

ambar@usa.net

May 14, 1997



[Tabs]

NET@ADDRESS



Folder: Inbox
Status: NEW, Message 1 of 2

Received: from 152.85.3.3 (152.85.3.3) by mx01 via mtd (2.1(c))
 id mx01-BeNo1HR0262. Wed, 14 May 1997 08:07:18 -0600
 Received: from topaz.cha.tva.gov by info.tva.gov (SMI-8.6/TVA-info.960408)
 id KAA29646. Wed, 14 May 1997 10:10:54 -0400
 Received: from chachaois2b.cha.tva.gov (chachaois2b.cha.tva.gov [152.85.66.29]) by
 topaz.cha.tva.gov (8.7.5/8.7.3/tva.topaz) with SMTP id KAA10275 for <ambar@usa.net>; Wed,
 14 May 1997 10:07:09 -0400 (EDT)
 Received: by chachaois2b.cha.tva.gov with SMTP (Microsoft Exchange Server Internet Mail
 Connector Version 4.0.994.63)
 id <01BC604E.97F8ECC0@chachaois2b.cha.tva.gov>; Wed, 14 May 1997 10:07:13 -0400

Message-ID:
 <c=US%a=atmailto%p=(va%l=NSHPPAF.OISI-970514140636Z-5982@chachaois2b.cha.tva.gov)>
 From: "Downing, Nenad" <nsdowning@tva.gov>
 To: "ambar@usa.net" <ambar@usa.net>
 Subject: RE: ambar bandyopadhyay - reply to your e-mail
 Date: Wed, 14 May 1997 10:06:36 -0400
 X-Mailer: Microsoft Exchange Server Internet Mail Connector Version 4.0.994.63
 MIME-Version: 1.0
 Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
 Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

>
 >From: Downing, Nenad
 >Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 1997 10:05 AM
 >To: 'ambar@pop.netaddress.usa.net'
 >Subject: ambar bandyopadhyay - reply to your e-mail
 >
 >May 14, 1997 @ 7:30 am
 >
 >Ambar. I received your e-mail of May 14. I have been worried because I have
 >not heard from you in quite some time. I had heard that you had gotten
 >smitten by one of the many fevers going around India. I am very glad to know
 >you are still around.
 >
 >I still have my America Online account and the address is gokulata@aol.com but
 >after the moved to Kentucky I have not accessed the AOL because I have cannot
 >get aol local service here. And too, I simply have not hooked up the
 >computer for modem operation. I will in about a month or so. But my work
 >address always works. My work address is nsdowning@tva.gov

>
>I opened up an e-mail account with Calcutta Online service - which is very
>reliable. You can write to them an e-mail, or call them. There is no charge
>because I have already established the account for that purpose. I will send
>you their phone number and address some time today.

>
>Did I read correctly - that your father is now the Chief Engineer at the
>Chandrapura TPS ??? Is this correct??? It took my breath away when I read
>it. Did he replace Agawall? The chief engineer is the equivalent to our
>plant manager position. It is the top job. If he is the chief engineer -
>then what ever he does he must not retire this fall.

>
>I am 100 percent happy in my new job - as of this point in time and place.
>Who can say what changes the future may bring. In my new job I am the senior
>supervising engineer over technical issues for our unit 1 and 2 (each 700
>megawatt, water cooled GE units, with scrubbers. This duty involves
>responsibility on technical & engineering issues over boiler, turbine,
>generators, balance of plant & scrubbers for the two units. In addition, I
>am responsible for all technical & engineering issues for the steam path,
>turbines & generators for all three units. Unit 3 is a large 1,100 MW GE
>unit. I have six engineers & technicians who report to me.

>
>One of the reasons that prompted me to take this job (and there was no single
>reason or issue - but a total composite selection of plus and minus choices)
>was that it would provide me with in-depth knowledge of the entire plant
>operation, especially the boilers & turbines. As you know, I had already 8
>years as the generator systems specialist for TVA and 13 years as balance of
>plant electrical auxiliary specialist, and a few years in substation design.
>I felt that this experience would be an additional asset which I could carry
>with me to India in a few years. So I decided that I would view my new
>position as one who is in school, preparing for a higher degree. Thus, each
>new day is seen as a new learning experience and opportunity. And this
>increases the intensity of my focus. In making my choice to take this job -
>it meant disconnecting from the TVA India projects and the TATA Bombay
>connection.

>
>But I had always been reluctant to join in the TATA/TVA venture because I
>felt, and I still do, that it was improper for TVA, a U.S. Gov't. Agency, to
>actively side with a private Indian corporation - to be in competition with
>other Indian companies and organizations. In effect, it causes TVA to become
>too involved in the personal and private affairs of a sovereign country,
>pitting one Indian organization against another, taking sides, showing undue
>favor, etc. Now, if a private company such as GE wishes to partner with an

>Indian company and go into vigorous competition - to make a lot of money -
>more power to them. The objectives are clearly defined. The relationship is
>clearly understood.

>
>TVA is an Agency of the United States Government. Its Chairman reports
>directly to the U.S. President. As such it cannot make pretend in its
>dealings and activities in a foreign country. Its employees are agents of
>the U.S. Gov't. It is a contradiction and also risky to put its employees in
>a dual role of being half gov't. agents and half civilian workers.

