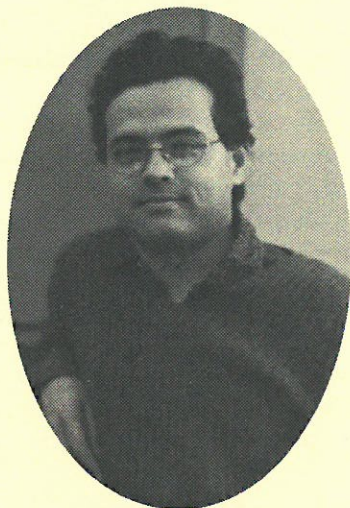


The South Asia Newsletter

A Publication of Cornell's South Asia Program

Spring 1995

Interview: Vijay Prashad



Vijay Prashad, Visiting Assistant Professor of South Asian History

"Until 1947, India was part of the British Empire. So why teach Indian History as foreign history?" This is one of the questions posed by Vijay Prashad, popular visiting Assistant Professor of South Asian history. He is currently teaching two courses in South Asian history, one on the diaspora, and one on modern South Asian history. He likes to think of the topic not as Indian history, but as "a place called India, the history of which fits into the world."

Prashad's goal in his teaching is to establish interpretative historical narratives. "So many people are fascinated with their ancestry and culture," notes Prashad. Students are interested not

Alumni/ae
Corner
See Insert

only in British Empire, but also in the period after the dissolution of that Empire. Most of the migration has been of labor. Typically, the first world has wanted the labor of immigrants, but not their lives. Prashad cites some examples of this distaste:

continued on page 3

Students Take Odissi Dance with Durga Bor

"Durga Bor's course provides an alternative perspective into Indian culture and dance. Through lectures and movement classes, Indian culture is better understood...This class had developed an interest in Indian culture, particularly Indian dance, that can only be satisfied with further instruction."

So states Vanessa Valeriano, a student of Classical South Asian Dance, Odissi style. She is one of approximately 30 students who have enrolled in the course to learn more about this unique style of dance.

Their instructor, Durga Bor, first became intrigued with Indian dance when she was living in California. She attended the Ali Akbar Music College. Her studies were in the Bharata Natya style of dance. In 1975, she went to the Naropa Institute in Boulder, Colorado and took a course in Odissi with guru S.N. Jena. Here, Bor fell in love with the style. She took the workshop for



continued on page 2

Students in Durga Bor's dance class

Notes from the Acting Director

Just as 1968 was known for its "Paris Spring" (with the city streets given over to student barricades), 1995 has seen a flash of South Asian Spring on the Cornell Campus. South Asian students at Cornell have become newly active on campus, organizing around specific curricular issues and broader questions of institutional recognition. Students worked to support the reappointment of the popular visiting Assistant Professor of history, **Vijay Prashad**, with an impressive letter writing campaign. They also met with Deans and Department Chairs urging the establishment of a regularized, tenure-track position in South Asian history--one of the South Asia Program's own foremost priorities. Among the welcome consequences of student activism has been the reorganization of the South Asian Program committee structure to include students at all levels of program planning and activity. There is so much that all of us--students, faculty, and alums--can do to strengthen South Asian Studies. We always welcome your response and contributions to make our still unfulfilled needs an actuality.

It is with strong feelings of optimism that I conclude my year as Acting Director. The program has been inestimably strengthened by the presence of **Professor Kaushik Basu** in Economics and **Dr.**

Alaka Basu in Nutrition and by the promotion to tenure of both **Professors Sarosh Kuruvilla** (ILR) and **SAP Associate Director Chris Minkowski** (Asian Studies). The excellent program staff will be continuing in place next year and **Professor Shelley Feldman** returns after a year's leave in Berkeley and Bangladesh to deploy her superb skills and energies as director.

-*Mary Fainsod Katzenstein*

Durga Bor continued ...

two summers, and in the fall of 1976, she went to India, and "she never looked back."

