

PROUT

A Journal of Proutistic Views and Neo-Humanistic Analysis

South Africa's Economic Freedom Fighters

White South Africans would arrogantly say, "If we only knew that post-Apartheid South Africa would be this good we would have let Nelson Mandela out of prison long ago."



PROUT

Progressive Utilization Theory

Cry of the Suffering Humanity

A Vibrant Magazine which Informs & Inspires

What is PROUT :

PROUT is an acronym for the Progressive Utilization Theory. Conceptualized in 1959 by Indian Philosopher Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar, PROUT is a viable alternative to the outmoded capitalist and communist socio-economic paradigms. Neither of these approaches has adequately met the physical, mental and spiritual needs of humanity. PROUT seeks a harmonious balance between economic growth, social development and cultural expression.

Combining the wisdom of spirituality, the struggle for self-reliance, and the spirit of economic democracy, Proutist intellectuals and activists are attempting to create a new civilizational discourse. PROUT news-magazine aims at conveying comprehensive and visionary goals of PROUT Philosophy.

PROUT magazine invites scientists, economists, politicians, artists, intellectuals and others to join us in the creation of a new, spiritually bonded society by propagating and popularising unambiguous elevating thoughts. Through Proutistic views and Neo Humanistic analysis, it strives to serve as beacon for the benighted civilization of our times.

Main principles of PROUT and Neo-Humanism :

Neo-humanism expands the humanistic love for all human beings to include love and respect for all creation - plants, animals and even inanimate objects. Neo-humanism provides a philosophical basis for creating a new era of ecological balance, planetary citizenship and cosmic kinship.

Basic necessities guaranteed to all : People can not strive toward their highest human aspirations if they are lacking the basic requirements of life. PROUT believes that access to food, shelter, clothing, education and medical care are fundamental human rights which must be guaranteed to all.

Balanced economy : Prout advocates regional self-reliance, cooperatively owned and managed businesses, local control of large scale key industries, and limits on the individual accumulation of excessive wealth.

Women's Right : PROUT encourages the struggle against all forms of violence and exploitation used to suppress women. PROUT's goal is coordinated cooperation, with equal rights between men and women.

Cultural Diversity : In the spirit of universal fellowship PROUT encourages the protection and cultivation of local culture, language, history and tradition.

World Government : PROUT supports the creation of world government with a global constitution and a common penal code.

For both civilization and science, intellectual knowledge is indispensable. Spiritual or intuitional development is possible through the happy blending between civilization and science. - Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar

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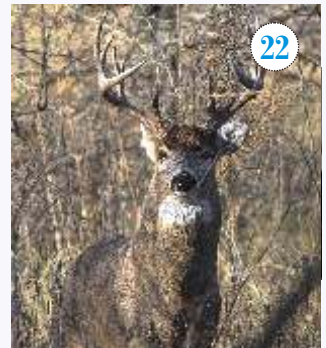
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Fundamental Principles :

1. No individual should be allowed to accumulate any physical wealth without the clear permission or approval of the collective body.
2. There should be maximum utilization and rational distribution of all mundane, supra mundane and spiritual potentialities of the universe.
3. There should be maximum utilization of the physical, metaphysical and spiritual potentialities of unit and collective body of the human society.
4. There should be a proper adjustment amongst these physical, metaphysical, mundane, supra mundane and spiritual utilizations.
5. The method of utilization should vary in accordance with the changes in time, space and person and the utilization should be of progressive nature.

“ “Human beings are more cruel than vultures.

Their hearts don't melt even at the sight of tears of innocent birds and animals. Just to gratify their sense of greed, they mercilessly slit the throats of animals with sharp knives and swords...even while preaching the hollow dictates of religion."

- Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar

Heading for the Exit

Britain, the breaker of nations (India, Palestine, Ireland, Korea) has broken off from the European Union and in the process the breakup of the UK (as Scotland and possibly Wales secede) seems likely indeed. Furthermore the escape of Northern Ireland from the jaws of British rule and re-union with the rest of Ireland is also looming. And it is not just these captured nations. Cornwall and Yorkshire with independent cultures are among the neglected and exploited areas of the present UK where movements have existed for some time for a separate Parliament. At the same time, calls have risen throughout Europe for nations to become free from the rule of the anti-democratic EU bureaucracy and above all the crony cartel capitalism of the ECB (European Central Bank) and the corporate masters. The way in which Germany has been economically cannibalizing Greece has opened the eyes of the public.

However, it is often deliberately forgotten that nearly 50% of India is facing Maoist insurgency that is supported by many of the Adi Bharatiyas despite the general knowledge that these Maoists are being supported by China to destabilize India. And this scenario is in fact worse, if one considers the additional insurgencies in Manipur, Nagaland and indeed throughout the Northeast which are being supported not just by China but also by Christian nations. Even within states such as Manipur we see recently, the bitter divisions between the Meitei majority and the hill adivasis.

The propounder of PROUT, Shrii Prabhat Ranjain Sarkar clearly supported the right of self-determination of any part of India, which is in fact, not a nation but rather a multinational complex like Europe. He stated that the Indian constitution should be changed in this regard, saying,

“The right of self-determination for a part of the country may be recognized only on the basis of a plebiscite held in that area with the permission of the Parliament functioning as a Constituent Assembly. If the plebiscite is to be held, it should be held under the strict control and supervision of the Central Government by the Chief Election Commissioner of the country.” (Requirements of an Ideal Constitution)

It must be made crystal clear that while PROUT gives such rights, Shrii Sarkar was concerned not merely to unite India, Pakistan, Bangladesh with Southeast Asia, but to unite the whole world based on regional economic and cultural democracy. Today we are seeing the bloody, horrific partition of nations in the Middle East and Africa creating the biggest refugee crisis since World War II. The present UN Commissioner of Human Rights said on June 13th

“Hate is becoming mainstreamed. Walls – which tormented previous generations, and have never yielded any sustainable solution to any problem – are returning. Barriers of suspicion are rising, snaking through and between our societies – and they are killers. Clampdowns on public freedoms, and crackdowns on civil society activists and human rights defenders, are hacking away at the forces which uphold the healthy functioning of societies. Judicial institutions which act as checks on executive power are being dismantled. Towering inequalities are hollowing out the sense that there are common goods. These trends bleed nations of their innate resilience.”

As Shrii Sarkar showed three decades ago the only way out is to fight the forces of religious dogma that is at the heart of the divisive forces everywhere. This is the fight of mystical humanism or Neo-Huamanism. As He forthrightly said,

“Even in this civilized world where so much progress has been made in the field of knowledge, people are still following these dogmas, as if they are blind. The snares of dogma will have to be shattered to pieces; the iron prison gates of dogma will have to be crushed to dust.” (Sama-Samāja Tattva)

Only then can the dream of the great poet of humanity, Victor Hugo, be realised,

“I represent a party which does not yet exist: the party of revolution, civilization. This party will make the twentieth century. There will issue from it first the United States of Europe, then the United States of the World.”

**Chattisgarh**

Chattisgarh is perhaps the greatest tragedy in the history of modern India. Still leading the country in poverty, land-grabbing, violent paramilitaries despite having some of the wealthiest districts in the country. As the article on Goan Mining said, the benefits of the mines of Bastar and other districts must be in the hands of the local people and not the netas and their corporate masters. The article by Shrii Sarkar was most unexpected. To imagine the unimaginable - a Chattisgarh that is free from rape, destruction of adivasi culture etc. And a Chattisgarh that becomes so advanced in its collective spirit that it becomes a lighthouse for suffering humanity everywhere - this is only possible for a mind steeped in the bliss of immortality.

Lingala Raja, Delhi

Privileges of Elites

This was a real corker of an article. To get my mind to understand capitalist looting we have got to understand its roots in religion, caste and patriarchy. So many people from these elite classes have no idea how they are in fact social parasites feeding on the misery of crores of their innocent relatives in the Indian Joint-family. People talk about these issues separately but this article integrates them all and shows how the arrogant violence of the majority religion, upper castes and males all fuse into one social disease that is tearing apart countries (where caste is replaced by the vice of race discrimination) around the world.

Jacinta Alvarez, Mumbai

Annadatas

This was the first article on the drought crisis giving practical solutions for governments. Right now farmers are flocking to cities, are seeing their land destroyed by drought. As is usual, the government offers them no aid, gives them no help as they struggle to find work. The roots of all India's problems lie in the rural sector. Mere socialist platitudes or violent religious conservatism is not going to solve the current agricultural crisis. Now

the entire structure of the agricultural sector must be remodelled as per the principles of maximum utilisation, balanced economy (neither dominance of agriculture nor industry) and above all rational distribution that encourages economic expansion with economic inequality kept firmly in check. In other words we need PROUT.

Shridhara Menon, Patna

Orissa Land Degradation

This article did not tell the real truth. Go to Cuttack, Ganjan or Katihar and tell me how much land degradation is going? We all know where the rampant destruction is going on - in Koshal. And it is not the people of Orissa destroying their own land - it is the exploiters of Utkal looting Koshal and then leaving the land a desert. The river waters of Koshal are also being stolen. There is not one single organisation today that has the courage to raise voice for separate statehood for Koshal and to end the exploitation not just of Jindal, POSCO, etc but also of their Utkal partners in crime. How long will this go on?

Nandbir Sonu, Sonapur

Biocultural Rights

As a Proutist it was most startling to see how through Biocultural rights, the groundwork has emerged for the communication of the idea of Prout's samaja. The right of local people to control their own environment, the economy based on that environment and their local culture is at the heart of the samaja movement. The samaja movement of PROUT goes further and envisions a cultural and spiritual renaissance in these cultures. This article reveals how we Proutists have so much to learn about developing the ecology of every samaja as part of our fight for swaraj.

Awilda Riis, Copenhagen

Human Safaris Andamans

A sad commentary on our country. Basically we continue to treat human beings as animals. There are many elites who lecture the west about their racism and cultural

imperialism. However India behaves no better or worse when it comes to its First Peoples. The Andamans should be closed for tourism. The flow of outside residents should be strictly controlled. All residents should be required to pass an exam in language and culture of the Andamans or they should be thrown out. It is high time to end the culture of disrespect of our Adi Bharatiyas.

Samuel Munda, Ranchi

Industrial Corridors

The idea of Industrial Corridor, like all ideas is not the issue, the question is how do mega-projects function. They function by bribing, bullying, killing the local people to give up their land and of course by cheating and denying them any real compensation. Who gave the government the right to do this? Did you vote to give them this right? Does the Constitution give them this right? So long as this culture exists all development projects will be the enemies of the local people. Development thus will become nothing more than another word for elite looting of the Indian people.

Cennabasavanava Rajan, Hubli

Genuine Political System

This was indeed an in-depth study that offers a lot of scope for a book on the subject. Right now education is deliberately denied to lower castes, adivasis and Muslims due to persecution in shoddy government schools. So does PROUT want also to take away their right to vote? This is a problem also in the US where conservatives want to make tests for voters so as to take away the vote for poor blacks and Hispanics. What is PROUT's solution to this issue. Voting rights have been generally given to everyone because social elites and government officials cannot be trusted to educate all citizens and because they also cannot be trusted to test and judge citizens impartially. What is PROUT's solution for this culture of discrimination in nearly every country? Waiting for your answers.

Shalini Mahapatra, Kendrapara



"My Prout philosophy does not support capitalism, so we do not go begging for the grace of Lakshmii. Moreover, the people of today have come to understand what the people of yesteryear did not, that Lakshmii is bound to reside in the houses of sinners. Can anyone get rich without resorting to some sort of thievery? Not at all, which means that you'll find sin wherever you find Lakshmii."

- Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar

Be with Dharma Always

These days in India there's a popular Bangla TV serial 'Esho Ma Lakshmi' meaning 'Come Mother Lakshmi'. It venerates Lakshmi the goddess of prosperity spreading love and goodwill, yet in constant conflict with her elder sister goddess Alakshmi reveling in doing just the opposite. According to the *Kalki Purana* both were born out of the churning of the ocean - "*Samudra Manthan*". Alakshmi is maligned with bringing, discord, strife, jealousy, malice, hardship and ruination where ever she goes destroying wealth, dividing families sowing distrust and misunderstanding among family members, friends and relatives. This story about Lakshmi and Alakshmi, however, throws a different light.

Many years ago in the heavenly land of Bharatvarsha there was a king who loved his subjects like his children and always had an eye on their well being. For him Dharma was most important and whatever decision he took was always based on Dharma. It so happened that in one of his expansive moods he made a promise to buy everything left in the market after sundown. One man made a statue of Alakshmi and no one wanted to buy the statue because who wishes to invite ruin in his house. Though no one wanted but he had to buy it because he had to keep his promise. So he brought the statue into his palace. Then, that evening he heard a woman weeping. He looked around and found her and asked, "Mother why are you weeping?" She told that she was Lakshmi and that she could not remain where Alakshmi was. Lakshmi and Alakshi can't stay together in one house, so she was going out. The King could only tell her sadly that, "Well, Ma, I can't stop you. You may go. I have promised to keep Alakshmi here, and so I can't stop you". Then he heard some heavy footsteps after she left, and saw one large man coming. The King enquired who he was. He told he was Narayan, the husband of Lakshmi. He said that his wife had left, so he had to follow her. The King could only repeat his words that he had to keep Alakshmi since he had given his word and could not stop him from leaving. Then one by one the different Gods came and told that since Narayan and Lakshmi had departed, so they were leaving. The King did not stop them from leaving.

Finally Dharmaraj, the God of Dharma told that the house was empty of Gods, so he too must leave. But this time the King refused. He said, "Oh no, you can't go. It was because of you that I kept the statue of Alakshmi, so you can't go". So Dharma could not possibly leave and had to stay.

After a while the Gods outside asked, "Where is Dharmaraj?" When they found out he was not coming, they were perplexed. At the King's door there was a heavy knock, and when the King opened the door, Narayan was there. Narayan told that Dharma was in this house so how could he remain outside of where Dharma was? Next came Lakshmi wearing her anchal the part of the saree worn to cover ladies' head like a hood almost. Lakshmi's was not just draped over her head but actually covered her face - in shame. Then one by one the other Gods returned, but not all came by the front door. Some came by the back door, some came through the servant's quarters and some through the skylight. The king said, "Well, uninvited but welcome anyway".

This story was narrated way back in 1970 at Nagpur by the founder of PROUT Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar who is also known by the spiritual name of Shrii Shrii Anandamurti. His directive to His followers is : **"Be with Dharma always"**.

ENDING INEQUALITY WITH A Decentralized Economy

SHRII PRABHAT RANJAN SARKAR

Decentralization does not diminish or dissipate economic potential. Rather, decentralization removes regional disparity because wealth is distributed almost equally everywhere.

At the beginning of civilization, the desire to create arts and crafts arose in the human mind. At that time artisans used to work at home, and arts and crafts were produced in cottage industries. Men, women, boys and girls all participated in the creation of arts and crafts. Later people realized that some arts and crafts could not be produced in every village, so certain artifacts were produced by a few combined villages. If artisans had not combined together, they would have suffered losses in the

market place, and their numbers would have been significantly reduced. So gradually human beings started to go and work in places where production was done collectively, or the first factories. At that time the few industries that existed were decentralized.

In this connection, one thing should be remembered - the more that arts and crafts are decentralized, the greater the benefits for human society. Decentralization does not diminish or dissipate economic potential. Rather, decentralization removes regional disparity because wealth is distributed almost equally

everywhere. We do not find situations where people in some places cry out in agony due to scarcity and starvation, while people in other places become immoral due to excessive affluence and over abundance. In fact, industrial centralization is detrimental to a well-knit social order.

