doing the same thing that I am doing. I am inventing fictions about the world.

The myth that you create has a modern point of view too. You create modern myths.

It's true, but at the same time, it's a continuity I don't think the modern aspect is a complete break from what existed before. I find so many of our myths so interesting and so beautiful, like the Bonbibi myth is a very interesting myth to me, it's absolutely a part of people's lives, people's histories, myth is fascinating.

Would you feel comfortable being associated with the term Post-colonialism?

You must be the twentieth person to ask me that question today. I don't know what to say, I feel neither comfort nor discomfort, this is something I feel completely indifferent to, really. If you call my work, like, 'Zoological fiction' my reaction will be the same, I couldn't care less.

You wouldn't mind?

No...

You are indifferent to it...

I am completely indifferent to it.

How did you become a writer? How has this journey taken place?

I have always wanted to be a writer. I was very fortunate that one day I was able to start writing a book, basically that's what it takes; sit down and write a book, and do as well as you can. The India in my time the idea of living through writing especially for one who writes in English was inconceivable. So, I always thought I would have to had another job, maybe in teaching or in journalism. But I feel I have been fortunate at this point in my life that writing is all I do. The only thing I can be is a writer; this is the only thing I am good at.

Is the history of novel also the history of modern man, and his crises? I don't think it is mere coincidence that one of the first English novels, Robinson Crusoe, portrays an isolated individual and the problem of his belonging.

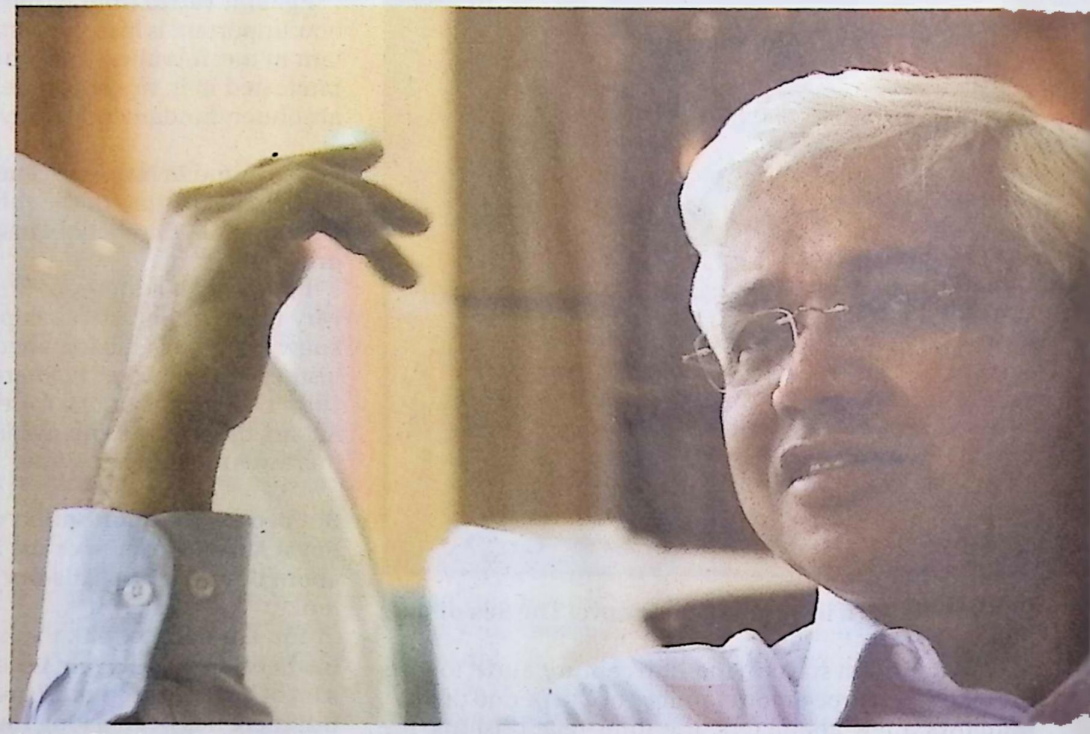
I think Robinson Crusoe is a very good example, Defoe is crucial in inventing the myths of modernity, Crusoe influenced Jean Jacques Rousseau, who invented the modern point of view. So, yes, I agree with you. In every way fiction has been crucial in inventing the sense of modernity.

Novels you read alone, its not a collective experience.

The novel is written alone, its read alone. In that sense it's a very individualistic experience.

Do you think book, as a form or as a source of knowledge, is facing a challenge from the Internet?

I don't see it as a challenge. Many people I know are really lamenting the idea of books becoming lost. I was one of the first persons to download books from the net; I ordered mine from Amazon. Of course technologies must change. Print was a technology that was new, and it was changed, why shouldn't we move to a digital book? I mean, it drives me mad having all these books on the bookshelves. I would rather have them digitally available. Whenever I can I download it from the net, it is wrong to print all these stuffs and using up the world's paper, so it all must be made digital, I completely support this new technology. And I absolutely have no nostalgia; people go on and on about the feel of the book and this and that. But now the latest kind of electronic books that you get they give you the feel of the book. And it's so convenient; you can store the books forever. You can have



Amitav Ghosh