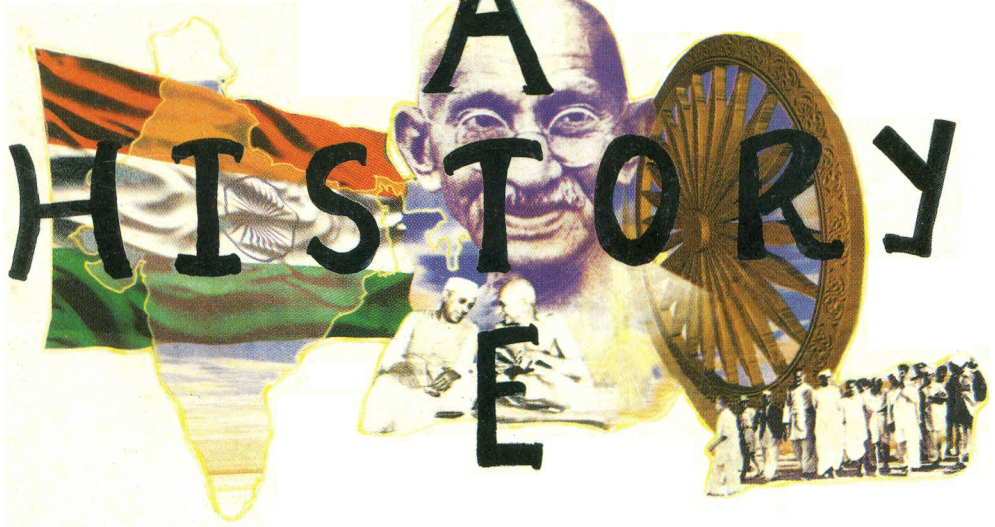


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## FOREWORD...

History is the study of human activities. The technological expansion, achieved by the nations in the last five centuries has knit the entire globe together, for better or worse. Everything that happens anywhere in the world, has become a matter of interest as well as concern for the rest of the world.

Through the global communication network, the individuals in society have the capacity to influence each other, and change. This necessitates understanding of the people rather than the nations.

Classrooms offer only limited exposure to the students. The teachers have a great role to play, to facilitate and guide the students to explore new frontiers of history. They have to instill an insatiable curiosity among the students, to know and to learn more.

The onerous responsibility of distinguishing between the good and the undesirable, is the freedom that history gives to everyone of its participants. 'History Update' acts as a launching pad for those who wish to make history meaningful to themselves and to others.

**Dr. Kamala Aravind**

Reader and Head,  
Department of History

# FOCUS ON THE MILLENNIUM

## MILLENNIUM BECKONS

How many women feel the exhilarating experience of exercising power or enjoying power! Most women see what power is through the lack of it. Never in history are women defined as general representatives of humanity. They are always treated as feminine or sexual objects. The structural inequality in contemporary societies is due to the analytical separation of work as masculine and feminine.

Historically the division between work and home traces its roots from the patriarchal division of labour. The emergence of industrial capitalist mode of production made the division more pronounced. The social relations and institutional practices provide affirmation and acceptance to gender division.

All differences in standards of treatment stem from the dichotomous concept of power relation between the sexes. While mind, rationality, autonomy, work, production and culture represent men, women are associated with body, dependence, home, consumption and nature. In the assessment of crimes against women such as rape, man's physical or sexual violence are supported by the courts and judged as 'appropriate behaviour', based on the notion that man has the urge and woman is an arouser.

Educational systems also need to be blamed. It mostly trains women to fit into society, rather than to challenge the regrettable practices. Our laws and legal institutions tend to be geared towards controlling, rather than protecting our freedom. People created institutions and standards to serve

a purpose. Do we still have to believe that gender division exists? Can't we make our society look at these differences as minor? Women have carried their subordination too far and for too long. Women have to believe in themselves, and have confidence in their capabilities. Equality on paper alone cannot bring about the changes needed.

The new millennium beckons women to work at improving their worth and self esteem in society. Women ought to replace the present scenario with more responsive political participation, that which facilitates expression. Women's struggle should address the issue of differential treatment more than the political demand of equality.

**Dr. Kamala Aravind**

Reader and Head,  
Department of History



# HOPES AND DREAMS FOR THE MILLENNIUM

As we wake up to the new millennium, a strange feeling of happiness and despair encompasses us and inwardly there is an uneasiness pervading our hearts and minds. We have a tug-of-war within, to balance the past and the future. Let me try to look back and forward in the time scale of history.

History, which is a record of unique events in the life of mankind, is unfolding itself. The events of the past millennium bring both positive and negative thoughts. We can recall the toil of our ancestors in primitive conditions, till they knew the use of fire and wheel. We are happy with the major inventions like steam power, compass, telephone and their impact on history. Life saving medicines, automobiles and aircrafts increased our comfort. The two major black marks being the two world wars.

Communism and capitalism were the dominant historical forces, fiercely in competition with each other, till we emerged into a unipolar world in the early nineties. The second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has witnessed the technological revolution with the introduction of computers, space satellites, and laser technology. The most frightening negative development is the race for armaments among nations which produce dangerous nuclear weapons and arsenals.

In the sub-continent of India, the last millennium saw the continuation of a civilization in the face of invasions, famines, epidemics and internecine conflicts. When we go back to the roots of our ancient civilization, into the pre-historic age, vedic age, classical and imperial age of the first millennium, we have a rich treasure house of human values and wisdom

which was the axis on which all human activities revolved. Through Buddhism we have preached the idea of world brotherhood of nations. Through the teachings of Buddha and Mahavira we have enlarged our national frontiers. Various invaders have conquered her politically, but not spiritually. Jawaharlal Nehru once said "India is a geographical and economic entity, a cultural unity amidst diversity, a bundle of contradictions, held together by strong and invisible threads". Having a rich past and glorifying it alone does not in anyway enhance the present. India as one sees it today is beset with turmoil.

Our nation is passing through, perhaps the most traumatic period in its checkered history. There is so much of social strife, conceit and deceit coupled with arrogance of power and self, that it seems that decency, decorum, truthfulness, honesty and integrity are the traits of the bygone era. Now our country is plagued with corruption, communalism, power politics and is bleeding under the onslaught of sectarian, regional and international conflicts and trans-border terrorism. No more can we proudly hold our heads high, speaking about the splendour of our ancient culture. We now hang our heads in shame over the bomb culture that threatens to blast the very foundation of our culture.

There also exists widespread gender based discrimination in India. Women, who constitute half of India's population, are victims of physical violence and psychological deprivations. Enshrining the equality principle in the constitution, which endeavours to efface the age-old bias of inferiority, paid the greatest honour to Indian women. But this concept has undergone various distortions. In my opinion 'Gender Equality' is a very misused term. There can never be an absolute equality. It is only 'Gender Equity' that women should strive to achieve.

Religious tolerance used to be one of the pillars of Indian society in the past. However religious fanatics are slowly creating an atmosphere of mistrust and ill will. The secularist motto enshrined in the constitution has been thrown to winds. In the name of religion, massacre and shedding of innocent blood has become the order of the day. It is high time people learn the simple ethics of respect for other religions. No effort must be spared to preserve India's secularist image.

In the socio-political sphere the process of criminalisation of politics, and politicians seeking to divide people on the basis of caste and creed, only for political gains must stop. The peace loving people are instigated by the power-hungry political leaders to destroy and disrupt the harmony of India. This may be what prompted a learned thinker like V.R.Krishna Iyer to wonder and ask whether we are going to enter a new millennium or "hellennium".

Underneath the present strife, chaos and confusion, one can plainly see the next stage of human evolution. With greater improvement in connectivity, and access to knowledge through the incredible web of communication, all humankind is connected by non-living neutrons that dissolve time and distance. The new millennium will be led by technology. In the sphere of International relations, in the equitable access to the global market, India may still not be favourably placed on the global competitive scenario. Technology combined with selfishness of the rich will widen the gulf between the rich and the poor. India having the second largest human resource should adopt a conscious strategy to access the latest technology, and appropriately use it for her development.

It is therefore necessary to see today what goals are worthy striving for in this new millennium. How are we going to stop the degeneration that has set into our values and attitudes?



If we look beyond narrow parameters of caste and religion, and seek to discern the humanism lying latent within us, we can become optimistic and champion the cause of building a new India.

I dream of an India where every individual enjoys basic human rights and is accorded human dignity – whether rich or poor, high or low, literate or illiterate, Hindu, Muslim or a Christian. All of us should enjoy equal rights, opportunities and privileges.

I dream of an India, which stands out in the international arena not for its nuclear power but is respected and honoured, for its ability to protect truth and human rights.