In a decentralized economy people do not have to leave their homes to work in an industry, and consequently they are saved from the expenditure of maintaining two establishments. Moreover, decentralization



"PROUT's decentralized economy follows a specific guiding principle. That is, effective economic planning should be based on four fundamental factors - the cost of production, productivity, purchasing capacity and collective necessity. Other related factors include natural resources, geographical features, climate, river systems, transportation, industrial potentialities, cultural heritage and social conditions."

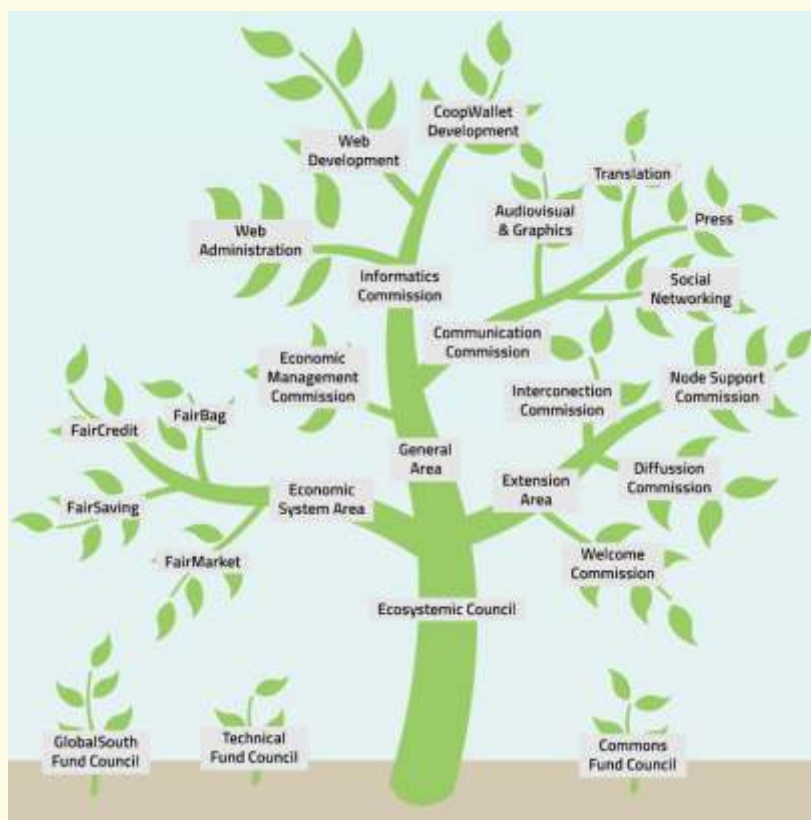
Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar

increases the possibility of saving labour, because people can earn their livelihood while simultaneously taking care of their household responsibilities.

This arrangement is not possible under capitalism. Capitalism will never support decentralization, because capitalist production exists to maximize profits. Centralization means industry for profit, while decentralization means industry for consumption [by the local People]. PROUT's approach, which will be supported by all rational people, is production for consumption. PROUT's maxim is, "Production for consumption, not production for profiteering."

Capitalists want to produce commodities at the lowest costs and sell them at the highest prices. To produce commodities cheaply, there must be efficient transportation, cheap raw materials, cheap labour, cheap energy, adequate water supply, etc. No matter what form capitalism takes individual capitalism, group capitalism or state capitalism capitalists will always prefer centralized production. All these forms of capitalism are essentially the same.

Thousands of industries have mushroomed around Calcutta, Bombay, Ahmedabad, Delhi, Kanpur and Madras in India due to this capitalistic mentality. Remote places such as Khayrasol in Birbhum district, Pancha in Purulia district, Goghat in Arambagh district and Nakashipara in Nadia district have been neglected. They have gone to sleep, crying in cimmerian darkness. Perhaps only a few people have even heard of these places. How could they? The people living there are extremely poor. They are incapable of purchasing a



woollen wrapper for winter, what to speak of expensive woollen clothing.

In India regional disparity is increasing. Calcutta's per capita income is twenty percent higher than the rest of Bengal, while the Punjab's per capita income is higher than Haryana's and Orissa's. The people of Delhi enjoy much greater liberty and comfort than the villagers of Purulia district. Regional disparity is detrimental to the cause of a healthy social order. PROUT is the only panacea. There is no other solution.

Communism is state capitalism which is why it is not free from the defects of capitalism. State capitalists, like individual and group capitalists, control industries. State capitalism means state controlled industries. In other words, in state capitalism industries are centralized. Communist countries support state capitalism, which means centralized production. While communism appears to differ from capitalism on

the question of popular liberation, capitalism and communism are the same internally. Fruits of the same variety may have different colour skins, but their seeds are the same. Capitalism and communism are fruits of the same variety.

To ensure the social and economic liberation of human beings, the maximum amount of socio-economic decentralization is essential. While it may be difficult to establish village-level economic infrastructure at present, there is no insurmountable obstacle preventing us from establishing block-level economic infrastructure. As far as possible, the establishment, operation and distribution of all industries should be done at the block level. Only when this cannot be done should industries be organized at a higher level. Obviously,



"The first step to decentralized planning is to make an economic plan according to the needs of the lowest level. Block-wise planning should be the most basic level of planning. The aim of the planners should be to make each block economically sound so that the entire socio-economic unit will be self-sufficient. Only then will a country or a federation becomes economically strong and develops in the real sense. This approach to planning is the special, unique feature of PROUT's economic decentralization."

Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar

industries such as iron and steel factories cannot function in every village, block and district, so they should function in a larger area.

There are some special types of key industries which can conveniently function as either small-scale industries or medium-scale cooperative industries. If some key industries are structured in this way, they must be under state control. Care should be taken to ensure that they are properly organized and widespread. Such key industries should never be controlled by capitalists, otherwise the interests of the people will be partially if not fully ignored. Moreover, if they are left in the hands of capitalists, many different kinds of problems will arise. Normally only very large-scale key industries should be under state control, and these industries should be centralized instead of decentralized. But industries which cannot be readily decentralized today may

be decentralized in the future due to changing circumstances. At that time the decentralization of key industries must be implemented.

There are also many other adverse effects of industrial centralization. For example, in large cities it is difficult for people to remain healthy because of the scarcity of fresh fruits, vegetables and milk. Immorality and corruption are rampant. Thieves, criminals, drug addicts, alcoholics and antisocial elements easily conceal

themselves and prey on innocent people. Malnutrition, air pollution, water pollution as well as other problems also exist. All large industrial centres presently suffer from these defects.

In ancient times, people who travelled great distances to reach their place of work in order to earn their livelihood were called *gandhaha'rin*. Women and girls did not usually work outside the home. They normally stayed at home, took care of their household duties and worked as well. Highly skilled people do not often get proper recognition and adequate facilities if they live in remote areas. Rather, they usually have to travel long distances just to arrange their livelihood.

In medieval times skilled ivory artisans used to live in Burdwan district, but there was no market for ivory there. There was a large ivory market in Murshidabad, and smaller markets in Bankura, Vishnupur and Dhaka, consequently the skilled ivory artists of Burdwan were compelled to travel to those places. Skilled artisans who are compelled to travel to another place for work are called *gandhaharik* or *gandhaharika* in Sanskrit.





Security Plan for India

It is necessary for the Government to clearly specify the role and functions lest the defence forces feel offended every time the NSA plays an active part

★ M R Sivaraman

To fulfill its promise made in the BJP election manifesto, Atal Behari Vajpayee the then Prime Minister set up the National Security Council in November 1998 with his Principal Secretary Brajesh Mishra as the first National Security Advisor. This was done by an executive order and thus has no legislative backing, unlike the National Security Council of the US on which presumably it has been modelled. Similarly neither does the IB (Intelligence Bureau) have any legal standing and hence is being challenged in the court. So *ab initio* the NSA suffers from a major deficiency. The NSA possibly cannot officially pass any orders or instructions, or at least that is the presumption, excepting in the name of the PM. This is borne out by the fact that he is shown at the top of the list of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) with the rank of minister of state. The Home Secretary can issue directions and also coordinate with all the relevant ministries and the states. The Foreign Secretary interacts with all countries on a day-to-day basis. The NSA of India dons on himself the roles of both the secretaries.

If the NSA had only a simple advisory role then the matter would be different. But, in the light of different perceptions on how the Pathankot attack was dealt with and the role of the NSA in that, it is necessary now for the Government to clearly specify the role and functions lest the defence forces feel offended every time the NSA takes an active role in such incidents. The role of the NSA of India with regard to the threats to its economy is not clear indeed.

Capital Flight

The country is losing billions of dollars through capital flight and thousands of crores of tax revenue due to underhand dealings in every sector of economic activity, the facts of which are reportedly contained in a detailed report submitted by the National Institute of Public

Finance and Policy on the orders of Pranab Mukherjee when he was the Finance minister in the UPA. The report is said to contain startling figures of massive black money generation. No one knows the fate of the report even though The Hindu on August 4, 2014 reported, on the basis of a copy it had, **that the black economy now accounted for 75% of the GDP.**

Even accounting for a high margin of error in the estimation, these findings have serious implications for the monetary and fiscal policies of the government. Earlier, on the insistence of this writer, the then NDA government revised the GDP of the country by about 18% in 1998. But if the unaccounted income is even close to 50% of the current GDP then it makes nonsense of all the gamut of economic policies of the government, which may be the reason that the government does not want to make the report public. Within this cauldron could lie the seeds of serious economic instability for the country.

The then Finance Minister Dr Manmohan Singh had asked this writer to coordinate with all the intelligence agencies to ensure that at least financial crimes were effectively pursued. But no co-operation was forthcoming. The number of agencies under the Revenue Secretary itself is bewildering and there is hardly any co-operation or co-ordination amongst them unless a strong Revenue Secretary asserts himself. Courts would release on bail (on flimsy grounds) international criminals who would then flee the country never to be caught again. The system has been getting debilitated by the day as is seen in the number of chief commissioners of both Home and Foreign ministries and other lower rank officers of both the boards being arrested for corruption in recent times.

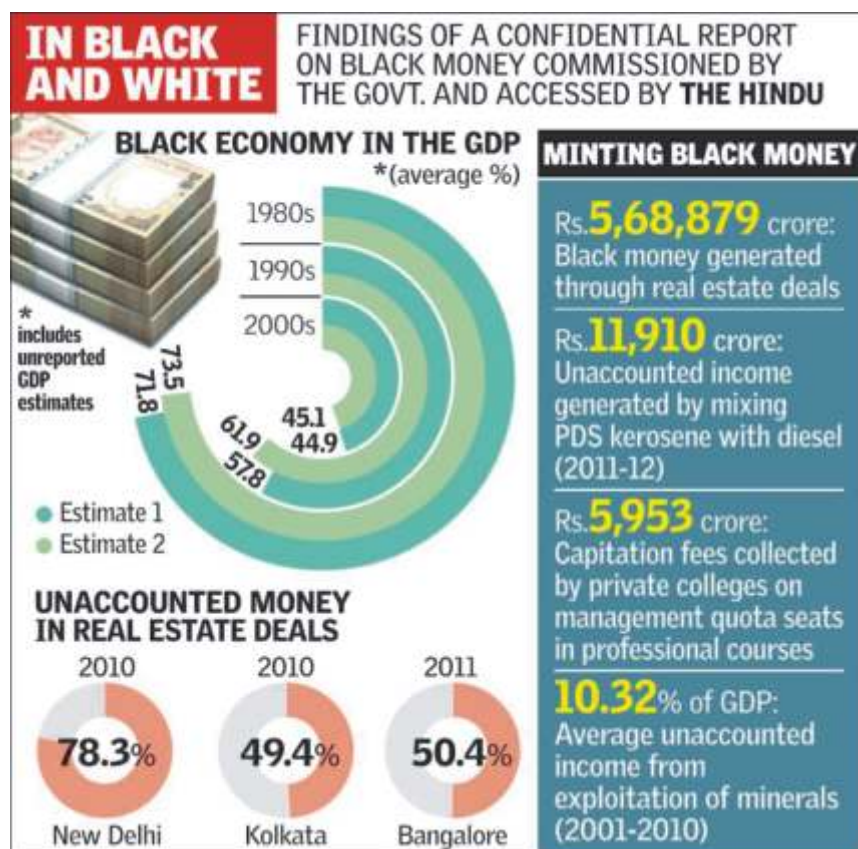
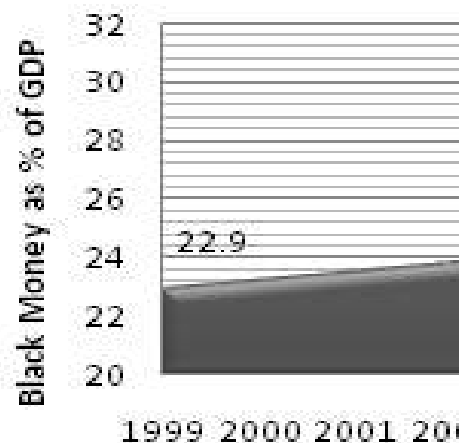
The information that is gathered by these agencies is immense as they can tap phones and have access to intelligence agencies across the world. On rare occasions, sensitive information including

those involving terrorists is taken to the Revenue Secretary by junior officers who are afraid of lack of support from seniors and if the Revenue Secretary courageously acts on it many serious crimes could be prevented.

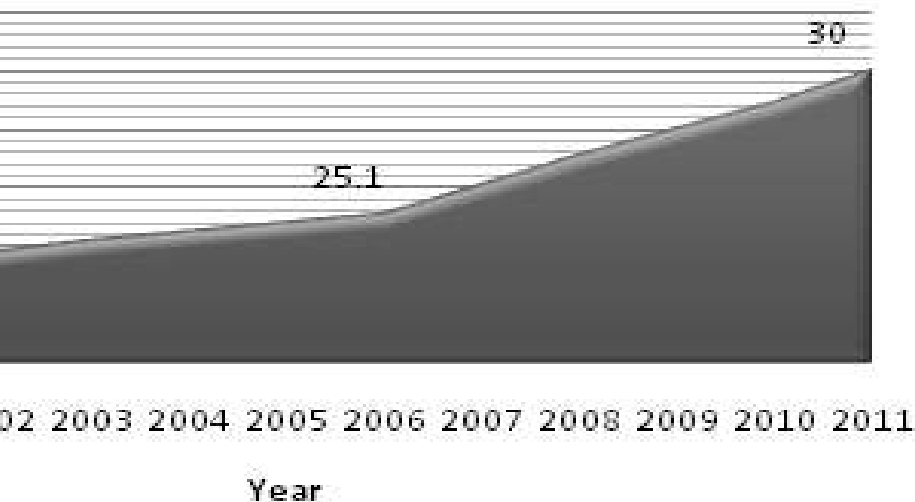
Aside from these sources of information there are additional sources from all the other intelligence agencies with the Ministry of Home Affairs, the armed forces in addition to the intelligence directorates under every state government. Despite these many agencies, terrorists attack the country periodically. Financial terrorists too continue their even more lethal criminal activities all the time.

In coordination meetings, no agency agrees to disclose information, because allegedly they do not want to compromise their sources. This is often a lame excuse. There is no proper accountability of officers for the use of secret service funds by all the intelligence agencies. The income tax authorities, ED, customs and central excise, etc. seize hundreds of crores of rupees in cash and in the form of other valuables. No audit is conducted as to where these seized

Black Money



Security as %age of GDP over the years



crores are and what is their security.

Unholy and Criminal Nexus

A note by this writer was part of the Vohra Committee's report on the nexus between criminals, bureaucrats, politicians and even the judiciary. The then PM released this report in Parliament and a committee was constituted to monitor all the cases of such a nexus. The committee had an unceremonious demise.

Is the NSA of India conversant with all these institutional set-ups under different authorities which are engaged in national security? Foreign Secretaries who become NSAs may not even have inkling about these resources while a police officer may be familiar with a few of them.

