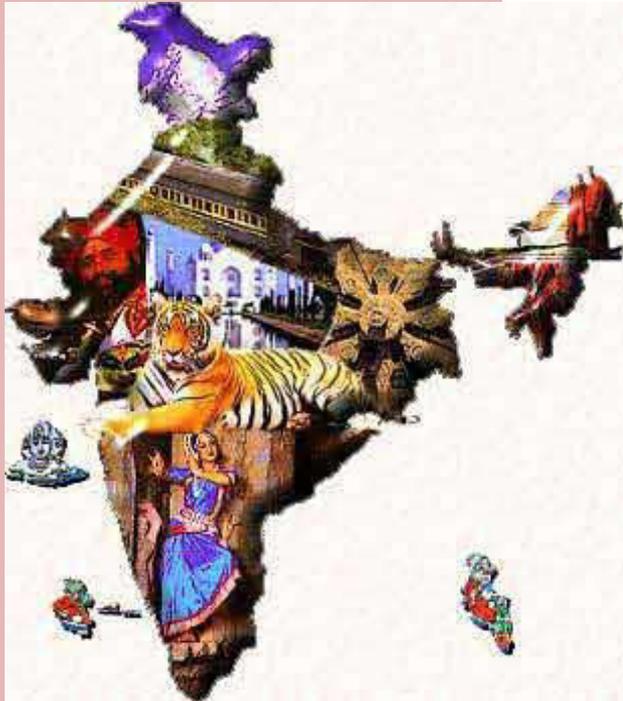


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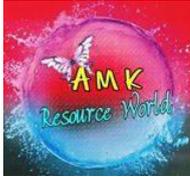
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Important Essays

RADIO

Radio is a medium of communication. It is a wireless set. Radio can transmit messages all around the world instantly, and the message can be received in any part of the globe.

Hertz, a German scientist, first produced electro-magnetic waves by using a simple device. However, the waves that he produced could not travel long distances. Later in 1885, an Italian scientist by name Marconi invented electro-magnetic waves which could travel long distances carrying messages. These electro-magnetic waves travel at a fantastic speed of 3 lakh kilometres per second and cover the surface of the earth the same second. Electro-magnetic waves with frequency range of 100 kilo hertz and 100000000 kilo hertz are called radio waves. We can notice them in our radios on short wave and medium wave transmission. Marconi got the Nobel Prize for physics in the year 1909 for his invention.

The radio works on a single principle. The sound waves produced by the speaker are converted into electro-magnetic waves by the microphone. The electro-magnetic waves are superimposed on a carrier wave by the radio transmitter on the required wave length. The radio transmitter has an important role in the radio transmitter. The radio wave transmission is effected either by (1) ground waves or surface wave or (2) sky waves or ionosphere waves. The ground waves or the surface waves are not effective for long distances, as they lose energy by the obstruction of hills and trees. The second type, sky type electro-magnetic waves are beamed up into the atmosphere, from where they reflect back to earth. These waves have no barriers. Ionosphere is the atmospheric area, above the earth between 180 kms and 400 Kms. The waves thus reflected are received by the aerial of the radio receiver. It converts them back into sound waves and pass on to amplifiers, to produce the original sound waves. Thus men are able to hear speeches, messages etc., from long distances through radio the same second.

Radio is no longer a luxury. It has become a necessity. Even remote villages, we find radios. Shepherds and cowherds carry radios with them. Radios are available in different sizes. Radio is not limited to communication of news only. It is a medium now for many things. The radio is indispensable in flying aeroplanes and sailing ships. Radio is very necessary in modern wars, for the police to maintain law and order, and the spread of culture. Radio is transmitting educational broadcasts also. Even illiterates can easily make use of this media to get knowledge and entertainment.

Radio in India is largely state controlled. The Akash Vani as it is called is a controlled organization. Amateur radio sets, called H A M have come into service and they are doing some useful service in times of natural calamities. But for the HAM sets, large parts of Orissa during the 1999 Super Cyclone would have been cut off for weeks. Radio has been playing a very useful role in the area of communication and it will continue to do so.

TELEVISION

Like telephone, television is a wonderful gift of science after the invention of electricity. Today, television is an important means of entertainment and education. It has the advantages of both radio and cinema. We can see pictures and listen to their conversations simultaneously.

Television was first invented by John Logic Baird, a famous scientist of Scotland. Mr. Baird demonstrated his invention at the Royal Institute of Great Britain in 1926.

The television mechanism is very complex. A television camera has photo electric cells which receive pictures and transform them into electric dots and lines. Those dots and lines are then transmitted to the receiver set. The receiver set again transforms those dots, and lines into pictures. Originally only black and white pictures were produced in television. But now, coloured pictures are seen in TV.

Through television, modern man has conquered time and space. Through television we can see events, dramatic performances, musical functions, speeches and exhibitions which are held in distant places. At the same time we can hear the music and the talk of those speakers, musicians or of the actors in the drama.

Television is a medium of entertainment. We do not take trouble, of going outdoors to see a drama or a musical functions or a foot, ball or cricket match. We can see these things at our home on television screens. Many fare things are also telecast on TV screens. Speeches of V.I.Ps., important dialogues, sessions in Parliament, launching of rockets and space-crafts

etc. are directly telecast. By watching them, we feel as if the entire world has become our next door neighbour.

In India, television has become very popular for the show of two famous epics such as the Ramayan and the Mahabharat. There was only the national channel for the television transmission. But now-a-days there are many channels operating for entertainment purpose.

The educative role of television cannot be denied. The UGC Programmes are being shown in the national channel of the television. Thousands of students are being benefited through this programme. Now many purpose! Television programmes are made to fight many social evils such as illiteracy, dowry problem, and superstition. Ill-health, and ignorance, political corruptions etc.

Very often television exercises bad influence upon the youngsters. Rape, murder and violence are adopted by those young people because of the adverse impact of television

PUNCTUALITY

Punctuality means arriving or doing things at the appointed time, neither early nor late. Punctuality is the secret of success in life. The renowned and successful men in the world are known to be punctual. They knew the value of time and utilized it in the proper way in their life.

Time, like tide, waits for none, nor can it be kept in store for future use. Therefore, in order to live a meaningful life, one must make the best use of time; and the only way to make the best use of it is to be punctual.

The habit of punctuality should be acquired step by step. Youth is the time of one's life to acquire this valuable habit. Once this good habit is acquired, it hardly goes away. It becomes a part and parcel of one's nature. A punctual person is cared and respected by all. The habit of punctuality adds much importance to one's personality. By using properly the time in hand for the day's work, one is able to achieve his goal in life.

If a student is conscious about the value of punctuality, he should complete his home work, and prepare his lessons in due time, and then only it will be easy for him to cope with the progress of his class lessons in the school. He must get up early in the morning, take his meals in due time, and attend school punctually.

For a businessman, punctuality is the soul of his business. Like a student, he is also required to move and act with the tide of time, by adjusting his programme of work with his time in

hand. He must keep his words, if he promises anything to anyone, quoting some particular time.

Otherwise, he loses the faith of his customers; and that discredit amounts to loss of his goodwill in the market. By not being punctual, he loses business. An unpunctual person is not considered worthy of anything in life. He cannot be trusted with a responsible job. Thus he proves himself to be a failure in life.

Punctuality, therefore, plays a very important part in one's life. A person should try to be punctual from his very childhood, and appraise others about the value of time, which is the key to success

UNEMPLOYMENT

Jobs in India are shrinking at an alarming rate. Privatization and globalization have further aggravated the problem. Instead of generating employment, they have rendered millions of hands idle. American policies are effective there but not in India where the accursed ones are left to fend for themselves leading to frustration, disappointment, anger and violence".