Bor spent five years at Triveni Kalasangam, where she received a diploma. In the mid-1980's, while Durga was in Holland, Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra was giving a workshop. She was invited to participate, and was very inspired. She decided to start all over again from step one, and learn the basics. In 1990, she received a senior fellowship with American Institute for Indian Studies (AIIS) in professional development. Bor studied first with Manoranjan Pradhan at the Odissi Research Centre, and then with Guru Gangadhar Pradhan at the Orissa Dance Centre. Both before and after this period, Bor taught at the International Society for Traditional Arts Research School of Indian Music and Dance, which later merged with the government Muzick School of Amsterdam.

Bor has held workshops in Belgium and Holland. She has performed in Europe, Indian and America. Currently, she is teaching Odissi dance at Cornell in the Center for Theatre Arts. In the fall, she will be teaching this course again (Asian Dance 307). One of the program's priorities is to appeal to the South Asian community and alumni for support to enable us to continue this course in the spring and into the future. Bor also teaches a weekly Odissi dance class in the Horseheads area for children of community members. She can be reached at 255-8493.

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Community Focus: STICA

The Southern Tier India Cultural Association, (STICA) under the leadership of Ramana Adibhatla has been very active during the past year. They have adopted a section of highway, Route 17, in the Horseheads area. The many fine arts events which they helped to support and/or organize include: The Ramayana, (September 1994), The annual Diwali Celebration, (October 1994), Pasha's Dance Performance, (January 1995), Durga Bor's Dance Concert, (May 1996), and the Marquette Internationale at Corning, (May, 1995)

Ramana Adibhatla can be reached at 607-796-2854, or e-mail: RADIBHAT@us.oracle.com.

South Asia Program Staff

Shelley Feldman, Director 255-8909

Mary F. Katzenstein, Acting Director 255-8909, (till 6/30/95)

Chris Minkowski, Associate Director 255-8493

Susan Campbell, Administrative Manager 255-8493

Durga Bor, Administrative Aide 255-8493

Karis Dorfman, Development Intern &

Newsletter Editor 255-8910

Work Study Office Assistants:

Gene Babinsky, Jennie Kiendra 255-8910

Vijay Prashad continued ...

that "Indian food is smelly, Indians are smelly." There was a saying in England in the 1970's about the Asian composition of the night shift: "The darker the sky, the blacker the faces." He also cites Samuel Gompers' 1905 book entitled *Meat Vs. Rice: Asiatic Coolieism vs. American Manhood* to show that elements in the American labor market and in the administration actually had a fear of Asian immigrants. Prashad teaches history courses as narratives that reach beyond India. He seeks to avoid the ghettoizing of Indian history by drawing connections to Europe, Africa, South Asia, and the Caribbean.

Prashad has done extensive research with the Balmiki community, comprised mostly of sweepers in North India. Part of his interest in the Balmiki relates to their participation in the 1984 riots against the Sikhs. Why would an oppressed group kill other oppressed people? His forthcoming book is a social history of the Balmiki covering the period from 1860 to 1960.

Prashad is now working on two projects. One is a popular introduction to the history of Modern Indians outside of India from 1830 to present. The second project is a detailed study of the experience of withdrawal. It is an account of political abdication, asking the central question: What is the place of Asian Indians in America? Some Indians, Prashad believes, are here just to make money, and they remain quiet on issues such as domestic violence, and gay and lesbian rights. There is an attitude of silencing of legitimate issues, a desire "not to make waves." The Indian community, Prashad feels, did not respond effectively to such incidents as the killing of Navroz Mody in New Jersey in 1987.

While in Rhode Island, Prashad worked for *Direct Action for Rights and Equality* (DARE). This was a group that came out of a movement of the late 1960's entitled *National Welfare Rights Organization* (NWRO). The motivation of such organizations is to fight for social justice as well as to provide a network and center for third world organizing. It is a multiracial group. There are 900 members in Providence

including Blacks, Latino's, Southeast Asians, and whites. Their efforts involve practical assistance such as reconnection of utilities and fighting police brutality through community accountability.

Prashad has been appointed as a Visiting Professor for fall 1995, and will be teaching two courses, *Empire and Imperiled States: South Asia* (History 382) and *Gandhi and NonViolence* (History 343.) He is the only professor teaching South Asian history at Cornell. He will be teaching two courses at Syracuse University in the Spring.

