

Achieving Equitable Economic Growth & Global Humanism

*India at 100:
The roadmap to beating USA & China*



2047

Dr. Malay Chaudhuri
Dr. Arindam Chaudhuri

Authors of the #1 best-seller 'The Great Indian Dream'





Dr. Malay Chaudhuri
Dr. Arindam Chaudhuri

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2047

@CopyLeft Dr. Arindam Chaudhuri

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Praise for Dr. Arindam Chaudhuri

“The maverick management guru!”
Financial Times, London

“The intellectual litterateur of the decade”
The Hindustan Times

“Set(s) the stage on fire”
“Inspiration personified”
The Times of India

“Mega Disruptor and Godfather of
Private Education in India”
Elite Magazine

For you Shikha

For being my singular true friend and doing for me everything that I could have only dreamt of reading in a tome on ideal friendship; And for being the only person to stand by me personally without blinking an eyelid for the last 25 years and counting!

For you Naveen

For actually becoming the brother I lost and so lovingly doing for me everything that I believe he would have done had he been alive; And being the only person to stand by me professionally during my entire career of 27 years and counting!

You both make me believe, I must have done something good in life!

PREFACE

**A few lines from one of the last notes penned for this book by my father,
Dr. Malay Chaudhuri**

“At the age of fourteen, still in school, I wrote an essay on Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India. At that time Nehru was already Prime Minister for four years. There was no visible effort to eradicate poverty of the masses; not a single black-marketer was hanged from any lamp-post anywhere — which Nehru promised to undertake when he had the power...

Even then I gave him some credit for Indians’ upholding socialism as an ideal goal to achieve people’s welfare. Nehruvian ‘socialism’ though essentially capitalism in content, achieved one thing— Indians develop some kind of socialist moorings. Indians in any case never worshipped capitalism— though they also never hated capitalism....

Pseudo-socialists like Nehru (pseudo-communist later) almost succeeded in keeping Indian masses at a level of semi-illiteracy so that they never quite knew what socialism’s potential positive aspects are as well as why communism though essentially most human social formation acquired the worst-possible image of Stalinism resulting from centralised dictatorship practiced by all ruling parties where they acquired state power....

Around that time Mao Tse Tung liberated China from Chiang-Kaishek’s vice grip. Chiang fled to Formosa, now known as Taiwan. Revolutionary

changes were taking place in China. China undertook massive literacy drive and food security programme, even if in iron-bowls in community dinning halls from community kitchens. In contrast to China there was not yet even the beginning of a visible change in India. People started getting disappointed and began to criticise Nehru...

I also expressed my deep disappointment on Nehru in my essay and wrote that Nehru's proper place was in the Andaman & Nicobar Island and he should be forced to leave mainland India and banished there. Alas that was not to happen! Nehru and the dynasty created by him ruled India more than sixty years directly or indirectly out of sixty seven years of its existence since independence....

Since then though, I must admit, I have revised my opinion marginally—giving credit to Nehru for propagating a deformed variety of socialism in the name of 'socialistic' pattern of society. Essentially though, it was capitalism in content and brutally pro-rich.

Nehru built dams and called them modern temples of India. He, however, did not care to see that the indigenous people who lost their homes (numbering around fifty lacs in his time) were properly settled... Copying the Soviet Planning Models, he introduced five year plans in India. He initiated massive construction of steel industries and machine building industries with Soviet help. He, however, neglected wage goods industries, which were mostly capital-light industries and could generate more output per unit of investment and thereby accelerate GDP growth rate and employment. These industries are also mostly labour intensive and, therefore, could have generated more employment per unit of capital.

Nehru's advisors like P. C. Mahalanobis guided him properly by laying emphasis on growth of heavy industries, yet it was not a balanced growth model in the sense that it neglected the urgent need for providing income generating opportunities to eradicate existing massive unemployment and consequent lack of purchasing power of the people.

He did not even care to provide basic functional literacy, health care and food security to the people. He was happy to create a labour aristocracy

who enjoyed relative affluence in public sector employment. He was also happy to see relatively rapid growth of private industries by transferring potential profit of public sector industries to private industries by providing them low cost inputs and allowing them to price their product not at cost plus normal profit rate but at what the market could bear, thereby limiting market growth and hence reducing potential rate of growth of GDP.....”

Yes, from the age of 14, my father was deeply passionate about changing India and making it a country that cared about its people. He felt deeply betrayed by Nehru because even as a ten year old when India got independence, he had huge hopes. I grew up hearing it all — first as his son at home, and then inside the classrooms of IIPM as his student. Finally in 2003, we wrote the book, ‘The Great Indian Dream’ with a vision (his vision, I have just tried to be a good student of him throughout my life) of beating USA & China in terms of Lifestyle Parity by 2028.

Lifestyle Parity was an original concept of his where he believed countries should not be compared in terms of GDP, but in terms of the lifestyle they have— for example an average American might be consuming 3000 calories per day with a very high proportion of meat per day costing them \$10 which eventually ends up harming their health as well as the environment; In comparison an Indian might be having a 2200 calorie optimum protein rich diet at ₹100. In such a case my father argued that ₹100 was giving an Indian better lifestyle or at least at par with a lifestyle of \$10 and therefore GDP should be compared at ₹10 = \$1 instead of ₹80 = \$1 or even at PPP.

15 years later, by 2018, when my father knew his last days were around, it was clear to him that the Dream would remain just that — a dream. So he started working on a renewed vision more relevant to current times. I must add, this time though, his bigger vision was of **“The Great Global Dream”** something on which he had started giving talks on as early as 1989 itself. That book I will complete as well— in the next few years, hopefully with a bit of help from my son!! As of now, here I am with **“2047”, an absolutely achievable and pragmatic dream for India at 100!**

‘2047’ uses my father Malay Chaudhuri’s last written material, exchange

of ideas and thoughts and therefore I'm just a co-author. Forever, they have been his ideas with me as the spokesperson. **And therefore credits him as an author, posthumously.**

It is in all ways, a sequel to 'The Great Indian Dream', after two decades. It does borrow heavily from our last book, 'What Marx Left Unsaid' and my previous book 'Beyond God & Capitalism'. So those who have read those two books **can omit the parts B, C and D from the second chapter.** Or can read these parts a second time as its always a very good reinforcement of certain thoughts that India and the world needs to wake up to.

I hope by 2047 finally, The Great Indian Dream of a nation at par with and better than today's best, is indeed achieved and we have an India that's in all respects better than the India that we have visualised in this book.

Hope you enjoy 2047!

Dr. Arindam Chaudhuri

On the occasion of 75 years of Indian Independence

WARNING : This book has no copyright! If you find anything written here easy to understand and eye opening, #copyleft and share freely with your friends, family and on your social media handles!!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thank you **Che, Naveen & Shikha** for being there 24*7 to exchange ideas, debate and discuss on every topic under the sun! I owe you guys the universe and beyond!

Thank you **Vishal** for the crazy sincerity and passion. I can never explain what it means to me.

Thank you **Ratul** for always being there for everything, but most specially for giving my father the most smiling company during the last decade of his life. Thank you **Sandeep** for always standing by.

Thank you **Zak, Sarah & Anjali** for adding so many smiles in my life!

Thank you **Rajita** for being there always and giving my father—the co-author of this book— incredible amount of happiness during his last years. It was rare & precious.

With time the list may have grown shorter but the gratitude has definitely become deeper!

I hope you all outlive me.

IN MEMORY OF

**The co-author of this book; My friend, philosopher & guide,
Malay Chaudhuri**

(18.3.1937-13.08.2019)

who I had the lifetime of a privilege of calling Baba —father.

**Before I get into my beautiful journey with him, let me present a
formal profile of his for the benefit of the readers.**



In his first month in the German Democratic Republic in 1958, with a scholarship from the University of Calcutta, Malayendra Kisore Chaudhuri saw a notice that said that the prices of many consumer goods were being reduced, while wages of certain categories of lower wage workers were being increased, due to the successful implementation of certain five-year economic planning. He felt so inspired that he devoted himself to studying **National Economic Planning and Management**.

He completed his MSc as a co-record holder and did his **Ph. D. on Eradicating Unemployment by Developing Small Scale, Cottage and**

Village Industries. In his theory, he provided for an ‘Unemployment Allowance for those who could not be absorbed in productive work in Industries, Agriculture and Services’. In 1970, he completed his **D. Sc. on ‘Reforming International Monetary System’**. **He suggested the creation of an International Currency (IC), backed by reserves of internationally traded commodities like fossil fuels, food grains, etc, to move away from the Dollar Standard, which was no longer backed by gold.** In GDR he became the Scientific Adviser, District Planning Commission (Wissenschaftlicher Berater, Abteilung Planung und Bilanzierung).

In India after stints with **HLL & CIDCO as their Economic Advisors and with Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Simla, he worked at XLRI, Jamshedpur, and IIM, Bangalore, as Professor of Economics.**

From 1963 itself, after a tour of European Countries and studying similar institutions while interacting with Nobel Laureates like Ragnar Frisch etc, he was restless to start his own institute of **National Economic Planning & Administration** and submitted a proposal for the same to the then Prime Minister of India, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. In 1973 finally, he founded **The Indian Institute Planning and Management (IIPM) which at one point of time went on to become the largest B-School on earth.** IIPM, imparts programs in Entrepreneurship that are **distinctly superior to any MBA program taught globally.** The program taught at IIPM includes a full fledged curriculum comparable to an M.A. in National Economic Planning apart from an exhaustive course in Entrepreneurship with compulsory specialisation in Marketing in addition to two more specialisations that students have to choose. Students have to compulsorily go for a Global Orientation program & today as it enters its **Golden Jubilee** year, roughly 50,000 of its alumni are spread all over the world chasing successful managerial and entrepreneurial careers in the best of corporations, consulting firms & NGOs.

He is also the Founder Director, **Management Courses, Institute of Management Technology (IMT), Ghaziabad.** In his lecture series at IIPM, he showed how a 14 per cent - or even higher - growth rate of GDP is possible by raising the living standards of people below the poverty line (which he believed should be called the destitution line), while simultaneously achieving

a wage ratio of 3:1 - the highest paid to the lowest paid worker- over a period of 25 years in a non-violent manner.

After working tirelessly for more than 15 years on his passion project 'Manavata Seva Kendras' in the villages of rural India, his zeal to make a real difference made him launch his own Political Party **on the 7th of Nov 2000, formally registered by the name of, 'Bharatiya Manavata Vikas Party'**. The party which was praised by one and all in media for its unique advertising and philosophy, fought 2004 elections in Orissa & West Bengal but couldn't win any seats. Till the last day of his life he kept planning on how to relaunch the party again, more effectively and bring dignity to lives of those struggling with abject poverty.

Though it couldn't continue due to paucity of funds, in 2011 he gave away the **Rabindranath Tagore International Prize of €1 Million — an award comparable with the Nobel Prize — as a public demonstration of his opposition to the Western monopoly on awards** for excellence in various fields. He said, "I see a shift from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Why shouldn't it also happen in the domain of awards? We want to decisively intervene in the process of deciding on awards and thereby having a say on what is worth appreciating and emulating".

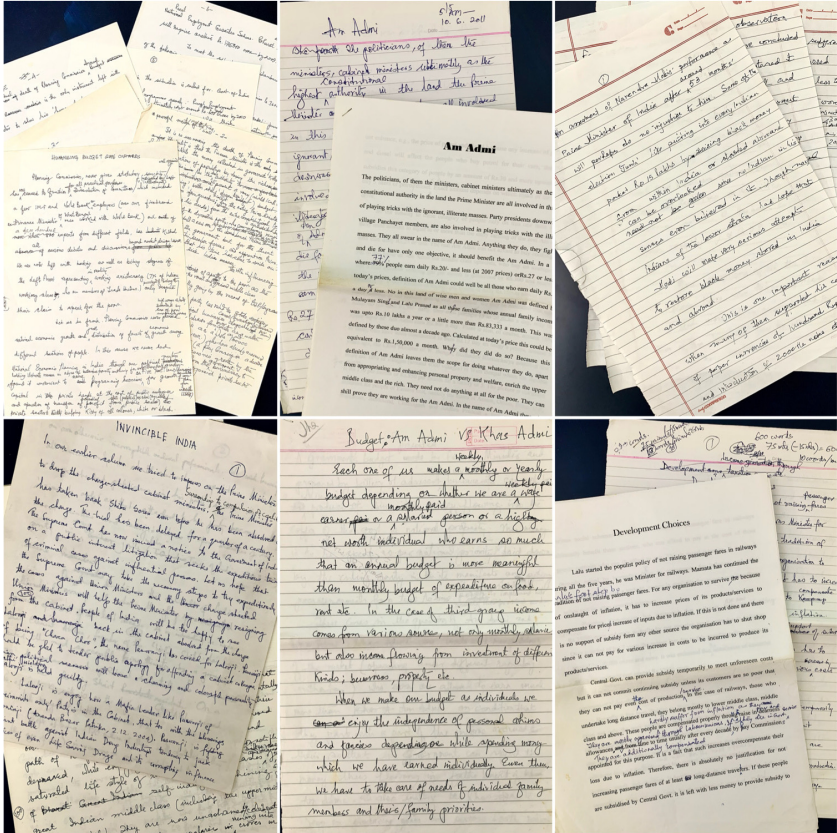
He was the **brain and heart behind IIPM's Alternate Budgets since early 90s** which later became televised shows running for two decades. He was the brain & creative director behind **3 Short Films in Bangla**— all of them aimed at bringing sociopolitical change in Bengal.

He is the author of 'What Marx Left Unsaid' and the #1 bestseller, 'The Great Indian Dream'.

Before his death in 2019, Malay was working on two more books. '2047', is based on his unpublished papers and ideas that he exchanged with his son & co-author of his past two books, Dr. Arindam Chaudhuri for one of the two books that he wanted to write as a follow up to their 2003 book, 'The Great Indian Dream'.



*The beginning: A Proposal to the First PM of India
Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru
by Dr. Malay Chaudhuri in 1963 from Germany to set up an institute under
the Planning Commission by the name of Institute of National Economic
Planning & Administration of National Economy*



Dr. Malay Chaudhuri's
Sample Handwritten Notes
on his dreams for India and the well being of the masses, something that wouldn't let him sleep and he worked tirelessly throughout his life towards... always with lot of space for corrections!

The image shows a collage of newspaper advertisements for the Manav Vikas Party. The central focus is an advertisement in Bengali from a newspaper, with the headline "Manav" and "বিকাশ". It features a portrait of Dr. Malay Chaudhuri and text in both Bengali and English. The English text includes a call to action: "A CALL TO EVERY INDIAN to realise The Great Indian Dream". Below this, it says "Dr. Malay Chaudhuri, M.Sc., Ph.D., D.Sc. CALLS FOR to become a part of an all India movement by becoming a part of 'Manav Vikas Party'".

The advertisement further details the party's goals: "A Party for Human Development which aims at participating soon in all India elections starting with the West Bengal assembly elections in 2001." It includes a quote: "Isn't it high time you associated with a party which will never fight on the basis of religion, caste, creed, etc... A party which will have only one cause - 'The Rights of the Oppressed'... A party which will be led by perceptive people, committed to the masses, & thereby better equipped to run the country."

Additional text in Bengali discusses economic goals, such as increasing the growth rate of national income and providing employment. It mentions the party's platform for the 2001 elections and its commitment to social justice and economic development.

Other smaller advertisements are visible in the background, including one with a portrait of a man and another with a portrait of a woman, both with similar headlines in Bengali.

The 7th Nov. 2000 launch of
Bharatiya Manavata Vikas Party
through the most unique advertisements in multiple language
Newspapers all over India, inviting honest candidates who will remain
committed to increasing the income of the bottom 80% of India

Times of India

Missionaries Of Human Development In Politics

By Prayush Kanth

The Bhartiya Manava Vikas Party (BMVP) — comprising only professionals like engineers, doctors and writers as its members — will contest 12 assembly and 2 Parliamentary constituencies in Orissa in the forthcoming elections.

The party, once a social organisation, had set up Manav Seva Kendras in West Bengal and Orissa that run 292 rural schools, medical camps, rural entrepreneurship and women's development programmes. These centres, however, started facing hindrances from the local administration and political parties. We then realised that in India one cannot bring about a socio-economic change without political affiliation. This saw the birth of BMVP. This saw the birth of BMVP. This saw the birth of BMVP.



Malay K Chaudhuri, an economist and a former IIM faculty, Chaudhuri is himself contesting the Lok Sabha elections from Balasore. "We are not nursing any political ambition and are here only as missionaries of hu-

man development. Our agenda is to abolish unemployment in rural as well as urban areas," says Chaudhuri, adding that literate people should not shy away from politics.

The BMVP had advertised in newspapers and conducted interviews to select candidates for elections. Politicians and those with criminal background were barred from attending the interviews.

Bhubaneswar

Prayush Kanth said that after these advertisements their office was raided by miscreants owing allegiance to several other political parties. "There was panic in the political circle in Orissa. Some politicians felt that we were loaded with money. Others thought our arrival would destabilise the prevailing equation in the state," said a BMVP activist.

According to Chaudhuri, the fact that 120 of his students volunteered to serve his party in Orissa is his biggest achievement. He has also received support from over 40 'manav sevakas' from rural areas of the state. Chaudhuri was instrumental in forming the Manav Seva Kendras.

Spreading Political Roots

Economist Dr Malayendra K Chaudhuri wants to be an active politician



Dr Malayendra K Chaudhuri, an economist, is looking to spread his political roots in Orissa. He has formed the Bhartiya Manava Vikas Party (BMVP) and is contesting the Lok Sabha elections from Balasore. Chaudhuri, who has a doctorate from Germany, is looking to bring about socio-economic change in rural areas. He has set up Manav Seva Kendras in West Bengal and Orissa. Chaudhuri is looking to bring about socio-economic change in rural areas. He has set up Manav Seva Kendras in West Bengal and Orissa.

times.com/election2004

Hindustan Times

S IN THE POLITICAL WILDERNESS

MALAY K CHAUDHURI

When a former IIM professor takes the plunge into electoral politics and gives advertisements in newspapers urging educated people to join his party, his endeavour may either go unnoticed or invite ridicule from mainstream politicians.

However, Dr Malay K Chaudhuri and his Bhartiya Manava Vikas Party (BMVP) are determined to leave an imprint behind. The BMVP has fielded candidates from 12 assembly and two Lok Sabha seats in Orissa.

Chaudhuri, who is contesting as the BMVP candidate from Balasore LS seat, has done his doctorate from Germany, taught at XLRI, Jamshedpur, and IIM-Singapore and later founded the Indian Institute of Planning and Management.

Arindam Chaudhuri, management guru and founder member of the BMVP, said: "India has longed for an educated class of politicians who will be honest and truthful to their duties. To address this, the BMVP has given tickets for the assembly polls only to graduates who have done some work for the cause of society." The party has also announced the book symbol and is distributing its manifesto assuring several populist measures.

BMVP workers say that triumph or defeat in the 2004 polls will make little difference to Malay K Chaudhuri's endeavour, as this co-author of the Great Indian Dream is here for the long haul.

Sources: Putrajee, Bhubaneswar

HE POLL RING

Vote Next? Management experts test new case

Our Political Bureau

WHAT is common between South Delhi and Balasore — the first housing scheme of the poorest and conflict localities, and the second among the poorest areas in the country? The two Lok Sabha constituencies have been selected as testing ground for the political ambitions of two management gurus, Shri Khera and Malay Chaudhuri.

While Mr Khera, author

Economic Times

With noble ideas, teacher tilts at windmills

BY SUMIT DAS GUPTA AND DEBAPRIT PROHIT

Five-foot nothing, thick, old-fashioned spectacles, out-of-fashion suit, bearing all in all, meet Malay Chaudhuri, 46, who greets the city newspaper to talk about his Tuesday morning.

From a teacher at IIT Kanpur, to an economist, to a member of a mass movement, he says the main behind the widely-circulated advertisement announcing the birth of Manava Vikas Party is "to bring about development", which will contest the Assembly election in Bengal.

Chaudhuri, who has a doctorate from Germany, is looking to bring about socio-economic change in rural areas. He has set up Manav Seva Kendras in West Bengal and Orissa.

Telegraph

With noble ideas, teacher tilts at windmills

Starting point, Assembly Poll 2004 in Bengal. The student of Presidency College (history) in the 60s, who went on to his doctorate in political economy from Berlin, encountered by KC Mahabalan, feels the "time is just right to fight the first mainline party victory by the hand of a revolution."

"The CPM is beyond redemption, and if these so-called Marxists rule for another five years, nothing can save Bengal. There's still some hope for countering Maoism, who does seem to have hit their last nail home, but has now seen of arrested state," says Chaudhuri, who happens to field candidates in all 204 seats.

His mathematics — a second in the country — and philosophy — "I'm looking to bring about socio-economic change in rural areas. He has set up Manav Seva Kendras in West Bengal and Orissa."

Highly Appreciative Articles in all Major Newspapers of India in 2004 on Dr. Malay Chaudhuri finally taking the electoral plunge with the singular mission of bringing down the income disparity in India and giving housing, health, education and justice to every citizen of India

indiatimes.com presentation

A great nation... billion people... 30 million GDP... **LET BETRAYED...**

DARE, DREAM, DO... THE NATION ASKS FOR IT, A MUST FOR EVERY INDIA!

Should Your Dreams Before 'The Nation'?

A ROADMAP TO THE MUCH ELUSIVE ROUTE TO PROSPERITY.

Malay Chaudhuri, Editor-in-Chief & Founder, *indiatimes.com*

Arindam Chaudhuri, Managing Editor & Executive Director, *indiatimes.com*

The Great Indian Dream

RELEASING ON 12TH AUG. !!

THE BIGGEST BOOK OF THE YEAR !!

MACMILLAN Macmillan India Ltd.

August 22, 2003 www.timesofindia.com

'Purchasing power will bring prosperity'

— **indiatimes.com** presentation

DARE, DREAM, DO... THE NATION ASKS FOR IT, A MUST FOR EVERY INDIA!

The Great Indian Dream

Arindam Chaudhuri speaks at a seminar entitled 'The Great Indian Dream' presented in association with indiatimes.com, at the NCPA, Mumbai on Thursday.

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: For an economy to flourish, a country has to provide purchasing power to its people. "There is no empirical evidence to show that prosperity follows the trickle-down theory—every country that has made it big in a short span of time has believed in the trickling up of wealth," Arindam Chaudhuri, managing editor, said in a seminar in Mumbai on Thursday.

India may be a great friend of the United States, but when it comes to investments it is China that the dollar finds attractive, because China has given its people the necessary purchasing power, Dr Chaudhuri said. "For every television sold in India there are 10 sold in China," he explained.

India is a melting pot of culture, and while we dream of making India prosperous, once we become prosperous we Indians will possibly show the world a different way of living," he said. Dr Chaudhuri has just released a book, *Great*

'Once purchasing power increases, country will grow'

Q Did your book, *The Great Indian Dream*, evolve at IIPM? For the last 10 years at IIPM I've taught my students how to make India fit with the developed world. Today, the masses seem to have given up the belief that change is possible, due to the stop-propaganda by the government and media that the problems in India are too complex and change is difficult process. Hence, *The Great Indian Dream*.

A You advocate a 14 per cent growth rate for India. Can you elaborate on that? In light of the Indian economic scenario, it is imperative to work with confidence the emerging global challenge of international markets, while remaining committed to removing the massive poverty. For this, we must achieve a growth rate of 14 per cent and market extension and social institutions favouring the bottom 80 per cent of the population. This is essential for corporate growth rate of the same order too.

Q Can India catch up with the developed world if it follows the policies that you teach at IIPM?

A Yes, India can not only catch up but also lead the US and other western countries in terms of growth and lifestyle within 50 years. For this, we need to have dedication and commitment for the bottom 80 per cent of people. Once their purchasing power increases, automatically the country will start developing. We call this trickling-up. This is *The Great Indian Dream*.

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The Great Indian Dream

'25 years from now, poverty should only be in museums'

Q What is *The Great Indian Dream* about? India seems to be losing faith in our great nation and unfortunately we know more about that great American dream than anything else. *The Great Indian Dream* is an attempt to show the common man that, given political will, the rich will not catch up with America and the West in a short time.

A ARINDAM CHAUDHURI, Managing Editor, *indiatimes.com*. On his book *The Great Indian Dream*, for which he received a record advance.

Q Is the book about patriotism? **A** Yes. When the economy doesn't grow enough people get it right for once in their lives particularly to be able to look for jobs in America. So, it is not so much about individual level patriotism. It is about patriotism of a nation. You can map up the books of nation where people live with dignity. Poverty, the evils from which children should be taken away, is poverty. **Q** Removing poverty is not socialism, but the basic level of human existence. **A** Just as there is no science without poverty, there is no society without poverty. The goal of the very people used to live to die because poverty should be removed from the face of the earth.

Of sleepy cows and Indian dreams

Explaining the country's dilemma to move from this stage to the next, he said, "India management is not clear, especially when you compare it with the first of its progress since 1991."

Business Times Bureau: **MUMBAI** The government would get you to you. The list of objectives is not only India is a sleepy cow" when the government has a better of the nation than from the public sector, as India being the great.

Arindam Chaudhuri, Editor-in-Chief, *indiatimes.com*, New Delhi said in a seminar on Thursday.

India is a melting pot of culture, and while we dream of making India prosperous, once we become prosperous we Indians will possibly show the world a different way of living," he said. Dr Chaudhuri has just released a book, *Great*

...the government's dilemma to move from this stage to the next, he said, "India management is not clear, especially when you compare it with the first of its progress since 1991."

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The formal 2003 launch of The Great Indian Dream by Dr. Malay Chaudhuri & Dr. Arindam Chaudhuri. A copy of the first ad. for the book and some newspaper coverages, focusing on Purchasing Power & the concept of Poverty Museums... all from The Times of India

The Great Chaudhuri Dream!

I DID not want to write a book that would be read by 100 people, but he wanted to write a bestseller. There one day when his best was behind him, you had a feeling someone and a golden witness a reality. It is documented that he was best writer a book that should be a vision before and made a permanent plan to do so when he was writing was not a bad gesture after all. Arindam Chaudhuri's 'Crazy for Chikena before They Hatch' may have changed the way his father Malay Chaudhuri looked at writing a book. It is not only the son who is influenced by the father, but the father too is influenced by the son. I got heart from the response 'Crazy for Chikena, grandpa!' The senior citizen, seeing all the expertise of his three decades in the world of economics, the young had, having seen it all, getting his inputs. Together, they closed the dream. Though the dream might be three years ago with a sentiment, it actually grew back a wing only when always there, I grew up listening to father's tales, often Arindam.

This dream, however, was a touch different. It was not about power and dominance. It was not about him and his wife and laughing all the way to the bank. It was not about being the world with a heart for his wife, still preventing still hearing. It was about you and me, it was about India, where 'most that in past care have to take, are regarded and have a lot of distractions before power. It is not about the future economy. It is 'capable of growth rate of 14 per cent' and regularly maintain only five per cent. It was about 'Democratic Humanism, because 'Democratic Commission' don't sit next to Malay states.

It was never too late. 'The Great Indian Dream' containing his own India economy without taking recourse to the steps that make our Finance Ministers so expensively irresponsible. He attempts to 'differentiate' mainstream economics so that common people can understand.' As Arindam puts it, 'It is not just an analysis of Indian economy. We have not just talked of conventional, vital issues.

Nursing a dream for the nation. That's what father-son duo Malay and Arindam Chaudhuri claim to do. **ZIYA US SALAM** catches up with the writers who believe India can overtake the U.S. if it follows their magic mantra for 14 per cent annual growth...



NOT ONE FROM THE FAMILY ALONE: Malay and Arindam Chaudhuri share a private moment in the novel to the release of 'The Great Indian Dream'. Photo: V. Jayaraman

one. Figures have been made comprehensible. This book is the storytelling. It is not about changing the belief that India comes through. That will only go away, it is all together. We have given plenty of examples of other

countries to prove that India can change and grow. It is not just small countries like Japan with a higher density of population, but Malaysia with that 10% target who have been held up to exemplify that even China.

They are all. The Chaudhuris want more children upgrade down, as several of the document. Education equity we and our institutions have grown up with. Mandarini, they talk of 'middle-up theory'. There is talk on about the target of the Firm, the Chaudhuri tell us about the

territory of the Indian. Mandarini of the Law of Demographic Mosaic Urban form by 'The Great Indian Dream', we have about the Law of Demographic Mosaic Urban form by 'The Great Indian Dream'.

'The Great Indian Dream' is a novel that is not only a book but a vision. It is a 20-year-old dream that is not only a book but a vision. It is a 20-year-old dream that is not only a book but a vision.

Arindam includes all attempts by Government agencies to promote the growing middle-class as a growth market for institutional corporations. 'What is the growing power MNCs are not concerned in India, most of their top projects in the country are the powerhouses. We talk of 100 million middle-class. When are they? Higher class, even China

China grew a 5 per cent per annual level. Can you have had a share of problems in India but a more of them seen by the Chaudhuri and his dad. Recently, there was a package in country that claims to be the best. When it comes to building a book is concerned. Malay and Arindam cannot reveal the amount. We have no writer confidentially dream has not been reported not to change the nature. However, it is 'middle-up theory' and 'middle-up theory'.

'The Great Indian Dream' is a novel that is not only a book but a vision. It is a 20-year-old dream that is not only a book but a vision. It is a 20-year-old dream that is not only a book but a vision.

'The Great Indian Dream' is a novel that is not only a book but a vision. It is a 20-year-old dream that is not only a book but a vision. It is a 20-year-old dream that is not only a book but a vision.

The Dream

which lead to the formation of

Bharatiya Manavata Vikas Party

Management guru puts up candidates in Orissa

By SULTANA KHADJA
Bangalore, April 21: Management guru Arindam Chaudhuri and his father Dr. Malay Chaudhuri who have launched the Bharatiya Manavata Vikas Party with its ideology and manifesto based on the best-seller *The Great Indian Dream* co-authored by the duo, are fighting the elections from Orissa. "We're fighting for two MP seats and 12 MLA seats in these elections. I am contesting for an MP seat

from the Balasore constituency," says Dr. Malay Chaudhuri who is the national president of the BMVP. Interestingly, all the BMVP's candidates for the state Legislature are MBAs and graduates. Even the party workers have to clear standard VIII before becoming members. Candidates for the elections were invited through a newspaper advertisement. "We asked for the right kind of candidates. We had MBAs, lawyers, teachers, and profes-



Dr. Malay Chaudhuri with son Arindam Chaudhuri

sors replying. Even our party's agenda was put in the ad," Mr. Arindam Chaudhuri, general secretary of the party adds. What makes this party different from the others is the fact that its agenda is drawn from the last chapter of the *Great Indian Dream* to focus on four key problems of the judiciary, health, education and poverty. Dr. Malay explains how the party came about, "About 10 years ago we initiated the

Aurobindo Smriti Manav Seva Kendra in West Bengal and Orissa. While working in the areas of health and education, we realised that due to political impediments, we couldn't do much. We felt that if we could take the responsibility of helping raise resources and allocating them through the budget of the states in a completely different manner, we could achieve a higher rate of growth in the states and the nation as a whole."

Dr. Malay Chaudhuri's Dream that Dr. Arindam Chaudhuri partnered eventually leading to fighting of elections in Orissa & West Bengal in 2004 under the aegis of Bharatiya Manavata Vikas Party



A Collage of Magazine Covers of Annual Alternate Budgets of IIPM Think Tank from 2005-2022 based on Dr. Malay Chaudhuri's vision for a developed India with a GDP at par with USA © China, based on his original concept of Lifestyle Parity that which became popular televised shows from 2002 onwards!

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That India was not shining for the majority of Indians was clearly visible during the elections, with BJP being voted out of power. Congress, being coalition dependent, intelligently skirted the foreign-origin issue by making Dr. Manmohan Singh its Prime Ministerial candidate. As a result, at least in the intellectual and academic circles, there was excitement at a Professor and an economist getting the most coveted post in Indian politics. Dr. Manmohan Singh is known for his personal integrity. Not only has he been a highly regarded economist, but he has also proven in the past his ability to undertake massive economic transformation of the country. We can only have the highest regard for a person like him. That is precisely the reason why we are also shocked to the core when he justifies the presence of tainted ministers in his cabinet. He speaks of compusions of the coalition government. Since we do not have access

IN CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH

INDIA: TODAY & TOMORROW

A MONTHLY INITIATIVE BY IIPM THINK TANK TO REVOLUTIONISE THOUGHTS - AUGUST 2004 ISSUE

THE POLITICAL CRIMINAL CIRCUS

The problem can be easily resolved and Dr. Manmohan Singh must do it for the sake of the nation



By Malay Chaudhary

to the discussions leading to formation of the government, we can give him the benefit of doubt. At the same time a few things are worth mentioning. We feel that with a little effort, alternative candidates to these tainted ministers could have been found. Even if we were to consider the highly debated candidature of Laloo Prasad Yadav as an example, we see that his own Rashtriya Janata Dal does have a few MPs who are not tainted. One is thus surely forced to wonder why some of those MPs were not selected for the ministerial posts instead, especially with someone like Laloo Prasad Yadav himself being known for his superb and practical intelligence. After all, he accepted the Constitutional propriety when he resigned from the Chief Minister's post and announced his beloved wife as Chief Minister of Bihar, and still did not hesitate to march in ryle to the jails. It is therefore a little surprising that he insisted on becoming the Railway Minister, a post

which he in any case apparently promised Ram Vilas Paswan to decide the destiny of only 16 lakh employees when he is actually waiting for the day he shall be on the Prime Minister's throne in India to decide the fate of more than 1000 million Indians! The Congress Party, with a little extra effort, surely could have prevailed over these appointed ministers and kept the cabinet clean. It is also very difficult to comprehend Dr. Manmohan Singh's justification for tainted Ministers by arguing that they have won in the 'people's court'. We believe Dr. Manmohan Singh is not doing justice to his highly dignified life-long record. Thereby he is ligating the sense of dignity of the Indian masses, whatever reasons, including the excuse of the powerful "inner voter" behind his throne. It

is therefore worthy suggesting that he should come out of the indignities being heaped on him by immediately setting up Constitutional courts to try the charge-sheeted Ministers. This will keep his record of being a clean and honourable man intact; and also shut the mouths of the Congress detractors the way his becoming the Prime Minister did. The bigger question which will invariably arise in this debate is whether the country can afford the cost of setting up such special courts? In my opinion the country certainly can, should and really high time that it does. We know about 2.8 lakh under-trial prisoners are languishing in jails for more years than the highest punishment prescribed for the offence they have committed, if they

are proven guilty. We also know from the past reports that more than 82% of those prisoners (more than 2.3 lac of them) are likely to be set free because they are innocent. It will be truly humane if we release at least 2 lac of them on personal bonds. This will save the country annually Rs.400 crore, @ Rs.50 spent by the government per under-trial prisoner per day. The money saved then can be used not only for creating a few such courts required to try these tainted ministers, but can also be used to create about 5000 such special officers with a high end budget of Rs.8 lacs per annum (an amount spent per court in the High Courts) for each such court. Not only would this measure bring better sense of justice towards the poor under-trials in our prisons and double-up as the way out for setting up of the special tribunals to try the tainted ministers on an immediate basis, but also would go a long way to speed up the judicial machinery in the country. We believe this will be a sufficient measure to assure people of India that no proven criminal remains a minister in this country. Even if more than 90% of the MLAs and MPs are brought to the court for various crimes (including rigging undertaken by criminals on their behalf during elections) the nation will feel relieved. It is a different story that the ministers themselves might end up being saved from continuing their miserable and ridiculous existence by proving their innocence in these courts by employing a battery of most brilliant and committed lawyers that they generally possess. At least in the future, the presence of an effective judicial machinery, will surely serve as a deterrent from repeating their past mistakes.

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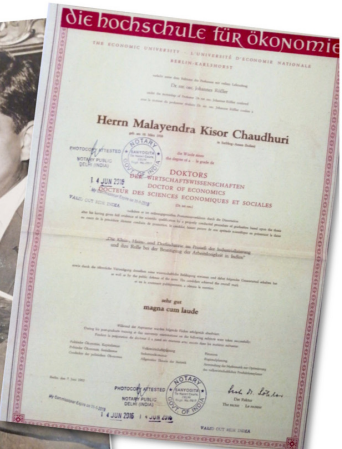


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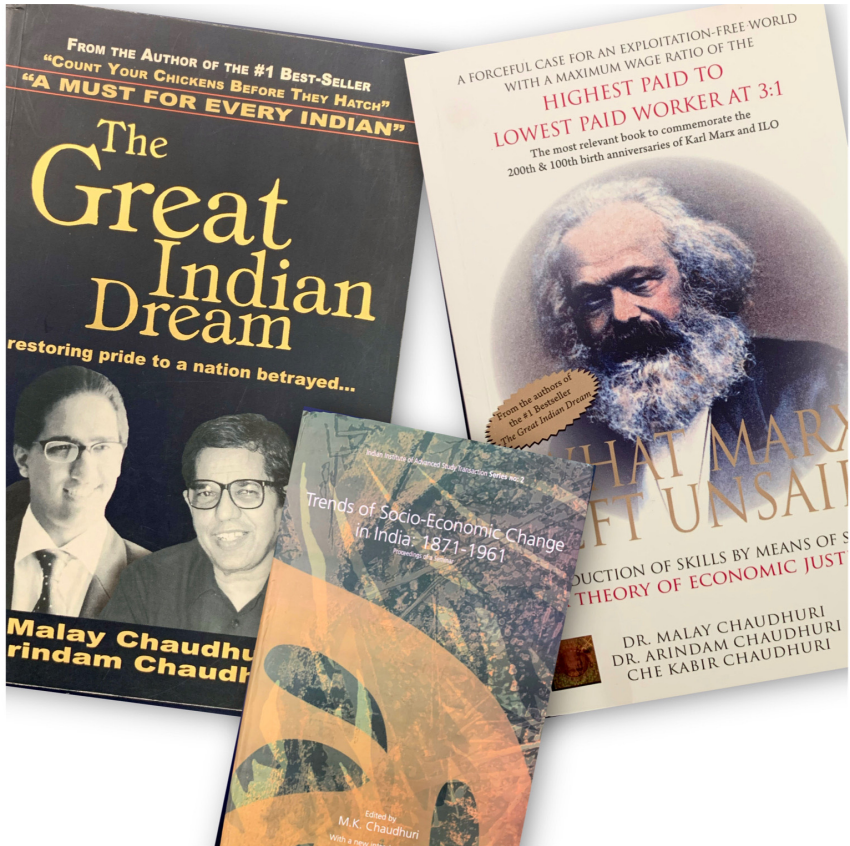


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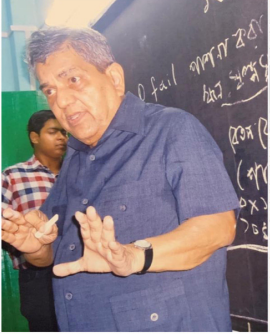
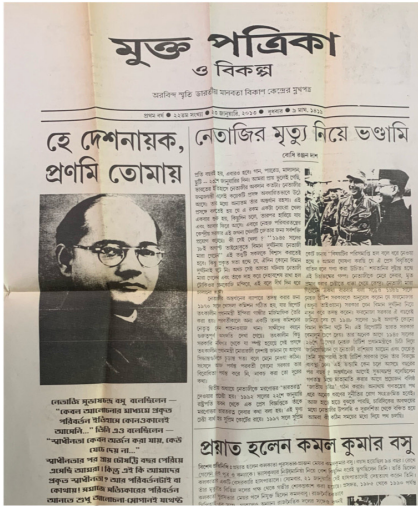
*The young Malay—
in East Berlin (then a part of GDR)
where he did his M.Sc., Ph.D. & D.Sc (from the Berlin School of Economics
—HOCHSCHULE FÜR ÖKONOMIE)
Some of his articles & certificates!*



*Dr. Malay Chaudhuri's Books & Publications—
#1 Best-Seller, 'The Great Indian Dream',
his last book while he was alive, 'What Marx Left Unsaid' &
one of his publications from his time in
Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla*



*The only possession Dr. Malay gifted his son before his death—
the manuscript of ‘What Marx Left Unsaid’
Some snaps from the day of launch of the book (with wife Ratna, daughter-
in-law Rajita, daughter Arundhati & grandsons Che & Zak) & him doing
his favorite activity—reading, reading & reading... day and night!*



**Dr. Malay Chaudhuri's Lifetime Passion—
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under the name of 'Manavata Vikas Kendras' from where he used to
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 'Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Award'
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 R. Chatterjee, Lord Meghnad Desai, Dr. Malay Chaudhuri &
 Nobel Laureate Mohan Munasinghe*

Money: happiness. Value System

10.1.11 Oct 99

BUSINESS

For the love of money, or the love of life

By Neera Bhardwaj



Vicki Robin

MUMBAI: It was a tough, poor neighbourhood that Joe Dominguez grew up in. A few managed to break out of it. Joe was one of them. By his early 20s, Joe Dominguez was well on the fast track as a financial analyst in Wall Street. A couple of years into the good life, he decided to take stock. The rich did not appear any happier than the poor in his old neighbourhood. Money, obviously, was

Or Your Life that hit the stands in 1992, and the *Business Week* best seller mark soon after, staying there for a year.

What Dominguez and Robin were teaching was, in short: Money is your life energy, you are trading hours of your life for money, so use it wisely.

More importantly, identify sources of your happiness and your value systems and spend money only on what conforms to both of them. The result: Practitioners reported a 20-25 per cent drop in their spending on the following their formula.

The practice of the theory is divided into nine steps. It begins with

Follow that up with a monthly tabulation by establishing spending categories. Convert the dollars spent in each category into hours of life energy, using your real hourly wage. Next comes the questioning: did you receive fulfilment, satisfaction and value in proportion to life energy spent?

The rest of the steps involve making a chart of your monthly expenditure and earnings, minimising spending and maximising income to reach the cross-over point. That is, when your monthly investment income rises above expenses and you can be financially independent with a steady income from a source other than a job. Then one can get

The virtues of frugality make a lot of sense in a society at the pinnacle of consumerism. Says Robin, explaining the runaway success of her book: "It was like the story about the Emperor's clothes. We stated the obvious. Everybody was working hard to cope with the myth of more and we peeled back the mask of insanity."

Not surprisingly, as many as 7.5 lakh copies of the books have been sold already and even a number of corporations are following the nine-step approach to manage their resources. And Robin herself follows what she preaches. She lives on \$9000 a year while the US poverty mark is \$14000 a year. The

Orissa and India's granite heart

THE country's response to Orissa shows us up for what we really are today — a sick society that has no feeling.

There is a national leadership unable to mobilise the nation, a state government which has failed to galvanise the administration, a corporate world which cannot go beyond seeking concessions from the government, an NGO sector which has become an industry, and the rest of us who have watched helplessly. Television could create a feeling of nationalism during the Kargil war. Surely it could have shown distress over the biggest national calamity in independent India.

The Centre has now got around to setting up a task force headed by George Fernandes. It should have come into existence within 24 hours of the tragedy and come out with a strategy to mobilise and disburse governmental and non-governmental relief. And surely it should also have chief ministers and opposition leaders as members.

Suppose nine Cabinet ministers had gone even for a couple of days to the headquarters of the nine most affected districts

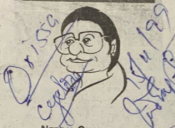
less, epidemics threatening to claim more lives, food riots breaking out, Orissa surely called for an address to the nation by the Prime Minister on TV.

Ganang has now called the Prime Minister for Rs 10,000 crore of aid. The government will need all of that. The question is: is it in a position to put this amount to use?

The state government just collapsed under the fury of the super cyclone. Even Sonia Gandhi, Manmohan Singh and Madhav Rao Scindia admitted as much when they urged the Prime Minister to give central help in the distribution of relief. It is unthinkable for district collectors to run away at a time of crisis. But this is what happened in Orissa.

The Chief Minister had no business to come to Delhi when the state was reeling under unprecedented devastation. Others

POWER PLAY



NEERA CHOWDHURY

Ganang's elbow.

The quibbling that went on for a week about the status of the money transferred from the Centre to the state was shocking, with the state government refusing to touch it unless it was declared a grant.

