin Deshmukh:

- Days of Life: Rashmin Deshmukh;
 Rs. 150.
- Three Times A Minority: Subrata Dasgupta; Rs. 100. The above five books pub. by Writers Workshop 162/
- 92, Lake Gardens, Kolkata-700045.

 Legal Ethics, Accountancy for Lawyers Bench-Bar Relations: J. P.S. Sirohi; Allahabad Law Agency, 16/2, Mathura Road, Plot No 33, Faridabad.
- The Yoga of Siddha Boganathar Vol.1: T.N. Ganapathy; Babaji's Kriya Yoga & Publications Inc., 196, Mountain Road, PO Box 90, Eastman, Quebec, Canada JOE IPO. Rs. 250. Periyar EV Ramasamy His Life and
- Mission: MK Subramanian: Perivar EV Ramasamy-Nagammai Education and Research Trust, 19, Murugappa Rs. 50.
- Living with Honour What' Easy to See is Easy to Miss: Shiv Khera; Mac-millan India Ltd., 2/10, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. Rs.



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Tamil

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Hindi

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 Prem Nagar, Sakthinagar, Delhi-110007. Rs. 65.

Ireland: dynamics of war and peace

PEACE IN IRELAND - The War of Ideas: Richard Bourke; Pimlico, Random House, London, Distributed by Rupa & Co., 7/16, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. £ 5.80.

IN ANY discussion on conflict resolution, Northern Ireland invariably crops up both as an example of a particularly complex conflict and as a model for resolving ethnic disputes.

The fact is that the sectarian conflict in Northern Ireland has few real parallels beyond the broad issue of self-determination which has turned it into a point of reference for many of the world's hot spots from Sri Lanka to Kashmir.

But Northern Ireland is not just about self-determination. It is also about British imperialism — the idea of "direct rule" from London — and the historical Christian divide.

It is as misleading to portray the Northern Ireland crisis simply as any other ethnic problem as it is to suggest that the crisis ended with the signing of the "historic" Good Friday agreement in 1998 leading to a devolved administration at Stormont, run jointly by Protestants (Unionists) and Catholics (Republicans).

Indeed, this is the thrust of Richard Bourke's argument in this book, the latest addition to a growing body of work on the

"Troubles" from both sides of the divide. He warns that for all the hype over the Good Friday accord and the cessation of active hostilities, Northern Ireland "faces

a future that is far from certain.' It is not difficult to see where the author, an academic from the Irish Republic, comes from politically but there are aspects of his analysis which will be shared by many on the "other" side.

He takes the debilitating Protestant-Catholic tensions beyond the narrow confines of sectarianism and places them in the wider context of democracy or what he calls the democratic "shortfall" which has bedevilled Northern Ireland where, he says, democracy has come to mean "majority rule at the expense of popular sovereignty.

It is the democratic deficit that, according to him, lies at the heart of the Republican "dissension" since 1920 when Northern Ireland was carved out of Ireland

"The case of Northern Ireland highlights the existence of a shortfall between our basic political aspirations and what in actual fact transpires in the world we have inherited," Bourke argues and its most blatant example, he points out, was the creation of a Unionist/ Protestant Government in Northern Ireland in 1921 in the face of "bitter opposition from the Catholic third of the province's

RICHARD BOURKE PEACE IN IRELAND The War of Ideas

population." It remained in power for some 50 years and ruled with an iron hand acquiring a "formidable array of emergency powers" under the Civil Authorities

(special powers) Act 1922 aimed at

suppressing any Catholic revolt. The author says its powers were so sweeping and arbitrary that it became the "envy" of dictatorial regimes and in the 1960s the Justice Minister in South Africa's then apartheid regime, B. Johannes Vorster remarked that he would trade all coercive powers at his

disposal "for one clause of the Northern Ireland Special Powers

The "excesses" committed under the Act exacerbated the tensions culminating into an almost fullscale civil war in that period. He makes the point that the "sectarian antagonism" against Catholics was institutionalised through emergency powers which

"threatened and impaired" their sense of security.