Dan Gold Visits India

"Devotion is a social force." This is the oft-repeated phrase which Dan Gold, Professor of Religious Studies, heard during his trip to India in December. While there, Gold attended a number of events in connection with the seventy-fifth birthday celebration of Sri Pandurang Athavale Shastri, founder of the Swadhyay movement. Gold was invited to India by Swadhyay, a group based in Bombay and Gujarat, who practice the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita.

"The name 'Swadhyay' itself, which means self-study, reflects the identity of the movement as a *teaching*--not a *transmission*, as found in guru-disciple lineages. As *self-study*, moreover, it prompts people to turn to their own resources, not to look for grace from a spiritual elder," states Gold in his recent paper entitled *The Swadhyay Parivar: Contemporary Religious Community in the Image of Traditional Family*. This area of research is a departure for Gold, who has in the past focused on more guru-oriented and fundamentalist groups. Swadhyay has a large membership who emphasize community service. For Swadhyayees, "religiously motivated work entails relationships with others in the community. Much of practical Swadhyay efforts, then, go toward building and strengthening community, toward making the Swadhyay family grow and flourish."

The Swadhyayees organize very large functions, with hundreds of thousands of people attending. One of the most memorable moments for Gold was a gathering at Andheri Sports Stadium outside Bombay where he addressed 25,000 people in Hindi. He was joined by Indian scholars, as well as scholars from the U.S., Sweden, Great Britain, and Canada.

While in India, Professor Gold also gave a paper at the International Conference on Rajasthan Studies entitled "Yogis' Earrings, Householder's Birth: Split Ears and Religious Identity among Householder Naths from Rajasthan."

Student Activities

Students Organize April 1 Symposium

On April 1, 1995, a Symposium was held on *Gender, Nation and the Politics of Culture in India*. This event was totally conceived and organized by students. Special thanks to Priyamvada Gopal, Atiya Hussain, and Kavita Philip who did an incredible job of organizing the symposium. Over 150 participants gathered to hear prominent scholars discuss three main topics: Representing Gender/Imagining Communities, Gender and the Politics of Religion, and Engendering Change: Questions of Practice. The speakers in the first discussion on Imagining Communities were Susie Tharu (CIEFL, Hyderabad), Rajeswari Sunder Rajan (Center for Contemporary Cultural Studies, Nehru Memorial Library/George Washington University), Brenda Cossman (University of Toronto Law School). The respondent was Ania Loomba (Jawaharlal Nehru University/Stanford University).

Speakers for the discussion on Gender and the Politics of Religion were Gail Omvedt (Independent Scholar), Tanika Sarkar (University of Delhi/University of Chicago), Amrita Basu (Amherst College). The respondent was Chandra Talpade Mohanty (Hamilton College).

For the third topic, Engendering Change: Questions of Practice, the speakers were Radha Kumar (Columbia University), Shohini Ghosh (Jamia Millia Islamia University), Ruth Vanita (Delhi University/Society for the Humanities). The respondent was Ananya Bhattacharjee (DAKHI, New York).

Discussion was lively, ending with an examination of issues surrounding the GATT treaty. The event was co-sponsored by The Goldsen Fund: Images of Society, University Lectures Committee, Department of English, Department of Government, Women's Studies Program, Society for the Humanities, Women in Development, Program in Gender and Global Change, Peace Studies Program, South Asia Women's Group, and Department of Anthropology, Student Assoc. Finance Commission, Anthropology Graduate Student Colloquium.

Sri Lanka Association Hosts Former Sri Lankan Ambassador

The Sri Lanka Association and the South Asia Program co-sponsored a seminar on "Pluralist

Culture of Sri Lanka" on April 12, at the A.D. White House. The speaker was Dr. Ananda Guruge, former Sri Lankan Ambassador to the U.S. and Visiting Professor at Northwestern University. A dish to pass followed the event.

Sinhala Cinema

Aradhana, a film by Wijaya Dharmasri, was shown on April 24th. This showing was co-sponsored by Sri Lanka Association, East Asia Program and South Asia Program.