On its part, the Centre should have clarified immediately that what has not a grant would be deficit against money mobilised specially for relief. It was a spectacle announcing in the morning and the PMO clarifying in the evening that it had merely been rescheduled.

The see-sawing suggestions from the corporate bosses to the finance minister on the pink pages every morning. But there has not been one headline on what they have these, explain to do, for Orissa. Have PCCI or ASSOCHAM even written to their members asking for do-

lles in the capital did not celebrate. Surely other Indians could also have made a similar gesture. If children go around their mohallas collecting clothes, medicines or food, they identify with Orissa. It shows a national feeling.

When General Dyer killed a few hundred people at Jallianwalla Bagh, cooking fires were not lit in millions of homes across the country. When Bihar was hit by a famine in the sixties, Lal Bahadur Shastri persuaded lakhs of people to observe a fast every Monday, so that food could go to the hungry state. When millions of refugees poured into India after the formation of Bangladesh, thousands of young people spent their entire vacation helping the sick and the needy in the relief camps.

The country's schools and colleges should consider collecting money for cyclone shelters on the Orissa coastline. They exist in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu but not for some reason in Orissa although cyclones of varying intensity are an annual feature on the eastern coast.

There is then the question of the impending elections in Orissa. In five weeks'

A typical example of Newspaper Cuttings from Dr. Malay Chaudhuri's personal library of more than 50,000 articles on every important humanitarian topic under the sun! These are the underlined and circled articles he used to pass on to his son, Arindam (the co-author of this book), to read whenever they met.

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**THE LAST DAYS OF
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*A not so warm welcome to President Bill Clinton
on his India visit on the 22nd of March 2000
with front page ads. in T.O.I. & H.T. on Dr. Malay Chaudhuri's 'Great
Indian Dream'—A public talk by his son Arindam calling for an end to
American Supremacy*

My beautiful journey with baba and a few memories

Yes! Baba's full name was Malyendra Kisore Chaudhuri but by the end of his life he kept insisting on giving an advertisement in the newspaper to change his name to **Malay 'Mehthor' Chaudhuri. Mehthor is the Bangla word for a scavenger/mehatar. He felt unless we make an effort to change the system of casteist discrimination in India by embracing the discriminated as a very part of our existence we will not be able to see a new world. He had said that if anyone opposes his plan, that person doesn't love him enough.** This was a dream he nurtured for more than a decade. Unfortunately it remained unfulfilled.

Yes, that was him. **Unconventionally humane till the last day of his life.** And I believe what the previous pages of his formal profile and pictorial journey might have failed to achieve, this small para written above might have done— given a glimpse into the real person he was and why I feel most privileged to have spent almost 48 years of my life with!!

To me he was surely my father who loved me infinitely — like most fathers, but far more than that he was my purpose of existence for the 30 years of my life ever since I entered IIPM as a student. The father-son relationship of love and rebel ended at the age of 18, because after that for the next 30 years — as a student and teacher at IIPM, the relationship was only of sheer appreciation and fan-dom.

That's right. From 1989 to 2019 every day I got up in the morning with one singular priority (as a student initially and later as teacher)— to hear his praise for my efforts and see him delighted.

If he wanted me to live upto his image in front of IIPM faculty and colleagues, I studied hard. If he wanted me to become a good teacher. I prepared hard. If he wanted me to use the knowledge I acquired to make IIPM a big brand. I worked hard, with my lovely team. If he told me to stay away from AICTE. That was the last word. If he said, we need an alternate budget from IIPM Think Tank to be taken to the masses. That was my next mission. Books, Magazines, Articles, TV shows, Human Development

Awards. He kept thinking and with his help me and my teams job was to keep implementing.

And going back to get a smile of approval and satisfaction. That was it.

Not because of any blind love. But because of absolute respect and belief in his vision for an equal and better world.

When he was unhappy, I would be upset. Even fight. But most of the times, soon enough, change and re-do. Maybe at times he was wrong and maybe at times I was wrong. But it was his vision and he needed to be happy. That's all I understood.

No, I am not his carbon copy. I am far from it. **He wanted to live like Ho Chi Minh**, I live more opulently. I have been a typical ambitious product of a below average school called DPS that taught us absolutely nothing worthwhile in life — a reason why I never found any interest in studies. To find meaning in life, I would have wanted to go abroad to study. But dad wanted me to first taste what he had created. And I joined IIPM right after school in 1989... and suddenly I realised the greatness of the man I was living with... and found my purpose of living.

It became so easy for me. All of those 30 years. He would think. And I would just go and try to convert his thoughts into reality. He would teach. I would go and speak. He would read and cut hundreds of thousands of articles from Newspapers and underline them in detail; I would just read the underlined parts and teach.

And after doing it well. Get all the appreciation from him additionally.

He didn't like many things I did. But thankfully my next editorial, next lecture, next book made up for everything. And I would be relieved to see him proud of me again.

There was another thing. I don't think he found anyone else in his whole life who would understand him so precisely at an intellectual level. Of course neither did I, till he lived.

This intellectual companionship despite quite opposite lifestyles and many disagreements was the corner stone of our relationship.

My complete averseness towards religion and the meaningless word called God and his soft corner for the strength he derived from God -despite realising I was right- was one of our key disagreement. And yet when he wanted to get his name changed, it showed that he might have had respect for godly human beings and 'Ma' Sarawsati's imagery but he knew where to draw the line. Of course one of my biggest satisfaction was seeing his big tick marks and comments like "absolutely correct" in every second page of my book 'Beyond God & Capitalism'. Being a hardcore romantic, the only part he didn't agree, were the pages where i wrote some terse lines on the system of marriages (it's written in this book too).

He was not totally satisfied with my first self help book, 'Discover the Diamond in You'. He said I should soon write a book called 'Discover the Diamond in Others' because that's more important in life. I never wrote it and after his death while going through his notes, I saw pages from an essay called 'Discover the Diamond in Others' with the opening lines mentioning that since my son Arindam didn't write it, I am writing this for him.... Tears just rolled by.

My key purpose of coming back home daily was to share with him the days happenings. That's what made my day complete.

Sounds strange. Sounds of lack of love for the rest of my family. Sounds cruelly work oriented. Yes and No.

Since 2000, I had my son Che. Playing with him, and trying to give him the right upbringing was always a huge priority. I had my sister and friends for my weekends and their children were my life.

But guess my real life has been my work. And my work was my dad's vision.

I had seen in films people coming back home and rushing in to talk to someone only to realise that that person is no more... Turning around to

share something to nobody.. dreaming every night of conversing with their lost love. I never thought exactly that's what can happen. Unbelievable it may sound, but true it is. Almost every day for the last 3 years (today is his third anniversary as I write this), I am talking to him about so many things in my dreams... And at home I come back from office and want to share something with him only to realise he isn't there anymore and the door to his room is locked. It's like my entire support system is no more.

He was love. He was humour. He was intellect. He was compassion. He was the world of my dreams. I am happy I could give him some delightful moments.

I have some distinct memories of his pride and satisfaction with me!!

I remember my 'Operations Research' Professor, Dr. M. P. Gupta calling him up to verify if the roll number who he had given a perfect 100 for the first time in his life was mine. Upon me confirming to him that it indeed was mine, Dr. Gupta excitedly told him that he could guess it almost because I was his lifetime Best Student. That day I could see in his eyes that he had got back in return all that he wanted to achieve by starting the institute!!! What happiness, what delight! I wish I could see it all over again!!

I remember my first interview titled 'Busting the MBA Mafia' that came out in the Sunday Observer!! My goodness! He bought so many copies and went around distributing it to everyone! He felt great about all my articles but I can close my eyes and see his delight still.

After reading my first public book 'Count Your Chickens Before They Hatch' I remember he was calling everyone and telling them the reasons why he thought he hadn't read a better book on Management ever in his life!!

He was die hard Film enthusiast. When we were kids the portable TV we had used to be locked up in his Godrej Almirah only to come out for 'Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi', 'Nukkad' and endless video shows of 'Sound of Music', 'My Fair Lady' and of course his favorite, 'Sholay'. Any day he would be really

really happy, he would say let's watch Sholay till Asrani's scenes gets over!! Yes!! He would laugh so so much!! It continued till the last year of his life!!

I made 9 films, got 5 national awards. But I don't remember any excitement from him for any of my films apart for my Directorial Debut, 'Rok Sako Toh Rok Lo'!! He was very disappointed when it bombed. He just couldn't understand why a film he liked so much didn't work!! But while everyone panned it, his happiness meant the world to me!

He started his India journey by writing to the Planning Commission to set up an Institute that he would run for them. That didn't happen... so obviously when I got a call to be a member of their Consultative Committees in areas of Social Sector & Education, he felt that was the final destination that he wanted any of his student to reach. Actually not final, but semi-final. Final would be seeing him/her as the Vice-Chairman of the Commission/ Finance Minister or PM of the country.

His ultimate dream was to see me teach. And he just loved coming and sitting in my classes first and then in my public seminars! He was the happiest man accompanying me for my lectures and specifically for my lecture at Nagpur to a crowd of 25,000. It was almost his life's biggest excitement! He accompanied me for almost all my public lectures, be it my lectures with the Indian Armed Forces or the Central Armed Police Forces or the Delhi Police or the Civil Services Officers of the IAS and IFS — he was there almost everywhere sitting in the front row, watching me, laughing and clapping!! At times I would feel slightly embarrassed but seeing his heart out on his sleeves, it would all disappear into tears of joy! He thought I had become the best combination of his thoughts and his favorite teacher at IIPM, Dr. N. R. Chatterjee's stage presence! And that made him so proud!!

He loved touring the world with me, but his happiest tour was my lecture tour of American Universities including the Harvard Business School. He used to be so thrilled after every lecture!! Oufff!! I would repeat the same examples and same lines and he would keep hearing it a hundred times with same child like excitement— in reality!!

But what made him happiest was something that I kept delaying throughout my life. The completion of my Ph.D., thankfully just sometime before his death! My goodness!! He was sending small packets of Bengali Sweets to everyone who knew I was his son!! I couldn't believe it when I heard, he had sent sweets to everyone in the locality where I had spent my childhood!!

He was my biggest ever cheerleader and I couldn't have asked for anything more in this life of mine!!!

Now with him gone, I have to finally ideate myself. And work towards it. I am not used to it. And I wish I didn't have to. I wish I could remain a student forever. But guess, finally I am trying my bit, to be on my own.

Poorest of poor, equality, sustainable development, limits to growth, global humanism, demon-o-crazy (called India), time to wait and a time to act, read between the lines, conspiracy of silence (against everything good that IIPM did), disinformation system (of the capitalist media), human development.... Were some of his favourite words and phrases... The list is endless... Today, I keep remembering them and trying to use them purposefully.

Taking lessons from his life, I wish we all

Do a lot for others. Have a higher purpose of living. Say sorry and thank you as often as we can. Fearlessly chase our passions. Love our family. Laugh heartily. And yes, Savour and Share tasty food!!!

To sum it up, Baba was the most unbelievable human being ever possible. Someone who isn't even found in literature. **Someone who lived and breathed for humanity from the middle of the night when he woke up to the time he slept off tired by his own infinite new ideas to make the world better with most practical ideas of economics for the poor.** Maybe people closer to Karl Marx might have felt the same about Marx, just maybe.

This book has been the most special book of my life ever. While finalising the pages all alone and collating things and writing, I felt his

presence and him guiding me ahead. Every moment. Each time I picked up his notes and read, each time I remembered a concept he taught me and elaborated, each time I used his favorite words, each time I thought what would he have written or corrected had he been alive, each time I thought what kind of details of calculations he would have gone into and corrected mine — I felt him.

This book is him. Absolutely in his memory.

Though I do realise that this must be one of the longest dedication any author must have written for anyone, yet, I feel maybe I have fallen short or not done justice.

This poem that I sign off with, however, in my mind, does come close to doing justice to him.

It is written by my professor and my father's colleague, Dr. J. K. Mitra.

Oh! My Southern Wind*

There are some forms of breeze
That caress you so surreptitiously
You would never feel it at all!

Suddenly you discover
Like a startled Columbus
Your heart has turned into a burning red ball
Or is it deep blue or glittering gold?

Stupified you are! You pause! You wonder
What magic has made this happen?
Kafka's metamorphosis continues on

Your dreams in sleep and imaginations galore awake
The golden pair of sticks make delightful dandiya dance

Everything comes alive - all ideas, all dreams throb into life

Bokul trees of Bolpur and stuffy skies of Gurgaon
Blend exquisitely in amorphous delight

The air continues to blow
Sometimes steady and slow
Sometimes a Nor'wester storm
Sometimes it uproots
Sometimes it freezes you in biting winter blue

Putrid corruption reaches a pindrop decibel
Stifles you, strangulates you all through you suffer!
The conspiracy of silence and silent conspiracy

Inside you simply implode
Solo-all alone, Hercules
You wished to usher in a typhoon
That blows away centuries of garbage mounting

Petty bourgeois may all be damned and dead
Marx and Tagore may blend seamlessly

May the fragrance of service to people
All kinds of mankind, keep all enchanted
Let the proletariat clap and dance in the torrential rain

In all your gushes, round after round
We hear a pair of bangles tinkle
Almost inaudible, imperceptibly
Flooded with love and emotion

The colours in your palate do turn dry
But your love makes those moist again

Joie de Vivre- we feel like living again

None knows whether you could make a new world

That's a debate worthless

The point remains quite firm and sound

You altered all the formulae alone

The wind dreams of an alternative form

Go and keep changing the other world

O my southern wind of Falgun

You created so many waves

The hearts are bloody red, sometimes blue

But the saffron is changing its hue

The white and green is much faded now

At this trying time

Where have you signed off?

Oh! My Southern Wind!

**Translated into English, Malay means Southern wind*

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CHAPTER-1

2047: FOUR SIMPLE PRINCIPLES

A

The Doubling Effect Roadmap to beating USA & China by 2047

They say those who don't understand history are condemned to repeat it!! My father, Dr. Malay Chaudhuri would say, **those who don't understand the doubling effect in economics are condemned to remain poor!!**

Yes! Those who understand the game of doubling effect understand economics!! Those who don't, will remain perplexed observers.

Let me explain!

In 1989, GDP (Nominal) of both India & China was almost equal at about 300 billion dollars! That's not too far back. I had just finished school and joined IIPM and we were just 2 years away from the landmark liberalisation of the Indian Economy. But back then in 1989 itself Dr. Malay Chaudhuri would be coming inside the class room and explain students as to how by 2019 Chinese GDP will be at least 4 times that of India! Students used to be totally zapped. But the calculations were simple. India was at best expected to grow at 7% per annum which would mean the Indian economy was expected to double only 3 times in 30 years. So if we were 1 back then

we would be 8 in 2019 (doubling three times from 1 to 2 to 4 to 8).

At that same time China was showing signs of breaking into the big league. Growing double digit and often touching 12-14% growth rates! It simply meant at 12% average growth rate per annum China would double every 6 years which is 5 times in 30 years! Which means if China was 1 in 1989, it would be 32 in 2019!!

Guess what? That's exactly what happened!! Actually more. In 2019, China was 5 times more than India. The Indian GDP stood around 2.8 Trillion USD while the Chinese GDP stood at around 14.8 Trillion dollars!! A bit more than what Dr. Malay taught us in class!!

Imagine!! The difference in growth rates of only 5% (India 7%+, China 12%+) resulting in doubling of India's economy only 3.25 times in comparison to 5.25 times in the case of China's!!

And just two times extra doubling means being left behind by 4 times and more!!!!

So I repeat. Those who don't understand the doubling effect in economics are condemned to remain poor!!

This is the exact same method based on which we were taught that by the same time in terms of Purchasing Power Parity, China will be the largest economy in the world surpassing the USA! And that's what exactly happened by 2017 itself!!

Imagine two countries at the same place in 1989 (in fact India was ahead of China right throughout the 60s till the beginning of 80s). Today one has beaten USA and one is 4-5 times behind!!

When I say India can beat USA people laugh! And they have been doing for the last two decades!! Way back in 2000 I had welcomed Bill Clinton in India on the 22nd of March 2000, with advertisements in the front pages of Times of India and Hindustan Times with the heading "**Last Days of American Supremacy**" on how India can beat America by 2035! I had already declared by then that China was sure to do it!

China has done it. So can India. And India can even beat China! With Chinese growth rates now down to around 6%, India should aim for 12-14% and with the help of an alternate resource allocation process, India can necessarily beat China in the next 25 years!

As of now, China and India is the 2nd and 5th largest country of the world, respectively in nominal GDP basis. On PPP basis, China is 1st and India is at 3rd place. Both countries together share about 20% in nominal terms and about 25% of total global wealth in terms of PPP. Yes while the USA hovers around the 10th spot in terms of per capita income globally, China around the 75th spot and India a pathetic 130th spot, **there's nothing to be disheartened because the doubling effect magic is there to help us dream!!**

Today the GDP of India stands at 3 Trillion USD compared to China's 17.5 Trillion USD & USA's 23 Trillion USD. However when it comes to what matters, it is the GDP in terms of Purchasing Power Parity that matters. On that basis, India stands at about 10 Trillion USD compared to China's 24 and USA's 20 Trillion USD!

Now let's put our doubling effect into action! The USA has been growing at a historical rate of 2-2.5% (a typical free market growth rate for developed countries) which means in the next 25 years it is expected to grow only 1.66 times to 36 Trillion USD.

China on the other hand is growing at about 6% and thus is expected to double 2 times in the next 25 years and reach to about 100 Trillion USD!! Yes, that's the astounding doubling effect!! It will leave the economy of USA behind by upto 3 times! Don't forget you read it first time in this book!!!!

So India will need to double 3.5 times to reach 120 Trillion USD and beat China! **To double 3.5 times in 25 years India will have to grow at 10% plus!** At just 4% more than China though ideally I am of the firm opinion that India can grow at 12% and leave China far behind by reaching 150 Trillion USD by 2047!

China has grown 12% plus for years. Why can't India? People with

less knowledge of economics way back in 1989 used to stupidly say oh India has such huge problems please don't compare us with USA! Then China showed it could be done despite the population! So then the same people started talking lamely about China being an autocratic nation! Well now India isn't too different isnt it??

Of course it's lame, ignorant and down right stupid to claim Chinese miracle is due to its autocracy. The Chinese miracle is all about investing in people through health, housing and education, giving the poorest of poor purchasing power and making them effective consumers and focusing on world class infrastructure through impeccable planning. **Chinese miracle is a result of the fact that in the recorded history of Mankind no other country could bring more people out of poverty (a whopping 300 million) and give them Purchasing Power in a short span of 30 years.**

We need to do exactly that! Focus on the poorest in India, focusing on their health and housing and creating infrastructure facility that lures the world's investment into India.

Yes that's the roadmap to beat USA and China in the next 25 years!

While the rest of this chapter and the next chapter will make the base of our understanding on each of these aspects the last chapter will give exact calculations on how to take us from the current 10 Trillion USD, towards a 150 Trillion USD economy in terms of Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) in the next 25 years!

B

Creating Purchasing Power — Indian Middle Class is One Big Lie

“**Buddhu banaya, Bada mazaa aaya!**” This line— meaning “it was fun making a fool of you”— is exactly what India did to the world over the last three decades. China promised a middle class to the world—worked really hard, **brought 300 million people out of poverty, created a genuine market with PURCHASING POWER**— and delivered. Everyone who entered their markets could sell their products and grow.

India also promised a middle class, but didn’t do any of the things China did. Global corporations entered and realised there was barely a fraction of the market compared to China and either invested 5 times more in China, keeping us on standby or made losses and left India.

Why??

Because “India has a middle class” is the **BIGGEST LIE** that we marketed to the world.

Never again tell anyone that we have a middle class. That would reveal your ignorance and extremely low level of understanding of Economics, apart from creating an impression of being a liar.

Question is, why don’t we have a middle class? Isn’t everyone in media shouting after every Annual Budget announcement that the middle class got nothing? Isn’t every teacher, journalist, middle management executive, government worker always crying hoarse that they are the middle class?

Don’t they fall between the clearly rich and the extremely poor?
Shouldn’t they be called the middle class?

The answer is a resounding NO.

Let me explain. Middle Class by definition in economics can’t be the top 20% of any economy. That’s the creamy top layer. Top layer clarified. **Let’s**

find out who is the bottom layer. Then it will be easy to categorise the rest as middle class. So who belongs to the bottom layer? Well the World Bank and everyone else is unanimous. If you are earning less than \$2 per day, you are poor. Isn't it true also? If you aren't earning ₹160 a day you are poor. That's the minimum you require to feed a dog. In fact more. But let's assume that's good enough to keep you alive — ₹4,800 per month.

So basically for a family of five that's \$10 per day or \$300 per month or ₹24000 per month.

Guess how many families in India earn less than ₹24000 a month? A whopping 80%!!

So top 20% isn't middle class. Bottom 80% is poor. So what's left as the middle class?

A sum total of a BIG ZERO.

And that's why we have been left behind! If you understood the concept of doubling in the last part, then this part is about understanding the **concept of Purchasing Power!**

If you want to develop faster you have to give Purchasing Power to your people. Not just the rich. In fact, the rich often don't spend much. You need to give Purchasing Power to the common man... the middle class. For that you have to bring people out of poverty and create a middle class. Once you have given Purchasing Power then products will sell, entrepreneurs will make money, foreign capital will come the way it comes in China and the economy will grow for real— in double digits and give us the doubling effect! You can't do it with 90% of individuals earning less than ₹25,000 per month.

Oh yes, before I end this simple topic and go the next one. India doesn't accept the World's definition of being poor! Lol! India has its own definition of the poverty line. **India defines poverty line at ₹950 per month on rural areas and ₹1450 per in urban.** So basically if you earn more than about ₹40 per day you are no more poor!! Imagine the audacity to say, hey do you earn more than ₹1000 per month? Oh well that's amazing!! You aren't poor

anymore!! Isn't it unbelievably shocking & unacceptable?

Dr. Malay, used to call this the DESTITUTION LINE, and not the poverty line! Yes, that's India's definition of poverty. Basically unless you are destitute dying on the streets, Indian government refuses to accept you as poor! So obviously when asked Indian politicians claim a much lesser number as poor. And guess what's the percentage of people lying below India's own definition of poverty line? About 25% of the population— about 27.5cr people! Our current regime self admittedly specialises in Jumla (a kind of fake narrative to make things look glorious), I'm only thankful that they didn't reduce the poverty line definition to ₹300 per head or something! Then they could have proclaimed from Red Fort that India has finished poverty. There are no more poor left!

Or maybe they have reserved that one for 2047!!

C

An Educated India to get rid of Criminal Politicians

What's the simplest way for an illiterate roadside goon to stay in power? Simple. Don't educate anyone! As long as the majority remains illiterate, the educated be damned, the crown will remain safe! And better still, if you can replace the educated ones in Media with a bunch of illiterate morons, then, as they say, Balle Balle (a Punjabi way of celebration).

Education is the single most important and valuable asset that a nation can give its people. Education happens to be the least expensive support that a government can provide for its citizens while the cost for not providing it can be extremely high for a government and its future, cutting off from the crucial growth rate required to catch up with the developed world!

But still, we don't give education to all. **Why? The first thing that an educated man would do is to stop voting for uncommitted, uneducated goons hiding behind the garb of statesmen.** Education that makes people employable, makes them better citizens, makes them better human beings, makes them contribute in a big way to the country's growth rate; This is still a far cry, we don't even give basic literacy. Keeping the masses illiterate serves the interest of the mafia raj that has entirely permeated Indian society today. The votes of uneducated people can be manipulated with the help of pop slogans, alcohol or muscle power. There is a growing disinterest in the election process among the educated population of India. Considering the number of illiterate citizens that our country can boast of, the vote of the educated class doesn't seem to be swaying the election results towards an intelligent choice anyway. It appears as though the educated have decided to shape their destiny outside the state system and leave a free, "second India" to the illiterate masses to choose their own leaders. Despite the efforts of the government to motivate people to vote through advertisements, making them believe that each vote matters, the educated public seems to be convinced that its vote will do little to make a difference to the ultimate choice of the masses. There is a noticeable sense of embarrassment among the educated lot about the indelible ink mark on their fingers as a proof for having voted to power one or the other of the corrupt and incompetent politicians. It is

often a choice between the devil and the deep sea.

Our experience of running NGOs and field surveys have convinced us that around 30% of the villagers are functionally literate (a basic concept where if you can read basic instructions say on a packet of fertiliser and do basic arithmetic, you are functionally literate else you might have passed class V but you aren't functionally literate). **The fact gets established when you realise that 70% of rural Indians haven't cleared class tenth.** The functional literacy levels must be very similar among the slum dwellers in cities. Since 40% of the urban population lives in slums, from the rest of city dwellers, even if 75% can read, the functional literacy rate in India probably does not, therefore, exceed a total of 40% despite about 78% being officially literate as per government data. And how will we have real literacy? **While just about 10% of Indians are Graduates, the shocker is that only 31% of school teachers have a degree!** An official survey found that “fewer than half of grade 5 children could read a text designed for grade 2 pupils. Basic arithmetic results were equally poor: **only 60% of grade 5 pupils could do a grade 2 addition sum**”. **40% of schools are actually without electricity.** As per Ananye Krishna, “The Sorry State of Education in India” (OxHRH Blog, 22 June 2017), “There are schools where at the time of exams the invigilators ignore the students, giving them full freedom to cheat, and at times the teachers themselves abet the act of cheating. Also, there are instances where the children are asked to sweep the floors, serve meals to the teachers, and children as young as six are beaten with rulers. Consequently, the state of learning is very poor. This is highlighted by the Annual Survey of Education Report (ASER), which found that a **substantial number of government schools have 14-year-old students six years behind** what would be expected of them on average”

Today, India is officially home to the largest population of about 300 million illiterate adults in the world amounting to roughly 40% of the global total. Out of 165 countries, India ranks 128th in literacy in the world compared to 62nd rank of China with still larger population.

Foreign agencies like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in researches have discovered that nearly 70% of the pupils' standard was far below the minimum standard of education expected of them.

Hardly any system had been put in place for evaluating the work done by the primary school teachers and the levels of achievement of the learners. Inspections from government authorities were a mockery. Most of the money allotted for primary education, exceeding nearly 95%, was spent on the salary and perquisites of the teachers. Almost nothing was left for school maintenance or the purchase of teaching aids. It was no big surprise then that even those who attended school remain functionally illiterate for the rest of their lives.

Ours is essentially a feudal society. Rich people do not feel that they should work for a living. Those who have fixed salaries in government organizations, feel like jagirdars. Salary is looked upon as a privilege they have earned by virtue of the fact that they have these jobs, thanks to contacts in the right places. But if work is expected of them, please let it be known that it has to be paid for!

The entire system of education has its problems. Village schoolmasters most often get their jobs by bribing someone in power. Then they while away the school hours making sure their students don't understand anything so that they can make more money by tutoring them outside school. Besides this, one often hears of teachers paying five hundred or a thousand rupees to a jobless person who takes the teacher's place at school, since most of these teachers are involved in 'party work' as return favours to someone who got them these jobs.

Successive Pay Commission recommendations and blind implementation of the same by populist politicians have led to a situation where pay packets of different categories of employees of the Central Government, State Government and the Public Sector Units, is in illogical proportion to the national income or the per capita. Since the pay and perquisites of these categories as well as those of the organized workers in the private sector are bizarrely disproportionate to their work output and in relation to the life of destitution of one-third of the Indian population, the Pay Commission recommendations for those already in employment is highly regrettable.

There are no funds available in many of the village schools to hire sufficiently qualified primary school teachers. **An UNESCO report has**

found out that there are more than 1,00,000 schools in India with one teacher! If that's the situation of education in India then it becomes painfully clear to see who will rule this country! The criminal politicians. And they will never let education spread, lest they get kicked out.

This has to change (the last chapter has the roadmap). You can't get Double Digit Growth with uneducated population and criminal politicians. You can't get Growth and Productivity with Uneducated and Unemployable Youth. **In any case, an Educated Person is always such an asset to the society compared to a WhatsApp University Graduate.**

D

No Income Guarantee — No Gender Equality & Global Respectability

Between 2005 and 2017 working age women who are employed in India fell sharply from 43% to 27%. In 2020 it had fallen down to 19%, and while one can blame Covid related crisis, the latest figures will completely shock you. **India's current female employment rate is down to an abysmal 9%. Compare that to Philippines' 93.5%** and you would understand the difference.

Recently, India **has been ranked the most dangerous country for women** as perceived by more than 500 of world's leading gender rights experts. And why not. It's not only about rapes it's about access to education (**India is ranked at 123 out of 135 countries in female literacy rate**). Access to property rights. Access to health care and maternal mortality rates. It's about the horribly exploitative culture and patriarchal society. It's about the khap mentality all across the county. And it's about killing the girl child even before she is born. And very importantly it's about women not having access to employment and income in a society.

A woman working means a huge boost in her role in decision making, controlling assets, a focus in the family on equal rights and education for the girl child and needless to say an instant rise in the no of women saying no to domestic violence and asserting equality.

In the crucial Gender Gap index India ranks, 135 out of 146 countries!!

As per a McKinsey study between 2015 & 2025, **India could have added 60% to 2025 GDP by bridging gender gap at work**. It's 2022 and obviously the gap has only increased. International Monetary Fund managing director Christine Lagarde said GDP in India would expand by 27% if its women participated in the workplace at the same rate as men. So clearly, depending upon whose statistics and research one is to believe, India can add between 30% - 60% to its GDP by just bridging the gender

equality gap. Which effectively means if the target to reach by 2047 is a GDP in terms of PPP at a level of 150 Trillion USD, the plan should be to do whatever we can to reach about 100 trillion, then for the remaining 50 we should just focus on something that is a prerequisite for any humane society anyway— give women and all other genders parity with men.

Yes India can add upto 50 Trillion USD to its GDP by just focusing on gender parity. That's going to be more than the entire GDP that US is expected to have by 2046!

If anyone took the question of Gender Parity lightly, this should be an eye opener! So are only politicians to blame? And what is the real solution?

“I’m a feminist. Women need equal rights. But I believe in karva chauth (an annual religious ceremony where women keep a fast entire day for the long life of their husbands), it’s a very important Indian tradition”. Heard that before, from educated women from the best of institutions?

Even highly educated women are to blame.

Feminists are a dime a dozen. It’s fashionable. And while it’s a great fashion, it’s important to know what is it that you are endorsing.

You can keep sloganeering around being exploited and keep having new fifteen minutes of trending social media fame through various hashtags but that isn’t the solution of the much graver problem of Gender Equality. Not that anyone’s humiliation is any less but the #MeToo type hashtags finally ended up focusing a lot on celebrities, film actors who felt betrayed, social media savvy women and their stories of humiliation — most often decades back — while trivialising the pains of the women who have gone through rape, face daily exploitation and are beaten up mercilessly by their husbands every night. These women just kept seeing how their pains remained right where they were, their cases kept getting dates in courts, their plight continued while the mega majority of the women championing their cause shifted to newer trending hashtags of shaming maybe Shahid Kapoor’s #KabirSingh — because after all what is feminist education without running down a male chauvinistic character (that exists all around you) when shown in a movie that’s doing well!

You can't celebrate Jamai Shashti (a Bengali ritual of celebrating the son-in-law) in the name of family tradition without giving the son-in-law a feeling of superiority over your daughter. And you can't keep tying a thread on your brothers wrists every year on Raksha Bandhan and worshiping him so that he protects you tomorrow and then regret the khap culture of brothers interfering in their sisters sex life/ relationship status etc or talk of equal rights.

And just like you have to stop participating (men as well as women) in all degrading religious ceremonies (**more about this in the part on 'Eradication of Religion' in the next Chapter where I specifically write about How Religion Exploits Women & How Marriages are not Made in Heaven— a must read for anyone interested in 360 degree understanding of Gender Equality**) to get back your rights that have been destroyed through thousands of years of subjugation and exploitation, women specially and men too need to know what is the real thing to fight for to eradicate gender discrimination and achieve Gender Equality.

Background taken care of, wherein lies the solution?

What if women in India had equal education and employment opportunities? Would that have been enough to give them dignity?

Well, it wouldn't still have become ideal due to many many reasons.

Women bear children and thus often need a career break. And men know that they become dependent and take advantage.

Housewives tend to feel concerned about health and income security so become dependent on husbands who often abuse them on a daily basis and yet most women in countries like India are unable to leave such abusive relationships.

Traditionally property ownership has been unevenly distributed globally in the hands of men.

The solution to gender equality will become clear when we take a look at the case study of the largest country in the top ten countries with

least Gender Gap— Germany. Why is it so that women are so fiercely independent and a man can barely ever get away by raising his hand?

First and foremost with free education till all levels, women are educated, highly employable and know their rights. But is that enough to attain gender parity? No. In Germany, apart from education, health is free, housing is free and there's a basic income that everyone is entitled to. In effect what it means is, if your partner/family anyone is abusive, you can just without thinking leave your homes and the state instantly provides you a home depending upon your family size. If you are on a Career break or a housewife you get a basic dignified income that's good enough to take care of your daily needs. If you have any health problem, it's all free. It even takes care of your hearing aids, eye wear, dental treatment — everything that you can imagine. And instantly there's gender parity. A woman isn't dependent for anything on anybody. She has access to property, income, healthcare and education.

The solution is simple. **Gender Equality is just lip service if you can't give access to dignified and respectable shelter, world class healthcare, basic dignified income and education.** Else women will always give men the upper hand by compromising with their dignity to get these things in return. That's if you are from an urban city in India with decent income, you will see when your housemaid gets beaten up, she leaves her husband much easily than your friend. The housemaid has much less to lose. In fact, she might be supporting her husbands costs, but your friend is always thinking about what happens when her child falls ill, what will happen to his education, where will she go (even the house is in his name), how will she run away from home— and then in the night gets beaten up again.

No Guaranteed Income, Housing, Healthcare & Education = No Gender Equality.

No Gender Equality = No Global Respectability and 50% loss in GDP straight away!

CHAPTER-2

2047: FOUR SIMPLE PHILOSOPHIES

A

Eradication of Corruption for Functional Democracy

Judicial, Prison, Electoral and Media Reforms

Our current PM, Shri Narendra Modi came on the plank of corruption removal. Unfortunately he could do nothing. Because most people don't know how to remove corruption. Corruption can never be removed without transforming the judiciary. That's the only direct link. Unfortunately, most people don't understand its real relevance; and those who do, are sitting in power and thus keeping it dysfunctional so that the corrupt can make merry! If we are really keen to change this country and make an impact in the field of reducing corruption, we have to awaken the sleeping and completely dysfunctional judiciary of this country!

Can you believe we allocate less than 1% of the Central and State budgets every year for the judiciary. The figure is so laughably small that I marvel at how the judiciary functions at all!

All this, while new laws, amendments to existing laws, a massive increase in corruption and the rise of activism have led to more and more cases piling up even as old cases continue to languish. I repeat, the only way to reduce corruption in India is to make the judiciary more effective. Till the corrupt remain convinced that they can either escape punishment

or delay it indefinitely, corruption will continue to increase. The one and only solution for corruption is a functional judicial system. Corruption and greed are globally prevalent, yet it touches far less lives in the USA than in India simply because the American judicial system is functional and ours is dysfunctional. In America, they have ten times more judges per million people than in India. You may find people who have not accepted bribes, but you will rarely find someone who has not bribed a government employee to get some work done. The most common method of extracting a bribe is to delay the disposal of files with some excuse or the other. In the United States 0.2% of the people have encountered bribery, whereas in Mumbai 22.9% of the people have had such an experience.

From one of my father's last articles I quote:

To clear all the backlogs of cases in India we would require more than 350 years at the current pace!! We have no policy to change the sorry state of Indian Judiciary which is totally dysfunctional and ineffective - our current PM must realise that his 'Make in India' plan can never succeed & his tryst with black money eradication can never be fulfilled - unless and until he makes the judiciary effective and functional - backed by proper implementing machinery in the form of sufficient and effective Police. According to data available with the apex court, the number of pending cases with the Supreme Court is 64,919.

The data available for the 24 High Courts and lower courts showed pendency of 44.5 lakhs and whopping 2.6 crores, respectively.

Of the over 44 lakh cases pending in the 24 high courts of the country, 34,32,493 were civil and 10,23,739 criminal. The maximum pendency of civil and criminal cases together was in Allahabad High Court with 10,43,398 cases while the minimum was in Sikkim with 120 cases pending. The Delhi High Court had a total of 64,652 cases pending before it.

As per the data, the Allahabad High Court had the maximum number of pending criminal cases - 3,47,967.

Of the 2.6 crore cases pending in lower courts, Uttar Pradesh subordinate judiciary tops the chart with over 56 lakh cases pending, out of

which 41,98,761 are criminal matters. Delhi district courts recorded a total of 5,22,167 pending cases, including

3,81,615 criminal cases. Just a peanut of our annual budget is required - 15,000 cr - to change the situation.

We have only 10% of the number of courts per million population required by international standard. We have 20% of the required Police force in a state like West Bengal. Police is also known for corruption.

*During the British rule, there was the system of honorary magistrates, who could dispense with quick justice, even if miscarriage of justice could not be totally avoided. Can we bring back the old system in the interest of justice to be delivered to the majority of the population? This can be done almost immediately. Appointing more judges and creating more courts and increasing the number of Police personnel are the long term solutions. In the short run, we can appoint honorary magistrates from school teachers and college lecturers and from other respectable professionals, who are not yet fully corrupt. Once people doing real crime and corruption (including asking for bribes at a traffic light) start getting punished even if for only a week for smaller crimes or more depending upon the gravity of the offence, things will start changing! This will have tremendous impact. It will of course be necessary to erect jails in many more numbers. This is necessary in any case, since we have more criminals outside the jail gates than behind it as we wrote in our book *The Great Indian Dream under the chapter heading of 'Criminals Outside, Innocents Inside'.**

And while criminals run free in the country, two of every three persons incarcerated in India have not yet been convicted of any crime.

Excluding bribery and crimes like rigging in elections, the total recorded crime in the US today is 2,400 per 1,00,000 people, whereas in India it is 385. Had our crime investigation and judiciary been as efficient as that in the United States, the number of convictions would be around 7.5 lakh and not around 1,25,000 as is the case today, as per our research. This means that if we have around 1,25,000 convicted criminals in jails, we have about 6,00,000 criminals outside jail.

We have not taken into account crimes of bribery. Victims of bribery in India are 22.9% of the total population, whereas the figure is only 0.2% in the United States. In India very few have been put behind bars for accepting bribes. So if all the bribery cases are caught and followed up, the number of convicted prisoners in jails would exceed a few million. We have also not yet taken into account the criminals who rig elections. Though rigging is unheard of in many civilized democratic countries, it takes place on a massive scale in India.

We may say that if we have around 1,25,000 convicted prisoners in jail, we have a few million criminals outside the jail.

Armed with the finding that more than 75% inmates in Indian jails are innocent undertrials rather than actual violators of law, the condition prevailing in our jails is even more shocking.

Muslims are over-represented among such undertrials, official data show. Despite repeated Supreme Court orders on the rights of undertrials, the jails are filling ever faster with them, shows Prisons Statistics released by the National Crime Records Bureau. While the number of convicts grew by 1.4 per cent in a year, the number of undertrials shot up by 9.3 per cent during the period. Among the 2.8 lakh undertrials, over 3,000 have been behind bars for over five years. The country must budget for a monthly pension for the families of undertrials rotting in our jails with immediate effect.....

Two decades back in the Great Indian Dream we wrote under the sub heading of “The withering repressive state” that getting justice from our judiciary is an incredible ordeal. The state thrives on it because a repressive state has no respect for democracy or justice. Such a judiciary helps the unjust to exercise complete control over the lives of vulnerable citizens. Hiding behind an ineffective judiciary, the state resorts to extra legal methods like encounter killings to maintain law and order. Once the state begins to use the law and order machinery for extra legal methods, drawing its sanction from the practicality of the situation, it is impossible to maintain the fine distinction between what is permissible and what is not. In this process innocent people are convicted. Sometimes they vanish into thin air as victims of custodial deaths. When bribery is not punished and it

percolates through the entire system, it becomes second nature for people to resort to bribing for speedy completion of tasks in government circles, although they themselves may not be so morally deficient as to accept bribes.

At the bidding of their political masters, bureaucrats order raids on business houses if they refuse to comply with the extortionists' demands. Once a person comes under investigation in our country, his entire life comes to a grinding halt, as the procedural delays in the path of justice are insurmountable. According to law, investigation does not include using any form of physical violence. But as everyone knows Indian investigating agencies are brutal and inhuman.

Every newspaper condemns such behaviour of the government, but how many people in India read the editorials? The government obviously knows that it is not likely to reach our masses and so allows the pretence of democracy to carry on as it is.

Harassment of all those who dare to raise a voice against the political shenanigans carries on as hardcore criminals in the garb of statesmen use either their power or thugs to repress and disable the administrative machinery. Money is no problem. All political parties are pyramid-like structures supported by extortionists and party workers at the base of the pyramid. Complaining to the police takes you nowhere. Complainants are, instead, harassed further. Extortionists, if sometimes arrested for the sake of record, come out on bail and boast of the number they have raped or killed. Honest members of the police force are helpless because courts often grant bail to criminals and trials go on for years. Time rolls by but justice is either delayed or denied. Criminals unofficially rule sometimes as lords of the streets, sometimes officially as legislators and ministers. This vivid picture of our judicial system explains the reason why ours is a repressive state.

It is not just the politicians in the centre who are repressive. The states are no exception. So it's all round rule of criminals.

The repressive state began its journey, rigging elections. Politicians took the help of local musclemen and criminals to intimidate voters either not to

go to the booths or to vote for a particular candidate. This way, the criminals were successful in getting their candidates elected. In return, politicians protected them from the police in case they were wanted. Criminals soon understood the game and became ambitious themselves. They wanted to get elected themselves and started gathering around regional leaders. An understanding was not difficult to reach. Criminals began to be elected with the blessings of regional bigwigs.

Today there are about 2556 legislators who are history sheeters with criminal cases as informed to the SC in 2020 with 43% of MPs of 2019 parliament having criminal cases against them.

The fundamental problem is that no political party elects its leaders democratically. The chosen one is the one with the money bags. Industrialists and businessmen cough up a good amount to stay in the good books of the contestant. The extortionists pay a part to the leader in the higher echelons and keep the rest for themselves. So each political party is a pyramid with extortionists at the base. Any complaint to the law enforcement authorities will only invite derisive laughter. You will be advised to be practical and act sensibly!

Leaders of political parties find it advantageous to collect money through extortion rather than accept the contribution from the government. Any contribution from the government has to be accounted for and the money has to be democratically divided among the contestants. Extortion money can be kept in an individual's possession and shared among the loyal sycophants of the leader who has provided the loot. A leader is one if he has a few MPs loyal to him. This game plan helps the leader to bargain for a position of power and pelf. The money coming through this process is then divided among the followers. This can explain why without any political, organizational experience or leadership qualities, the sons of yesteryear politicians, after a stint abroad, are welcomed as leaders. They even inherit the black money. Of course it helps that the masses are illiterate and they vote for the heir of the dynasty. This has become such a normal and accepted process that even journalists of repute shower praise on the inheritor of the dynasty, irrespective of his merit and competence or political experience. A research finding indicates that around 10,000 political families provide most

of the members of the Legislative Assemblies and Parliament in India.

A civilization is often judged by how it treats its prisoners, and the condition of Prisons in India is another major worry. To begin with we jail the innocent instead of the criminals. To add to it, we treat the prisoners in such a way that instead of changing them and making the country better, we actually give rise to crime.

Tihar jail in Delhi is one of the best run jails in the country. Despite that they are facing an insurmountable problem due to constraints of space. The jail meant to accommodate 10,000 inmates had about 18000 inmates, 90% of who again, are undertrials. Barracks for 40 inmates or less are overcrowded with up to 80 plus inmates. And worse it has only one toilet inside and however clean the inmates try to keep it, it often stinks. The inmates normally avoid using it - but for an emergency when the doors are locked in the night- and use the common toilets that every ward has (which are just average in terms of cleanliness standards and could be kept far far cleaner). Overcrowding is one of the biggest bads of Tihar. A deputy superintendent told me that there are three times more prisoners in Tihar than it was meant for. Needless to say Indian jails don't provide a bed to prisoners nor a clean bed roll.