Unemployment is the mother of countless ills. It is such a poison that pollutes the society, endangers the democratic fabric of the country. We can't expect nobility, honesty and truth from a person who is unable to manage two square meals a day for his family. An unemployed person has no sense of self-respect as he has no sense of security.

"Rightly", said by Franklin, "A ploughman on his feet is better than a gentleman on his knees."
"

Estimates of the total number of Indians unemployed or underemployed vary between 70 and 100 million. This figure can cause concern to any nation, but to a developing country like ours, it is the cause of great distress. A developing country must mobilize its manpower resources to the maximum possible extent and a developing country with such a large segment of its population unemployed or underemployed is a contradiction in terms.

In India the specter of frustration of misery and hunger of fallen hopes and barren dreams of bitter pain and dark despair haunts the unemployed.

It is true that the future of a country depends on the ability and the mental attitudes of its young men and women then India has already lost the will to develop. If India allows her young men to be gripped by insecurity and frustration, she will have to pay for modernization and rapid advancement with several years of stagnation.

The universities with their techniques of mass education and system of examination offer little information and less understanding. The grapes at the end of the course, acquired after many years of ill-spent effort and spending bulk of hard earned money of the parents, very often turn out to be sour, as the degrees soon prove valueless, and succeed neither in increasing the students' mental alertness and intellectual capabilities nor in raising their chances of employment.

The student unable to secure employment passes on from one academic degree to another from one vacuum to another and as he goes on, the employment that he desires becomes increasingly elusive. At the end of the process, the student very soon realize that he is not a first-class intellectual who can step out of the university into waiting eager commercial units; that he is not doing them a favour by joining them but that they are doing him a favour by accepting him.

Many of them drift aimlessly into coffee houses, theatres and billiard clubs in an effort to escape from the world in which they are sure they have no place and utility. Should not this in itself cause distress to a nation which requires all possible physical and psychological assistance with which to develop?

"Employment generation is an issue of life and death for our democracy", says Amit Mitra, secretary general of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, a business lobby.

India was Asia's fastest expanding economy in the most recent quarter data Growth is its highest in nearly 15 years. Glitzy shopping malls are springing up and a culture of consumption is taking root as foreign companies are attracted by cheap labour.

But growing unemployment is forcing people from rural areas to migrate in hordes to nearby cities and towns, creating slums, social unrest and electricity and water shortages. "There is some truth in the fact that jobs have not grown as much as expected as the economy has grown

Duties of Citizens

A citizen is a person who lives in a particular country for a long time. He may be born in the country or not but, by virtue of his long stay in the country he earns the right to the citizenship of the country and starts being so called.

The basic difference in the acquired citizenship after stay and that of being a citizen by birth is that, when a person acquires it, it is to be by an application for the same. When a person is born in a place, he is automatically a citizen of it, and does not have to apply for it.

Now, as we all know that man, no matter where he stays, in the family, in the society, in the office or in the country, he has some obligations towards them. These obligations of an individual are called duties.

Thus, in all his activities, man has some duties, and so as a citizen also man has some obligations to the country of his citizenship. In this Essay we will discuss the duties of a man as a citizen of a country.

When a person belongs to a particular country whether the country of his birth or the country that he has adopted due to a long stay, it is to be remembered that, the country has nurtured him. He has grown there, avails of all facilities and advantages that accrue to the people of the country and has been granted all kinds of rights of the citizens of that country.

This is given to an individual because it is all necessary for the healthy growth of the individual. If he was not to be given that, he may not have been able to grow to his full bloom. This much is fine, but, this is only one side of the coin of citizenship.

When on the one hand an individual is given so much, the other side of the coin would obviously be to clarify and express his duties. For, let us never forget that, all rights have their corresponding duties. Every right that a human being enjoys in any sphere of life, there are his corresponding duties that go hand in hand with these rights. Thus, on the one hand are the rights of the citizen and the other side are his duties.

A good citizen has to fulfil several duties in order to honestly enjoy all his rights. The first duty of a good citizen is to understand his rights and enjoy them but, with wisdom and an analytical mind. He must be loyal to the country that gives him all that it has, to enjoy and grow.

He must consider the country of his living, as his own mother, for, just like the mother helps a child to grow, so does the country provide for him all that he needs to grow in every way, physically, mentally, and spiritually.

He must love and respect all his fellow citizens who are to him like his brothers and sisters. The society in which the good citizen lives, must feel his presence as a good person, a reliable person and as a loving and helpful person. He himself must be a good brother/sister to the others living in that country.

Besides being good, a duty of a good citizen also extends to his helping in the development of the country of his residence, because of the simple reason that, it is his, it belongs to him. Respect for all that belongs to that country is also one great quality expected from a good citizen.

Thus, a good citizen is one who adjusts with his environment, lives up to the expectations of his fellowmen, according to all norms and rules of the country. He does not act in any way that brings any sort of dishonor to the country. With all these essential qualities, any individual belonging to any country can be called a good citizen. A citizen fulfilling these norms will be termed as a good citizen in any country.

SOCIAL EVILS

India, the cradle of civilization, is now beset with a number of social evils. They are so numerous that one shudders to think of them. There have been social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Ray, Maharishi Daya Nand and Swarni Shradhanand. They fought against social evils but these evils were so deep-rooted that try as they did some of them persist to this day.

We may first take the position of women. Women do not enjoy a social position equal to that of men. The constitution does allow them equal status with men but it is all on paper. In practice they do not enjoy this equality. They are still treated as inferior to men. In villages which practically constitute seventy percent of the population, women are treated as second class citizens. Although they have been granted the right of voting, yet in practice they are still under the thumb of their men. They are mostly illiterate. In cities, however, they enjoy better status. We have teachers, professors doctors, lawyers, ministers and high officials and it is expected that with their education they would rise still high. Of course, it is a small fraction of women but with the spread of education it is expected that their condition would improve and they would work shoulder to shoulder with men.

Another great evil is the dowry system. A man with a number of daughters is a cursed creature. Whatever he has is given away in marriages and he becomes a pauper. The dowry system has done a great harm to the social growth of Indian life. A man with a number of daughters has to sell his property or borrow money at a high rate of interest so that he might give a dowry to his daughter. In case he fails to do so his daughter has to hear taunts and harassment to such an extent that the poor girl is forced to end her life. Every day we hear of the burning of young brides because of this harassment from their in laws or husbands. The sooner this social evil is removed, the better it will be for all concerned.

Another great evil which is the bane of Indian life is child marriage. Marriage is a sacred institution and the persons going in for matrimony should be of marriageable age and not that either the girl is married to an old man or she is married at an age when she does not understand what marriage is. We hear of this social evil prevalent in Rajasthan where girls are married off at an age when they do not understand what marriage is. Some of them become widows before they know that they had been married off.

A total war against these and a few other evils like drinking and smoking is of utmost necessity. There is legislation against these evils but they can be effectively checked only if the people decide to check them.

POPULATION EXPLOSION

Population explosion is the most serious problem facing our country today. With 16 per cent of the world's population, India is today the second largest population's country in the world. As on March 1, 1991, when the last census was conducted, the country's population stood at 846.30 million, with 439.23 males and 407.07 females. The country's population is currently estimated at about 950 millions. The population growth has been extremely rapid in the last 50 years. The phenomenal growth is now more appropriately termed as "population explosion".

The phenomenal growth rate in population is largely because of the industrial and technological revolutions that had taken place in the recent times. The new technologies have not only brought down the death rate because of the vastly improved Medicare resulting in increased life expectancies, but had also facilitated increased food production to take care of food needs of the increasing population.

Though population explosion is a major problem being faced by several other countries too, with the world population estimated to reach 7 billion by the beginning of the 21st century, the problem is much more severe in India because of the increasing pressure on the limited resources of the country. With the growth of food grains not keeping pace with the increase in population during some years because of the unfavourable weather conditions, the spectre of hunger hunts millions of households in the country.

