

As there are no direct flights from Australia to India, one has to change, which I have always done in Singapore. I knew it from my honeymoon [see Title 45], staying at the famous Raffles Hotel in their excellent two-room suites. When subsequently the Hotel became too expensive, I always lived at the Tanglin Club, to which I had reciprocity privileges from my membership of the Cosmos Club in Washington. [See Title 308]

In 1980 it was a 7 hour 45 minute flight from Melbourne to Singapore by Qantas and on to New Delhi from Singapore a further flight of 5 hours 30 minutes by KLM, the Dutch Airlines. For some extraordinary reason, only explicable by the thoughtless timetable arrangements of all the Airlines, one always arrives at New Delhi in the middle of the night, whether one comes from the east or the west. Fortunately, on arrival one can change foreign currency into rupees at the airport, although I learnt to break the law on leaving, and retained some Indian currency, for my next visit which was strictly forbidden.

In New Delhi I always stayed at the home of Professor Romila Thapar, a good friend and a Member of the Journal's Editorial Board. She owned a very comfortable large house where her splendid Major Domo, Bhadur Singh, spoilt me greatly. Romila had for many many years been the Professor, now Emeritus, of Ancient Indian History at the Jawaharlal Nehru University and her hospitality was of truly oriental magnificence. She knew all the academic élite of India and through her brother, Romesh Thapar, the Founder and Editor of *Seminar* I met all the non-academic intelligentsia that was worth knowing.

One of these was Dr Karan Singh, the former Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir and later the Minister for Health and Family Planning in the Government of Mrs Indira Gandhi from 1967-1977. I got to know him well, and he published two comments in my Journal, one on *Development is the best Contraceptive* (Vol. 13, No. 4, 1988). Lunch in his grand home was always a great occasion with splendid cutlery, plates and large table decorations, all in magnificent antique silver. In a corner of the dining room stood a huge silver water container in the shape of an upright cylinder, one of the objects from his former palace. It stood there, so that his guests were able to wash their hands after eating with their fingers, as is the Indian custom.

Dr M.S. Swaminathan FRS, a geneticist and formerly the Director General of the International Rice Research Station in the Philippines, is generally considered the architect of the 'Green Revolution' in his native India. I was able to persuade him to join the Editorial Board when I saw him in New Delhi. I had visited his Rice Research Station in the Philippines and was glad to publish an excellent contribution later.