The wardens and jail staff are mostly untrained in soft skills and their abusive language especially with inmates from economically poorer backgrounds is deplorable. They get paid pretty less and thus are like beggars hounding the inmates and trying to sell every minute facility that in any case is the right of each inmate.

There are inmates inside the jail - most of them undertrials - who are there for petty theft of 2.5k rupees or 10k rupees. It's painful to see such poor people there for hardly any crime. One such inmate said he had no option. He earned 9k rupees and runs his family that includes a child and old parents. He needed money for mother's treatment. **A country without social security, abject poverty, illiteracy has no right to throw such people in jails. Rather the courts must apologize, pay them money, give them universal basic income and health and send them for social service and education programs to reform them and let them resettle back into**

normal life. Under trials consist of about 75% of the total inmates. This means they are there despite their crime not been proven yet. Needless to say, 70% of them are barely educated and the high majority are from the Dalit or Muslim community. What is most painful is that any poor boy that is arrested for one small crime soon sees multiple criminal charges being put on him by the police just to finish off various unfinished cases lying with them. These boys sit clueless as to what happened and how to ever get bail in so many cases and get out of jail.

As per jail staff, a big percentage of inmates are men accused of rape and their experience shows that at least 65% of these men accused of rape are clueless about what they did and are totally innocent by all means. Most of them have been framed by a dejected live-in partner or ex-girlfriend. Many have been framed as an act of revenge. The misuse of section 376 is at its peak and all jail authorities accept that.

The genuine rapists (strangely they have no shame in admitting) are from the poorest of poor families. So uneducated, economically backward and looked down upon that again the society is to blame more for their act. They look like malnourished weaklings. A few basic self-defence classes for girls in every school and they would have been in all likelihood be able to avoid being raped. What a shameful failure of the system indeed.

Many jails across the country allow the consumption of cigarettes and tobacco inside. Tihar doesn't. The ban leads to illegal smuggling, fights and a 24*7 search for who has access to some illegal tobacco. Wardens and criminals thrive through the black market.

The ways of smuggling tobacco and marijuana are also highly risky. The people smuggling it swallow up to 80 to 100 marble sized wrapped balls of tobacco and escape the stringent checking that takes place at the entry (entrusted to Tamil Nadu Special Police -TSP- deliberately because they don't understand Hindi or English and thus are less likely to be corrupted). After coming inside they drink surf water and vomit out all the balls. They count them to make sure that all the balls are out. Often one ball explodes inside due to which they have to be rushed to the OPD with serious pain. All for something totally unavoidable in my opinion.

While the food provided isn't very bad, egg is not available in the canteens nor a part of the daily diet. Eggs are amongst the most important ingredients in any daily diet and while having vegetarian food for inmates is a good idea, not having eggs for those who need is pathetic.

There is a geyser in some rare wards in some jails inmates make heating rods with nails to warm up water buckets for bathing in winters. This is such a basic facility; wonder why it isn't there in every ward. A central geyser is the least human need during winters.

The bus in which dozens of inmates are taken to for court hearings and made to sit for 6 to 8 hours is the most claustrophobic thing ever possible. It seems the gatekeepers don't even supply a glass of water during the entire duration. The least they can do is limit the number of inmates per bus to about 25 and keep bottles of water inside. They don't.

Each inmate is officially allowed only 3 sets of clothes. For more, they have to bribe the officials. I have heard one of the most famous inmates of recent times, Conman Sukesh, took custody parole to go home and instead went to Emporio in Delhi and bought bags full of designer clothes and shoes and came back. Funny things aside, those staying for long need more clothes. And everyone (including poorer inmates) barring absolutely honest souls have many more sets of clothes and get up looking clean and fresh daily. But it comes through bribes.

While there's a 5 min telephone booth in every ward, in today's day and time the number of booths should be increased and the time increased to at least 15 min. The lack of any facility for emergency calls to your home is also scary. That should be made available at an extra cost.

The lack of enough surveillance cameras makes the jail far less secure than it should be. Every cell and barrack must have cameras inside.

There are always two classes of prisoners in jails — the haves and the have-nots. Some of the haves in Tihar are powerful criminals, and they wield influence outside. They generate a fear of money and muscle and they manage to intimidate even the jail staff. Fear and greed for easy money make the staff turn a blind eye to the goings on.

What is also strange and sad is that murderers and gangsters are most often in the same wards as others. The interaction between the non-heinous crime inmates and those inside the jails for heinous crimes leads to the normal guys getting exposed and initiated to the world of serious crime. Multiple gangsters come up to you and offer their low-cost rate cards for murders of various kinds including the criminals owning up the crime and coming to jail because they have no fear of jail. Their chilled-out stories about their crimes impact and influence the uneducated minds of the economically backward and less educated youth who have come in for a far lesser crime, and they go out ready to take on worse crimes for higher payoffs. Hearing the stories of each person boasting of multiple murders and them describing it in a movie-style does have a negative impact.

The latest modus operandi for murders seems to be the use of juveniles. Every gangster seems to be looking out for kids of 14 to 17 years. Some who started young but couldn't leave later shared their stories of how gangsters give them alcohol, women and money and promise them a release in just three years if they are caught. It's too tempting for the impressionable minds. They boast of how they held two guns in two hands and pumped 34 bullets. They keep watching films like Shootout At Lokhandwala in their barracks and want that kind of life.

One of the worst consequence of going to jail, is the total lack of fear about coming back next time by repeating the crime. This is because while the facilities are great and must keep improving (in some developed countries family members are even allowed to come and spend a night with the inmates) there must be mandatory help centres and psychologists for every inmate to make him realize his mistake so that he goes out reformed and not the same person - now more dangerous because he has no fear of even being sent to jail. In fact, almost every life term convict has one common thing to say - the moment I get parole or interim bail, I will jump it and never come back. The law of course eventually catches up with all and instead of a 7-year term or 15-year term (strangely different states have different terms) they end up being inside for 25 years and more. All due to lack of reform facilities and guidance.

Once you are inside jail you are almost in an independent state/country

by itself, with its own laws and completely disconnected with the outside world. You are now at mercy of the officials and other inmates. If anything happens it can be buried inside forever with no way for the outside world to find out the truth. The jail authorities take full advantage of the same.

In most wards where Mulaiza (fresh inmates) come there is a system of ragging the next day. The warden and his munshi (typically a murder convict with life imprisonment) sit and ask everyone why they are there. Anyone who looks from a decent family or in an economic crime or 420 is politely asked to step away because these are the guys they decide to sweet talk and earn from during their stay. The rest of the entrants are humiliated about their crime. Anyone who is there a rape accused or terror accused is beaten up ruthlessly by the warden and the munshi with a long hollow thick plastic rod they are provided. At times they are asked to hold a tree and stand while they give ruthless shots on their backside pelting out filthiest of abuses. Talk of being like the Nazis.

That's just the beginning. Then they are asked to clean the public toilets (though forget getting any physical punishment in jails, under trials aren't supposed to be doing any work). I have personally heard multiple people being asked to clean a toilet with their mouth. The cruel and ruthless uneducated guys are genuinely capable of anything. The sad part is like any process of ragging, those who were ragged ruthlessly just one day before are the ones laughing and cheering the very next day the ragging of new entrants.

Anyone who the authorities want to set right is kept in a cell with hardened criminals, who can then at will or as per instructions of the authorities commit more atrocities. Resisting can always lead to murder, which I have heard is most often passed on to their family and outside world as a suicide.

There are notices one can see in the ward office about gangsters getting special orders from the High Court to get special protection from other some other gangster as bumping off each other inside jail also happens. In fact, some gangsters send their killers inside for the same purpose. That's why I wrote about the immediate need of a camera in every cell and corner of the

jails and wards. In fact, along with the wardens an additional human rights person could also be made mandatory in every ward and such atrocities would immediately stop.

One of the worst things, though it's to do with the state police force and not jail authorities, is the no. of people with fractured legs limping around. It seems they are repeat offenders and talking to them one finds one common story. After capturing them, the police suddenly ask them to look somewhere else. The moment they do that, they are shot on their ankle disabling them forever. This way the police it seems makes sure that they can't ever run again easily from a scene of the crime.

In the barracks specially and throughout the jails, asking for ransoms is one common thing. The gangsters, hand in gloves with the wardens and other officials (it is said that 70% of the money goes to the police people in such cases), do it in regular intervals, making it a must case for economic offence inmates to be kept separately from gangsters. They smuggle blades hidden in their anus and then at the right opportunity put the same on the cheek of the victim and threaten to cut across and give them a smuggled mobile phone (this is possible mainly with the help of police officials) and call up home and send money to their representatives outside.

Knives and sharp ice piercing iron nails are also smuggled inside the jail to facilitate ransom acts and murders. These are often made inside the jail by rubbing steel spoons on the floor or smuggled through 'throws'. Throws are balls with mobile phones or tobacco or knives inside that are thrown from the main roads outside into the jail/ wards. Again without the connivance of wardens, these are difficult to hide. Of course, there are 'Dabang' officers who come once in a while and change everything. But that's more of an exception than the rule.

Apart from sending to Kasuri (solitary confinement in a small cell without sunlight) anyone who the jail authorities have an issue with - multiple such cases happen daily - is taken to the 'Chakkar' (the central place inside the jail where all activities are coordinated from and all important announcements are made throughout the day) and tied or hanged to a tree and beaten up ruthlessly for long. And a punishment or jail case is

filed against them, making their release all the more difficult. People are sent to jail and that's their punishment. These added and completely deplorable extra-judicial inhuman acts are beyond what one can imagine.

But worse I guess is that none of these happen with the real big gangsters who have multiple murder cases against their names. They are the VIPs in jail. The best food and best facilities are always given to them. They are the ones with access to illegal mobile phones, including Android phones. Every official talks to them with a lot of respect and care. If they misbehave, irrespective of who it is, the gangsters make sure to remind them on their face that they have families outside and in one call they will face bullets.

Finally, jails also have something called the siren to freely use their extra-judicial powers. It seems sirens are used when they plan to set someone or a group of people right. When a siren goes off in a jail (such a thing happens once in 6 to 9 months) hundreds of TSPs and other wardens from the entire Tihar complex enter one jail (and have the power to beat up any and every person roaming around) with a target to round up one particular person or gang and then beat them up to the point of near-death - actions that definitely end up with many broken bones. Post a siren, a report is filed that there was an uncontrollable riot-like situation and therefore to control the mob this had to be done. In any case, after such a beating, no one dares to complain.

In a nutshell, every day inside is a new day requiring new survival strategies with different kinds of sharks - from jail officials to gangsters lodged inside.

The worst organizational blunder in a jail is housing hardened criminals along with small-time convicts and undertrials who have not yet been proven guilty. This restorative institution called the jail then turns into a breeding ground for hard-core criminals.

The condition of women prisoners in Indian jails, even in Tihar, is more like hell on earth. As Dr. Kiran Bedi wrote in 'I Dare', "Tihar, even today, houses women convicts, undertrials, prostitutes and hardened criminals together for want of room Young undertrials, expecting to be there for only a few days, weeks or months become their prime targets. The

latter are quickly subjugated and made to perform tasks like sweeping and washing clothes and, through persistent pressure, converted to lesbianism”.

For the prison staff such women become grist for their libidinous mill. The apathy of the outside world is turned to cruelty here. The more mental torment suffered by the women, the more pliable they become in the jail staff’s hands. Physical punishments are awarded not as corrective measures but more to satisfy sadistic desires that find an unobstructed vent in the confines of the prison walls. And rape becomes a veritable right...

The levels of corruption to which the jail staff members had reduced themselves and the degradation to which the inmates were driven have been elucidated by the words of an ex-superintendent of the jail.

‘The mental hospital at Sahadra (a locality in Delhi) had opened a branch inside Tihar to cater to the needs of the inmates. Most of the patients were women. In the evenings some unfortunate women inmates from this branch hospital were forced to come and stand at the outer gates of the prison and customers brought in from the roadside who would pay the jail staff for the privilege of fondling these women through the bars of the main gate.

If you want to eradicate corruption from India, the solution only and only lies in reforming the judiciary and the entire system of punishment and reformation associated with it.

In Norway capital punishment was abolished in 1902 and life sentences in 1981. The maximum prison sentence is 21 years. In most prisons in Scandinavian countries the atmosphere is of complete freedom with virtually three star facilities with no prison doors or even security cameras. Their experience is only proving far better than countries like USA for example where there are death sentences and maximum punishment going upto hundreds of years. Their reoffending rates are as low as 20% compared to more than 65% in the USA.

Scandinavian and many European countries rarely see a punishment beyond 6 years in prison, because the society takes responsibility of failing to given enough social security/education to a citizen so as to turn the person into a criminal. They are absolutely confident that whatever the crime, 6

years in prison and post prison tracking is good enough to reform the person and make sure the person doesn't repeat his crime. **In India like middle age eye for an eye revenge thirsty populist and uneducated people, our law makers instead of reforming the system and abolishing the death sentence are rather increasing the number of crimes for which one should get death.**

If the judiciary isn't reformed, the police force isn't increased and given dignity, and jails aren't completely revamped— corruption will thrive and India will remain a backward, third world country.

Before we end, we must say when we talk of Justice there are two other crucial things at play. First our electoral system and second our media. How can we get a feeling of Justice if we can't even choose the best person to Power. And how do we feel Justice has been served if our media actually propagates injustice and creates further pain. **So while we invest in the changing the face of judiciary, we also need to focus on Electoral reforms and reforming our existing Media structures.**

Once elected, our MPs need not adhere to the programme on the basis of which the electorate has voted them to power. The most urgent reform needed in our electoral system is that once they change parties, they should have to seek re-election on the basis of the new party's spirit and ideologies of its election manifesto, if any.

This will impose a certain degree of compulsion to adhere to a publicly given undertaking. This will also add to the stability of the government and the PM will be able to implement to a certain extent the promised policies without the fear of being overthrown by night.

The second most important reform in this area could be government funding of elections so that the dependence on black money is substantially reduced. Today honesty is ruled out as far as election expenses are concerned.

Debate and informed discussion have no place in this atmosphere. In a sea of illiterate masses, divided on caste, religion and regional basis, no one

understands the language of reason and rationality. This explains to a large extent why people are kept illiterate.

To really have a working democracy in India, where the best man is elected to power, the need of the hour is the presidential form of democracy as in the USA. Otherwise as things stand now; we need to get around 300 MPs elected, mostly by illiterate voters, whose opinions can easily be manipulated by empty casteist, communal or regional slogans. A presidential form of election by a nationwide electorate wipes out regional, communal or casteist bias. A presidential form will also lend the stability required for implementing policies and programmes based on long-term objectives and vision, which is the basis for people-oriented long-term national economic planning.

Having said that, it's important to understand that Democracy is the pivotal centre around which any society that wishes to be called civilized and progressive revolves. If democracy is threatened, the media must rise with all their might to restore it. Unfortunately, democracy in India is a complete illusion as it takes a lot to awaken the average Indian citizen from his slumber. Till he is personally affected, he is blissfully complacent about the plight of his fellow beings, however heart-piercing it might be. Oh, yes, we do have the freedom of speech, all right, but the freedom to exercise it, is auctioned to the highest bidder. The media today caters to the Coca-Cola consumers These are the people who wear trendy clothes, frequent McDonald's, sip the addictive Coca-Cola and discuss Page Three celebrities. Crimes are sensationalized and reported but it ends just there, barring a few exceptions where Page Three models are killed, when it does pretend to follow up, without, of course, any meaningful ramifications. Advertisers and editors serving the interests of the political bigwigs decide what the editorial should be. If a television channel shows something that the political bosses don't like, then the ED can be sent. I guess the print and the visual media must have decided that they might as well quietly make their pot of money if they can't make a difference anyway.

But then isn't it the duty of the media to point out when the state acts

irresponsibly and ensure that democracy is in place? And if the media can't be an agent of change, isn't it betraying the nation for money? We all look up to the media with hope and respect. We expect that apart from reporting will also broaden our horizons by bringing forth matters of critical importance through well-researched, unbiased reporting and educative stories. We look forward to reports highlighting issues that affect the welfare of the citizens in a manner that helps us form more balanced views.

When someone is caught doing something corrupt, the youth doesn't mind at all. 'In a nation where corruption is touching a billion lives on a daily basis, where the majority of us are involved in some corrupt practice or the other, why should we expect anyone else to be honest?', is the common refrain. Why doesn't the media talk about how the corrupt politicians are letting down a billion people every moment? A very valid argument, indeed! We can add more to this: Why does India's pathetic rank in the human development index get reported at the right-hand bottom in a two-inch article on the eighteenth page? How come no newspaper bothers to report on the front page the story of five million Indians dying of diseases that are curable?

The answer is simple — the media stinks and is manned by people who do not deserve the huge social responsibility that they carry. Except for an occasional honest journalist, the rest of them have a price tag on their pens and conscience.

In a country where things look good and people live well, often media can afford to be a little complacent, but in a country like India, the media needs to keep testing the presence of democracy by continuously challenging its limits.

Of course there's hope. Today Media is being taken over by social media. And in social media finally many things get highlighted. But since again Social Media is owned by private companies, those with money can propagate their thoughts with far more force than the rest. That's what is happening on WhatsApp & Facebook.

Ideally the kind of media to be promoted or the way Media should be in the long run must be cooperative/public service driven. If they are run by government subsidies or corporate ads they will never be free. The background of people in media must have basic standards and they must be the most educated with regular checks on their journalistic ethics. **Finally they have to be supported by readers and not advertisers else as the term goes they will become “lapdogs” (godhi media) instead of “watchdogs”.**

B

Eradication of Income Inequality for Humanism

Indian CEO to Worker wage ratio is 230:1, it should be 3:1. Shocked? Surprised??

Well let me put it straight, No CEO has the right to earn 1000 times more than workers, it can be at the most be 3 times —that's the TRUTH EVERYONE MUST KNOW and I will be explaining in this chapter.

Guess which are the top two countries with the highest ratio of difference between the average **CEO VS WORKER PAY? USA & INDIA! USA is at 350:1 and the Indian ratio is a staggering 230:1 — this while 70% of India lives in abject poverty. The same ratio in Austria, Denmark, Norway & Japan is— 36:1, 48:1, 58:1, 67:1 respectively.**

Wealth of the 100 richest people is more than the wealth of poorest 500 MILLION!! Yes you read it right! More than 40% of national wealth is owned by the richest 1% in Indian with the gap growing by the day. Currently about 70% plus of national wealth created is going to the top 1% richest.

The same is the case globally. While we have infinite scale inequality & millions dying of hunger and curable diseases, just 1% of the world's richest own more than 50% of the world's wealth in the name of competition and innovation. The reality of the world we live in is that the bottom 70 percent of the working adult population of the world accounts for only 2.7% of the global wealth, while the richest 8.4% of the world owns 84% of the world's wealth and the remaining 91.6% of the world is left with the crumbs.

We need to have a world where the difference in the WAGES of highest paid people and lowest paid should at the most be 3:1 irrespective of how highly qualified and creative the people at top might be feeling they are. Researches clearly say people believe the ideal ratio between CEO & Worker can't be between 2 to 8 times.

If India has to be respected by the world by the year 2047, we can't afford

to be a country with more than 65% earning less than \$2 a day. We have to remove this huge inequality of income. It sounds socialistic? Well, surprise! Surprise! The interest in many concepts around equality and socialism has seen a revival ever since Thomas Piketty's *Capital in the Twenty First Century*, got published in 2013 (in English in March 2014). An article in 'The independent' celebrating 200th year of Marx said, "In 2015, socialism was the most searched word on Merriam Webster's online dictionary. Socialism does not carry historical baggage for a younger generation left behind by the iniquities of capitalism. A Harvard study found that a majority of millennials reject capitalism and a third are in favour of socialism. This is what might be called the revenge of Marx. In 2011, back when it was still unfashionable to confess to being Marxist, Oxford University literary theorist Professor Terry Eagleton boldly decreed that the bearded prophet had been right after all. Eagleton is no longer alone."

Today if one were to look – as the leading economists and thinkers even from the current generation are unanimously agreeing- each and every prediction of his has come true about Capitalism. As Marx had said, in his theory of historical materialism, societies pass through six stages – primitive Communism, slave society, feudalism, Capitalism, socialism and finally global, stateless Communism. One look at the best societies of today and we know the first four stages are over and they are now passing through the fifth stage of social-ism. Be it Sweden, Norway, Canada, Belgium or even Germany Capitalism is just a name that they still carry while their people pay incredibly high taxes and every citizen has equal rights to more or less free education and excellent health facilities. So much so, that today, a private enterprise is scared to enter these nations. After all, how do you compete against high quality excellent free facilities. The guaranteed unemployment benefits are such that youngsters are no more interested in doing a job for a few bucks more.

Luxury brands are hardly getting a new generation that is interested in designer products. These societies are creating satisfied youngsters, chasing their passions, happy with the accommodation government provides, holidaying with the few bucks that their unemployment benefits provide and becoming better human beings since to get access to these benefits they are

required to do various compulsory social work like helping old age people or people with special needs, for a few hours, daily. Even the not so generous countries like Japan and South Korea etc have terrific minimum social benefit programs. Needless to say these countries are right at the top of the human development index - year after year.

And now there is one stage that's left. The achievement of this throughout the world and finally global, stateless Communism. Yes, with Joe Biden and Boris Johnson/Truss there in two of the key economies of the world it all might seem too impossible. Yet, just imagine America was about to democratically elect one of the best human beings in their political environment ever – Bernie Sanders. And someone like him might soon be the President of USA. If the collective might of capitalist owned media wouldn't have falsely defamed Jeremy Corbyn almost infinitely, he actually could have been the British PM right now.

In America and elsewhere as CEOs continue to earn monstrously more than their workers – in many companies 1000 times and more - which in effect means that a worker would need a thousand life times to earn as much as his CEO does in one lifetime, it is becoming amply clear that every problem even today – from America to India – is about class struggle.

Today be it the plight of dalits and the marginalized in India or the struggle of the blacks to gain respect in America - is all about this class struggle. Bernie stands behind this genuine possibility of the workingclass gaining control of political power in the USA. From Germany to the Scandinavian countries near socialism prevails thanks to strong labour rights and movements, which essentially means dictatorship of the proletariat, leaving capitalists and profiteers extremely frustrated.

Thanks to the internet, today, it's shameful to be seen supporting ugly opulence.

It's Capitalists like Bill Gates, Warren Buffett and Mark Zuckerberg who are spearheading the donate your wealth movement for a more equal world. Soon there will be a time when to be looked up at, people would be forced to give up their vulgar capitalistic traits as the united world of workers

(commoners and majority of the masses) on the internet, would make them feel horrible about their existence. The need to take care of the dying and malnourished millions in the developing countries of Africa and rest of the third world is to- day, more than ever before. And Chinese Capitalism is showing that the need for profiteering is making capitalists go and develop the African continent; For the fact remains that there will be no one to buy your products till you give purchasing power to the masses.

It is now beyond debate that the job of a state must be to promote equality by providing equal access to education, health, employment opportunities & unemployment benefits, dignity of living & housing facilities and access to equal justice.

If there is unequal distribution of income through the market forces, then the income has to be taxed and taken away and used for genuine social causes. People must and would participate in such a process happily due to their altruistic side developed through better education. And anyone protesting against such humane thoughts are, and, eventually would be definitely looked down upon in a genuine and educated democracy.

Making the world a more equal place!

Based on my father Dr. Malay Chaudhuri's original ideas, which I have had the pleasure of teaching at IIPM and building upon, and elucidating in the book written by me jointly with him and my son Che Kabir Chaudhuri– ‘What Marx Left Unsaid’ (Times Group Books, 2019) **here is a forceful case for an exploitation- free world with a maximum wage ratio of the Highest paid to Lowest paid worker at 3:1**

What the theory basically says is simple. **Human beings must earn as per their skills which determine their ability to contribute in a society.** And skills must be measured fairly. All that we need, to produce skills, are two things. First, the readiness to sacrifice unskilled labour. That's what any man is capable of giving with basic education – unskilled labour. The second is certain skilled hours of a trainer. So, if one is a 12th pass student and wants to become a graduate, the society loses on an entire lifetime of class 12th pass labour and has to invest three years of a skilled teacher's labour,

to make the person a graduate. And in return, the society gets from this educated graduate, 45 years of a graduate's labour (assuming the person is 20 years old and would go ahead and work till the age of 65) instead of, say, 48 years of a 12th class pass individual's labour.

The underlying assumption of this theory is that every skill is more or less reproducible. And anything that is reproducible should have a price commensurate to its cost of production; or rather, more specifically, its opportunity cost to the society.

For example, if a person who starts working at the age of 15 is categorized as an unskilled labourer, he is typically supposed to have only passed (or failed) class 10th by then. Now, if we were to make him an engineer, what exactly does society lose and gain?

Society loses 50 years of 10th pass unskilled labour; that is, it loses around 100,000 hours in 50 years (assuming a person works for 8 hours a day and 250 days a year), and instead gets 44 years, or 88,000 hours of an engineer's labour. The society has to invest six extra years of skilled labour to make this individual an engineer. Assuming that the person has to study 500 hours per year, then in 6 years he has to study 3,000 hours. If the teacher (assuming he is also an engineer) teaches, say, 25 students in a class, then the society to create a single engineer has invested $3,000/25 = 120$ skilled hours.

So what the case described above essentially means is that 100,000 unskilled hours of class 10th labour plus 120 skilled hours of investment to make an engineer equals 88,000 skilled hours of an engineer's labour. Or in other words, 100,000 unskilled hours = 87,880 skilled engineer's hours. Or value of 1 skilled engineer's hour is equal to $100,000/87,880$, or, approximately 1.15 unskilled hours of a 10th pass student!!

Now, if we were to tell this to an engineer, he would literally freak out. But the fact of the matter is that as a society, that's approximately the engineer's worth. So, as per my above calculation, the maximum wage difference between an engineer and a tenth class pass person can only be 1.15:1.

In our detailed book that I mentioned before, what you will read is nothing but a more detailed and exact explanation of the same. For example, to teach the student for 500 hours, the teacher might himself need to do research of added 500 hours. Similarly, there are librarians, research associates etc who also invest their hours; and the actual hours invested, instead of being 500, might be 1,500 or 3,000. Per-chance some teachers may have Ph.D qualifications, so their hours would be more valuable, and so on.

The society might also need to invest in hostel facilities/scholarships etc.

Actually, the final figure with more detailed calculations of the hours invested by the society that we explained in our book is far less ruthless than the calculations I have used here to explain the overall approach in a simplified form. It says that the maximum difference between wages can be 3:1. And if the cost of producing a scientist is only 3 times the cost of producing an ordinary labourer, then the scientist's salary should also be a maximum of 3 times more than that of the labourer.

While Karl Marx said every human being should be paid according to his contribution in the society, the lack of a measuring tool of contribution is what left his theory incomplete. How do you measure the contribution of a scientist who invents a life-saving drug versus the man who comes and cleans your toilet? Leave it in the hands of free market and the ratio could be anything between 10:1 to 1000:1 or more.

But the reality of the matter is that the only reason the sweeper is cleaning toilets is because he wasn't given perhaps as low as 5 to 7 years of extra education after, say, class 8th.

Post that, it's just a matter of chance which scientist invents what in the next how many years. This, of course, requires sacrifice of individual arrogance that "I am so capable because I am by myself special" and replacement of the same with "I am so good because I got the opportunity to be trained by teachers and develop my qualities".

To me, if the society believes this, then the theory outlined in our book is unbeatable and defines the foundation of a just society. In fact, every theory

has a theoretical aspect and a psychological aspect. And I feel that even psychologically, a 3:1 ratio between the highest paid person and lowest paid person is a very just feeling as well. In fact, it is something that is in any case bound to happen in a free-market capitalist system eventually.

Surprised? As we drift towards an economy where education actually becomes free thanks to the Internet, soon we will have a situation **where everyone could be educated and no one would want to do the job of low qualifications – say, that of a sweeper. And then we are bound to see a sweeper or driver getting paid more than an engineer.** Because the market demand and supply decide prices in the free market. And with an over-supply of engineers and scarcity of sweepers, the sweepers would be costlier despite being less educated. Of course, this would eventually lead to disincentive in being educated. And finally we will have a perfect competition where engineers and sweepers will perhaps be paid the same; even if the engineers are paid more, then the figure would be a psychologically acceptable 3 times more, unlike what it is now. The wage difference was skewed and differentiated till now in the world, as we know it, because education was restricted to a lucky few. So those with education could charge a super-premium – or what we call a monopolistic supernormal profit. As Internet brings about perfect competition in almost every sector, things are changing rapidly. Poverty is no more a reason for remaining uneducated. Remaining uneducated will soon be a conscious choice we will make. **After all, getting educated requires a bit extra effort than remaining uneducated.** So, many people actually would not mind earning a third of what a highly educated person earns and choose to not put in the extra efforts in education. However, if he sees that the educated man earns 5 to 10 times or 20 times more, and if education is freely available, in all probabilities, he will get educated and bring down the prices of the educated lot.

One might argue, what about people with the same qualifications but who have better skills due to harder work? Well, for that, there will be wage cuts depending upon your productivity. Not additional wages.

It must be pointed out that 3:1 ratio is applicable for those completing their education in a given year. This means that we assume that a class 8th

pass worker and the most educated worker are starting their career in the same year. Then they should get a maximum differential of 3:1. However after 5 years when a new set of class 8th pass worker will join along with say a worker with a Ph.D., then they will get again 3:1 though at that point of time the ones who had started 5 years back might be earning 3.3 and 1.1 due to additional experience or rather further education at work (assuming inflation has been adjusted for in both the cases). So at this point of time the wage ratio in the overall economy between highest paid worker and lowest paid worker will be 3.3:1.

However this 3.3:1 can't become infinitely more or 33:1 or 1,000:1 because, beyond a point more experience is not equal to more productivity specially in this age of technology. That's why corporations today opt for younger workers expecting lesser pay by replacing experienced people who are expecting a pay raise - more for additional years of experience (assuming inflation has been adjusted for in both the cases) than anything else.

This model thus draws an outline of education based fair pay. And the fact is all researches point out that education is the key differentiate or when it comes to a person's income (experience is also in a way "practical education" and can be valued similarly and since we have established the cost of education to be so less it's clear this 3:1 ratio can hardly be changed much). And if that is so, then the most educated person most certainly doesn't deserve more than 3 times pay compared to the least educated person in a society.

One might ask, what about specially and uniquely talented people?

Well, I firmly believe in a fair and just society; they will be very happy earning three times more, plus additional non-monetary rewards and recognition. That's what psychology says. No one has ever achieved greatness chasing money. People achieve greatness chasing their passions. And what they expect in return is recognition, especially if they are financially as stable as their other friends whom they studied with.

We need to have a world where the difference in the lives of highest paid people and lowest paid should at the most be 3:1 irrespective of how highly

qualified and creative the people at top might be feeling they are.

One might wonder what about entrepreneurs. The fact is Earth would be a far better place with some human beings innovating and being more productive, either for just three times more income or for awards and recognition or just to take the human race forward; Than have such infinite scale inequality, millions dying of hunger and curable diseases while just 1% of the world's richest own more than 50% of the world's wealth in the name of competition and innovation. **We must never forget the reality of the world we live in, where, the bottom 70 percent of the working adult population of the world accounts for only 2.7% of the global wealth. Where, while the richest 8.4% of the world own 84% of the world's wealth, the remaining 91.6% of the world is left with the crumbs.**

World can not be humane and equal if inequality of income remains. And inequality of income will remain till we don't have a world that fights for just remuneration for every individual - where there is wage equality wrt a person's ability to contribute. There was a time when women couldn't vote. Today such a concept is shameful and laughable just like the idea of public shooting or stoning of a criminal in a functional and humane democracy is. The day definitely is not be far away when living infinite times better than others will be looked down upon and publicly shamed. Because with access to great education, the educated world of the future will have no human being who would consider another fellow human being so superior so as to deserve such infinite luxuries. In living like others and seeing everyone around us living with access to dignity as well as a fair share of luxury, is real happiness.

In this whole process many normal entrepreneurs will perhaps lose the excitement of it. That's fine. In any case the internet is taking away the monopoly power from industries, one by one. Monopolistic competition that was the rule of the game is slowly turning into perfect competition. The few monopolies like Google, Facebook etc are under server scrutiny and will perhaps be taken over by a global governments like the UN or broken down in times to come. Already, every additional unutilized capacity is being fully utilized. So a private car that was lying idle parked for 8 hours in the parking while a man worked in the office is now being rented out. Your unutilized

camera at home is being rented out. The extra room is being rented out. Thus automobile sales are going down, camera sales are going down, hotels are going out of business. Airlines are shutting down. Private entrepreneurs are already losing incentive to be in business. But there's nothing to worry. AI will take over. Only those who are passionate about some kind of work/ research/innovation/creativity/ will work for their passion not to earn more money. They will work to take humanity forward. In any case the world can not take unsustainable growth. Limits to growth in any case had to be put and it will come automatically. If private players lose interest, the businesses that can't be automated and need to be run will finally go back to the public sector. And public sector will be forced to be efficient thanks to the power of social media.

But wage inequality needs to and will go. There is no two way about it. At least from India by 2047.

I am sure that whether you like or dislike this theory (which has been elucidated in detail in 'What Marx Left Unsaid'), it will be hard for you to find a logical or humanitarian flaw within it.

C

Eradication of Religion for Science & Rationalism

Religion always was, but is becoming by far the single biggest hindrance to peace, brotherhood and education in India of today. Based on the premise of existence of something without any iota of rationale called God, Religion is today dividing India like never before in the history of independent India. For the last three years in succession, The US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has named India under “Countries of Particular Concern”, along with 13 other countries like Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The need to take a deeper look at the concept of Religion and God thus becomes extremely important for a modern developed India in 2047.

When it comes to religion, the most unfortunate part of it all is, most of us don't even question God's existence. We take it for granted. We believe there is someone up there sitting and watching us. A heaven up there that we need to go to after our death. And a hell we need to avoid! We pray because we feel if we upset that person, he will make our life miserable. We pray because when we go through miseries we believe he can help. And pray because we believe when we do wrong he punishes us.

We never wonder how do we exactly go to heaven. The just born version of us, the five year old version of us, the young version of us or the fragile old version of us struck with Alzheimer!! We never bother to ask how are these concepts even possible.

The truth is, forget heaven or hell, even God doesn't exist. The following pages borrowed freely from my previous book ‘Beyond God & Capitalism’ will explain why. And help you live the rest of your life confidently and fearlessly by looking beyond God.

At first man created God

Yes. Imagine uninitiated, unscientific, clueless cavemen seeing their caves getting flooded with water while a heavy thunderstorm shakes their

world outside. No idea what's happening. They sit together and start hoping (praying) the thunderstorm passes and the water levels go down. They look outside and see lightening. And they feel someone above is angry. That's the how God was created. Human kind in its earliest avatar in all their ignorance about everything that's happening around, created God. They believed there was someone who at times decides to shake them up through thunderstorms, earthquakes, floods and more importantly deaths. And often when they held their hands together or sat in front of the fire or looked up at the sky or looked down at the river and prayed, they saw the lightening disappear, the rains going away from months, the earthquake not happening for years and some people coming back alive when they thought they were sure to die due to an extremely heated body (fever).

That doesn't mean that there indeed was someone up there creating troubles for them. Neither did it mean sitting together and praying to water was the reason rains and foods stopped nor praying to the soil was the reason why earthquakes didn't occur again in their lifetime. That was a pure myth. A belief. A story being passed on over millions of years.

God never existed. Cavemen created the concept of someone up there due to their ignorance and fears. Fear of losing out to nature and fear of death.

Thus God came into existence. Not because cavemen wanted money. Not because they wanted success. Only because they had a huge fear of the unknown. And of death. And they wanted to live in peace. And they saw at times when they had sex a child was born. Not always. But at times. So they believed that when you pray with your whole heart before having sex you might be blessed with the happiness of seeing a child. And yet when you didn't pray properly enough the child and its mother could both die during the process. When you have no idea of how things happen, no idea about what to do during pregnancy and no scientific way to deliver babies so that the baby and mother both survive; God indeed is the only thing you get forced to believe in.

That's the origin of God. Let anyone say anything.

This is it.

And then man created spirits and ghosts.

Gods and ghosts are the same thing. There is no God and there is no Ghost. Because there is absolutely no scientific evidence for both.

But when you live in the darkness of caves and a wild animal comes and takes away someone from your clan, without leaving any trace, right after the day someone died. This leaves a very strange feeling of helplessness; you believe it's the spirit of the dead that came to haunt. When in the darkness of night you suddenly hear sounds that primitive knowledge and lack of light can't explain. You are afraid. Afraid of the unknown. Afraid of physical harm. Afraid of death.

And you believe there is something evil that's there. A ghost. The antithesis of God.

An original cavemen creation of the bad that keeps haunting. God is the good. You pray and the thunder stops. You pray and floods disappear. You pray and earthquakes don't happen for years. You pray and one who you thought would surely die becomes alive. You pray and pray and you get a child.

Ghost is the bad. You pray every day to God but in the darkness of night you hear sounds. You pray and yet one of your brethren disappears and his body is never found. You pray and yet you see strange figures, shadows and lights coming from far away. It haunts and stays. It refuses to go away. It's almost as powerful as God and more. It scares the daylight out of you.

So cavemen called them ghosts.

Ghosts slowly disappeared with the advent of lighting devices and electricity (and made a major comeback with the invention of Photoshop). God had no such luck. It stayed back. Because God had nothing to do with actual darkness. God had to do with darkness of the mind. It is the answer for the weak and ill educated, to everything they still can't explain and for everything good that they want to happen.

So God lives still.

And we started praying to God. Though no prayer ever works.

The convenience of Prayers and irrationality of it all

Ever since the universe was created about 14 billion years back, no prayer has ever worked. Rather if we are to be less dramatic then let's just say ever since the earth—the only known place where prayers take place—was created 4 billion years back no prayer has ever worked. Or maybe more precisely ever since human type beings/conscious beings came into existence about 7 million years ago no prayer has ever been answered.

So what does that mean? Yes unfortunately it means all your prayers for New Zealand, prayers for Paris, prayers for Chennai; WhatsApp and Facebook statuses and profile pictures have been a humongous waste. Of course I realise these statuses were all well-intentioned.

But before praying for anyone or anything next time please be a bit patient and read up so you at least know that you are doing something very convenient and something totally irrational. I urge you my friends to think a bit rationally. Apart from sitting and doing nothing with folded hands and making others feel like you are doing something and trying to give yourself a false sense of humanity, what else does a prayer really achieve?

I always tell my friends. You believe prayers work? Then please get me a good example of the same. Don't tell me my father had a heart attack and he survived. These are all due to advances in medical sciences and in case you didn't consult a doctor then due to positive luck (because in the case of such curable things positive luck has a chance of working).

So what to me is the proof of a working prayer? The proof of a working prayer is a man's hand gets chopped off. And then his family starts praying and it grows back— on video not in a mythology like The Bible, the Quran or the Gita. The proof of a working prayer is your head gets crushed under a truck but on your way to the crematorium the head grows back and you come alive as everyone prays.

Well that doesn't happen. Because prayers never work. They have never ever worked. 250,000 people die each day and they would still die irrespective of your prayers. These no. of deaths per day might reduce only due to scientific advancements that might make people start living for two hundred years and beyond.

In the caves prayers were a rational thing to do for the uninitiated. But in today's world the only reality of this word prayer is, how to think you are helping without helping. Everytime you pray. Yes...exactly that. You do nothing! However well-intentioned the prayers might be.

In fact it's mighty illogical too. For example, we already know what causes rains, but let's assume rains don't happen due to science but due to our prayers. So everytime there is a flood, does it mean God listened to prayers so much that it not only gave rains... But so much of it that it caused floods?

What is more surprising is that those who believe in God, also believe that the "Good God" has a plan for all of us. And God knows everything that is to happen way before it happens. And yet they think they need to pray to him? Why? To make it happen or to question his plan's goodness and change it? That's ridiculous isn't it? If God has a pre-decided plan for everyone and everything and it's for everyone's good, then why should anyone pray and try to alter the plan? And why would God change his plans?

Unless of course someone is making moneys out of your prayers
Someone says come and p(r)ay to God and take his blessings. And the bribe that you leave behind will make God alter its plan.

While believing in God itself is an attempt to purposefully suspend your critical thinking, yet let's assume that you believe in God, still. I wish you at least do that rationally. And the rationale is as follows. What you pray for is a part of Gods plans? If yes, your prayers are useless. It will happen in any case. And if no, even then your prayers are useless!! It won't happen in any case. Of course if I were to go back to my basic logic on God, needless to say, even then you shouldn't be praying... not because God will ignore your prayers... you should simply not pray because there exists no God. It is a

creation of cavemen.

Prayers are at best like what Barbie dolls are to little girls. It gives them comfort without any actual serious ability to change things. And as adults doing such futile things and wasting time doesn't really reflect highly about your intelligence.

I think it's Peter O'Toole who had said that he concluded "he himself was God", the day he suddenly realised while praying he was doing nothing but "talking to himself"! Yes that's what you do at best during prayers.

So, next time instead of telling someone "I will pray for you", say or write "I will think about you"..., that is, if you can't say "I will help you" or "do for you" or "bring change for you" (which I admit is not always possible, though two working hands can any day do far more than a million clasped hands). And when you think for others and don't pray you must not have any guilt. Contributions are not always about ground work. At a macro level contributions come in form of just carrying on doing what you do daily, paying taxes, protesting and making the government accountable to using those taxes properly, writing, teaching, inspiring or even waiting for the right time to jump into action as long as you are thinking about the misery of someone or its existence in any form in the society.

At a micro level your contribution comes by your sheer presence in the lives of the people affected... ideally physical presence and doing as much as you can for them with two working hands (instead of, I repeat, two clasped ones).

But yes, as rational human beings we must avoid this word called prayer, and stop saying I am praying for you. It's like saying I am holding the Barbie doll close to my chest tonight so that you become okay. It's genuinely meaningless. Either do something real— directly or indirectly , or don't and know you did nothing though you should have. And let the guilt inspire you to do something greater soon.

I have never heard a doctor come and say hey, guess what?! We don't need to put the plaster on your broken leg, your family's prayers have taken care of it! Thankfully so!

Yes, true. There are lots of scientists and doctors who believe in something as unscientific as God but amazingly they do not use God's power to cure illness or go to Mars. A doctor's job is to disprove God's existence by increasing life span and eventually take mankind to a stage— that will be achieved very soon— when he will almost live forever.

Unfortunately, researches are often done by religious apologists to try and prove prayers have an effect on health. Yes positive attitude has an effect (though researches have conclusively proven for example, that positive spirit has no scientific role to play in surviving cancer) in certain cases. But that has nothing to do with any God's existence. That's due to the chemicals the brain releases. So if that positive spirit comes from a Barbie or intelligent self motivation both have the same effect. That's the only truth. Adults with intellect comparable to those of kids, choose the Barbie, while self motivated scientific adults choose their brain's power. At times I fear a survey amongst astronauts might also reveal they believe it's God that took them to moon and space and got them back safely (though the journey ended up actually proving there is no God up there, in space or on moon— to the displeasure of many, I guess).

One of the bigger research findings actually totally debunks the concept of prayers. On the contrary it proves that post surgery complications increase hugely when people know that they were being prayed for due to build up of expectations (it's a pity indeed on the intelligence of such people who have expectations from prayers though)! Isn't it so logical in any case! Pity, we have to do researches to prove the obvious! Here are doctors and scientists helping you stop suffering and there we have some one else taking away credit. Sad, that prayers to Jesus by people of Botswana give them an average life of 42 while those of developed nations that of 84! Or is it that Jesus in developed nations is more developed?!

Also most such researches are around curable health issues. No research ever is done on say healing of amputees! That seals the debate actually. Anything that's clearly measurable, like an amputation, on that it seems God has no power to help. But when it comes to health problems more vague with chances of recovery like heart ailments etc. we have all researchers doing their researches... the question is why don't they do their researches

when it comes to amputees or for cancer reversal?