Even when the country is fortunate enough to have a bumper crop, these hungry households do not have the economic strength or purchasing power to buy the required food grains. The phenomenal population growth exerts immense pressure on other basic necessities like education, health, housing, clothing, employment opportunities etc.

With employment opportunities in the rural areas becoming scarce, population explosion is resulting in increasing migration of rural poor to the urban areas in search of jobs. The increasing pressure on the urban areas is giving rise to more number of slums and this is multiplying the problems in the urban areas as health is the first casualty in slums.

To check ill-effects of population growth on the socio-economic front, the Indian government had launched the Family Planning Programme in 1951. This was later rechristened as the Family Welfare Programme. This programme promotes on a voluntary basis, responsible Planned Parenthood, through independent choice of family planning methods best suited to the people.

Though the Family Welfare Programme has resulted in significant declines in death rates and infant mortality besides almost doubling life expectancy, a lot more needs to be done if the population explosion is to be effectively checked. For this, we have to improve the literacy rate, female education and the socio-economic status of the families as population growth is directly linked to these factors. The fact that Kerala could make a lot of progress in checking population growth testifies to the impact of literacy on population explosion.

The government should also intensify its efforts to educate the people on the adverse effects of population explosion. The population explosion can be effectively checked only when the people are inclined towards smaller families. With increasing literacy rate and improved socio-economic status, the people can be educated to adopt a favourable attitude towards smaller families. When this happens, the population explosion can be checked.

NEWSPAPER

Newspaper is an important object of modern civilization. It is most commonly accepted as a record of the current events. But the meaning and role of a newspaper are more than being a mere document of events. Newspaper appeared only after the invention of the printing press by Guttenberg. The India Gazette is the first newspaper in India. It was published in 1744. The circulation of news paper has increased. It has become a mark of civilization.

Newspaper is a means of voicing the public opinion. Various items of news are published in a news paper. All kinds of people read it. Lawyers come to know the cases of social and political injustice through newspaper. They express their opinion about those cases of injustice.

Businessmen read newspapers and gather information's about trade and commerce in the country and abroad. Students and teachers come closer to each other through newspaper. Newspaper serves as a means of teaching and learning. Politicians find newspapers very

useful for conveying their political view to the masses. M.K. Gandhi edited the Young India expressed his views about the freedom of India.

The newspaper influenced the people and all were united to fight independence. When news of corruption or crime published, the police become active. The Government also pays attention to the news in the newspaper. In case of public grievances, the Government sincerely tries to redress them.

Newspapers should be free from bias and partiality. They should not try to satisfy the political party in power. Newspapers should act as a strong opposition to strengthen democracy. Very often, true and honest reporters are tortured, insulted, terrorised and often killed by antisocial. Newspapers are often set to fire before they reach the readers.

Editors are bribed to write the wrong thing. Some politicians vomit their rage against some newspapers which expose their dishonesty. They try to close that newspaper and encourage another newspaper which will be conducive to their interest. At any cost, the editor of a newspaper must be honest and impartial. Freedom of the press is greatly essential.

Some newspapers have morning edition and evening edition. Sometimes, a particular newspaper is published simultaneously in different parts of the country. Today newspapers are appreciated for the news about sports and films, news about share markets, matrimonial and opportunities.

ENVIRONMENT POLLUTION

Environmental pollution is the biggest menace to the human race on this planet today. It means adding impurity to environment. The environment consists of earth, water, air, plants and animals. If we pollute them, then the existence of man and nature will be hampered.

It is true that trees are being cut down rapidly. Our earth is becoming warmer. If pollution continues, the day is not far when our earth will be a boiling pan and become a desert. Or it will be covered with sea water causing destruction of mankind.

Pure air is always needed for inhaling. If we take pure air, our health improves. On the other hand impure air causes diseases and impairs our health and causes our death. Smoke pollutes the air. It is the root of air pollution. The smoke which is discharged from industries, automobiles and kitchens is the mixture of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, methane etc. These are all poisonous gases. These cause lung-cancer, tuberculosis etc. which take a heavy toll of life. The glaring incident is the Bhopal gas leak in December

1984. Thousands of the residents of Bhopal died due to lungs problem which was caused by methylamine gas from the Union Carbide Plant.

The garbage emitting foul smell, the decaying plants and animals also cause air pollution. Hence the doctors advise the patients having lungs trouble to settle in some rural places because the air of villages is pure and free from population.

Then comes sound pollution. The harsh sounds of buses, its, mopeds etc. affect our power of hearing and causes fart trouble. It has been reported that there are two villages named Biraspalli and Devadas Palli near Dum Dum airport in Calcutta where a large number of people have lost their power of hearing. This is because of the frequent sounds of planes coming in and going out of Dum Dum Airport. The evils of sound pollution can be imagined from this example.

The water of rivers and seas is being constantly polluted all over the world by various dangerous chemical and biological wastes. Mills and factories discharge very harmful waste waters into many rivers and sea. The water of the Ganges flowing by the side of both Varanashi and Calcutta is extremely polluted and contains all sorts of dangerous bacteria. It is really very strange and laughable that large number of the Indians regard this water as holy. They even drink this water for salvation. There is no doubt that the fish that grow in such waters are poisonous too.

Reckless application of chemical fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides pollutes the soil. Vegetables and fruits are quite injurious today, because they contain the poison of insecticides and pesticides.

If the air we breathe, the water we drink and the soil which produces our crops, vegetables and fruits, all become more and more impure, then our chances of good health and longevity will be very less and less. Environment pollution is a serious menace to our existence. Realising the danger, we must plant trees in large number to absorb impure air. Impure water from industries can be sent back for purification and then it can be used for irrigation purpose. Our government is well aware of the fact and is taking steps to save environment from pollution. We have also I minister to look after the environment.

AIR POLLUTION

Air pollution is one of the virtual problems nowadays. There are many reasons of it but mostly it is caused by cars, growing cities, development of economy and industrialization.

Clean air consist of several gases. When some other gases or dangerous elements get into the clean air, pollution is inevitable. Ozone layer is affected too much by pollution and it will cause serious disturbances on the environment.

People are the main cause of pollution because the things that we use contain dangerous chemicals and they make atmosphere dirtier. Furthermore climate changes because of pollution.

Many substances involved in the things that people use, pollute the air seriously. For instance, cigarettes contain carbon monoxide. It occurs when wood or petrol is not burned. Another one is carbon dioxide and it emerges when we burn coal or wood. When these gases contact with atmosphere, ozone layer is destroyed.

The other one is lead and simply paint or batteries that we use in daily life contain lead but we should be careful since it may cause serious problems if it gets into our bodies.

Generally these gases come from factories but also there are dangerous materials in our houses. In order to keep ourselves from the possible effects of pollution we have to take precautions towards air pollution.

We can control ourselves and we should act carefully. So, for example, we should use public transportation, avoid spray cans. Besides, people mostly be careful regarding trees as they are sources of oxygen. Due to its importance we should keep them clean.

Environment and also air are so significant for all living beings. So people should take into account this issue and they should do whatever they can to keep our environment clean.

WATER POLLUTION

Water is never 'pure' in a chemical sense. It contains various kinds of impurities such as dust particles, dissolved gases, dissolved minerals, microscopic paints and animals, suspended impurities and bacteria. These are natural impurities derived from the atmosphere, catchments area and soil. Besides this, there are various other reasons by which water is polluted.

The upland surface water derives its impurities from the catchments area, the sources being human habitations and animal keeping or grazing. It is therefore very necessary to keep the catchments area free from human or animal intrusion.

The general belief of purity in the water of mountain streams is often untrue. Even if there are no human habitations there is still a possibility of contamination caused by wild animals

the impurities of river water are derived from surface washings, sewage and silage water, industrial and trade wastes, and drainage from agricultural areas.

