



IN TODAY'S PAPER

[Front Page](#)
[Nation](#)
[Calcutta](#)
[Bengal](#)
[Opinion](#)
[International](#)
[Business](#) **Stocks Live**
[Sports](#) **Cricket Live**
[At Leisure](#)
[Sudoku](#)
[Gallery](#)

WEEKLY FEATURES

[Knowhow](#)
[Jobs](#)
[Telekids](#)
[Careergraph](#)
[ProperTT](#)
[7days](#)

CITY NEWSLINES

FEEDS

[RSS](#)
[My Yahoo!](#)

SEARCH

[Archives](#) [Web](#)



ARCHIVES

Since 1st March, 1999

THE TELEGRAPH

[Front Page](#) > [Opinion](#) > [Story](#)



email this page



Print this page

IT'S ALL IN THE MIND

This Above All **Khushwant Singh**



Gratify the senses

At the end of the very first chapter is a highlighted item, "Take Home Message — "Impotence or erectile dysfunction (ED) is usually partial rather than total. Chronic impotence is more often physical than psychological. Many diseases, most notably diabetes and high blood pressure, can cause impotence. With the world's highest population and the world's highest prevalence of both diabetes and heart diseases, India is arguably the impotence capital of the world." It takes your breath away. Despite widespread impotence we breed like proverbial rabbits. Perhaps our men do not get as much fun out of sex as other nationalities do. We manage to impregnate our women-folk more frequently than others.

Some false notions persist among Indian males. One is about the size of their organs. The doctor assures that size makes marginal difference. The largest on record is eighteen inches long and six inches in circumference. Its owner was no good at it. It is how you use it that matters. Another is that masturbation is harmful. It has been established that it is natural and does no harm whatsoever. There are many other notions perpetuated by the *Kama Sutra* addicts which need to be debunked.

Other additions to my vocabulary are synonyms for what we know as male menopause. They are antropause, viropause, (Adam, Padam). These refer to a man past middle age who starts

- [About Us](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [Feedback](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

eyeing young girls and makes passes at them. Many respond — perhaps due to Electra complex (father-fixation). Both end up making laughing stocks of themselves.

I was curious to know how long does sex stay on one's mind. Dr Krishnamurty assures me that men in their nineties are known to indulge in sex. I only fantasize about it. I no longer feel I am a dirty-minded old geysier.

The book makes good reading and is packed with useful information.

Take heart

Having handed over translations of my favourite Urdu poems to the publisher (I expect it to be on the bookshelves this month), there are still some words about which I am not very clear. On top of my list are *dil* (heart) and *jigar* (liver). To the best of my knowledge, they are not to be found in other Indian languages. I presume they came to Urdu from Arabic and/or Persian. Dil clearly stands for love; what does *jigar* signify? I have assumed it symbolizes passion or lust. They often overlap when it is powerful emotion. Urdu poets use them as separate entities when they mean the same thing. I quote two couplets of Ghalib as illustrations:

*Dil say teyree nighaah jigar
tak uttar gayee
Ek hee adaa mein dono ko
razaamand ker gayee*

Your gaze travelled from my heart
down to my liver
And in one glance of its own fashion
Won over my love and my passion.

The second couplet runs as follows:
Hairaan hoon dil ko ro-oon keh
peetoon jigar ko main

Maqdoor ho to saath rakhon
nohagar ko main

I am baffled! Do I mourn my heart's
demise

Or the death of my liver?
If I had the means, I would hire a
professional mourner.

Asad Mian, I too am baffled. Do I mourn my inability to understand you or do I hire a professional translator who will do the job for me?

Cure for boredom

There are people
You love to meet
To converse with them

Is really a treat
But alas! In every society
There're plenty of persons
They can be termed
In number of versions.
With limited vocabulary
And poor sense of humour
They constantly torture us
Like a chronic painful
tumour
You get tired
Of their dull monotone
Worse, very pointlessly
While they chat over
telephone
Your visitors start narrating
Their achievements over a
cup of coffee
And go on talking blah blah
Which is like a mini
autobiography.
There are also women-species
Killjoy and deadly boring
At parties, even before
cracking a joke
Burst into a hysterical
giggling
Take a tip from me
You won't be bored or tired
anymore
All that you're to do
Set a bore to bore the other bore.

(Courtesy: Reeten Ganguly, Tezpur)



[email this page](#)



[Print this page](#)