In an interesting aside, the book underlines the radical nature of the Republican protest by linking the start of the Troubles in 1968 to the climate of rebellion then sweeping the world - from Vietnam and Cuba to French campuses. "...it seemed that Northern Ireland also was on the verge of some kind of reckoning," he remarks.

In the light of his theory, it is tempting to speculate about the course events in Northern Ireland might have taken if the international climate had been different. In charting the rise of the armed

Republican movement, Bourke suggests that it was inevitable given the widespread and growing sense of "injustice" among Catholics arising from "discrimination" in jobs and housing on the one hand, and state repression on the other. "The pervasiveness of social and political inequality had steadily contributed to resentment among

the Catholic population of the North," he says, and this boiled over in the 1960s when peaceful protest was met with police

He concedes that things have moved on since then and the Good Friday agreement represents a significant and, hopefully, an irrevocable turn away from "war" but insists that it does not amount to a closure. Far from it.

At best, it is a roadmap to peace and "it would be overly simple to see the new arrangements as amounting to the final establishment of democratic normality.

For that to happen, he argues, the notion that the future of the province can be decided on the basis of a simple majority will have to give way to a more representative idea of democracy - something that will reflect the collective will of all sections of its

population. It is an ambitious argument and assumes an ideal world of equality and justice which does not exist. Meanwhile, both communities will have to make compromises

however painful or unfair. The current stand-off, which has plunged the province into a dangerous political vacuum, cannot continue without confirming Bourke's worst fears for the future of Northern Ireland

HASAN SUROOR

Temple disputes and law

JUDICIAL SOLUTIONS FOR **TEMPLE DISPUTES** — A Critical Analysis: T.S. Ramaswamy;

41, Car Street, Triplicane, Chennai-600005. Rs. 250. THIS BOOK deals with a few landmark judgments pertaining to the Lord Varadarajaswami temple, Kancheepuram and tries to assess their relevance in the present day context and in view of a few recent Supreme Court decisions as mentioned by the author in the introduction which are

very interesting and valuable. In discussing the topic in detail, he rightly points out the difference between religion and religionism. True religion is spiritual, that which seeks to live in the Spirit. On the contrary, religionism entrenches itself in nar-

row pietistic sentiment. In the Kancheepuram case, there is reference to one basic document -Attan Jeer's agreement. The facts relating to this agreement are in Telugu inscriptions and even today one can | in Poland in the 1970s, it goes back

tering the Thavar shrine. Also discussed are the place of religion in the Constitution of India; the | their respective countries. Supreme Court cases of A.S. Naravana Dikshitalu vs. The State of Andhra Pradesh, the case of Kasi Viswanatha temple, Varanasi vs. the State of Uttar Pradesh and others. It has been decided in these cases that the custom, usage and practice regarding rituals cannot be interfered with.

The learned judges however observed that "the State Act has entrusted to the Board only secular functions of the administration and management of the temple and they are not essential or integral part of religion."

The author concludes by saying that the Srivaishnavites of both sects should live in a spirit of unity.

State and civil society CIVIL SOCIETY AND DEMOCRACY

— A Reader: Carolyn M. Elliott -Editor; Oxford University Press, YMCA Library Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001. Rs. 695.

THIS IS a compilation of 18 essays on the theme of civil society and democracy with an excellent overview by the editor. The selection includes papers presented at a conference on Voluntary Action and Civil Society convened by the Indo-American Centre for International Studies in Hyderabad.

The conference posed two questions: Firstly, whether a concept first of political philosophy had relevance to India? Secondly, what is the relationship between civil society and state in India?