The national security of India has never been considered holistically but has been left to the scores of police forces and intelligence agencies without much co-ordination and barely any co-operation amongst them. This is in spite of the fact that the country has faced five major wars since independence. The onslaught to which this country is subject to from nefarious forces such as drug smugglers, money launderers and

arms smugglers is acting as a negative force preventing the country from exploiting its full economic potential.

Together with the external threats to its security, there are more than adequate reasons to have a proper National Security Act. This should not be confused with the existing National Security Act 1980, which is in fact a preventive detention law. One of the two could be renamed. The Act should provide

for two levels of National Security Council, one in which the state chief ministers are also members, which once in a year reviews internal security issues and takes policy decisions and another with only the relevant central ministers, the three services chiefs and the secretaries of the relevant ministries like Defence, Home, Revenue and Foreign Affairs. The NSA could be the Secretary of this NSC with no autonomous powers; the current NSA functions as a super Foreign, Home and Defence secretaries rolled into one negating the functional responsibilities given to the Secretaries under the Transaction of Business Rules. Currently the NSA usurps the powers of the Secretaries who alone answer in the Parliamentary committees being responsible for actions in their ministries.

In the meanwhile it is learnt that the PM is reportedly contemplating the setting up of a Ministry of Internal Security. Do we really have to replicate everything the US does even though our Constitution, division of powers and the hierarchical structure of the governments are all different?

The writer a retired IAS officer is a former Revenue Secretary.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY FRAMEWORK

- STRONG LEADERSHIP TO PROVIDE
 - VISION
 - ACROSS THE BOARD COORDINATION
- CLEAR CUT POLICY & STRATEGY WITH PRECISE MISSION STATEMENT
- ADEQUATE FUNDS & HUMAN/MATERIAL RESOURCES
- UNAMBIGUOUS SET OF LAWS & LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPACITY



White South Africans would arrogantly say, “If we only knew that post-Apartheid South Africa would be this good we would have let Nelson Mandela out of prison long ago.”

South Africa's Economic Freedom Fighters

★ Marsha Cole

For many South Africans, Julius Malema's Economic Freedom Fighters are the answer to the neoliberal policies of the ruling African National Congress. The EFF charges that the ANC transitioned the country “from one phase of apartheid to another, neo-colonial phase where the majority of blacks are poorer than ever.” The Freedom Charter, says Malema, is “the bible” of the South African revolution. “Any deviation from that is a sellout position.”

“A new generation of Black activists have determined that the fight for power, land and the future of Black folks in South Africa can no longer be held in abeyance.”

The African National Congress adopted neo-colonial policies and maintained the deadly economic structure of apartheid that exacerbated white supremacy, inequalities and class divisions in the “new” South Africa. The creation of an opportunistic comprador black class was necessary to maintain a neo apartheid state. The economic survival of these Black actors is inextricably woven to the preservation of white supremacy and global capitalism. As cheeky, white South Africans would arrogantly muse to me during my trips to South Africa, “if we only knew that post-Apartheid South Africa would be this good we would have let Nelson Mandela out of prison long ago.” Mandela's legacy, in addition to his role as a freedom fighter, political prisoner and the first Black president of South Africa, was to preside over the implementation of neo-apartheid economic policies. The creation of neo-apartheid economic policies produced an artificial construct, namely the black comprador class.

It was this comprador class that was implicated in the Marikana Massacre of platinum mine workers seeking a living wage. Cyril Ramaphosa, one of the leaders of the anti-apartheid struggle demonstrated that this comprador class was trustworthy and would protect white wealth at the expense and lives of the black working class. From the vortex of compromised and sold-out leadership, a new organization, Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) emerged to provide a voice for students, the working class and land dependent populations.

“The creation of neo-apartheid economic policies produced an artificial





construct, namely the black comprador class." The EFF has unrelentingly exposed the corrupt policies of President Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma (who Julius Malema initially supported) and the African National Congress. Malema has called for the resignation of President Zuma in light of the disclosure of his off-shore thievery of public monies exposed in the Panama Papers. The EFF has not hesitated to expose ANC nepotism in political positions not to speak of institutionalized retaliation that targets political opponents.

However, he said he would never countenance a Zimbabwe-style violent expropriation of land from white ownership.

"We are not going to do what the Zimbabweans have done; of drawing the blood of innocent people. There's nothing wrong with (President Robert) Mugabe's policy on land, but there's everything wrong with the method used to obtain the land. We cannot have people killed, injured because you want your land back.

"Mugabe had more than 25 years to pass legislation through democratic means that would systematically take the land back, he did not do anything about it. He only introduced that policy at a time when he was losing power, it was opportunistic.

"You ought to pass legislation through Parliament in line with your constitution that will take land back to the hands of people.

"Already in South Africa you have judges confirming that what Malema says is already there (in the laws). But you've got a powerless government that is not ready to expropriate land."

"Government in South Africa is listening. We marched to the JSE, Reserve Bank, Chamber of Mines. As I sit with you today all of them are sending responses to our memorandums, all are saying, we agree we need to talk. But in the past 21 years they were the most arrogant institutions.

"The CEO of the JSE has been calling me asking for a meeting. All 400 companies registered on the JSE have received the memorandum of the EFF and are beginning to call individually to explain how they have structured their companies and how people are going to benefit."

The EFF wanted to "do away with BEE (black economic empowerment) and empower the workers", Mr Malema said.

"We want workers to have shares. Don't give it to individuals, give to more people, the people who are called workers. Don't give it to Cyril (Ramaphosa), give it to the workers who make this company what it is. Companies are beginning to say, it looks like this will be a best solution."

He said the likes of mining magnate Motsepe and Deputy President





Ramaphosa were billionaires today even though they had "not invented anything, unlike that young man who invented Facebook".

"He (Motsepe) just went to sell his skin. I'm black, I've got political connections, I'll protect your company give me shares.' Just like Cyril did," Mr Malema alleged.

He added: "Then the (Lonmin) chairman calls from London, 'Cyril, you must now activate your contacts' and he's now under pressure. 'What must I do? Bring the soldiers, bring the soldiers' ... he has no skill."

He concluded: "Imagine if those billions were shared amongst workers. You increase buying power, increase demand, you double production, you have to hire more people and that leads to job creation.

"We need to put more money into the pockets of the workers. It's the most practical way of redistributing the wealth in South Africa.

"It will do away with industrial action. Why would workers go on strike if they knew last year that 'each one of us got R60,000 through dividends and we're told if we double up (production) we'll get R120,000'. No-one will sleep!

"When a union leader comes to mobilise for strikes, they'll say no, a

strike will jeopardise our dividends. Imagine they get bonuses and dividends and you tell them to go and strike, you will be speaking a foreign language to them, they will never agree to go into unnecessary industrial action."

Indeed, neo-colonial South Africa has been good to South Africa whites. **Whites, who comprise 10% of South Africa's population, control 80% of one of the wealthiest real estate on the planet.** Undeniably, land is the basis of all present and intergenerational wealth, not jobs. South Africa contains a cornucopia of mineral riches. It is the world's largest producer of gold, diamonds, vanadium, chrome, manganese, platinum and vermiculite. No one voluntarily relinquishes this kind of wealth and the struggle for control of these magnificent resources is yet to be waged. The murders of valiant freedom fighters and the election of Mandela provided a temporary reprieve for white settlers and monopoly capitalism but a new generation of Black activists have determined that the fight for power, land and the future of Black folks in South Africa can no longer be held in abeyance.

"The EFF has not hesitated to expose ANC nepotism in political

positions not to speak of institutionalized retaliation that targets political opponents."

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) was founded in 2013 by Julius Malema. The EFF and Malema have challenged the hegemony of the ANC unlike any other post-apartheid organization. Malema previously served as president of the ANC Youth League from 2008 to 2012. He was expelled from the party in 2012.

His mentor was Peter Mokaba, the radical former Youth League leader known for his militant and often abrasive language. This militancy and radical nature was always part of the makeup of the Youth League. It played a major role when Nelson Mandela, Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu, and Anton Lembede turned the ANC towards mass struggle in the late 1940s. But over time the League began reflect new realities. The founding members of the Youth League rested on the radical petty bourgeois. But under the development of capitalism a strong working class was created in the cities. On the one hand, the harsh realities of repression under apartheid meant that most of the middle-class leaders of the Youth League were either in exile or to jail. This meant that the League began to rest more and more on layers which were closer to the working class. While the radical militancy remained, it was no longer the militancy of the lawyer, teacher, or academic, but that of the township youth and urban poor. This was the so-called Young Lions generation, which acted as an auxiliary force to the workers in the cities during the revolutionary events in the late 1980s and early 1990s. They often bore the brunt of the repression of the apartheid regime. It is from the traditions of this layer of hardened revolutionaries from which Malema drew inspiration during his formative years.

On the other hand, Malema participated side by side with the unions against the Mbeki administration during the pre-

Polokwane period and the Polokwane conference itself. He also fought side by side with layers of the working class during the explosive rise of strikes which followed the Polokwane conference. He fought for the nationalisation of the mines until he was expelled from the ANC, and he was the first major politician to support the miners struggle during the period of the Marikana massacre. From this we can see that there are two sides that determine the character of Malema: on the one hand, he is an ANC traditionalist with deep ideological roots still in his former party. On the other hand, he has broken with the ANC under the mass events of the class struggle over the last period, and has been outside of the rot which has since set in in the ANC. He is therefore to be seen as a transitional figure moving between these two positions.

Malema is an important figure in South African society and is bound to play an important role in future. But the most important element in this equation is the rise in the class struggle, and the role of the masses led by the working class. The movement of the workers, with its very militant traditions, will be the

deciding factor in the big events which awaits. The role which Malema and the EFF are currently playing is that of providing an outlet through which the masses, especially the youth, are currently moving. Born in 1981, Mr Malema was raised by his mother Flora, a domestic worker, in Seshego township in the northern Limpopo Province.

Within one year of seeking political office, the EFF has elected 25 members to the National Assembly. It is one of the fastest growing political movements in South Africa. The EFF, a socialist organization fighting for the total implementation of the Freedom Charter, would implement the nationalizations of mines, the banking sector and redistribution of land to the masses without compensation to the settler class that stole both the wealth and land in South Africa. Malema has become the major thorn in the side of the ANC, majority party that transitioned South Africa from one phase of apartheid to another neo-colonial phase of apartheid where the whites are richer than before and the majority of blacks are poorer than ever.

Malema defended his position in the Al Jazeera interview: "We are not provoking violence. We are the most peaceful organisation. We fight in Parliament. We fight in court . . . we will never start any violence. We will never . . . [aim] guns at innocent people. But anyone who comes with violence and thinks that they can intimidate with violence we will defend ourselves . . . We are not scared of war; neither are we scared of violence."

He dared the minister of police to arrest him: "I only speak the truth to power . . . Since when is the truth treason? Anyone who wants to arrest me here, I am here. You can arrest me now."

In his own unique way he made an appeal to the rank-and-file soldiers and police, and had a warning for President Zuma not to use the police and soldiers: "I am whispering to you, Zuma, wherever you are, those soldiers are going to turn their guns against you . . . leave office before the soldiers turn against you. The army is EFF."

And he had a message for the ANC: "We are contesting against the ANC and no one else. Not any other Mickey Mouse party. Bring it on, we are ready for you. We are not scared of you."

Connecting to the Mood

It is this kind of militancy which has contributed to the meteoric rise of the EFF over the last 2 to 3 years. Where many left-wing leaders would take a step back at such provocations by the ruling class, they went on the offensive. Establishment political parties try to scare people with the bogeyman of a "radical" EFF. Actually, what lies behind this propaganda is the fear of the masses on the part of the ruling class. What truly scares them is the way the radical nature of the EFF is connecting with the radical mood in society, particularly the youth.

Apartheid leaders and its international US and European partners strategically delayed the release of Mandela until potential competitive uncompromising leaders, such as Steve Biko and



JULIUS MALEMA

LAND GRABS

Areas where land invasions associated with the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) have taken place:

- Gauteng — Etwatwa township in Ekurhuleni
- Gauteng — Nellmapius in Tshwane
- Free State — Welkom, Sasolburg and Ladybrand
- KwaZulu Natal — Ballito and Nkomazi
- North West — Brits and Rustenburg (Sunrise Park)
- Western Cape — Denel property in Khayelitsha

Areas which the EFF has threatened to occupy:

- Gauteng — West Rand and Sedibeng
- Eastern Cape — Butterworth and East London

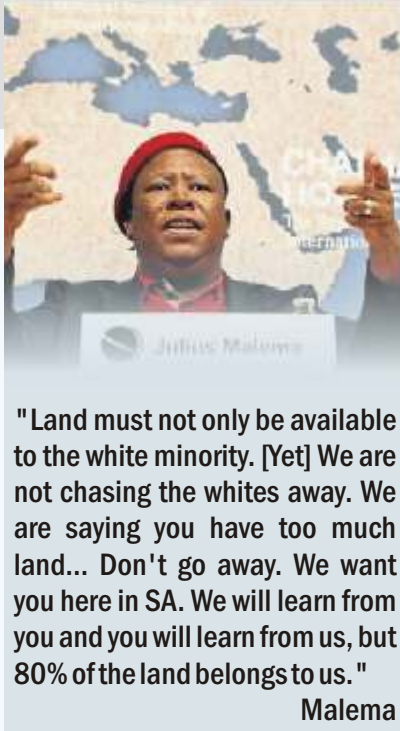
Graphic: DOROTHY TSHWAEDI

Chris Hani had been eliminated. With Biko and Hani gone, international capital had a free reign to implement neo-colonial policies and to create the delusional myth of South Africa as a Rainbow Nation the parallel of a false post-racial America. The problem with promoting South Africa as a rainbow nation and the US as post-racial is the staggering level of disproportionate poverty and state-sponsored violence to which black communities in both countries suffer.

“The EFF would implement the nationalizations of mines, the banking sector and redistribution of land to the masses without compensation to the settler class that stole both the wealth and land in South Africa.”

I witnessed, firsthand the betrayal of the Freedom Charter during the dawn of the Mandela government. As the senior EPA representative to and a negotiator at the Gore-Mbeki Commission, I was told that the “new” South Africa government had agreed to take the Freedom Charter off the table. A more detailed discussion of this matter is provided in *No FEAR: A Whistleblower's Triumph over Corruption and Retaliation at the EPA*. It was clear from the vantage point of bilateral relations that discussion of the Freedom Charter was not in the interest of US economic hegemony. The complicity of the executive branch of the new South African government was unmistakable.

Recently, Malema gave an extraordinary presentation at Oxford University in which he outlined the goals and mission of the EFF. In this address, Malema confirmed that EFF could never participate in a coalition with the ANC, which it defines as corrupt and openly in direct conflict with the interest of the Black working class. Malema openly called Cyril Ramaphosa, who the late Nelson Mandela predicted would be the future president of South Africa, a black sell-out. In the halls of the



National Assembly, Malema charged Ramaphosa with the blood of striking platinum mineworkers murdered at the Lonmin Mine in Marikana.

“Malema confirmed that EFF could never participate in a coalition with the ANC, which it defines as corrupt and openly in direct conflict with the interest of the Black working class.”

During the Oxford address, Malema stopped short of calling Mandela a “sell-out” in response to a question but rather justified Madiba's policies of “economic apartheid” by saying that Mandela was old when he took office and had taken the revolution as far as he could:

“The deviation from the Freedom Charter was the beginning of selling out the revolution. When Mandela returned from prison he got separated from Winnie Mandela and went to stay in a house of a rich white man, he was looked after by the Oppenheims....He stayed in one of their houses, they had access to him 24 hours. They told him what he represented would not be achieved, that's when he turned against himself...The Freedom Charter is the bible of the South African revolution. Any deviation from that is a sellout position.” The freedom charter had guaranteed economic rights for the people of South Africa.