Holi 1995

The Society for India and the Cornell India Association organized Holi '95, a Spring Festival of Colors, which was held Saturday, April 15, at the Ithaca High School. It was funded in part by the SAFC, GPSAFC, SAP, JSPB, and Bhakti. Also, on Sunday April 2 the students celebrated Holi with colors on the Arts Quad.

Desi Bhangra Night

The Pakistan Students' Association held a Desi Bhangra Night on Friday, April 21 at the Clara Dickson Ballroom. Students listened to desi remixes and bhangra classics.

Slide Show on Travels in the Himalayas

On April 3, Alex Hildebrand and Abraham Lustgarten presented a slides of rural and city life, the Himalayas, and highlights of Buddhism and Hinduism of Nepal.

Poetry Reading

A student-organized poetry reading of South-Asian and South Asian American published and original works was held on May 6, at the Anabel Taylor Commons Coffee House. Selections included works from Sujata Bhatt, Rabinranath Tagore, Imtiaz Dharker, Iqbal, Meena Alexander, and Ian Rashid.

Charla Britt-Kapoor Receives Fulbright-Hays

Congratulations to Charla Britt-Kapoor, who has been awarded a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Program for Spring of 1996. Britt, who is in Development Sociology, plans to conduct her field work in Nepal.

South Asia on Campus

Volkhonskii Visits Cornell from Moscow

"It was practically a miracle--I never dreamt of coming to this University," stated Boris Volkhonskii about his IREX (International Research and Exchange Board) fellowship which allowed him to spend two semesters at Cornell. There were large groups of academics and scholars from the former Soviet Union (70 total) visiting the US in 1994-95. The categories covered linguistics, history, political science, and humanities. Volkhonskii is studying with the leading scholar of the Sinhala language, Professor James Gair, Department of Modern Language and Linguistics.

Volkhonskii's study of the Sinhala language concentrates on such issues as semantics and grammar interface, linguistic typology, and areal problems. He introduces new approaches to a number of grammatical peculiarities in Sinhala looked upon in a broader context, with references to similar phenomena in other South Asian languages. Volkhonskii has given talks at Syracuse University, University of Texas at Austin, and Cornell University.

Another aspect of Volkhonskii's research interests deals with ethnobotany, which is traditionally considered to be a natural science discussing the role of plants in medicine and related fields. However, in his paper entitled *Plants in South Asian Culture (Humanitarian aspects of ethnobotany)*, Volkhonskii has added a new dimension to this topic trying to find out how important plants are for the textual tradition (mythology, folklore, classical and modern literature), to explicate the symbolism of plants and to use this symbolic language for the interpretation of various literary works.

Solntseva Studies at Cornell

Olga Solntseva, a scholar from Moscow, has been a program visitor in 1995. She has worked on *Sinhala Classical Sandesas* (message-poems). As Solntseva notes in her paper, "the framework of Sinhalese sandesas is of ritual origin. It organizes the contents of the poems and helps to present the idea that the King should support Buddhism in order to provide prosperity for Lanka."

Solntseva's diploma is in Sinhala folk tales in Sinhala literature, which she has classified and differentiated from fables. She has translated Sinhala folk tales into Russian with Boris Volkhonskii.

In Memorium

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Michael Manickham. Manickham received his Ph.D. in Linguistics from Cornell in 1974. He was

an instructor for various courses at Cornell, including Tamil, the Non-Violence of Mahatman Gandhi, and Hindu Religion and Philosophy.

Science and Technology Workshop

The Science and Technology Studies Department held a workshop on April 29-30, 1995. This was a small workshop which allowed extensive interaction around the question of whether the study of science and technology provides us with new opportunities to analyze the relations between agrarian and industrial societies, and to redefine the meaning of science and technology in a comparative context.