Though the concept of civil society got popular attention only in the context of the Solidarity movement find these on the right side while en- as far as John Locke and Montesquieu, both of whom were looking for ways to combat absolutism in

Alexis de Tocqueville drew attention to the role of "intermediary associations" in curbing state power. Hegel who practically worshipped the state had a notion of civil society as egoist, selfish and fragmented. Marx and Gramsci reversed Hegel's celebration of the state. Currently, civil society denotes the

state where people associate themselves across ties of kinship, aside from the market, and independent of the state. Thus, the FICCI is not part of civil

space between the family and the

society, but the Deccan Educational K. K. A. VENKATACHARI above is not that trouble-free. What number of people to act in their Pradesh, with a combined popula-

about a mafia organisation? It does name. The moment the group, from cut across ties of kinship, and it is independent of the state. How about the RSS? It claims to be a cultural organisation, but everybody knows that its interests and intentions go

much beyond culture. Such questions have been discussed with sensitivity, though at times the scholar refrains from giving a definitive answer. The implication is that it is necessary to inject a certain ethical element into the definition of civil society associations.

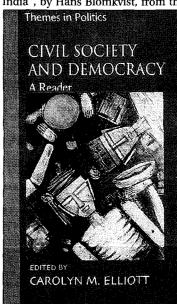
In a brief review, it is not possible to do full iustice to the richness of the volume and to refer to all the contributors. In the essay "The Coffee House and the Ashram", Susanne Hoeber Rundolph and Lloyd I. Rundolph remind us that 24 hours before he was assassinated Gandhiji had proposed to the Indian National Congress that it disband itself and form a social service organisation, Lok Sevak Sangh.

He was a talented and tireless creator of civil society. He spawned activist networks all his life, wherever ganising centres of social movements, sending out hundreds of volunteers who in turn generated micro-associations dedicated to social and economic reform at the village level.'

State power, he believed, is fragile as it depends essentially on the cooperation of the people. The Rudolphs point out that Hannah Arendt who approached the same question from a non-Gandhian angle also comes to the same conclusion. "When we say of somebody that he is 'in power', we actually refer Society is. But, the definition given to his being empowered by a certain arat, West Bengal, Orissa and Uttar

which the power originated to begin with (potestas in populo, without a people or group there is no power) disappears, 'his power' vanishes.'

The essay "Social capital, Civil society, and Degree of Democracy in India", by Hans Blomkvist, from the and Uttar Pradesh (23).



University of Uppsala, Sweden, tells us of the Agora Project, begun in 1995, as a collaboration between his university and three others, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesberg, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and Utkal University, Bhuba-

neshwar. Under the project, they studied the five Indian States, Kerala, Gui-

PADANANGALUM: K. M. Mani; Centre for

IN THIS book, the author, Kerala's Minister

for Revenue and Law, expounds a "toiling

class" theory, which, he claims, was formulat-

ed to correct the distortions in Marxism. It is

presented as a means to achieve democratic

socialism, avoiding the evils of capitalism and

His definition of toiling class includes, be-

sides industrial workers, a host of others like

farmers, small traders, small industrialists,

sectors, the Dalits and the Adivasis.

a breakaway group of the Congress.

low-paid officials, persons serving in various

Mani's theory provides an ideological ve-

The 33-point programme that he outlines in

neer for his party, the Kerala Congress (Mani),

the book reads like his party's election mani-

festo. It demands, among other things, regu-

larisation of all encroachments on forests. This

has to be viewed in the context of the big pres-

ence of encroachers into the party's largely

As the leader of a regional party, he makes

out a strong case for reordering of Centre-State

relations providing for a measure of autonomy

to the states and looks forward to the day when

a federation of regional parties will wield pow-

er in New Delhi. He claims that impression of

his class theory can be seen in all the eight

Thiruvananthapuram-695014. Rs. 180.