The customs and habits of the people like bathing, animal washing and disposal of the dead body all add to the pollution of water. 'On the bank of the tank the ignorant and dirty people pass motion (stool) and use them as latrines.

In some cases the liquid refuse from latrines, cattle sheds and the foul contents of drains and from similar places are flown in to the tanks. The tank water is polluted very easily than the well water. If the mouth of the well is just below the level of the surface of the ground, then there is enough possibility of water being polluted.

In such type of wells the washing of the street, latrines, the foul contents of drains and the discharges of animals easily enter in to the well and as a result of which water is polluted. In majority of the cases it is a common practice in our country that very often people wash their dirty clothes and bathe themselves while standing over well and use dirty vessels and dirty ropes for the purpose of drawing water.

Moreover, the wells are not cleaned out for years together and mud, broken pots, pieces of ropes and other refuses in consequence collect at the bottom and stop the spring from which the water flows. These are some of the ways how the water is polluted.

While pollution of water seems to be an inevitable sequence of modern industrial technology, the problem, now, is to determine the level of pollution that permits economic and social development without presenting hazards to health. The WHO has been active in fostering research in this field.

SOIL POLLUTION

Decline in the quality of soils by the action of man and nature is called soil pollution. The main factors of soil pollution include excessive erosion, greater use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides and herbicides, urban and industrial wastes, forest fires, water logging, leaching and drought etc. Studies have shown that soil pollution is increasing at a faster rate both in rural and urban areas of India.

The increasing use of chemical fertilizers and biocides particularly after Green Revolution, the use of untreated industrial water in irrigation, over irrigation, deforestation, defective land use practices etc. have led to the degradation of soils in many parts of the country. The consumption of chemical fertilizers has more than tripled from 5.5 million tons in 1980-81 to 18.07 million tons in 1999-2000. Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

have higher per hectare consumption of chemical fertilizers. Excessive use of fertilizers has led to the degradation of soils in many parts of these states.

Similarly the annual production of various types of biocides in India has increased from 2,350 tons in 1955 to 149,795 tons in 1983. Some important biocides used in the country include malathions, chlorinated hydrocarbons (D.D.T., dieldrin, aldrin, endrin, lindane etc.) arsenic containing pesticides and sodium flour acetates etc. Biocides reach the food chain in toxic forms and enter the bodies of animals and human beings.

Use of pesticides has increased the incidence of physical deformities in the children of tea estates workers in Darjeeling area (Down to Earth, 31. 10.2000, p. 26). Similar studies have shown neural tube defect in new born babies in Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan and northern states where use of pesticides is increasing in agriculture.

Faulty disposal of industrial and urban wastes and use of urban sewage for irrigation badly affect the physical and chemical properties of the soils. Kumra, in his study of Kanpur city, has found that excessive use of chemical fertilizers and improper disposal of industrial wastes have increased the alkalinity of soils in the fringe area of the city.

Here the concentration of nitrogen in the soils varies from 40-640 pounds/acre, phosphorus from 0.03 to 0.085 percent, soluble salts from 0.03 to 0.27 percent and soil pH from 7.32 to 10.1. Mining activities also cause irreparable damage to nearby soils. Coal dust spreads over the agricultural fields of the mining areas. Numerous mica chips are seen scattered over the agricultural fields in Kodarma mica belt of Jharkhand. Magnesite dusts mixed with soils increases pH value of the soils. Soils near copper mining and smelting near Khetri, Dariba, Ghatsila, Rakha etc. are so polluted that no plant growth becomes possible.

NOISE POLLUTION

Noise pollution may be defined as the state of discomfort and restlessness to human beings caused by unwanted high intensity sound (noise). It is of both natural and artificial type. Former is caused by natural sources like cloud thunder, hailstorms, waterfalls, avalanches and landslides etc.

Latter is the outcome of human activities like running of machines, automobiles, aircrafts, radios televisions, exhaust-fans, lawn-movers, blowing of sirens, loudspeakers, and organising cultural programmes, dance, and music etc. It is the artificial noise pollution, which is increasing due to growing urban and industrial activities and is a matter of serious concern.

Noise level is measured in terms of decibel (dB) which is the unit of measurement of intensity of sound. A noise of zero dB on the decibel scale represents the faintest sound audible to human ear while that of 180 dB shows the sound of large rocket engine. In general, noise above 70 dB is harmful to human beings.

In India noise pollution is growing in recent years due to increase in industrial, urban, transport and construction activities. A number of studies have revealed that noise pollution is a greater menace in most of the million cities of India characterized with high traffic density and industrial activities. However, the level of pollution varies in accordance with the location, time, population density and functions of the city.

The study of Kanpur (Kumra, 1982), Mumbai and Chennai have revealed common features, i.e. high noise level in the areas located close to aerodromes, railway stations, bus terminals, industrial establishments, busy markets, high density traffic routes and high population density clusters. Loudspeakers and traffic noise is the great nuisance in the Indian cities. The level of pollution increases during festivals, cultural programmes, elections, national festivities and victories and traffic jams.

Most of our cities have higher level of noise pollution than the permissible limit of 60–70 dB. Delhi (89 dB), Kolkata (87 dB), Mumbai (85 dB), Chennai (82 dB), Kochi (80 dB), Madurai (75 dB), Nagpur (75 dB) and Thiruvananthapuram (70 dB) may be cited as examples. A study by the Environmental Monitoring Laboratory of the Industrial Toxicology Research Centre (Lucknow) has shown that noise level is higher than 90 dB near Hazaratganj crossing, King George Medical College, NurManzil, Royal Hotel crossing, Gol Darwaza, Naka Hindola, Charbagh railway station, Lalkuan, Aminabad and Sadar crossing.

Continuous and prolonged exposure to noise pollution causes several disorders and ailments in human beings which ranges from mild annoyance, mental tension, headache, fatigue, irritation, high blood pressure, stomach trouble, psychological problems, low working efficiency, and traffic accidents to permanent deafness.

According to a study conducted in five southern cities including Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram to find out the Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) among the workers in the textile, automobile, oil, fertilizers and chemical industries, one out of every four workers suffered from incurable NIHL.

Further in these cities about 10 per cent of the people' such as traffic constables and pavement vendors, who were exposed to traffic noise, also had NIHL (Singh and Sinha, 1983, p.356). About 60 per cent of the students in the age-group of 5–10 years living in

industrial areas, railway stations and other areas of high intensity noise cannot concentrate on their studies.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

National anthem can be described as a patriotic musical composition of a country, which reminds and praises the history, traditions and struggles of its people. At the same time, it has to be recognized as the official national song, either by the nation's government or by convention through use by the people. The national anthem of India is 'Jana-gana-mana', composed originally in Bengali, by Rabindranath Tagore. It was adopted as the national anthem of India, in its Hindi version, by the Constituent Assembly, on 24th January 1950.

'Jana-gana-mana' was first sung on 27th December 1911, long before Indian gained independence, at the Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress. The complete song consists of five stanzas. As for the playing time of the full version of the national anthem, it will take up approximately 52 seconds. A short version, consisting of first and last lines of the stanza (playing time approximately 20 seconds), is also played on certain occasions.

The Story Behind Translation. Jana Gana Mana was translated, from Sanskrit to English, by Rabindranath Tagore and the music on this English Translation was set in Madanapalle, a small town in Andhra Pradesh. As to the story behind this translation, in 1918 Tagore was invited, by controversial Irish poet James H. Cousins, to spend a few days at the Besant Theosophical College (BTC). James was serving as the principal of the college, at that time.

On February 28, while attending a gathering of students at BTC, Rabindranath sang the Jana Gana Mana in Bengali. Suddenly, he thought of translating the song in English. A few days later, in Madanapalle, Tagore wrote down the English translation of the song. Cousins' wife, Margaret, who was an expert in Western music, set down the music for this English version. The framed original English translation is still displayed in the library of Besant Theosophical College in Madanapalle.