The fact is “every answered prayer” is absolutely nothing. Nothing but a “coincidence”, an illusion. All we have to do to prove it is do simple scientific tests like a double blind test involving something concrete and measurable (for example healing a broken arm or healing people with cancer). And we would realise there is zero effect. Irrespective of the God you pray to, irrespective of who is praying and irrespective of what you pray for!!

So unless next time you want credit for being very caring without making any efforts, never use prayers as a part of what you are doing for anyone... for Paris or for Chennai or your parents or your loved ones.

Remember always that for every prayer in the universe if there was a good deed done, the world would be a far better place! Of course I know praying saves us from living with guilt! Don't visit your parents when they are ill, pray for them... do any wrong and pray for forgiveness. Convenient indeed!

We must stop fooling ourselves into believing that our prayers are giving us protection from scrutiny and making people feel that we are doing good while in reality we are doing absolutely no good.

Our parents, loved ones, and friends are intelligent enough to know the difference between real care and fake care through prayers... so are the people right now suffering in Chennai/Paris. They don't need prayers. Think of them. Work for them. If nothing do your work better and harder while thinking of them.

I do realise it's indeed tough to convince otherwise, kids who believe Barbie doll is the reason they get good sleep. However, that obviously doesn't mean that a Barbie is required for a good sleep. As adults we must realise this.

If you have to pray still. Pray to Marilyn Monroe or Elvis Presley.

There are many friends who don't like rationale.

Not their fault at all (jump to the section on God and child abuse for further clarity). For example one of my friends insists that, forget my argument of no prayer ever working, all his prayers are always answered and on a daily basis.

I was really amused. So I asked him to give me an example. He said the smallest of things. Everyday on my way to office I get late so I pray to God at the traffic signals to quickly turn the light green. And Arindam, you won't believe it. It happens daily.

The example was so amazing that I was left with no answer. So I asked him you found Marilyn Monroe gorgeous? He said yes. I said from next time you are in any kind of trouble or a bad situation please pray to her. Trust me the success ratio of your prayers to her and God both will be same. And no. It's not because she is dead and is now with God listening to you.

But because for all these things you believe God listens to your prayers actually no one listens. They happen naturally. By chance. Coincidentally. Or because you pray for things that were bound to happen.

So praying to Marilyn Monroe will give the same result. And for everything that doesn't work, when you pray to your God, like bringing your dead father back to life, praying to Marilyn Monroe will also not work.

But there is an advantage of praying to Marilyn or Elvis or your favorite icon. At least while praying with closed eyes you will get to see deeply satisfying imagery!! It will at least do you some good. And that's exactly why I tell my friends, if you ever feel like praying for me, maybe you could think of watching some porn or a Netflix web series instead. At least that way one of us will be happier.

I hope you all got my point.

And then the intelligent man created Religion.

Religion is a more intelligent creation of recent man to gain power and control through creation of a moral code of conduct for people to follow.

Unlike God that was a creation of cavemen— hundreds of thousands of

years back and maybe millions— out of fear of the unknown and fear of life, almost all religions that exist are very recent— 100 to 5000 year old— creations of sharp and intelligent “men”. At least as intelligent as you could get 5000 years back, without the knowledge of earth being round or how day turned to night!

As cavemen evolved and learnt to light fire, create the wheel, make a spear and win more often than not the battle of survival of the fittest, their need to be more powerful grew. Kings and emperors emerged. Battles for larger pieces of land and riches emerged. And the need for more control emerged. Men’s need to control women, use them as their private possession and keep them tied physically to themselves individually emerged strong, simultaneously with the need to control the poor and keep them subservient.

The intelligent man realised there was no other way to do this but by exploiting the fear of the unknown— the one in front of whom by then every man, woman and child was bowing down to. God.

Saying ‘I am God’ directly, for any power thirsty King was risky. Because then people would expect miracles and the failure to perform miracles would expose him— a reason why all evidence based real human beings who actually existed and are today considered Gods were made Gods many years after their death, once enough stories of miracles had been spread over about a hundred years and there was no way to disprove his miraculous powers.

So how do we use God for more power and control. The more intelligent way was to say, ‘God came to meet me yesterday night on the top of that totally isolated mountain and gave me these sets of moral principles that we must all follow. And said he will keep coming and meeting me every night if I go and pray to him “alone”.’ Or say that he came in my dreams and said this and that. And these fictitious sayings and moral codes gave rise to different religions. Of course not every one got away with such stories. Mainly the nicer guys with more credibility and acceptance with the masses got away with such unfounded and irrational stories.

Actually to be fair not all of them were power hungry. Some were good

men, but high on hallucinogenics. Some were good men who went out indeed in search of the meaning of life and thought somehow the mountains and jungles had some secrets stored inside. And even got their answers because thought of he left everything and disappeared into mountains for so many years and came back alive and naked, he must be having all answers that we are in search of.

But the point is, all these “men” who created religions created nothing else but a moral code of behavior to either control people— the poor and women in particular— or for what they thought was the good of human kind. No God ever came and met them. No God ever told them anything. They necessarily cooked it all up. And made a code of conduct which according to their medieval understanding of life and ethics seemed fair to them.

And don't ask me for evidence as to how I know they cooked it all up. The onus of giving evidence lies with those who tell such stories. Else to me and every rational person it's a lie. As Christopher Hitchens would say “What can be asserted without evidence, can be dismissed without evidence”.

Or as Bertrand Russell had explained while specifically referring to Religion, why the philosophic burden of proof lies upon a person making unfalsifiable claims than on others, in his famous teapot theory. He said if one was to suggest that between the earth and the Mars there is a China teapot revolving around the sun in an elliptical orbit, nobody would be able to disprove it specially if it's also added that the teapot is too small to be revealed by our most powerful telescopes. But it didn't mean since this assertion can't be falsified or disproved it is intolerable presumption on the part of human reason to doubt it. This would then be rightly thought to be nonsense. If, however, the existence of such a teapot were affirmed in ancient books, taught as the sacred truth every Sunday, and instilled into the minds of children at school, hesitation to believe in its existence would become a mark of eccentricity and entitle the doubter to the attentions of the psychiatrist in an enlightened age or of the inquisitor in an earlier time.

So with the absence of any kind of evidence whatsoever of God or any

God coming and giving sermons to any human being we can safely and boldly state that for the intelligent man these are all stories, mythology and fables.

In fact it's not that atheists didn't exist when religions were being created left, right and centre (there are about 5000 odd religions). But, Despite the existence of atheists in even as long back as 11th to 5th century BC in Greece, India, China and even Middle East and existence and encouragement of debates on Gods specially in Greece; the rulers always felt threatened by such challenges to their concepts of Gods and sentenced to death those accused of heresy. Thus with time, to make their case stronger, they invented the coming down of God to earth around various fictitious and real men of medieval goodness and wrote guidelines they wanted their people to follow in the name of religious texts and God's preaching. In some cases the men of goodness themselves preached various morals which got passed on upon their death as their religion. In the case of Hindus of course it got told and passed on through mugged up verses over generations in the form of shlokas from the Upanishads and Vedas. Almost none of those illogical commandments, decrees or thoughts on the universe or way we should live and existence of Gods and Goddesses as creators of the universe applies now. In fact, today, each religious book reads like the most illogically insane, inhuman, anti women, unscientific, homophobic, racist and blind faith promoting stone age blah-blah. These thoughts are often child/human/animal sacrificing, incest promoting, shocking and near barbaric that reads totally anti human.

Minus a few good lines— like be kind to human beings etc— which drown in the plethora of patently illogical and often derogatory thoughts in each of the religious books, I find absolutely nothing good in most of the religious texts. These good words needn't come from religions, these good thoughts are basic principles of humanity and come as a natural consequence of being humans. Thus a close reading of each book, including the Bible— which to me has really gone through very less criticism (thanks to the cross and Santa Claus being so romanticized) given the barbarism it has inside, leaves us with nothing great that we normally wouldn't know along with unbelievable amounts of cruel and inhuman thoughts.

But then how can you blame texts written or passed on since 2000 to 5000 years back. A scientific look will tell medieval man had his main occupation as agriculture, masonry, carpentry and pottery at best unless they were soldiers with the local rulers' army. Man who knew almost nothing about the universe apart from what they saw in the form of lunar and solar behavior, seasonal changes, could only assume the earth to be definitely flat and square (or at best a sphere) and created by a supreme being. Whenever faced with unanswerable questions they created myths by telling stories. So when an earthquake happened they said we have sinned so Gods must be angry. Someone else said that the earth stands on four elephants which stands on the back of a giant turtle which balances itself on top of a cobra. So when any of them move we have earthquakes and so on.

That's how we slowly developed, till someone insisted in ancient Greece that earth is round and suspended in empty space and finally we had the first signs of modern science when Galileo Galilei made improvements in the telescope and made revolutionary contributions to Physics, Astronomy and Mathematics. And even he was charged with heresy.

That's the contribution of Religion in the evolution of human kind. Setting science back a few thousand years with its irrational unfounded medieval stories.

Religion helped man exploit women, children and masses.

It's also not incorrect to say that religion and God was invented by man for the dual purposes of keeping women fearful, and thus under his control, and to unite man to go to war against others. Apart from setting science back by about a few thousand years, the only purpose religion has served is to make human beings irrational and unscientific, take uneducated and unsuspecting masses to war and exploit women by keeping them ill educated and telling them lies about God's wants from an ideal woman. So that when men go to war, plunder and rape enemy's wife, their wives stay at home without interactions with other men; and thus their "possession" is safe behind them. The Bible for example clearly says, at war, kill every woman who has slept with a man and take for yourself the virgin. And advises women that they must marry their rapist. Reminds me of what Mark

Twain once said about the Bible, “It ain’t the parts of the Bible that I can’t understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand.”

Mark Twain also famously said, “Religion was invented when the first con man met the first fool”. Nothing could be more spot on. In place of nations having their own laws to govern human behaviour, some— perhaps well meaning and probably good— men found the use of a cooked up evidence-less concept called God and His will, a better way to make people behave the way they wanted to. From keeping control on women to making people fight against others to conquer their land, it served both the purposes well. Specially the purpose of keeping their women well behaved behind them as they went to loot, plunder and rape others from neighbouring lands, as is evident from verses from each of the three major religions of the world, Christianity, Islam and Hinduism.

I quote from the Bible, Ephesians 5:22-24

“Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.”

I quote from the Quran 4:34

“Men are the managers of the affairs of women for that Allah has preferred in bounty one of them over another, and for that they have expended their property. Righteous women are therefore obedient, guarding the secret for Allah’s guarding. And those you fear may be rebellious; banish them to their couches, and beat them. If they then obey you, look not for any way against them; Allah is All-high, All-great.”

And I quote from our Hindu scriptures:

“If a woman should not grant her man his desire, he should bribe her. If she still does not grant him his desire, he should hit her with a stick or with his hand, and overcome her, saying: ‘With power, with glory I take away your glory!’ Thus she becomes inglorious.” (Brihadaranyaka Upanishad 6.4.7)

“It is the highest duty of the woman to burn herself after her husband’s death”. (Brahma Purana 80.75)

“When a woman, proud of her relations [or abilities] deceives her husband (with another man), then the king should [ensure that] she be torn apart by dogs in place much frequented by people. And the evil man should be burnt in a bed of red-hot iron”. (Manusmriti, MS VIII: 371/372)

Of course this is just a glimpse of far more and equally worse, chauvinistic and cruel stuff on women. But then that’s not the only purpose religion has served. With barbaric concepts like stoning your disobedient son to death it helped keep children under control and I quote Deuteronomy 21:18-21:

“If any man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his father or his mother, and when they chastise him, he will not even listen to them, then his father and mother shall seize him, and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gateway of his home town. And they shall say to the elders of his city, “This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey us, he is a glutton and a drunkard.” Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death; so you shall remove the evil from your midst, and all Israel shall hear of it and fear.”

Similarly with inhuman division of people, religion helped keep the society divided:

Purusha-Sukta of Rig Veda says: “Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras originated respectively from the mouth, hands, thighs and feet of the purusha or the creator.”

And as I said earlier with deep-rooted hatred for people of other regions and religions, religion helped it’s own clan unite and kill the non believers :

2:191-193 Quran

“And slay them wherever you come upon them, and expel them from where they expelled you; persecution is more grievous than slaying. But fight them not by the Holy Mosque until they should fight you there; then,

if they fight you, slay them — such is the recompense of unbelievers, but if they give over, surely Allah is All- forgiving, All-compassionate. Fight them, till there is no persecution and the religion is Allah’s; then if they give over, there shall be no enmity save for evildoers.”

Having made clear how religion was created to rule women, divide men and control people in general through a false fear of a nonexistent and imaginary creation called God, I must say, the problem is perhaps not with these laws that they cooked up and wrote in religious scriptures, since two thousand years back many countries had similar laws without religion too.

The problem is while normal laws can change with time, and have changed everywhere across the world, laws of religion can’t be normally changed. Why? Because God gave those laws. How can you change those laws???

That actually explains why Islam is most criticised by one and all, Christianity considered more tolerant and Hinduism most peaceful. Because laws of the Quran can’t be questioned or changed at all. Be it year 517, 1517, 1917 or today in 2017. On the other hand Christians have been more market savvy, with the current Pope being most market savvy and populist. They keep changing and diluting the laws of Bible to suit the times. From lying in bed with a man the way you lie with a woman being an offence punishable by death, the current Pope, still using the Bible, is even ready to forgive gays. Thank Jesus for small mercies indeed! And Hinduism is considered above all else, at least by Hindu apologists, because reformers in Hinduism are a dime a dozen and they have changed most of the barbaric rules and made them humane without encountering impossible opposition. In Hinduism, there is no protest if you worship a stone or a towel or a cockroach because in everything there is God and there is no protest if you are a non believer too. You can still be Hindu.

However, though that doesn’t make the word religion or Hinduism any less a work of fictitious imagination as other religions; the fact is, ever since my childhood Hindus seemed to be far more embarrassed of quoting their religion to spread hatred.

Marriages are made in heaven? Not really!

When there is no heaven itself, how can anything be made in heaven. There is no heaven. There is no hell. They are subsets of religion to hold together its seductive myth. Invisible places created through pure and fertile imagination to farcically punish and reward human behaviour.

The institution of marriage is similarly another most crucial subset of religion. It's a specifically created tool, to enforce a private property act on human beings (specially women) based upon bronze age morals. While war cries of liberty and freedom rule the planet, the institution of marriage mostly evades all scrutiny despite being an institution of making human beings tied to another human being, almost slavishly, with more and more complicated rules being created by the day; instead of doing away with this concept that has long outlived it's purpose.

Two people get attracted. They want to get physically close. But hey! Wait a minute! That would involve nudity. And God doesn't mind starving millions, it doesn't mind killing millions, it doesn't mind warring millions and it doesn't mind children dying of cancer but it is specially concerned with what you do in your bedroom and with whom. And before that have you taken its permission. God is like a voyeur, looking out for sex videos 24x7. So God says you can only have an act of performing sex with your married spouse who has to be of the opposite sex (necessarily in all religions). You belong to the LGBT community? Well then we will either throw you out of the window or stone you to death and so on, depending upon which man made book we are referring to.

No God didn't say so. Men who wrote religious scriptures with their bronze age morals, insecurities, false sense of ownership based on being the "superior sex", instincts of possessiveness, petty jealousies and need to dominate women created these rules. So that their women remain subservient to their whims and fancies while they can have whom they please as I have explained previously.

The best way to legitimize this was by creating the institution of marriage that prohibited women from being objects of desire of other men once a

man put his stamp on her. A marriage meant women would need to leave their homes while the man remains where he was. Women would need to change their surname. A man remains Mr., before and after marriage. Woman becomes a Mrs. from Miss. And when things don't work out, mostly the woman who was uprooted from her family is expected to go back to her home while the man cosily retains his original space. How convenient and one sided.

Of course with time women gained more say. And society changed. And human rights and equality became tough to control. And finally with #MeToo things have taken a complete 360 degree u-turn with women giving it back in the same, often not so fair, coins!

The fact of the matter is if two consenting adults (the definition of which should be defined by scientific ability of the human body) want to go inside a room, what they do inside is none of anybody's business. And post that it's their business if they want to stay together forever or for one week or for five years. For someone true love maybe forever. For someone true love may only last for a while. For someone attraction might be the only thing. It's a matter of individual priorities and choice. And despite the forever type of true love one might realize it's not possible to stay with the same person forever. The fact of the matter is what two people do when they fall in love or get attracted must be their own business. Neither do they need the permission of the society, nor do they need to get married. Nor does any human being (read man) have the right to judge anyone by the number of people they have sex with or the type of sex they have sex with. Man in his written text said women shouldn't be having sex outside marriage. Everything about this is farcical.

In fact it's here where God and patriarchal Capitalism are inseparable and make marriage a necessity for women. Male dominated Capitalism hasn't given equal rights of ownership of property to every adult. Property ownership in the world is highly lopsided in the hands of men. So women need to get a legal stamp of marriage to get security and from there starts the crime of chauvinism. It's the failure of societies to give guaranteed access to dignified shelter that still keeps women subservient to men and get exploited. In countries like Germany where a woman knows that depending

upon the number of children she has, she will get a sizable house any day that she walks out of a marriage; Men have limited scope of exploiting women.

The new inevitable world will soon have every adult having access to a separate and independent living space, not dependent on who they stay with. And society will provide for that as a basic human right along with universal basic income.

That's the only way there will be Equality of sexes. You like someone, one of you vacate your apartment and shift together. And let's hope you stay together forever. But if one of you wants to stay separately again, society will help you gain access to another dignified shelter. When such social security exists, marriages won't be needed, nor will there be any need for ugly divorces. People will stay with each other for genuine love and feelings. And when that ceases to exist they would be free to move out without worrying about financial aspects of life. No, it's not that I want men or women to have multiple partners. But it should be to each her own. I do think a child growing up in the company of a loving set of parents and even grand parents is beautiful. At the same time if it is not to be, there shouldn't be any economic compulsions to stay put in an abusive/unhappy relationship. Human goodness and better parenting education would definitely make human beings take great care of their children. In a world where having a single parent isn't a stupid stigma, every child will grow freely in good schools with human goodness of loving people— who will be the new age family irrespective of formal marriages. And in such a world of social security with respect to property and income, even if someone is to choose marriage, I am certain it will be more of a legal matter than a matter of exploitative religious dictates.

In a nutshell it's time to get over absurd morals that judge people— specially women on their decision to exercise sexual freedom— based upon morals laid down a few thousand years back.

In India, a few years back, a trailer of a film called Jab Harry Met Sejal created a lot of controversy. In the same, Sejal comes to Harry with an indemnity bond stating that in case they were to have any sexual intimacy

or full intercourse, Harry would be absolved of all legal charges. Harry obviously finds it very exciting— specially in these days of over the top definitions of date rapes and false accusations worldwide (without trying to trivialize the same – BBC News: Does India have a problem with false rape claims?:<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-38796457>). But while Harry found it a fun and exciting proposition, some morons sitting at the Indian censor board found it vulgar and asked for a cut. It seems they were all born Jesus—you know what I mean— without intercourse obviously!

This over-the-top morality is becoming a sign of the new cow-dung worshipping, cow-brained India being lead by anomic, non-state actors like gau-rakshak groups, that is slowly but steadily making India a killing field (The Times of India; Accused of carrying beef, teen killed on train; <http://toi.in/CR9wlb/a18ag>) in the name of culture, cows and religious supremacy. We have no strong-handed clampdown on such madness coming from the top; and at the bottom, we have various gau-rakshak vigilante brigades getting a nod from people like even our home secretary (The Home Secretary thinks lynchings are over-hyped. “I think they are over-hyped and over reported,” says Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi on lynching incidents in India; <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/union-home-secretary-lynchings/1/987029.html>). It is so much so that every 5th case of communal violence in Uttar Pradesh is today linked to cow vigilantism! And it’s all because the powers that are, hellbent on creating antagonism between religious groups to polarize votes.

When you allow religious fanaticism to spread, needless to say you promote a patriarchal culture conducive to sexual harassment and rape— a growing menace in India. Of course the root cause in almost all these cases is religion, lack of education and in case of countries like India lack of speedy justice.

Yes you read it right. I am not talking of terrorism where the root cause is obviously religion, but I am talking of sexual harassment, where it’s totally no different.

When the Gods you worship in Hinduism are all male chauvinistic and consider women primarily as sexual objects; one—Krishna— teases women

for fun, another of the main Gods has sex with his own daughter, while another chases women naked for sexual gratification (and the list of male chauvinistic Gods go on); when the Bible you read approves of rape and says in a war kill all men and capture all virgins and keep them for yourself; and the Quran you read, explains a man can have sex with multiple women but a woman can't; and says a female captive in a war becomes the sex slave of the male captor... then what you have is a society where men grow up feeling entitled. And potential eve teasers.

The solution? Exposing the farce of religion with special focus on how religion was created to exploit women. Giving the right education. And having stringent laws.

It's time, specially for Indians, to crush the sense of entitlement of the menfolk who believe that like the mythological Krishna, teasing women is their birthright— specially by trying to character assassinate a woman. A woman's character isn't determined by the clothes she wears. It's time to stop being sanctimonious about sex when it comes to women and judging her the moment she breaks a set of 5000 year old morals. In order to stop rape culture, education has to be spread about the fact that if a woman prefers one man throughout her life, a hundred men or if she prefers women is her business. And irrespective of her preference, there is something called "consent", which is a must.

Sadly, while the world is moving forward - with definitions of marriages, sex, judging people on the basis of their sexual preferences and number of partners becoming totally outdated worldwide— Indians are moving 'coward'.

In 2017, The New York Times did a path breaking piece on open marriages (<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/11/magazine/is-an-open-marriage-a-happier-marriage.html>). And while my views on this are far less apologetic and clearer than the way this rare and lovely article addresses the issue, the reality is that the world is heading towards a far more liberal attitude towards sex than our cow-vigilantes would allow.

Actually, the problem is also that for far too long, we have stupidly

inflated things like the immature and unintelligent virtuousness of being a virgin etc. and tied down women with far too many stereotypes.

Truth is, of course, that neither is there any virtue in those stereotypes and, more hilariously, nor have women ever been like that. I have been telling everyone for more than two decades now: get married only if you want a/another sibling to share your life with... Not if you are thinking of having the initial feeling of crazed up attraction last forever. If some people manage to retain that, my respects. But it's necessarily quite unnatural—scientifically and logically. As The New York Times' piece suggests— and I strongly believe— to get that feeling of attraction, which is a natural desire, perhaps you need to realise that you need to look beyond the concept of marriage. For we need to understand that a marriage is a creation by the society to legalize something which never needed any legalizing. It was a creation to dominate women and brand them as one's personal property. While officially men were also supposed to become the same (barring in Islam where women had to possibly share them with three more women, officially), the fact is they never cared. But men failed to realise the other reality. Women also never really cared. Men only lived an illusory life thinking that their women remained their personal property. Because for every man looking for a relationship outside his marriage, there was an equal number of women. It was never one woman satisfying the needs of the rest of the 3.5 billion men (assuming all men have been looking for relations outside their marriage, as all women like to point out)!!! more men got caught, while women only charged their men and cried victim, while hiding their relations nicely (and often using these tears to get into newer and more secretive relationships). That's all. While men know that someone else's wife is having a relationship (with him or his friends), they generally had less idea about their wife and some other man had more!

In a nutshell, it's time now to give up traditional religion-based completely irrelevant concepts of marriage. We can raise children without getting married; we can have children without getting married; we can live happily without getting married; and most importantly, we can love someone of the opposite sex as deeply and have intercourse with them freely without getting married. And we can still have a love that lasts forever and makes

you stay together forever.

In fact, the obsession with being the sole sexual right holder of your partner is the reason behind breaking down of love and relations. Getting to realise that, respecting each other's independence, and giving each other space is the only way to have gender equality. It's sad that parents proudly talk about their son having many girlfriends. But when it comes to their daughter, they limit themselves to praising her dancing skills or music abilities. Well, the truth is that she is being introduced by different boys in their homes as their respective girlfriend. Just that she is good at lying in her own home. Let's not make liars out of our daughters by making them feel that they lose their purity if they have a boy friend or if they fall in love. That's a shame.

The concept of marriage, like religion, is dated. It can only make a world of 7 billion liars. After all, is it not so farcical to cry hoarse about feminism and women's rights and then get dirtily legal to get moneys from your partner during a divorce? Be independent and live in your own merit and as per what the society can provide for all.

No wonder in the commercially successful Indian film PK, the protagonist PK— from a different planet— was so amused at why everyone was in general so secretive about sex, and yet gave a massive marriage party to announce to the world that tonight they would be having sex with each other. PK was never a movie about religion alone. It was about the shame of treating sex as a taboo, and about gender equality... Sadly, not many people realised this.

As more and more people stay without getting married (less than 50 percent of adults in USA now live with their spouse compared to 75 percent plus in 1960s), let's cheer this generation of forward-thinking adults, boys and girls, who are slowly but steadily bringing about gender equality more than anything else. In any case, as the average age of healthy living for the next generation hurtles towards upwards of 100 years (and perhaps lot more soon) as per each and every research, to declare yourself the sole property of one person for 75 to 100 years of your life sounds almost immature and absurd. At least it shouldn't be through any kind of external force. Without

the pressure or legality if you are with someone forever, that's a far higher level of love than when you are bound by laws and marriage. For the first time in a public forum— apart from with my students— I touched upon this in the forum for equality that we organized recently in London. And am glad that it was well received.

Religion is harmful for children

As they say we are all born atheists but very few of us are lucky enough to remain so. Because when it comes to religion or God, from almost the day we are born our parents start feeding our brains with lies. Be it through various pujas and namakaran ceremonies or baptism or janeyu ceremony or circumcision. Blatant lies without evidence. By pure force, autocratic advantage of being our parents and due to their personal faith. Luckily my parents never tried to feed me with lies about God's existence so I could decide about God based on evidence. And since there is none of it, I could freely reject its existence. However, of late as I see children around me growing up I have become from an atheist to an anti- theist. And I thought it's my duty to write my feelings for the sake of my son and all children who are our future.

My biggest objection to religion and God is because I have realised that by believing in God we harm our kids most. We make our kids dependent on an illusory external force which takes away their self confidence and ability to achieve in life. And that's scary. It's of utmost importance to realise— specially for every child— that there is absolutely nothing called God simply because of complete lack of evidence and logic. There can't be. And make them realise all these religious books from the Gita to the Bible to the Quran, have been written by manipulating human beings— most likely though with good intentions— to show people a better moral path, however as per their extremely limited understanding at that point of time, one and a half to three thousand years back. Thus, unfortunately, as mostly illiterate shepherds and farmers of medieval ages they wrote about low IQ morals which helped promote their illogical concepts of Gods in order to dominate women and rule the poor then.

I am always worried about kids seeing their favorite biology teacher—

who teaches about evolution and fossils— at a Sunday mass/Thursday Sai Baba temple/ Friday namaz... The kids clearly would learn nothing, for if evolution were to be true, and the biology teacher really believed in it, she wouldn't be found in a church or a temple. The same goes for the physics teacher who teaches about the universe and at the same time wears a stone on his finger, or the chemistry teacher who teaches about the chemicals required to spot life on other planets and keeps a Monday fast or eats vegetarian food on Tuesdays, or the history teacher who is supposed to teach about facts of the past and comes to the classroom with a red tika on his forehead; and the geography teacher who is supposed to teach about the formation of landscapes and keeps navratra fasts. Because then there is no need to teach anything, as God believers have one answer for everything— God created it! That's genuinely scary and pitiable. Imagine, then what's the need of teaching all these subjects like biology, chemistry, geography at all? After all, where is the role of science compared to, for example, the amazing intelligence of primitives who wrote the Bible, where all the species of animals on this planet stay within walking distance of Noah's house! We can either teach in class how life on Earth came as a result of the process of evolution over 4 billion years and that human beings evolved not even from apes but in a straight line from a fish (and how before multicellularity evolved about the three billion years back, for the first one billion years of evolution of life there were only single celled organisms that are evolving even till date), or teach how God created man and woman. We can either teach how rains happen scientifically or teach how praying to rain Gods and fasting for it, brings rains. If we teach the former we must not do the latter.

A child should be always encouraged to question and understand things on the basis of rationale. Else its pure child abuse to use the blank slate of his brain and fill it up with unsubstantiated man made lies.

I strongly advocate, just like sale of cigarettes and alcohol to children is banned any no child is allowed inside bars, no child should be allowed inside any place of worship or be allowed to be a part of any religious ceremony till the age of 18. Can you imagine how she will laugh when at the age of 18 she first steps inside a temple or a mosque? She would roll on the floor laughing at the childishness of such acts of l worship. And that's

exactly the reason why we indoctrinate kids into religion even before they can question. So that they take can never laugh at its irrationality. They are forced to believe this is the truth. And then later in life when they meet someone rational who explains them that there can be no God, they just can't come out of their evidence-less belief system. They keep arguing like buffoons though they realise they don't have any argument. They try their best to refute the fact that they acted foolishly all these years. It's really hard on them because religious indoctrination has already closed their brains to questioning their belief system. They are already too used to saying God bless, RIP, OMG, I swear upon God, touch wood and all such meaningless stuff. They have already grown used to crossing their fingers and sitting during crucial moments of their life believing God is going to help them fulfil their unfulfilled wish.

To get rid of such habits inculcated from childhood then becomes traumatic. For, it has to begin with accepting that they acted foolishly all these years.

Religion ruins every important occasion of your life and makes you do something stupid.

Imagine. It often begins even before you are born. When your mother is pregnant, there is a religious ceremony. In fact to get pregnant there are ceremonies. When the child is born there is a ceremony. At adolescence there is a ceremony of indoctrination (it could involve something be as painful as removal of the foreskin from the male penis). When the child is about to be an adult there is a ceremony. There is a ceremony when you get married. When you die. It doesn't leave you even after death— as in some religions there could be an annual death anniversary religious ceremony. When you buy a new house there is a ceremony, when you buy a new car, when you get a new job, it just never leaves you. And then of course preferably every Sunday you are expected to play toy-toy in your nearest toy house that houses the idols. It doesn't even spare the only day you to laze around— your Sundays. In Islam you are actually expected to do prayers five times a day. Then of course all religions have your fasting weeks and months!

Religion ruins every happy day of your life by making you do something brainless and foolish. And I have not even started to question the meaning of the things it expects you to recite and pray during each such ceremony. Stuff that's steeped inside middle age morals and completely outdated and unscientific understanding of universe and how things work. In Hindus, you sit during a marriage ceremony and say things that are outright chauvinistic and backward, just like during a Christian wedding ceremony.

Staying away from religion would help you enjoy life to the fullest. It will not ruin your present life for the sake of an imaginary concocted better after-life.

Religion is not needed to be Moral.

They say religion at least instills morality. That also is baseless. Which moral? Marry your rapist moral? Yes deluded morality of authoritarian stone age people whose main occupation was farming and warring. To me if morality is equal to stupidity then religion sure does put that inside man. Else in reality it's quite the opposite. It promotes— as rightly put by Richard Dawkins—war mongering, slavery, meanness, genocides and ethnic cleansing, indiscriminate massacre, intolerance, complete hostility to science and free thoughts, and worse of all, suppression and coercion of women and children. Most importantly we don't need morals from religions. Plus various experiments have shown that morality is no less— if not more— in atheists when compared to religious people. At least atheism has fought no wars unlike religions that has a savage track record of killing countless over years— from crusades to jihads. And of course, anything that has to be made right in the society we must do it through means of education and implement it through laws, policing and an efficient judiciary. As the great scientist Einstein said, “if people are good only because they fear punishment, and hope for a reward, we are a sorry lot indeed.” Thankfully though that's not the truth.

If religion were to instill morals then priests wouldn't be sexually molesting children in the Church, suicide bombers wouldn't be killing innocent people in the name of Islam every other day and in India we wouldn't have had saffron clad people encouraging lynching of Muslims. No

morals have nothing to do with religion. Morals also come from evolution. Human emotions and the ability to differentiate good from bad has come over thousands of years through evolution. Watching violence and pain makes us flinch and realise it's wrong to give it to others. A child's smile makes us smile and make us realise what happiness is. Human morals have evolved like the human being herself.

Any yet, despite all evolution, it's human to do bad as well. And to stop bad from happening we don't need religion. We don't need another bad—a lie to stop a bad. We need laws. To keep people on the right path that a democratic society has evolved to believe in, we need laws and ways to enforce those laws. Not religion.

For, forget about religion playing any role in making people moral and peaceful what we have seen on the contrary is that while science takes us to Mars, religion has at best taken us to sky scrapers. It is that single thing that has a constant track record of making fanatics out of sane human beings. Temples, churches, mosques and now messaging apps through daily irrational (supposedly motivational) messages about God make a literal fool of man by saying unending lies in the name of God, beginning from the first lie about the existence of God itself. They promote day in and day out infantile things about how God looks after everybody and everything happens as per his plan. Shocks me no ends. It is that one single thing that stops us from achieving more. If people could just believe in the fact that there is no God planning things for them they would more actively take charge of their destiny. Instead we have the world's stupidest books like 'The Secret' destroying the intelligence of well educated adults. It's like saying there is a supreme being who is invisible and sitting somewhere up there and is watching all our moves 24x7 and accounting for them in his super computer and rewarding for each good deed and punishing for each evil deed. For every good deed you do God is keeping a track and worry not you get a reward. So after doing all your crimes, when you die and go up, he checks your records and the moment he sees you ate vegetarian food on Tuesdays for him, he instantly orders the gates of heaven for be opened for you!!

Thus, everytime you are happy or get some results of your good deeds

it's not because you did something good, but because God gave you a reward!! And whenever a good man or woman is getting punished and dying out of hunger or curable disease it's because he was punished for the sins of his previous birth. Similarly whenever an evil man lives his whole life on earth happily and cheerfully enjoying all material and other comforts of life, worry not. He will be burning in a huge fire place in hell. And if that's not good enough he will even be punished in his next life. How convenient a plan! Full proof from all angles against all arguments! Creative fantasy story telling at its best!

Think about it... and YOU MUST even if there was a God of the above kind why should anyone worship such a sadistic video gamer. Sitting up there and having fun at human misery. He has time to watch you make love before marriage and punish you for that, but no time to take care of those little kids dying of hunger and curable diseases. A megalomaniacal Kim Jong Un of North Korea kind of a dictator. A guy whom you have to keep praying to and singing songs on his praise, for good to happen. So that temple and church coffers keep getting filled up. Shame. The whole thing is purely a sinister ploy promoting only illogical foolishness against the pure logic of evolution. There is no God that created man. Man created God. That's the only truth. Those stone age guys without education and electricity living on an average 20 years and dying of simple fevers could be pardoned for being fearful of something above. Educated men and women of today? Well its a pure shame. As the scientific question goes, if God created man, who by the way created fossils (that go on to prove evolution)!

What is further painful is that every major religious book uses promotion of guilt around natural urges to promote itself. Sex being one of the most widely used, thus most of the key religions not only go on to promote irrational ideas around abstinence from sex but even some kind of genital mutilation. From sex to jealousy they try to use various natural urges to control your mind through the guilt button. The answer to the guilt is then to believe in God and seek his mercy by taking punishment. Once the guilt has been established it makes you believe in going through stupid pain as the answer to your so called crime. Too often it's just a thought crime because apparently God is keeping a watch on your thoughts while you sleep too! So

whip yourself, walk 14 km to Vaishno Devi, roll yourself through a rocky terrain. Makes you believe in self inflicted pain and sacrifice of the stupidest kind for Gods happiness including child sacrifice and human sacrifice. Forget it, religion goes on to say suffering is a gift of God. So if you are poor and suffering don't question your leaders, it's a gift of God. Even Mother Teresa instead of promoting women's emancipation promoted such ridiculous concepts, despite all the good she did. Today in India we have ministers who actually say if God hasn't been able to do anything about poverty then what can he do.

Religion constantly takes advantage of guilts and fears. Of course that doesn't mean human beings should lead a guilt free life. It only means if they do something for which there is no law punishing them, they need not have any guilt. Who are religious institutions to decide what we should feel guilty about and what is the punishment we should go through for that?

Religion works on fear

The biggest fear it takes advantage of is death. And to avoid death man is ready to do anything. Anything as stupid as sitting in front of a stone and praying or wearing a stone on his finger and roaming around!! The truth is death has nothing to do with God. Religion or God has never saved anyone from death. Science and medicine does that. No religion has done a real miracle like say growing back a severed leg or hand. All so called miraculous cures that have ever happened at rare times after visit to God, are incidents for which there was always a scientific chance of happening. And obviously there is no after life. After death the number of people going to heaven are ZERO and to hell are ZERO. Because after death, we are all DEAD. That's all. We go nowhere. Nor are we born again.

The rule of religion is simple. Pray. If it works (obviously by pure probability) praise God. If it doesn't work, say that God works in mysterious ways. He has another plan for you. Praise God! Utter nonsense. Religion makes you believe in superiority of only one religion, the religion you practice... and actually by that logic every religion makes you an atheist about all other religions except for one— your own. So the only difference between an atheist and a religious man in that sense, is that an atheist

believes in one God lesser than a religious man. The truth however is, as Christopher Hitchens would say— since it's obviously inconceivable that all religions are correct, the most logical answer is that they are all wrong. And elaborate by saying in any case, anything that can be forced upon you without evidence can be dismissed without evidence as well.

Religion creates God-men and God-women.

Good people or bad people they end up fooling you— whichever the religion.

Being an Indian I have seen all kinds of God men and God women! Good human beings like Mother Teresa to fraud rapists created by the political rapists and con men of India— who when found guilty of rape hold the entire country to ransom through acts of vandalism and rioting.

What makes me sad is that when such painful things happen, all WhatsApp forwards and posts condemning such heinous barbarism, still try to justify God and religion!! Most forwards and messages I receive at such times say it's a shame that we have such people running empires in the name of God (as if they know God personally and know how good she is).. Some posts even say, may God bless the souls of those killed in the riots.

Wait a minute, didn't we just take those lives in the name of God only? And isn't everything done under the supervision of God only? And whatever God does isn't it always for the good? Then why any sorrow for those getting killed? Be happy! God does everything for the good. It is God who is getting them killed. All those getting killed must be paying the price of some crime in their previous birth. Oops no... may be God is relieving them sooner from the punishment of being born on

Earth— depending upon which illogical cock and bull story you believe in.

How irrational indeed!!

As the saying goes “Cataract remains the second biggest reason for blindness, religion being the first...”

My advice to all such friends— stop saying ‘may God bless you’. Stop saying ‘in God’s name stop the crimes’. Stop saying ‘these are the God-men who spoil the name of God’.

Grow up. Realize that God and Religion are the two biggest con games ever invented on Earth. When you say God bless, you not only betray your illiteracy but you also promote the fraudulent exploitative concept of God and religion which for many, then, take shape of various kinds of extremism.

There is no God. Full stop.

The more you go in search of God, the more you will fall for rapists and con men. The more you will fall for fake God-men who create various religions through cooked up fables and stories. The more you will fall for divisive political leaders, rapists and murderers who will con you exactly like God-men, by using religion as their trump card.

Stay far far away from God and religion. That’s the way logical, intelligent strong people live their lives. And remember, “In the eradication of Religion and elimination of Income and Gender inequality lie the secrets of Global Humanism.”

Yes, it’s true not all God-men are bad human beings. But they still make a fool of you or are used by others to make you a fool. Like in the case of Mother Teresa.

When I was really young, and though even then I never believed in God, we used to celebrate Saraswati Puja as a part of our local club’s annual ritual! My father had told me that we must not use the entire surplus from the Puja to buy cricket kits etc for our club. We must also do some good work like donating to Mother Teresa. And like an obedient son, to get over the guilt of buying a cricket bat, we had donated half of the surplus to Missionaries of Charity. I still have that letter of thanks from Nirmal Hriday.

But as I look back, I find probably that’s the only purpose Mother ever served. For all the western capitalists and countries full of guilt of exploiting the rest of the world and doing precious nothing for them, she was a western symbol of altruism— promoting whom, made them feel less guilty of their

unending craving for self gratification. So all shades of moneyed people used her... And she used them in turn happily. There were billionaire frauds and scammers who felt guilt- free donating to her and she actually paid them back by giving character certificates to them (she actually wrote to the judge trying the ‘Ponzi King’ Charles Keating, in support of him).

And of course to the conservative autocratic Catholic church she served far more. To them she was the unsuspecting global ambassador of fundamentalism. Behind whom they could promote more of their uneducated evidence less fanaticism. No wonder then that post her global recognition she hardly spent time in Kolkata but despite her claims of being non political, she spent the rest of her life hobnobbing with politicians and most importantly supporting them. They included politicians of all shades, from criminals like Haitian President to dictatorial murderers like the Albanian President to global political war mongers in the name of democracy like Ronald Reagan to the radical criminals forces of Nicaraguan contras. And of course these travels around the world were in a private jet given to her by another corrupt politician through his ill gotten moneys.

No don’t get me wrong. I do not consider mother an evil human being without goodness. No. Like many of the bronze age men who wrote all our religious books, she was probably good hearted. With her limited knowledge and blind beliefs she did try to do very good work. But a lot of what she sure did and propagated, like what’s written in all our religious books was harmful for mankind. From stoning your disobedient son to death, to killing your wife for infidelity to marrying your rapist, you name an evil and I will show you a religious book with a moral guideline justifying that evil. I am sure men who propagated the Indian evil called Sati also thought they were doing good for the women and saving them from the eyes of lecherous men post the death of her husband by burning her alive her in the same pyre. But the fact is these are all medieval and shameful commandments of illiterates. So was the Mother, when she said poverty is a gift of God and nothing could be done about it. That was her basic premise as she insisted that she was not a social worker but a messenger of Jesus whose main aim was to spread Christianity. Apart from the fact that in today’s age and time anyone trying to spread religion is contempt worthy and is basically trying to divide the

world on the basis of evidence less so called stupid moral guidelines of their God, she was completely wrong with her logic about poverty. Poverty is man made. It's created through exploitation of the marginalized and there is lot people can do against it and last thing they need to do is stupidly accept it as a gift of God. Poverty is created by heartless and criminal politicians and helps them to rule nations. And this basic tenet of mother was the greatest proof of her lack of education and understanding of the world, however good a human being she might have been.

But it doesn't stop there. For her the sole aim was literally to help the poor die instead of save them. How else could one explain the complete lack of scientific facilities in her clinic despite unbelievable amounts of donations. The best pain killer she would give, to even those in crazy pain caused by cancer, was aspirin. People were operated without anaesthesia and needles were washed in cold water and reused. The aim was somehow to convert a dying patient into Christianity and then help him die. They actually secretly baptised dying people irrespective of their religion, that was the level of her cult's illiterate fanaticism. People who could be easily cured by sending them to a nearby hospital were not sent there and people who could be easily saved by antibiotics weren't given that, such pathetic was her understanding of science and worth of human lives. If something could be bought from the market, it wasn't bought. For the only thing to be used was what came through donations. Such poor were her facilities that when she fell ill, she didn't have the courage to use her own facilities and instead went to California for her treatment.

Her twisted logic and dogma had worse results. In her Nobel prize winning speech she hilariously said abortions were the biggest threat to peace in the world and she went around the world denouncing abortions due to her medieval believes.

If those kinds of imbecile acts weren't enough, she went against the use of condoms in Africa, while they died of HIV/AIDS. While being honored by international health organisation she actually said AIDS was a retribution for improper sexual contact. That was her level of dumbed down religious dogma.

While her charity got donations of upwards of an estimated 100 million dollars, her clinics remained in horrible conditions. She could have easily built many a good hospital but she preferred to spend only less than an estimated 10 percent of her funds on her work or for the poor. Instead she offered prayers and praised Christ when any tragedy struck, for prayers are the best way of doing nothing while someone else suffers. This was most conspicuous when she offered nothing else but prayers for Bhopal gas victims.

Even in her death she was used to fool the world. Through her canonization. Nothing could be more ludicrous. Two miracles and two doves. All that's needed to prove your so called miraculous powers? That's nothing more than a joke. Her sainthood was nothing but the Catholic church returning the favor that she did to them by being the greatest ambassador of its good work thanks to her espousing poverty and living an entire life in a white saree that became the symbol of Christian altruism and third world poverty. The fact is miracles never happen. All so called miraculous powers are some kind of fraud. When there are thousands who fall ill, some who seem incurable get cured. That's not a miracle. That's how the human body works. Attributing that to someone's miraculous powers is outright stupid. And the same happened to the woman who said she had brain tumors and mother cured. She got cured as her tumors must have been temporary and curable. And the other miracle attributed to Mother is the most delusional. The woman most likely never had cancer at the first place and church refused to investigate all that because the story suited their interest. All stories of her seeing light from mothers picture are bound to be pure delusions of an affected mind.