Reform and Research

communism.

sectarian base.

budgets he has presented.

tion of 390 million. The study concludes that Kerala and Gujarat are high in social capital whereas West Bengal, Orissa, and Utter Pradesh are low. In terms of government responsiveness, Kerala comes on top with a score 52 followed by Gujarat and West Bengal at 47, Orissa (28)

Ashutosh Varshney, Professor, University of Michigan in his contribution "Ethnic Conflict and Civil Society" poses important questions: Does civic engagement between different ethnic communities also serve to contain ethnic conflict? Does in-tra-ethnic engagement differ from inter-ethnic engagement from the

perspective of ethnic conflict? He argues that there is an integral link between the structure of civil life in a multi-ethnic society, on the one hand, and the presence and absence of ethnic violence, on the other. He selects three ethnic-violence-prone cities and contrasts them with three other cities, less prone to such violence: Aligarh-Calicut, Hyderabad-Lucknow, and Ahmedabad-Surat Each of the paired cities has a rough ly similar ethnic demographic struc-

The question is: How to explain the fact that there have been more instances of violence in one city as compared to the other in the pair? His conclusion is that the greater civil society involvement across the ethnic divide in one set of cities

provides the explanation. This reviewer recommends this book to all those who are interested in knowing more about the role of civil society and its interface with democracy. As far as India is consid-

ered, the publication is timely. K. P. FABIAN

Basics of electronic mail Collection of critical essays • Democratic socialism • Reflections and reminiscences

TAMIL

MIN-ANCHAL: M. Sivalingam; Palaniappa

Brothers, 25, Peters Road, Chennai-600014. THE PERSONAL computer has become popular in every home. So it is necessary to use it to the maximum advantage. In this respect, the Internet provides a growing facility for fast communication. The user has to know how to send and receive messages at home; the book under review fulfills this need. To facilitate sending e-mail in Tamil, the user has to understand the intricacies of this new technology, so

that he gains confidence to handle the system. The first three chapters give an indepth treatment of this field of communication including the historical development of the technology. Leonard Klienrock, then student of MIT, U.S. is considered to be the father of the Internet. Its advantages are compared with the traditional postal service, which the reviewer finds a bit exaggerated, in the context of the

conditions actually obtaining at present. Chapters four to seven and nine are well written in a racy style, easy to understand; they give instructions for sending e-mail and the next confines to the subject of sending message in Tamil. It is claimed that, next to English, Tamil is the most widely used language.

The addition of glossary of the terms (130 in number) translated from the corresponding English words is highly commended. The Tamil words convey the meaning in etymological sense also, except for the word "click" which occurs throughout the book in English trans-This tiny volume running to 150 pages, will

meet the expectations of students and will be a

useful addition to school libraries. It carries a

valuable foreword by the eminent education-

Chariots — A Collection of Critical Essays

on the Writings of Dr. Chennaveera Kanavi:

ist, M. Anandakrishnan.

R. PARTHASARATHY KANNADA BELLI ERINA DARI - Path of the Silver

G. S. Kapse and G. M. Hegade — Editors; Ankita Pustaka, Shamsingh Complex, Gandhi

Bazar Main Road, Basavangudi Bangalore-560004. Rs. 450. THIS BULKY laudatory volume is a collection of critical essays on the writings of Chennaveera Kanavi, the foremost among the galaxy of Kannada poets like Bendre, Puttappa, Pu Thi Na and Madhura Chehha. Some 80 personalities through their essays have provided a critical evaluation of the quality of the works of

the 75 year-old poet. They include Bendre, Gokak, Amur, Keerthinatha Kurtukoti, H. M. Naik, Shankara Mokashi Punekar, D. R. Nagaraj, L. S. Seshagiri Rao, Chandrasekhara Patil, Giraddi Govindara-, Shantinatha Desai, Gowrish Kaikini, R. S. Mugali, G. S. Shivarudrappa, M. Akbar Ali and

M. Chidananda Murthy. Dharwar nativity, the semi-urban and the surrounding rural setting had a great influence on the poet as seen in his poems which had a rural bias. He had a penchant for celebration of life, its triumphs and joys, frustrations and sorrows and adversities. His poetic consciousness was, primarily, anchored in the appreciation of beauty and nature and the whole gamut of

Creation. Among the host of attributes showered on the marked dimensions of Kanavi's craft is the contemporary relevance of a large number of his anthologies. Gandhiji and Lal Bahadur Shastri have meaning for him and he would not forget the Emergency, as some contributors have noted. Dignity characterised his works and the language and vocabulary, not excluding homespun expressions and even slang brought him close to his audience.