The ANC has not sat idly by during these blistering attacks by

Malema and has mounted a counter attack against the EFF. Malema has been accused of treason by the ANC. Newly elected EFF members of Parliament and Malema have been violently removed from the chambers of the National Assembly for demanding that the president answer allegations of financial corruption.

He says he is “unshaken” by the fact that he is due to be tried in court later this year on a money-laundering charge. The case against him relates to a government tender awarded to a company partly owned by his family trust, while he was an ANC member. Mr Malema says the charges are a “conspiracy” the ANC hatched after his expulsion, to destroy his political career. He has also been involved in a battle with tax authorities who have taken court action to sequester him over his alleged failure to pay more than \$1.5m (£890,000). This has already led to Mr Malema's incomplete mansion, which was supposed to have a hot tub and cinema room, in the posh Johannesburg suburb of Sandton being sold at auction for about \$650,000, reported. A farm he owned in Limpopo was also auctioned, fetching about \$240,000, South Africa's Sowetan newspaper reported.

Under pressure from the EFF and internal contradictions, the ANC has advanced a new rationale for failed neo-apartheid policies, accusing the US of promoting regime change. However, the EFF is quick to point out the irony in that position since the ANC is advancing neo-liberal economic policies that provide strategic advantages to US and multinational interest over that of South Africa's Black working class. The ultimate reality is that South Africans are desperate for relief from economic apartheid and are increasing willing to overlook Malema's alleged lapses in moral character. There is no other alternative right now that has the moral courage to challenge economic apartheid that plagues South Africa and Namibia.



The AIMPLB has managed, to tarnish the image of Indian Muslims.
Truth is that an average Muslim is not governed by them.

Voice of Sanity Lost in Pandemonium of Fatwa-flailing Ulema

★ Firoz Bakht Ahmed

Shayara Bano, 35, a post-graduate in sociology, the eldest of four siblings, is the most educated in the family who was divorced by her husband Rizwan in a single sitting utterance of the horrendous word, *talaq* which is un-Islamic being a *bida'at* (the wrong way). Her case is in the Supreme Court.

In her petition, Shayara has challenged “instantaneous triple *talaq*” and not triple *talaq* itself,

which is allowed by the Quran as long as the three utterances are spread over 90 days. There have been PILs filed by NGOs and individuals in the Supreme Court but, he says, those didn't stand as they weren't filed by an affected party or because they pleaded that Uniform Civil Code be introduced. Shayara's is the first such case where a Muslim woman has challenged a personal practice citing fundamental rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution.

With the All India Muslim Personal Law Board deciding to oppose any move to scrap triple *talaq* in a single sitting and contest the Shayara Bano case that has called it unconstitutional in the Supreme Court, the stage is set for another Shah Bano-like confrontation that had turned into a hot-button issue in the 1980s.

Justices Anil R Dave and Adarsh K Goel sought responses from the Attorney General and the National Legal Services Authority of India on whether “gender discrimination” suffered by Muslim women should not be considered a violation of fundamental rights. Let's hope that the cart is not put before the horse this time to save the lives of umpteen Shayaras.

As a law abiding Indian, I am often shocked to see the television channels today hovering around the lumpen mullahs of All India Muslim Personal Law Board who are

certainly not the voice of sanity but insanity! It is owing to such obscurantist platforms pretending to represent Muslims that the Islam baiters have a field day.

They dictate terms and espouse views on issues that extend from the public domain of Indian Muslims to the privacy of their bedroom. They are wise and venerable men but their physical appearance on television and in newspapers just confirms the unjust prejudices against the majority community. Stoke a controversy involving Indian Muslims and the usual suspects start emerging from the murky and infested woodwork of the AIMPLB. Now there are going to be four of them!

For a start, most Hindus make up their mind about Muslims on the basis of the Muslim faces they see and the Muslim voices they hear in the media which invariably are 80-90-year old men insisting on the status quo. These men (women not seen!) seem to come from antediluvian times. They are a set of disgruntled, disorganized and divided individuals. Consider the convulsions over issues like triple *talaq*, family planning, *nikahnama*, polygamy, Babri Masjid etc. A board member from Kerala, one politician, has also been found guilty of the horrendous crime of rape some time ago.

All that AIMPLB has managed, is tarnish the image of Indian Muslims. Most negative statements the media quotes on behalf of the board, are taken to as trusted by the community. The truth is that an average Muslim is not governed by them. What the board says is a non issue for him. The five personal law boards AIMPLB, AIMPLB *Jadeed* of the Barelvi sect, AIMPLB (women) and the Shia Muslim Personal Law Board, are no more than a mockery.

As rightly put forward by eminent Muslim lawyer, M Atyab Siddiqui, reality is that Muslims need no law boards, rather the issues of Muslim educational, economic and social backwardness are to be

immediately addressed. Time has come that all such wheelers and dealers must be sidelined and the community itself shoulders the burden of bringing itself into the mainstream.

The board is a tower of Babel whose members are incapable of taking a unanimous decision besides indulging in messy deals. A smooth Babri Masjid transaction with Swami Jyendra Saraswati assured two board members Rajya Sabha seats by the then ruling BJP.

The AIMPLB formed in 1972, is a motley collection of 201 members including clerics and some professionals of which 101 are permanent while the rest are on a three-year term. It is felt that the community has to change with the times but most of the board members represent the more orthodox male opinion. They don't have a progressive viewpoint. Need of the hour is that enlightened lawyers, academicians, social activists, journalists, teachers and clerics are taken in so that the voice of sanity is also heard.

A common Muslim has always objected to the AIMPLB's plea of representing the community. What's still more shocking is the manner in which the media people take each and every word of the Muslim board as gospel giving them larger than life importance than their actually extremely dwarfed and iniquitous influence on the Muslim community. "What authority do the board members have to speak for us?" ask Indian Muslims.

Indian Muslims face multiple problems, possibly more than any other prominent religious group in our secular sovereign. Some of the baggage they carry is owing to the angle at which the majority community views them which, in fact, is negative, inaccurate, retrogressive, made of half truths, propaganda, outright lies and trump up charges. The other baggage is a result of their own inaction giving rise to lip-serving and opportunistic interlocutors in the form of the personal law boards and their



manipulative leaders (so called!).

If the AIMPLB members are told of the progressive measures and reforms regarding *talaq*, polygamy or family planning even in countries like Pakistan (*Family Law Ordinance*), Iran or Indonesia, they denounce them saying that they don't follow these countries.

Religious but moderate people in the community believe that the community has to address issues like birth control, taking interest from banks etc in its own interest. The AIMPLB should hold a referendum on such important issues. Broadly, the board's members are incapable of saying anything that is less than fundamentalist, orthodox, damaging and inflaming.

But the tragedy is that in the din of chaotic pandemonium, the voice of sanity is lost and the media pays



no heed to it. Fact is that for those Muslims who choose to embrace modernity, the AIMPLB is an anachronism. What's still more shocking is that by projecting the entire community as obscurantist, the board even harms the cause of the faithful whom it claims to serve.

Fact is that time and again the Indian Muslims have been cajoled on matters and terms regarding the triple talaq, appeasement, family planning, polygamy, jihad, kafir, jazia, conversion, personal law board etc. As the inhabitants of the land, their joys and sorrows are no different from their Hindu brethren. But what is lamented is that the media has been after Muslims and Islam portraying them as irrational. Media is responsible for distorting Muslims and Islam.

The plight of the average Indian Muslims stems primarily

from their myths and misconceptions that the majority community nurtures about them. If not more, we are as adjusting as the other communities.

However, all is not well with the Muslim personal law as it is practiced in India today. Though considered sinful the triple divorce is legally enforceable in the Sunni *Hanafi* law. Since vast majority of Muslims in India follow Sunni *Hanafi* law, many Muslim women become victim of this innovated form of divorce. In *talaq*, it is advisable that the *Hanbali*, *Shafai* or *Jaffariya* dictates are followed since they are lenient systems of Islamic law.

Even the new draft of the AIMPLB's model *nikahnama* doesn't ban the triple *talaq*. It just calls it unethical. Triple *talaq* in single sitting has to be dealt with iron hand. If Muslims themselves are

involved in the process of reform, it will be seen as having emanated from within. How to involve Muslims in the process? The Pakistani enactment of family law ordinance of 1961 can act as a guideline.

They could issue a similar questionnaire keeping the Indian conditions and specificities in view and evaluate the Muslim public opinion before recommending the necessary reforms. If triple *talaq* is not abolished right away at least some provisions could be made in the *nikahnama* to avoid its abuse by man either through enforcement of *talaq-e-tafwid* i.e. delegation of right to divorce to the wife, or through stipulation that only Qur'anic form of divorce will be given.

A seven-member *Commission on Marriage and Family Laws* was appointed by the government of Air Marshall Ayub Khan in Pakistan. Among the terms of reference was included whether existing laws governing marriage, divorce, maintenance and other such matters among Muslims require modification in order to give women their proper place in society according to the fundamentals of Islam.

The government of Ayub Khan after a favourable popular response promulgated the *Family Law Ordinance* that benefited a large number of women. This is a good model for India. One could constitute a commission comprising Muslim women, judges, community workers and lawyers along with one or two *ulema*.

Also, the wife could stipulate in the *nikahnama* that the husband will not take another wife during her lifetime and if he does, she will exercise delegated right to divorce that is quite absolute in *Shariah*. This way of bringing reform may be more acceptable than enforcing it from above.

The writer is a commentator on social, educational and political issues, a community worker and grandnephew of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

Enemies of the States ?

The Environment Ministry's decision to allow some States to cull wildlife has sparked a debate on how to heed the call of the wild. Spot reports from ten States suggest a man-animal relationship that ranges from cohabitation to conflict

Dusk had fallen in Kukrajhore village, tucked deep in the Bankura district of West Bengal. The day would have ended like any other for Hanuman Mondal and Ashis Mondal returning home from their farm. Hanuman has a vivid memory of February 2, 2016. "There, suddenly a huge tusker stood in our way. I did not know what to do. I lay on the ground but my phone suddenly started beeping," recalls Hanuman as he walks painfully with a limp to his cot. The tusker lifted him up and tossed him away. His friend Ashis didn't survive the attack. A fortnight later, the elephant returned. Sarojini Mondal, who was standing near the door of her own house, became its next victim. Over the past six months two persons have died in Kukrajhore. Close to 108 people died in elephant attacks last year in West Bengal. Around 50 elephants have been killed since 2004 by speeding trains on railway tracks which cross their paths.

At a public meeting on June 14 in adjoining Paschim Medinipur district, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee rapped Forest Department officials for letting elephants stray into human habitation. "The number of



elephants has increased with many entering the State from Odisha, Jharkhand and Nepal. Attacks by elephants not only damage crops but often result in casualties,” Ms. Banerjee told journalists, adding in good measure: “There are some who show a lot of concern for elephants. I like elephants a lot too. But human life is also precious.”

As man sets the agenda for development, the beasts are pushed back. They return. In Bankura alone there are about 80 elephants that have settled in the region and show no signs of migrating. The number of elephants in the State is 800, as per the latest census testimony to the conservation of the mammal, but also posing a serious dilemma in seven forest divisions in three South Bengal districts Bankura, Paschim Medinipur and Purulia. The State feels permission to catch the elephants and transport them elsewhere can provide some respite and has written to the Centre for advice.

As this ground report shows, in at least nine States, man and wildlife are in serious conflict. As many as seven States have written to the Centre seeking its intervention.

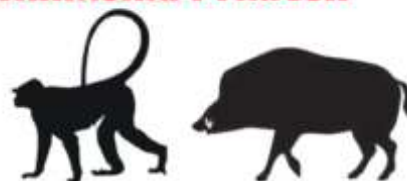
Conflicts, East to West

If February was a cruel month for

of land by real estate developers and unplanned development. Agriculture Minister Ramesh Tawadkar of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) says the peacock **“should be declared a vermin”** and culled periodically. This, despite the fact that the bird comes under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Senior Congress leader Pratapsingh Rane wants wild boars, “profuse breeders”, to be added to the vermin list as well and culled. A public outcry forced Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar to rule out the inclusion of peacocks on the vermin list but as things stand, the list is still a work in progress.

Much before the hue and cry over three notifications of the Union Environment Ministry the first dated December 1, 2015 declared the nilgai, a large Indian antelope, and wild boar as vermin in some districts of Bihar; the second dated February 3 classified the wild boar as vermin in districts of Uttarakhand; and the third dated May 24 pronounced the rhesus macaque monkey as vermin in some districts of Himachal Pradesh and allowed their culling for a period of one year the – BJP government in Rajasthan wrote to the Centre after angry farmers living near the Ranthambore National Park

Himachal Pradesh



Does not have an estimate on monkeys or wild boars



Total loss of crop estimated
Rs. **350-450**

crore every year

the increasing number of tigers in the Sariska wildlife sanctuary in Alwar district. An announcement made by Rajasthan's Parliamentary Affairs Minister Rajendra Rathore in the Assembly that the government intends to move nilgai from Schedule III of the Wildlife Protection Act to Schedule V and empower sarpanches to authorise its killing has met with strong opposition.

Guns and Deities

Not so in Himachal Pradesh, where Ashok Thakur, 43, a farmer of Palyan village on the outskirts of Shimla, has used his rifle to shoot monkeys. “In August 2010, I got permission from the State Forest Department officials to cull the rogue monkeys and save my fields,” says Mr. Thakur. “I fired three shots with my licensed double-barrelled rifle and took out two monkeys.” The monkeys eventually returned in larger numbers!

But elephants are not monkeys. In Karnataka, man, wildlife and cattle are locked in a fight over land and fodder. Over 6,000 elephants roam free in Karnataka, primarily in six southern districts (Mysuru, Kodagu, Hassan, Mandya, Bengaluru Rural and Bengaluru Urban) near the 6,724-sq.-km Mysore Elephant Reserve. The competition is most acute in

“Skyscrapers, encroachments and the slums of outsiders surround our forest. If you take over my land, I will protest. So do leopards; what's their fault?”

Bankura in the east, in the west, Goa was in the grip of an intense debate over the serious threat that the State's wildlife posed to agriculture. The enemies were identified as bison, the State animal, and peacock, the national bird, followed by wild boars and monkeys. No one was willing to debate the contribution of humans to the conflict: agriculture has rapidly declined due to mindless conversion

complained to visiting Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje about the herds of nilgai antelopes that were destroying their crops. The State was told that it was free to take action on its own, as the authority to cull wild animals was vested in the State's Chief Wildlife Warden. The matter remains unaddressed because of the local reluctance to kill nilgais.

They also are the prey base for

Bandipur and Nagarhole, which form the core of the elephant-cum-tiger reserve; while Bandipur is surrounded by 180 villages, Nagarhole is surrounded by 100-odd villages.

Kallaiah and Puttamadaiah, both tribals from the Kaniyanapura colony-the last village in the Kaniyanapura-Moyar elephant corridor in Bandipur-say they “share the space with animals and harbour no hatred towards them”. A similar live-and-let-live philosophy underpins life around the Sanjay Gandhi National Park in the heart of Mumbai. For over 1,800 tribals spread across 54 hamlets inside the 103-sq.-km park, the *waghoba* or tiger is a deity. Sixty-five-year-old Chandu Jadhav resides at Vanicha Pada, Aarey Colony, near the park and claims to be friends with leopards, which occasionally prey on his poultry and then rest beneath a tree near his house. “This land belongs to them and for generations we have coexisted. They don’t bother us, we let them roam freely,” says Mr. Jadhav. Over the years, as tigers disappeared from the forest, leopards replaced them. “Skyscrapers, encroachments and the slums of outsiders surround our forest. If you take over my land, I will protest. So do leopards; what’s their fault?” he says.