**Vimala Stephen**  
Faculty of History



# WOMEN OF THE MILLENNIUM ...REACH FOR THE SKIES

In the winter of 1925, an American journalist, Katherine Mayo spent three short months in different parts of India. At the end of her stay, she wrote a scathing critique of India and the position of women in society, in her 'Mother India'. In a nutshell, what she said was that as long as the situation of women here remained as it was, Indian men were not fit to take over the reins of the government.

What Katherine Mayo reflected on, was a concern central to the history of the subcontinent for hundreds of years and sadly continues to remain so even today as we enter the new millennium. While the history of the women of this century and probably the one before, remains easy to trace, it is only when we dive deep into our ancient past that we realise how shadowy their presence has been.

In India, the 19<sup>th</sup> century was marked by movements of social reform for women, led largely by men. A trading relationship with the British brought in new infrastructure and industries. It also addressed social and religious practices like child marriage, polygamy, sati and the like, which were banned. Education became desirable for women so that they could make better wives for their learned spouses. As always, the status of women became a barometer for the society. The sudden flow of large amounts of British capital tapped the potential of women as labourers. This led to a consciousness among women of their identity as a powerful workforce.

The daring women who sought education became the first of India's women doctors and lawyers. However, women of such

kind were limited, as it was still largely believed that educated women would become widows! In the hamlet of Barasat in West Bengal for instance, people dug ditches around schools to prevent girls from going there. But women began to see the opportunities that lay hidden, within.

If money drew them from their homes, the national struggle for independence placed them squarely at the center of public life. So much so, that though Gandhiji did not want women to be a part of the Salt March, they forced their way into it. After all weren't they the ones who knew its uses!

Looking farther back, into our history we do not see much of women's activism. The three main religions that made their presence in India-Sikhism, Islam and Christianity did not say much about women. But the egalitarian ideas that they spread implied everyone was equal before that Almighty.

Printing opened new doors, and many women took advantage of it. Thus Rashundari Debi taught herself to read in secret. She later went on to publish 'Chaitanya Bhagbad' and 'Amar Jiban', the latter being one of the first autobiographical works in Bengali. The Bhakti movement, as also the Lingayat and the Vaishnavite movements led women to reassert their identity. As we look back today, there are many women who rise up from the pages of the past-Meerabai, Andal, Razia Sultana, Mumtaz Mahal, Ramabai, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Sarojini Naidu, Muthulakshmi Reddy and many, many more. Throughout history, women have resisted economic and religious forces to retain their autonomy and independence.

Paradoxically, independence that was won in this century led to a retreat in women's progress. There was a need to restart women's movements. The first of these focussed on the rights of the rural women, and prevention of violence against women

in the household and workplace. Today the agenda includes fighting for better health facilities, political participation, literacy and issues of food security.

Thousands of years ago, it is said that Mara, the devil came upon a bhikshuni (a female saint) in deep meditation. He scoffed at her. What did she think she was doing, he asked. After all, what she needed was two fingers of meditation to work in the kitchen. The bhiksuni was unmoved, for she knew she was seeking the sky. Her words carry a prophesy-woman marching into the next century will reach for the sky and claim it as theirs.

**Meera Krishnamoorthy**

II BA History



# MILLENNIUM

Over the last few months  
in every magazine, in every book,  
on TV ads, on billboards,  
everywhere you look,  
one word stood out bold and clear—Millennium.

So much has happened in every single year  
that to relive every single moment  
would be impossible, I fear.  
Still, let's try to recall  
the greatest things of this Millennium.

A thousand years after the birth of Christ  
this period began (Actually, Jesus was born in 4 B.C).  
And it ushered in a new phase  
in the history of man.  
With the dawn of the new Millennium ...

Great empires rose and kingdoms fell,  
like the Byzantine and the Roman.  
Genghis Khan became the prince of the Mongols.  
Oxford founded its first college for women.  
All of this was in the early part of this Millennium.

Europe had its dark ages  
when the Church was in total control.  
But then came the Renaissance and Reformation  
which transformed the European soul  
and entirely changed the course of this Millennium.

The Printing Press, the Light Bulb,  
the Laws of Gravitation,  
Differential calculus  
and women's liberation  
were all the characteristics of this Millennium.

We made atom bombs and satellites,  
we walked upon the moon.  
We made robots, we cloned Dolly,  
and we will be cloning humans soon...  
(There are still 10 months left of this Millennium!).

This set of thousand years  
had both its Ups and Downs.  
It saw the beginning of the tech-electronic era  
and the end of the colonial crown.  
And now are we ready to face the new Millennium?

We may have peace and prosperity  
or we may fight World War III.  
but what we must realize is that  
things depend upon you and me  
to make the best of the rest of the Millennium.

Though each of us is just one  
out of the 6 billion people,  
remember that small droplets of water make the ocean.  
so with laughter, love and friendship,  
together lets march ahead into the New Millennium.

**Shikha Bhattacharji**

II BA History





# I HAVE A DREAM...

Dear God,

I dare to dream for the future of India, a system of universal education, where each and every Indian shall have access to basic literacy.

I plead Thee to diffuse universal education in India, nay, in the greater world too, for it is my belief that with education, people would be armed with a new weapon in their hands and hearts. I don't ask Thee for the best, as I know all things that go wrong are lessons for us on what not to do and how not to be. But I dare ask for this, for how else can the level of living be raised? Apart from the material and economic gains that education brings along, it bestows emotional stability and political sensitivity. But more importantly, education is a vent for creative and artistic expression of thought- thought that distinguishes man from the rest of the living creatures with which he shares the earth.

I understand that change will come steadily and surely. I know that every great voyage begins with a single, small step. Likewise every great change begins with a single thought. My generation consists of young thinkers determined to make a difference, however small. We are people who have "learned to labour and to wait". Dear God, we dare to dream because we believe that it is better to dare to think than not think at all, to labour and fail than not to labour at all.

The thought process has started; change will soon follow.

**Meera Krishnamoorthy**

II BA History

There will be a day  
When patriotism will be in the air  
when terrorism will be rare  
when people will realize that God is one  
then there will be difference between none.

There will be no class, caste or creed,  
which will end all the greed  
when everyone's work will win appreciation  
there will be no reservation  
then everyone will have their freedom and rights

There will be no riots  
between so called compatriots  
when there will be complete Swaraj  
It would then be the people's Raj  
India -an ideal Utopia

**Rashmi Mehta**  
II BA History

## भारत मेरे सपनों का देश ।

भारत, जो कहला थी सोने की चिड़िया,  
जहाँ मनुष्य में थी मनुष्यता,  
जहाँ सबके दिलों में था दूसरों के लिए प्यार,  
जहाँ थी आज़ादी और ना कोई झगड़ा ।

खत्म हुई आज़ादी, खत्म हुई मनुष्यता,  
जब था ब्रिटिश राज और स्वराज,  
है और रहेगा जनता का राज ।  
भारत मेरे सपनों का देश ।

जहाँ होगा मनुष्य का धर्म एक,  
जहाँ मिले मनुष्य को अधिकार एक,  
ना जात-पात, ना कोई झगड़ा,  
रहे दूसरों के लिए प्यार दिल में हमेशा ।  
यह होगा मेरे सपनों का देश ।  
भारत, मेरे सपनों का देश ॥

**SEEMA NAHAR**  
II B.A. History

## NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

# NEED FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

A written constitution is the primary source of authority in a state. It is the quintessence of democracy. In the context of the Indian Constitution it can be said that it has gone through the test of time and has survived the worst through the fifty odd years of our independence. But does that mean our constitution is flawless?

The answer lies in the fact that it has been amended more than seventy five times in these maturing years of our democracy. Throughout these years there have been abuses of several articles of the constitution. Article 356 is a case in point. The governments at the centre have used this article, more often than not, for scrapping duly elected state governments, arbitrarily.

Another area is the right to education being made a fundamental right. This area deserves top priority as illiteracy can be seen as the genesis of all the problems of our nation. Other areas also warrant deeper scrutiny.

Thus, it is high time that we welcome an exercise such as a constitutional review, to analyse the fortes and foibles of the constitution; and who can do it better than the eminent jurists, Justice Venkatchelliah and Justice Sarkaria, the constitutional expert, Mr. Soli Sorabjee and no lesser mortals than Mr. Abid Hussain and Mr. Sangma who constitute the committee.

But fears have been expressed in some quarters that setting up of the committee may affect the secular character of our polity. These apprehensions are ill founded as it has been made explicitly clear by the government that the review would not affect the basic character of the constitution. Moreover the final authority to implement the recommendations is the prerogative of the parliament, who are the representatives of the people. Having said that, we must be fully aware of the fact that the success of the Constitution depends not so much on well-drafted and nobly worded provisions; but on it's working.