A longish interview of Kanavi by Rahmath Tarikere has made the poet dwell on a variety of issues and scenarios and his own motivations. His remarks on globalisation is notewor-C. M. RAMACHANDRA

MALAYALAM

ADHVANAVARGA SIDHANTHAVUM

RASHTRIYA SAMPATHIKA

HINDI SAHITYA VICHAR AUR SMRITI: Dharmavir Bharati; Essays collected and edited by Pushpa Bharati; Bharatiya Jnanpith, 18, Institutional

B. R. P. BHASKAR

a variety of topics. They are divided into four groups - reflections on matters of cultural and public interest, literary essays, thoughts on language and journalism and reminiscences of autobiographical and other interest.

Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003. Rs. 150.

THIS VOLUME is a collection of the author's

unpublished essays, lectures and addresses on

The author inclines to the opinion of a French artist who says that some unused perceptive capabilities get churned inside our minds with the cross-currents of the involvements of daily life and break out, conquering the usual disuse we have subjected them to; the creator has to seize the moment of the rise

of the perceptions from the subconscious level and fashion their form as finished works of art. So far as "escapism" is concerned, it cannot be considered as escaping from all subjectivity, since all art demands an element of personality

functioning for its very emergence. It can only mean escaping from the truthfulness of inner experience, because of temptations of political pressure or popularity or

financial gains. Essays on literature and language include an excellent recapitulation of the course of modern khari boli (standard Hindi) writing promoted by the British from their Fort-William days through the periods of Bharatendu and Dvivedi and later years associated with Chaya-

vad, Pragativad and Prayogavad. Appreciations of individual poets like Surdas and Maithiliswaran Gupta, discussions on many currently debated questions of the development of Hindi in post-independent India and many well-turned-out short write-ups on issues attracting public attention during the years of the journalistic career of the author provoke thought and bring before us an alert, scholarly mind active in its wide-ranging re-

flections from time to time. J. PARTHASARATHY

Announcement

Authors and publishers are welcome to send copies of their books to The Hindu for review. While every effort will be made to acknowledge receipt of the books under 'New Arrivals", the decision to review a book rests entirely with the newspaper. Receipt of individual books will not be acknowledged in response to enquiries.



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The social security scheme for unorganised sector that the cabinet cleared last Wednesday — its implementation does not require legislative sanction — is an example of potentially clever populism. No one can deny that employees in India's vast non-factory, non-white collar sector need a safety net. That the scheme requires contributions from employees, employers and the government distributes the burden and responsibility. That it excludes unorganised sector employees earning over Rs 6,500 a month recognises the reality of average Indian wages; earlier government schemes for low income groups used to have self-defeating low cut off points. But the social necessity of such a policy cannot be an excuse for not monitoring financial viability from the very beginning. Rich Western countries are now facing almost unsolvable problems about their social security schemes. India has a far narrower margin for wellmeaning profligacy. If the BJP reckons that millions of unorganised sector employees will look at it favourably today because it has launched the scheme, it should remember the wrath that awaits it should the safety net develop holes quickly. Another hole-maker is the implementation authority. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has acquired well-deserved notoriety while executing its original remit. The usual sloth, inefficiency and petty corruption apart — ask any hapless citizen who has had to petition local PF authorities — these social security managers regularly do the bidding of state-level political dispensations.

