



**"Greater energy and greater passion is more extraordinary than greater genius."
— Lt. General Arjun Ray, (Retd.), PVSM, VSM**

Issue 150, July 2015

Dear Friends,

Art of Reading

The most lasting stimulant in the world is not coffee or liquor, but a book! Reading changes not just your state of mind, but your outlook, your opinions and your potential to become a better human being. It is most regrettable then, that as a habit reading is dying out and most children are being denied their wonderful heritage of knowledge and enjoyment simply because neither their parents nor teachers ever read. The Information explosion ... poses a constant threat to the integrity, stability and objectivity of the pursuit of knowledge by today's growing generation. We are jeopardizing our chances of survival unless we become a community of readers.

For leaders, developing the reading habit means that they acquire mental resources on which they can draw when they must make decisions or come up against challenges. Although a few may be changed forever by an encounter with a single book, it is the habit of reading books in variety that will eventually change anyone who acquires it. Reading helps nascent leaders to develop a personal world view and a philosophy for life. This can really build them into inspiring leaders. Leaders draw not only



on what they have experienced but on what they have read at different stages of their lives. In the diversity that exists the world over. Inclusive leadership requires leaders to be knowledgeable and understanding of many cultures. Where but through reading can this information and perspective be gained?

The eternal truths are recorded in good books. They instruct us in our youth and comfort us as we age. They become a frame of reference in a life full of complexity, violence, uncertainty and often hopelessness. Some, with a lifelong habit of reading, may owe at least some of their success to their relationship with books. Many great leaders, like numerous incarcerated men and women including such famous former prisoners like Malcolm X, Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela spent long terms in prison and were able to live in solitary confinement and keep their emotional balance, with books for company.

It is important to recognise that technology can help develop active, creative and thoughtful readers, equipped with the skills and strategies to comprehend deeply what is being read. A Kindle is a conveniently portable source for reading. The Internet provides varied platforms for information, journalism and debate. Just to keep abreast of new knowledge, of current happenings in different parts of the world one cannot afford to shrug off the need to read. For knowledge that is gained through books becomes the root of our individual wisdom. This wisdom is what we need to do justice in any role of our choosing, be it in corporate life, in academy or in the service industry. Leaders are needed everywhere and every day. While every reader does not become a leader, every leader must, of necessity be a reader!

Cicero said that “a room without books is like a body without a soul”.

With warm regards,

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Chief Executive Officer
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