You know friends what's a miracle? Next time someone claims to have miraculous powers, ask them to make a severed hand or leg grow back. That's a miracle as I keep saying. That never happens. That can never happen. Because that's science. We didn't see faith healers in hospitals. Else we wouldn't need science and doctors. And that's why I found the entire act of celebrate Mothers miracles and her sainthood completely brainless and a perfect con game to keep the flag of the Church flying.

I wish at least the media and journalists would have used their brain

more than get fooled by blind beliefs without questioning rationale. While celebrating all good she did, the media should have told people that there aren't any saints on this planet. Yes there are a few great human beings. And Mother could be considered one of them. But we must question, how is anyone qualified to make someone a Saint? And mislead the masses.

And the irony and injustice of it all was, you are exalted to a higher echelon only if you had miraculous powers, not because you strove your life for the poor and the needy. Tragic indeed.

Religion makes making a fool of yourself fashionable.

And a majority of the celebrities and leaders you admire most end up looking brain dead. Let's take the case of the death of Stephen Hawkins.

It was a clear case in point showing how our celebrities and world wide political leaders have low intelligence with respect to understanding of religion and God. Twitter was flooded with messages like 'RIP' and 'may God bless his soul' which in effect were an insult to Stephen Hawking and his body of work— just like such phrases are meaningless tributes to anyone else.

Stephen Hawking fabulously said "Before we understand science, it is natural to believe that God created the universe. But now science offers a more convincing explanation." Though he metaphorically referred to God in his book *A brief History of Time*, he clarified multiple times later that he was an atheist and that he didn't believe in the existence of God or an after-life. He believed the human brain to be like a computer and said just like a broken down computer doesn't go to heaven similarly a brain that stopped working has no after-life.

Thus as I saw thousands of RIP messages on my mobile and social media and hundreds of them from celebrities and film stars that the masses look upto and idolize, I couldn't help but feel sad for Stephen Hawking, the greatest physicist that our generation saw. The man who thought 'We are just an advanced breed of monkeys on a minor planet of a very average star', has left behind billions of mourners who don't seem to even be in the category of advanced breeds of monkeys. How else do you explain saying stuff like

may his soul rest in peace or God bless his soul or I pray his soul while paying homage to a man who never believed in after-life or God.

Many people have asked me what happens when we die. And my answer has always been about 6 trillion bacteria take over our body and before they spread a stench we need either burn it or bury it. That's all that happens. There is no soul (there is nothing called a soul or spirit) that escapes the body and goes to the 'imaginary Disneyland' called heaven where it again takes shape of a body and starts interacting with all the other souls floating around. It's a nice fairy tale to console low IQ and unscientific people. But a really shallow thing to tell as intelligent breeds of advanced monkeys.

But then how do we explain it to masses who are so devoid of basic understanding of science and so swayed by the unquestionable faith on something that has no proof of existence (God) specially when everyone they look upto talks in the same low IQ language— be it the president of USA (not just Trump who in any case has questionable intelligence but even most his predecessors including the so called intelligent Obama) to their favourite film stars.

While globally in sports we have hardly any one who doesn't believe in God (that's expected given they barely graduate school on an average), in Hollywood we still have intelligent stars who take a bold stance against religion and God, but in India's Bollywood, all our stars seem to be either unintelligent with respect to their understanding of the universe and God or compromised individuals who despite their intelligence keep mouthing off meaningless words like "God Bless" and "Pray for you" and "RIP".

I mean how meaningless can these words be. Either their vocabulary is bad or they are completely uninvolved while they respond and think its a popular and stylish thing to say to foolish masses who they believe will swallow anything unintelligent that they say without asking questions. So everytime they end a speech they say God bless. Everytime they meet a fans they say God bless. Everytime some devastation takes place anywhere they say I am praying for the victims. And everytime someone dies they say RIP.

Let's now explore what exactly are they trying to say.

And what were the options they had. When they say God bless. They are basically saying something that I have no idea of or you have no idea of and no one has ever seen but who we believe has apparently created this universe that has about 200 billion galaxies (with about 400 billion stars each) about 14 billion years back should in his super computer press a button of his blessings for you. Yes sure. That's all that he is waiting to do isn't it? That too when we believe that God already has a perfect pre-determined plan for all of us. But alas as Stephen Hawking himself put it humorously 'I have noticed even people who claim everything is predestined, and that we can do nothing to change it, look before they cross the road.'

Could we do better? Of course we could. The simplest thing that we could say instead is I wish the best for you all. It's a good wish without any blind believe involved.

What do we do when we say I am praying for the victims of the disaster. They mean that they are basically praying to the same God who created the disaster that there should be less pains in the life of the ones he (tough to write she here because if God actually existed and was a woman then she wouldn't be screwing things up so bad so often) left half dead and in pain and orphaned. Could there be a bigger joke? In my mind no.

What could they do? The least is they could say my thoughts go out for those who are pain and have been struck with this disaster. They could even donate so that the relief work could be more effective. And again, two helping hands are far better than two folded hands. So they could even join the relief work like many often do. But the last thing anyone wants are their prayers. They are meaningless and least involved.

Finally what do they mean when they say RIP? Well if we take the example of India actress, Sridevi, they are trying to say, you were just cruelly drowned by God in a tub full of water leaving behind two little girls without a mom but now you must get peace as you are with the same God who gave you this cruel death. Or gave you 55 years of life with ALS syndrome (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's Disease, a neurological disease that impacts movement) in the case of Stephen Hawking. Sridevi's death if anything should be taken as proof of non

existence of God or him being cruel in case he does exist just like the painful life of Stephen Hawking proved. I mean isn't it time to get more intelligent than that. Specially if we are paying homage to someone like Hawking who never believed in God.

So what could they say instead? Well as simple as 'Stephen Hawking will live in our memories'. Stephen Hawking will be remembered for his exceptional work. We will try to focus on his beautiful deeds than his painful death that has left us all shattered.

Really it's time someone took this message to our celebrities and asked them to behave more intelligently in public. In India, before every film's release, we see our biggest of stars going mindlessly to temples to seek blessings of a stone idol run by a clever marketing manager or to a fake God-man (all God-men are frauds... have you ever wondered how none can show a video recording of God coming and talking to them though all claim to have conversions with Gods) and encouraging blind beliefs and unsubstantiated faiths. Every now and then tweeting about God's kindness and about fantasy concepts like souls, consciousness and spirits. And then sending mindless religious wishes on so many occasions that are less of a cultural fun (like say diwali) but more of a harmful tradition spreading some social evil (like Karva Chauth). Above all someone specially needs to have a chat with our sports icons. I mean imagine. What do you have to say after winning a world cup? Well... I thank God for this world cup. Without him we wouldn't have ever won this cup. I dedicate this to him!!! Yes sure. He has no time to feed the millions dying of malnutrition in sub-saharan Africa, no ability to cure the ALS syndrome of Hawking in 55 years or even no time to save a drowning lady; But he was watching your match with keen interest and making sure you win it. It's like a style statement. I thank God. How about the hundreds of teams which never win. How about the guys who come second or third. They couldn't win because you were more skilled on the given day or because God had decided to punish him despite their team being better?

I only hope and wish we at least behave like advanced breed of monkeys—that Stephen Hawking thought of human beings as—in our daily behaviour instead of its stone age and unscientific cave men versions.

Religious people obviously have less IQ. It's rational and research proves so.

In fact, leave alone religion and God, to me personally, it's a shame that in 2019, we still have a word called atheists. I mean, do we have a word for those who believe that the Earth is round? Do we have a word for those who believe $2 + 2 = 4$? Do we have a word for those who believe that humans can't fly? Do we have a word for those who believe that humans can't have ten heads? Well, the answer is no. Because all that is normal and requires basic intelligence. On the contrary, if we were to define people who don't understand such basic logic, we would need to form a new word that would basically mean "low IQ people in need of special care."

If we don't have a word for people believing in basic and normal things, then why do we have a word for those who don't believe in God, something for which, in 4 billion years of existence of Earth, there has been no evidence? I often wonder, why don't we address the believers of God simply as "low IQ people in need of special care"?

Actually, I am not joking. Research after research has proven that people who believe in God or religion have a lower IQ. Just take a look at some of the below mentioned studies:

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/mr-personality/201312/why-are-religious-people-generally-less-intelligent> <https://blogs.psychcentral.com/faith/2012/05/religious-people-are-stupid-and-mean-studies-show/> However, my idea is not to humiliate anyone who believes in God. Only education can help them overcome their intellectual handicap; and over time, just the way people learnt that the Earth is round and it goes around the Sun and $2 + 2 = 4$, they will learn that there can't be anything called God and being religious is really meaningless. The real problem is that schools and colleges don't give us real education. They don't make us question everything that's not based on evidence.

The premier institutions across the globe don't teach about the irrationality of primitive, unscientific and brainless religious systems and don't have proper subjects on relationships and sex. Instead, across the

world, one would find a cross or a church inside the campus, a Ganesha or a Saraswati statue at the entrance of the school, or prayers to the non-existent Lord every morning... And with this, we give rise to generations of idiots and semi-frustrated and unbalanced souls... Those who will either disrespect others on the basis of man-made irrational differentiations like caste, colour or religion, or on the basis of sex. Someone will put pathetic forwards on religion (either running down some other religion or praising their own—both of which are signs of equal amounts of stupidity and lack of rationale) and someone else on women... And in the case of India, we will have a nation trying to deal with gau-raksha vigilantes and rapists. Religious fanatics and sexists, two typical character traits of the ill-educated garbage that premier institutions keep producing all across the world.

As I mentioned earlier, that religious individuals have low IQ is quite evident by almost all researches done around the world: however, those who, apart from practicing it, go to the extent of pulling down other religions in public and in public forums like Twitter, WhatsApp, Facebook, YouTube etc. are perfect examples additionally of how religion finally makes you irrational extremists. Be it Islam, Christianity, Sikhism or Hinduism.

I don't expect everyone to become anti-theists but at least by now shouldn't we all have had secular values?

In an article (<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/our-humanity-naturally/201103/misinformation-and-facts-about-secularism-and-religion>) David Niose brings out how secularism not only is rational but also leads to less crime, sexism, murders and every ill one can think of. The article is based on a path-breaking research paper by Phil Zuckerman of Pitzer College, titled *Atheism, Secularity, and Well-Being: How the Findings of Social Science Counter Negative Stereotypes and Assumptions*.

Zuckerman analyzed a wide array of data comparing religious nations to less religious nations and also, interestingly, religious states within the United States (i.e. "Bible-belt" states) to less religious states.

He found out that religious people were more likely to engage in: Criminal behaviour: Citing four different studies, Zuckerman states:

“Murder rates are actually lower in more secular nations and higher in more religious nations where belief in God is widespread.” He also states: “Of the top 50 safest cities in the world, nearly all are in relatively non-religious countries.” Within the United States, we see the same pattern. Citing census data, he writes: “And within America, the states with the highest murder rates tend to be the highly religious, such as Louisiana and Alabama, but the states with the lowest murder rates tend to be the among the least religious in the country, such as Vermont and Oregon.”

And these findings are not limited to murder rates, as rates of all violent crimes tend to be higher in “religious” states. Zuckerman also points out that atheists are very much under-represented in the American prison population (only 0.2%).

Marriage and family: Zuckerman cites a 1999 Barna study that finds that atheists and agnostics actually have lower divorce rates than religious Americans. He also cites another study, in Canada that found that conservative Christian women experienced higher rates of domestic violence than non-affiliated women.

Unprotected sex: ...Teens who make religion-inspired “virginity pledges” are not only just as likely as their non-pledging peers to engage in premarital sex, but more likely to engage in unprotected sex.

Not just the above, but he also observed that atheists were happier people. The most secular nations in the world report the highest levels of happiness among their population. Similarly, atheists were more altruistic: Secular nations such as those in Scandinavia donate the most money and supportive aid, per capita, to poorer nations. Zuckerman also reports that two studies show that, during the Holocaust, “the more secular people were, the more likely they were to rescue and help persecuted Jews.” It’s pertinent to mention here—No, atheism is no Religion nor is Atheism the reason why communists killed anyone and no, Hitler wasn’t an atheist.

Lastly, Zuckerman, citing numerous studies, shows that atheists and agnostics, when compared to religious people, were actually less likely to be nationalistic, racist, anti-Semitic, dogmatic, ethnocentric, and authoritarian.

Secularism also correlates to higher education levels. Atheists and other secular people are also much more likely to support women's rights and gender equality, as well as gay and lesbian rights. Religious individuals are more likely to support government use of torture.

Need I write more about the virtues of secularism? The Chinese Communist Party has directed its people to give up religion. Yes, while becoming non-religious should be the ultimate goal of education and every nation, the minimum we need to start is by making secularism a non negotiable tenet of daily life. Something that can't be questioned. Something that can't be mocked. Instead of making it mandatory for example, for Indians to stand for national anthems in cinema halls and fanning primitive concepts of nationalism that are actually non- secular and racist (specially in the case of India where nationalism instantly means abusing Pakistanis, which in turns fans anti-Muslim feelings and turns non secular), the Supreme Court might as well make it mandatory to respect secular tenets of the Constitution of India.

Not just for Global Humanism but even for "Personal Success", the first thing that we all have to do is to stay away from God.

The more you will believe in God, worse will be your life and less will be your success.

Because by now you surely have understood, there is absolutely nothing called God. Believing in God is like handing over the reigns of your life to someone that's as imaginary and non existent as Superman or Wonder Woman. And it's a pure waste of time to even spend a moment thinking of God or praying to her/him... No prayer has ever been heard or will ever be heard. Everything that happens is due to your efforts or at times luck and coincidence.

The time we waste praying to God, should be used in much more useful work to build on our mission in life in order to achieve success and to take control of our life. God is the best tool to keep people fooled, exploited, manipulated and even unproductive.

Everyone should stay away from is this medieval concept of God that

was used to explain everything that was unknown to mankind, to uneducated shepherds of those medieval times. From birth to rainfall to thunderstorm to evolution, everything that was attributed to God has slowly been explained by science.

Scarier is the divisive concept of religion based on this completely fraudulent and man made concept of God.

Focus on your goals . Work on them. Achieve them.

And for your child's future's sake please don't force such irrational concept on the poor kid just because your parents did that irrational thing with you. The only reason you believe in God is because your parents forced it down your throats and never let you question it's complete irrationality. Don't do it with your child. Let him grow independent, logical and confident without any fake fear of the irrational. Be it Gods or Ghosts. By keeping your child away from religion, you will make her possess a strong personality, make her honest, logical, a great future parent, an efficient manager of her time, law abiding, empathetic towards the marginalized and a better spouse/partner— specially in case of boys.

It's time we woke up to the absurdities of religion and took our destiny in our hands. There is no one out there or anywhere else who is remotely deciding your future except for you yourself and the economic policies of nations determined by politicians. So next time you are in trouble instead of wasting time remembering Superman or God, use that time to work harder to solve your own problem.

No Hinduism is no different than all other religions.

Like all religions you are a Hindu because of geography and not because of any God's will!

Personally speaking, I was born in a Hindu family and thus as per worldwide tradition of geographical and family based religious distribution I was supposedly a Hindu. Of course needless to say that's not something I adhered to. I chose to say I have absolutely no religion. I am not a Hindu. My only belief is humanity and global humanism. I won't call humanity

a religion as the word religion, like Nazism, has an inhuman and fanatic connotation.

But having had an association with Hinduism and this book being about India, which now wants to decide a Hindu Rashtra, I feel it's my personal duty to write a few words specifically on Hinduism. More so because even militant atheists like the iconic Richard Dawkins, often go soft on Hinduism, saying Hinduism seems to be the only religion that might have some evolved vision or saying that they don't really understand or know much about it.

Well, I do.

Like all religions of course Hinduism has some good

First let me tell you what gives Hinduism the good name. The prime reason stems from the fact that Hinduism has allowed endless reformers. These reformers over time kept challenging and throwing away what they thought were evils thus helping the practiced concepts relatively more acceptable and in tune with times vis-a-vis what was prescribed.

The second reason why Hinduism is often rightly appreciated is because it's relatively more tolerant due to the absence of any central head or any central source of dictatorship. This actually even aids the first point. With absence of a central Vatican like structure, reforms were easy to carry out. And these reforms thus were not always nationwide but often regional, whose influence spread to other regions slowly. Thus one can say in Hinduism you have maximum freedom and democracy to disagree and keep reforming. While the ancient Hindu text has as much irrationality as all texts of all other religions, thanks to countless reformers many of those irrationalities have been removed and continue being removed.

The final reason why Hinduism has earned a more positive review from even atheists is, because in Hinduism there are almost infinite Gods. It was said Hinduism has 33 million Gods. But that was because at that time the population of India was that much. Basically it meant that everyone was free to create his or her own God. So for someone the mouse could be a God and for another the elephant. For someone the tiger could be the God and for another the clouds. This allowed different opinions to coexist, though

eventually some Gods did become more followed and popular than the others. Yet, the fact remains that ever few hundred miles the most popular God is different in India. That almost gives everyone the right to disbelieve in each other's beliefs while being a part of the same overall religious system.

In fact branches of Hinduism like Buddhism, Jainism and even the Carvaka in Hinduism that originated in 6th century BC are even considered atheistic as there is no requirement to follow God as long as you are spiritually inclined. That's why when the famous Indian monk Vivekananda says you reach heaven faster by playing football than reading the Gita or Krishna says work is worship. It sounds as though they don't believe in existence of God. In fact in Carvaka they mention clearly that there is no heaven or hell nor any soul. Of course that doesn't mean that Vivekananda didn't talk or support various absurdities of Hinduism. The truth is however much India's current PM, Mr. Modi, tries to market Hinduism as a way of life, it is a religion and has God and its associated irrationalities tainted/smearred all over it.

And like all religions Hinduism is a religion. And thus the foundation itself is based on the irrational concept of Gods and Goddesses.

And that's where Hinduism eventually becomes like all other religions. I have no urge to get into the various variations and interpretations through which Hinduism or any religion can be made to look rational. Every religion has its share of good words and sermons. For times bygone they were fine. In today's day and age using irrational moral codes and pseudoscience is purely absurd.

Many Hindus come and argue about Vedas and Upanishads. Have I read them in full? No. They are so vast, reading them in full is next to impossible. Like the Quran or Bible, which I haven't read in full, I have read them enough. I have read various interpretations and versions and I have read almost everything that is required to know to be well read enough to comment on them. And I can say with confidence that the four parts of the Vedas and its final part the Upanishads are irrational bronze age thoughts of people who — can be very safely said — had no clue of what was

happening around them. Certain things they contain about humanity, human behaviour, rights, wrongs and emotions are partially correct because it didn't require scientific understanding. It required human goodness. And like in every society that was trying to find its footing in between warring kings and emperors, there were good philosophers even in the pre-history of man kind who spoke logical good things and spread great and humane philosophy. But the concepts of after-life that Upanishads focus upon are blatantly unsound.

The biggest claim to fame of Hindu apologists is the calculation of the number of years of the existence of earth. That, through vague unreasoned calculations, goes as far from the actual age of the universe as the Christians go less. While the Bible thought earth was 6000 years old instead of 4 billion years, Vedas think that the universe is 156 trillion years old against the scientific calculation of 14 billion years. When you sit and talk endless absurd, some analysis might coincided with scientific truth by chance. That doesn't make existence of any Hindu God a reality nor the writings in Hindu religious texts any less unreasonable than those of all other religions.

The repeated references to various Gods and their wishes is nothing more than groundless speculation of people who knew nothing about the universe. From Brahma being the originator of the universe, to him having a lifespan of 311 trillion years, to Shiva coming out from a giant lotus as the original man and chanting 'Om' as the original creation etc are all too unsound and puerile thoughts. The fact that the Vedas and Upanishads constantly keep referring to various Gods to explain everything including the origin of man in his full form (and not through evolution) itself is so blatantly juvenile that Hinduism falls flat.

It's true, originally, Hinduism didn't order one to follow temple rituals, but such mild goodnesses can't take away the massive negativity of unscientific unending verses around the Gods, the so called Indra devata, brahmanas and existence of a ridiculous concept of an infinite soul - however nice and philosophically pure it sounds. It's all a good read to understand how primates and unscientific mammals used to explain things around them a few thousand years back... but to try and take out a few good things here and there out of it and try to defend religion or God is, in today's age, pure insanity... it's good also to know that religions in India like in

China were considered more as ways of life. But the fact that for everything unknown there was a need to worship something infantile is by itself a sign that it's really time to move on... time to look at fables and fairy tales as exactly that, instead of trying to believe that it has any remotely deeper meaning.

The most popular treatise of Gita is something I have read far too many times and have taken out various elements from it to teach leadership. And I do appreciate certain good ideas in it as are there in the Bible and the Quran. But that doesn't give any reason to believe in any religion. One read of any part of the Vedas and Upanishads and one would realise they are filled almost entirely with unsound, incoherent stories placed one after the other. But then what else could be expected of human beings 2500 years back, even by a person of reason? Check out what science says of human beings during that phase: all they could think of was explaining everything through existence of Gods as they had no answers to anything. That's why God was invented by cavemen in the first place. Anything for which you have no answer, there is God.

Yes, given that state of primitiveness, Vedas have some profound thoughts about the world and universe. But my idea in this chapter is not to compare religions. It still remains the same. To explain intelligent human beings that days for such irrational and primitive ideas should be over. It's time to keep religions and Gods in history books and 'believe it or not museums' to explain amusing things man did and believed in as he evolved. The pity of course is, as Sigmund Freud said (while stating religion is like childhood neurosis and calling it foreign to reality) "to anyone with a friendly attitude to humanity it is painful to think that the great majority of mortals will never be able to rise above this view of life. It is still more humiliating to discover how a large number of people living today, who cannot but see that this religion is not tenable, nevertheless try to defend it piece by piece in a series of pitiful rear guard actions."

Like all Gods, Hindu Gods need a lot of money

Worst perhaps is the latest trend in Hinduism of making blatant business of temples and religion in India. When your temple isn't getting enough

donations, put a Sai Baba statue and whoosh.. up go your footfalls and donations ten times. And Sai Baba— the man might have been a kind fellow— has another statue taking him closer towards all other Hindu Gods and Goddesses!

Hinduism created an evil that all other religions couldn't come up with— the caste system and, like all religions, proved that religion, racism and divisors of human beings are inexplicably enmeshed.

Religion has the unique ability to promote ethnic cleansing, genocides and mass murder. One doesn't even need to explain that. The publicly God believing Hitler killed 6 million Jews due to religion and racism is only one example. Hinduism has made this aspect of religion a part of its theory through its official division of people on the basis of castes— higher and lower. The shameful division that exists even today with gusto makes people of higher castes like the Brahmins look down upon the lower caste people and even today attempts to block them from reaching the higher echelons of the society. Carrying human excreta on their heads is the job of the lower caste people and 500,000 people even today earn their living through that. Marrying in different castes lower than your castes results into equally rampant honor killings. All in God's name. Hindu apologists shamefully try to defend either by telling it was more to do with dividing people on the basis of occupations (equally shameful) or just deny it as a part of the religion by saying it was a negative practice by the followers which again is patently false and irrelevant to delve into. The Hindu caste system was like a social hierarchy with a catch— you can't move from one to another. Unlike economic or social divisions, the caste system is full proof and immobile in nature. The Brahmins at the top of the hierarchy had sole monopoly on education and spread of Hinduism, so they controlled what everyone had to believe. The Dalits on the other end of the hierarchy were the “untouchables”— who literally could not come into physical contact with any other caste. They were tasked with cleaning homes, bathrooms and disposing of the dead. Your caste is inherited and so your future job is predetermined. Two different castes cannot marry (inter-caste marriages ending in gruesome murders even today) and there are no conversions allowed, so through this system the evolution of humans was forcefully

stopped and this cycle of oppression still leaves behind massive economic gaps and discrimination. This is why it is so difficult to eradicate, no matter how hard you work or how much good you do, you still remain an untouchable—just that on the brighter side, you can hope to be reborn as a Brahmin in your next life! So Hinduism doesn't just mentally handicap its followers, it also physically stops people from growing. Even today the most educated of Hindus shamelessly put out advertisements asking for a caste match for arranged marriage proposals and Brahmins have the thread ceremony for their sons to put a permanent stamp of their upper caste.

Like all religions Hinduism fans racism and discrimination

A few years back I had gone on a lecture tour to some of the best universities of America including the Harvard Business School. Crisscrossing the US of A twice from the West Coast to the East Coast, I met one after the other Indians and their families over lunches, dinners and other meetings. Most of them who were associated with these universities or were placed right at the top of corporate America. And I feel sad to say that perhaps the only thing that I found common between most of them was their hidden bias against the Blacks in America. Even before a number of times, I had heard my friends from the US speak derogatorily about the African-American population, often even pejoratively referring to them as Negroes and saying that they wanted to stay in a locality which had no Blacks. I couldn't really accept this sentiment as a normal phenomenon, and rather used to wonder whether it was mere coincidence that I had so many friends with such an unabashed bias. But after the American journey, I realized it was not a coincidence.

Friends, relatives, consultants and professors... anyone I got talking to for more than a while almost invariably explained to me at one point of time or the other why the locality they lived in was especially good since it didn't have Black people! Or for that matter why a particular city was better because of the lesser number of Blacks! Of course, I didn't pick up fights. But it made me feel sad about the education, schooling and upbringing we are giving to our children. How could educated people, after coming to America, still discriminate on the basis of the colour of the skin? That too coming from a land where they themselves are mostly brown and a land

where their own mythological characters like Krishna and Draupadi are described as being uniquely attractive due to their dark complexion!

Of course Americans are also biased and the previous President of theirs, Trump, came to power only on the basis of targeting the blue collared white Christians perfectly. Yet, education plays a great role and Americans had chosen Barack Obama also as their president, showing that although as a nation they have not yet been able to provide equal justice to Blacks, at an individual level they are educated enough to discriminate far lesser.

So am I trying to say that Indians are more colour- biased than the Americans? Well, that's what a Harvard research seems to say too. Harvard University's Project Implicit website has compiled data on the implicit biases of millions of Americans on a range of issues, such as age, race, skin tone, disability, gender, sexual orientation, etc. And it's unbelievable but true that Asians demonstrated the highest levels of bias on race and skin tone when compared to people of any other region in the world; Asian-Americans were second only to Whites in their biases in the racially and ethnically sensitive categories. Asians and Asian Americans in fact reported the highest level of explicit prejudice on issues of race and skin tone – higher than even Whites.

The fact gets more authenticated with one look at Hindu matrimonial ads. Everyone wants a fair bride and about 98% of Indians consider themselves between fair to very fair – even in southern India, where the colour of the skin is decisively darker. Stepping up, a fairer girl requires lesser dowry while a darker girl requires more dowry. Add to this the national menace called Fair and Lovely, the fairness cream that is so heavily advertised without any government counter education programme. Of course, one can say rightfully that advertisements of fairness creams are unfortunately a huge reason behind the creation of a inferiority complex driven class of educated kids in India who nurture a shameful skin tone bias resulting into a kind of unspoken social apartheid (to make matters worse, even Indian superstars like Shahrukh Khan are being roped in to endorse similar such brands).

Colour bias in Indians runs so deep that there are multiple friends of

mine who have actually told me not to use the brown coloured emojis in my messages that I send them. I said it matches the colour of my skin so I use it instead of the yellow ones. One of them even argued that it wasn't true that my skin colour was that dark. My eventual response, motivated by an old friend of mine Sabiena, was to change the colour of all the emojis I use in my electronic communication to pure black. A tribute to our ancestors from the continent that is lost to the rest of the world due to so many biases... color being the most damaging. It's now my daily tribute to Africa. The name I would have wished to give my daughter, if I had one.

So what are the roots of this unique Indian obsession? An obsession which starts with Fair and Lovely cream at a younger age, then progresses into an effort to get a fair partner for marriage as they grow up and keeps Indians so backward and shameful in their thinking that even after spending tens of years in the most progressive land called America, those are Indians who display more biases against African Americans than Americans themselves.

The fact of the matter is the colour bias of Indians finds its origins in the Indian caste system. The fairer skinned were the Brahmins and the darker skinned were the shudras. And with a regimented marriage system that didn't allow inter caste marriages the skin colours in Hindu India remained restricted to according to castes. Our scriptures tried to hint clearly that the corollary of being fair was that one was an upper-class member, while darker complexions were deemed to be characteristics of the lower-class – and having sex with the fair skinned became almost a matter of pride (so much so that the Indian high-end prostitution markets have now been completely taken over by fair-skinned foreigners from Eastern Europe).

Sadly, iconic books like *Roots* and *Uncle Tom's Cabin* aren't a compulsory part of our education process, subsequently resulting into a case of missing sensitivities of a majority of Indians towards darker skin tones in general, leading to deep-rooted prejudices for the fair skin – unlike many other communities in the world. A long time back, Martin Luther King Jr said that he dreamt of a country where man would be judged not by the colour of his skin but by the content of his character. Somewhere in our parenting and schooling system, this one line of education must be drilled

inside the brains of each child. And before that, in the brains of every teacher and parent.

But, till we believe in discriminating people on the basis of castes and religion, how do we expect that?

Like all religions exploitation of women runs deep

The exploitation and fooling of women and children remain as deep in Hinduism as in any other religion. But, when the masses are kept illiterate, how would they ever even realise this simple truth?

If anyone asks questions, the answer is, “It’s in our tradition”.

I ask with all humility, so what? Just because it’s in your tradition and culture, doesn’t mean that it’s not incredibly stupid or at times outright criminal and inhuman. Sati was in Hindu culture. Child marriage was a tradition. Killing the girl child is an extremely popular tradition for many and dowry is a tradition for almost all shameless people.

So, keeping traditions aside, if we were to look at things logically we will see lack of rationale and even evil behind these traditions. Let’s for example look at one of favourite traditions of Hindu women. It’s called Karva Chauth where women keep a fast throughout a day and believe it gives their husbands a long life (and trust me I have deep appreciation for the love women have for their husbands to go through the torture). However the fact is that if were to really believe in such absurdity for a while then we would realise that the God of Karva Chauth has really been very unfair. Well very unfair.

After so much of devotion, fasting, singing and prayers, the unfair God makes Indian women on an average live three years longer than their men. In fact that’s a global phenomenon. Women everywhere outlive men. And they outlive men in India too. The result is the same as the 3 billion women around the world, who don’t keep a fast on Karva Chauth today!

Worse, after so much prayers the average Indian man lives only 67 years (ranked a horrible and shocking 115th in the world) and what’s worse is,

as I said, that he still doesn't outlive his wife. Because the average Indian woman lives for 70 years. So after all these prayers the average Indian wife lives to see her husband die in front of her!!!

In contrast to the average age of Indian male, we have Norway where no wife does Karva Chauth, in fact they aren't even getting married much (and is one the first recorded country with more atheists than believers) and yet the men live for 80 years and are ranked at No.12. Or for that matter Switzerland which ranks No.1 with male life expectancy of 81.3 years (again the percentage of atheists there is at an all time high of 20 percent).

More pathetic is the fact that in the case of the poorer illiterate masses, where Karva Chauth is more prevalent in India, the average age of men is about ten years lesser— that compares to the life expectancy of the men in Sub Saharan Africa! So much for all the prayers.

So, my message to married Hindu women has been - God of Karva Chauth is a failure. Call it husband's day, celebrate it, dress up and look beautiful... And hope they also have a wife's day to celebrate... but please stop the irrational prayers to a non existent God for your husband's long life. And stop keeping an equally illogical fast. It doesn't work. There is no God up there in the skies or anywhere waiting to listen to your prayers and reward you for your fast...

And my message to Hindu husbands has been— please force your wives not to carry on with this exploitative irrational ritual ever again! It's a ritual that's gender unequal and it encourages immature blind beliefs.

Sexism runs deeper in Hinduism. While wife prays for husband even mother-in-law prays for son-in-law (Jamai Sashti) and sister for brother (Raksha Bandhan and Bhai Duj). However, one doesn't get to see any religious ceremony where husband fasts for wife, father-in-law does prays for daughter-in-law or brother ties a thread to his sister praying that she live long and protect him throughout his life.

That's called exploiting women by treating them as inferior through religious indoctrination.

Hinduism goes a step further with its Gods divided into various need based issues

If we dig a bit deeper, Hindus do Lakshmi Puja on Diwali. Almost the whole nation participates at various times. This is done to get rich and have material plenty. Yet primarily Hindu India has more than half of worlds poor (360 million of the world's 700 million poor) though India's population is only 20% of the world. The Hindu Goddess is very unfair God too, it seems.

In fact at times looking at Bill Gates, Warren Buffet, Mark Zukerberg, Richard Branson etc. I feel worse. None of them have ever worshipped Lakshmi and yet they are downing in wealth— very bad and unfair... in fact worse news is that they are additionally all non believers. They don't believe that God(s) exists. Really unfair that Goddess Lakshmi still has still given them all the moneys while keeping Hindu Indians so poor.

In fact looking at the Hindu Goddess of Knowledge Saraswati also gives a similar sad feeling. 270 million illiterates in India. About 40% of the world's illiterates. Worse... not even one percent of the Nobel Prizes, in literature, physics, chemistry, medicines, economics put together, could the Hindu Goddess Saraswati give to this nation with 20% of world's population. Worse... the most admired intellectuals of the world are actually atheists. From Albert Einstein and Karl Marx of past to Salman Rushdie and Noam Chomsky of present. It looks so unfair that God has made them so popular while our top Saraswati worshippers are hardly known.

The truth of the matter is Hindu Gods are like all others. All Gods seem unfair. Not just in India. It's so world-wide. Look at the unfairness of Jesus and Allah that Sub-Saharan Africans pray to. They pray so much for food, for long life and for money. Yet a large proportion of them are hungry and malnourished, die at 42 to 45 and die very poor.

Not that Jesus or Allah of Europe and Middle East are more kind. Not one man who lost his leg or hand fighting for their God, could grow back his hand with

help of his God (that would have been serious proof of God's existence because unlike a tumor it can't get cured on its own nor can doctors and

medicines make that happen). The poor worshippers have to go to doctors for prosthetic limbs.

Hindus also keep a nine day semi fast called, Navaratri. During that time Jai mata di (Praise mother Goddess) is on all whatsapp statuses. Nine days of worshipping Mata— Mother Goddess (often at the cost of their own mother at home being most neglected and ill-treated). This Mata is also so unfair. Forget giving money, education etc, she doesn't even give happiness. The most selfless of worshippers go to Mata and say please give good health to all. It doesn't even have the minimal power to take away basic diseases. It has given actually rather created more than 4000 serious diseases and kept Hindu lives so unhappy. This despite so much pujas, chanting and singing through the loudest of loudspeakers.

Like all religions Hinduism is very useful for politicians specially when mixed with another irrational blind belief called nationalism

Long back Lucius Annaeus Seneca said, “Religion is regarded by the common people as true, by the wise as false and by the rulers as useful”. That seems to be the policy in the new India. The more we keep our masses brain dead and tied to various religious issues, like say the Govardhan Puja, the less will be the need to deliver good irrigation systems and deliver a new green revolution. Religion is useful for leaders. From Bihar to UP to the Center we can have more criminals and illiterates being elected as law makers.

And media keeps playing out praises of India's democracy and how it punishes previous governments. And of course keep thanking the army for keeping India's democracy alive, additionally (because in today's India, dare anyone forget the sacrifice of the army while celebrating anything). And we will be fooled to believe that masses can't be fooled and once in five years it delivers justice!

Brain dead masses' brain dead justice. Because educating the masses is the most risky proposition for a government! Karl Marx once said, “the oppressed are allowed every few years to choose which representative from the oppressing class is going to represent & repress them” And looking at

India's elections and results one couldn't agree more.

Today's India gives me a lesson. It says: You and your father's Great Indian Dream of an equitable and just society is unnecessary. Worshiping Gods and celebrating Diwali in particular, apart from keeping our government happy, is actually the best way to removing poverty and achieving socialism, equity and justice. Marx was stupidly against religion. He didn't know religion has the power to bring socialism in the world. After all on the day of Diwali, every man has 24 hours. So we all must deeply and sincerely pray to Goddess Lakshmi for her blessings! This is the magic we need. No politician is responsible for India's development. Our prayers are responsible. Equal prayers will give equal returns and problem of poverty will disappear, equality will come and India will be well off. Indians should never look up to their PM and other leaders for prosperity and eradication of poverty. That lies in their own prayers to God. If people realise this and don't trouble their politicians then only this Hindu India progress. One politician even went on to say, if God is unable to remove your problems how do you expect me to remove them.

The political leaders instead of focusing on poverty eradication must focus on gau mata (cow mother) and keep whipping up nationalistic fervor by reminding everyone of the sacrifices of the army. And the media must play it up. After all the common man makes no sacrifices, is non-patriotic and must be made to feel inferior about his nationalism because he doesn't go and die in the borders at the wishes and fancies of our politicians (34% of whom are criminals – and I am not even questioning what percentage are illiterates), whose children mind you never join the army. So every Diwali day our PM goes to the borders and celebrates the day with army so that Indians don't only celebrate but are also made to remember the army while they burn crackers – to get the ultimate mix of nationalism and religion. And of course they must pray. Pray a lot.

Make no mistake. I have absolute respect for the army. My life's first article in Hindustan Times was why conscription should be made mandatory. I believe that if every child before going to college serves for a year in the army, our politicians will be more concerned about the army and its soldiers, because then the army will have members from all sections of the

society. Today with the front end soldiers being from poor families, no one really needs to bother about their lives or living conditions. Thus, needless to say for the rest of year and non election time, the army men are the most neglected lot. For that one should go and read up about their plight and the kind of investments that are made on modernization of their weapons to bullet proof jackets to winter clothing and shoes.

At times I feel that other religions are far backward than Hinduism! They failed to teach western countries these tricks to prosperity! Shocking that Canadian parliamentarians are so less educated that 50% of the newly elected parliamentarians refused to swear by God during their oath taking in the parliament this month and 72% of Norwegians are now said to be atheists. Looking at Norway and Canada, one realises exactly all that Hindu India doesn't want. At least it surely doesn't want their No.1 Human Development Index ranking. After all how pathetic that out of a total of about 26 Human Development Index rankings Canada got Ranked No.1 a stunning 8 times and Norway a far more staggering 11 times and between them they got ranked No.1 a total of 19 out of 26 times... India must remain at at their current ranking that fluctuates between 130 and 135th rank!

When India's current PM Modi campaigned, he said he believes in "toilets before temples" and that the "Constitution of India was his most important religious book". I had rarely heard any politician say such amazing things. But guess after elections the political environment of questioning who eats what and fanning nationalistic and religious fervor became the new call of the day. For as I said earlier, ever since it's clever invention, religion is the biggest tool globally for exploiting the poor and the masses. Till they believe in religion, you can keep them divided and fooled.

Voltaire said long back, "There is no God, but don't tell that to my servant, lest he murder me at night."

Needless to say, Religion and bogus claims go hand in hand

Looking at Hindu India's brilliant new claims of having the world's first head surgery (the Indian elephant-headed God Ganesha), rockets, TV, Wi Fi and Hinduism based solutions to all problems one feels perhaps Bill

Gates needs a revision in his vision of a poverty free world by 2035. Maybe he could do well by becoming a believer and praying to Hindu Gods for development and leave politicians alone.

The problem always is of basic rationale. We go and pray to God. God please cure me of this disease. But wait, isn't it then that the so called God only who gave it? We go to God and pray for victims of earthquakes, tsunamis and tornados. But wait, isn't it then the so called God only who gave it? We don't think.

Lottery winners aside, the truth is we are all products of our hard work. The harder we work the luckier we get... that's the rule of life. Instead of praying to God and keeping Karva Chauth, if a Hindu woman would actually make her husband join an alcohol addiction centre or make him start exercising or eating less and healthy, the chances are her husband will live longer. Much longer. Instead of praying to Lakshmi, if Hindus go out and work hard, chances are more moneys will come. Instead of praying to Saraswati if they study harder and work hard on our researches chances are we will get more Nobel prizes. And finally instead of worshipping Mata and keeping fasts, if they take better care of their own mata (mother) at home, the chances are they will lead a happier life.

Having said that, maybe the Hindu apologists would like to have a look at a video by Morgan Freeman as he exposes the irrationalities of Hinduism in 'The story of God' on National Geographic.

Interestingly, the last couple of years I have had Hindu apologists of all varieties coming up and giving me knowledge on the Hindu superiority— all based on a micro minor part of Hindu scriptures which completely coincidentally can be said to be somewhat similar to what we now say about the universe in terms of its age. Not that it has any logic to it or it's accurate but it's kind of similar. It's written in between so much of inane around the creation of the universe that it's but obviously coincidental. Basically instead of good meaning uneducated shepherds of other religions who claimed origin of the universe to be 4 to 6k years old. Our scriptures had something more intelligent ... 'yug yug pehle' etc (meaning many years back)... but 'yug yug pehle' what?

This is the fascinating part....

Yug yug pehle at first there was only Vishnu, who rests on the eternal ocean. When he is asleep, nothing exists. With his awakening, there is light and life. Out of his navel comes out Lord Brahma in the form of a lotus, (now we all know why India's ruling Hindu party, BJP has that as its symbol) who assumes the duty of creation. Then he created Lord Shiva with the duty of destruction... Shiva who captured Ganga on his hair lock, so that the earth is not drowned... and that's how the universe came into existence. That's what happened 'yug yugantar pehle'— which many of our Hindu apologists claim totals to about 7 billion years.

Can you believe it? Imagine explaining this in class rooms to students as to how the universe came into existence!! I mean that's the foundation of Hinduism. And people expect others to take it seriously. And now fashionably term it a "way of life".

Well, in a very intelligent and sarcastic manner this point – of guessing a closer to reality estimate of the age of the universe – that Hindus consider worth displaying to the scientific community has been blown to pieces by putting it in the right light by Morgan Freeman (don't worry he brings out the irrationalities of every religion, so like me he also isn't a Hindu basher) in the lovely video that I suggested. I will end on Hinduism by writing finally, I am sure, those who are sensible will realise Hindus are not above all. It's exactly as low IQ a religion as all others and while totally coincidentally Hindu illogical calculations guess the age of universe as half of its real age (which is a huge 7 billion years off the mark) everything else about the origin of universe is rank hilarious and embarrassing indeed.

Before I end this section I quote Richard Dawkins on biological differences between human beings, the evolution of human beings and the key question- who should have equal rights?

(The lines below are excerpted from his speech on Equality at the Power brands London International Forum for Equality where he launched my previous book in May 2019).

Perhaps the first point to make, as a Darwinian, is that evolution

by natural selection depends crucially on genetic differences between individuals. The most striking feature of human evolution during the past 3 million years since our Australopithecine ancestors is the enlargement of the brain. We are African apes and among the apes we stand out for our mental power, which has presumably gone along with the enlargement of the brain. The ancestor we share with chimpanzees lived about 6 or 7 million years ago. It certainly had a much smaller brain than ours, and presumably it was a lot less intelligent than we are. The evolutionary trend leading to us therefore included a dramatic increase in intelligence due to Darwinian natural selection. This can only have come about if there was genetic variation in intelligence in the population for selection to work on. There must have been inequality.

And there's abundant evidence that the inequality persists today. We are not born equal, and we are not created at all! And the equality that I passionately feel we should strive for is equality of rights.

Discrimination is the enemy. We make a grave factual mistake if we insist that we are all born equal. But we make an even greater moral mistake if we impose unequal rights and opportunities.

It is especially immoral to consign an individual to a group such as a race or a sex, and decide that they must share the (often diminished) rights of that group.

The differences between us; differences between the sexes; differences between races; differences in sexual orientation; none of these should make a jot of difference to the rights and privileges people enjoy. Unfortunately, not everyone agrees. And the source of the disagreement can often be traced to religion.

