

Spectrum

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MISCELLANY

Art for peace

Bangalore: If who I am is what I have and what I have is lost, then who am I? Thus goes a saying.

Difficult to understand at first glance, but just a little thinking will reveal the answer. This is also a pointer to how we lead our lives today, driven by worldly pleasures. What we often forget, or rather neglect is 'peace'. Peace within ourselves. There have been writers and painters who have depicted peace and its various forms. And now, there is the collage.

As mundane as it may sound, it is one art form that is rarely explored. V Balu is an artist who has been working with this art form for years now.

"Peace within oneself is the first step towards achieving global peace," says Mr Balu who, as a global peace activist, has been in the field for more than 20 years.

His books on peace, that showcase vibrant collages have been appreciated by the masses. Some of them include Sadaa Shanti, Shanti Darshan, and Shanti Sopana . The latest in the offering is Atma Shanti-Collages and Collages Plus, based on the National poet Kuvempu's work titled 'Aniketana', containing 'meditative collages on peace'.

This work incidentally took Mr Balu 14 years to complete. "The poem has a great spiritual message, that is, the need to unhouse the soul. The best way, I thought, to teach people this message was through my collages, which are easier to understand," says Mr Balu. And if you think these books cater to the adult section of the audience, Mr Balu instantly adds, "There are books for kids too. In fact, children are my best audience". He has conducted many workshops on peace in schools and has distributed many of his books to them as well.

Interesting titles such as Peace Lollipops for Tiny-Tots and Peace+Children =Peaceful Children are targeted at children between the ages of 5-15. "When I asked them what they understood by peace and a three-year old child said "Sssshhhhh!. Peace is nothing but silence."

Strange but true. Children, sometimes, do know more than we do!

So then, what is peace? "When one has sound sleep, the body and mind are at rest. This is when inner peace surfaces", says Mr Balu.

And his efforts, as peace activist, are reflected through his art. In his words, "The work can be as metaphysical and dramatic as they can be beautiful and poetic!".

Ujjwala Thirumurthy

Generate your power now

CHIKMAGALUR: Ashwini is a young agriculture graduate (B.Sc., Ag) from Hulithal, a small village near Mercera. Hulithal does not have electricity.

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Recently Ashwini generated 40 watt electricity from water falling from about 4 inches high at a cost of about Rs 4000 only. He has successfully tried out his invention in his house, which does not have KPTCL connection.

Regarding this invention he explains "When 5 litres of water/second from 4 inches high was made to fall through a 6 inches diameter and 20 inches long pipe, turbine began to rotate. When a dynamo (purchased from a second hand goods shop) was connected to this turbine, the generator generated electricity of 40 watts continuously. Similarly, if water is made to fall from 10 inches high, electricity generated will be 200 watts! In Malnad area, small water falls are common and if farmers in the region were to try out Ashwini's invention, they could easily generate electricity on their own. That too, with very little investment. For more details contact Ashwini Hulithal, P.B.NO. 113, Madikeri-57120, Tel: 08272-241732)

Narayana Yaji Shirali

Celebration with a difference

Tumkur: November is when the spirit of being a Kannadiga soars up. Kannada rajyothsava celebrations happen almost throughout the month. The event is usually celebrated by unfurling flags, conducting numerous kannada programmes, staging an orchestra, honouring persons who have rendered their selfless service to Kannada and so on.

This time in Turuvekere, Tumkur district, an unusual celebration marked the event. As people gathered in the heart of the town to celebrate rajyotsava, members of an organisation called `Mitravruna` mingled with the crowd with bundles of Kannada newspapers. Just when the people were wondering what they were up to, the members started distributing papers to one and all who had assembled there, including students, women, illiterates and elders, urging them to read Kannada. They also pleaded with the people to celebrate rajyothsava not once but all through the year. They distributed nearly three thousand copies of various Kannada dailies. After the celebrations, everyone was seen returning home with a Kannada news daily.

T Srinivasa Murthy

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