In the words of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, who was the chairman of the Constituent assembly "Whatever the Constitution may or may not provide, the welfare of the country will depend upon the way the country is administered, that will depend upon the men who administer it."

"A country can have only the government it deserves." So Indian citizens exercise your voting rights judiciously.

**Pooja Prakash**

I BA History



# INDIA'S POPULATION – A LIABILITY

India's population is a liability. Such a rapid growth of population tends to impede the economic growth and also affects the other social and economic aspects of the country. Neo - Malthusian's theories project these problems to be the result of the reproductive behaviour of human beings. However this has been proved wrong, by the theory of demographic transition. India is found to be in the third stage of the demographic transition which signifies that the birth rate is higher than the death rate.

A huge population requires more shelter, employment facilities and various other amenities. Our Indian government has taken special measures. Billboards are being filled with advertisements for family planning. But is there any point in just painting walls and boards? Inevitably we come across government servants with more than two children. All those who seem to frame certain rules stand first in breaking them. The problem being faced by our country-population explosion has become chronic in nature.

India ranks second in the world, next to China, in the size of population. In fact our country's landscape is just 2.4% of the total world area and it contains around 16% of the world population. The above data is certainly not a matter of pride for our country. Unemployment is one of those tributaries of population explosion. Five-Year Plans make provisions for increased employment, but this does not solve the problem of unemployment. There are probably thousands of graduates who are still in search of jobs, and every fresh batch of graduates is only a threat to the former! This leaves us with

an increase in labour force, with no proportional increase in employment opportunities.

A population explosion directly implies that there is a sharp growth in the number of children, which also means another cycle of education, employment and much more. The government spends a huge amount of money as subsidies for educational institutions, only to produce more graduates who remain unemployed. A vicious circle indeed!

On the other hand, we find that in a few educational institutions the dropout rate is high. In primary schools out of 100 students, only 43 students reach the fifth standard. Obviously large amounts of resources get wasted.

Illiteracy, as much as unemployment leads to poverty. Thirty seven percent of the Indian population is still well below the poverty line. An increase in the number of poverty stricken people will show the decrease in the per capita income and finally the National income itself. The standard of living reduces under these circumstances.

India is a developing country and depends more on agricultural production which has been the case for years together. Now even this production is not to the expected level. The increase in population does not meet with proportionate increase in the agricultural production. Even though India is self sufficient to a large extent, we still need to import food grains, to meet our deficits. Our production is to a large extent dependent on the monsoons, and benign weather, hence whenever we face natural calamities, our production targets are not reached. That means India faces food shortages, which proves the Malthusian Theory. In other words the Malthusian sense of



the over population exists in a country where the population increases more rapidly than the food supply.

The optimum size of the Indian population cannot be decided, but the fact remains that the existing population of the country is larger than can be sustained at its current level of development. Furthermore the population of our country has only multiplied. But being on the optimistic side, I'd like to conclude by saying that only right measures introduced at the right time can benefit the citizens.

**J.K Niveditha**

I BA History



# THE YOLK OF COLONIALISM

No national boundary can ever restrict the movement of trade, which has not only been the engine for cultural exchange through goods, but also a field upon which the better competitor could establish his dominance. One can see this pattern of play in India with her colonial history.

As we know the English East India Company got the charter to trade in India in 1600. Since then, till the battle of Plassey, they tried every tactic to gain a niche in the trade scene. By playing one king against the other, they not only manipulated the political hierarchies and their attendant struggles but also kept their European fellow competitors at bay. The British had an inherent strength, which was that they were excellent seafarers. Their strong navy ensured them with fast, efficient transport of merchandise. All these factors helped them in their ascendancy in establishing economic dominance. They to gain political power in India, through which they acquired legislative powers, utilized this. The consolidation of British rule in India was now easy and with the reins of legislation, they passed laws that helped them to firmly root themselves in Indian soil.

The survival of the British in India depended on keeping the Indians as a subservient country that functioned to an extent and ensured the sustenance of the British economy. Simply put, the British were fascinated by the textiles and spices that were cheaply available in India. Since these goods were very expensive in England, they imported these goods with a high margin of profit. This by itself kept the indigenous weaver / farmer at a disadvantage for he was forced to sell at a fixed price. With the advent of the Industrial Revolution in England the cost of production was low in England, which made indigenous Indian goods lose all their market in India

and in England. To worsen the situation the government of India followed a policy of one-sided free trade. Thus the Indian Industries were not protected, while the foreign goods were given free entry. Therefore, in the form of excess of India's exports over its imports, there was a drain of wealth. The drain also took the form of an equation that ensured export of cheap raw materials and import of expensive foreign finished products. No wonder, John Sullivan, the president of the board of Revenue, madras remarked: "our system acts very much like a sponge, drawing up all the good things from the banks of the Ganges and squeezing them down on the waters of the Thames ".

All this, you may wonder, has nothing to do with the present apart from leaving India as a poor nation at the time of independence. It is the poverty that we have never overcome. When the British left India they not only left it with a political model of democracy but also an economic model of industrialization and technological advancement. Though our economy is still largely agricultural the industrial sector continues to be dependent on other countries especially in the form of aid. In the last ten years the policy of liberalization has only depleted our coffers of foreign exchange. Our exports are still largely of precious natural resources and cheap raw materials, while we import finished products that are very expensive. One example of this is our export of Shrimps (aquaculture industry) and import of foreign technology. At one level, it seems to be a choice between a multinational company and paying of foreign debt. The debt that we have accumulated for pursuing industrialization is growing at an alarming rate.

This kind of extravagance and dependence is witnessed not only in India but all those nations which have a colonial history. It is thus a cycle of dependence that the developing nations are not able to shrug off.

While economic issues continue to exist, a new dimension to the problem is the issue of the environment. The first world nations import resources from the developing nations to process them. The pollution, however, they do not want to deal with, and thus ship it back in exchange of the money. Yes, India, Bangladesh and other former colonies are now used as dumping grounds for the waste of the cleaner nations. While one of the factors for this is that pollution laws are stricter in the first world, the reason that toxic waste trade happens is due to the third world's need for foreign exchange.

While everyone is aware that cultural colonization is taking place, it is time that the people of the southern nations wake up to the fact that their nations are still used as natural resource banks and as dumping grounds. Let us remember that much of our forests are going to homes in America and much of the pollution we all are accused of is coming from the factories of America and Europe. It is time we become conscious of our own exploitation. Isn't it true still that we face a colonial legacy ... 50 years from independence.

**Nithya Sivan**

I BA History



## WHERE EAGLES DARE

"Our soldiers in Kargil are not just defending a line...they are defending a line of thinking -that is the Indian democracy."

-Dr. M.S.Gill, Chief Election Commissioner.

He has many names, but he is nameless. He has many faiths, but he puts his faith aside for his buddies. He comes from different parts of the country but is ultimately an Indian. He pines for his home, village, friends and family but will fight on. He is loyal to the core, to the last round in his rifle. He has learnt his craft well enough to become an instructor-sometimes even to his officers. He eats what is made in the company cookhouse and does not lift weights in a fancy gym, but he is tough. So tough in fact that Special Forces of some western countries refused on one occasion to operate with him in the terrain that he regularly serves in.

The expertise in glacial high altitude warfare is not the preserve of only the Ladakhis in the Army but even those from the Madras regiment. While other Indians who work for the government maneuver their way to earn a salary closer home, this Indian travels willingly to any part of the country, in any season, under any circumstances. From any and every corner of the country, he will move in big lumbering trucks or in agonizingly slow trains that have to constantly make way for the superfasts. From the shunting track without the benefit of a cabin fan or even enough water in the washroom for a cooling splash, he will watch the Rajdhani and the Shatabdi go by. But he takes this in his stride. If fate has determined that he remains on a shunting track, so be it. If fate has determined that the number three in the patrol goes down a crevice in the Siachen glacier, so be it. He will carry on. It is fatalism determined by faith and professionalism.

There are many faiths in his profession—all of them followed with equal devotion. He is deeply religious—his profession is bound to make him so. But he also respects every faith in his unit. And as far as his officers are concerned it is his faith that they follow. If he happens to be serving in the J&K Light Infantry, his officers too will keep the faith of Ramzan. Or attend the Mandir, Gurudwara, and the Church as the case may be. In a way they are the last republicans. Whether it is Diwali, Id, X'mas or Baisakhi—festivals in the unit are conducted out of a sense of belonging, not just an empty demonstration of togetherness.