Goa



The State estimates that **20** to **25** per cent of the **1.25** lakh hectares under cultivation has been destroyed by wild boar, monkeys, bison and peacocks



The State govt. disburses annually about **Rs. 15** lakh as compensation to farmers



With around 40 of them, the Sanjay Gandhi National Park has the highest density of leopards. “The leopard is truly a 21st century animal in so far as adaptability is concerned. They coexist with humans without disturbing them. So much so that we have even observed changes in their diet,” says Krishna Tiwari, a wildlife researcher. The march of modernity is, however, taking a toll: over 12 leopard deaths in road accidents were reported in the last decade. A new proposed Dedicated Freight Corridor threatens to cut the leopard’s path of passage from the park to the adjoining Tungareshwar

Wildlife Sanctuary.

Maharashtra allows the killing of wild boar and nilgai. Forest Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar, however, says there are caveats: they can be killed only if they are inside the farm and that too with permission from forest officials; in four districts-Beed, Latur, Osmanabad and Jalgaon – farmers have official sanction to kill these animals if they enter the fields.

Crops Under Siege

In Fulsaini, a peri-urban area near Dehradun, Uttarakhand, that is surrounded by forests, leopards are only part of a much larger problem.

Wild boar, monkeys, elephants, and nilgai have destroyed crops in various parts of the State. In 2015, crop damage of 307 hectares was recorded due to man-animal conflict, twice of that recorded in 2014.

The February notification of the Environment Ministry is cold comfort for residents of the six villages under Fulsaini gram sabha. Crop-raiding wild boars apart, the leopard threat has exacerbated the declining agricultural practice in the villages. "Earlier we would set up a makeshift *machan* (elevated platform) on a tree where someone would sit through the night guarding crops by driving away wild boars," says Vijay Prakash Kala, a local. The practice stopped last year when a leopard killed a 10-year-old boy at Bajawala village near Fulsaini. The 2008 wildlife census data put the leopard population in Uttarakhand at 2,335. Current numbers would emerge only after the completion of an ongoing enumeration exercise.

While Uttarakhand grapples with its boars and leopards, the recent culling of nilgais in Bihar not only triggered a spat between two Central Ministers but also set off a debate over the killing of wildlife as a solution to man's problems. In early June, over 200 nilgais were culled by two professional shooters hired from Hyderabad in the riverine areas of Mokama, some 90 km east of Patna.

Up to 12 of the State's 38 districts have been suffering the 'menace' of nilgais for over a decade. Two years ago the farmers of Buxar, Bhojpur and Saran districts had demanded licences for guns to cull these animals but the government declined. Last year in Manjhi village of Saran district, the harassed farmers had even performed a yagna to keep nilgais away. In May 2015, the State government proposed to declare them as vermin. The proposal was then forwarded to the Union Environment Ministry, prompting its December 1, 2015 notification.

A similar problem plagues

Gujarat, where the growing population of nilgai has led to extensive damage to standing crops in more than a dozen districts, causing an estimated loss of Rs.80-100 crore a year in the State. Nilgai numbers have risen to 1,86,000 in 2015 from merely 40,000 in 1995. In 2007-08, the State government had issued a circular empowering village panchayat sarpanches to kill nilgais and licences were issued to 3,475 of them. But till now, hardly any case of killing has been reported to the authorities.

Long-running Run-ins

In Kerala, the death of a man near Panavally in Wayanad in an elephant attack last week was only the latest in a long-running saga. More than 100 people have died in Wayanad district in the last 30 years, says T.C. Joseph, chairman of a district action committee constituted to prevent wildlife attacks. With the advent of summer, the elephant population migrates from Mudumalai and Bandipur at the tri-junction of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala to Wayanad in search of water and fodder and that's what sets off the conflict.

From 2006 to 2016, 42 people have died, and Rs.83.12 lakh has been paid as compensation over this period. This year three persons have been killed. The government has now installed solar-powered fences and dug trenches in villages.

But no one is bothering to keep statistics about the countless animals being killed or about all the forests full of so many innocent, beautiful animals, birds and plants being destroyed. We are amidst the 6th Biggest Extinction in the history of the planet. This time entire animal and plant species are dying each year not because of natural calamities but because of the calamity of human greed.

Conservationists and activists say that merely declaring certain animals as 'vermin' isn't a solution because this conflict between the foraging habits of animals and destruction of cash and food crops of

Uttarakhand



2,335
leopards

300

people were
killed in
2000-15 by
leopards

No estimates on wild
boar



307 hectares
of crop were
destroyed
in 2015

farmers is due to reasons including receding forests and herbivores proliferating because of fewer preying carnivores. Besides, does the state know when to stop culling? How many, before we say enough? The states have given guns to farmers. Will the farmers obey and stop killing or will they take to poaching? When the states and centre are unable and unwilling to control murder of innocent animals across the country right now, how will they be able to do so in future.

Above all who gave the government of human beings in India the right to murder the animals and forests of India? What does it mean to do this himsa while shouting 'Bharat Mata ki Jai'? Is this himsa the doctrine of either liberal socialism or Hinduism? The new Constitution of Bolivia gives rights not just to forests and animals but to the Earth itself. Similar constitutional reforms are urgently required in India.

The Constitution must guarantee security to the plants and animals of the country, Ombudsmen at the central and state level should be empowered to enforce these rights.



How Our Spiritual Connection is Being Broken

Imagine the possibilities for peace if we understood the spiritual connection we all share. Our egos and desires to control, convert, and conquer the world would shed like dead skin, helping us see everyone around us with new eyes.

✱ L.J. Devon

We constantly stimulate our senses to keep ourselves entertained, burying our eyes in light devices and material things. We look for places where we can belong, filling bar stools and sanctuary pews with blank stares and closed hearts. Our physical bodies congregate, so close together, but the measurable energy fields between our hearts has never been so dull and divided. We spend money to keep ourselves happy, walking the store aisles feeling need

and lack. We search for meaning in all the wrong places, ultimately winding up disconnected, depressed, and unfulfilled.

We have been taught to view other people as strangers, that we are all separate beings. While we are all unique with different experiences and perspectives, we are all still very much alike and connected, co-creating together on an abundant, spherical planet.

Can you imagine the possibilities for peace if we

understood the spiritual connection we all share? Our egos and desires to control, convert, and conquer the world would shed like dead skin, helping us see everyone around us with new eyes. The division lines of made-up religions would erase and we would come to a much more eternal understanding of what it means to be alive as one.

In our religions and denominations, in our synagogues and churches, we search for higher connection, but the dogmas and

rules only suppress our spiritual bodies, alienating us from our brothers and sisters. In our emptiness, we are swayed by emotional messages of guilt and fear cast upon us from manipulative dogmas that try to interpret God's will for us. As our path is dictating to us, we lose our spiritual sovereignty and our connection to *Spirit Source* that is living inside us and constantly interacting. *What is holding human spiritual connection back?*

Pineal Gland Considered "The Seat of the Soul"

There is a place within the physical body where spiritual encounters are initiated and expressed. It's the **pineal gland**, which is pea-sized gland tucked in the geometric center of the brain. It is part of the human endocrine system and is responsible for producing melatonin, the hormone that regulates sleep-wake cycles, dreams and the subconscious, and circadian rhythm. It also produces serotonin and the DMT molecule (Di-Methyl Tryptamine), an important component for spiritual experiences. Up close, the pineal gland contains light detecting cells similar to the retina of the eyes, as if it is set up for signal transduction. It is also located close to the emotional and sensory parts of the brain; hence, it is often referred to as the third eye. Or, as Seventeenth-Century French philosopher Rene Descartes coined it: a "medium from which our soul could be expressed through our physicality." Despite being the founder of scientific materialism, Descartes had several mystical experiences.

Glyphosate is a Catalyst for Heavy Metal Poisoning of Blood and Pineal Gland Function

Today, the pineal gland is assaulted chemically, through the blood pathways. It can be stopped from producing hormones that are needed for sleep, mental clarity, intuition, and communication with others. Some of the toxins that can damage the pineal gland are heavy metals

like mercury and aluminum, which are found in several vaccinations.

Other toxins like glyphosate (Roundup) indirectly poison the pineal gland. Glyphosate is the number one herbicide (made by Monsanto) that is used on our crops today. Glyphosate disrupts the shikimate pathway of the good bacteria species living symbiotically in our gut. By eating food sprayed with glyphosate, we destroy the good bacteria, causing gut dysbiosis or microbial imbalance, allowing for greater uptake of heavy metals into the blood. When glyphosate depletes good bacteria in the gut, the gut wall goes unprotected, allowing heavy metals like mercury and aluminum to infiltrate the blood more readily. Glyphosate acts like a catalyst for heavy metal poisoning of the blood, organs, the pineal gland (not protected by the blood-brain barrier).

Current research suggests that glyphosate disrupts gut bacteria, leading to an overgrowth of *Clostridium difficile*, which produces p-cresol, a precursor linked to autism. P-Cresol boosts the uptake of aluminum into the blood via transferrin. In this condition of hypoxia, transferrin synthesis is increased in the pineal gland. Melatonin metabolism is also destroyed by glyphosate and aluminum through the destruction of the cytochrome P450 enzymes.

Fluoride Destroys Pineal Gland Function, Disconnecting Our Spirit and Body

Most people today are slowly being poisoned each day through the water supply. Sodium fluoride is mandated to be dripped into municipal water supplies throughout the industrialized world, in cities across America. Fluoride is also in nursery water and in many psychiatric medications. Fluoride calcifies the pineal gland, making it hard for the gland to regulate melatonin and DMT production, limiting one's sleep and dreams, emotional state, and heart-brain coherence.

Fluoride contaminated ground water is creating health problems

across India. Nearly 90 million people including more than 6 million children in 200 districts in 15 states are affected with dental, skeletal and/or non-skeletal fluorosis. The extent of fluoride contamination in ground water varies from 1.0 to 48mg per litre. The fluoride affected states are: Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

Many researchers show that we are seeing incredible amounts of dementia, sleep disorders, Parkinson's, learning disabilities, depression, anxiety, and disconnection in our society today because people everywhere are being systematically poisoned - their pineal glands calcified.

And it is not just our pineal gland that is being disrupted. Modern products including chemicals used in plastics, clothes, detergents, cosmetics, processed food, vegetables and fruits (exposed to pesticides, wax, colours, etc.) have ingredients like BPA (bisphenolA), phthalates and other endocrine disruptors. These chemicals disturb the functioning of many of the body's glands and disrupt the endocrine system in general. The entire ancient science of yoga is based on bringing balance and sublimity to the endocrine system or bio-psychology. Modern science is moving in the opposite direction on a disturbing destructive path guided by short-term greed without waiting for proper studies..

The agriculture system (glyphosate) and the medical system (heavy metal injections, fluoride-based psychiatric drugs) and government fluoride mandates are literally teaming up to destroy our minds and our spiritual connection to ourselves and one another.

In this awakening, we must learn how to clean our blood, detoxify, and de-calcify our pineal gland to restore our consciousness, connection, and love for one another.



Beyond Party Politics

EU dogma that nobody can question the right of the labour force of member states to move freely has failed to keep pace with reality.

✱ Trond Overland

Issue-oriented movements are challenging old-fashioned party politics everywhere. The trend is obvious in Europe where scores of popular movements, such as Italy's Five Star Movement (currently holding the mayoral post of Rome), Spain's

“

60 lakh children between the age of 6 and 13 out of school—most of them belonged to marginalised communities like Dalits, Adivasis and Muslims.

✱ Afroz Alam Sahil

A reply to a question asked in the Rajya Sabha has brought forth alarming statistics regarding education in India: despite the Right to Education and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, about 60.64 lakh children remain out of school across the country.

In response to a question asked by KK Ragesh, Member of Parliament from CPI, Minister for Human Resources Smriti Irani replied that of the 60 lakh children between the age of 6 and 13 who were out of school, and that most belonged to marginalised communities like Dalits, Adivasis and Muslims.

A detailed analysis of the numbers presented by Irani shows that the total number of children out of school from these three communities was nearly three times higher than that of the other communities. In other words, 75% of the children out of school are from Dalit, Adivasi and Muslim communities. This is not surprising because of the way Dalit, Adivasi and Muslim children are discriminated against and abused in government schools.

If one were to split the numbers in each category, of the total of 60 lakh, 32.4% children belong to the Schedule Castes while 25.7% children are from the Muslim

Podemos, and Greece's Golden Dawn continue to create news locally, regionally and internationally.

These and many other movements were non-existent only a couple of years ago and they have generated political participation and vision on a scale not seen in the West since the 1960s. At the time of writing such new movements hold 1,329 governmental seats in 25 European countries. Closed borders, low migration and protected trade are usually at the top of their agenda.

Migration

By addressing a single or a few concrete urgent issues, these new movements have been fuelled essentially by the raw passion their main issues awaken among the public. Take for instance the issue of low immigration. Until very recently it was the exclusive province of the far right. Then suddenly out of the blue the whole of UK leaves the EU largely because of it. What happened?

Who are the Uneducated Children?

Access to Education:

About 8 Million children are out of school in India — the highest in Asia!



community. The corresponding number for Schedule Tribes stands at 16.6%.

However, these numbers should not come as much of a surprise. In 2014, an organisation called IMRB, in a survey, had shown that the greatest number of children out of school are from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. In UP, the total number of children outside school stands at about 16.12 lakh, of which 5.6 lakh children belong to the Schedule Castes, 5.57 lakh belong to the Muslim community while 1.08 lakh children are from the Schedule Tribes. Similarly, in Bihar, the number of children outside school stands at 11.69 lakh, of which 5.24 lakh children belong to the Schedule Caste Community, 2.46 lakh children are Muslim and about 31,000 children are from the Schedule Tribes.

Goa, on the other hand, stands at the other end of the spectrum with no children in the age group of 6-13 outside school. Goa is followed by Lakshwadeep and Puducherry, with 267 and 285 children out of school respectively. In Dadra and Nagar Haveli, there are 745 children out of school with 172 of these students belonging to the Schedule Castes.

The only silver lining is that the Ministry of Human Resources has taken an initiative to calculate the total number of children outside school and take steps to address the issue. Towards this end, a meeting was organised between National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and the MHRD which included members of National Advisory Board and members of Education ministries of all the state and Union Territories.

Basically, the EU dogma that nobody can question the right of the labour force of member states to move freely has failed to keep pace with reality. Locals obviously feel increasingly invaded and ultimately cry “halt!” when they feel that large waves of foreigners continue to inundate their shores in search for jobs in an alarmingly tight job market. As the EU principally serves the interest of market forces, even at the cost of people's interests, it does not take local sentiments sufficiently into account, and hence the disastrous dogma was exposed.

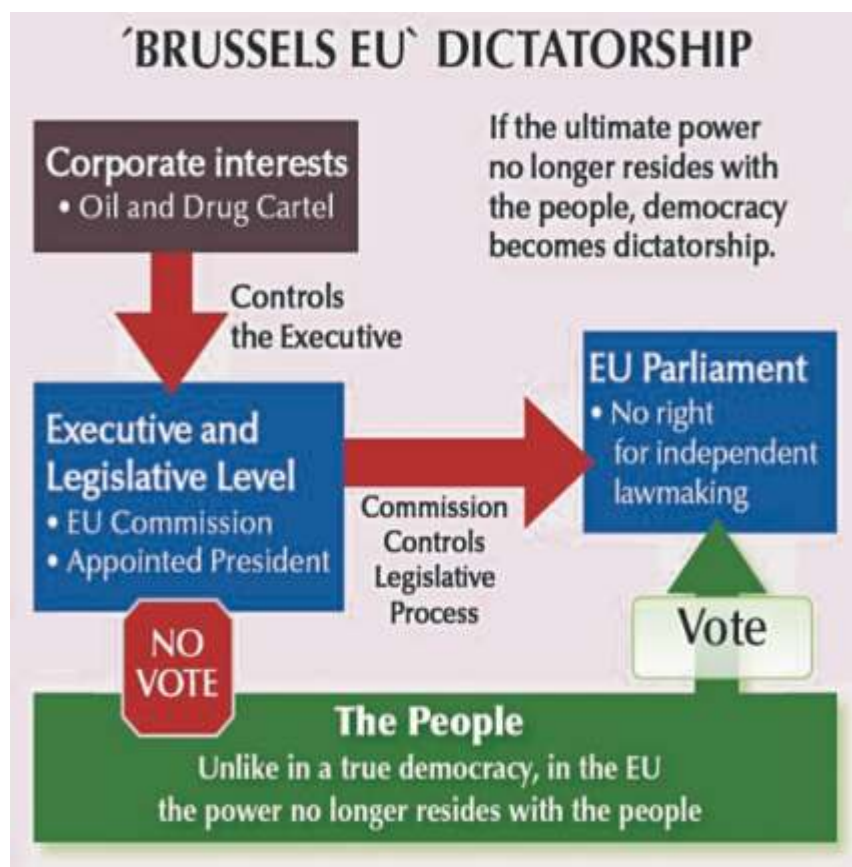
Capitalism

The apparent reasons for Brexit may be many, and immigration is surely at its core. While we expect from human beings that they reach out and help others in need, we may also expect them to call for timeout when policies collide and people feel that immigration

jeopardises their living standards.

