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TELEVISION, SATELLITE (India)


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Evaluates how the advent of Satellite TV has changed the complexion of broadcasting in the country.

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☑ THOMAS (T. J.) and HAMINE (Prashant). "Doordarshan plugged out." Pioneer. 11 October 1992; 1 (Magazine).

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Brief account of the programmes offered by the first four channels of the SSTR TV.


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GIrish KARNAD, "I am only an ornamental head". Speaks to

Girish Karnad, Chairman, Sangeet Natak Akademy, speaks on culture-related issues.

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An assessment of growth of satellite TV in India.
The fact is that various Government agencies, including Doordarshan and the Finance Ministry, have consistently given a special treatment to Roy causing uproar among a whole lot of other deprived producers and professionals.

Doordarshan is so overawed by Roy that it looks the other way when he changes the concept and the format of his 'The World This Week' at his own sweet will. Maybe because the rate of viewing of the programme, which Roy has been allowed to produce for five years, is steadily dwindling, national events have been introduced in the programme. Interview-based accounts of domestic events which do not go well with the programme as originally conceived are now produced in Roy's programme without let or hindrance.

The question raised by a large body of television producers who have no particular clout in the Government or Doordarshan is why not throw open its doors to more and more professionals before the monopoly of the Roys becomes unbreakable. And there are many who are only too willing to take up the challenge bringing Doordarshan more revenue and viewers an experience of freshness.

The Finance Ministry, in an effort to furnish its sagging image, asked IBA headed by Canara Bank chief J. V. Shetty in January 1993 to chalk out a programme for image-building. Some others were cursorily approached but Roy was chosen on the strength of his much-touted budget programmes. However, administrative action on the programme had to be postponed till the presentation of the Union Budget. The budget for the 13-episode serial finally chalked was to the tune of Rs 4 lakh per episode, working out to a total of Rs 50 lakh. Roy asked for an unusually hefty advance of Rs 20 lakh before starting work. And he was given that in the second week of April. After that things took a different turn. Roy told IBA board in May that the focus should not be on the banks. He wanted to shift it to the package of economic reforms.

The Ministry and IBA readily concurred. Two months have elapsed since. Neither the Ministry nor IBA knows what Roy is up to and when and where the programme will be televised. All they seem to know is that Roy will shoot some interviews in Bombay in August. IBA Chairman Shetty and Secretary Bakshi were not available for comment. In spite of repeated efforts, no response could be elicited from Roy's New Delhi Television.

The grouse of professional producers is that Roy gets what he asks for and others come to know about it all only much later. As one professional producer attached to a publishing house asks, "Why should the Government encourage a monopoly in Doordarshan?"

The fact is that various Government agencies, including Doordarshan and the Finance Ministry, have consistently given a special treatment to Roy causing uproar among a whole lot of other deprived producers and professionals.

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