Since EPFO will do the vital job of collecting data on eligibility and ensuring employers pay up their dues, and since employers in these sectors — shop owners, construction businesses — are more-than-average prone to manipulating rules, pessimism is a mild reaction while contemplating the scheme's future. Thankfully, the government will have a pilot scheme. Should the EPFO prove incapable, the government should consider data collecting agencies like the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) or the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). There's no reason CSO and NCAER, which have a reputation for professionalism, cannot handle disbursement as well. It's not rocket science. Reforming EPFO probably is.

And that should be one of the priorities of the next government. For not-so-clever, indeed stupid, populism, an easy candidate is the government's plan to reduce interest rates for loans to small-scale units. Given the gross lack of business sense behind this Nehruvian fantasy it is not surprising that many small-scale units are not credit-worthy and that banks do not want to lend to them. Interest rates chargeable to these units are already lower by fiat. Lowering them still further will simply make banks even more unwilling to lend to them, especially when zero-risk government securities, thanks to the Central fiscal deficit, are available.

That's the reason banks are not lending enough to even medium size industrial units. Changing bank behaviour is, of course, necessary. One suggestion is, assuming government deficit and therefore issuance of government securities will not reduce anytime soon, that the Centre asks for loans abroad. That will force banks to increase lending because the easy option of gilt-edging their balance sheets will no longer be there. To issue sovereign paper for overseas market will mean the country needs to have investment-grade status. With economic indicators as they are and generally upbeat assessments by foreign observers, that may come soon. But, worthy of consideration as this is, the primary motive should not be small-scale units. This industrial category needs to be abolished. Understandably, now is not the time the government can muster the courage. But it should have enough intelligence to know that a policy which promises but cannot deliver — small-scale units will not get more loans — can be a vote loser.

China's third Sars case³1 confirmed

Beijing, Jan. 12 (Reuters): China confirmed a possible third Sars case today, a 35-year-old man isolated in hospital after showing symptoms of the respiratory disease, and the World Health Organisation sought clarification on a possible fourth.

fourth.

The man was labelled a suspected case today, Xinhua news agency quoted a health official in the southern province of Guangdong as saying. He had earlier been under observation as a possible case

as a possible case.

Last week, China confirmed its first case of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome since a world outbreak was declared over in July He has since recovered.

July. He has since recovered.

A waitress is also in hospital suspected of having the deadly flu-like disease, which experts suspect has jumped from animals to humans. All three patients were in the Guangdong capital, Guangzhou, when they fell ill.

The 35-year-old man was described by a local official as a "self-employed investor" and Xinhua said he had apparently had no contact with Sars patients or animals that might carry the virus.

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Sars suspect eating civet cat 311

Guangzhou (China), Jan. 7 (Reuters): The Chinese TV producer who contracted Sars had never eaten civet cat, state media reported today, as thousands of the animals were culled on fears they may carry a form of the virus that can jump to humans. In the Philippines, authori-

ties said a woman suspected of contracting Sars while working as a maid in Hong Kong had pneumonia and not the deadly flu-like virus, easing fears of regional contagion.

This is not a case of Sars," health secretary Manuel Dayrit told a news conference after the government received the results of tests on the unidentified 42-

year-old woman.

China's official Xinhua news agency said the only contact with wildlife the Sars patient could recall was with a mouse he

threw out of a window.

The victim. surnamed Luo, was confirmed as having Sars this week and is due to be released tomorrow from hospital in the southern province of Guangdong, where the disease emerged in November 2002 and went on to kill 800 people around the world.

Only one of the 81 people who had contact with Luo remained in quarantine, the health ministry said. State television said that person would be released tomorrow as well.

Chinese health authorities said a gene sample from the 32vear-old man resembled that of a coronavirus found in civets, a local delicacy.

China has given a Saturday deadline for the slaughter of about 10.000 civets, a course of action that has worried the World Health Organisation which fears the cull could help spread the disease.

"Still unaware of the caus<mark>e of</mark> his catching Sars, environmentalist Luo said he had never touched or eaten civet cats in his life and recalled only having thrown a baby mouse out of the

window by hand." Xinhua said.