NATIONAL SYMBOLS

National Symbols promote national integration, they are visible and act as powerful psychological factors in strengthening the unity and integration, these are considered as very important, they are

NATIONAL EMBLEM:

Adopted by the Government of India from the Sarnath Lion, Capital of Ashoka, on January 26, 1950. Only three lions visible, the fourth being hidden from view. The wheel appears in relief in the centre of the abacus with a bull on the right and a horse on the left. The bell-shaped lotus has been omitted. The words "Satyameva Jayate" meaning "Truth alone triumphs", are inscribed below the Emblem in Devnagari script.

NATIONAL FLAG:

Adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on July 22, 1947. The National Flag of India is a horizontal tri colour of deep saffron (Kesari), white and dark green in equal proportion. According to Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the saffron colour represents the spirit of renunciation, the white band stands for truth and purity and the green colour signifies growth. In the centre of white band there is a wheel in navy blue to represent the Chakra. It has 24 spokes. The ratio of the length and the breadth of the flag is 3 , 2.

NATIONAL ANTHEM:

Ravindra Nath Tagore's song, 'Jana-gana-maru C was adopted as the National Anthem of India on January 24, 1950. The song was first sung on December 27, 1911 during the Indian National Congress Session at Calcutta.

The complete song consists of five stanzas but the first stanza constitutes the full version of the National Anthem. The playing time of the full version of the National anthem is about 52 seconds. However, a shorter version compressing the first and last lines of the stanza, which has a playing time of about 20 seconds, is played on some occasions. It reads:

NATIONAL SONG:

Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's 'Vande Matram', which was a great source of inspiration to the people in their struggle for freedom. It was first sung at 1896 Session of the Indian National Congress.

NATIONAL CALENDAR:

A uniform National Calendar based on the Saka era with Chaitra as its first month and a normal year of 365 days was adopted from 22nd March, 1957 along with the Gregorian Calendar for the following official purposes: (i) The Gazette of India; (ii) News broadcasts by

All India Radio; (ii) Calendars issued by the Government of India, and (iv) Government communications addressed to members of the public.

NATIONAL FESTIVALS

India is a land of fairs and festivals. As different communities belonging to different religions live here, therefore many festivals are celebrated regularly every year. Among these festivals, some are religious; some are based on seasons while some are of national importance. All the festivals are celebrated with great enthusiasm in a colourful atmosphere.

Diwali, Dussehra, Raksha Bandhan, Id-ul-Fitr, Id-ul-Zuha, Christmas, Mahavir Jayanti, Gurunanak Jayanti, Ganesh Chaturhi etc. are the religious festivals of India. These festivals are celebrated by different communities but they are celebrated as a whole. We can see festive atmosphere everywhere in India.

Holi, Baisakhi, Basant Panchami, Bihu, Pongal, Onam etc. are seasonal or harvest festivals. The spirit of Holi is colour-rich and vibrant, flung into the air and smeared with immense joy on friends and dear ones.

This festival marks the end of winter season and advent of bright days of summer. Baisakhi, a harvest festival, is celebrated in North India, particularly in Punjab and Haiyana, when the Rabi crop is ready for harvesting. In South India, during the same period, 'Pongal' is celebrated.

The farmers worship the sun, the earth and the cattle as thanks giving for a bounteous harvest. And then there is Basant Panchami. It marks the arrival of sweet spring the season of pleasant breeze, flowers and fragrance. All fill life with vigour and vitality. Hence people celebrate this festival with great zeal and excitement.

Then comes our national festivals- the Independence Day, The Republic day and the Gandhi Jayanti these festivals are celebrated by all communities throughout the country. The Independence Day celebrated on 15th August every year reminds us those numerous freedom fighters that made the Britishers leave the country.

They gave us our long-cherished freedom. The Republic day, which falls on 26th January, is observed with national feeling. This festival fills us with pride that now we live in a sovereign democratic republic country with a constitution of our own. On this day colourful parade starts from Vijay Chowk which ends at the Red Fort.

Similarly Gandhi Jayanti is also celebrated nationwide. It falls on 2nd October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of Nation. Whole nation pays heartiest tribute to our revered soul, who lived and died for the country.

The festivals make our life colourful and enthusiastic. They bring people together. They come every year to make us forget all ill-will and communal hatred the festivals strengthen the feeling of oneness too people, without any malice, meet with one another and wish for bright future. Thus, festivals are very important and they must be celebrated with pomp and show by all.

NATIONAL INTEGRATION

A Nation or a State is composed of certain elements. They are territory, population, government and sovereignty. The people of the State may follow one or more religions. For examples there are a number of religions in India – Hindustan, Islam, Sikhism, Jainism, Christianity, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism etc. still it is a secular State.

India has fifteen officially declared languages besides many dialects. It has also people belonging to Aryan race, Dravidian race and Mongolian race. It has in itself various types of cultures. It is an example of unity in diversity.

It is true that India is a unified country. It has a strong Union Government whose writ is obeyed in every corner of India. It is also true that after Independence, India became really strong and united after the merger of princely States into the Indian Union. After the reorganization of States on linguistic basis, some issues that were not anticipated earlier have arisen. Every State now thinks that its language is rich and it has a superior heritage than the others.

Similarly, those who belong to one religion feel that they should have a separate State of their own. Their ill-founded aspirations are now threatening the unity of the country. Based on these aspirations, terrorism has taken its roots. Government is now threatened with these undesirable protests and agitations. So the need has arisen to put down all these forces of separation. Government is aware of this need and has already taken and is taking the required steps in this direction.

India has a long history. It has seen many conquerors and many onslaughts. Yet there are some inherent factors which have kept India united all these centuries. Indians, whatever type of dress they wear, are one in observing creation customs and traditions. They are all one in adopting a positive human approach. For centuries Indians have respected all religions and secularism is in their blood. Their songs, music, dance, art and literature cover

all people and there are no borders or territories for them. There are festivals which are celebrated by Hindus as well as Muslims. It is not easy to destroy their unity. The people of our country have shown this fundamental unity during times of war with Pakistan and China.

As man is selfish, efforts are required to put an end to these disintegrating forces in the initial stage itself. It is possible to do so by moulding the minds of the young in schools and colleges. Educating could easily act as an instrument to develop the spirit of unity by including lessons on unity in the curriculum. Cultural exchange programmes can also help this cause.

What is much more important and necessary is that all political parties, particularly regional parties, adopt a policy that national integration is of utmost importance. They should convince their followers that we should think of the Nation first and then of the States. They should also join together to put down terrorism in whatever shape it may appear. They should give priority to the interests of the country first and then consider their local interest. Then only it will be possible to promote the unity and integrity of our Nation, and enjoy the hard won freedom

FAMILY PLANNING

The most crucial problem facing the Nation today is the huge population pressure. Our population is growing at the rate of 1.83 per cent, according to the Sample Registration System (SRS) in 1997.

India is the second most populous nation, after China. United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) has worked that such an increase in population will have adverse effect on the existing economic and social condition of our nation.

The birth control movement was initiated in Karnataka in 1930, even before the establishment of Family Planning Programme. Family Planning was adopted as an official programme in 1952 with the launching of First Five Year Plan.

A fully-active Department of Family Planning was created at the Centre in 1966 and the Family Planning programme was reorganized and made target oriented. During the Fourth and Fifth Plan, more stress was laid upon the programme to make it more target oriented.

MEASURES TO PROMOTE FAMILY PLANNING

Various factors are responsible for the acceptance and continued use of contraceptives by an individual/community such as intrinsic character of the method, social norms and acceptability, effective communication, appropriate delivery system and supply logistics.