There are many countries, influenced by Islam, where women are worse than second class citizens. Sharia Law values the testimony of a woman at half the weight of a man's. Saudi women have only just been allowed to drive. In Iran it's a criminal offence for a woman to show her hair. Married women in Iran need their husband's permission when applying for a passport, or traveling outside the home. There are Islamic theocracies where

a woman can be publicly beaten, given literally hundreds of lashes, if not beheaded, simply for the “crime” of being seen with a man not her husband.

Western countries, formerly known as Christendom, have only recently shaken off similar attitudes to women, albeit with less draconian punishments. It is shocking how recently women were given the vote in our democracies. The Roman Catholic church still won't ordain women priests.....

If a time machine could serve up to you your 200 million greats grandfather, you would eat him with sauce tartare and a slice of lemon. He was a fish. Yet you are connected to him by an unbroken line of intermediate ancestors, every one of whom belonged to the same species as its parents and its children.

The concept of equality cannot be applied in a religiously rigid way but needs careful, sensitive handling. But in places where it definitely does apply, for example equal rights for men and women, and equal rights for people of different races, we need to fight with all our strength for the ideal of equality. Equality of rights and equality of opportunity.

Clinton Richard Dawkins, is an English ethologist, evolutionary biologist, and author. He is an emeritus fellow of New College, Oxford, and was the University of Oxford's Professor for Public Understanding of Science from 1995 until 2008. In 2006, he founded the Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science. In The God Delusion (2006), Dawkins contends that a supernatural creator almost certainly does not exist and that religious faith is a delusion.

Conclusion

No. God didn't create man or woman. Man and woman evolved. Human kind evolved over billions of years. And there is proof for that. And no the universe was also not created by any God. And no there is no rational in the statement that there must be a creator, because then the question would be, who created the creator. It's that basic and that simple. As the famous scientist, Neil de Grasse Tyson puts it beautifully, "God is an ever-receding pocket of scientific ignorance that's getting smaller and smaller as time moves on."

And no. Religious books are no evidence of God's existence. They are as much a proof of God's existence as marvel comics are of Spider-Man's existence. Do I know how the universe came into existence with certainty? No. Do I have an idea? Yes, thanks to science. And science is the only way forward. Because unlike religion that tells you to live with answers that can't be questioned, science teaches you to live with questions that may have no answers for the time being. And eggs you on to find answers. When you are religious you are blinded. You ignore the science behind evolution, but believe that Mohammad split the moon into two. And that's plain ludicrous.

My son often used to ask me as a child, why don't I go to temples. And I would tell him, the day the priests inside promise me that I will see flying and levitating Gods inside, I would most certainly go—but not to see a stone idol or a wooden cross, unless it's a museum to display the evolution of human faiths. Playing with plastic toys, imaginary superheroes and doll houses is something that is best left behind in our early childhood.

I do realise my kind of anti theism isn't something common. But I have realised how if some people don't take this rationality forward strongly then sane adults will forever talk like immature medieval primitives. Thus I have realised, on religion taking a moderate view, is harmful for mankind and specially those you care about... even any slight belief staying back is harmful. It disempowers intelligent people, makes them say something as silly as 'touch wood', or sit with fingers crossed. It makes them avoid certain 'unlucky' numbers, makes them go to temples and worship stones—the biggest harm to next generation, it makes them hope someone above is

responsible for good things happening (while the only one with the power to change their life, is they themselves) and thus making them lose confidence in their own self... it's crazy. We fight against superstition but we say we are free to practice our religion, but religion is the biggest superstition of all. And it shouldn't stay inside anyone even in moderation... it's exactly as stupid as believing that a black cat crossing your road is harmful.

Thus, it's not just about wars and terrorism and genocides, it's about basic intelligence and daily empowerment. That is why I don't want anyone to have anything to do with religion. It's morally wrong to make anyone believe in anything that has no evidence; just by force or authority, specially taking advantage of age, the way we force lies upon our kids when they hardly even have developed the intellect to judge right from wrong. And then for the rest of their life make them intellectually handicapped by never allowing them to question. Thus believing in anything to do with religion is not just an intellectual mistake but a moral mistake too. That's why I have stopped taking any moderate views on it. Keeping quiet so that no one gets offended in the name of 'everyone has right to faith' is like harming friends and family knowingly. And yes it would be a shame on our belief in human kind to think that we wouldn't do good without fear of God. Humans would be as good and actually better and more intelligent. Rest laws and judicial system should take care of but most certainly we must not try to make man good through a lie (though actually the amount of bad that happens in the name of religion far outweighs the good). And everything aside, anything done, even good, based upon a superstitious lie is harmful.

A virgin giving birth to Jesus. Adam and Eve. Manu and Shatarupa. I really believe those who wrote this kind of fairy tales must have laughed their heads off while writing it all and had no clue that a century or so later people would actually be believing it— for records, there is no evidence of Christianity within first hundred years of Christ's death!! And similar such load of irrationality in every mega Ponzi scheme and fraud called religion and God! A man made God. God never made man. For the former there is endless proof, for the latter there is absolutely zero proof. So I don't even see the existence of a debate, for a debate must begin with some base logic! In 1800, the third President of America, Thomas Jefferson had the foresight

and intelligence of saying that “the day will come when the mystical generation of Jesus, by the supreme being as his father in the womb of a virgin will be classed with the fable of Minerva in the brain of Jupiter.” Yet 215 years later in India we don’t have a leader courageous enough to say this about our Gita and other incest and immaculate conception filled stories of Gods and Goddesses.

I do understand that when man lived in darkness he had reasons to worship the sun, when man didn’t have home he had reasons to worship the rain and thunder, when man hadn’t invented medicines and was dying of basic diseases with average life around 20 he had reasons to fear God’s wrath, when man didn’t know of secure ways to have child births and huge proportions of babies and even mothers would die at child birth, he had reasons to pray to God... he had fear of death.. the biggest fear that is exploited in the name of God. He was ignorant, he was dependent... or so he thought... Now we have electricity, we have homes and medical science is on the verge of making us live literally forever and children and mothers don’t have a reason to die at childbirth unless they live in a country ruled by political frauds like India or are born in poorest sub-saharan African region...

Science has shown how evolution made man and thus by logic, there is no God. And for a fraction of a second if I were to do the mistake of assuming God exists, I would find it totally repulsive and criminal to believe in a God who doesn’t have time to take care of millions dying of hunger in Africa but has time to teach you a lesson for having pre marital sex or for masturbating.

For everything good attributed in the name of God, we must account for everything bad. All those still born kids, all those dying of curable diseases, all those babies born with cerebral palsy, all those tsunamis and devastation... and then there would be no reason to worship a sadistic megalomaniac dictatorial video gamer whom we assume to be God! The same God who is supposed to create us then also created 4000 plus diseases! Either there is thus no God, or God is a sadist not worth worshipping!

Actually I totally understand why people are unable to digest reality... when I see so many scientists actually calling themselves God fearing or

most often agnostic just because there is no proof of the “fact” that God doesn’t exist. Just like we don’t have a proof of Superman not existing, or Spider-man not existing for that matter. The only proof is that they are man made stories so they don’t exist. But for many of the inane that’s not good logic. To me it’s actually stupid to be even asked to prove that God doesn’t exist. But many scientists pitifully fall into this trap and call themselves agnostic, meaning since they have no proof that God doesn’t exist so they can’t say. At least I resist from calling myself an atheist or agnostic and rather call myself “anti theist”... because to me only the irrational could want proof of God’s non existence.

I stick to my line of believe that even if God exists she most certainly is the most sadistic creature. That’s why anti-theist. As Lex Luthor says, before the climactic battle between Batman and Superman...

If God is all-powerful, he cannot be good. If God is good, he can not be all-powerful!

This means that assuming God exists then...

If God is all powerful he isn’t good. For then it’s him who created miseries in the world, hunger, cancer in children or adults, tsunamis, ethnic cleansing and so on...

And if God is all good, he isn’t obviously all powerful. As in that case then there wouldn’t be miseries in the world, no hunger, no cancer in children or adults, no tsunamis, no ethnic cleansing and so on

So I am an anti-theist and love exposing this man made creation called God and questions around it... in any case she can’t be worth it! Plus most importantly, exist or not it’s behind all of the biggest crimes and genocides on earth.

To me something that was first “conceptualized by man without evidence” a few thousand years back in a billions of year old universe is good enough to disprove its existence. Thus, in my opinion even talking of God is sin, if there is a non religious definition of the word sin. As Salman Rushdie put it during Charlie Hebdo incident, “religion - a medieval form of

unreason...” That’s exactly what it is. A medieval form of “unreason”. And as I said, believing even a bit of it or arguing for it is not just intellectually wrong but morally wrong. Completely wrong. Because if there was to be a word called moral, its definition would start with the words— Do not lie.

However what is really sinister is when media propagates blind beliefs, lies and hatred all for profits and monetary gains. And this is another place where the evil of Capitalism gets embedded. Media all over the world is guilty of promoting religious blind beliefs, in effect harming humanity.

The prime responsibility of media is to promote truth and rationale. And there isn’t anything that’s steeped in more lies, fraud and falsehood than God and Religion. But unfortunately, media is always not just writing on it, but promoting all its blind beliefs and fraud. And why wouldn’t they? After all, peddling religion means money. So they would rather peddle Christmas, Diwali, Eid, Karva Chauth and Santa Claus make belief and all its related blind beliefs and make great moneys from the advertisers, than write articles educating the public to stay away from such blind beliefs and medieval practices. Educating people to stay from such outright exploitative and demeaning festivals like Karva Chauth would mean a huge loss of business for jewellery stores, saree stores etc. and thus huge loss of ad revenues for media houses.

While this is something I always knew, it really feels sad that we hardly have a media house, for example in India, as a recent sting operation revealed, that wouldn’t even shy away from taking moneys not just for ads that promote blind beliefs but to promote religion in a manner that would end up further polarizing this country in religious lines.

I take hours of lectures on this... and can tackle every aspect of religion flawlessly. Man has gone to space and moon and now is going to mars.. all that can be said is there is no heaven and no hell... and definitely no God. The truth about the stars and planets where we supposedly go after death is that, in this 14 billion year old universe, the 4 billion year old earth is one of the 50 billion planets in the Milky Way which is one of the 200 billion galaxies we have. Believing in Gods and religious books is like saying God created the universe 14 billion years back and then said let me

sleep for a while, 14 billion years to be precise. And then some three and a half thousand to one and a half thousand years back thought let me send a Ram, a Krishna, a Christ, a Mohammad, a Buddha to teach my beliefs (all contradicting each other) to cattle rearing village bumpkins who had no basic idea of science and rationality. Hillllarrrious... and then again went back home sleep for the last 1500 years!

Even if we are to argue that modern form of human beings came into being 2,50,000 years back then isn't it a shame that God watched all kinds of misery on earth with total indifference for 2,48,000 years... saw people dying on an average at the age of about 20 from malnutrition, basic fever, in fact most babies at very child birth, and then about 3000 to 2000 years back depending upon the religion you believe in came down suddenly to earth to give his set of rules and morality to medieval unscientific shepherds who at that point of time had totally no clue of what was happening really. And then went silent again as science discovered truth, prolonged life and so on! And isn't it amazing that none of the religions could tell any truth about the universe from the earth being round to how the sun and the moon rotate. In fact none of them have a single reference to any of the animals that existed before these stories were written (whose fossils we keep discovering today) and instead had talking snakes and monsters!

And for my friends who believe in astrology, let me tell you, given the above facts of the planets and galaxies, there is no super computer invented that can ever calculate precisely the positioning of all the planets of the 200 billion galaxies!! So stop going to that rank fraud astrologer who cheats you knowingly and schemingly. On astrology far too many scientific experiments have been done by professors of science of almost all the famous universities of the world and in absolutely each one of them it has proven to have no base. Experiment after experiment has been done where dozens of famous astrologers have been given the job to predict the same thing and results have shown that astrological predictions are as good as possibility of that happening by chance. In one experiment 700 astrologers were given over 1000 birth charts and the results showed their predictions were all statistically insignificant. In fact Prof. David Voas of Manchester University examined census data of more than 20 million people in UK

and checked star signs vs. marital arrangements. No effect was seen, as obviously expected.

As the greatest philosopher ever, Karl Marx— who considered religion to be the opium of the masses and whose aim in life was not only to end exploitation but also end religion to free man— said, Religion is the impotence of man to deal with the unknown.. but now after so much advancement we should deal with the remaining unknown with a logical brain than say ‘oh its Gods mystery.’ God’s mystery: that’s the answer for anything that you can’t explain! Imagine a teacher coming inside a science class and giving his answers to all questions as God’s creation and Gods mystery! Nothing to teach. However, that’s not the truth. The only truth about everything around is it will all be unraveled if it already hasn’t been. In case we don’t know the answer to something, it’s far more intelligent and intellectual to say, ‘Sorry I don’t know the answer but there is research happening and hopefully we will know soon.’ than to say that it’s Gods creation or mystery and head off to Vaishno Devi or Shirdi or Mecca or the Vatican for that matter.

God’s mystery is reducing by the day. The day women in the west started going to universities and then to jobs and meeting other men at work and the men started having affairs away from home, the church goers started reducing. Because men used to use the church to keep women fooled...today churches are being converted to hotels with sleaze bars inside. By no means am I trying to ask women to go and have affairs outside marriage. But they must be free to do what men are free to (and in any case exchange of vows in front of God isn’t an institution that one should believe in) because after all as Gloria Stienem, a woman whom I admire most would say, “A woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle.” Thus, just the way with advent of electricity and cameras, ghosts disappeared, so are churches with women’s emancipation... I genuinely find it most sad when women— the most exploited lot in every religion and one of the key targets of every religion— believe in religion so passionately without realising most scriptures treat them with humongous inequality and disdain. To satisfy man’s unending possessiveness and urge to keep a woman as his personal property he made religious rules. Don’t wear this, wear that, don’t show your hair, shave off

your head, jump into your husband's pyre so that even after your man's death no other man can talk to you!! People say the Quran is exploitative of women, I ask what about the Bible? From women must wear head scarfs in front of God to they must never open their mouth inside church and should ask their questions only to their husbands upon reaching back home, what not it writes... and for every so called sin of woman the punishment is death.

Bible doesn't even spare the disobedient child and says parents and relatives must stone him to death if he is disobedient. Not to mention that it tells the story of the poor old man collecting woods on a Sunday— the Sabbath— who was stoned to death because that is the punishment for working on the day of rest and prayers to God. Doesn't matter if the poor man was cold, had dependent children or a loving wife at home. Talk about religious morality! Hinduism, of course can't escape its quota of shame too. From bride burning, child marriage, shooing away menstruating women from temples to exploitation of masses and poor through casteism, Hinduism has been as barbaric. Actually the day women stop believing in religion, men will be left with very less motivation to believe anymore. Because they won't be able to keep their women in burkhas and (s)indoors. Of course education, and only education, for women and masses is the way out of religion and its exploitative sins.

THINK ABOUT IT.

If you find it funny or foolish that your son believes in Spider-man, please ask yourself. He is a kid, you are the real immature joke here who believes in as much a patently infantile, imaginary thing called God. Science will perhaps one day create a Spider-man in a laboratory; but your imaginary God will never be created! Have faith. Not in imaginary Gods. But on Godly human beings on earth around you, your parents, your friends, your spouse, your children. And your neighbours— including neighbouring countries. And if they ever betray that faith, learn your lessons and walk ahead. Not into the temple. But into your books and in search of more knowledge.

Its time to know life (about 600 million extinct species and 30 million living ones) evolved over millions of years and human beings are a result of that; With a micro-miniscule difference in genes between each other —

proven by science. For most part of the thousands of years human history we have lived only for an average of 10-20 years, with it touching levels of 20-35 years only as recently as 300 years ago (in Sweden for eg. in 1750s it was 35 years). It's science that is responsible for the modern day longer life and not prayers to God over hundreds of thousands of years. It's only in the last 150 odd years that the average human life span has started increasing by about 3 months every year, and the pace is only expected to increase. As, Prof. P. Dayanandan, puts it beautifully, "Scientists are unravelling the details of this human saga, everyday. Like many millions of Indians, I carry a mitochondrial mutation which first occurred in my maternal ancestor 50,000 years ago somewhere in the middle east. I tested my Y-chromosome and found that I carry a mutation that first occurred 30,000 years ago somewhere in the middle east. Recently I connected with a person in Pakistan who tested and found that he carries the same mutation. My family is everywhere, and my ancestral roots are in Africa."

Thus, it's time to go away from the divisive world of religion into the Intelligent world of atheism. And it's here to stay and overthrow religion immaturity faster than you can inside. For the sake of statistics if we were to look at specific regions, the highest rate of atheism exists in Eastern part of Germany where a recent survey could not identify a single youth under 28 who believes in God!! In the USA at 18.5%, those who don't believe in God is just a shade below European average of 20%. In Europe though overall France with 40% beats Germany at 27%. No wonder the French Revolution was an atheistic revolution and the word atheism is itself derived from the French word 'atheisme'. It's only many years later that the Mexican revolution alongside the socialistic revolution around the world was atheistic in nature.

As Penn Jillette said, "If every trace of any single religion were wiped out and nothing were passed on, it would never be created exactly that way again. There might be some other nonsense in its place, but not that exact nonsense. If all of science were wiped out, it would still be true and someone would find a way to figure it all out again."

Finally I would want to say, if all that I wrote has offended you, I am not sorry. Because religion and its numerous atrocities offend me. Casteism

offends me. Child abuse offends me. Exploitation of women offends me. Religion must be mocked and truth be said, there is really no polite way of calling out the irrationalities and offensive behaviour of religious people. And above all else, offending people with the truth has never been a factor of concern in my life. It's the real pillar of democracy. As Salman Rushdie puts it "What is freedom of expression? Without the freedom to offend, it ceases to exist". I always tell my students, if you feel offended, argue it out. It's a democracy. Use your brains. Go to the canteen and call me names and discuss how big a fool I am. In the process use your brain and argue on the topic. If you do that one day you will learn to use your brain and automatically realise the truth. As they say, if you could argue with religious people, there wouldn't be any religious people!

In any case there won't be any soon. The internet is bringing education for all and power in the hands of the common man to create social pressure through free speech and social media. This will soon make inequalities of income far less than prevalent. Science is talking of making woman immortal and within the next fifteen years itself. Capitalism is getting destroyed world-wide, as you will read in the next chapter, which would mean every human being will have access to basic rights like education, health, shelter, basic minimum income and justice. **And, in a world, specially in India of 2047, where your standard of living will be comparable to others and not make you jealous of them, where you will be living healthy and where you will access to basic rights; Your need for God itself will disappear— apart from the fact that better education will drive home the rational that God doesn't exist at the first place.**

D

Eradication of Materialism for Sustainability

One of the key challenges that all nations including India are facing today is the challenge of Sustainable Development for a healthy Green World. It's beginning to eat on a nations GDP finally. And the cost of having a clean environment is becoming absolutely prohibitive by the day. The entire unsustainable world has only human greed and unending clamour for materialism to blame. The question is where did it originate from? And how to tackle it?

The following part is something that I can not write any book without! So while there are new additions, the theories were first elucidated in my book 'The Great Indian Dream'.

To live, and to live better, human beings had to depend upon what he learnt in the jungles to survive. 'Survival of the Fittest'. It was need and greed over empathy and humanity. And that is also the basic fundamental pillar of Capitalism— what most countries in the world follow today almost without questioning anymore. 'Survival of the Fittest' in an economic system is Capitalism. As man escaped Jungle and civilization dawned around him various forms of 'Survival of the Fittest' emerged. First was by pure physical strength. Man started becoming the ruler of a tribe. Then slowly by adding people and improved weapons, man started becoming a king and then an emperor. He defined his land and survived better by becoming fitter. And all of it was by his ruthless jungle rule. Thus like in the jungle killing his fellow beings was commonplace- at least exploiting them through fear, the rule.

Thus started the journey of exploitation of man by man. And yet civilization evolved. And laws emerged. Laws emerged and civil society kept becoming stronger. And better laws emerged. Intellectuals and scientists emerged and they were ordered death. And people protested and when the rulers felt that the best way to handle was to compromise a bit so they accepted new laws. Democracies emerged but the route was filled with blood. Blood in the hands of imperialist forces in one part of the world and

in the hands of brute slave traders in another part. But the process of change continued. Democracies became stronger. And they wanted ban on slave trade and fiefdoms and kingdoms. The rulers, the kings, the traders got their new costume.

They were now political leaders and businessmen. Mostly from the same breed (a few of course from the commoners).

But when the new breed of political leaders and business leaders emerged, in most cases, no one took away from these old rulers, traders and kings what they and their forefathers had garnered through murders, brute force and exploitation. Things only looked better. The fact remained that these original leaders and businessmen mostly were from the privileged families- read families with blood in their hands.

For them the logical way to carry on their process of generations of exploitative practice was inventing new looking practices based upon their old concept of 'Survival of the Fittest'. Thus emerged what we call Capitalism. The economic way of carrying on the old practice of greed over humanity. Carrying on the jungle way in the name civilized behaviour.

So they said economies should be run on the basis of Capitalism and free market. The only thing they didn't do was snatch away all existing wealth of everyone and then distribute them equally and then said now that we are all on equal playing field let's start doing business and see who wins this race. Instead the existing wealth owners used his wealth to keep earning more wealth and the marginalized kept working on the sidelines trying to make two ends meet. One or two from this segment who invented something new and made it into the league of businessmen were glorified no end to show that the free market actually was giving everyone an equal chance to reach out for the stars. The truth was this was far from truth!

Smart guys like Adam Smith defended and elaborated on Capitalism by saying human beings being greedy in nature would always try to maximize his own profits and when we leave every individual in a society free to maximize his or her own profits, the society in turn would maximize the total profits. Gullible masses bought the premise.

Businessmen popularized the premise through the media they owned.

The truth was again that this premise was far from truth. The truth was human beings being greedy in nature is accompanied by the fact that resources are also limited in nature. And thus the powerful and the stronger would always try to corner the maximum possible leaving the weak with far less and exploited. And the biggest role of a society is not to leave greedy people free on the street to recreate the jungle. The role of a society is to maximize happiness and base itself on the premise of happiness instead of greed.

The Great Depression of 1930s proved how dangerous greed could be. Due to greed you pay the working class as less as possible but unfortunately if they don't have purchasing power you have no buyers for your products and there is large scale over production.

So what is the problem with Capitalism? Economics is essentially a study of allocation of the limited resources in a society to alternate uses that these resources can be put into, in an attempt to satisfy the unlimited wants of human beings. There are three key elements at work here. First, limited resources. Had resources been unlimited we would all have been well off and there would have been no need to study economics. But unfortunately that's not the case. Second, alternate uses of these resources. If we could make only bicycles with the help of steel.

There would have been very less problem. Take all the steel and make bicycles. The problem then would have been confined to how to distribute these bicycles. But unfortunately with steel we can make a million different things and that makes everything complicated.

Finally, human wants are unlimited. Had human beings want been limited to say just a bicycle. There would have been much less problem. You can make a million different things with steel. But people want only bicycles. So make only bicycles and give it to them. But human beings want everything. They want a bicycle, a motorbike, a car, an SUV, a private jet and a rocket that can fly to Mars.

So we study Economics. And try to solve the three key questions. What

to produce? How to produce? For whom to produce?

That's where Capitalism fails. It wants to leave these decisions to the invisible hand of the market. It says let the markets be free and demand and supply make that decision. But the market has this ability of making dangerous decisions because it caters to those with purchasing power. So the market would make five star hotels and living spaces aplenty - there is never a shortfall for it - but leave a billion people homeless. Market would cater to high end education for a few million leave a billion without an access to basic education.

And worst the insurance and medical companies will create a mafia where a few million rich have no dearth of health amenities while a billion are left to die without treatment.

While the Great Depression was overcome and astounding economic affluence was achieved for majority of population in USA, Europe and in countries like South Korea, Singapore, and Malaysia within the political economic framework of Capitalism thanks to Lord John Maynard Keynes' theoretical as well as practical policy structure. However, technological advances have led to jobless growth. Globalization has created hundreds of billionaires and possibly will bring forth a dozen trillionaires in the next few years. Certain billionaire capitalists like Bill Gates and Warren Buffet are tomtomed as proof of superiority of Capitalism.

They are praised sky-high for their commendable Charity Projects benefitting millions of people of the developing countries, saving them from fatal diseases like Aids, Malaria, etc., deliberately overlooking the fact that people like Bill Gates - despite being a great man himself- help creating a fake illusion about the capitalist system. The capitalist system actually led to massive killings in World War II and piecemeal World War III - as Pope Francis described the present wars - right now raging throughout the Arab World.

Capitalism is responsible for killing 2,500,000 Iraqis and more, massive murders in Syria and elsewhere. Saudi Arabia is protected by USA and supplied with bombs worth billions of dollars, though it is well documented

that Saudi Arabia was the main patron of ISIS. Hardly any Nobel Laureate in Economics has ever pointed out the organic link between Capitalism and Wars. The fact is wars add to the wealth of billionaires aspiring to become trillionaires in the quickest possible time. Let us honestly admit that Capitalism is a negative sum game destroying trillions of dollars, killing millions of men, women and children while creating a few dollar billionaires here and there doing humanitarian work. It has destroyed merit-based democracy and accentuated concentration of wealth in the hands of 1% or 0.1% at the cost of miseries for millions in USA and billions of people around the world.

Surprisingly, almost all the Nobel Laureates in Economics are apologists of Capitalism. Having their bread so thickly buttered, they are not capable of thinking anything beyond smart criticism of Capitalism, believing in reformed Capitalism.

The book, “Capital in the Twenty First Century” draws on more than a decade of research by Thomas Piketty and a handful of other economists (with the likes of Berkeley’s Emmanuel Saez), detailing historical changes in the concentration of income and wealth. This pile of data allows Thomas Piketty to sketch out the evolution of inequality since the beginning of the industrial revolution. Based on historical data of three centuries (18th, 19th & 20th) of more than 20 countries, Thomas Picketty postulates that, when rate of return on capital (“r”) exceeds the rate of growth of national output (GDP), as it did in the nineteenth century and seems quite likely to do again in the twenty first, Capitalism automatically generates arbitrary and unsustainable inequalities that radically undermine meritocratic values on which democratic societies are based.

Since extreme inequality is unacceptable and sacrifice of merit and democracy cannot be defended in the process of evolving humanized economic society, not only capitalists but also Capitalism is to be rejected.

Its viciously competitive, no holds-barred, financial- bottom-line approach has made many of the less-developed lands and people fall by the wayside. The market- oriented economy has caused an incredible number of job losses, land alienation, food riots and tensions of economic disparities

leading to rising organized crime, degeneration of the public support system and environmental degradation.

It only reminds us of the need to realise that economic prosperity for a nation is not about Economics alone. A nation cannot be run like a Departmental Store with the only motive of profit maximization.

Economic prosperity encompasses social development, which is crucial to the soul of a nation. Today's Capitalism has to re-engineer and restructure itself so that its social face emerges without scars.

When capacity utilization fell from 85% to 70% during the 1930s in America, it caused the Great Depression. In the case of India, what do we do but bemoan our capacity utilization of 60% . . . Just improving this alone would give us the additional growth that we are looking for.

Thanks to years of corporate sector financed public relations efforts, the free market policies that encourage private enterprise and consumer choice have a near sacred aura around them. These policies undermine the dead hand of the incompetent, bureaucratic, parasitic government, which can do no good even if it means to. As a result, policies that get implemented in the name of liberalization, free market or benefits to the corporate sector, seldom seem to require defence. These cover-ups are used to insidiously usher in anything from lowering taxes for the corporate sector and the wealthy to disabling public education, health care, housing and employment - generation programmes. I'm afraid, I, for one, do not fall in the category of economists who would blindly buy these arguments. I have always believed that the market is a wonderful slave but a bad master.

The world has seen more violence in recent years than ever before. Ethnic problems are creating havoc. Even in the US there is a big ethnic problem. Research has revealed that if the white American population ranks first in the Human Development Index the black American ranks 37th!

The arguments against 'heartless' economics are aplenty, but it is never too late to understand that any need that gives momentary pleasure for a price has to be subjugated to the larger collective needs of a society, paving the way of harmonious, natural, socioeconomic growth.

When we buy a twelfth pair of Nike shoes we may derive momentary satisfaction but when we spend time learning music, the satisfaction lasts a lifetime. But when the vulnerable human mind is constantly bombarded with new material concepts, it become exceedingly difficult to concentrate on anything other than satisfying material needs, pushing people to become more and more materialistic. It is only when a husband presents a diamond ring to his wife that he loves her. How much has a diamond ring, washing machine or a pressure cooker to do with love? Attaching price tags to finer sentiments, robs life of its richness. Such addictive consumerism and its ripple effects have begun to show in the divorce rates of the middle class which valued the institution of marriage very highly. When you see a girl in a lingerie advertisement say, 'All my boy friends love it,' or a man in a deodorant ad declare that it is 'for a man who doesn't have to try hard,' you know the society is not promoting emotional well being, conducive to the institution of family. Let's look at some figures to justify all that I have just said. In America the number of divorces per 1000 marriages now stands at a staggering 504, and 19.3% of women in the age group of 30 to 34 are unmarried. Twenty per cent of children grow up in single-parent homes and two-thirds of black babies who are born out of wedlock live with their mothers. While white male life expectancy is at 75.3 years, the black male is expected to live only till 68.7 years.

While the richest 5% whites own 88% of private property in the US, more than 50% of the black population lives below the poverty line.

There are 15 suicides, 100 drug crimes, 15 road accident deaths per 1,00,000 people in developed countries. The do or die syndrome where success is the only byline in life has rendered more people unhappy than ever before. The suicide rate in some of the ivy-league institutions as well as premier institutions in some Western countries is shockingly high despite plenty.

We also need to realise that cross-border trade is the worst polluter among all economic activities, as it uses more than twice the amount of energy used by equivalent local production. It doesn't make much economic sense even from an ecological point of view. Importing products to improve trade with other countries when they can be manufactured locally makes

little business sense. Unlimited progress in technology has also created ecological threats of nuclear war and its ensuing dangers. We need to realise that there is a limit to material growth. Growth and greed are not synonymous.

Economic growth has to be well directed.

The concept of competition in a free market has also been misunderstood.

The competition between a crippled and a healthy man is not fair. Countries like the UK used 150 years of protectionism, violence and state power to put themselves ahead of any competitor in the late 1800s before suddenly turning to propagate a free market system. When the US started catching up with them, they used protectionism. British steel was kept away from the US through huge tariff barriers so that the US steel industry could grow. It is interesting to note how after becoming a developed nation, each nation turns to the doctrine of free market in order to exploit the markets of the weaker countries through blatant aggression or through free market.

Countries like India need to realise that they need to help their industries to come up to a position first where they don't feel threatened but enjoy the satisfaction of healthy competition. During the latter part of the eighteenth century, India, for example, was producing as much iron as the whole of Europe. In fact, British engineers were studying some of India's more advanced steel manufacturing techniques to try and close the technology gap. Bombay was producing locomotives at competitive levels when the railway boom started. But the British doctrine of market interference – read imperialism — destroyed this industry in India much like it destroyed India's textile and shipbuilding industries. Americans too, a hundred years later, saw the advantages of a level playing ground on which they could crush the competitor, much like the British did years ago. That the Americans now propagate the merits of cross-border trade, after protecting their own industries for one hundred and fifty years, is something our policy makers fail to see.

Globalization, which is typically associated with accepting triumphant Capitalism-American style, is projected as a synonym for the word

‘progress’, which developing countries must accept if they are to grow and fight poverty. The reality is that globalization is not working — not just for many of the world’s poor but also for those who promoted it. It seems to be achieving very little for the stability of the global economy itself. Joseph Stiglitz points out, in his book *Globalization and Its Discontents* that despite repeated promises of poverty eradication made in the last decade of the twentieth century, the actual number of people living in poverty across the globe has actually increased by almost a hundred million. This happened simultaneously, as the world income actually increased by an average of 2.5% annually.

Only strong domestic competition can build up the ability of a nation to manufacture high quality products like the Japanese economy produces. Without the experience of competing in the domestic market, countries cannot compete in a free market system with any measure of success. It is like participating in the Olympic events without any national level experience. As MNCs come in, they buy up smaller organisations. This in fact does just the opposite of what it promises to do – destroy competition instead of encouraging healthy competition. Larger organisations are not conducive to an individual’s well-being either, for in a very large organisation, the worker cannot relate to the final product and feels alienated from the whole work process.

In fact, as organisations grow in size, the ownership is alienated from the whole human activity or the production process, as most of the ownership today is restricted to the ownership of papers (shares).

It is the CEOs and a few senior executives who enjoy the benefits and rule. Unfortunately, management experts have done well, promoting Adam Smith’s concept of division of labour (like economists have with his concept of ‘the invisible hand’) but have never bothered to talk about his total contempt for its inhuman effects which turn working people into objects – as stupid and ignorant as it is possible for a human creature to be – something that he felt should be prevented in ‘every improved and civilized society’ by government action to overcome the destructive force of the invisible hand.

This clearly goes to show that even if the free market were to be

considered successful, it would require many changes, which we rarely talk about.

Finally, a few words on how bothered the West is about the needs of the developing world. The global village that America talks about is not about a village, verdant and peaceful, where people live happily. It is about a village, full of exploitative hierarchies where America wants to be the new Global Lord. At a meet in Rio de Janeiro, developing countries wanted developed countries to part with a mere 0.2% of their cross-border trade as a contribution towards eradicating poverty from developing countries. The former refused!

While basic education for all in the world would cost \$6 billion annually, expenses on cosmetics in the US amount to a staggering \$8 billion. Water and sanitation for all costs \$9 billion, while ice cream worth \$11 billion is sold in Europe annually. Reproductive health for all women costs \$12 billion; expenses on perfumes in Europe and the US add up to \$12 billion. Whereas basic health and nutrition for all requires \$13 billion, expenses on pet foods in Europe and the US amount to \$17 billion. Cigarettes and alcohol account for \$50 billion and \$105 billion in Europe, respectively. To cap it all, may I add that narcotic drugs in circulation across the world are worth \$400 billion and military expenditure is worth \$1750 billion annually!

Bertolt Brecht once remarked: ‘Those who have eaten their fill speak to the hungry of the wonderful times to come.’ The significance of this statement explicitly emerges from the data presented in the previous paragraph. More than half a century after the passage of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, where the right to food was acknowledged as a basic human right, nothing seems to have been achieved. Forget poverty, even hunger has not been alleviated despite slogans such as ‘eliminate hunger now, poverty later’. At the World Food Summit in June 2002, as always, hunger was discussed; scholarly debate on how to re- solve this problem followed, and the delegates dined in the opulent capital of Italy. The World Food Summit itself has become a meaningless ritual, where millions are spent to host and entertain those enamoured by the sound of their own voices although nothing meaningful ever emerges. The delegates met, pledges were made to cut the number of hungry to 400 million by 2015.

(One would have expected a focus on total elimination!) But now statistics reveal that 800 million people are still be hungry across the globe. People working for the eradication of poverty are more concerned about the statistical tools used for collecting the data and disproving those collected by institutions other than themselves rather than eradicating poverty.

As an Indian I have often wondered what it is that makes us completely besotted with everything American and the American visa – the Great Indian Dream for most young Indians! Even if I were to accept the reality that an individual is more concerned about his personal economics than the country's, what defies my understanding is how people in charge of a nation could ape a country with 132 times more drug crimes, 16 times more rapes and 12 times more murder crimes compared to a country like Japan. I must admit, even if they have failed in other areas, Americans seem to have marketed themselves really well! After enjoying a cosy 150 years of protectionism for themselves, both Britain and America now demand a level playing field with developing economies like India. This is a standing example of economic double standards!

Having critically analyzed the problems of markets and global Capitalism earlier, let me say it is not as if I do not understand some of the merits of these systems and their cohesion with human nature. Ideologies can often fire your passion enough to override natural human tendencies for a while. When you are being ruthlessly exploited and live in endless poverty, you do tend to feel closely related to your brethren and revolutions invariably follow: With growing prosperity and enough food to eat, this passion starts dwindling to a point where all you want to get is more recognition for your contribution. Competition and one-up mans hip begins to rule your lives. It is certainly in human nature to welcome prosperity and better standards of living and yearn for luxuries in life — and why not? When people around you live almost as well as you do these natural human tendencies can be allowed to flourish (though we must remember that unlimited prosperity leads to a waste economy while the aim of a humane system should be to create a sustainable world). But in these days of globalization, prosperity too should be globalized. Till then a large majority of the have-nots and a few amongst the haves like us will continue to have utter contempt for the

present system of market Capitalism.

For true humanism to succeed, the state has to play a significant decision-making role which may be perceived as interfering and distributive by citizens. This often entails using a lot of value judgement to consider what is good for society from an ideal point of view. Citizens may not welcome this as it is at the cost of their freedom. Moreover, there is no reason to think that what the state does (very often it boils down to what the leader thinks should be done) will always be correct. It is only when citizens participate and interact with the state, and the state takes this seriously for decision-making on a regular basis through debates and polls, that true democracy can be established and what the state does can be taken as correct. This is why you may notice that only countries where a majority of people live in inhuman poverty have usually opted for a socialist system by choice (revolutions). At such times people looked up to someone (state or a leader) to take decisions on their behalf in order to pull them out of their miserable situation. They welcomed state interference since they felt that prosperity was beyond their individual means. When the people in the same countries survived their massive indignities and their standard of living improved, they wanted to get rid of state intervention from their daily lives. However, power corrupts. The same leaders who brought about revolutionary changes in these countries, had got used to the habit of ruling by imposing their views and thus neglected natural human tendencies.

Then there was also the problem of those leaders failing to draw the line between ideology and dogma in their passion to impose what they thought was correct. A man begins to cherish nothing more than his independence from the moment he learns to survive with basic human dignity. The socialist states failed to provide this despite their ideological correctness. Market capitalists, on the other hand, try to leave everything on the markets including the problem of inequality, unemployment, pollution, health or education. These are all issues in which the state has to necessarily play an important role, which even in free market economies, the majority will have no objections to accepting. Further, in a globalized world, states, especially the developed ones, have to look into these aspects as world citizens beyond the narrow vision of their own prosperity. We need to first and foremost

globalize the idea that development is about transforming societies into better democracies, improving the lives of the poor and enabling everyone to have a chance at success as well as access to health care and education. If the common notion of Capitalism represents freedom and democracy, and socialism represents equity and happiness, then what we need today is Happy Capitalism – Capitalism minus its inhuman tendencies of putting profit and trade above human dignity and people; Capitalism minus its efforts at reducing its citizens into submissive slaves to the hierarchy of the rich and powerful while maintaining an illusion of democracy; and socialism minus its interfering nose in every aspect of daily life and the inhuman attempts at snubbing the freedom of speech. While the market should remain to cater to the people who have the purchasing power, the state needs to take care of those being marginalized in the gold rush and look into matters of national and global interests like environment, pollution, healthcare and peace.

Survival of the Weakest and the Trickle up theory

Redefining some rules I begin my journey towards what I have previously called Happy Capitalism by picking up the basic concept around which free enterprise revolves. For long economists have been blindly following Darwin's theory of 'Survival of the Fittest' as the maxim for supporting the existence of the capitalist economy. The problem is, however, they forget that the whole purpose behind the functioning of an economy is to move towards a more civilized form of existence. Civilization has seen man moving out of the jungle and reaching where he is today. Sadly, however, he has not yet been able to discard the rules of the jungle.

From the very beginning Capitalism has been based on the principle of individualism and 'Survival of the Fittest'. Adam Smith's theory that man is rational and will maximize profits in a free market supports this principle. The core function of a man in a capitalist market essentially revolves around competing with others and maximizing individual profit. Critics, of course, would like to point out that the returns that an individual gains in a capitalist market are not solely dependent on his efforts alone but also reflective of the wealth he has accumulated in the past. The manner in which large companies from developed nations enter developing countries

and destroy their domestic industries proves the point that the capitalist economy is based on the concept of ‘Survival of the Fittest’. In a jungle, the ‘fittest’ refers to the strongest or the one who can best adjust to the existing environment; in an economy, ‘fittest’ would refer to the richest. Therefore we see that the market economy has always helped the rich grow richer at the cost of others, although whenever one tries to question this, we are told that we should not worry because left free, market prosperity always trickles down! This trickle down theory is another unquestioned capitalist jargon which is thrown at developing countries from time to time.

This, sure enough, furthers the cause of the developed nations despite the absence of any empirical evidence to prove the same.

Human beings are born equal. Not equal in terms of their abilities but definitely equal in terms of their right to live and be happy. If given the same opportunities of health, education and environment, their capacity to contribute would become nearly equal. It is the society that we have created where these opportunities are not equally distributed, thereby leading to a difference between man and man. Today when some of us have reached such high standards of living, the time is right to bring in some humanitarian aspects into our society. Quoting Marx here will get my point across: “Socialism is taking from each according to his ability and giving to each according to his contribution.” This, he said, would remove exploitation of man by man. What is more interesting and human is his definition of Communism, which he says is that ideal system, which takes from each according to his ability and gives to each according to his need (it may be noted that Marx never talked about tormenting these societies through ruthless dictatorship as was practised later). What this means is that even though I might be contributing five lakh rupees worth of services every month to my society, but if for my happy and civilized existence, I need only one lakh rupees a month, then that is what I should get. A mentally challenged person living in the same society may not contribute anything but he will need a certain amount, perhaps as much as I do, to take care of his survival, treatment and medicine. In that case a communist society aims to provide him with the same amount as I get although he contributes nothing. Though socialistic ideology has never been put this way, what it essentially

means is that to achieve a humane and equal society we need to believe in the opposite of

‘Survival of the Fittest’, i.e. **‘Survival of the Weakest.’**

While my previous part was focused on disproving the existence of God on the basis of Darwinism and Survival of the Fittest, this chapter is focused bringing out the evils in capitalism by focusing on Survival of the Weakest. And there exists no dichotomy at all. While evolution was based on Survival of the Fittest, civilisation must be based upon Survival of the Weakest.

Capitalist civilized societies across the world need to realise the merits of this human aspect of economics and consider and include this in any decision-making process, because civilization is all about discarding jungle rules and making humans more human. Or else we would be more like human beings who look like animals let loose in a civilized society, as predatory as wild animals.

Hate the word Communism as much as you may, I firmly believe, without any doubts and reasons to argue, that every human being is a born communist. Does this shock you? Perhaps this is as shocking as my admitting that many aspects of Capitalism are close to human nature. The basic ideology of Communism, as I have just said, is also very close to human instincts. I’ll tell you why I think so.

Communism as defined by Marx is “from each according to his ability and to each according to his need”. Does that not yet make you feel like a communist? It will. Read on. Think about it and you will realise. Throughout your life you have only practiced this and when you look at the lives of everyone around you, you realise that’s what everyone has been practicing. That’s what makes us human beings.

I will explain again. In your own family what do you do? You take from everyone in your family as per their “ability to contribute”. You might be the head of the family with an ability to work for 8 hours.

So you do that. Your father might be on dialysis and has no ability to work but only tell your son stories. That’s his contribution. Your mother may

not be interested in working , though very able. You let her relax. Your wife maybe more interested in taking care of your little child than joining back work. You take that from her. And your child can only laugh and play. Zero contribution. You take that.

In turn do you tell any of them that sorry guys, no contribution no returns. No. Rather you say. Contribute as per your ability and take away as per your needs. So may be 60% of your entire earning goes in supporting your dad's treatment and medication and your child's special foods and extra care though they contribute nothing.

And from the remaining 40% rest of you live plus pay all bills.

That's from each according to his ability and to each according to his need. That's Communism. **And that makes you a communist in your personal life, like all of us. And that's being human.**

I will explain in greater depth about this philosophy and why extending this to everyone around us as a society in general will make us a humane society in a while. But as of now, know this. Communism isn't a cuss word and nor are you alone as a communist. Every humane human being is a communist. Just that he doesn't even know that. And this is 'Survival of the Weakest.' This is to each according to his need. It might be another issue that the state can't get so emotional (though it has no business to be emotionally bankrupt) but what we can't challenge is the fact that we are all born as communists at heart!