It is this sense of belonging with his brothers in uniform, which can make the soldier achieve military objectives that his more fancily equipped counter-part in other armies may simply not even undertake. And so he slips on his unwieldy snow boots, tucks in his vintage-issue warm trousers, buttons up his bulky parka, checks his ammunition and moves on. He does this often in temperatures that are 40 degrees below zero, melting snow for drinking water, boiling orange juice to gulp down, eating eggs as hard as golf balls, and losing fingers and toes to frostbite.

“When you go home tell them of us and say for your tomorrow we gave our today.”

For an Army which has fought in theatres of war as far apart as Montecassino in Italy and Jessami against the Japanese, this is the fallen soldiers eulogy erected and carved on stone half a century ago. These men are driven by their own mottos - “Yeh Dil Mange More” and “Live Life Kingsize”- words scribbled on last minute letters written to families and friends. These men are not going to win any cups for us but they will be keeping awake on those icy heights when we are far away in our cities comfortably tucked in our beds.



The righteous Yudhistara, in reply to a question from Yaksha, said, "Day in and day out people die, but the biggest surprise is that none sees death for himself ". The soldier sees death for himself and still fights almost belying the wisdom of Yudhistra's reply.

As this millennium dawns, we look back to identify the great leaders and personalities of the past 100 years. We do so in an India still troubled, but full of promise. That promise was gained by the young men and women of India, who fought and died for freedom. Near the top of any listing of the most important people of the 20<sup>th</sup> century must stand in singular honour, the Indian Soldier.

They symbolise India. They reflect our diverse origins. They are the embodiment of the Indian spirit of courage and dedication. They are truly a "people's army", going forth on a crusade to save democracy and freedom.

**Deepa Alexander**

Faculty of History



## VIEWPOINT

# TERRORISM-THE SCOURGE ON HUMANITY

- 1993 : Bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York City.
- 1995 : Sarin gas attack on a Tokyo subway by the Aum Shinri Kyo cult.
- 1998 : Bombing of the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar-e-Salaam.
- 1999 : Hijacking of Indian Airlines flight to Afghanistan and holding the passengers hostage.

The last decade has witnessed a large-scale proliferation of such scenes of international terrorist drama. Extensive media coverage and hype serve to generate public opinion that varies according to one's national and ethnic moorings, beliefs and convictions. After all there is enough truth in the adage, "One Man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter". As life becomes more complex and man's interests more divergent, terrorism becomes the only weapon of the weak against the strong...of the demented against the sane.

While in the past conventional weapons like guns, bombs, hijackings and kidnappings were used in terrorist attacks, the extensive developments in technology and communication have resulted in the creation of newer and more deadly weapons, with greater powers of precision and devastation. Chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction have been described as the poor man's alternative to the nuclear weapon. They are difficult to apprehend, but easy to procure and process. The new breed terrorist with cult adherence,

racist complexes and fundamentalist affiliations belongs to hate groups, whose purpose is often unclear, but whose sense of vindication borders on the psychic. The modern terrorist is thus, far more likely to use CBW's than terrorists of yester years.

The growth of the information technology that has rendered the world a global village , has also assisted the links and communication lines of terrorists. Thus cyber terrorism is the greatest danger faced by mankind, as man becomes more and more dependent on a net linked world. The targets of the future are; information data banks, net servers and networked systems.

The advent of the Internet has provided a gathering place for all the prejudiced and demented in the world. Groups of skinheads, White Supremacists, Neo-Nazis, xenophobes and radical Islamists have also made their presence in cyber space. In the absence of net laws and regulations, these groups thrive underground via net links. Today, user friendly hacker software is freely available on the net, for anyone to download. Chat centers provide users with assistance. Such attacks by hackers can cause as much or more damage than truckloads of explosives. There is also minimal fear of identification and apprehension for the crime perpetrator.

Most cyber terrorists have their own websites, which use encrypted access. Recruitment takes place on the net. Propaganda and action plans are easily passed around to supporters. The Internet provides anonymity and a comparatively cheap mode of operation to users. Inter terrorist group collaboration is also more likely on the net. Thus an entire action plan of attack can be rehearsed on the net. Simultaneous attacks across the world can also be conducted covertly through the net links.

Futurologists have warned us of a net war or an electronic Pearl Harbour that could devastate the world and render all operations to a standstill. Many more Abdullah Ocalans, Osama Bin Ladens and Abu Nidals exist and operate in silence, to ventilate their hatred for sections of mankind. This silent and unseen enemy grows more and more deadly day by day. With rich sponsorships from individuals and states, there is no stopping the unseen enemy from whose grasp no one is safe. The faceless enemy is lurking behind the scenes, waiting to strike...and to kill.

Does that sound like an ominous prophecy of terror? That is the exact intention of these deviants of society. They want to create a world in which fear will permeate all and, as the perpetrators of fear, they will reign supreme.

The new millenium has dawned with bright prospects in the spheres of economic and socio-cultural co-operation. Efforts to combat terrorism are also being made at an international level. This includes anti terrorism-defensive measures as well as counter terrorism-offensive measures. To effectively unveil the faceless terrorist, as well as establish a line of defense against his violent attack, cross border co-operation is necessary. Even if varying divergent national and ethnic interests as well as the economic divide, continue to remain disunifying factors between nations, the common threat of annihilation will bring them together in their fight for the victory of good against evil...of the right against the wrong.

'As men shall seek unity...the forces of light shall emerge from within and gain victory against the forces of darkness, and only then shall mankind be redeemed from this scourge on humanity'.

**Radhika Laxman**

Faculty of History

# JUDGEMENTS OF CONVENIENCE

Martin Luther, the man who heralded the Reformation in Europe, opposed the Church's policy of sale of indulgences. According to this, a man could buy an indulgence from the Holy Roman Church to atone for his sin. This would free him from his sin in Purgatory, and perhaps on earth as well. When Martin Luther pinned up his 95 theses on the wall of the church at Wittenberg, he brought about a revolution in Europe.

Today while we study the history of Europe, each one of us finds this practise of sale of papal indulgences shocking, barbaric and ridiculous. However, if we pause to think for a moment, we will realise that this practise is not as exclusive to Medieval Europe as it appears to be.

Ancient Indian mythology and history speak of people performing sacrifices and distributing wealth to atone for their sins. In Plato's Republic, Socrates says, "Mendicant priests and soothsayers go the round of rich men's doors and persuade them that they have the power from the gods, whereby, if any sin has been committed by a man or his ancestors, they can heal it by charms and sacrifices performed to the accompaniment of feasting and pleasure, and if any man wishes to injure an enemy, at a small cost he may harm just and unjust indifferently."

The modern concept of paying a fine is no better. Consider a man who is caught speeding, or driving when drunk. A fine is levied on him and the matter is dispensed with 'conveniently'. What happens if a small child, running carelessly across the road, gets killed in an accident due to drunken driving ? Can the matter be settled by a fine now ? Obviously not, for the issue assumes greater dimensions. The crime is the same in

both instances though. Everyday there are cases of people being sued for various crimes – sexual molestation, child abuse, road accidents and so on and so forth.

Selling away one's sins thus seems to be pretty universal. Does this imply that it is a natural form of establishing social justice ? I think that here there is an important distinction to be made. Where money is a symbol of a person's toil and the loss of it would lead to difficulty at the basic level viz. food, clothing and shelter, the person really pays for committing a crime when he pays up a fine : this probably was how the custom started.

In many cases, the loss of money makes no difference to the person concerned and is merely a convenient settlement. In such cases, the payment of money as a form of punishment cannot be accepted.

Rule of Law and Equality before Law are essential in a democracy. And this equality has no exceptions ; Hindus and Muslims, upper caste and lower caste, rich and poor are the same before the law.

Establishing a perfect system of justice is a difficult task. Doing away entirely with monetary compensation as punishment probably goes against the natural order of justice. But it is not impossible. Rather, it is an ideal that we should at least try to attain at some point in the future.

**Radha Kumar**

II BA History

# THE ALLIGATOR IN MURKY WATERS

Now that all the excitement about the Millennium has subsided, it is probably the right time to reflect on what colour Indian politics is taking on. Whether good or bad , loosely bound coalition governments seem to be here to stay. Coalition governments staying for a full term is however a feat yet to be established. Looking beyond the politics of coalition, what seems to be emerging is a remote control over governance. Not that this trend is anything new. Indian politics has unacknowledged evidence of individuals not directly involved in governance who nevertheless influenced important policies and decisions. This time around it is not an individual, but an organization that has taken upon itself the responsibility of being the watchdog of the nation's morality and virtues -The RSS.

The influence that the RSS is exerting on the BJP government is hard for anyone not to see. Shackled as it is with 'easy to break' alliances, the BJP government is however wary to publicly acknowledge its saffron friend , philosopher and guide.