The China Daily said the civet extermination was being carried out by "braising and steaming" the animals and quoted experts as saying releasing them into the wild was not an op-

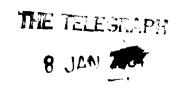
tion.
"During the whole process, there is no direct contact between the employees and the animals." it said.

Guangdong authorities have said the civets are being drowned in chemical disinfectant and then incinerated.

While China has openly reported on the case since it was first revealed, the newspaper that first broke the story ahead of the health ministry's announcement has come under scrutiny.

A leading Sars reporter at Southern Metropolis Daily had been taken off the beat and a Hong Kong-based rights group said today a top editor was de-tained by prosecutors for eight hours yesterday.

A newspaper official denied the report.



Sleuths patrol nations for nuclear mischief

the gate carefully checks for identifica-Seibersdorf (Austria): Amid rolling hills and tidy farms, the fences are topped with barbed wire and the guard at tion before letting a visitor into the nuclear world's top laboratory for

can see a single atom. It's really

The laboratory, part of

marvelous.

the atomic energy agency, is an arm of the United Nations that helps monitor many countries are addressing riddles Here, atom by atom, scientists from like the source of Iran's highly enriched uranium, which inspectors recently found. The answer could expose a simple chinery or, more worrisome, a clandescase of contamination on imported matine programme to build atomic bombs. sleuths.

The dozens of experts and officials ratory are quiet and unassuming. But it is not far-fetched to think that their work here at the Safeguards Analytical Labohas the power to tip the balance between

programmes under the nose of the agency's teams. But agency supporters say that, of late, investigators have gained major powers. They can now examine whole states as well as tiny particles invisible to the eye. International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, said. "You can sample dust from a truck that has passed by a factory. You "We're very proud," Dr Werner Burkart, deputy director general at the

water, trees and even dust. The lab analyses It is a world of precision focused on wisps of evidence that inspectors have gathered up to 2,000 samples of nuclear materials and from gear, nuclear sites,

ples a year. Its ultrasensimation from particles one one-hundredth tive machines can tease vital infor-500 environmental sam the width of a human hair.

verify that states are meeting their peace-

clues of chemistry and physics to

Its mission is to analyse tions of 145 nations. the nuclear ambiful atomic pledges and not secretly mak-

ing deadly weapons.

Like crime scene detectives, the analysts are tight-lipped. "Safeguards is very secretive," Dr. Burkart said Sckeptics note that Iran, Iraq and North Korea embarked on secret arms

about an hour southeast of Vienna, is a blue and white complex that includes a most subtle kinds of evidence. It is new large windowless building where the Just outside the village of Seibersdorf, agency is intensifying its hunt for the known simply as the Clean Laboratory.

Its origins lie in crisis. After the Peragency can now go anywhere in a cooperating nation, not just to places desian Gulf war of 1991, international in spectors were stunned to discover that Irag had deceived them and that it was trying to learn how to make nuclean arms. In 1997, in response, the agency tional Protocol to help ferret out clandestine work around the globe. The instituted what is known as the Addi

"It fills in the gaps," said Dr. Jill Cooley, an American who directs Safeguards' planning at the agency. NYT News Service

7 JAN 2004

Havel gets Gandhi Peace Prize

NEW DELHI, Jan. 5. — Mr Vaclav Havel, a renowned writer and former Czech President, was awarded the Gandhi Peace Prize at a special function organised at Rashtrapati Bhavan today.

Bhavan today. The prestigious award, carrying an amount of Rs 1 crore, a plaque and a citation, was given to Mr Havel by the President, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, for his outstanding contribution towards social, economic and political transformation through Gandhian means. Highlighting the dangers posed by the "unbridled course of contemporary civilization" to humanity, Mr Havel today expressed his anguish over "the fact that global civilization cannot seem to cope responsibly with its own products". — SNS