

Book Review

Editor's Note

Our policy is to review all books which are either sent to us or in our opinion are useful to our readers.

Singh, Balmiki Prasad; *India's Culture - The State, the Arts and Beyond*; 2nd Edition, Oxford University Press, India, pp. 264, Price ₹ 395

Culture is power. Culture includes not only art, music, dance, and drama, but a whole way of life culture heightens, the skills of an individual and a society in its totality, because it is by culture that a man or a society gets an insight into the whole. In short, culture is "Sanskriti", or a process of refinement.

Author stated beautifully that Indian culture is a story of unity and synthesis, of reconciliation and development of harmony and assimilation, of fusion of old traditions with new values. All the communities which came to India before the Muslims, were assimilated in the existing society and lost their identity. Muslims however maintained a separate identity, yet influenced by the prevailing cultural more affecting their social habits and customs. As the world's largest democracy and a plural society in the terms of ethnicity and religious, languages and art, climate and eco – system and a well – developed culture, India is unique.

This book was First published in 1998 but its theme and concern related India's culture continued to engage author in public service activities – Lectures, monographs, seminars etc. Author developed and reflected his new ideas in writing this book. Over the years, public – leaders and scholar came to appreciate the close relationship between culture and development. It is necessary to know what is defined as well being and how economic and social factors interact with culture to create access to a good life. What is Development? And What it seeks? Development in its totality can only be accomplished when there is an understanding of culture and social dynamics is blended with economics and politics. India is one of the unique nations in the world in that it possesses a developed culture and a developed economy.

Both the market and the state have played pioneering roles in the promotion of art and culture in India's History. During 75 years of policies

pursued by government of India have facilitated cultural progress by providing environment which provided dialogue among creative persons and encouraged freedom of their expression.

In account of institution building efforts by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, and the care with which they handled matter of art and culture to the minutest details has been discussed in chapter second by the Author. Chapter three of the book is a faithful portrayal of dialogues between official and Leaders about the art purchase policies and cultural aspect of Republic Day Parade, and is, a kind of replay of History. Author's aim was to provide an insight into the cultural climate of the early years of the Indian Republic.

Author discussed the value system in the third millennium in a global perspective in the chapter three of this book. People are the custodian of Indian's spirit of beauty, poetry, sculpture, dance, music and craft. It is the fragrance of this India, particularly of its woman, which will be the source of strength in the third millennium of history. An approach "Culture as a paradigm of development", is a prerequisite that enrich the Consciousness of civil servants and Politicians. Through this book, author aimed to provide a glimpse of some aspects of Indian culture and highlighting the relevance of culture in the social and political life of the nation.

Beside the three important organs of governance the Legislative, Executive and Judiciary, an independent press and a vibrant civil society has arisen in India. among all these five organs of democracy, only member of legislatures is elected by the people and the rest have different methods of filling up their ranks and also source of sustenance. Culture provided harmony in operation of these institution, in terms of laws of the land and national values. Its movement are not guided by cultural values, then there may be lawlessness and autocratic behaviours.

Empowered Panchayats and concerned citizen are playing a very significant roles in the design and execution of rural and Adivasis or tribles livelihood programme in terms of cultural tradition of the village. We also see upgrading and resurfacing of water bodies likes ponds, tanks and bawalis in the countryside. Culture is becoming a part of economic and finance aspect of an individual, Family, village, state and a nation as a whole. There is a whole variety of jobs in the heritage industry. thus, the creative power of culture needs to be perceived in a wider contest. Accordingly, cultural forces need to be supported by other movement namely that of democracy, ecology, good education, and harmonious international relations.

In fact, "Indian culture" is in physical form (this book) of author's understanding of India's rich culture past and its present state of creativity. This book provides both information and insights about India's culture, this book is a beautiful piece of literature to Indian culture and heritage in the academic world. This book will be a very useful guide to Student, Scholar, Policymaker's, Culture Leaders and Historians. At the end, I must thank "Oxford Press" for publishing this book and bringing out its subsequent editions for Leaders.

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