Rao Guides FFIS Madurai Project

Asha-Cornell members formed the "Faculty-Fellowship in Service" (FFIS) which was undertaken in Madurai under the guidance of Mr. Vijendran Rao. Cornell formed a Chapter of ASHA and sent a proposal to FFIS for funding for the Environmental Education of School Children in villages around Madurai. Ten villages in the area and more than 300 children were involved with the Project. Towards the end of the project, two students--Mridula Ramesh (BioChem '95) and Krishnan Suresh (grad student, Mechanical Engineering) as well as Vijendran Rao, the Faculty Coordinator, visited the Project site. They had extensive discussion with the whole PACHE group, children, families and villagers. They reviewed their photographs and records of events, watched the children caring for the plants, and saw some of the skits presented by the children which highlighted nature, social customs, and health care.



A volunteer in Madurai helps students with a skit

Photo by Vijendran Rao

Program Faculty

Alaka Basu has published two papers since January, 1995: "The politicization of fertility and its implications for social progress," paper presented at the seminar on Population and Common Security, King's College, University of Cambridge, U.K., Feb, 1995; and "Poverty and AIDS: A Vicious Circle," paper presented at the University of Florence-UNICEF-IUSSP seminar on Demography and Poverty, University of Florence, March, 1995.

In December 1994, **Kaushik Basu** went to India as the coordinator of the "Winter School" in Economics, organized by the Centre for Development Economics in Delhi, in his capacity as Director of the Centre. The annual Winter School brings international and Indian economists to the Delhi School of Economics to give short courses, spread over a week, and organizes informal get-togethers and chats with Indian students and junior faculty.

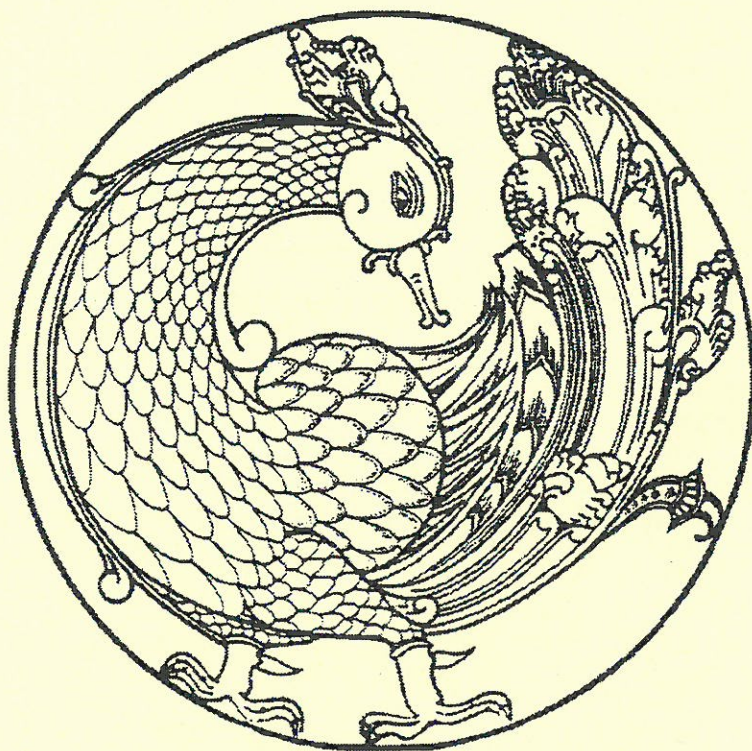
For the next several months, **Basu** and Professor Gary Fields are planning to do a project on labor markets, retrenchment and layoffs in the context of the Indian economy and its recent policy changes.

Roy Colle has been working in India on agricultural project proposals for the World Bank. One of these, the National Agricultural Technology Project, focusses especially on Maharashtra, Punjab and Orissa.

Shelley Feldman's recent work includes "Contradictions of Gender Inequality: Urban Class Formation in Contemporary Bangladesh" in Alice Clark, *Gender and Political Economy: Explorations of South Asian Systems*. Oxford University Press, 1993; and "Class Relations and Labor Market Differentiation in Rural Bangladesh" in Bruce Koppel, et al., *Development or Deterioration? Work in Rural Asia*. Boulder and London: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1994.

A paper by **Dan Gold** entitled "Guru's Body, Guru's Abode" recently appeared as a chapter in *Religious Reflections on the Human Body*, ed. Jane Marie Law (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1995).