Moreover, as most human beings enjoy meeting others, preferring new experiences to the boredom of an otherwise repetitious life plus they generally desire to be at peace and not at war, immigration cannot be the sole or fundamental cause of Brexit. On closer scrutiny the ultimate disease in this case appears not to be racism or xenophobia but the servility and submission to capitalism found throughout the professional political class. Put politely, the surreal centralisation of wealth in the hands of a few at the expense of the welfare of the majority, coupled with obvious bureaucracy in Brussels, have made a very powerful argument in favour of local initiative and self-determination.

Capitalism is indeed the cornerstone of the EU with its highly saturated market of free movement of labour, capital, services and goods which cannot safeguard the



interests of local people. On the contrary, the present system of capitalists trying to beat other capitalists, will only continue to play into the hands of a diminishing number of successful players. Briefly put, when elephants fight the grass suffers and there will certainly be other “Exit” referenda following that of the UK.

In its present hyper-centralising stage, capitalism reduces the number of the prosperous at an exponential rate. The peoples of Europe and indeed everywhere in the world are therefore in urgent need of a new set of rules to live by. Instead of allowing capitalism to continue, we must develop principles and policies that protect the interests of locals everywhere so that nobody feels pressurised to move elsewhere for economic or other materialistic reasons.

Contrary to the response of commercial media and professional politicians, the current uprisings in so many European countries are

neither primitive nor populist and do not pose a threat to democracy. Rather, these movements are obvious warning signs to career politicians and grand party structures that have turned into dangers to democracy themselves.

It is wise to move with the times, obviously. Our understanding of what is radical and conservative is changing all the time: radical today, conservative tomorrow. It should not come as a surprise therefore that any new and intriguing movement is radical, and that this label more often than not with time turns out to be a term for “anti-establishment” or change, and not for “undemocratic” or criminal.

Party Politicians

Any living organism has its origin from where it derives support and energy to rise and realise its full potential. If the environment no longer allows that organism to thrive it must retreat to those roots, to those radices (roots in Latin) in order to be able to move forward in a new direction.

In fact, traditional political parties, too, once upon a time rose as determined interest groups to challenge a monarch's tyrannical powers. Those group efforts that lasted then ended up as standard party choices of the present system of parliamentary democracy. In some countries such forces amalgamated into a broad-based two-party system. In many other countries we still find a plethora of particular interest political parties right, left and centre that make for a continuously shifting and often odd mishmash of governments.

Conventional rightist, leftist and centrist bigwigs may well view the new radicals with abhorrence. The new parties may not however aspire to establish itself on top of a traditional right-left spectrum. Instead, they may be moving towards a new dimension beyond the right and left where party politics may be obsolete.

One World

In truth, we all have the same roots. Only some have opportunistically forgotten our common existence as they increasingly seek to feed on the lifeblood of others. The most important idea to emerge in the 20th Century, Ecology, taught us two remarkable truths about our individual and collective reality:

1. We all exist together in a web of life, and

2. That web of our common life may be sustained only if we all start paying serious attention to the unique potentiality of every living being no one is unimportant and superfluous; we can't anymore afford to ignore the needs and requirement of anyone.

Our world does require a fresh ideology that embraces collective needs and rights as well as the ability of every living being to progress and contribute in its own particular way.

The time for PROUT is approaching fast. We are a single humanity living in one world: Human beings do not want to be divided at heart. So where is the need for party politics and capitalism, really?

India's Human Development Index value for 2014 was 0.609 which put the country in the medium human development category positioning it at 130 out of 188 countries



Inhuman Lack of Human Development

★ Rajiv Shah

The United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP's) "Human Development Report 2015: Work for Human Development" regrets the relatively poor improvement of India in Human Development Index (HDI) vis-a-vis other developing countries. Excerpts from India's country profile:

India's Human Development Index value for 2014 is 0.609 which put the country in the medium human the development category positioning it at 130 out of 188 countries and territories. Between 1980 and 2014, India's HDI value increased from 0.362 to 0.609, an increase of 68.1 percent or an average annual increase of about 1.54 percent.

Between 1980 and 2014, India's life expectancy at birth increased by 14.1 years, mean years of schooling increased by 3.5 years and expected years of schooling

increased by 5.3 years. India's GNI per capita increased by about 338.0 percent between 1980 and 2014.

Assessing Progress Relative to other Countries

Long-term progress can usefully be compared to other countries. For instance, during the period between 1980 and 2014 India, Pakistan and Bangladesh experienced different degrees of progress toward increasing their HDIs.

India's 2014 HDI of 0.609 is below the average of 0.630 for countries in the medium human development group and above the average of 0.607 for countries in South Asia. From South Asia, countries which are close to India in 2014 HDI rank and to some extent in population size are Bangladesh and Pakistan, which have HDIs ranked 142 and 147 respectively.

Inequality-adjusted HDI (IHDI)

The HDI is an average measure of basic human development achievements in a country. Like all averages, the HDI masks inequality in the distribution of human development across the population at the country level. The 2010 HDR introduced the IHDI, which takes into account inequality in all three dimensions of the HDI by 'discounting' each dimension's average value according to its level of inequality. The IHDI is basically the HDI discounted for inequalities. The 'loss' in human development due to inequality is given by the difference between the HDI and the IHDI, and can be expressed as a percentage. As the inequality in a country increases, the loss in human development also increases. We also present the coefficient of human inequality as a direct measure of inequality which is an unweighted average of inequalities in three dimensions.

	Life expectancy at birth	Expected years of schooling	Mean years of schooling	GM per capita (2011 PPPS)	HD, value
1980	53.9	6.4	1.9	1,255	0.362
1985	55.8	7.3	2.4	1,446	0.397
1990	57.9	7.7	3.0	1,754	0.428
1995	60.4	8.3	3.5	2,046	0.462
2000	62.6	8.5	4.4	2522	0.496
2005	64.5	9.9	4.8	3,239	0.539
2010	66.5	11.1	5.4	4,499	0.586
2011	66.9	11.7	5.4	4,745	0.597
2012	67.3	11.7	5.4	4,909	0.600
2013	67.6	11.7	5.4	5,180	0.604
2014	68.0	11.7	5.4	5,497	0.609

India's HDI trends based on consistent time series data and new goalposts

India's HDI for 2014 is 0.609. However, when the value is discounted for inequality, the HDI falls to 0.435, a loss of 28.6 percent due to inequality in the distribution of the HDI dimension indices. Bangladesh and Pakistan show losses due to inequality of 29.4 percent and 29.9 percent respectively. The average loss due to inequality for medium HDI countries is 25.8 percent and for South Asia it is 28.7 percent. The Human inequality coefficient for India is equal to 27.7 percent.

Gender Development Index (GDI)

In the 2014 HDR, HDRO introduced a new measure, the GDI, based on the sex-disaggregated Human Development Index, defined as a ratio of the female to the male HDI. The GDI measures gender inequalities in achievement in three basic dimensions of human development: health (measured by

female and male life expectancy at birth), education (measured by female and male expected years of schooling for children and mean years for adults aged 25 years and older); and command over economic resources (measured by female and male estimated GNI per capita). Country groups are based on absolute deviation from gender parity in HDI. This means that the grouping takes into consideration inequality in favour of men or women equally.

The GDI is calculated for 161 countries. The 2014 female HDI value for India is 0.525 in contrast with 0.660 for males, resulting in a GDI value of 0.795. In comparison, GDI values for Bangladesh and Pakistan are 0.917 and 0.726 respectively.

The 2010 HDR introduced the GII, which reflects gender-based inequalities in three dimensions reproductive health, empowerment,

and economic activity. Reproductive health is measured by maternal mortality and adolescent birth rates; empowerment is measured by the share of parliamentary seats held by women and attainment in secondary and higher education by each gender; and economic activity is measured by the labour market participation rate for women and men. The GII can be interpreted as the loss in human development due to inequality between female and male achievements in the three GII dimensions.

India has a GII value of 0.563, ranking it 130 out of 155 countries in the 2014 index. In India, 12.2 percent of parliamentary seats are held by women, and 27.0 percent of adult women have reached at least a secondary level of education compared to 56.6 percent of their male counterparts. For every 100,000 livebirths, 190 women die

	IHDI value	Overall loss (%)	Human Inequality coefficient(%)	Inequality expectancy at birth (%)	Inequality in education (%)	Inequality Inequality (%)
India	0.435	28.6	27.7	25.0	42.1	16.1
Bangladesh	0.403	29.4	29.0	20.1	38.6	28.3
Pakistan	0.377	29.9	28.6	29.9	44.4	11.6
South Ards	0.433	28.7	27.9	24.4	41.5	17.9
Medium H01	0.468	25.8	25.5	21.9	34.7	19.8

India's IHDI for 2014 relative to selected countries and groups

	Life expectancy at birth		Expected years of schooling		Mean years of schooling		GNI per capita		HDI values		FM ratio
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	GDI value
India	60.5	86.8	11.3	11.8	3.6	7.2	2,118	8,656	0.525	0.660	0.795
Bangladesh	72.9	70.4	10.3	9.7	4.5	5.5	2,278	4,083	0.541	0.590	0.917
Pakistan	67.2	65.3	7.0	8.5	3.1	6.2	1,450	8,100	0.827	0.601	0.726
South Asia	69.9	67.1	10.8	11.3	3.7	6.9	2,198		0.525	0.655	0.801
Medium MI	70.6	66.8	11.5	11.8	4.9	7.3	3,333	9,257	0.574	0.667	0.861

India's GDI value and its components relative to selected countries and groups

from pregnancy related causes; and the adolescent birth rate is 32.8 births per 1,000 women of ages 15-19. Female participation in the labour market is 27.0 percent compared to 79.9 for men.

In comparison, Bangladesh and Pakistan are ranked at 111 and 121 respectively on this index.

Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

The 2010 HDR introduced the MPI, which identifies multiple deprivations in the same households in education, health and living standards. The education and health dimensions are each based on two indicators, while the standard of living dimension is based on six indicators. All of the indicators needed to construct the MPI for a household are taken from the same household survey. The indicators are weighted to create a deprivation score, and the deprivation scores are computed for each household in the survey. A deprivation score of 33.3 percent (one-third of the weighted indicators), is used to distinguish

between the poor and non-poor. If the household deprivation score is 33.3 percent or greater, the household (and everyone in it) is classified as multi-dimensionally poor. Households with a deprivation score greater than or equal to 20 percent but less than 33.3 percent are near multidimensional poverty. Finally, households with a deprivation score greater than or equal to 50 percent live in severe multidimensional poverty.

The most recent survey data that were publicly available for India's MPI estimation refer to 2005/2006. In India 55.3 percent of the population (631,999 thousand people) are multidimensionally poor while an additional 18.2 percent live near multidimensional poverty (208,588 thousand people). The breadth of deprivation (intensity) in India, which is the average of deprivation scores experienced by people in multidimensional poverty, is 51.1 percent. The MPI, which is the share of the population that is multi-dimensionally poor, adjusted by the intensity of the deprivations,

is 0.282. Bangladesh and Pakistan have MPIs of 0.237 and 0.237 respectively.

Income poverty only tells part of the story. The multidimensional poverty headcount is 31.7 percentage points higher than income poverty. This implies that individuals living above the income poverty line may still suffer deprivations in education, health and other living conditions. Table F also shows the percentage of India's population that lives near multidimensional poverty and that lives in severe multidimensional poverty. The contributions of deprivations in each dimension to overall poverty complete a comprehensive picture of people living in multidimensional poverty in India. Figures for Bangladesh and Pakistan are also shown in the table for comparison.

Conclusion

How much blood and heartache is there in between the lines of these statistical reports? This is the real question our academics and our "educated" classes need to answer.

	Survey Year	MPI Value	Head-Count (%)	Intensity of deprivations (%)	Population share (%)			Contribution to overall poverty of deprivations in (%)		
					Near poverty	In severe poverty	Below income poverty line	Health	Educ.	Living Standards
India	2005/2006	0.282	55.3	51.1	18.2	27.8	23.6	32.5	22.7	44.8
Bangladesh	2011	0.237	49.5	47.8	18.8	21.0	43.3	26.6	28.4	44.9
Pakistan	2012/2013	0.237	45.6	52.0	14.9	26.5	12.7	32.3	36.2	31.6

The most recent MPI for India relative to selected countries

On a night in November 2008, S. Mugilan and a few of his friends headed home from putting up posters around the town of Namakkal. Their posters demanded that the government shut down a paper factory that had allegedly polluted 10,000 acres of land in the district.

It was 3am when they found themselves surrounded by about 70 men armed with *kadapara* (crowbars) and *aruvals* (curved machetes). The gang left Mugilan and his comrades with injuries which required weeks of hospitalisation. The attackers were never identified, though Mugilan presumes they were hired by the factory owner. Still, Mugilan triumphed. Four months later, the factory was closed. Since then, Mugilan says, all large factories in the district implement pollution controls.

Mugilan, now 49, has taken on polluters in Tamil Nadu for more than two decades. He has had victories: shutting down a Coke factory in Perundurai, closing a polluting textile-dyeing plant in Erode, and organising major protests against a nuclear power-plant on the coast. In one especially shocking case, he helped expose granite miners who tried to shore up business by offering *narabali* human sacrifice.

He has had many failures, too, and the one struggle which is always ongoing his fight against Tamil Nadu's sand-mining mafia.



Queue of trucks waiting to be loaded with mined sand in Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu

Holding Ground

Against the Sand Raiders of Tamil Nadu

★ Sibi Arasu

Questions of Sand

At his modest home in Chennimalai, a temple-town on the banks of the Noyyal River, Mugilan explained how he left his job as an engineer in the state public works department (PWD) to begin a life as an activist. That



A view of the earth mover used to load sand in Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu

was in 1995, when a textile-dyeing factory in Erode was found to be polluting the Noyyal.

"Things came to a head when a schoolgirl went in the river to bath and came out with skin burns," Mugilan said. "We collected ten lakh signatures asking for the factory to be shut, and collected one rupee from each person who signed. We organised large protests in Erode town as well. Finally the authorities woke up and shut the factory. This victory, after three years of incessant effort, was a great learning experience."

It was around this time that Mugilan faced his first confrontations with the sand-mining mafia. Tamil Nadu has the second-longest coastline of any state in India, stretched over 1,076 kilometres. Ninety-five rivers cut across it, and at least 17 major river-basins fall within its borders.

