



Living in Harmony with Nature

An excerpt from a speech by the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi

'We have learnt from the past years that a disregard for environment can be crippling to development, and reckless industrialisation brings about irretrievable spoilation. For the first time Man, with modern technology at his command, has the power and the ability, if he is not careful, to completely destroy the environment around him and create a situation from which we will not be able to come out, no matter how technologically advanced we may be. We must turn technology to protecting the environment and not to abusing the environment.'

In India, our ancient tradition emphasises that Man's happiness and fulfilment is only possible if his life is in harmony with the environment. Modern civilisation with high technology, with high rates of growth, ignoring the environment, has in fact waged a war on environment. We must get back to that harmony, the harmony between human beings and Nature. We must get back to a system that protects the environment, that has a love for Nature. Only then will we be able to develop in a sustained and complete manner.'