Satya Mohanty's recent publications include: "Colonial Legacies, Multicultural Futures: Relativism, Objectivity, and the Challenge of Otherness." *Colonialism and the Postcolonial Condition*. PMLA (January 1995): 108-18; "Lives of Their Own." Introduction to *The Slate of Life*. More



Contemporary Stories by Women Writers of India. Ed. Kali for Women. New York: Feminist Press, 1994. 1-25. (Coauthored with Chandra Talpade Mohanty).

Vijay Prashad has three articles appearing: "Marks of Capital: Colonialism and the Sweepers of Delhi" in *International Review of Social History* (Amsterdam), No. 40:1, April 1995; "The Killing of Bala Shah and the Birth of Valmiki: Hinduization and the Politics of Religion," in *Indian Economic and Social History Review* (New Delhi), no. 3, September 1995; and "Dalits are also Labourers: Caste and Class in Modern India," in *Left History* (Canada), Fall 1995.

Milan Rodrigo had a paper accepted in December 1994 at the conference on "The Last Half Century of the Chinese Overseas (1945-1994): Comparative Perspectives" December 19-21, 1994 at The University of Hong Kong. Her paper was titled "Chinese in Sri Lanka: A Study of Culture and Ethnicity".

And special congratulations to **Sarosh Kuru-villa** on the birth of his son, Irit.

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Gifts to Odissi Dance Position

Ramana and Surya Adibhatla

The South Asia Program wishes to extend its sincere gratitude to all of the donors. And special thanks to all of those that provided support and donations for the many fine student-organized events throughout the year.

Faculty Awards

1994 Founder's Prize will be shared by **Norman Uphoff** and Deborah Bidaver Cohen of Florida International University. The committee recognized Uphoff's paper, "The Rehabilitation of Altruism and Cooperation," as an important contribution to "emerging socio-economic theory...[integrating] work in the natural sciences with that in the social sciences." Uphoff is currently director of the Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development (CIIFAD) in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, while remaining a member of the Department of Government. CIIFAD's purpose is to support sustainable agricultural and rural development in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. (*Adapted from a press release of The Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics dated 4/28/95*)

Christopher Minkowski, Assistant Professor of Classics and Asian Studies, won the Appel Fellowship for Social Scientists and Humanists. He and Maureen McCoy, Assistant Professor of English and Director of the Creative Writing Program, were named the first winners of the Robert and Helen Appel Fellowships, which allows the holder to take a one-year sabbatic or study leave at full salary. Minkowski is a specialist in the classical civilization of the Indian subcontinent and a scholar of Sanskrit, the language of the classical texts of Indian literature, philosophy and religion. He is best known for his work on the religion and rituals of the Vedas, the oldest and most sacred texts in the Indian tradition. In 1993 Minkowski created a popular Freshman Writing Seminar on the Ramayana.

(*Adapted from an article appearing in the Cornell Chronicle, April 20, 1995*)

An Evening of Indian Classical Odissi Dance

The South Asia Program presented an evening of classical Odissi dance by Manoranjan Pradhan and Durga Bor on May 6. The evening also included highlights of Javanese dance by Nunuk Sri Rahayu.

The Event was co-sponsored with Cornell's Council for the Arts, Society for India, Cornell India Association, Department of Theatre Arts, and Department of Music.

The South Asia Program at Syracuse University: News from the other half of the Cornell-Syracuse Consortium

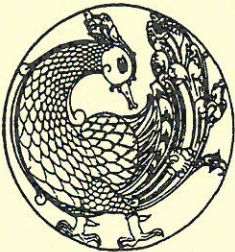
The South Asia Center at Syracuse has been active in providing outreach services in the central New York area this spring. On March 10, 1995 three panels were presented at the Syracuse School Superintendent's Day workshop on "Globalizing the Curriculum." The panels discussed issues of diaspora, a critique of multiculturalism, and resources for teaching South Asia K-12. On March 30, 1995 the South Asia Center presented to members of the Central New York Council for Social Studies on "The Ramayana: using an epic to teach about India". On April 8, 1995 Susan Wadley, Director, took part in a workshop on outreach through NEH

institutes at the Association of Asian Studies meetings in Washington, DC.