All contraceptive methods can be classified into two categories: (a) terminal (permanent) method; (b) non-terminal (spacing) method. The former include vasectomy (male sterilization) and Tubectomy (Female Sterilization) and the latter comprise cactus interrupts, rhythm method, condom, diaphragm and jelly, intra-uterine device (IUD) and oral pills.

Lippe's loop provided the first reliable birth spacing device for women in India in 1960s. Nirodh is provided at free of cost in rural and urban areas. MALA-N pills are supplied free of cost and MALA-D at subsidised rate under social marketing scheme.

Subsidy ranging from 55-88 per cent on procurement price is being provided by the Government.

Sterilization, beds scheme provides immediate facilities for tubectomy operation in the hospitals.

The objectives during the Ninth Plan will be to meet all the felt-needs for contraception and to reduce the infant and maternal morbidity and mortality so that there is reduction in the desired level of fertility.

The strategies during the Ninth -Plan will be to assess the needs for reproductive and child health at PHC level and undertake area-specific micro-planning, and to provide need based, demand driven high quality, integrated reproductive and child health care.

IMPORTANCE OF FORESTS

Forests are precious national resource which not only play significant role in national condor but help in pollution control and maintaining logical balance. These offer a number of direct indirect advantages which have been realised sin time immemorial.

DIRECT ADVANTAGES

1. Forests provide valuable timber for dome tic and commercial use. Industries like paper, matt making, plywood, sports goods, lakh and furniture at directly based on raw materials derived from forest

2. Forests supply a number of minor produce which are utilised in different industries and domestic uses. These include larch, gum and resins, tannin material, medicines, herbs, honey, spices, etc.
3. Forests offer employment to about 4 million people to earn their livelihood in forest based occupations, i.e., lumbering, sawing, furniture making, forest produce collecting, etc.
4. Auction of forests for commercial use fetches annual income to state exchequer.
5. Export of forest products earns valuable foreign exchange to the country.
6. Grazing of cattle in the forests helps in dairy farming and cattle rising.
7. Forests are the natural habitat for wild life and birds which attract tourists, holiday makers and hunters. These may be developed as very good picnic or tourist centres in the form of wild life sanctuaries and national parks which have good employment and income generating potential.

INDIRECT ADVANTAGES

1. Forests are the moderators of climate. These have effective role in controlling humidity and temperature and precipitation.
2. Forests play dominant role in carbon cycle. These absorb atmospheric carbon-di-oxide and help in maintaining the purity of air and controlling atmospheric pollution.
3. Forests help in controlling soil erosion, soil degradation and floods. That is why these are very helpful in land reclamation and flood control.
4. Forests help in water percolation and thereby maintain underground water table.
5. Decay of plant leaves provides humus to the soils and increases their fertility.
6. Indian forests are rich in wild life housing about 500 species of animals.
7. Forests help in maintaining natural scenic beauty which every year attract a number of tourists and nature lovers.
8. Forests provide natural habitat to a number of primitive tribes which are part of our rich cultural heritage. Their mode of living, economy and cultural traits are based on forest environment.

9. Forests provide recluse to rashes, saints and hermits who have enriched our religious and cultural thoughts. Mere a visit of such quiet serene environment relieves physical and mental strains and refurbishes new vitality and vigour.

Unity in Diversity

India is a country of many ethnic groups, over 1,650 spoken languages, dialects, regional variations—a land of myriad tongues—numerous modes of apparel and countless mannerisms. For the most part, the continental size of the country accounts for the variations and diversities.

Besides, there are many religions, sects and beliefs. At times the wide differences seem to predominate, and the resultant disharmony is regarded by many as irremediable, a phenomenon that the 100 crore people (ours is the second most populous country) have to live with, whether they like it or not.

The cynics even regard the Indian people as quarrelsome, often at each other's throat, denouncing others as if they were inveterate enemies holding irreconcilable ideas and subscribing to ideals totally different from theirs.

But those who stick to this impression ignore a vital factor there is a basic unity which runs through the Indian mainstream of life and thought. There is a traditional culture which is truly oriental and which conforms to the teachings and precepts of our saints and sages.

Culture and civilisation are admittedly difficult to define, though both these signify certain identifiable trends and traits of character, especially restraint, consideration for others and a high degree of tolerance.

The lack of culture becomes evident even from the language and the dialect one uses, the conduct and manner of living, one's gestures in social life, the tendency to have a closed mind, with doors and windows shut as if to disallow the inflow of fresh ideas and other viewpoints.

Every process of exclusion betrays lack of culture, just as every trend indicating a willingness to broaden one's outlook shows a commendable cultural trait. The same idea is often put in different words: static culture envisages decay, just as dynamism ensures survival.

It is the dynamism and the flexibility that have enabled Indian culture to survive despite its many diversities and heavy odds. Through these diversities runs a common stream, as it were, and the similarity and unity of outlook can be noticed from North to South and East to

West. Indian culture is actually a continuous synthesis, and has absorbed many external influences in the course of history.

The real strength of Indian culture lies in basic unity, vigour and the ability to contain an amazing diversity within itself. In this country there are people who belong to opposite schools of thought and who never seem to agree on anything. And yet, the concepts of one basic culture and one nation have continued.

Another notable characteristic of Indian culture is that it has always been based on moral and religious values; on these values the outlook shows an amazing similarity, almost throughout the country. Of course, there are groups which seem to be always on the war-path, and there are dissidents who question the basic framework on which the Indian polity is based, but they constitute a very small fraction of the total population.

India is a secular State, and the people, with a few exceptions, have reverence for every faith; there is no effort to impose one religion on other. The Constitution itself, framed with the full consent of the people, guarantees the freedom of thought and expression. The Constitution does not recognise distinctions based on religion, sex or caste, or any other factor.

RIGHTS AND DUTIES

Rights and duties are inseparable. They are two sides of the same coin. Rights are certain privileges granted by the state. On its part, the state enjoins upon each one of us to perform certain obligations or duties. Therefore, they are corresponding in nature. This can be explained in the contexts give below.

(a) Our rights imply our duties. Every right has a corresponding duty. If one has a right to vote, it is one's corresponding duty to exercise it judiciously in electing the right candidate and not be swayed by religious, caste, monetary considerations.

(b) Right of one is duty of another. Our right is another man's duty while another man's right is our duty. If we possess the right to life, it is the duty of others to provide us the facilities to live a life of our own. If our neighbour has the right to freedom of religion we have a duty to admit his right.

(c) As the state guarantees our rights, we must perform our duties towards the state. A state is known because of the rights it maintains. As the state safeguards our rights, it is our duty to obey the state and its laws, e.g., the state grants us the right to use the road, but it is our duty to abide by the traffic laws and also to pay the taxes.

DOWRY SYSTEM

Our country India, the land of Gods, is respected in the world for her mythological culture. The mythological thinking, the deep belief in almighty and religious nature has made the Indians well cultured. But, sadly there are some of the stained systems in our country which are the black spots in our image.

Dowry system is one of those much discussed systems. Although it is one of the most hated systems surprisingly it is growing day by day. Now- a-days this problem has created a lot of hue and cry in our country. This increasing system is a growing injustice to our society and morals. It should be immediately stopped.

Marriage is one of the most sacred and holy ceremonies in our society. But the horror of the dowry system has made this ceremony one of the feared institutions. In ancient Indian society there was no question of the dowry in marriages. It was considered to be a sin.

The bride-groom was voluntarily presented with some useful gifts which were not demanded at all. In some cases bride's father was offered money to allow her to marry a young man. Because the bride was considered to be a virtuous and the suitable one. But the whole situation has altered.

Nobody bothers to approach a girl's parents for her marriage. The parents of the girl desperately move in search of a suitable groom for her now. They persuade the groom's parents and show them the temptation of money and dowry. Through these unfair means they get the consent of the groom's parents for his marriage.

