

EDITORIAL

Summer is upon us as we bring out the special number of our Winter issue on the theme of Universal Human Values. And what an overwhelming response we've had, as always, it may be added, if one is allowed to be a trifle immodest (and proud)! To paraphrase Robert Frost's line in "The Road Not Taken", we were sorry we could not feature almost all the submissions and still remain one volume! As always again, there was a refreshing diversity of subjects across disciplines and, more importantly, novel approaches, interpretations, and perspectives.

From indigenous cultural and social practices to art, literature, fairy tales, films, spiritualism and folklore, the gamut covers the fiercely competitive world of politics and gaming communities, marital relationships, teacher training, social justice, and the ancient art of governance with interesting juxtapositions and inter-relation of contexts, a weaving together of the past and the present, the ancient and the modern; lessons gleaned from various streams of philosophy that have flowed through this world and enriched us with their treasures.

On the one hand one may come across a scholarly discussion of the contribution of the ancient Rishi and Sufi traditions in Kashmir deeply entrenched in human values, and on the other, a contemporary analysis of the improvement in the human rights situation and a corresponding enhancement of values after the abrogation of Article 370 recently in that same region. This is just one example of the range of discourse in this volume, spanning time and space effortlessly and meaningfully. Some very interesting papers from the North East of our country are precious reminders of the wealth of our heritage going hand in hand with modernity. Along with what we can imbibe from our ancient scriptures, we also have much to learn from today's world of (often toxic) social media and the ethos of 'cancel culture' that affects mental health and well-being. Being forewarned is to be forearmed, as they say! The papers bring out very clearly how India has this long and hallowed tradition of upholding universal human values; of the rootedness in our culture of sustainable practices and the concern for not only

other human beings but for all the creatures and non-living objects of this planet and beyond.

This volume would, without doubt be a valuable reference resource for scholars with its inter-disciplinary content focussing on the universally and eternally relevant theme of human values explored with great passion and commitment by our range of contributors.

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