The annual Student-Teacher Workshop on the Syracuse University campus was held on March 13, 1995. One hundred students attended the day long event from three area schools. Students participated in yoga, folk dance, board games, savored fast food and had a discussion about multiculturalism. They also read an Indian play and watched an Indian Classical dance performance.

The South Asia Center lecture series this semester, along with the Women's Studies Program, focused on issues of gender. Participants in the series were Arti

Saijhee, Lakshmi Goparaju, Shubhra Gururani, Neema Caughran, Archana Prasad, Nirmala Erevelles, Priti Ramamurthy, Ruth Vanita, Susie Tharu, Rose DeNeve, and Chandra Talpade Mohanty. Frederique Apffel-Marglin, Smith College, delivered the Agehananda Bharati memorial talk, "Feminist Orientalism: Colonialism and Post Colonialism." A workshop was also held on "Labor and Ethnicity in Colonial India: Working Lives in Chota Nagpur and Assam" with Dilip Simeon and Rana Behal.



South Asia Program
Cornell University
170 Uris Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853

Alumni/ae Corner

Editor's note: In this section we hope to encourage an exchange of views about controversial issues. The editor welcomes comments from readers.

Pramit Pal Chaudhuri, (A&S '85, History), is an editor with the Calcutta Telegraph and has been a Humphrey Fellow at Maryland.

GATTway to India

India's signing of the Uruguay Round world trade treaty was a rite of passage even stormier than the US ratification experience last December. The fears raised during the debate on the latest General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) will haunt Indian economic liberalization for some time to come.

New Delhi has now signed on the dotted line. But the end of slogan shouting does not mean the government can shelve the GATT file. India needs to be well prepared for the changes in the global economy that GATT will introduce. This is not only a matter of economic self-interest. The legitimacy of the present reform process is strongly linked to a successful trade policy.

There is a lot of GATT to prepare for. The world trade treaty, a product of 9 years of jaw-jaw, is 26,000 pages of turgid legalese. Like most complex laws its full impact will only be realized over time.

I will highlight **five challenges** India will face in the post-Uruguay Round era.

The first is the political hot potato of trade related intellectual property rights (TRIPs). The new World Trade Organization (WTO) will soon be passing judgments on who has what rights to commercial information ranging

from microchip designs to brand-names for designer jeans.

GATT means the end of India's free-for-all on pharmaceutical patents. India should be concerned about this. But not because of the feared extortionist prices by Western companies. What is needed is regulation to ensure the domestic drug market does not fall victim to cartels.

By the best analyses, the presence of a strong home-based generic drug industry would hold the average, TRIPs-inspired rise in medicinal prices in India to about 15%. Keeping medicine prices down is important to middle class acceptance of reforms.

Another TRIPs challenge lies in biotechnology. For the first time the global trading system recognizes patents for genetic engineering, both products and processes. India has much catching up to do in this area, especially in the legal arena.

The second area India needs to keep its eyes peeled for is textiles. World trade in textiles is governed by the Multifibre Agreement (MFA), a highly restrictive trade regime that will be phased out by 2005 under the Uruguay Round. India has long railed against the MFA's "quota raj." But the MFA was a cozy system. It guaranteed India a fixed amount of sales and profits.

Now India will have to fend off fierce competition from China and Southeast Asia. This will not be easy. India's textile industry is riddled with Gandhian inspired technology bans and privileges for handlooms. The World Bank has already warned that in these conditions South Asia may experience a 4% fall in textile output because of GATT by the year 2005.

Third, India has to watch out for the weak links in GATT, clauses that can be used and

Alumni Reception

The South Asia Program will hold an Alumni Reception on Friday afternoon, June 9 in the Asian Studies Lounge, 374 Rockefeller Hall, 4:30 - 6:00 pm.

abused by protectionists. The treaty's antidumping clauses are prime candidates for such molestation. Unchanged from the last GATT treaty, the antidumping clauses, according to trade expert J. Michael Finger, "sound like Newt Gingrich but discipline like Dr. Spock." In the 1960s barely a dozen antidumping cases were brought before GATT each year. Today the figure is over 180.