Thus begins the clandestine atmosphere of dowry. The groom's father continues to place a series of demands before the bride's father. He strongly asserts that these demands must be fulfilled before marriage. Otherwise he can never consent to his son's marriage. The demands include refrigerator, colour television, motor cycle or car, ornaments of pure gold of sizeable quantity, money and plots of land in the capital area. In some case bride grooms are demanding money for their education and for constructing buildings. Bride grooms are purchased, to some extent, like marketable commodity.

Dowry system is an insult to our society. It reduces the position of both man and woman. Many educated men are demanding dowry. Thus dowry system is also an insult to our education and culture. Poor people cannot afford dowry. Many handsome and brilliant girls remain unmarried because they are poor.

Even after marriage, some brides are tortured and forced to bring more and more dowry from their parents' house. If they fail, they are tortured and finally killed. The problem of dowry has reached the climax. There is no attempt for matching beauty with beauty, or brain for brain.

Strict laws have been prescribed to check dowry system. But nobody looks at it. Rich people are giving heavy dowry to their daughters. They do not feel unhappy at such crime. Dowry system continues in spite of all steps to check it. However, it can be completely checked if the awareness against this system is created among the girls. If they vow not to marry greedy men, if they become economically self-dependent, then this ugly system will automatically disappear.

COMPUTER

The computer is the most wonderful gift of science to the modern man. The computer can do all the works of man. Thus, after the invention of computer, the gap between man and machine has been bridged up.

The dictionary meaning of the word "Computer" is an electronic calculating machine. It is derived from the word compute which means to reckon. But the function of the computer has expanded beyond the act of reckoning. Though a machine, it contains and provides innumerable information's and artificial intelligence of a very high order. It may seem strange, but it is true that the memory and intelligence of a computer can surpass those of a living human being.

The mechanism of the computer is very simple. Information processing is the essence of computing. It is a data based machine. The data is fed into the machine. The machine is manipulated and then the due information is retrieved.

Computer was invented due to the pressures of World War-II which witnessed the use of such sophisticated weapons as night bombers, submarines, and long range guns on ships and tanks, etc. The defenders have to fight back by shooting at targets and those targets of the enemy can be located by radar.

Radar can inform not only about the location of the enemy but also about the direction and the speed of the enemy weapons. Detailed mathematical calculations are necessary to find out these things accurately. Firing tables are required by the front line soldiers. Thus the necessity of calculations of firing tables led to the invention of computers. Only computer could produce such firing tables with the required speed and accuracy.

High sums of money, and brain power were combined to produce the technology. ENIAC was the first computer produced by the Moore School of Engineering on behalf of the U.S. Army in 1946. ENIAC was able to produce the firing tables by carrying out the huge number of calculations accurately.

Computers today are used to forecast the weather, to operate machines, to cut shapes out of sheet metal and even to guide spacecraft to the moon. Computers are necessary in printing book and news papers, in diagnosing disease, in looking of obscure documents in archives and elusive criminals etc. Travel agents all round the world can know whether a seat or a bed will be available in an aero plane or in hotel, either today or a year from now. Companies use them for accounting, invoicing, stock control and pay rolls. Computer helps greatly in medical science, particularly in surgery and pathology.

The original objective for inventing the computer was to create a fast calculating machine, though today it is used for other purposes. Computer is something more than a calculating device only. It plays vital role in sending cosmonauts to the space and to the moon. Courses in computer technology have been introduced in colleges and universities because of the growing importance of computer.

Robot is another name of computer. Robot is an artificial man. It can do the work of many men. Robot can rescue a ship from drowning in the sea. It can save aero planes from disaster. Robot can make surgical operations like an expert physician. It can guide pilot less aero planes. Recently in the month of June, 1997 the World's No-1 chess player Gary Kasparov was defeated by a Robot in chess competition. Thus, the role of Robot or computer-man is very great in the world today.

INTERNET

Internet can be reckoned as the latest discovery of man which has revolutionised his style of working and living. It has totally reduced distance, broken all man-made barriers and made our world a small place. It brought information at our doorstep opening before us what is known as 'Information Superhighway' at the click of a button.

Internet is a network of computer systems that have been connected to each other through satellite, telephone lines and optical cables. Basically Internet is a global electronic community for millions of interconnected computer networks.

Real Internet operation began in 1969 when United State's military used it for the first time. By 1980s it became a tool in the hand of academic researchers and Universities. It was only in the 1990s that Internet was thrown open to the public.

Today every nook and corner of the world is connected through the Internet. Anyone who has a computer, a telephone line and a modem can access Internet. He has to get the services of an Internet Service Provider (ISP) like VSNL, MTNL, Sathyam Online etc. Once he is connected to the service provider, he can navigate or surf the 'information superhighway' using computer software such as, Netscape and Microsoft explorer.

The greatest merit of Internet is that it opens a world of information at the press of a key. It helps to gather information from storage areas of the servers called websites. Today we can get any information on any topic in a matter of seconds.

We can visit libraries situated thousands of miles away, enjoy world famous sights which we have only imagined, talk to people, listen to lectures, read the day's newspapers, transact business, place orders, etc. just sitting in our room. Internet can provide the latest information on education, sports, entertainment, science, medicine, general knowledge etc. in seconds.

Internet has improved our communication system. It has provided an exciting and easy mode of communication known as E-Mail (Electronic Mailing system). Today we can send letters and emails to anyone living in any part of the world just by clicking a few buttons on our computer and that too at an extremely cheap rate.

Not only letters can be Send but, we can also chat with our near and dear ones, see them before our eyes just sitting in our room. Internet has made communication, highly fast, cheap, safe, and least cumbersome.

It's educative and entertainment value is also very great. Internet has also widened business opportunities. You can advertise your goods and products in the internet as well as seek jobs, place orders, meet with business magnates, attend international business conferences, deal with stock market, buy and exchange currencies, transact bank business, etc., and this is known as electronic commerce or E-Commerce.

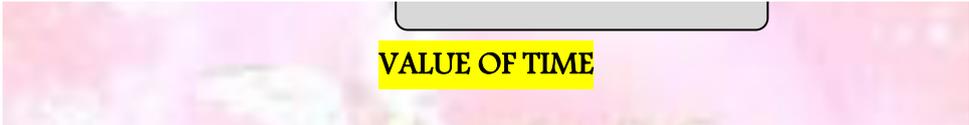
Although, Internet immensely helps man in his day- to-day transactions, yet it is a tool that is often misused. Today thousands of youth are getting 'hooked' to Internet watching things which are not meant for them.

Electronic pornography is ruining our youth. Electronic crimes, illegal piracy into private lives and military software, creating new type of computer virus etc. have become quite common now- a-days.

Internet hankers (those who try to block the working of other internets) are on the rise, creating havoc in the world of business and communication. Too much dependence of man on this man-made machine is also ruining man's innate qualities.

Internet is a great tool which man has invented. Its potential is still not fully tapped. More and more uses of Internet are being discovered as days go by.

It has made our life easy, comfortable, pleasurable and luxurious. Internet has ushered in the cyber age. However, it is high time that its wrong use and negative impact be minimised. If not put an end to, it will strangle our young generation and lead them to moral abyss



VALUE OF TIME

Time is said to be eternal. It is said that it has neither a beginning nor an end. Yet men are able to measure it as years, months, days, hours, minutes and seconds. They have also given meanings to the words – past, present and future. True, time has a meaning. It moves. What was yesterday is not today. What is today will not be tomorrow. Yesterday is gone. Today is and tomorrow is yet to come. Yet time is said to have no holiday. It exists always.

