

## Just Think!

### Progress

- Over the last several hundred years we have made tremendous progress. Thanks to spectacular advancement of science and technology. Right? Just think.
- Before we jump to conclusions should we not stop for a moment and clearly understand what we mean by progress, development or advancement?
- Surely the world is changing. Our view of the world is also changing. But can we equate mere change with progress? Under what conditions can we call a change as progress? If we go forward along one dimension and go backwards along another, can we call this progress?
- The modern car is faster and more comfortable than the horse carriage of the bygone era. No doubt. What about safety? Today's cars are very safe. Yet hundreds die in road accidents every year in any given city in India. Can we match the horse carriage in safety? What about pollution? Don't our modern vehicles emit deadly poisons? Do horses do that? What about energy efficiency? We proudly advertise ultra modern cars with a 100 horse power engine. Is it not utterly foolish to use the power of 100 horses to do what can be done with just one horse? That too when we are burning up limited and non-renewable fossil fuels. What progress is this?

- Long ago, people could only talk face to face. Or shout out for a fellow somewhere nearby. Now any individual can talk directly to any other individual anywhere on earth, thanks to the revolutions in wireless and mobile communication technologies. But now you have to pay for the instrument, for getting a connection, for charging and changing batteries, even for talk-time. There is a definite health hazard due to radiation. There is progress along one dimension and retrogression along other dimensions. The cell phone is as much a menace as it is a help. There is no overall progress. Just a change, a new trade-off, a new kind of compromise.
- During the days of industrial automation, the arguments of unemployment caused by higher productivity of machines were countered by saying that people will get more leisure time to pursue other interests in life. People used to work 6 to 8 hours a day then. Now people have to work 12 to 16 hours a day just to earn their bread. Industrial pollution is threatening the very existence of mankind on earth. Progress? What progress?
- Medicine has made tremendous 'progress'. But there are hardly any healthy people on earth today!
- Two plus two is, was, and will always be four. Everywhere in the world. Truth does not change with place or time. In fact what changes is by definition false. All the suffering and misery of mankind today is a result of eulogizing this false notion of progress and development. This is in fact an obstacle in the search for Truth. Just think.