Keshav Baliram Hedgewar founded the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh in Nagpur in 1925. Today, it has thousands of branches spread throughout the country with full time propagandists steeped in RSS ideology. The RSS projects itself as a patriotic cultural organization, however now with BJP's blessings it feels at ease to bare it's political fangs every now and then.

In 1998, it was the RSS, which decided that Jaswant Singh should not be the finance minister. Several sitting BJP MLA's were not given party tickets because they did not have the RSS stamp of approval. The lifting of the ban in Gujrat on government servants entry into the RSS and Ram Prakash Gupta's provocative statements that Ayodhya was very much on his agenda for UP, are a few examples. Withdrawal of the ban on government servants participating in the RSS activities, is essentially a blatant attempt at politicising the bureaucracy. No one should be surprised if an attempt is made to allow police and the armed forces personnel to participate in the RSS which is after all 'only a cultural organization'.

Beyond its dalliance with politics, what is unnerving to see is that, the RSS is projecting itself as the arbiter of cultural values and a guardian of ethics in the country. In other words, as someone has so aptly put it — 'the Indian Taliban'. A case in point is Deepa Mehta's film — Water. A lot of fire has raged over Water. Widows, Varanasi, Ganga and foreign producers are only a smokescreen. Force has been used to silence because the image did not gel with somebody's idea of tradition. The RSS has a time tested methodology. It starts an agitation, creates a controversy and then claims to speak on behalf of the 'people' and the 'Hindu Sentiment'.

Another set of people who have had to face this onslaught are the authors of 'Towards Freedom'. Professor Sumit Sarkar & professor K.N.Panikhar are both, historians of repute. The Indian Council for Historical Research however has seen it fit to suspend publication of their work. Should one be surprised? Today all said and done, history is



being made to order. School textbooks are being rewritten to give them a certain slant and anything that does not fit in with the 'nationalistic' image, is squashed.

Holding at ransom organizers of beauty pageants and parading boys & girls on streets for celebrating Valentine's day, all in the name of protecting Indian Culture are only a taste of what is yet to come. Fact is are we going to sit back and watch silently as the Indian Taliban grows from strength to strength? God forbid!!!

**Dolly Thomas**  
Faculty of History



# RELIGION OR REASON?

“Facing West from California’s shores,  
Inquiring, timeless, seeking what is yet unfound,  
I, a child, very old, over waves, towards the house  
of maternity, the land of migrations, look afar,  
Look off the shores of my Western sea, the circle  
almost circled;  
For starting Westward from Hindustan, from the  
vales of Kashmere,  
From Asia, from the north, from God, the sage,  
and the hero,  
From the south, from the flowery peninsulas  
and spice islands,  
Long having wandered since, round the earth  
having wandered,  
Now I face home again, very pleased and joyous.  
But where is what I started for so long ago?  
And why is it yet unfound?”  
- Walt Whitman.

As we step into the new millennium, its time to turn back and take stock of how we had lived the past. The history of religious thought over the last ten centuries can teach us an important lesson or two. Time has generated the articulation of existing beliefs, major shifts in the established religious thought and the rise and fall of “theories” pertaining to Man’s spirituality.

During the nineteenth century, political and scientific thinkers debated endlessly on various issues taking sides between religion and reason. It was argued that the development of

science would put an end to religion and poetry, that enlightenment would put to rest intuition. In fact, the confrontation between religion and reason led to Copernicus, Galileo and Darwin being named 'Satans'. Yet, the concept of God has continued to remain throughout the last millennium; and Man's wait for God has not come to an end yet. In fact, scientific advancement has led to an increased inclination towards divinity. We must not forget that it is our own millennium that has seen some of the most impressive monuments built to honour the divine.

At the root of the 19<sup>th</sup> century conflict between religion and science was politics. Almost from the late medieval period in Europe, political states were made and controlled by agencies that took upon themselves the task of looking after the spiritual well being of the people. However, the rising involvement of small states in politics and the increased demand for people's participation in the process of governance led to intense conflict between God as the centre of power and the human intellect.

The first millennium was the millennium of sacred texts. The Bhagawad Gita and the Mahabharata gradually acquired a more specific textual form and served as cultural catalysts. Muhammed called the angel Gabriel's revelation to him as the Qu'ran. Since the eighth century, this sacred text has guided the lives of over one-fifth of humanity. Martin Luther made the Bible the singular agenda for the European reformation, and it is this religious factor that resulted in the rise of Protestantism. The commentaries of the Gita, the powerful prose style of the Qu'ran and the vernacular translations of the Bible also influenced people's thinking and intellectual development. Aurobindo, Tilak and a multitude of Indian thinkers did not cease commenting on all the sacred texts.

Religion very often clashes with reason because the canonical sacred texts inevitably behave as gospels, for they are the 'revelations from the Divine'. Their language is absolute and they conflict with man's rationale. Small reform movements, like the Bhakti movement thus reared its head in order to allow the space necessary for a religion to be rational.

The question is not whether Kabir was a greater thinker than Meerabai, or whether Theosophy is better than Bahai. The question is, does all the spiritual knowledge, religious conviction and rationale that modern science teaches us, make us better children of God today than people were at the turn of the previous century? Has science (or reason) brought us any closer to spiritual enlightenment? In truth the greatest achievement of religious philosophy over the last thousand years is the rational questioning of blind faith.

**Meera Krishnamoorthy**  
II BA History



# REFLECTIONS ON PERIYAR IN TODAYS SOCIETY

The 20th century is a century of Reason. It is a century that thrives on the spirit of enquiry and is built on the foundations of Rationality. Perhaps no one can better represent this century than Periyar.

This anti-brahmin, anti Aryan and anti-religious scholar was one of the few radical reformers that the Tamil soil has produced. His vehement attitude towards the social and religious system is what propelled him forward, to create a society and religion that believed in equality, justice and mutual respect.

If we were to analyse the various fields to which Periyar contributed, along with the ways he adopted to fulfill his goals, Periyar stands out as a man farsighted in his vision, strong in his convictions and daring in his attitude.

The penetration of the Aryan civilization into the South had resulted in the subservience of the Tamil Dravidian, culture , and it was not until the 1920s, under the leadership of Periyar, that the Tamils began to believe in themselves and became proud of their Dravidian traditions. Periyar was personally responsible for this hope and confidence. He dared to stand up against the Aryan civilization epitomised in the brahmin domination, rigid caste system and Sanskrit scriptures. He strove to remove the negativity within the Tamils and make them discover and appreciate the goodness, depth and richness of their culture. This consciousness of their indigenous identity has stayed and finds reflection even today , in the separate identity they have maintained from the North and its influence. Periyar's anti-Hindi movement,

an outcome of his anti-Aryan and anti-Vedic approach, finds manifestation in the curriculum of present day educational institutions, which are still trying to hold on to the purity of their Tamil culture, hence preserving regionality sometimes even at the cost of nationality.

While socially Periyar worked towards temple entry, social equality, women's rights and the upliftment of the Dravidians, politically he organised the Justice party and later the DK. He was a permanent influence on Tamil politics. His message and ideas live on even today, in the activities and functioning of the various organisations and parties that are offshoots of the Dravidian movement.

In spite of the manifold contributions made to society by him, the name Periyar always conjures up visions of an old man with a white beard going about destroying idols, and burning the national flag or the constitution. Periyar has often come under a lot of criticism for his bold and radical approach which often bordered on fanaticism. Periyar was a rebel, an atheist, a radical but above all a rationalist thinker.

But there are some negative aspects to Periyar's activities which find strong reflection in present day Tamil Nadu in particular and India in general, which need to be emphasised in order to gauge his influence. The seeds of a separate and unique existence which he sowed in the minds of the Tamil people has stayed with them, and since then has always acted as a negative force pulling back any attempt made by the Dravidians to join the Indian mainstream.

While analysing Periyar as a personality of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, we are forced to compare his actions with those of present day society. The observation that is made is that while the spirit of enquiry and rationalism, that he imbibed in the

Tamilians is on the rise, simultaneously, intolerance, violence, anger and hatred have found a strong foothold in our hearts. While he may have been able to balance the two forces, today we are at crossroads. Therefore the advent of a new millennium calls for an introspection - the time has come to question our actions, our attitudes and our opinions. Where is the tolerance that India once stood for ? Where are the great teachings on universal brotherhood and compassion which India preached to the world ? The time has come to decide. It is now or never.

**Rose Antony**

I BA History



# INDIRA GANDHI ENDOWMENT LECTURE

Topic: Environment and History

On the occasion of the Smt. Indira Gandhi Endowment Lecture, instituted 15 years ago, in memory of Indira Gandhi, the first woman Prime Minister of India, Dr. Nandita C. Krishna, Honorary Director, CPR Environmental Education Center, Chennai, delivered a lecture on Environment and History. An extract from the lecture has been presented.