All this river and beach sand was not too heavily exploited until the real estate boom of the 1990s, which increased demand for sand exponentially. The state government estimates that between 5,500 and 6,000 truckloads of sand (each about 200 cubic feet) are mined in Tamil Nadu every day. Mugilan puts the number much higher—at 90,000 truckloads or more. He also disputes the



“

S. Mugilan confronts the state's mining mafias, even as officials and activists lose their lives in defence of Tamil Nadu's rivers and beaches.

the sand has been completely extracted,” said Mugilan. “So when the monsoons come along, there is no sand to retain water in the rivers and it flows straight to the sea, as if through a hose. The groundwater levels keep dropping, and the once-glorious river systems, which were the lifeline for the state's agriculture, are in pathetic condition.”

Orders from Above

The reason rampant, illegal sand-mining continues, Mugilan alleges, is because of the complicity of state politicians. “For every truckload that is mined, legal or illegal, we estimate that Rs 200 goes to a close aide of the chief minister,” he said. That would work out to more than Rs 1.8 crore to that aide alone, every day.

In his 2014 book, *Thathu Manal Kollai* (The Stealing of Beach Sand) Mugilan claims that the state's biggest miner of beach sand is S. Vaikundarajan, the chairman of VV Minerals, India's leading exporter of industrial minerals. Among other interests, Vaikundarajan also owns a Tamil news channel, and has close ties to ministers in the ruling party, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. In 2013, his name appeared in an investigation into illegal sand mining in Tuticorin district, which is worth Rs 96 thousand crore, according to the *Economic Times*.

Mugilan says there is so much money in sand that regulation is practically futile. The officials tasked with preventing illegal mining are in the third or fourth tier of the bureaucracy, such as village administrative officers (VAOs) and revenue department (RD) officials. But illegal miners can deal directly with politicians and officials at the top.

“VAOs and RD officials who are supposed to act against the illegal miners are either paid off or if they turn out to be honest targeted through other means,” Mugilan said.

While small-time miners are routinely arrested, he added, the “big fish” are allowed to continue unchecked, or even assisted by state officials. “To oppose them would be career suicide, and in extreme situations, even life threatening.”

Threatened Over Sand

Although it is poorly documented, anecdotal accounts and scattered reports indicate that numerous activists and government officials in Tamil Nadu have been injured or

PWD claim that the market rate for sand is Rs 7,000-8,000 per truckload, saying it is actually Rs 20,000-Rs 30,000, and much more when trucked out of state.

This adds up to tremendous profits, through rampant and often illegal sand-mining. State laws prohibit the mining of more than five vertical feet of sand, and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change stipulates that mining in many quarries only be done manually. Yet heavy equipment, like sand mining dredges is commonly used. Mining has led to major rivers, such as the Thamirabarani and the Palar, sinking 30 feet below ground level.

“The sad reality is that the mining stops only when



A truck driver loads sand onto his truck. Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu. Credit: Sibi Arasu



*A local woman sells food to the truck drivers who are in queue.
Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu*

killed for opposing sand and granite-mining mafias.

A report in *Frontline* details how an 81-year-old retired teacher, Sam Devasagayam, was hacked to death in 2014 while campaigning against illegal sand mining in the Thamirabarani River. The same year, a 43-year-old police constable, G. Kanakaraj, was run over by a truck carrying illicitly mined sand. A government official and four colleagues also survived being rammed by a truck carrying sand. Two years earlier, 24-year-old Satheesh Kumar was standing guard against sand mining in the Nambiyar River when he was killed by a speeding truck. In Madurai district, a farmer's hand was chopped off for refusing to part with his land for granite mining. These cases are just a few of the many more recorded and unrecorded deaths and injuries.

"I can think of at least four government officials who have been killed because of their stringent positions against sand mining in the last decade or so," anti-sand-mining activist S. Amudhan said "Most of the attacks are attributed to negligent driving or road accidents. The connection between their efforts to curb sand mining and their

deaths are hardly ever laid out."

Mugilan said he knows of at least 20 people, including activists, villagers, and officials, who have lost their lives over sand and granite mining. "These deaths are seldom



It can take up to three days for a truck to reach the front of the queue, load sand and take off: Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu

reported since the regional journalists too are targeted. When the entire system is in their [the mining mafia's] hands, it's sometimes difficult to get the word out," he said.

It is not just opponents of illegal mining who have lost their

lives, either. Last year, a state government probe into a granite quarry in Madurai district found that at least 12 people had been offered as *narabali* there. The victims appeared to be mentally challenged people abducted from neighbouring regions in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, and used as human sacrifices between 1999 and 2003. The exhumed remains included one of a small baby. The owner of the quarry, a granite baron named P.R. Palanichamy, was found to have ordered the sacrifices, allegedly to improve business.

In 2012, U. Sagayam, the district collector in Madurai, had blown the lid off 175 granite quarries that Palanichamy and his firm, PRP Granites, were running illegally. Sagayam's investigation, done with the assistance of Mugilan and other activists, estimated that PRP Granites illegally mined Rs 16 crore worth of granite across the District.

Within days of submitting his report, Sagayam was transferred out of the district. He now serves as

vice-chairman of a state-run initiative to promote research in science and technology—a huge demotion from the position of Madurai district collector. In September 2014, however, the Madras high court appointed Sagayam as a special officer to

investigate mining in the state. It was this probe that uncovered the human sacrifices.

Having witnessed situations like this, Mugilan has gotten used to the threats on his own life, and to his family. "My wife now just says 'You can do what you want,' when someone calls to threaten us," he said. "Both she and my son accept that what we're trying to go beyond just our family. We are fighting the greatest monopolies and power-mongers in our region. Threats are inevitable. The point is to keep on going."

After the massive protests against the coastal nuclear power plant at Koodankulam, Mugilan was charged with sedition and imprisoned for four months. It made him a prominent face of environmental movements in Tamil Nadu. Now, he says, any direct attack on him will not go unnoticed by media and civil society.

"So the way I see it, the only reason people like Vaikundarajan have let me be is that if something happens to me, he'll be held directly responsible. It really can't be anything else," Mugilan said.

What keeps him fighting is his



Mugilan and his wife, Poongkodi, at their home : Chennimalai, Tamil Nadu

leftist ideology and his surprising optimism about the future. "For me an environmental issue is not just about saving the environment," he said. "I feel that causing damage to land and natural resources is an attack on the Tamil people as much as on its ecosystems."

"When I was growing up," Mugilan recalls, "We could take the

water right out of the Noyyal River and drink. We used to play in the river for hours, spend so much time there. My son can never experience that. But through our efforts, maybe we can bring the region back to how it was, or at least a semblance of it."

The writer is an independent writer and photo journalist based in Chennai.

NEED TO IMPORVE REGULATION

Current consumption of sand and gravel, known as aggregates, in India

2.2 Billion Tonnes

(Exact data on consumption of 'aggregates' is not available with any source. It can be derived Indirectly from the usage of cement)

For each tonne of cement, the building industry needs about **6 to 7 times more tonnes of sand and gravel**

Estimated consumption of cement in India

324 Million Tonnes



MAIN SOURCES OF SAND

- Reverbeds and flood plains
- Lakes and reservoirs
- Agricultural fields (Haryana)
- Coastal/Marine sand
- Palaeo-channels (Bikaner in Rajasthan)

Revenue (Annual Royalty from Sand in States)

Top Five (From 2012 to 2015)

(Figures in Rs. Cr)

Rajasthan	559
Madhya Pradesh	537
Uttar Pradesh	432
Tamil Nadu	415
Karnataka	65

(No Data with environment ministry on other major sand mining state Andhra Pradesh)

➤ Govts in most of these states have been losing revenue worth thousands of crores of rupees due to rampant illegal mining

Chinese Government Harvests Organs from LIVE Religious Prisoners

Many of these religious prisoners are said to have had their livers, organs and even eyes forcibly removed from their bodies so their captors could sell them for profit.

✱ Ethan A. Huff

Thousands of members of a religious group in China, the world's most populous nation, are said to have had their organs illegally harvested *while they were still alive* so they could be sold to "transplant tourists" as part of a massive human rights abuse conspiracy.

Falun Gong is a *qigong* (pranayama) discipline combining slow-moving exercises and meditation with a moral philosophy

centered on the tenets of truthfulness, compassion and tolerance. It was founded by Li Hongzhi, who introduced it to the public in May 1992 in Changchun, Jilin. In 1995 authorities mandated that all qigong groups establish Communist Party branches. There is no hierarchy in Falun Gong to enforce orthodoxy, and little or no emphasis is given on dogmatic discipline; the only thing emphasized is the need for strict

moral behavior. The government also sought to formalize ties with Falun Gong and exercise greater control over the practice. Falun Gong resisted co-optation, and instead filed to withdraw altogether from the state-run qigong association. That Falun Gong, whose belief system represented a revival of traditional Chinese religion, was being practiced by a large number of Communist Party members and members of the



military was seen as particularly disturbing to Chinese leader Jiang Zemin.

The "Falun Gong" spiritual movement is said to have been subjected to violent abuse and physical dissection at the hands of the corrupt Chinese government, new reports indicate. Among the first torture deaths reported in the Western press was that of Chen Zixiu, a retired factory worker from Shandong Province. In his Pulitzer Prize-winning article on the persecution of Falun Gong, Ian Johnson reported that labor camp guards shocked her with cattle prods in an attempt to force her to renounce Falun Gong. When she refused, "[Officials] ordered Ms. Chen to run barefoot in the snow. Two days of torture had left her legs bruised and her short black hair matted with pus and blood...She crawled outside, vomited, and collapsed. She never regained consciousness." Chen died on 21 February 2000.

Many of these religious prisoners are said to have had their livers, organs and even eyes forcibly removed from their bodies so their captors could sell them for profit. Rumors of this pernicious organ harvesting operation first began to emerge around 2006, according to The U.K.'s *Daily Mail*. But it wasn't until many years later that a serious investigation was launched, affirming that the Chinese government did, indeed, engage in such vile activity for years before being confronted publicly.

Evidence showing that such abuses were taking place hardly even hit the radar until fairly recently, when a documentary about Falun Gong was finally released. Entitled *Hard to Believe*, the film examines—perhaps for the first time with any sort of sincerity—the political climate in communist China that led to illegal medical experimentation on religious prisoners.

When People Unify, Governments Persecute

First launched in the early 1990s, Falun Gong reportedly gained some



100 million followers in its first few years. People from all across China were enamored with the religious sect, which promoted unification and the strength that comes from people becoming "one" with each other in both spirit and intent.

The communist Chinese government didn't like this, of course, and began cracking down on the Falun Gong religion in 1999. On July 20 of that year, Chinese security forces reportedly began abducting and detaining thousands of people believed to be religious leaders in Falun Gong, subjecting them to torture and abuse.

This marked the launch of what would quickly become a full-fledged war by the Chinese government against Falun Gong, ultimately leading to what many now say is a dark blot in China's sordid and volatile history as a communist nation.

The organ harvesting that took place against Falun Gong members, claims the film, is "one of the most catastrophic human rights violations in our time."

Religious Unity is the Enemy of Totalitarian Government

It wasn't until about 2006 that the world finally started to take notice of what the Chinese government had

done to many of its citizens during this dark time in history. And it was largely due to the work of *Hard to Believe*'s creators that the truth was able to see the light of day.

"What drew me to the story was that the evidence was so strong and yet it's hardly talked about," stated Ken Stone, *Hard to Believe*'s director, to *The Daily Mail*. "What we did was explore why the reports and documentaries have gotten so little attention."

"A number of people have come up with such strong evidence, but they are consistently ignored." But the silence has now been broken, and for the first time the world is taking notice of what happened concerning Falun Gong. A former member of the religious sect helped carve out the premise of the film, providing gruesome details of the types of abuses that took place.

This and other first-hand accounts of harrowing religious abuse are helping to bring fresh awareness of the very real danger of government persecution, particularly against citizens who join forces in unified solidarity.

"We acknowledge a terrible atrocity only after it's over," added Ethan Gutmann, an analyst who contributed to the film. "This is a pattern we see over and over again."



Government
Derived from the Latin verb
Guvemo, Guvemare
Meaning "To Control"
&
The Latin noun
Mens, Mentis
meaning "Mind"
To Control The Mind

Pentagon Will Know Your Thoughts

US military contractors are mining social media to influence your 'cognitive behavior' when you get angry at the government

★ Nafeez Ahmed

The US Department of Defense (DoD) wants contractors to mine your social media posts to develop new ways for the US government to infer what you're really thinking and feeling and to predict what you'll do next.

Pentagon documents released over the last few months identify ongoing classified research in this area that the federal government plans to expand, by investing millions more dollars.

The unclassified documents, which call on external scientists, institutions and companies to submit proposals for research projects, not only catalogue how far US military capabilities have come, but also reveal the Pentagon's goals: building

the US intelligence community's capacity to forecast population behavior at home and abroad, especially groups involved in political activism.

They throw light on the extent to which the Pentagon's classified pre-crime Research & Development has advanced, and how the US military intends to deploy it in operations around the world.

Could Your Social Media Signature Reveal Your Innermost Thoughts?

A new Funding Opportunity Announcement document issued by the DoD's Office of Naval Research (ONR) calls for research proposals on how mining social media (like



A new document issued by the DoD's Office of Naval Research (ONR) calls for research proposals on how mining social media (like Facebook, Twitter and search history on the Internet) can provide insight on people's real thoughts, emotions and beliefs, and thereby facilitate predictions of behavior.

Facebook, Twitter and your search history on the Internet) can provide insight on people's real thoughts, emotions and beliefs, and thereby facilitate predictions of behavior.

The research for Fiscal Year 2016 is part of the Pentagon's Multidisciplinary Research Program of the University Research Initiative (MURI), which was initiated over 25 years ago, regularly producing what the DoD describes as “significant scientific breakthroughs with far reaching consequences to the fields of science, economic growth, and revolutionary new military technologies.”

The document calls for new work “to understand latent communication among small groups.” Social meaning comes not just from “the manifest content of communication (i.e., literal information), but also from latent content how language is structured and used, as well as how communicators address each other, e.g., through non-verbal means gestures, head nods, body position,

and the dynamics in communication patterns.”

The Pentagon wants to understand not just what we say, but what is “latent” in what we say: “Subtle interactions such as deception and reading between the lines, or tacit understanding between communicators, relative societal position or relationship between communicators, is less about what is said and more about what is latent.”

All this, it is imagined, can be derived from examining social media, using new techniques from the social and behavioral sciences.

The Pentagon wants to: “... recognize/predict social contexts, relationships, networks, and intentions from social media, taking into account non-verbal communication such as gestures, micro-expressions, posture, and latent semantics of text and speech.”

By understanding latent communication, the Pentagon hopes to develop insight into “the links between actors, their intentions, and context for use of latent signals for group activity.” The idea is to create: “... algorithms for prediction and collection of latent signals and their use in predicting social information.”

These algorithms also need to “accurately detect key features of speech linked to these structural patterns (e.g., humor, metaphor, emotion, language innovations) and subtle non-verbal elements of communication (e.g., pitch, posture, gesture) from text, audio, and visual media.”

The direct military applications of this sort of information can be gleaned from the background of the administrator of this new research program, Dr. Purush Iyer, who is Division chief of Network Sciences at the US Army

Research Laboratory (USARL).

Among the goals of Dr. Iyer's research at the US Army are expanding “Intelligent Networks” which can “augment human decision makers with enhanced-embedded battlefield intelligence that will provide them with tools for creating necessary situational awareness, reconnaissance, and decision making to decisively defeat any future adversarial threats.”

Creeping Police State

The allure of co-opting Big Data to enhance domestic policing is already picking up steam in the US and UK. In the US, an unknown number of police authorities are already piloting a software called 'Beware', which analyses people's social media activity, property records, the records of friends, family or associates, among other data, to assign suspects a so-called “threat-score.”

That “threat-score” can then be used by police to pre-judge if a suspect is going to be dangerous, and to adapt their approach accordingly.

