

Hindi transcript:

कलकत्ता के culture का एक pillar है अड्डा। अड्डा मारना, यानी कि आप बैठ गए कहीं पर – चार लोग – और वह चाय पी रहे हैं, या कॉफी पी रहे हैं, और... विभिन्न प्रकार की cultural topics पे वह discussion करते हैं – जो discussion कभी-कभी हाथापाई पे भी आ जाता है! और ऐसी एक जगह है कॉफी हाउस – इंडिया कॉफी हाउस, जो प्रेसिडेंसी कॉलेज के पास कॉलेज स्ट्रीट में है। जहाँ पर आपको सिगरेट की धूँआ के बीच में मिलेंगे लोग जो कॉफी पी रहे हैं। और जो bearers हैं वहाँ पे, वे आज भी 1930-1940 की ड्रेस में, पगड़ी-पगरा पहन कर के आपको कॉफी सर्व करते हैं। और यही जगह है जहाँ पे नक्सलवाद की पैदा...पैदाइश हुई। यही जगह है जहाँ पे लोग मार्क्स के बारे में भी discuss करते हैं, फ़िलॉसफ़ी भी discuss करते हैं, संस्कृत के... कविताएँ भी लिखते हैं। और नाटककार, फ़िल्म डिरेक्टर्स, young student, political leaders वगैरह – यहाँ सब आपको... सब तरह के लोग मिलेंगे। और... और सभी एक ही चीज में जुटे हुए हैं – जिस को बंगला में कहते हैं अड्डा, which is conversation।

English translation:

A pillar of Calcutta culture is the *adda*. To have an *adda* [involves] your sitting down some place – a group of four people, say – and drinking tea, or coffee, and having discussions on all manner of cultural topics; sometimes, the discussions are such that people come to blows over them! Such a place (i.e. where people gather for *adda*) is Coffee House – India Coffee House, which is close to Presidency College on College Street. Where, amid coils of cigarette smoke, people meet and drink coffee. The waiters over there still dress in gear from the 1930's and 1940's – they serve you in turbans and whatnot. And this is the place where Naxalite¹ thinking saw the light of day. This is also the place where people talk about Marx, and philosophy, where people write poems in ... Sanskrit. And you might run across playwrights, film directors, young students, political leaders – you...you will find all sorts of people there. And ...and everyone is engaged in the same thing – that which in Bangla one calls *adda*, that is to say, conversation.

¹ Branch of the Communist party

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