History has until recently been a chronicle of events of wars between kings and a celebration of the life and achievements of the victors. However other points of view have emerged from the discovery of material culture. Archaeology, Paleontology, Anthropology and Sociology have changed our understanding of the past, but a major influence over historical events - the effect of environmental occurrences and modifications- have been omitted. It is naïve to believe that nature on whom we are dependent for our very existence would not have had any influence on the course of historical events

Environmental history has been defined as, "the story of the life and death, not of human individuals but of societies and species...in terms of their relationships with the world about them". Human society is dynamic and depends on complex processes derived from the sun's energy, geophysical processes such as earthquakes, climatic factors, astronomical factors and life forms which are a part of varying ecosystems.

The foundation for all life forms is photosynthesis. Any disruption in any part of this chain disrupts the entire system.



Human beings are a part of this process but with certain distinguishing factors. First, human beings intervened in natural ecosystems, modified them and adopted monoculture and the use of technology. Secondly, as the use of natural resources shifted from providing food and shelter, to creating material goods, ecosystems were unable to withstand human demands on them. Thus lands turned waste, waters were polluted and the environment was unable to support life.

The history of migration is the history of environmental modification, degradation and the search for new lands, either through colonization or war. As the ecosystems became unable to withstand human demands on them- the systems collapsed.

It is possible to link environmental calamities to historical events. In 1504, North India was devastated by a terrible earthquake, whose devastation left the land too weak to fight off the Moghul invasion and Babur occupied Kabul. Western India during the 17<sup>th</sup> century was devastated by drought and plague and the region became an easy war field for the Moghul war. The last 200 years have seen an acceleration of development processes whereby natural resources have been over utilized and depleted. The speed at which this process is taking place in this century, coupled with developments in information technology, has made it possible for us to observe these changes.

Sixty percent of Indians do not have access to safe drinking water. All this has caused a major exodus to the cities, creating a new breed of ecological refugees and a modern war of words between neighboring states over water. It is estimated that the wars of the 21<sup>st</sup> century would be fought over water.

The environment is the foundation of all life, the baseline of human society. But people have regarded the natural world

as an exploitable commodity and have destroyed complex ecosystems. Finally nature determines the march of History.

It is not for nothing that ancient societies worshipped Mother Earth and those aspects of nature, elemental to our existence, such as the sun, air, earth, water, trees and animals. When we fail to respect nature, she turns her back on us, changing in the process the history of an entire society and its people.

**Deepa Alexander**

Faculty of History



# PRODUCTIVE MANAGEMENT OF WAITING TIME

"Time is the scarcest resource and unless it is managed, nothing else can be managed".

Management of waiting time is one of the most important aspects of time management. "Waiting" describes what a person is doing for a short time, before something happens. The time between the scheduled start, to the actual start of the work is the waiting time. It is perhaps the only time in which a person will be alone or undisturbed. One can make better use of this time through planning.

Waiting time arises on occasions such as, waiting for

- Ø Doctor's Appointment
- Ø Our order at the restaurant
- Ø Our turn at the public telephone
- Ø The arrival of the chief guest
- Ø Delayed trains and flights
- Ø Late comers during meetings
- Ø Our turn at banks and reservation counters
- Ø Traffic jams to clear

## **Managing Waiting time**

Time is the most inexorable, inelastic element. Wasting time is wasting life, and therefore mastering time is mastering life itself. We can make best use of waiting time by planning out the activities for the next day and can put to better use this time by reading newspapers, professional magazines, socializing and even plain day dreaming. Waiting time arises due to improper time management, either on the part of the person waiting or the person making others wait. Time management is very personal and may vary from person to

person. Day dreaming, a time waster for one may be interpreted as creative thinking, a time saver for another.

### **Effective time management to avoid waiting time:**

That invaluable resource 'Time' affects the use and control of all our other resources. Time management means the efficient use of time in such a way that we are effective in achieving important goals.

- ❖ **Use Time Log:** Time log is a simple technique, which proves useful in analyzing activities that a person is involved in, during the day.
- ❖ **Analyse Time Log:** Time log has to be analyzed to identify problems and activities that take a large amount of time without corresponding value
- ❖ **Self-Assessment:** Managing time means managing ourselves. Goals are identified to satisfy needs. As such, goals should be clear, specific, realistic, achievable, and in consistence with our strengths and weaknesses. We then have to prioritize our goals.
- ❖ **Implement Action Plan:** One should schedule key tasks into the daily calendar.
- ❖ **Follow-up and reanalysis:** One should follow up ones actions to achieve one's goals and in case of failure, one must reanalyze one's strategies and plan activities.

Time is a fair and 'equal opportunity ruler'. Each one of us has equal number of hours. The wealthiest cannot buy a single additional minute. The greatest of scientists cannot create a single new minute in a day. So, plan your work and, work your plan daily.

No matter how much time we may have wasted in the past, we still have the entire tomorrow. The only way to gain from waiting time is to use it with discretion, to use each spare moment for the 3 P's- plan, prioritize and practice. In the words of a time management expert, "By the very fact of our being, we are blessed with the wealth of time. Use it, use every golden minute".

Let us not forget that, "Yesterday is a canceled cheque, tomorrow is a promissory note, today is cash, to be spent wisely".

**T. Sudha**

III BA History



# POSITIVE ATTITUDE

There was a man selling all colours of balloons. When business was low he would release a gas filled balloon into the air. This would attract the children and they would want to buy one and his sales would go up. One day he felt a small child tugging his jacket and asking " if you release a black balloon would that also fly? Moved by the boy's concern the man replied with empathy " son it's not the colour of the balloon but what's inside that makes it go up.

- ❖ The same thing applies to our work in our lives. It is what is inside that counts.
- ❖ The thing inside us that makes us go up is our attitude.
- ❖ Have you wondered why some countries/ individuals are more successful than others.
- ❖ These people simply think and act more effectively.
- ❖ They have better positive attitudes.

## **Rules towards acquiring positive attitude**

- ❖ Treat every person with whom you come into contact as the most important person on earth.
- ❖ If your attitude is not right, nothing else is right and you have lost the 'sale' even before you start.
- ❖ The human mind can hold only one thought at a time prominently.
- ❖ Since there is nothing to be gained by being negative, be positive.
- ❖ The deepest craving of human beings is to feel important, to be needed and to be appreciated. Appreciate others and you too will be appreciated.
- ❖ You can learn something from everybody.
- ❖ Don't waste your time broadcasting personal problems.
- ❖ Don't talk about your health unless it is good.

**T. Rani Padma**

III B.A. HISTORY

## **NEW TEACHING-LEARNING METHODS**

### **QUALITY CIRCLE FOR INTELLECTUAL INTERACTION**

The Department of History, realised the need for an intellectual forum of an inter-disciplinary nature in Stella Maris College, which would enable us to share knowledge on topics of common interests among the academic community. The forum facilitates sharing of ideas relating to the latest advances or creativity in various fields. Such enlightenment we hope will contribute to the creation of a, "Quality Circle" for Intellectual interaction.

The forum meets once a fortnight, during lunch break and papers are presented. This is followed by an interactive session. The forum was inaugurated in July. The following were some of the papers presented during the Academic Year 1999-2000

- ❖ 'Women and Health' by Dr. Geetha Sridharan, Department of Economics
- ❖ 'Elections-99 Politics of survival' by Dr. Patricia Joseph, Department of History
- ❖ 'Folk Traditions of Tamil Nadu' by Dr. Vijaya Asir, Department of Tamil
- ❖ 'Eclipses-The phenomena' by Dr. Felbin Kennedy, Department of Mathematics
- ❖ 'Internet and Power Point for presentations' by Ms. Gita Balachandran, Librarian

- ❖ 'Claude Monet-the impressionist painter' by Ms. Ashrafi Bhagat, Department of Fine Arts
- ❖ 'Relevance of the teaching community' by Dr. Susan Oomen, Department of English
- ❖ 'Women in Policing-a world perspective' by Ms. Vimala Stephen, Department of History
- ❖ 'Tamil and Tamilians abroad' by Dr. Ulaganayaki Palani, Department of Tamil

The forum has served to provide a platform for the faculty to share their knowledge, research findings and viewpoints on issues and concerns, and evoke interaction in an academic atmosphere.

**Dr. Patricia Joseph**  
Faculty of History





# AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO HISTORY

“Education is a concentration of the mind and not mere collection of ideas”- Swami Vivekananda.

