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the west, are now in a dilemma. But can they liberate themselves from the pernicious influence of capitalists and big farmers?

Our Indian civilization is unique. It nurtures the capacity for gratitude in humanity. Indian tradition thus venerates all beneficial elements. He reveres the god-like Himalayas, the goddess-like River Ganga, the life-giving Mother Earth and the bountiful cow. The exploitation of nature for man's own selfish ends is thus not a part of Indian tradition. Rather man considers himself a child of nature, who makes his mother happy by growing strong on her milk. Tradition has imbued the farmer with a deep-rooted love for his land. Nurtured on the treasures he gets from his land, he works hard to maintain its fertility.

Our western-educated and wealth-hungry intelligentsia has never understood the importance of our indigenous cattle. They regard the cow merely as a source of milk. In cold countries, cows give a lot of milk. This productivity makes them attractive to our people. A campaign to introduce the Holstein, Jersey and Swiss Brown breed of cows through artificial insemination has been launched. Now, it is hard to find indigenous breeds. The loss to the nation thanks to this ill-conceived campaign is hard to compute.

Indigenous cows are the foundation of the traditional Indian economy. The farmer and his cattle have always been an indivisible unit. Cows produce milk. More importantly, they are the basis of organic agriculture. Our western-educated intelligentsia has not realized this.

Calves obtained from indigenous cows are not just a source of milk but a means of transport. Bullock-carts still account for 50 per cent of traffic, despite the building of extensive railway and road networks.

Cattle are an indispensable part of organic agriculture, providing the necessary quantity of green manure. The farmer need not spend money to purchase this manure. Thus, cattle are fundamental to the farmer's self-reliance. Agricultural implements were provided by the village ironsmiths. The farmer was not dependent on anybody. Thus, he was the strongest pillar of democracy.

The urine of indigenous cows has proved effective against crop diseases. In case of persistent infestation, a concoction of neem leaves steeped in cow