I don't want to question the contribution of Capitalism in making this world a better place to live in. All I want to ask is this: After years of growth and development which has seen Capitalism at its materialistic peak enjoy the comforts that at one point of time would have sounded unrealistic, why doesn't this system focus on the crucial aspect of the ever widening gap between man and man, the rich and the poor? Today when every rich family in the West has five cars, can't they put their greed on hold, till the others at least come up to a situation where they don't die of hunger, before deciding to buy their sixth car? As individuals, it might be a tough choice but in civilized societies, for the governments, it shouldn't be.

When an economy reaches a stage where the fittest can live well even if their standard of living doesn't grow rapidly, it is the duty of that economy to channelize its resources on the weakest for its survival. In our respective families we all practice Communism — to each according to his need but when it comes to the nation we question its validity. This doesn't mean I am insisting that all economies turn socialistic; what I am suggesting is that we consider extending this most human and natural concept of a family situation to the so-called global family as well! The Americans today are already spending the highest number of hours on social work every week. Let them lead the march towards imbibing the concept of 'survival of the weakest' in civilized societies. The only problem that the rich would face because of this holy march would be that their pace of growth would get just a little slower but this would accelerate the growth of the poor and the weaker. This contribution from the richer sections of the society is something that the world would be proud of tomorrow.

The stronger nations of the world should start supporting the weaker nations of the world genuinely and not for a bargain. I am sure by supporting the cause of the weak they will finally see the benefits trickle up in their own balance sheets! The world would become a better place to live in. Hankering after 'more' has left rich society in a constant state of chasing a mirage! Perhaps in the new world order things can be different. Perhaps tomorrow's five-star hotels will be less starry but at least we won't see those miserable slums around them.

Isn't it ironical that the whole of Latin America and Africa put together don't have a single permanent member in the Security Council? India with a population of almost one billion is nowhere near a permanent membership either! Looking at this irrational situation, Fidel Castro had observed, 'The obsolete veto system and the abuse of the Security Council by the powerful nations are exalting a new colonialism within the UN. The UN was formed at the end of a monstrous war that had claimed some ten million lives. More than twice the number of people killed during the World War - II today die of hunger and curable diseases while the United Nations brags about bringing peace to the world. The rich countries enjoy a life expectancy of around 80 years while in the poor countries it is a mere 45 years.' This is

what the 'Survival of the Fittest' has achieved!

Don't the people born in poor countries have the right to live beyond the age of 45? These billions of lives are stubbed by the rich countries for the sake of a few additional comforts in their already luxurious lives. How long shall we wait for the carnage to stop?

If we want to achieve global humanism, we have to reverse the way economies function. And let me assure all the great industrialists and the capitalists of the world, this isn't the death knell of Capitalism. Benefits of the principle of the 'Survival of the Weakest' will trickle up. There is enough evidence to support this belief. Without the benefits of a trickle up, one would not be able to explain the fact World Bank admitted as well... that in recorded history no other country has been able to bring as many people above the poverty line as China has done in the last twenty years. Figures stand at a staggering 300 million!

The Chinese are even opening up northern China for tourists, indicating that they have started removing poverty from that part as well. China's efforts on survival of the weakest has resulted in a **TRICKLE UP**, giving the much needed purchasing power to a majority of Chinese people, which in turn has attracted large-scale foreign exchange. It is a rule of market Capitalism to invest in countries with higher purchasing power because that's where profits lie. The benefits of giving purchasing power to the poor in China are trickling up and taking the country ahead at a rate which is making the Western world extremely scared about the future domination of China.

Belief in trickle up is a thumb rule for developing economies like India. The success of Indian businesses, locally and globally, doesn't actually depend upon the kind of business strategies they have or the jargon that they have acquired. Their multinational consulting firms are their exciting marketing and sales promotional schemes. In the long run, the success of the companies will depend upon the size of the market that the economy has been able to give them and the purchasing power the people in the country have. With Survival of the Weakest as the maxim, the people at the bottom rung of the economy would get more purchasing power along

with better health and education facilities. This would not only make a huge difference in the quality of human capital in the country but would also satisfy the most important criterion for the growth of the Indian industry by becoming a part of the consuming market. The market will no longer comprise of a hundred million people but one billion people because it is the purchasing power and only purchasing power of the market that determines the long-term growth of any economy, industry or company.

No marketing strategy can achieve a similar market expansion. This is pure economics and no miracle. We cannot possibly underestimate the importance of policies that strengthen the weaker sections to take care of the larger interests of the industries.

Let us resolve that we will redefine the basic rules of the capitalist economy and ensure the survival of the weakest for our own good. An economy that wants to survive and not be swept off its feet by the giant corporations should place its faith on the survival of the weakest and the theory of Trickle Up as the saving grace for the next millennium.

The law of increasing marginal utility: Redefining satisfaction

As an economist who preaches - what I have termed as - Happy Capitalism, I have warned people not to fall prey to the practices of this competitive capitalist world for over a decade! I have always maintained that the market is a great slave but a pathetic master. I have spoken of ways that can enable us to live in this primarily capitalist world – which comes naturally to mankind – yet strike the right balance in order to maximize our happiness. For happiness, I have always believed, is the only reason for our existence, and we chase success and money also because we believe that's one of the ways to be happier.

Just eradicating God isn't all that is there to intelligent, happy living and a better future; For the current form of Capitalism too isn't conducive to a happy life either. A balance has to be struck with the core belief that material plenty is not the end all of life – personally or professionally. This game of winning in the market place has its positive sides as well as its negative sides. Yes it's true, if the world has not seen another recession of the kind in

the 1930's, we have capitalist marketers and advertising agencies to thank. They often don't know the great service they unknowingly, often in their semi drunk state, do! Marketers keep the money rotating in the system. They convince people to come out and buy. And therefore, they keep the economic cycle rotating! For it's only when what we produce gets sold that producer produce more. Else the recessional cycle starts. Products don't get sold, we produce lesser and fire people, there is lesser money in the markets, they buy lesser and thus we produce lesser and the cycle continues. Marketing brains – often magically – seduce people out into the markets and make them buy – a pre-requisite for a capitalist system.

This is exactly where lies the dilemma! Happiness is about satisfaction and contentment. And the capitalist market system, while promising you an illusion of happiness, is in a constant endeavor to make you discontent and dissatisfied by selling you the idea of owning a product as happiness. Often, the idea seems to be Work, Buy, Consume, Die! Markets thrive on the manipulation of the attitudes and behaviour of the consumers and by altering the definition of what is worth emulating in life. Top authors will say that the job of a great marketer is to identify needs and satisfy them, with a rider that needs always exist and they can't be created. The truth is that by definition, a need is state of felt deprivation, and it can be created by making you feel deprived – of a shoe, a washing machine or a car – and that is what the advertiser does constantly.

Not just that... A true top notch intellectual advertiser doesn't even focus on making you satisfied... He focuses on making you temporarily satisfied from the word go, with a new plan to make you dissatisfied just some time after you have bought his product and are feeling satisfied. Apple's iPhones are milking this strategy to the core till it ruled. It hypes up a product in the market by keeping it deliberately short of one basic feature. Immediately after we buy a new model, it comes up with another model highlighting the feature it didn't include. And this game continues. Of course, the consumers eventually get bored and see through it and eventually the same will happen to Apple that happened to another company that used to do the same in past — Nokia. Consumers got bored of not just of Nokia models but of Nokia as a brand on the whole, leading to their decline in sales globally – an aspect

that marketers must be cautious of while dumping more and more products on their consumers. It shouldn't happen that instead of your new product, the law of diminishing marginal utility starts applying on your brand itself. Also, other competitors gave equally good and better products and exposed Nokia's lack of focus on real product improvement after one point. Such acts can continue only till your product is supreme in quality.

What Nokia did almost on a quarterly basis for years is what others do on a half yearly, annual or biannual basis. Throw away your old washing machine and bring home the new washing machine! This looks better since it is front loading and top loading systems are outdated!

If you keep falling into these traps as a consumer, your life will be an endless chase. By chasing one product after the other just to remain up to date, you will only remain dissatisfied or at best jump from one individual momentary satisfaction to another. That is the job of the marketer, for he can't sell his products to a satisfied man! A satisfied consumers is a marketer's worst nightmare! He dreads to think about such a man while he talks about bringing out an ad, which will satisfy your needs though that's utter garbage! Yet it's totally necessary for business and economies to run. His message is clearly – as one of my favourite and most successful department stores in London SELFRIDGES says – **BUY ME AND I WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE** – at least that's the illusion he wants to create.

The onus is on us as consumers. Are we going to allow them to treat us like a dustbin and become their product dumping ground or will we strike the right balance and spend some time with our children at the wonderful cost of not buying the latest model of another colour TV, if the last one is till working fine, and looking almost new? The marketer will always use the economic law of diminishing marginal utility to his advantage. That's why I say that economists will necessarily make great marketing guys if they want to. Diminishing Marginal Utility is that psychological law due to which we pay hugely for the first glass of water but with every additional glass of water, we are ready to pay much lesser; because it says, the more we have of something the less we want to have more of it. That's why, after the initial excitement of buying a new car, with every passing day – though it might still work as fine – our excitement dies down and we again start falling prey

to a new motorcar's advertisement! And an intelligent marketer only tries to see to it that the law of diminishing marginal utility around the product he has just sold you works faster than human nature would have allowed it to, so that you come back to buy his product again!!! In this statement lies the biggest advice from my side to every marketing man and the key to avoid being prey to the marketing man's strategies as a consumer and chose happiness from relationships, books and other finer aspects of life. Instead of products, relationships have a law of increasing marginal utility working than diminishing!

Anyway, we come back to our topic. As marketers, apart from chasing our profits and therefore being socially responsible, we must also remember that what we do necessarily have a negative impact on the society. Often, the more we win, the more we lose! That is, the more we win in terms of a business, the more we lose in terms of the society. Therefore, at least the knowledge of the societal effects of an excessively advertising & marketing driven-society is of extreme importance to not just consumers but even to us, the marketers.

In America today, estimates say a sixth of its total GDP is spent on marketing and advertising. Most of it is tax-exempt, so that people pay for the privilege of being subjected to manipulation of their attitudes and behaviour. Even four-year-olds check out with each other what brand names they patronize. They go up to other kids and twist and turn up their collars to check out brand names. For toddlers and children below the age of five, the fashion house GAP finds that its colourful and well-designed clothes don't sell as much as a dull grey-coloured T-shirt with GAP written boldly on the chest does. After all, what's the use of buying a branded product if nobody gets to know about the brand name even if it is for your three-year-old impressionable child! So much for the illusion of being individual masters of life that the free market system is known to propagate! In his book *Profit Over People*, Noam Chomsky points out that a majority of Americans themselves haven't benefitted from market Capitalism.

Americans today live off the money that they will be earning in future, thanks to the credit card syndrome and the attractive installment schemes offered to the gullible consumer, overcome by this need to have more. A

generation of credit card defaulters is growing up in countries like India as well. An endless number of young boys are falling prey to this trap and start their career as shameless thieves, who proudly announce their intention of defaulting. The others start their careers on loans. These people had better be warned! **As Martin Luther King said, “The means by which we live have outdistanced the ends for which we live. Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.”**

Credit card companies hire musclemen to recover the assets taken on installments. The entire system is repelling. The average American today has a negative saving, thanks to this compelling urge to finish the earth’s resources as soon as possible. There are economic problems too. The entire system of credit works till that point where all the citizens of a nation finish spending their future income today. As I wrote in my book, ‘The Great Indian Dream’ years before the 2008 recession happened, “The American economy is surviving by selling things on their future income. Imagine a society where the credit economy becomes so aggressive that all its citizens have exhausted their next 15 years’ earnings buying products, homes or cars today. The credit-run economy will start stagnating soon with replacement credit only for those who complete their installments.”

That’s exactly what is leading to stagnation around the world. The American drama unfolds interesting scenes. The working class, about 80% of the economy, has nothing to do after work. There are four things that sell primarily. At least these are the only four industries that have seen advertising in American newspapers and television in a decent way – fast food, clothes, cars and insurance.

Fast food is making average Americans unattractive and obese. Department stores with their round-the- year sales are trying to help them look attractive and hide obesity. Car companies are giving them some action to look forward to in life and insurance companies are selling the fear of death (often due to obesity and lifestyle-related reasons) and making money. Incidentally, even these businesses were started nearly three and a half decades ago. With the exception of the IT boom, entrepreneurship seems out of reach for a common man because of the high costs involved in setting up new businesses. One look at average department stores on Fifth

Avenue in New York is good enough to reveal that they are working on variable costs with the cost of infrastructure being impossible to recover. You don't need to be an economist or management expert to guess this. That is one reason why new businesses are not coming up. Infrastructure costs are becoming unrecoverable and only those with a given infrastructure are able to survive. Since they are not selling, the market mechanism also doesn't work! People in small towns everywhere in Europe and America complain that large national retailers and shopping malls have killed their small businesses and their communities. In the name of free enterprise, monopolies are established and competition (even quality) are compromised. Market Capitalism is helping a few rich to get richer, creating protectionism whenever required only for the benefit of the world's elite. Bringing Versace and Armani suits to department stores in New Delhi while the rest of India languishes in poverty is not the social justice we had longed for. Selling Louis Vuitton and Dior for the urban rich is more of Hypnotic Poison (as a Dior perfume is called) than symbolic of development in India! Years ago, Mao Zedong said that power flows from the barrel of the gun. We would have loved this world to be a better place. The truth, however, is that in the post-Cold War era, America continues to impose its ideology and diktats on the rest of the world still primarily from the barrel of the gun.

Having critically analyzed the problems of market and global Capitalism in brief, let me say that it is not as if I do not understand some of the merits of these systems and their cohesion with human nature. Ideologies can often fire your passion enough to override natural human tendencies for a while, as it happened in the erstwhile communist nations. When you are being ruthlessly exploited and live in endless poverty, you do tend to feel closely related to your brethren and revolutions invariably follow: With growing prosperity and enough food to eat, this passion starts dwindling to a point where all you want to get is more recognition for your contribution. Competition and oneupmanship begins to rule your lives. That is the reason that Capitalism appeals to human kind and socialism in the long runs looks oppressive.

It is certainly in human nature to welcome prosperity and better standards of living and yearn for luxuries in life and why not?

When people around you live almost as well as you do, these natural human tendencies can be allowed to flourish. But in these days of globalization, prosperity, too, should be globalized. Till then, a large majority of the have-nots and a few amongst the haves like us will continue to have utter contempt for the present system of market Capitalism. John F. Kennedy had said on the price increase proposed by US Steel, “My father always told me that all businessmen were sons of bitches, I never believed it till now”.

However, we must realise that market Capitalism works very hard at keeping you tied down to the lower order needs by altering the speed of the law of diminishing marginal utility through manipulative advertising. It doesn't let us grow up the hierarchy of needs and experience happiness derived out of love and feelings. The Needs Theory of Maslow is called the ‘Hierarchy of Needs’, mainly because each need is placed in accordance with the happiness and satisfaction derived from it. In fact, Maslow himself called the two bottom most needs of physiological and security as lower order needs and the rest – social, self esteem and self-actualization– as the higher order needs. The lower order needs are common to human beings and all animals. Thus, I call them the animalistic needs of human beings. It is the satisfaction of the higher order needs and the ability to satisfy them better that makes human beings different from animals.

The way we eat food or crave security is quite similar to animals. It is our ability to express love for our fellow beings by showing compassion, consideration and sensitivity that distinguishes us from animals. We are also blessed with better skills to satisfy our self-actualization needs. In an ideal society, where the members of a community are happy, it is easy to perceive that the human beings who make up the community have the scope for satisfying their higher order needs. It is the satisfaction of the higher order needs that brings long-lasting happiness to man. On the contrary, if human beings are to spend a major part of their lives in slogging for acquiring the mere basic necessities of life like food, health and education, when do they even think about higher order needs? They can do so only when the state takes the responsibility of providing employment, health, education and equity. In the way that market Capitalism is being practised now, none of the

lower order needs of the weaker sections are fulfilled. This is precisely why, as businessmen, throughout our lives, we are often busy satisfying our lower order animalistic needs.

The more we want aggression in this market economy, the more time we are forced to spend satisfying these animalistic needs. At the age of eighty, we often look like a human being & talk like a human being but have never really spent quantity time (read as enough time, the opposite of quality time) to satisfy our human instincts and we don't even realise when we became like animals. With all due respect to the animal lovers of this world (there are thousands of fashionable people for animal societies in this world today, but rarely does one hear about 'people for people' societies), our responses often at the age of eighty are actually as incom sequential as the bark of a street dog or the grunt of a pig in a neighborhood drain. We become a dry-eyed money-making machine at best and we hardly have anything to gain from humanity because we have never ever experienced humanity.

Isn't it gross injustice to mankind if human beings are forced to live in societies which leave them to wallow in their miseries and stay tied down to fend for their lower order needs all their lives?

A businessman, in his constant chase for material gains, often has no time for his children. Ask him why he has no time for his children and he has a market savvy answer, like one of my friends said, "I spend QUALITY time with my children – about five and a half minutes a day – and I don't believe in interfering in their independence by imposing myself. After all, they have to be independent human beings!" He is extremely well travelled, but ask him if he has ever managed to visit the Louvre in Paris to marvel at the amazing Renaissance paintings, he moans about the lack of time. And in a way we marketers are a lot to blame. We create a society where people are respected by what they have and rarely by the content of their character, so everything is lost. Maslow's hierarchy of needs is actually a hierarchy of happiness. Satisfaction of the higher order non-material needs helps you TO BE while the material, lower order needs keep you in the state of HAVING. Thus, in market Capitalism, we are always forced to be in the state of having and rarely in the state of being. If I go to Geneva for a holiday, I come back with two thousand photographs because I want to permanently possess the

happiness that I experienced. Instead of trying to be in the state of happiness, enjoying the beauty of nature and trying to be one with it in the time I am there, I try to bring it back with me and possess the beauty forever. What actually happens is something different though. Moments of happiness keep occurring in life – first girlfriend, first kiss, first trip to Switzerland, first marriage, first child, first award – they all keep flashing. And the albums keep growing in numbers. As for happiness . . . well . . . when someone comes to visit you soon after your marriage, you are still enthusiastic (foolish) enough to bring the ten odd albums and force them to go through all of them assuming that your friends have nothing else to do. After a few weeks even you are scared of bringing out those boulders of memory from the stack. If somebody asks you to describe the state of mind you were in during those beautiful moments, you are unable to recall them because instead of being in the state of happiness, you were busy trying to capture the happiness for posterity. Now you neither remember the happiness nor want to have a look at those captured moments. Man's refusal to be in the state of happiness is therefore resulting in short-lived happiness (broken marriages, et al).

In this branded world, everything has to be possessed. If you possess revolutionary instincts, even those can be used for making higher profits, thanks to the revolutionary soda company's consumable drink called 'Che', named after the great Latin American revolutionary who was the symbol of non-capitalistic pursuits. Similar things seem to be happening with education too! Being educated is not important. Having education is. Thus when I am almost 48 years of age today, having passed out of school some thirty years back, the first question I am asked (by a new acquaintance) is which school did I pass out from. If I say Delhi Public School (a branded private school in Delhi), I am looked upon as someone who has had a good education (even though I might have been a failure throughout my school life). If I say that I passed out from Government School Number 15, then high society doesn't know how to pursue the conversation further. "You must have been a brilliant student", is the response you get. Thus, young children at their most formative and impressionable years grow up with either a superiority complex about their education (in case they are from a 'branded' school) or an inferiority complex about their education in case

they are not from one. Psychology tells us that for a balanced and healthy mind, both these complexes are harmful. But then who said that society cares about a balanced human being? Even something like knowledge (of medicines as well as computers) is kept under patent laws for irrationally long periods, often up to 150 years. The reason is that someone is attempting to make profits from something that can help society grow and live in good health, even if it's at the cost of people dying since they can't afford those expensive medicines. Yet the patent regime on life saving drugs continues. No wonder that today, we have the **ANTI-COPYRIGHT MOVEMENT CALLED THE 'COPYLEFT'**.

Let me give a nice example to explain my perspective better. One day, I was wondering why my father refused to part with his old Ambassador car while I love changing cars every two years. My friends told me that this is called the generation gap. I thought the reason for what I do was pretty apparent – the law of diminishing marginal utility at work at its best. On thinking deeply, I remembered my father's inhibitions about discarding my grandfather's old transistor and his first ever watch.

Anything old with memories was tough for my father to part with. This got me thinking and I realized that he was operating in a different world, a world governed by the **LAW OF INCREASING MARGINAL UTILITY**. Being educated (he believes that education is the best safety net for everyone and the best gift a government can ever give its people) and holding a decent job, he rarely spends his time in satisfying lower order needs. Majority of his time is spent reading books, poems, appreciating paintings, spending time with his mother, wife and children, and often listening to music or watching *The Sound of Music*, *My Fair Lady* or *Sholay* (a popular Indian movie of his generation) for the 50th time. He is the market and the ad man's worst nightmare. You guessed it right. He is a satisfied man. The guy who spoils the consumerist's party! He spends time satisfying his human needs in a human manner. The interesting quality of satisfying human needs is that it lets you experience the law of increasing marginal utility unlike the law of diminishing marginal utility, where the more you have of some- thing, the less you want to have more of it. Take, for instance, Mother Teresa. The more smiles she saw on a poor man's face, the more she wanted to see more

of them and in the process, ended up spending her entire life for the cause of the poor in a land far away from her home. And look at Rabindranath Tagore – the more poetry he wrote, the more he wanted to write more of it. Beethoven – the more music he composed and the more he played the piano, the more he wanted to play more of it. Ask anyone who manages to satisfy his higher order needs of love; the more he sees his father, the more he wants to see more of him. The more time my father spends with his mother, the more he wants to spend more time with her and wishes that she lives forever. The more any loving parent looks at his child, the more he wants to see more of her. That’s the beauty of spending time in satisfying non-materialistic higher order needs. You must be wondering what this has to do with retaining the old watch. When you spend the majority of your time in satisfying needs, which provide increasing marginal utility, you start superimposing the same on materialistic lower order needs. Thus used to a certain kind of life, my father superimposes the same on products. So the more he sees his old wrist watch, the more he wants to see more of it. The more he sees his old Ambassador car, the more he wants to see more of it. For him, it’s the same as how people in the midst of fast-paced market Capitalism superimpose the law of diminishing marginal utility on everything, including human needs - a common practice in the material driven capitalist world, where dry-eyed people (people who find it embarrassing to cry and give vent to human emotions in the company of others) thrive and believe that happiness can be derived from products and not from meaningful relationships and other human needs. So the more an average capitalist sees his even parents, (often) the less he wants to see more of them. He prefers to dump them in an old age home. Similarly, on a lighter note, the more an American President sees his wife, the less he wants to see more of her, and the more he wants to see his intern Monica. It’s no wonder that the divorce rate is high in America. In fact, the more many capitalists see their children, the less they want to see more of them. So when the child reaches the age of eighteen, it is celebration time for parents. The children are expected to fend for themselves after that (and bring home the Christmas cake on December 25 each year from then on). The problem with market Capitalism and the advertising and aggressive marketing-driven society is that it promotes products as substitutes for emotion. If you want to express your love for your wife, you have to gift her an eighteen-carat diamond ring.

If you want to demonstrate to your child your love for him, you have to give him loads of gifts.

After all, when you don't spend quantity time with your child, how else can you show your love? The result of this quality time is, of course, extremely shocking. My friends' children in America have a room full of toy cars, helicopters, computer games, stuffed toys, guns, and what not. Do they love their parents? Not really. For they interpret love as getting more and more.

Often, by the age of fourteen, they have saturated their hunger for toys. Now they want the real thing – a real car. American laws are very strict. Parents can be convicted for giving their children cars before the right age. This is the first time when the child wants something but he doesn't get it. Parents have no other way of showing love since the child is accustomed to getting playthings as an expression of love. So by the age of fourteen, most children are convinced that their parents don't love them, so there is no reason for them to love their parents either. In the beginner's book of psychology called 'Abnormal Psychology', there are research reports, which show that amongst the reasons behind juvenile crime in the US, what features prominently is car theft. Happiness is getting things by hook or by crook. When parents don't give, children steal! So much for giving and giving and 'more' giving – an almost certain way of sowing the seeds of a thief in your child! Of course, on the rise now is the irritation amongst the free market schoolchildren at not getting real guns in the market. So they somehow manage to steal their dads' guns and go to school with them, often killing tens of other innocent students in growing incidents of shootouts carried out by school students.

When I was in the eighth standard, I drafted my first love letter ten times and tore it up each time. Finally, after consulting five books on love quotations and a few of Shakespeare's classics and ten more torn letters later,

I managed to arrive at the final draft, which I thought I would dare to give her. When I was in the tenth standard, there was a shop in my neighbourhood selling a few greeting cards. I went there, picked up a card

and attached it to a letter, which was the fruit of my hard work. By the time I was in the twelfth standard, a company called Archies had been opened and I had a choice of more than twenty cards, which expressed love better than I could ever have done. Often, I would take more than one card and a letter to my girlfriend. By the time I graduated I saw such shops full of young boys and girls picking up dozens of cards at one go. The letter concept went missing. The new generation was giving five to six cards at one go in one envelope in their hope to get and experience love. If you wanted to write a letter in order to try and express your innermost feelings, there were card companies who came and told you, “Stupid . . . we employ hundreds of people in our factories to produce emotions for you. . . why do you waste time trying to do the same?”

Come over to our shop and buy emotions (cards).”

When a human being ceases to draw out expressions of love from his heart and is able to replace emotions with gifts bought with money, love loses its meaning; relationships lose their value. Human beings become vending machines – press a button and out comes a card for every occasion with the right words; of course, borrowed! Flowers are delivered by a five-star hotel florist on the anniversary because the husband is stuck in a board meeting or a diamond ring is home ordered by a husband who is miles away on the wife’s birthday, and home delivered by a jeweler. These are all accepted domino effects of market Capitalism. We need to realise that happiness is not an object that comes free with consumer goods. In fact, unrestrained satisfaction of all needs is neither conducive to human welfare nor to mother earth. Resources are drying up faster than they are being replaced in our urge to have ‘more’ today. The unconcerned and selfish human race is planning to leave nothing for the future generation. The idea that is sold mercilessly is to consume ‘more’ even if it is beyond your means. The message is clear – be a shopaholic, it will make you happy!!

Around fifty years back, people in the West used to laugh for about thirty minutes in a day. Today they don’t laugh. They just chuckle, that too for just six minutes a day, according to a survey done by a Swedish foundation on ‘laughter’. No wonder that they have become dry-eyed. Many Americans are aware of the rut that they are getting into. According to another research,

CHAPTER-3

2047: FOUR SIMPLE PLANS

As I sit to write this chapter which is basically an alternate budget allocation to achieve The Great Indian Dream set forth for 2047, I am reminded of the part in the preamble to the Constitution of India where we had promised India to be a **Socialist, Secular & Democratic** republic.

Today as we see Indian top 1% of amassing 73% of the wealth being created while 75% of the nation languishes below the World Bank definition of poverty at an income less than \$2 per day; We know we are far from being a socialist nation. We are an exploitative nation that doesn't care if 80% of it's population earns less than Rs.13000 per month for a family of five. **Which means 80% of Indians have to live at less than 2600 per month - in a state worse than dogs live in developed nations.** 75% of the rural population, or 133.5 million families, actually earn less than a meagre ₹5,000 per month! Yes less than ₹1000, per head per month.

Today when we see ministers in India saying they would rather delete the word secular from the Constitution, **ministers saying that school books must not teach Darwin's theory of evolution** because that basically clashes with the irrational Hindu understanding of emergence of life out of a golden egg in the form of Vishnu; We know secularism is not something that India is about. Definitely not under the current regime.

And democracy?? The less said the better. This year we slipped to

our lowest rank ever— **150th in the Freedom of Press Index!** We are at best a **DEMON-O-CRACY**. Ruled by demons with a completely farcical concept of democracy being forced upon us. So, make no mistake none of the key pledges of the preamble to the Constitution of India have yet been applied.

Thus, this is a special chapter! Rather a special and hopefully in a way the final edition of **IIPM's Alternate Budget that was started way back in 1992**. It is special more so because it's not being written for the next year! This is being written keeping the next 25 years in mind! For India at 100!

Keeping in mind the pillars of Humanism that we elucidated upon in the previous chapter, the budgetary allocations suggested will also focus on the same, apart from of course focusing upon the 10%-12% rate of growth required to catch up with China and America in the next 25 years!

All the budget allocation suggestions, however, are for the next five years, so that all key problems we face can be removed in the next 5 years and the budgetary resources available for the remaining 20 years can take care of bettering all facilities for the existing population, the increasing population and the increasing single parent households etc.

Yes, I know there will be questions where will the money come from! Well first of all I must remind you all of the **100 lac crore of infrastructure investment our current PM Modi** had been promising for the three consecutive years— 2019, 2020 & 2021 from Red Fort on Independence Day. **We have a GDP of 240 lac crores**. We should encourage savings. I have even suggested **abolition of Income Tax** that gives us only 7.5 lac crores. We must instead introduce **vice tax on sugar, alcohol, biri, tobacco, edible oil etc in a big way**. **Sugar is the biggest killer** (plus production of sugar is highly water consuming that Maharashtra doesn't have water to produce wheat). **Sugar is poison**. **Every product of sugar including soft drinks must mandatorily have the same Danger Images that cigarette packs have on them**. **Just doubling its price will fetch us 15 lac crore annually**.

An increase of 15% on petrol and petroleum products will get us 40 lac crore annually. We have forex reserves of 575 Billion USD lying waste. If we keep even five months worth import as reserves (which is far more than enough) we will have almost 300 billion dollars free to be invested which is roughly 24 lac crore!!

Of course not to forget that we just waived off loans worth Rs 10 lakh crores and taxes worth Rs 5 lakh crores. And we keep doing so every year!! We have all the money to make rich richer, but no money to give dignity to this nation?

So there's no dearth of resources if we want. In The Great Indian Dream we had just outlined a list of very unique resource mobilisation alternatives like making Diesel prices same as Petrol. In 2003 people got a shock. Not the government. They did that with time. But didn't do what we had suggested to do with the mobilised extra resources. So this time we have kept our suggestions limited to the budget outlays required. A committed government will be intelligent enough to find it's way.

Else I'm always just a call away!!!!

A

Universal Guaranteed Income & Employment

The first thing that we must tackle is the interrelated problem of income & employment.

I see in India and many places across the world a lot hue and cry being made by WhatsApp Economists about freebies being given out to citizens. It only makes me laugh. The uneducated fellows don't know we are headed towards a future where everyone will eventually be working maybe just about 4 hours a day for about 4 days or less a week! If at all they work. How do you think they will live?

They will live off Universal Basic Income that states will have to guarantee in order to avoid civil unrests. It is only intelligent to preempt the future and act accordingly!

If you want a country of your dreams, there's no place for people dying in the streets of hunger, unemployment or health related issues. Through my televised Alternate Budget I spoke about Universal Basic Income in 2018 and immediately in a weeks time Congress announced it in their election manifesto for 2019 General Elections.

But in this book, I will keep things more conservative. And not talk about Universal Basic Income which essentially means giving a basic minimum income to every citizen of your country irrespective of their existing income or employment status. I will rather focus on **Universal Guaranteed Income & Employment which essentially means either we give min income to all or give a minimum salary employment to all.**

A few years back the Supreme Court of India said that abandoned women of Varanasi must be given a min of ₹5000 per month to help them live. Which essentially meant Supreme Court actually thought that that's the rock bottom. While that's what we would suggest as basic income at the least , for the sake of a historical compromise and keeping in mind the fact that we

also plan to give education and healthcare free of cost in the next part, let's say we must give at least ₹2,500 per month to every unemployed person in urban India and half of that i.e. ₹1,250 in rural India.

Given India's current unemployment is a staggering 400 million with 275 million in Rural India & 125 million in Urban India. This will require a monthly outlay of approximately ₹35,000 cr for rural unemployed Indians and ₹30,000cr for urban unemployed Indians which is a total of ₹7,80,000cr per annum.

This amount is so less that it won't encourage people to sit at home and not work, yet it's something that will make everyone's life get some basic dignity. The world bank defines poverty as less than \$2 per day per capita. This translates to only far less than even \$1 per head per day for a family of 5 even if each family has 2.5 people unemployed on an average.

But yes, this will take care of the monthly nutrition requirement of any adult with upto two dependants.

This of course will only take care of basic nutrition, citizens will still require employment.

To remove unemployment, we must further outline a scheme for about 125 million new employment generation in urban India and 275 million in rural India. This should be a concrete plan to be achieved by 2029.

So we would need additional focus on employment generation schemes. For this, we now need to explain a new concept for employment generation, exactly as important as the concept of doubling effect elucidated in the first chapter. **This is the concept of ICOR.**

ICOR stands for incremental capital output ratio— meaning how much investment is required to generate one extra unit / ₹ of GDP. In urban India it is approximately 5:1, while in rural India it is still 1:1. This will make anyone understand how to create a employment!!

Using the above formula to generate one employment of ₹1,20,000 per

annum salary plus extra managerial expenses of ₹1,80,000 (**it's assumed to pay a salary of 1,20,000 there will be other expenses of 1,80,000 as salaries should be only 30% of the total costs**) i.e. a total of ₹3,00,000 per annum. **Thus, in urban India we will require an investment of ₹15,00,000 per job since the ICOR is 5:1.**

In rural India similarly to generate an employment of ₹60,000 per annum salary plus extra managerial expense of ₹90,000 we will **require an investment 1,50,000 per job since the ICOR is at most 1:1.**

So the total investment to create 275 million rural jobs will be ₹40,00,000 cr approximately or ₹8,00,000 cr annually.

The total investment required to create 125 million urban employment will be 187,50,000 cr or 37,50,000 cr per annum.

Do you remember that video where Modi keeps saying he will invest ₹100,00,000 crores in infrastructure to generate employment — each of the three years (2019, 2020 & 2021) from Red Fort on Independence Day?

Well go up and look. To solve the entire unemployment problem of India in five years (with unemployment allowance till the time employment is given) all we require is a total of just about ₹50,00,000 cr per year approximately.

Yes, it's true that investing less than half of what Modi promises on infrastructure we can actually finish the problem of unemployment from India.

It is most unfortunate that exactly when we need a Minister of Investment, our Finance Ministers year after year in their Budget speeches act as a Minister of Disinvestment! We just systematically keep privatising all profits and nationalising all losses. It is not that I don't believe in privatization, which essentially means selling off state-owned businesses to private companies. But the entire process should help the company to become more efficient and beneficial for the final consumers in terms of lower prices and better products, **because it is years of taxpayers' money**

which has gone into the making of these state-owned enterprises. Private companies are eager to buy up state-owned enterprises because they see that the markets are competitive. This goes to prove the argument that policies that encourage domestic competition nurture a progressive economy.

Over the past decades we have carried out unbridled capitalistic developments, hoodwinking the citizens under cover of slogans highlighting the benefits of a socialistic pattern of society sometimes or the ‘Garibi Hatao’ schemes with the help of the public sector (**a better description would be political sector**) at other times. The agenda of the political sector served mainly two purposes:

1. The first purpose seems to have been the **transferring all the potential profits of the public sector to the private sector.** Now that the private sector is strong, it helps the political sector disinvest and hand the profits on a silver platter to the private sector.

2. The second objective of the political sector has been to promote friends of the members of the ruling party through unabashed patronage and collusion. Incidentally, the political sector was also **utilized to create illusions of a Welfare state in a small segment, keeping millions in a deprived state** for all these years, denying them opportunities offered by technology. This created **working aristocracy and pseudo trade unionism** — where the wages of the minuscule unionised workers keep increasing exorbitantly while sections of the population who have no scope to belong to a union have to forsake the right to live in dignity and embrace destitution forever.

The real unfortunate part of our story has been that despite choosing planning as a way forward, we have not had people-oriented national economic planning, though, mostly coinciding with general elections, we had been announcing Five Year Plans with slogans to suit the occasion. It is imperative that we now build a social safety net for people who have been left outside the market. National economic planning transformed an underdeveloped part of Europe into the mighty Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) at one point of time, a nation which could rival the US

militarily and otherwise within a span of fifty years. We are now watching the same phenomenon being repeated in China. We need to have a plan for the next 25 years to catch up with them all and beat them.

Having said all of this, anything on income generation can't be over without a few words on Entrepreneurship. If you want to have a country focused on self sustenance Entrepreneurship and Indigenous Brand Building is an absolute must.

An allied project to liquidate unemployment in rural areas would be imperative to train rural youth in Entrepreneurship.

Our experience with our students who have left management jobs after putting in five years in a medium-sized enterprise is that 90% of them have established themselves as successful entrepreneurs. It is a logical process and should not be reversed.

Entrepreneurship should be encouraged specially in the not for profit or the social sector. At the same time, to keep the spirit of entrepreneurship alive, large business houses should be given due respect and helped with liberal loans and lower corporate taxation rates which are at par with countries like Singapore in order to enable them to produce internationally competitive brands and mark the start of 'Made in India' a reputed brand.

The point that we are trying to highlight is that less can be more. Today the ordinary man needs to become an entrepreneur to take this country out of its perils. And ordinary men can become entrepreneurs only when their ambitions are not irrational and they are driven by a social commitment. A social vision can work wonders. It's the best motivator. It can bring out the best leader within you. It teaches you team work and everything else that is required for success.

Non-profit activities have an unlimited market especially in a poor country like India. Non-profit activities don't curb your potential markets. Non-profit organizations bring out the best in capitalism. They are the organizations which can possess all the positives of professionalism,

creativity and initiative. The more such organizations crop up, the less the problem of unemployment will be. This is the key to our concept of 'Happy Capitalism'.

If one sticks to the basic principles of management, the chances of becoming a great entrepreneur are very high, provided he is not looking at huge profit margins.

What needs to be recognized is that all organizations which are successful in the long run are organizations which provide quality at a reasonable price. In the small towns of Europe, it is easy to find several examples of small-family run enterprises doing well because of what we call happy capitalism. In our institute, we started a compulsory course on Global Opportunities and Threat Analysis for our students. This course is taught over a period of 14 days in Geneva amongst other places. When people ask me why we thought of this idea in the first place, what we say shocks them. The students undertake programmes in association with organizations like the UN, WTO, World Bank, Nestle and IMD Lausanne. We say this is all incidental. We take them there because of simple incidents like what we saw early one morning. One of the shop owners from whom we had made some purchases the previous evening, was cleaning the shop's nameplate himself. Compared to the normal scenario wherein Indians hardly ever bother to do such a thing even once in 50 years after they start their business, we felt that this was something our students needed to see for themselves.

We recommend entrepreneurship to Indians, not just because India needs entrepreneurs but also because we feel Indians are best suited to entrepreneurship. With our temperament and ability to adjust easily to any environment, entrepreneurship should come to us easily. This ability of being adaptive and tolerant is one of our cultural strengths though excessive tolerance can make a person complacent. Religions like that followed by the Bahais which have been banned in their country of origin, find a place in India. Rabindranath Tagore described India as a melting pot of various cultures. This flexibility is one of the most important abilities of an entrepreneur. It enables him to take risks.

While on the topic of entrepreneurship, another thing that comes to mind is the Town and Village Entrepreneurship efforts. Ideally, we should plan to organize village industries along the lines of the Town and Village Enterprises (TVE) in China. This has changed the economic landscape of China and has brought enormous prosperity to the Chinese, besides helping to minimize rural unemployment. To emulate this model, we will have to attend to devising ways of effective marketing of the goods produced in villages.

We can also think of exporting through marketing channels if the goods produced are of an international standard. For this purpose, the TVEs in China maintain close contact with scientific and industrial research centres. It has been estimated that about 60% of the inventions and innovations developed by China's scientific and technological institutions have been put into production by TVEs.

A survey of retail shops in the US and Europe reveals that a large number of the goods displayed there carry the tag 'Made in China'.

Profits of the TVEs in China belong to the whole village or township (cluster of a few villages). Roads, hospitals and other public amenities are built from the profit of TVEs. Village Panchayats and the town administration are therefore interested in the success of TVEs, which are allotted land free of cost or at a nominal price. Workers are paid less than those in large state enterprises.

We can develop our TVEs suited to Indian conditions. It is necessary to promote group entrepreneurship (bringing together a group of unemployed people for production and marketing purposes), backed by consultancy firms, which are, in turn, encouraged and assisted by the Panchayat under the overall supervision of a committed and responsible state.

We hope that by now it is clear how entrepreneurship, small-scale industries, social sector initiatives, and town and village industries are a must for a progressive urban and rural India.

Along with the spirit of entrepreneurship we need to develop a spirit of patriotism. Japan's fast development between the years 1945 and 1985 had a lot to do with the patriotic spirit, apart from the government-regulated market. We need to feel that we have to contribute individually for the sake of the nation. We need to come out of the misconceived patriotism propagated by our politicians the world over for their personal gains. We should also make sure that wars have no role to play in the lives of people.

During the Kargil War, I published an article in the Hindustan Times titled 'To Stop War Send Rich Kids to Fight'. If a two-year stint in the army is made compulsory for all university students, the poor-rich kids of politicians and media barons will also be affected. This will put an end to the war-mongering tendencies of our politicians. Patriotism does not translate into taking away the lives of the poor or those belonging to other religions!

True patriotism is leading your entire nation on the path of growth with utmost sincerity to the masses. Our entrepreneurial efforts need to create our own brands that we can be proud of.

In this new age of globalisation, our brands need to compete globally and not just nationally. In the past, so many Indian brands – from the Ambassadors to the Vimals – were whipped and almost sent off packing when foreign brands came knocking. These foreign brands piggybacked on their global popularity and our lack of expertise due to substandard innovation. If India has to reverse the ongoing trend of the influx of foreign brands into its market, it has to invest on innovation on a large scale, and frame and implement comprehensive policies to support innovation.

The low count of patent applications that is filed in India is worrisome. Even there we are ten times behind China which is at No. 1 spot. In the Global Innovation Index (GII) ranking, India stood at a dismal 46th! Shameful it is that India, in terms of GII ranking is last amongst the BRICs.

It is true that a fish rots from the head. That is precisely the reason for India's innovation lag – because our policymakers never bothered to roll up their sleeves for the cause. There is hardly any constructive policy in

place to encourage innovation in the country. This year, our prime minister announced \$880 million towards upgrading our innovation books, which he termed as a “game changer”, but then no concrete holistic innovation policy was either drafted or designed!

China moved ahead steadily but surely to achieve its innovation goals. It started by adopting foreign technologies and became competitive globally on the manufacturing front through price undercutting. When ‘Made in China’ products began to taste success, it rightfully moved on to the next level of innovation.

The country began with manufacturing products on assembly lines; and today manufactures global brands! Today, it boasts of a number of globally respected brands like Lenovo, Haier, China Mobile and many others. In fact, it is only an outcome of working on and reaping the fruits of innovation that three of the ten largest Global Fortune 500 companies today are Chinese! Today, there are as many as seven Chinese brands in Forbes list of 100 most innovative companies, as against just two of India.

Look at Japan. The country carried an image of being a copycat up until the 1950s. When Japanese products entered Western markets for the first time, consumers in the West laughed in the face of the Japanese brands. Why? The Japanese products were shoddy, poorly designed and carried malfunctioning engines. However, persistent investments over decades that followed – by the Japanese government in Science & Technology (and R&D and innovation) – saw the country rise on the innovation barometer. Today, Toyota, Honda, Canon, Toshiba, Panasonic, Nikon, Sharp, Suzuki, Bridgestone, Fujitsu, Yamaha, Sony, Nissan and many other Japanese names are brands that every consumer is proud and happy to own – whether American or Japanese! What is noteworthy is that the Japanese were unabashed about following the American model of innovation. And this was emphasized in their official policy that their model of innovation was based on US model – a country that had always been the king of innovation for the last 100 years.

Our on-the-rocks brands coupled with the colonial hangover, have given

Indian consumers a Western complex that is too difficult to shed. This syndrome has affected most Asian and African nations in the past. But unlike many other countries (say Japan, China and South Korea), India has not been able to overcome it. Our movies run well when they feature foreign locations; are considered apt for class audiences when Western culture and habits are shown – even the usage of foreign brands apparently lifts a movie to a higher class. Our music, our restaurants, even our economic policies and our education are blindly aping the West in the belief that everything of theirs is superior to ours. A Hollywood movie today is incomplete without a GM or a Apple or a Starbucks, unlike ours where the lead actors are seen flaunting foreign commodities!