Autonomy and the credit-based system give flexibility and freedom to innovate, to both the teacher and the student. Thereby education becomes more meaningful. When students are motivated and the Faculty enthusiastic, learning becomes enjoyable. Third component, a unit of testing and evaluation in our college, gives students an opportunity, to “Discovery Learning”. This year for our third component in the European History paper, we opted for something different from the usual written assignment, or class presentation. The Creative Project was Mrs. Radhika’s brainchild.

The most important principles of management are enterprise, planning and delegation of work. We decided to put this theory into practice. We took on the challenge, and signed up for the multimedia presentation on ‘Ancient Egypt’ for children between 7-11 years. The two OEP’s that we are (to use the Stella Maris lingo for over enthusiastic people), we started working on the project the very next day and worked through the entire December holidays. We slogged for the next two months till D-Day. As we started out, we realized that it wasn’t half as easy as we thought it would be. Our computer knowledge was very limited, and as we began working on our project, we faced a lot of technical problems. It was then that we realized that to submit a good multimedia presentation, we needed sound computer knowledge. As we proceeded step by step, we learnt not only about Ancient Egypt but also about computers.

Once we set the ball rolling, we decided what each one of us would do. We started collecting as much information as possible from books and from the net. This process left us with abundant notes. We fed the entire notes into the computer and this was a very painstaking job. After that we collected a lot of pictures from the net and scanned a lot from books. Our next step was deciding the headings under which our project was to be presented, the pictures we needed and where to put them. Next was the tiresome job of editing. Everything was difficult, more so because we had to see the entire project from the eyes of a 9 year old kid. Believe us when we say that it isn't easy to change your viewpoint from a 19-year-old to a 9-year-old! What we were after was the satisfaction of achieving something new and to bring a smile on the viewer's face. We realized the potential we had within us, and that the two of us worked very well together. What one had, the other didn't and vice-versa. In short we complemented and supplemented each other.

The editing took us about a month of sheer hard work. We found inserting pictures in MS-Word an exciting job, but to our disappointment each time we opened the document the pictures were all on top of each other. We had also to set the background and decide the font. To top it all, we couldn't convert our word files to HTML, which was mandatory for our project, since we wished to present it as a web page. Fortunately for us a friend of ours helped us solve this problem. We learnt about the limitations of Front Page Express and the HTML coding method.

### **The project gave us total quality education;**

- Ø It helped us look at learning, beyond exams and marks.
- Ø It gave us tremendous satisfaction, of having created something of our own.

- ∅ It gave us the knowledge about the unlimited sources of information and the methods of accessing them.
- ∅ It taught us the skills to work on computers, create multi media presentations and build web pages.

Paradoxically we could not see the final form of the project at either of our computers due to technical reasons. At the final moment of our project presentation when Mrs. Radhika browsed through it, we stood behind her in stock silence with fingers crossed and praying all along. Our prayers were answered and the magic unfolded - it worked beautifully!

**Meera Krishnamoorthy**  
**Rashmi Mehta**  
II BA History



# EDUCATION AND COMPUTERS-THE INEVITABLE LINK

Everybody today requires computer-related technology to perform better and faster, in this world of competition. There is a need for computer training, be it a student or a housewife or a professional. Everyone wants to be competent amidst the new work environment. Information Technology is thus the main pulse of education too.

Earlier computer knowledge was limited to software or hardware professionals, but today it has become a household concept and therefore everybody should achieve user level knowledge. Educating students in computers at school, is a stepping stone for a better future. Socrates once said, "education is the kindling of the flame and not the filling of empty vessels." Children learn best when they use all their senses. Thus different available mediums such as audio, video, Internet sources and multimedia should be utilized, to educate young minds. When a small child is told that the lion roars, he is not able to understand but if he sees it through video or multimedia, he understands. This simple logic can also be applied to grown-ups. Visual education always leaves more impact than mere theoretical knowledge. Programs such as Franklin Learns, Maths and Geometry Blaster, Inventor labs, Reading Blaster etc help children in their studies. Various CD ROMS are available today in all fields that instill and sustain interest in the subject.

Internet based, online education is also becoming popular. There are many sites that give a lot of information and facilitate online access to data. Sites exist, to teach the user web designing through user friendly software. The main

attraction of Allan Leigh's website, is that it is simple and helps self-learning. It is designed like an electronic textbook and is interactive.

There are various sites such as yahoo.com, netscape.com, altavista.com and the more recent google.com, that are useful search engines for any kind of information required, whether it is robotics or seismology. Students get Internet connections at a concessional rate, to log onto the network for all information from overseas universities and various other libraries. The Funschool Company has produced a website, [www.funschool.com](http://www.funschool.com), that offers free education and entertainment online, as well as interactive activities for children in the age group of two and a half to twelve years. Bethany high school at Bangalore has replaced the blackboard and textbooks with computers. The syllabus is designed to suit computer-aided teaching. NIIT in association with Microsoft has started online training based on Microsoft technologies.

With good infrastructural development Indian school and college libraries can be computerised for better learning. The whole idea of education has been revolutionized. The spread of computer networking has made the world a global village, where people share a common culture, language and find a common forum for their views and their opinions. In the net the imbalances between the rich and the poor do not exist. To quote Benjamin Franklin, "If a man empties his purse into his head no one can take it from him." Improving the quality of existence is the path to prosperity for the mankind.

Medium of education has changed, from rocks and leaves to paper, blackboard, to the use of OHP, slides, videos and finally computers and the Internet. Already online services exist and soon will become common in India too. Education

will reach homes because of the Internet. Students will have to write exams online. The system of education will become easy and convenient. Exams can be written whenever the student wishes to.

Let us ponder now on how the education system can be revolutionised in colleges and in schools. First of all computer facilities should be made available for all students. Software companies and academicians alike can develop compact discs and comprehensive packages. Today both the teachers and the students require computer knowledge. The students can be taught to design webpages so that they can submit projects as web pages. Communication with the course coordinator and subject experts can be through email and net conferencing.

However we must recognise that computers are a way of living but must not take over your life. It cannot disrupt life or replace it, but can only be used to enhance it. Too much dependence on computers will make one lack in social skills. The hard fact is that a man cannot survive alone. He is after all a social animal. Computers can revolutionise our lives but not take over our existence!

**Robin Bela**  
II BA History



# A JOURNEY TO EAST ASIA & SOUTH EAST ASIA

Exotic, enthralling, enchanting and fascinating, these are the words that one would use to describe East Asia and South East Asia. The term "South-East Asia" refers to the following nations; Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, and the Philippines and "East Asia" refers to China, Japan and Korea. This mysterious region is not only endowed with an abundance of natural resources, but also has a rich cultural heritage and is home to scores of races and cultures which many of us have not even heard of. This year as part of our third component assignment, we were asked to discover East Asia and South East Asia's culture and tradition. We jumped at the chance and decided to explore the customs and traditions of these people. However our initial euphoria soon dissipated for we did not know how to go about getting information.

We finally decided to contact the embassies either personally or by mail. The embassy staff was very obliging in helping us with information. Apart from the embassies, we contacted travel agents, restaurants and the natives of some of the countries. The other sources were books, journals and the Internet. It was essentially a very challenging project. The class presentations began. "Malaysians" started auspiciously on Valentines Day followed by the "Laotians", "Bruneians", "Chinese", "Singaporeans", "Koreans", "Thais", "Burmese", "Indonesians", "Philippinos", "Vietnamese", and "Cambodians". For the grand finale we had the Japanese. We were taken through a kaleidoscope of colors, customs and traditions.

We had a chance of learning the basic terms of greeting in different languages- Oi (Hello) in Vietnamese, Mabuhay (Welcome) and O-oh (yes) in Philippino, Aku Suka Kau (Ilike

you) in Brunei, Okagesamade (fine) in Japanese, Nihao (Hello) in Chinese and Savati (welcome) in Thai.

We had a glimpse of various traditional costumes and the currencies of these countries. People paraded in Kimonos, Sarongs, Patadyongs, Barongs, Tagalogs, and Panungs.

We were given a visual tour of all the major attractions in the South East Asian countries- Kuala Lumpur tower, National mosque and Kina Balu mountain in Malaysia; Angkor Wat in Cambodia, Omar Ali Saizuddin Mosque, Jerudang Park and Tayasen shopping complex in Brunei; The Pukat, Samui and Chang islands, Watarun Raja Vararam temple, shrine of the emerald temple in Thailand, Borobudur shrine in Indonesia, Rice terrace, chocolate hills and Palawar beach in the Philippines, Santosa islands(musical fountain) in Singapore, Pagodas and Buddhist monasteries in Burma; Great wall; ,Tianamen square and Imperial palace in Peking in China; Fujiyama, Kin Ky Kuji gardens in Kyoto and Dai Butsu (the great Bronze statue of Buddha in Japan.

