

The strength of silence while the body speaks: Minocher Patel

By our staff reporter

"OUP politicians are poorly packaged, unkempt and dishevelled, only a few of them are as media savvy and intelligent as Indira Gandhi was," said Minocher Patel, leading public speaker, counsellor and Director of Ecole Solitaire India's first residential finishing school.

Patel was conducting a workshop on body language for journalists in the city on Tuesday. He stated that only those actors and public figures were remembered who had a strong body language and evolved a signature style of their own. Millions tried to copy the slurs, postures and grimaces and these personalities remained trend setters in their own way.

He spoke about the charisma and personality of the extremely media savvy Bill Clinton who could get himself out of the worst possible situation because of his honesty and courage to face consequences, a lot having to do with his personality and the way he presented himself. He compared this with that of the Indian politicians who needed to be profession-

ally packaged to face the 'electronic age'.

Speaking about a recent TV interview in which a leading Indian politician and a Pakistani were interviewed together, he lamented how the Indian leader with his unironed shirt, open kurta and slippers looked shabby before the Pakistani dressed in military uniform and was well groomed.

"As a public leader, one must dress for the nation and not for oneself," he said quoting Indira Gandhi who was the 'best dressed and most elegant woman of her time'.

He also spoke about the droves of Indian technocrats and IT professionals who were travelling abroad at present. "Many are ill prepared to handle themselves abroad what with their oily hair, ill matching clothes and body odour. Many establishments give their staff grooming classes before deputing them abroad and if India really wants to be world class, then good grooming and etiquette should be considered a priority of every ambitious person," he said.

Speaking about voice modu-

lation and tone, he spoke about the value of tone, speed and how a well timed pause of silence was sometimes the best instrument to draw out a response and get the other person to speak. "Few people can handle the power of silence," he said.

He named Simi Garewal, Amitabh Bacchan, Bill Clinton and Dilip Kumar as some of the best public figures who had mastered the art of body language and voice modulation.

Yet, he said that the key to communication was the use of 'eye contact', which a trainer used to control a tiger and women used to control their husbands.

"Direct eye contact, a steady and pleasant gaze and intensity are the greatest secrets of body language used to capture the attention of the person one is speaking to", he said.

Minocher Patel has also conducted workshops for police personnel, housewives, students, professionals and individuals where he has revealed one of the greatest secrets of success in life.... great body language.