>
>I felt that the proper role of TVA was to lend technical support and share
>knowledge and experience to the electrical power sector - in a true
>government to government collaboration - for the sole purpose of serving the
>general public and the common good. India is not in the dark ages in the
>generation and distribution of electrical power. Its large NTPC actually has
>better performance ratings than the TVA. India produces its own boilers,
>turbines and generators through the BHEL. India does not need the U.S. to
>"show it the way" as a parent leads a child across a busy street, or to give
>it "advice" on what it ought to be doing - as though the U.S. is to be the
>standard and bench mark by which the so-called 3rd world countries will
>measure their own performance.

>
>India does not have enough "hard currency" (in a world dominated by the
>economic policies of the U.S.) to implement many of the high-tech solutions
>it would like to do - because this technology is expensive and controlled by
>the West. But that should not stop India from significantly expanding its
>generation base and using the technology of the 60's and 70's. TVA is,
>today, the model of this technology of the 60's and 70's. And its hydro
>system and controls is the product of the technologies of the 40-50 era. And
>it is with that technology that it continues to operate. Which is visible

>proof that you do not need all the bells and whistles of the 90's to operate
>and expand a large power system. India has the "in-house" knowledge and
>expertise to solve its power generation needs. Certainly its engineers are
>the equal of the best Japanese and German engineers and many notches above
>the typical American power utility engineer. The West cannot give to India
>more "IQ". India is hardly deficient in intellectual might. Then what seems
>to be the problem?

>
>In my opinion, (and from my perspective) India, as a unified country, lacks
>resolve. It lacks firmness of purpose - determination - to succeed - to
>achieve the goals it sets for itself. It lacks a sense of mission, of united
>effort. It almost reminds me of the person who gives up on the race because
>he comes to believe he cannot achieve. It is almost as though self-doubt and
>feelings of inadequacy form an inner part of the national psyche. As
>Shakespeare said, "Our doubts are traiters making us lose the good we oft
>might win, by fearing to attempt."

>
>Recently Bill Gates visited India and most positively commented on the great
>potential of India. But many in India seemed confused as to just what he was
>saying to - what he saw that they failed to see. And other outsiders have
>also been keen to see this great potential, this great possibility. But it
>is not bluntly stated - the nature of this great possibility - this great
>resource - this great potential. But some have seen it clearly and stated it
>frankly. I refer you to the insights and frank statements of Vivekananda -
>who understood and spoke of this cultural tendency of Indians to
>underestimate their own abilities and capabilities - and who also hit upon -
>and spoke of what it was in India that formed the potential source for its
>future greatness.

>
> I have made the observation and the comments to you during your visit to the
>U.S. So I shall repeat my self. What is it that I and others have seen in
>India that causes us to reflect on its great potential? Just what is that
>potential? The potential is its unmanifested intelligence. That is a fancy
>way of saying - intelligence not put into action - not showing itself - not
>expressed materially - in a big way in the form of industrial might, high
>technology, large complex cities, etc.

>
>In other words, to put it simply, what becomes apparent to the intelligent
>visitor from the West, who is open minded and honest with himself - is that
>Indians are, by and large, more intelligent (have more cerebral capacity)
>than their statistically randomly sampled counter-parts in the West,
>particularly, and more so, from the U.S. That was the eye opener for me -
>and that is what unsettled and un-nerved so many of my associate engineers -
>as their preconceptions of superiority over their Indian counterparts were
>quickly flattened following their mutual dialogs and technical interactions
>with the Indian engineers.

>
>Give the Indian engineers these high tech tools - lap tops, software, etc.
>etc. (make it an even playing field - to use football/baseball parlance) and
>the Indian engineers will beat the American engineers "hands down" as the
>expression goes. This was the acute observation made by Vivekananda near 100
>years ago. And, as was his nature, he was quite frank and outspoken about
>it.

>
>What more can I say? You have seen it for yourself. You know it to be true
>from your own comparisons and observations: Indians are, by and large, more
>intelligent (have more cerebral capacity) than their statistically randomly
>sampled counter-parts in the West, particularly, and more so, from the U.S.
>That is, Indians are smarter.

>
>Vishwa being in the 12th std. How fast these years have gone by. Let me
>know what reference books would help him. I think I had sent him good
>calculus and physics books. Did I send him biology. What would be the
>biggest help for him - what would give him an extra edge? Let me know so
>that I can help from this end.

>
>I will write Rupa and Sam a long letter soon. And, also, I will write to Joy
>again after you have verified to me that he is, in fact, Chief Engineer.

>
>OK. friend. I hope to hear from you again soon. I am planning on visiting
>next year. I have made good contacts with the RKM at Deoghar and plan to go
>there. But of course, if your father is the new plant manager at CRPS then
>that changes a lot of what I might do. By the way, I am now 2.5 years from

>when I can take my retirement. Time seems to be moving along faster than
>light - but its all relative you know.
>
>rememer my email address is: nsdowning@tva.gov
>
>Good health to you and namaskar.
>
>
>Nenad
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