We had a taste of culinary delicacies of some countries like "pisang goreng", a desert from Malaysia, 'Pandan juice' from Philippines, 'Noodles' from China, 'Fried rice' from Thailand and mixed vegetable soup, mushroom noodles, fried rice and salad from Japan.

All in all, our journey across the East Asia and South East Asian countries was fascinating and served as an eye-opener. We resolved that one day we would really visit these countries to satisfy our curiosity and explore them to our hearts content.

**T. Vanitha**  
**Kogilam Govender**

**Deepaa. P.**  
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# A TOUR TO THE TEMPLE TOWNS

Excursions-a time to let your hair down and leave the worries of the classroom behind. We, the second year students of the department of history decided to go on a short two day study tour to the garden city of Bangalore and the ancient temple towns of Sravanabelagola , Halebid and Belur.

In an air of excitement we boarded the train from Chennai central to Bangalore. The weather in Bangalore was pleasant. Our first halt was Sravanabelagola which is 3060 ft above sea level. The temple is built around a tank, which lies between two hills, Vindhyagiri and Chandragiri. This Jain pilgrimage center is the seat of the huge 58ft statue of Lord Bahubali or Sage Gomateshwara which is one of the world's largest monolithic statue.

The next on the itinerary was Halebid, the erstwhile capital of the Hoysalas. Its original name was Dwara Samudra. It later came to be known as Halebid meaning Old Camp or Ruined Camp. The Hoysaleshwara temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, took our breath away. Sculptures of gods, goddesses, animals, birds and dancing girls adorned the walls of the temple. What is astonishing about the star shaped temple is that even after 87 years of construction work it stands incomplete to this day. There are two Nandi bulls facing the temple, one of which is 16ft long and the seventh largest in India. Minutely carved bells, ropes and chains add to the beauty of the structure. Their stance and expressions made them look almost life-like.

We next visited Belur, previously called Velapuri. Gradually the name Velapuri became Velur and then Belur. King Vishnuvardhana in order to commemorate his victory against the mighty Kadambas, built the Sri Channakesava temple at

Belur in 1117 A.D. This temple is an exquisite example of Hoysala art and architecture. The temple appeared quite old, yet it had some of the most intricate and beautiful carvings. The temple is named after Chenna (meaning beautiful), and Kesava(meaning long haired) who is a form of lord Krishna. The 6 inch deity is standing on a 3 inch pedestal. Built of grey green chlorite, the façade of this temple is filled with sculptures and friezes, with no portion left blank. Episodes from the epics and sensuous dancers are carved beautifully. It was workmanship at its best.

By the next morning we started our return journey after as lot of shopping at Commercial Street. The trip being a short one, sight seeing was not over till the last minute. Lal bagh and the State Secretariat were the last on the itinerary before we boarded the train back to Chennai. It's almost been 6 months since we came back from our trip, yet the memories that we hold will always linger on.

**Vaidehi.S**  
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# ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

## HIS-STORY

It is the follies of our forefathers  
Yet no one cares and nobody bothers  
    Man indulging in homicide,  
    Power wooing them till suicide  
    Oh! For a cup full of victory  
They fought like demons in history  
Battled in the name of the holy cross  
With spears and swords made of brass  
    To gain the hand of a beauty queen  
    Sheathed their jealousy in sheen  
Neither the victor nor the vanquished  
    Learned the lesson distinguished  
It is the tale of the dead and gone  
Of wars and decimation of lands forlorn  
Giving minute details and physical features  
    Of areas, habitats and creatures  
    Setting forth the info in the order  
Brave brothers brooding over the borders  
    Are they tales mostly about the lates  
    Down to perfection full of dates  
Many men toiled for discovery of sources  
    Facing all odds and militant forces  
They merely serve as a stumbling block  
Yet emerge victorious to their utter shock  
And sang in joy their national anthem  
No scientist could measure or fathom  
    The fruits of study in history  
    To learn the lifestyle and ancestry.

# SLITHERY AND THE BIRD

Chirp, the twig broke,  
Beneath the worm slithering curled.  
Wings opened covered the nest,  
And the little ones stood near its breasts.  
A twig dropped from the tree.  
Loaded with twig, the slithery danced in agony  
The wet mud made it easier to dance.  
Bird saw it, now in delight.  
The drops on its wings were dry,  
Nest was damp, leaves were not,  
Branch was damp, and twig was not.  
Slithery danced with its load,  
Every couple of nerves it contained vibrated.  
There was cold moisture in the air but now no rain.  
The day was good,  
And as usual a struggle for the survival for the fittest.  
Wings were in air, body lifted, a simple flight, from the  
Nest to the earth.  
The earth with wet mud, with less grass,  
One dancing twig and below a dancing labour.  
A dancer in pain, its stomach or no stomach flattened to  
Death in a large beak,  
Now in the beaks of little ones.  
It was simple, a simple game.  
Felicity of satisfaction, for the bird.  
It closed its eyes.  
Dry wings spread around little ones.  
Slithery was history.

**Robin Bela**

II BA History

# HISTORY – CHECK POINT

1. Which emperor used a garden as a chess board and dancing girls as chess pieces ?
2. Which famous English queen communicated with her catholic followers by writing her messages in barrels ?
3. Who assassinated Hitler ?
4. The Statue of Liberty that towers over New York , is actually a duplicate of the real one created by Frederic Bartholdi. Where does this statue stand ?
5. Which was the only Indian newspaper not to feature the death of Gandhiji as the headlines ?
6. His grandfather died a few days after visiting Orissa, his mother was sprayed with bullets a day after her visit to Orissa, and he was assassinated eight hours after his campaign at Gunpur, Orissa. Who was he ?
7. Which people sacrificed 15000 men each year to give their Sun god Huitztopochtli strength to rise the next day ?
8. Which famous painter of the 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century was abandoned by a midwife as being still born, but was saved by a doctor by blowing cigar smoke into him ?
9. Which work of art by Michelangelo is often called his greatest failure ?
10. Which is the only country in the world to have different symbols on either side of its national flag ?

**T. Sudha**  
III BA History

STIFF  
UPPER  
LIP?



**K.B. Aradhana**  
98/HS/02

# SLIPS OF THE PEN...

## ON TOURISM...

The most remarkable of the carved shrines at Ellora is Ajantha.  
**A cave within a cave!**

The Lingaraj temple is in Lingapur.

**Christening and Tongue twisters**

The original design for the Jantar Mantar was given by the WTO.

**Do we detect a foreign hand!**

Goa is considered the world's most inexpensive winter sports resort.

**Have the Himalayas been relocated!**

## ON CONSTITUTION...

The Pochampalli weave is from the Mediterranean Sea.

**A trap for the Mediterranean sharks**

A citizen is entitled to move the Supreme Court to seek enforcement of the Fundamental Rights. Therefore the Fundamental Rights are called the Directive Principles of State Policy.

**Source: Dr.Ambedkar@Mamooty.com**

The cabinet refers to the cabin of the Prime Minister.

**That explains why our cabinet is so wooden!**

## ON RELIGION...

St.Thomas came to Madras from USA.

**There's our claim to US citizenship!**

## ON HISTORY...

Mahatma Gandhi inspired Raja Ram Mohan Roy

**What Chronological sense!**

## **ON INVENTION**

The contribution of Thomas Alva Edison was the invention of the steam engine. This was contributed by an incident that took place in his life, i.e. the falling off apple from the tree. Thus he founded about the force of attraction.

**That's probably why we have rail accidents!**

## **On Nuclear Testing**

On the 11<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> of May 1999, India conducted the nuclear test at Pokhran which was considered to be socio-economic development.

**Abdul Kalam would then be India's Muscle man!**

## **On genetic engineering**

A Gene is a part of Human Cell. It is manufactured in Sri Hari Kota.

**Then all of us can be clones of Aishwarya Rai!**

## **Answers to History-Checkpoint**

1. Mogul emperor Akbar.
2. Mary – Queen of Scots
3. He committed suicide !
4. On the banks of the Seine, Paris.
5. The Hindu , they carried advertisements on the front page.
6. Rajiv Gandhi
7. The Aztecs
8. Pablo Picasso
9. The statue of Moses.
10. Paraguay.



# CROSSWORD ON THE ORIENT

L U O E S C F K Z  
M R V U W A Y O A  
H Q I S L F A K I  
N B E I J I N G R  
E M N Q A B G N O  
P A T O K Y O A T  
M P I N A U N B C  
O C A J R O F C I  
N A N G T I D P V  
H X E H A N O I Y  
P Y O N G Y A N G

This puzzle has the capitals of 12 East Asian & South East Asian Countries. Find the Capitals. All the best!!!

**Vanitha T**  
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