In contrast, take the example of South Korea and Taiwan. Both were impoverished in the aftermath of the Second World War, but through their self-belief and aggressive government policies that were pro-innovation, today, they can boast of some of the hottest brands in the world. The emphasis of research concentration and R&D forms the cornerstone of their ability to produce world-class brands like Samsung, Hyundai, Kia, LG [all four are Korean], HTC, Acer, Asus, Transcend [all four are Taiwanese] and many more.

Innovation shapes economies. There is many an example that proves it. The problem is not that India did not realise this truth in time. It was that the country relied too much on foreign investments and ignored the potential of homegrown entrepreneurs. Yes, there are aberrations on the radar – like Infosys, L&T and Reliance. But these are too few to mention or feel proud about. Most critically, these big brands are also finding it very uncomfortable to survive with the Western helping hand! Today, there is no Indian automobile company that can produce a vehicle that in true sense can be called an Indian innovation. There is virtually no Indian company that produces a ‘truly Indian’ brand.

The British always prefer home-grown apples over imported ones, especially the Cox variety; and thus the retailers are seen selling the domestic varieties more than the imported varieties. In order to avoid mass

resistance, it is general practice that many luxury brands take their goods for finishing to their home nation and then tag the product as a domestic output. In this light, a survey by Harrison Group showed that around 65 per cent of rich American consumers buy ‘domestically made’ products whenever possible. Japanese too prefer the products to be finally processed at local units than to be imported finished goods. This is true for most of the east-Asian nations. To some extent, American companies such as GM and Chrysler were bailed out because they represented Americanism – evident from the way these are used in American movies – of course, apart from other economic reasons. The South Korean tobacco association regularly campaigns against Japanese products.

In fact, with respect to national pride, the best case in point is South Korea. It’s perhaps the country I appreciate the most throughout the world; more than China, more than Japan. When compared to India, it is a dot of a nation, but thanks to their sense of national pride, they have made unprecedented strides in all sectors. South Korean schools promote usage of local-brand purchases among students and a criticism to this is perceived as criticism to the nation. In spite of worldwide success at one point of time, Nokia and Blackberry could never gain substantial market-share in South Korea and Samsung Electronics dominated the market totally. In fact, the Republic of Samsung (as it is popularly called) touches almost every aspect of life in South Korea. Google has merely 20 per cent market share in South Korea while domestic search engines namely Naver and Daum dominate 90 per cent market share. In automobiles, the top car brands are either from Kia or Hyundai or SsangYong, which out-compete the BMWs and Mercs of the world. On the roads of Seoul, spotting an American or a Japanese car is a total rarity – and I am saying this from the personal experience of trying to estimate the ratio! It’s not that the Korean cars look bad or are of bad quality. They look stunning and each one is better than the other. So the fact is that consumers don’t buy their national products by sacrificing quality. The government policies were such that the local manufacturers were given all the support and a very competitive environment to improve quality by competing locally – unlike in India where we opened up our markets like

cheats allowing the legacy Ambassadors to compete against the snazzy then post-modern Hondas. It was similar to allowing players to compete in the Olympics without having held good quality national games to nurture talent.

Korea didn't follow such a model. They made their companies compete nationally and made them world-class. So much so that coupled with a nationalistic campaign, the best of foreign brands have found it almost impossible to get a foothold in the Korean markets despite the Koreans' taste for high end products and very high purchasing power. In fact, one of the key reasons, apart from national pride, why Walmart failed in Korea was the fact that Koreans work 12 hours a day – and after that, they love enjoying the good life and are not looking for cheap products! Yet, the best of international brands have not been able to make a mark in Korea. Companies like Kookmon Bank, SK Group and Korea Exchange Bank apart from well known brands like Hyundai, Samsung et al feature in the esteemed Forbes' list too. Today, Lotteria is the Numero Uno in the retail fast food restaurant with around 50 per cent market share compared to 20 per cent of McDonalds. What's more, even Wal-Mart and Starbucks have failed to replicate their global success in South Korea and have lost their market share in front of domestic giants – like Shinsegae and E Mart – simply because not only are Korean companies qualitatively at par, but carry a Korean legacy within themselves. A key reason behind WalMart's failure in South Korea is because they just could not get Koreans to visit their stores! Today, that small country which can be compared to the smallest of Indian states is home to some of the world's leading brands within their nation and outside.

Samsung became the world's largest selling smartphone maker leaving Apple behind. And why not? Try a Samsung phone and you will realize why Nokia is almost history! Korean companies have created world class because of their country's tremendous sense of national pride and their people's focus on hard work! What a pride it is to be a tourist on Korean streets and to see a super-developed Asian nation where most of the products are not just indigenous, but world beaters too.

And that's the chance we Indians lost. It pains now to even look back.

How could we allow other companies to come in and capture our markets when we should have been making the profits out of our huge markets and capturing world markets? If the tiny nation Korea could, then we could ten times more – like the Chinese are now doing. This is exactly what was required in our country. Like the Koreans, we need to try and inculcate the feeling of nationalism and buy Indian commodities to keep at bay foreign products which are at par. It's a shame that India is right at the top in the world's billionaires listings, with people having amassed wealth by looting the country's natural resources – from oil to gas to mines to land – in connivance with the government. But in the list of world's top brands, we have no presence. Internationally, this is something that intrigues everyone. They wonder how our businessmen became billionaires without making a single international brand. Had they done that and the government supported them in that constructive process and drilled in a sense of national pride, it would not only have helped in creating great products but a formidable market too where every stakeholder attached to the retail sector could prosper.

But it's not too late! Let's make Indians proud of their own products by helping our indigenous manufacturers become better; let us shamelessly support them, like even the Americans do for their own manufacturers, however much they shout for access to the markets of others.

Let's for a change hear about **employment generation investments and genuine entrepreneurship encouragement programs from here on**. And so that they are serious about the same, the MGNREGAS must give way to the 'Unemployment Benefit scheme' outlined above, making governments feel the pinch of giving away free money for no returns. The suggestions I have given for unemployment allowance or basic minimum income based job creation aren't even to my satisfaction; It is just indicative. After the first five years we will have 20 more years to make adjustments and grow. We must then regulate the market and employ national economic planning techniques in a way that the rate of growth of different income groups be so calibrated that the richer strata of income groups find their income growing at a lower rate than the growth of income of poorer groups so that over

a politically acceptable period of time till 2047, there prevails a kind of income equality among all sections of the people.

B

Universal Infinite Healthcare & Education

While we have unicorns coming up aplenty, we are in reality nothing but a **land of dying destitutes**. All of us are familiar with the three letters of the alphabet – BPL. They stand for the three cruelest words – Below Poverty Line. The upper class rarely spares a thought to what life means to the people living below BPL. And those below poverty line are 80% of Indians by any sense of respectable definition as already elaborated in the Part B of the first Chapter. According to Oxfam report, In year 2021, the collective wealth of India's 100 richest people hit a record high of Rs 57.3 lakh crores while in the same year, Income of 80% Indian households declined. When India faced the deadly second wave, Gautam Adani's wealth increased by eight times in a span of one year — from \$ 8.9 billion in 2020 to \$ 50.5 billion in 2021. In this same period, more than 4.6 crore Indians were estimated to have fallen into extreme poverty. All this because the focus has been to reduce corporate taxes and increase GST. To put the burden from the corporate to the common man. We are subsidising the rich through letting them default on bank loans while we are taxing the common man.

Think of this 110 million tonnes of food grain is rotting in the warehouses of the Food Corporation of India and elsewhere. If stacked back to back in gunny bags they will build or make a road to moon and back twice!! This would be enough to feed all the millions below BPL, at 7.5 kg per head per month for the next four to five years. This would keep them properly fed, assuming they manage another 7.5 kg from other sources.

Every year, we callously drive more than 4 million Indians to slow death before they reach the age of fifty.

Those below the poverty line die because they do not have enough to eat and have no access to essential medical treatment or have no access to essential drugs. Together they account for more than 50% of all deaths in a year.

Even when alive, these people live in sub-human conditions and go through unutterable indignities because of the accident of their birth in a low caste.

As per a Lancet Report, “In 2014, about two-thirds of India’s 10 million deaths per year occurred before age 70 years. About 1·4 million of these deaths were in children younger than 5 years of age, 0·6 million deaths were in young people aged 15–29 years, and 4·4 million were in adults aged 30–69 years.

If 2010 deaths rates were to persist, more than 9 million people in India could die prematurely before the age of 70 years annually by 2030, the most of any country and most of whom would be adults”.

Of the people living below the poverty line, nearly half of them die before the age of 60 due to malnutrition and lack of medical attention. The rest of us are blessed to live up to the age of 70, on an average. This is less than the lifespan of the people in Sierra Leone, the poorest place on earth. Even the Ethiopians’ life expectancy is around 66 years, despite the fact that Ethiopia is forever famine-ridden. Should we be proud of what we have achieved in the last 75 years?

We are not even afraid that these people may one day rise in revolt and cease to accept in silence their deprivation and life of acute destitution leading to deaths without protest.

Fortunately for us, they live scattered on a landmass of 32 lakh square kilometres with no hope of ever coming together; they are not vocal; they are not organized and they can’t articulate their grievances. We have succeeded in keeping them in this condition, almost like cattle which cannot protest even when fodder is stolen. In the case of our illiterate masses, their very own politicians steal their fodder!

The alarm bells are ringing loud and clear. Reality is staring at us in our faces. It is time we stopped bragging about the minuscule benefits stemming from the digital revolution and information technology sector

and rose together to acknowledge that we have failed the true principles of democracy. It is time to admit that we have created a land of the dying destitute. And no progressive nation can have any dreams of a prosperous future, with or without globalization, de-monstrating such insensitivity towards its own citizens. Once we admit this we need to focus on **Universal Infinite Healthcare**. Not basic, but infinite. Any citizen of India must have the right to get treated in a hospital free of cost, without questions asked for any and every problem of his till the system can keep him alive. India must tell Indians that they have the right to live a healthy life. For this, we should announce ₹60,000 crore for the National Rural Health Mission. ₹55,000 crore should be spent to offer the min health Insurance cover to ₹10,00,000 per person so that no Indian ever fears of dying without access to healthcare. Around ₹5,000 crores should be set aside for doctors and support staff who run primary health care centers and who can provide proof that they have actually spent the whole of one year in the village or rural area assigned to them. Once poor families don't starve because of the Universal Basic Income & Employment schemes outlined above, and their children get education with skills thanks to the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan, even minimum basic attention to their health and sanitation needs will create a virtuous cycle that will trigger the much vaunted about demographic dividend.

As I write this, I must point out that while the world was just struck by the Covid Pandemic, India became the only major country that did the **HEARTLESS ACT OF REDUCING HEALTH BUDGET DURING THE PANDEMIC**.

Yes you read it right. India's Health Budget was reduced by 10% during the pandemic. To make up for that and basic healthcare infrastructure, the government must do the following:

1. Set up six 300 bed medical facilities in every district of India (12.5 lac extra beds) so that not only can India tackle future health emergencies but can also take care of the normal healthy living of its citizens. At least 5% of these needs must be ICU beds and an additional 5% should be isolation

beds. This way for every 3,00,000 people we would have one hospital ready for any emergency, given each district roughly has about 19,00,000 people.

Don't forget while Japan has 1300 beds per lac population, India has only 53.

2. The next thing this India must plan for is a budget to buy ventilators so that we never again have people dying of shortage of oxygen. **While Japan has 35 ventilators per lac people India has only 3.5.** We currently have less than 50k ventilators in the entire country. This years budget must plan to add up another 4,00,000 ventilators.

3. We must plan how to increase the numbers of medical seats in this country by creating medical colleges so that in the next five years **we can have at least 400 doctors per lac people like Germany instead of 62 that we currently have.**

5. We must redistribute the 110 million tonnes of food grain to the hungry so that **our shameful Rank of 101 out of 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index** becomes a thing of past soon.

For dignified living, linked with health is Education. Again something that must not be basic but infinite! Yes, we need to have Universal Infinite Education— whatever whoever wants to study must come free! Absolutely free. At the highest level. With enough seats.

The state of education in India is so bad as already elucidated previously that even today there is a **shortage of around 3 lakh classrooms at elementary level and 1.70 lakh classroom at secondary school level** with more than half of all schools lacking basic sanitary and water facilities.

India has shamefully participated in the PISA test only once in 2009. In this round of PISA, India ranked 72nd out of 73 countries, outranking only Kyrgyzstan while China topped the list. In spite of arrays of pan-Indian educational programs, India still has not been able to make education inclusive for all. On the contrary, China since the last four decades has been rolling out ambitious plans to revamp their education

system, which is evident from the way they are storming into global rankings.

China has adopted a policy of providing nine-year compulsory education to all with a special emphasis on vocational training and higher education. This nine year of compulsory education makes a child conversant with mathematics, science and Chinese literature.

Interestingly, even rural students undergo similar training; and by the end of the ninth year of education, the rural student is at par with his urban counterpart.

Contrast this with India, where a high-school student is unable to solve a basic mathematical problem or frame a sentence on his own. Moreover, Indian rural schools are mired with problems of infrastructure and above all suffer largely from the curse of teachers' absenteeism. On an average, more than 30 per cent of teachers are found absent in rural schools. In order to curb this menace, China pays their teachers based on student scores. Thus, a large component of teachers' salaries depends on their students' performance. Yet, there's a balance. The better the school (based on the students' score) more is the fees they charge, thus increasing competition and quality both at the same time.

Back in 2007, an article published in BBC stated, "China is now the largest higher education system in the world: it awards more university degrees than the US and India combined... The rate of university expansion has been beyond anything [that] anyone in the West can easily imagine."

Millions of Chinese students are now abandoning colleges and are opting for vocational schools. These vocational schools are backed up by Chinese industrialists and known for producing ready-for-job candidates. Vocational education in China, unlike India, is not just confined to manufacturing but encompasses sectors like information technology, tourism and medicine. Vocational training was introduced in China so that educated people wouldn't have to face the brunt of unemployment and relevant skill development is achieved so that qualified individuals have guaranteed jobs.

From universities in global rankings to sheer number of universities and medical colleges, in every aspect of Higher Education India lags far behind China, including fresh enrolments.

A massive 40% per cent of postgraduate students are admitted to research institutes, of which 20% per cent go for Ph.D programs and 80% per cent for Master's degree programs.

As I said earlier, the people who are unable to pursue higher education are provided with the opportunity of vocational training courses at numerous centers across the counties and towns. The secondary schools too have set up vocational training centers to accommodate people who are left out of the system of higher education. The Chinese have not only emphasized on 'scale and speed' but also on 'quality and efficacy' of their education system – especially in trying to penetrate their education policies deep into China's rural hinterland and county levels.

If by 2047, India has to reach any point of dignity, it has to match all of this and beyond.

We must tell Indians that they have the right to live with dignity and equality through equal and infinite education opportunity for all. **When even medical and engineering studies become totally free, the search for merit will not remain confined to the top 20% of the population.** Post that qualified doctors should be compelled to serve in villages for a minimum period of 5 years before they are offered registration. This will mean one qualified doctor for every 10 villages.

We should straightaway make Rs 100,000 crore allocations for schemes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan & Mid Day Meal Schemes so that every child can acquire the education and the skills that can enable them to decisively leave poverty behind in just one generation. In fact, if the twin schemes are implemented effectively for just ten years, the government can then actually afford to drastically reduce allocations for the schemes, for they would become redundant in many cases. But for this to be effective, there should be an incentive scheme for school teachers and

principals. **About Rs 10,000 crore should be earmarked as cash rewards for teachers and principals whose students do well in board examinations.** But these cash awards must be disbursed every five years only after board results are announced. The prospect of a few lakhs of rupees as cash incentives might prompt many absentee teachers and principals to pay more attention to the educational and nutritional requirements of their students! **We must set aside Rs 5,000 crore out of this Rs 100,000 crore for the creation and maintenance of a national database of school children as well as their progress through successive classes.**

We must additionally make a ten-fold increase in allocation of post-matric scholarships. About Rs 1,700 crores are allocated now for post-matric scholarships to poor students belonging to SC, ST and general categories. This should be increased by ten times to about Rs 20,000 crore. The logic is very simple again: the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan will create a generation of poor students who do not have the money to pay for their higher and professional education. This corpus will ensure that no student – no matter of what caste or religion – is deprived of higher education for lack of resources.

The next step that we need to consciously take is to **invest massively in education of girls and women.** Worldwide, study after study has proven that when the women are educated, the social and economic benefits that accrue to a country are enormous-including the minimization of social evils. One of the key reasons behind the state of Kerala having such envious indicators of Human Development is the high literacy rates for females. Many state governments have already taken huge steps to encourage the education of girls, the efforts just need to be intensified

We need to create educators. It has been proven time and again that the quality of pedagogy and teaching in India is abysmally poor. It is important for teachers, particularly in colleges, to keep abreast of the latest developments and trends and include them in their teaching modules. That is the only way we will produce graduates who are employable.

The government needs to implement a more transparent and fair system to evaluate the performance of teachers and educators. Currently,

even the worst and laziest of teachers know that they have a lifetime job guarantee with annual increments and much more. A professor at a university in India knows that he will never lose his job. This perverse system actually makes victims out of genuine hardworking teachers who suffer at the hands of absentee teachers who waste time keeping education administrators happy.

Going by official estimates, there is a shortage of 6.89 lakhs teachers for SSA programme and 6000 for Kendriya Vidhyalayas and more than 3,000 teachers for IITs and NITs. Why not have a system where students and parents rank the performance of a teacher?

Next in line is a step that I would recommend as a noble one, We already spend tens of thousands of crores every year on schemes like the MGNREGA. **I would be really happy if the funds allocated for such schemes actually go towards the construction of durable school and college buildings in rural areas and small towns.** Currently the work done under these schemes provide no long-term social infrastructure. The people working for schemes like the MGNREGA would have an incentive when they realise that it is their children who will eventually study in these schools and colleges.

As per National Knowledge Commission, we are short by 1,000 universities at the pan-Indian level. We need to create them!

For the last several years, there has been a growing number of cases in our cities and towns of young students (in the age group of 14-18) taking their own lives We need to make sure that these students believe that they are all worthwhile citizens of this country and everyone will get equal infinite opportunity to chase their dreams and passions and the nation will provide enough seats to all, and of course absolutely free of cost. With the advent of really world-class online education it is simple and cheaper than ever before in history.

And finally from just about 1.5% of GDP, the government needs to raise investments in education to at least 5% of GDP.

That's what will take us into 2047 with pride!

C

Universal Basic Housing

Around 30% of urban India lives in the squalor of urban slums. **China removed its slums by 1956 - just within seven years after liberation in 1949.** India's noblest politicians from Jawaharlal Nehru onwards and Economists of the highest stature, whether they were awarded the Nobel Prize or not, one and all knew it very well which side the bread is buttered. Otherwise, none, no one ever hailed the Chinese achievement and analysed how this wonder in human history was achieved and never bothered to suggest a similar way-out for us. Dictatorship was upheld to explain rapid GDP growth and all the wonders that China achieved but it was never fully realised and appreciated that it was not dictatorship but commitment to the people, to let them live with full human dignity is the root-cause of all economic achievement. Dictatorship was to be avoided and Democracy, in reality dynastic democracy was to be adopted as the only achievable goal, even if it costs millions of untimely death due to malnutrition and total lack of proper society-funded health system throughout the last 75 years and counting. Slogan-mongering for Democracy was used as a elegant cover-up for making billionaires —166 of them as the book goes for print (third highest behind US & China) and many more if black money stashed within and outside the country is taken into consideration.

Criminal-minded politicians in collusion with the corrupt bureaucracy have ruined four-fifths of India. **Rural India living in homes with mud floor and the urban slums have a population of nearly 800 million, a population which almost matches that of the Sub-Saharan Africa** if Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe are excluded (these countries have relatively high incomes). The remaining India, who can afford to live in a clean environment, also live in disease and dirt, although they have the fringe benefits of modern living, like television and other gadgetry. Surrounded by slum people who are apparently affluent but affected by disease, they gradually become insensitive and indifferent to the misery all

around.

Coming to exact figures, 30% of the 35% of the 1400 million people living in Urban India, live in Indian slums. That means, to quote Dr. Malay from his article 'India's Urban Misery - A Way Out', "**Around 15 crore people ie 3 crore families are the victims of ruthless Indian dynastic democracy** at the Centre and in the states across India under the regional satraps of various criminal shades".

Having experience of constructing 300 sq ft two-room flats, we can rest assure you that Rs 3 lakh per flat is required for the purpose if constructed without profit-motive as non-profit activity. If land is provided, it requires an allocation of ₹3 lakh for 3 crore families, that is, ₹9 lakh crore or ₹1.8 lakh crore over a period of next five years. Considering the average reduction of Rs 1,00,000 crore in taxes to the corporate sector in the next five years over and above Rs 5,50,000 crore exemptions each year through various exemptions, reducing payable corporate taxes from around 33% to around 20%, besides taxes forgone to the extent of that, thereby the allocation of the aforementioned fund in budget for eradication of extreme misery of slum-life is really peanuts. Each flat should be attached to one more flat in such a manner that maybe after ten years, we join them together to give a bigger and more spacious apartment to every family.

If our current PM Modi really wants to usher "ache din" for the Indians living below destitution line, he has to undertake this humane task most urgently - and inevitably from the next budget onwards.

Availability of land is not a problem since all that is required is to construct four-storeyed houses (in Bombay may be four to ten storeyed houses), replacing the present jhuggi-jhopri. We also suggest well-ventilated basement could provide space for cottage industries, where housewives with children to look after can be provided with job with flexible working hours. This may change the present scenario of cottage/ slum oriented industries into a hygienic environment causing less pollution.

The problem with housing looks stark in Urban Indian slums but it is no

less severe in rural India. 70% of rural Indians stay in unlivable conditions though now after 75 years of Independence, they all at least have a toilet. 70% of the 65% Rural Indian families means we require to make liveable good housing for another 13cr families and budget roughly around ₹30 lac crore ie ₹6 lac crore per year if we are to really solve this painful crisis of basic respectability for every Indian.

Quoting from one of Dr. Malay's last notes titled, "**India's Rural Poverty— A way out**"

*70% of Indian population lives in villages. Around 70% of rural families' livelihood depend on land and land related activities. About 50% of these families have no land and they are known as agricultural landless labourers. It means around 25% of India's population live on land related activities without owing any cultivable land. Many of them do not even own the parcel of land on which their hut stands. The primary task therefore begins by enacting law which makes them owner of at least **500 sq yard** of land around their hut. Assuming that around 50% of them do not own the land on which their hut stands, this will mean allocating roughly 7 crore families around 3500 crore sq. yard of land. At today's prices this will mean the present owners will be paid at ₹75,000 for each piece of 500sq yard,, which requires a sum of ₹5,00,000 crore approx.. This can be paid over next twenty-five years, that is, by 2047 in equalised monthly instalment at 10% interest per annum. That will come to a annual instalment of ₹40,000 crore per annum or ₹3,333 crore per month, or ₹476/- per month per landless agricultural family.*

Essentially, it means let's not just provide housing. Let's also provide ownership of extra area around the house in rural India to give more dignity. **Housing is something that must be Universal Basic. Every citizen must have the right to a clean and livable shelter.**

D

Universal Timely Justice

From coming to power on the basis of corruption removal to being looked upon as an oligarchy promoting corrupt regime, evidently, our current government has not been very successful with their original promise. So I strongly suggest that future budgets must have a very high focus of removal of corruption from the society. Corruption can never be removed without transforming the judiciary. For this, India must announce sweeping changes in the judicial budget allocation and implementation.

The Lokpal has been given its silent burial with a completely manipulative and flawed bill. Though the Lokpal bill at its ideal best had the power to make a big impact to deter corruption, I never believed that this was the first priority when it came to tackling corruption. The first priority, as I also told Arvind Kejriwal during one of our interactions, has to be necessarily a massive focus on judicial reforms. Unfortunately, most people don't understand its real relevance; and those who do, are sitting in power and thus keeping it dysfunctional so that the corrupt can make merry! If we are really keen to change this country and make an impact in the field of reducing corruption, we have to awaken the sleeping and completely dysfunctional judiciary of this country!

It is the return of the thugs and the Pindaris. These wolves have taken possession of the land in the garb of sheep. Politicians and criminals, very often of the same category, should be inside jails. They are not. They are outside and they commit atrocities of the worst kind. Poor victims of criminals, who do not have the ability to arrange for bail, are languishing in jails. More than 75% prisoners who have been put in jails are undertrial prisoners. Many of them have already been in jail for years. They have already spent more time in jail than the maximum punishment that could be imposed on them if they had been convicted legally for their alleged crimes. Past records show that whenever judgements were delivered, more than 82% of the prisoners were set free because they were innocent. Their only crime

was that they were poor. They were victims of the rich and the strong. Jails in India are overcrowded with innocent people who await and cry for justice eternally.

The primary reason behind this total failure of democracy in this country is the snail-paced judiciary. The situation is so bad that those who have the money to engage lawyers who can interpret our outdated laws have no fear of punishment!

If we do not impose emergency measures to alter the existing judicial system, corruption will continue to eat into any semblance of progress that India makes in the right direction. The reason behind our moral bankruptcy is our lack of faith in our judicial system. We prefer to bribe our way through to get a job done, rather than drag the bribe seeker to the court. It is common knowledge that justice in India is an elusive dream and the guilty will in all probability go unpunished. Seeking justice in India is like offering yourself on a silver platter to the grasping tentacles of harassment. If citizens are sure of justice, then seeking justice through the court of law becomes a part of the average Indian's moral framework. Even if a criminal is not actually convicted, the very fact that some people have the gumption to take law-breakers to court will evoke some fear in the minds of the not-so-blatant criminals.

Time is running out. Unless we get our act together and ensure a fast-acting, just judicial system, sooner or later the criminals outside the jails will outnumber the inmates.

As I stated earlier, and have often stated in the past, the only way to reduce corruption in India is to make the judiciary more effective. Till the corrupt remain convinced that they can either escape punishment or delay it indefinitely, corruption will continue to increase. The one and only solution for corruption is a functional judicial system. Corruption and greed are globally prevalent, yet it touches far less lives in the USA than in India simply because the American judicial system is functional and ours is dysfunctional. In America, they have ten times more judges per million people than in India.

If we are to try and achieve such standards, we need to have about 100,000 more judges. It sounds huge but is surely achievable in a span of five years. **And to have 20,000 additional judges per year, we have to budget for an additional amount of approximately Rs.6,000 crores per year,** assuming that the expenses around a judge and his office assistants put together is definitely not more than Rs.30,00,000 per year.

So I would suggest that we should use the upcoming Budget to announce that Rs 6,000 crores have been allocated for the judiciary in the coming fiscal, with a commitment to increase it to Rs 10,000 crores in the next fiscal. India desperately needs such a big ticket and transformational move. We must unveil a concrete plan whereby the Law Ministry works with Supreme Court and High Court judges to draw up firstly a concrete blueprint to “quadruple” the number of judges and courts within the next five years; and secondly, to draw up a blueprint **that will compel litigants, lawyers and judges to commit to a time frame to settle cases.**

First, this will send a huge message to voters that the government actually means business. Second, it will actually transform governance in India. If those facing corruption charges know that they could be convicted in less than a year and their property confiscated and auctioned, as it has started happening in some isolated cases, the incentives for corruption will vastly diminish, if not disappear altogether. This is far more important than making noise about a Lokpal. This is very doable. No progress was made for almost two decades in Bihar when it came to tackling corruption cases. Then Chief Minister Nitish Kumar set up fast track courts; and lo and behold, the corrupt actually started getting convicted quickly.

These massive allocations for the judiciary will ensure that ‘fast track’ courts do not remain exceptions but become the norm in the Indian judiciary.

After all having a strong judiciary is also the only recourse against non secular divisive forces as well as guaranteeing women’s right to safe living and equality. In a nation with strong judiciary, lumpens of organised groups

in the business of lynching others in the name of Religion, Politically backed rapists infesting this nation and other criminals would shudder in fear at the consequences.

Like I had pointed out in the part on the situation of prisons in India—with the gravest being the condition of under trials. **To give dignity to them a monthly pension for their families** to the tune of the Unemployment Benefits outlined previously must be announced. India must go into 2047 as a civilised nation that takes care of its prisoners so that they reform and not become worse criminals. In fact all jails must be **renamed categorically as Reformation Centers** and the punishment meted out by the courts must to be sent to Reformation Centres and not Jails.

In fact, Government spends around Rs 200 per undertrial prisoner per day. If at least 65% of them could be set free, nearly ₹1600 crore can be saved. This will go a long way to engage short-service commission judges for lower courts from the pool of young lawyers with a year's experience.

Finally, we must immediately announce new steps to get rid of the black economy per se, instead of just black cash, which is just 5% of total cash – though it probably runs a parallel economy almost comparable to our white economy. Explaining further, black economy is not just black cash present in India. Black economy is:

*Black cash stored abroad.

*Black money stored in land.

*Black money stored in gold.

*But above all else, black money used for buying and selling of shares through hawala and promissory notes route.

And for each of these four, he can have simple rules. For black cash stored abroad, he should declare an amnesty scheme. Charge a nominal 15% tax and let everyone get back their money. No questions asked. And clearly say those who still fail, this time they would have the worst time of their lives. After demonetization, only a fool wouldn't believe him. It's far simpler than coaxing countries to reveal names of

Indians having accounts. When Switzerland reveals the names, money is shifted to Dubai and when Dubai reveals the names, money gets shifted to Luxembourg. So a practical, non taxing, tax scheme should be announced to incentivize people to get their black money back to India. The amount of production it will generate and the resulting taxes earned by the government will easily make up for the initial low tax.

For black money stored on land, all land records must be digitized. That will be the end of the game. Else, changing records by bribing patwaris will continue forever.

For black money stored in gold, again, an amnesty scheme should be announced, where government bonds of 85% value of the declared gold should be given to all those who declare and surrender their gold reserves.

Post that, gold should be totally sold on the basis of the Aadhaar card or a central identification code/biometric card that would link all bank accounts, wealth, land, cars for everyone – a card that even has every Indian’s finger print mapped along with the biometric of eyes so that even crime can be checked.

Black transaction in shares is the biggest scam in the country and the toughest to catch; even if one brings out laws to control the same, where there is a will, there is a way. This would require many laws; however, a lot could be done by making it mandatory to reveal details of original shareholders of companies through which money is brought back into India, specially through the promissory notes’ route.

Well that’s about black economy and corruption, the plank the common man relates to and understands the most. In fact, since 1994, **we have been advocating zero income tax regime** so that the concept of black money is almost removed. Let there be indirect taxes, GST and even corporation taxes etc. What pinches people is personal income tax. **And hardly a handful of Indians pay income tax (around just 5% and they keep screaming against all social welfare schemes saying their money is being used for someone else’s benefit)**, and we get a miniscule revenue from it —just

about 7,50,000 crore compared to two times more collected from corporate and Indirect taxes.

Lastly, wrt black money, a second round of a “very well planned” (so that people aren’t inconvenienced like last time) demonetization should be planned soon, where all the current 2000 and 500 rupee notes should be banned and the highest denomination available should be 100 rupee notes so that storing black cash becomes a nightmare. One can even think of making coins of 100 rupees instead of notes to make the entire process cumbersome and indirectly making people go for digital transactions. Notes should be allowed only till 50 rupees.

Conclusion

When I went to China first time in 2002, what I saw hit me very hard. I felt that if all of us in Delhi were to work 24x7 for 25 years, it would still be tough to convert Delhi into Beijing. That's the China I was expecting to see when I went there again a decade later in 2012. What I saw instead was an extra 25 years of growth in the last 10 years!!! If ten years back, there were gigantic roads but less cars, in 2012, the roads were filled with American cars; brands which American companies haven't even cared to launch in India! If in 2002 I saw high-rise buildings, then in 2012 I saw ten times more of them! If the last time I was amazed with Beijing, in a decade I realized that we couldn't even become Guangzhou if we worked 24x7 for the next 50 years. I believe that every Indian politician must have a visit to China as a mandatory part of his induction process into the Parliament (especially the Communists of India who have also so shamefully cheated their respective states year after year), so that they are firstly aware of how they and their predecessors have cheated this country and secondly to know where a country can reach in no time!

They say now that the Chinese economy has caught up with the American economy. In our book *The Great Indian Dream*, we had written twenty years back about the same concept; and today I write that the Chinese economy has left the American economy far behind. Their products are so undervalued that no kind of calculation can show the real value of their humongous economy! And come to think of it, even a few decades back, China was seen with lot of scepticism owing to their political structure and a gargantuan population which was increasing by the day! But when we look at the nation today we realize that it took China just a few years' time to give this huge population a purchasing power and lifestyle that even many in the West are deprived of and to create an unfathomable miracle! What China did and is doing now is beyond the imagination of many nations; they created this gigantic economy by systematically planning at every micro

level – and most importantly, taking its citizen along this growth path! Today, an average Chinese living in Beijing, or Shanghai is almost as well off as an average American living in New York or an average British living in London! So what exactly did China do?

Amongst a host of other things, China's opening up of its Iron Curtain and freeing its economy from the shackles of central control in the late 1970s while still retaining its commitment to the poor literally brought about the miracle. Unlike in India, their very carefully planned liberalization allowed the nation to experience rapid strides in growth and above all lifted more than 500 million people out of poverty! Millions of peasants were granted freedom from the massive poverty by being allowed to follow their dreams. This freedom and shackle-free life led to rapid development in the manufacturing and service sectors in the last 30 years! All this came as a celebration of new hope for Chinese masses and a new beginning of entrepreneurial freedom! The new spirit and the new mission were well supported by increasing investments in infrastructure, education and various other social sectors that symbolized the Chinese rise in world forums and made China one of the most sought-after investment destinations. The freedom from poverty in turn also helped develop the agricultural sector – as the policy of 'farmers can make their own economic decision' led to millions of farmers' poverty cycle being alleviated!

As per the World Bank definition of poverty line China's proportion of population below poverty line was 64 per cent in 1981; this dropped to an unbelievable 10 per cent now.

The poverty alleviation programs undertaken by the authorities in the last three decades have contoured the modern China that is sparkling with confidence. Today, every Chinese is free to travel to any city to try and make a living there (Of course, cities do have resident permits; holders of such permits get subsidies in health facilities etc). Yet, one cannot find a single, real, poor person in the cities. No beggars, no slums and nobody sleeping on the streets! When poor can migrate freely, cities are bound to have slums if real poverty exists. In China, people come to cities for a better life and

not because they were dying in the villages. The programs for poverty alleviation in China are carried out in 592 key counties over and above 74 counties in Tibet.

Similarly, the “Food for Work” scheme was another flagship program in China. Unlike other parts of the world where most of such programs are littered with corruption, the Chinese were successful in creating productive assets like roads, bridges, dams and other infrastructures across the nation. In the agricultural sector, reforms in agricultural taxes and other fees were implemented to relieve the farmers.

Finally, priority was given to improving transport infrastructure like building the expressways – these were increased from 147 km in 1988 to 25,130 km in 2002. In fact, it was not as simple as it sounds. Initially, the poverty reduction was uneven and was signified by widespread disparities between urban and rural population and also among different regions! The coastal cities dotted with foreign funds and SEZs were responsible for the urban-rural divide that led to the cash-strapped hinterlands languishing behind. The problem was further compounded by the low skill level of masses, lower advancement of infrastructure, and dearth of proper transport!

Most importantly, China had designed their poverty eradication flagship program in such a way that once people got out of the poverty bracket, they couldn't fall back to the same state again in the future, which is unfortunately the case in many countries like India. With the amount of FDI flowing into China, the ever increasing employment opportunities and a booming manufacturing sector ensure that people become self-sufficient to maintain their levels of purchasing power parity. Thus, China has been able to not only alleviate poverty but also has made sure that its citizens make continuous improvements at the same moment.

China's rapid progress that beats any other country in the world in poverty eradication, has been riding the wave of incredible growth not just in agriculture but also in manufacturing and services, where similar miracles have been witnessed!

The manufacturing sector growth was initiated by opening up foreign direct investments in specific ‘Special Economic Zones’ (SEZs) – and as a windfall, foreign funds started to flow. China opened up its economy using SEZs to every nook and corner of the country. All these together enhanced the investors’ confidence in China that turned the country into a manufacturing behemoth. Today, major brands across the world are outsourcing their production through China!

The coastal towns have been the jewel in the crown attracting an array of mammoth investments in manufacturing. For records, 90 per cent the said investments are private sector contributions, unlike popular belief. The tertiary sector in China – often overshadowed by its much famed manufacturing sector – also developed rapidly in the liberalization phase, constituting 40 per cent of GDP, a figure that had grown from a mere 20 per cent at the beginning of the liberalization period! It is astonishing but true that from the mid 1990s onwards, the tertiary sector in China employed more people than either manufacturing or agricultural sector;

In fact, the Chinese plan has been so systematic, scientific and meticulous that one should not even think of comparing China with any other nation.

And in the same lines, it is foolish to even compare India with China. Except for comparable population, there is nothing worth comparing. They have created a cycle of fortune which India could not imitate. China’s growth pattern has also been different from that of India’s! China started with the development of its primary sector; and in the last 35 years, moved to the secondary sector, a move that made the country literally “the workshop of the world”! The enormous success of its manufacturing sector has ensured the doubling of employment and tripling of output in the last two decades. Comparatively, India jumped from the primary sector straight to the tertiary sector with little growth in manufacturing!

The trade policy and trade pattern differs too. The relocate capital that entered China and thereby took exports to an enormous level, has been possible because of cheap labour, world class infrastructure, excellent transport facilities, and cheap housing, that substantially brought down

labour cost. India's public provisions on the other hand have been rather ordinary, which have not been able to buttress export oriented industries, resulting in lower level exports, investment and growth.

If we want to change India, we need to take every Indian politician to China – because when they talk of poverty eradication, I find it a joke, for they do not even remotely know the meaning of poverty eradication or how soon it can be done – or how much of their type have betrayed this nation. They need to be taken to a city like Guangzhou and be taken on a crisscross ride on the city's roads so that they can see how they could be traveling on those roads for three hours, and yet not come across any road twice – with only world beating infrastructure peppered throughout. Comparatively, they should feel dwarfed with their deeds (Bangalore, our pride, might finish only in the very outskirts of Guangzhou).

Our politicians should be taken to Guangzhou's annual Canton fair (where I too went) so that they realize how to attract foreign buyers. Delhi's so called trade fair complex "Pragati Maidan" looks like a prehistoric, dirty relic in front of the facilities at the Canton fair. Our politicians should be made to stand in front of the Bund Street in Shanghai and shown how one side of the street can be made into replica of Geneva which is ten times better, and the other side (with a river) can be made to look far better than New York's skyline in only a matter of twenty years. And that's why there are no revolts in China, which the capitalists keep dreaming of – while people in the West are today demanding to occupy the Wall Street. Because the lack of freedom of expression in China is similar to say in Dubai – where you can't speak negatively about religious issues – in China, you cannot speak negatively about the premier (actually you can do that too, but it's just that you cannot attempt a movement against the high command), but you can write about corruption in the government in the papers; you can criticize their policies; you can migrate from villages to cities; you can go abroad; you can even buy Gucci and drive a Mercedes! There are no revolts because every citizen of China sees a committed political party; they are seeing their brothers and sisters becoming better off by the day. And when they come to cities, they see how these are being transformed into leaner, more modern

and bigger than the New Yorks and Londons of the Western world. It's a shame that in India, we can't boast of the same. What a gigantic betrayal of a nation.

Disengagement of the government has been actually a deliberate decision to abdicate its responsibility to the people. The tragedy is that India is almost at the bottom of the list of nations, barring a few Sub-Saharan countries in terms of GDP per capita, which is nearly an accurate index of human development. The most crucial task facing us is the need to restrain our organized class. It is high time we made its members more human and educate them on the hazards of excessive consumerism and greed for more and more material possessions. In the name of providing more choices and options in consumer goods, this class is made to stretch its budget beyond its means, supported by a false sense of security and purchasing power provided by tools such as credit cards and the like. In this entire drama what we have overlooked is the reality of the Indian context. It is time Media plays its real role. It is time we wake up. Of course, as the book has showed from the very first page, we can do it. We must.

Before I move on to final vision statement for 2047 a few words about our current PM, Narendra Modi is a must. A critical part of this journey of next 25 years, it seems will be steered by him.

Our current Prime Minister Modi & 2047

A critical part of this journey of next 25 years, it seems will be steered by our current PM, Modi. Looking at Modi's development record in Gujarat and his ability to communicate with the masses (**best amongst all politicians post independence**) there is every possibility that Modi's innings as Prime Minister may continue up to 2029. He came with a storm putting '**the Constitution ahead of the Gita**' and clearly mentioning his motto as '**Toilets before Temples**'. When I look back at our 2003 proposals outlined in 'The Great Indian Dream' book, I see only one thing we wanted that has been fulfilled—the basic requirement of toilet for every household. And that was not done by others in all these years. **It has been indeed a great achievement of Modi.**

What is also amazing is that he took reporting of its progress from every district and had cross check mechanisms at place due to which the implementation was near flawless.

Though after he can be criticised for putting Temples back to the forefront, for his failures to handle the Pandemic & Demonetisation, the fact of the matter is, BJP survives thanks to Modi. Anyone else in his place and BJP could have lost 2019 itself and would definitely end up losing 2024. But not with Modi around.

Having him there can actually be very beneficial. At least as far as the growth story till 2047 is concerned. While critics keep pointing fingers at his oligarchy promotion economics, people very close to him say he is the biggest socialist. He is the only one with the courage to talk about a 5 Trillion economy— its a different matter than his people mess it up. He has the courage of promising a house to every Indian. He gave toilets & I believe if he wants he can give housing as well. He is the only one with courage to talk about crores of jobs even if they fall short. He has been constantly

talking about the need to bring Entrepreneurship into daily life and yes, his New Education Policy is good.

The point to be noted from my perspective is simple. Gujarat achieved 15% growth in GDP in the eighties and 13% growth in the nineties even without following the rigour of China's national economic planning techniques. China's case has been repeatedly mentioned only to indicate the potentiality for growth of GDP when growth of market is not stunted by manipulative monopolies / oligopolies to maximise profits in private interest while sacrificing optimisation of public welfare.

To bring the vision of this book — of 10% to 12% growth rate, into the realm of possibility, Modi actually is in perfect position. **Let us for sure hope, Narendrabhai Damodardas Modi makes us all proud, of being his countrymen.**

2047: Poverty only in Poverty Museums

A Vision Statement

We are still at a crossroads where we have to urgently decide on our future. Let us decide that we shall live for our countrymen and in the process we shall be regarded as noblehearted and humanised as we deserve to be. Let us seek for such political leadership which may help us on our path to glory and not condemn us to the dustbins in the history of mankind. We need a dream. A vision. The Great Indian Dream.

A dream where we finally are developed in the truest of humane sense. Where every Indian knows that I will not die hungry, I will never live without shelter, I will get access to any amount of healthcare that I might need along with any amount of education that I want, I will have a minimum income to sustain myself with dignity should I choose not to work but if I choose to work I will not be exploited and get at the last 1/3rd of highest paid person in the economy, I will not face any exploitation due to my gender, caste or religion and I will have access to absolutely timely Justice should there be any reason to reach out for it.

Let us together dream of a country where poor are not just merely reduced to statistics but where there are no poor. Let there be a day when small children are taken to poverty museums like science museums where they shiver at the plight of the way people used to live even in the year 2022. Let this dream take the form of a revolution and as long as our dreams keep outweighing our memories, India would remain a young and dynamic nation on its path to global equality. And for this let the wait not be for eternity. Let us together achieve this by the time we touch 100 in 2047!

If these questions haunt you

How do we remove inequities of Income & Gender?

How do we eradicate Religious Extremism?

How do we help people chase their Passions & Live Happily?

How do we remove insecurities wrt of Health, Employment, Education & Justice?

Were you born to work 9-5 or should every human being be paid for Sitting at Home & Enjoying Life?

Can India ever be the dream country to live in?

Then this is your book!



Malay with his son Arindam



An IIPM THINK TANK vision