

ASIA PLATEAU

PANCHGANI - 412805
MAHARASHTRA, INDIA.

TEL: (02168) 40241

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CABLES: NEWORLNEWS

The most awaited conference of the year at Asia Plateau is the youth camp! The theme of this year's camp was "Preparing the Youth for the 21st century". We had One Hundred fifty participants from, Aurangabad, Ahmednagar, Baramati, Baroda, Bhopal, Calcutta, Cuttack, Delhi, Bangalore, Lucknow, Mahabaleshwar, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune, Panchgani, Nagpur, Jamshedpur, Chennai, New B'bay, ~~and~~ Wai. and Surat.

The conference was inaugurated by Dr. Mrityunjay Athreya, the world renowned management consultant. With a symbolic lighting of the lamp which was followed by lamps being lit by participants representing the different cities of India.

Dr. Athreya's speech revolved around 'Personal vision and strategy' in New India'. He outlined ideas for action by parents, teachers, seniors, friends and most importantly by the self.

Each day began with yoga, conducted by Mrs Agorwal and Ms. Desai from Kaivalya Dham Mumbai. A time of quiet followed and the mornings ended with the main sessions.

A unique feature of this year's camp was the crafts workshop conducted by crafts women and men belonging to Pashampasik Karigar an NGO to help



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the promotion of our ancient and traditional crafts. The different crafts offered were Mithila painting, kalamkari, miniature painting, pottery, terracotta, Patta chitra artist, mural, Durrie weavers etc.

Participants could choose to be part of any work shop for the duration of the camp.

A workshop on environment was conducted by Nandkumar Moghe.

Group discussion were a daily feature, participants were encouraged to express their views on the given topics. The evening's sessions consisted of lively debate, MRA films, games and jam session.

At the main session, each speaker emphasized the following the four absolute standards of MRA, and the importance of having a quiet time.

R.D. Mathur spoke about Frank Buchman, the initiator of MRA, the spread of MRA across the globe & the birth of Asia Plateau. Viral Mozumdar shared his experiences of change after meeting MRA, his growing conviction to work at the grassroot level, his honest business transactions and an attitudinal shift in working for material gains to spiritual advancement.

A very interesting discussion took place on the meaning of the word Absolute in today's time.



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Niketu Iralu spoke about "change, Growth, Making a difference," highlighting MRA's role in reconciliation between France and Germany. He also spoke on the evils of drugs.

Spiritual teachers from the Institute of National Integration, Pune, representing Hinduism, Christianity, Islam and Sikhism, offered a glimpse into their respective religions as well as underlining the common message of each faith.

Rammohanji a Vedanta teacher and an ex-marine fielded a barrage of questions on religion, satisfying their every query.

Vorsha Kale, Sheel and Vijay Rege shared their personal experiences on the topic, "What is a family and its boundaries"

Russi Kale's session focussed on the importance of faith in whatever one does.

The core group focused their vision for the next century.

The camp concluded with a word of gratitude to all those who contributed to its success and the presentation of certificates to each participants. Last night consisted of a cultural programme presented



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by the participants.

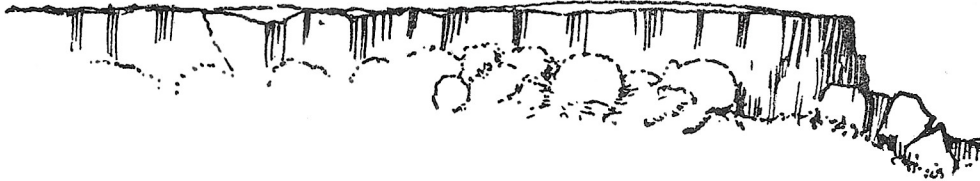
Here's a glimpse of the decision of change and the restitution made by participants:

Anjani, who was not on talking terms with her brother for 15 years, All she knew about her brother, was thru her brother's friend. They never wished each other Happy Birthday. The quiet time gave her the thought to call him and apologise for her mistakes. Her brother who is in the U.S.A reciprocated her thoughts and wishes. However he asked her whether MRA was forcing her to do so. But she convinced him that it was her time of quiet that had yielded the thought of restitution.

Bhawya, realised that for no reason he always hated and hampered his younger brother. God gave him courage to apologise.

Deep a student from HSC was divided with his parents, and over a period of years the divide had grown bigger and bigger. The inner reflection made him realise his attitude towards his parents, he called them and asked for forgiveness and those blessings.

Nishita Goenka from Nagpur gathered all the courage to come up on the stage to apologise to her elder sister Neha, for being rude and jealous towards her. Both the sisters accepting each other attitude and ending in an embrace.



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Most of the participants had moving experiences to share. Many did not come forward to share but they got solutions to their problems.

Such is the magic of God that works at Asia Plateau.

The eleven day conference came to an end on 1st June morning with tears in their eyes and dreams in their hearts.