The entire creation moves on according to a time pattern. There is birth, growth and death. There is time for everything. Plants flower and give fruits. Seasons come according to time. A child is born, grows into boyhood, adolescence, youth, middle age and old age according to age and time. Every movement of creation is linked with time. One cannot grow paddy in a month nor can a child become an adult in a year. Everything is fixed to a time-frame.

Time is a free force. It does not wait for any one. It is commonly said that time and tide waits for no man. Time is money. A minute not usefully spent is an eternal loss. You can never get back the lost minute. One has to strike the iron when it is hot. The time flies and never returns. If you waste time it wastes you.

'Time is the best medicine', says Ovid. It is said that time heals all wounds and it even heals what reason cannot. All human beings are emotional. When negative emotions like fear, anger, envy and jealousy overtake them, they lose reason and act in haste leading to serious consequences. They may repent later, as emotions cool down. But the damage done is done

and remains forever. Even that damage can heal with the passage of time. People involved may forget and forgive. That is the importance of time and its healing touch.

Time is said to be a wise counsellor. Passage of time allows an individual to grow. This growth gives experience. Experience helps decision making. Time reminds you to act and to act wisely. The wisest make use of the time fruitfully. It is said that the wisest grieve the most at the loss of time.

Those who do not know the importance of time, waste it or rather they spend it doing nothing. There is a proverb which says that killing time is not a murder; it is a suicide. It means, by wasting time one is not harming others. On the other hand one is harming himself. Ordinary people merely go on thinking how to spend their time. The wise and talented make use of it fruitfully.

Some people always complain that there is no time for them to do anything. That is not correct. If one wisely plans his activities, there will be time for everything happening according to time. A man who is a part of nature cannot complain against time. Time is powerful. It conquers all. Men are only to obey it. Man cannot say that he has nothing of his own. Time which is valuable is all his own.

If you are not on time and miss the train, you miss it fore–ever. So also the time, once you miss it, it flies off. You can never catch it. Hence it is called fleeting time. Let us learn to use our time fruitfully. This is the key to success

Mass Media

All the different tools that are used to assist the distribution and circulation of information and entertainment to the public come under the umbrella of mass media.

Radio, television, cable, newspapers, and theatre are all considered as ‘mass media’. These tools involve exchange of opinions, and public involvement.

Today the list of mass media also embraces pagers, satellites, electronic mail, internet, cell phones, and computers. These new additions, unlike the other tools of mass media that work as transmission technologies transmitting information from one source to many receivers, are basically interactive; working more on the person to person formula. As the name suggests ‘mass media’ revolves around the masses–the people.

Although cinema, radio, television, and press take centre stage in mass media; the role of books, magazines, posters, billboards, pamphlets cannot be discounted. The reach of these

tools extends to enormous varied masses of the populace living across the spread of the country.

Television, radio, cinema, press are all very expensive media and are either run by private financial institutions, or the Government. These tools of media call for large groups of people to keep these large services running. There is much to be done: managing, running, controlling, manufacturing, allocating, and maintaining. They are centred on the idea of mass production and mass distribution.

Newspapers, television, radio all cater to mass audience and as such must accommodate the taste of the masses which might not be very refined or sophisticated. This results in mass media often showcasing and promulgating popular culture. With the television and radio having reached to the interiors, mass media in India today enjoys extensive coverage.

With the language of media not being restricted to Hindi and English and encompassing regional languages as well, mass media in India today really enjoys 'mass' status.

The function of mass media is to primarily reach out to the masses and equip them with information. Other than this mass media also works to scrutinize and observe the surrounding by giving us information in the form of news about the goings-on in society. The latest news updates keep the masses posted about the happenings in not just their own land but around the world as well. The media also helps to disseminate and interpret information. For example weather forecasts allow farmers to plan ahead.

News of tidal wave activities and storms keep fisherman from going from fishing. The media also helps to keep the fabric of our social heritage intact by organizing various programs that showcase our customs, our myths, and our progress as a civilization.

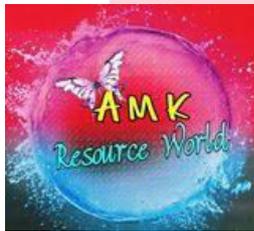
Advertising is another by product of mass media. It helps sell goods and services through commercials and sponsorships. The media also helps in spreading social awareness. Whether it is anti smoking propaganda or the empowerment of women, the promotion of a greener environment or the education of the girl child, media works relentlessly to put across social messages. The media remains unparalleled in its services as a mode of entertainment.

Television today, with its numerous channels in varied languages, serves to dish up entertainment to almost everybody. It provides millions with a cheap source of relaxation and a means to kill time as well. For many it is a momentary transportation from their sad ordinary lives in to the dream world of designer clothes and flashy cars.

Mass media remains the undisputed king in reaching out to the masses. Whether by means of a serial that subtly passes on the message of the good triumphing over the evil or by a news relay that shows the nabbing of a terrorist, the media manages to put the message across.

However, one must understand that media is a tool and for this tool to be effective the involvement of the masses is essential. Change can be achieved by a medium only if the masses it targets will it to happen. Mass media remains therefore, just a means to an end.

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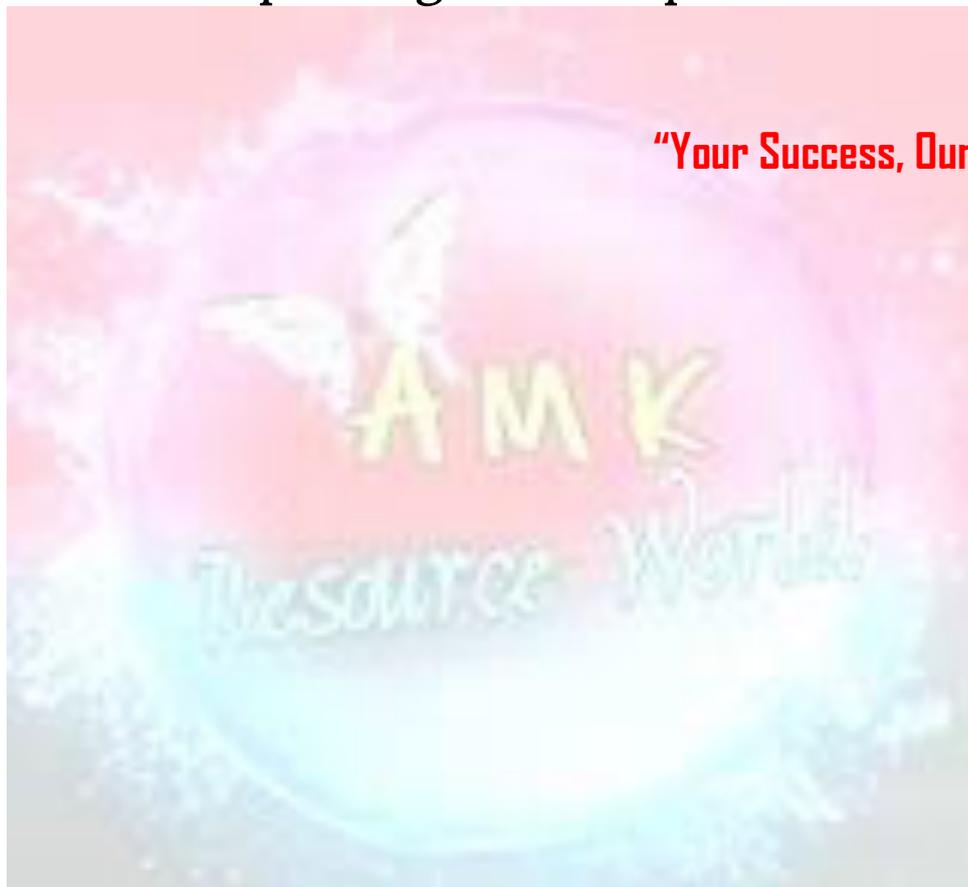
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