There are also some 3,500 poorly defined trade restrictions allowed to countries to safeguard their balance of payments. Though mainly a third world prophylactic, the margin for abuse is wide.

A key lacunae of the Uruguay Round was the failure to ensure TRIPs enforcement would not become an excuse to block imports. Article 40 of the treaty admits the deed is possible. But the crime is not defined. Felon and victim, it says, should talk to resolve differences.

A fourth category of challenges lie in the social issues worming their way into GATT. The linkage of environmental protection with trade follows the 1994 agreement at Marrakesh to form a WTO committee combining the two issues. It is probably too late for free trade zeal-

ots to argue the twain should not meet. What is important is whether greening the GATT will provide the North means to bash imports from the South.

Third world governments fear, for example, strict US emission standards will be used to block exports from their generally more inefficient industries. It is not clear environmental groups have recognized that the road to trade barriers can be paved with good intentions. There is a crucial difference between environmental protection and environmental protectionism.

The administration of Mr. Bill Clinton continues to push for a GATT committee on labor standards. Like the green committee, the protectionist potential is worthy of concern. As the economist Anne Krueger of Duke University recently said, "There is nothing wrong with standards - so long as they do not undermine the comparative advantages of nations."

Finally, there is GATT's legal dimension. Whatever else it may be, the world trade treaty's hundreds of pages of mind-numbing detail are a lawyer's paradise. The TRIPs agreement alone is such a wilderness that a World Bank expert on intellectual property rights dryly

told his colleagues earlier this year, "If you read the TRIPs agreement and think you understand it, you must be hopelessly confused."

In the coming years the WTO tribunals will hear and pass judgment on scores of international trade disputes. Nations will have to present briefs. The judgments will generate precedents for the future.

The problem, to quote Robert Hudec, professor at the University of Minnesota, is that "the developing countries are hopelessly unprepared" to fight such cases. India is among the few third world countries to show a high degree of competence in trade law. Its Uruguay Round negotiating team won kudos from even adversaries.

Nurtured carefully, India can use its surplus talents for great diplomatic gain. India will gain in two ways if it provides legal advice and aid to other third world nations. One, it will allow India to influence cases whose judgments may indirectly affect Indian interests. Two, it will provide mortar to cement South-South coalitions within GATT.

One fallout of the Uruguay Round will be nations shifting resources to take advantage of newly created export opportunities. Agri-

culture and textiles are two doors that GATT has opened up for all to enter.

Another fallout is that protectionist forces will aim their lobbyists at the chinks in the treaty armor. GATT has two obvious vulnerable points - antidumping and Article 40. Diligent lawyers will unearth more. Environmentalists may unwittingly provide others.

On both counts, and a host of other points, India needs to be diligent. It is estimated GATT will increase third world incomes by some \$80 billion. It will also reshuffle the global economy a good deal. History tells us a world trade agreement serves as a catalyst in the international economic system, hurrying along the process of change. Only nations which adjust to this evolution thrive. The GATT secretariat has repeatedly pointed out that nations who have undergone far-ranging liberalization are best equipped to benefit from free trade. Far from seeing membership in the World Trade Organization as the culmination of a long effort, India needs to see it as a kickstart to greater reform. GATT, to coin a phrase, helps those who help themselves.

WANTED: FEEDBACK/ARTICLES

The South Asia Program newsletter would like to hear from YOU! We welcome your feedback on the views presented above or submission of an article on a controversial topic of your choosing. Good candidates for articles include recent trips, research, publications, social gatherings, major accomplishments-especially as directly related to South Asia. Photos are especially appreciated (can be color or black and white, no slides please.)

Deadline for submission of articles is August 1, 1995.

Please respond to Karis Dorfman
e-mail krd5@cornell.edu
South Asia Program
170 Uris Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853-7601
607-255-8910

We reserve the right to select and edit articles. Original photos will be returned; please provide a current address. We look forward to hearing from you!

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