Given the police's discriminatory track record with shootings of unarmed black people skyrocketing, the extent to which such 'Minority Report'-style policing could backfire by justifying more discriminatory policing is alarming.

In the UK, Home Secretary Theresa May just last week told the Police ICT Suppliers Summit that police forces should use predictive analytics to “identify those most at risk of crime, locations most likely to see crimes committed, patterns of suspicious activity that may merit investigation and to target their resources most effectively against the greatest threats.”

Noting that the police have yet to catch up with the “vast quantities





of data” being generated by citizens, she complained: “Forces have not yet begun to explore the crime prevention opportunities that data offers.”

In reality, the shift to predictive policing in the UK is well underway, with Greater Manchester, Kent, West Midlands, West Yorkshire and London's Metropolitan Police having undertaken trials of a software known as “PredPol.”

According to the UK College of Policing's National Policing Vision for 2016:

“Predictive analysis and real-time access to intelligence and tasking in the field will be available on modern mobile devices. Officers and staff will be provided with intelligence that is easy to use and relevant to their role, location and local tasking.”

The next threat is social change, economic collapse

Driving the hunger to capture Big Data is a growing recognition that the post-2008 era of slow economic growth and geopolitical crisis is likely to lead to a continuing risk of civil unrest both within Western homelands, and in foreign regions of strategic interest.

The Pentagon's new research calls are designed to build on a wide range of already active programs

developing ways to integrate open source data, including the social media footprints of entire populations, into sophisticated computer models.

One of the most disturbing applications of this sort of information was described in a new **Funding Opportunity Announcement** released last month for the Minerva Research Initiative, a DoD social science program founded in 2008.

Among the subject areas mentioned in the announcement is “Influence and mobilization for change”, which includes themes like:

“Analyses of the topology, power structure, productivity, merging and splitting, and overall resilience of change-driven organizations.”

Other overlapping themes the Pentagon wants input on are:

“Mechanisms of information dissemination and influence across diverse populations”; “Mechanisms of (and factors inhibiting) mobilization at individual and group levels”; “Factors that make specific individuals/groups influential within a particular cultural context”; and “The interaction between emotion and cognition and its impact on future behavior.”

These are generic themes concerning the dynamics of community-driven change activism in general. Yet the underlying assumption implicit in the document is the conviction that change activism can in some cases in itself generate a threat to national security.

The document also explains that research on such themes:

“... will help the Department of Defense better understand what drives individuals and groups to mobilize for change and the mechanisms of that mobilization, particularly when violent tactics are adopted. This research will inform understanding of where organized violence may erupt, what factors might explain its spread, and how



one might mitigate its effects.”

This and several other paragraphs are verbatim copied from an earlier Minerva call for research that I [reported](#) on about a year ago. As I observed then:

“At first glance, this seems fairly innocuous, but it reveals a disturbing ideological bias in the Pentagon's conception of social and political dissent. The assumption that the adoption of ‘violent tactics’ is linked to the issues that motivate people to ‘mobilize for change’ conflates the dynamics of change activism in general with a risk of being involved in ‘organized violence.’”

The document does not specify particular types of organization or

group that should be studied, except once in reference to “hacking forums,” which perhaps highlights the Pentagon's increasing interest in decentralized networks like Anonymous.

The Pentagon appears to be particularly concerned about the potential risks of social crisis, civil unrest and collapse, both at home and abroad.

In a section calling for submissions on “Societal Resilience and Change”, the Minerva document states that “DoD seeks to develop new insights into the social dynamics within regions and states of strategic interest, and to examine the factors that affect societal resilience to external ‘shock’ events

“Security implications of aging populations and shrinking working age populations worldwide.”

So the Pentagon anticipates a looming economic crisis due the unsustainability of the rise in an elderly population, relative to the reducing numbers of working people. It further confirms that the Pentagon perceives this as posing a potential national security crisis.

The US, and major allies like Britain, Germany, France, and Israel, are among the top 20 countries that will be most impacted by these demographic trends.

Last year, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that in 2016, “the world's advanced economies will

enable it to predict future behavior.

A third major subject-theme of the Minerva research call clarifies the Pentagon's concern with enhancing its ability to predict the future.

Titled, “Analytic Methods and Metrics for Security Research,” the document calls for “rigorous, validated quantitative measurement and models” which can “compare information across sets of data and across time.” Such models would enhance “opportunities for visualization of trends, and the potential to forecast future events.”

Last summer, a similar research call was issued through a Broad Agency Announcement issued by the DoD's Office of Naval Research (ONR), related to “Expeditionary Intelligence Surveillance, Reconnaissance Science and Technology.”

A significant portion of the ONR document is dedicated to outlining the need for predictive models.

“In being able to use social media as an ISR [intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance] signal, ONR is interested in theoretical constructs that allow understanding and thus interpretation of an online open media signature and its relationship to on the ground sentiment and behavior.”

The Pentagon wants to develop approaches that will allow open source analysis of a person's or group's publically available social media “signature”—the full array of their social media activities—and how this relates to both emotional “sentiment” and actual “behavior.”

ONR also wants to know “how social media can be used as a seed in a Global Knowledge Environment (cloud based, big data repository that includes imagery, video, ship tracks, METOC [meteorology and oceanography] and analytic products) to discover additional information about the physical, military, and sociocultural environment of an operational area of interest.”



and corresponding tipping points.”

Without specifying what those “shocks” could be, the document does mention developing frameworks to improve policy “before, during, and after societal shifts like those seen during the so-called Arab Spring.”

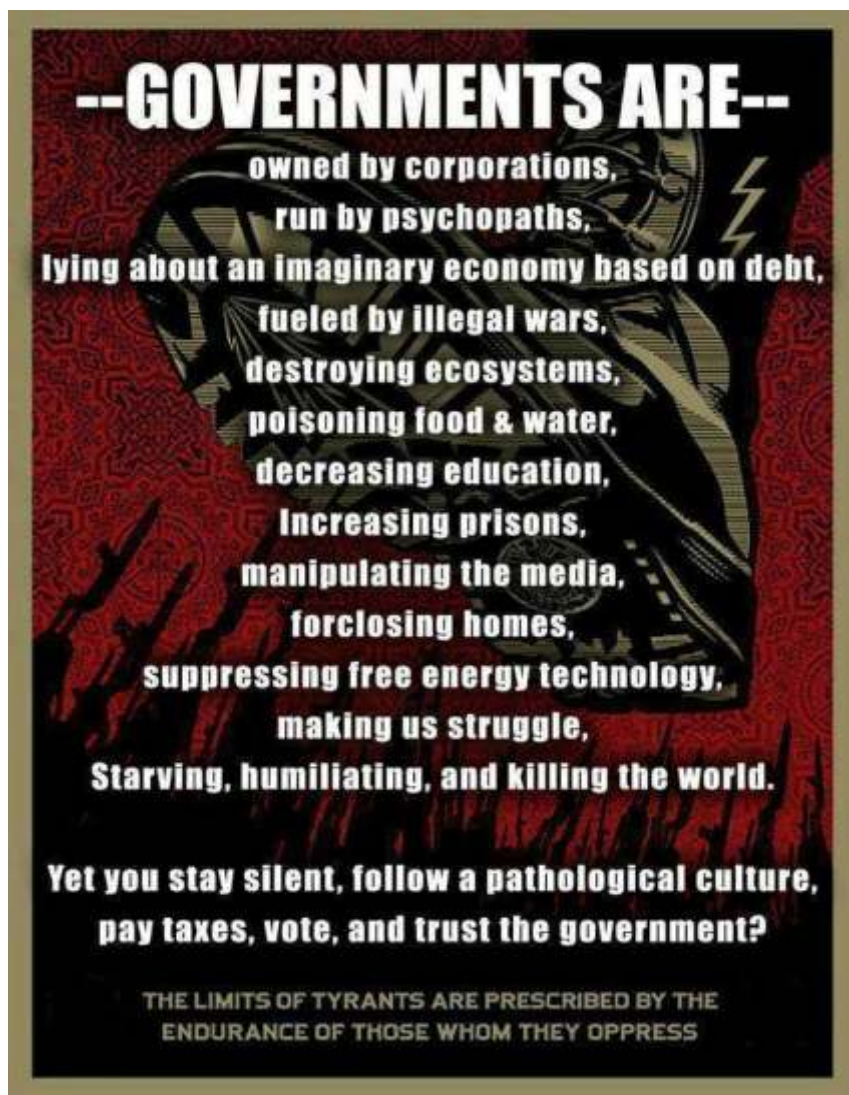
It should be noted that the Arab Spring protests had brought down and undermined brutal autocratic governments that had, however, been longstanding US allies.

The Minerva document also emphasizes the need to understand “changes in demographics (e.g., gender and age structure, wealth distribution) on internal and external stability,” especially what the Pentagon describes candidly as:

reach a critical milestone. For the first time since 1950, their combined working-age population will decline, according to United Nations projections, and by 2050 it will shrink 5%. The ranks of workers will also fall in key emerging markets, such as China and Russia. At the same time the share of these countries' population over 65 will skyrocket.”

From Open Source To 'Minority Report'

By linking up metadata from social media with other forms of data—whether it's mobile phone usage metadata, geolocation information, satellite data, personal records—the Pentagon hopes to find patterns that



Basically: everything in an 'area of interest.'

The style (akin to the movie 'Minority Report') implications of this sort of social media data mining are explained in some detail:

"Information demands that social media could be helpful in fulfilling include:

- ❖ Predict, detect, track violent behavior by groups
- ❖ Understand anomalous event / sentiment signals/signatures in a region of interest
- ❖ Derive socio-cultural trends to assist in decision making
- ❖ Identify trends, local perceptions, media bias, cultural nuances, and environmental distinctions.
- ❖ Connecting people, places,

and things to uncover physical, cyber, financial, social, operational aspects of an unknown or emerging threat

- ❖ *Pattern of life analysis used to provide visibility and thus vulnerability to physical, informational, social aspects of a threat*
- ❖ *Radicalization methods, speed of spread (ISIL as an example) signature to see tipping point or understand sooner (strategy, tactics, rhetoric, narrative, what can be tracked in social media)."*

Prediction is repeatedly mentioned as a core goal:

"It may be possible to better predict what affect 'aiding,' 'attacking,' 'isolating' will have in an area if behaviour/action surrogates

can be found in historical data for which some ground truth exists."

Social media data can thus be integrated with a wide range of open source information from other sources to generate complex, quantitatively-grounded empirical models of population and group behaviour.

The idea is to use such models "to explain, track, and anticipate key group behaviors including cooperation, communication (information operations), conflict, consolidation, and fragmentation that characterize the factional dynamics among multiple, independent armed actors in insurgencies and civil wars."

The All-seeing Eye

One significant area the document emphasises is advancing the Pentagon's ability to detect "complex events" using algorithms which can identify patterns of events within "large data streams."

How, in other words, does the US intelligence community make sense of the massive amounts of surveillance data absorbed by the National Security Agency (NSA) and other agencies, with a view to detect a real threat?

The document confirms the longstanding position of critics of the NSA like Bruce Schneier, that although existing technologies are great for simplistic issues like detecting credit card fraud, they are virtually useless for detecting real terrorist activity:

"While this works well for the detection of a behavior exhibited by a subpopulation (e.g. credit card fraud), its application to complex patterns applied to diverse actors leads to a high false alarm rate."

This has never been publicly admitted by the Pentagon or US intelligence community, but it is acknowledged here, clear as daylight.

To address the problem, the Pentagon proposes to create new ways of integrating social media into a single, giant analytical system, which can feed directly into US military operations.

The ONR document describes, for instance, wanting to build a next generation of “Marine Civil Information Management System” (MARCISMS NEXGEN), to support the US Marine Corps, which “must be able to intelligently query both structured and unstructured data sources... Relevant area of operations (AO) data (e.g. social media, news reports, METOC, Automatic Information System (AIS), video, images, etc.) must be easily consumed.”

The new MARCISMS engine must also be “built on natural language processing, machine learning, predictive modeling, inference models, and confidence modeling.”

Population Control

The association with civil-military operations demonstrates the importance of such predictive tools for counter-insurgency operations abroad, and accordingly, increasing

the effectiveness of US propaganda operations.

Models, the ONR document says, should “suggest ways to draw groups closer or further apart to each other or to a concept,” based on “predictions about whether groups ‘attract’ or ‘repel.’”

Much of the information used to run such models would come from “unclassified data.”

In this context, these new technologies will help achieve a key goal of the US Marine Corps: to “maintain, influence, or exploit relationships between military forces and indigenous populations and institutions.”

Ultimately, then, this is not simply about predicting the behavior of diverse populations and social groups.

The Pentagon wants the ability to use this predictive capacity to manipulate human behavior, and thereby win wars.

One explicit discussion of this goal was recently published by the Joint Special Operations University (JSOU) in its 2016 *Research Topics* monograph, which highlighted subjects considered high priority by experts across the US Special Forces (SOF) community.

“Defining and understanding the ‘human domain’ and how SOF can influence cognitive behavior in myriad operational environments continues to be a topic of interest,” the JSOU document asserts.

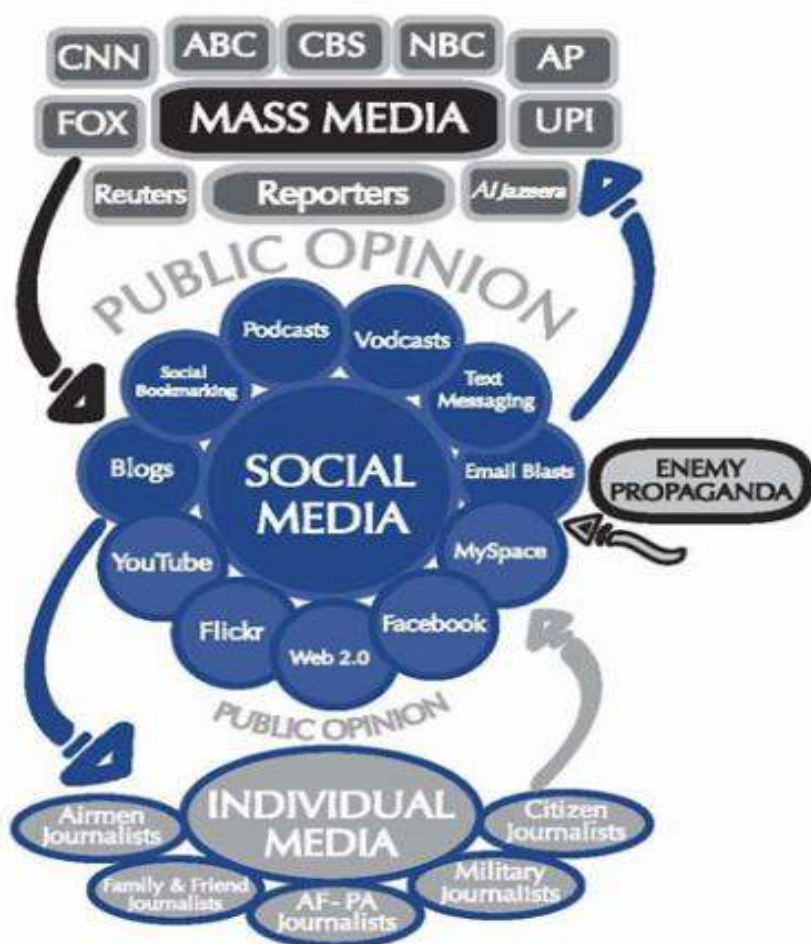
“What affects people’s perceptions and decision-making that SOF can favorably influence to prevent/mitigate/deter crisis and conflict? What are the future advanced technologies and cultural social practices for engaging underdeveloped populations in support of partner governments to achieve US interests?”

But what happens if those interests happen to be at odds with popular demands for self-determination, economic independence and resource nationalism? The counter-democratic implications are already on display in US support for brutal autocratic regimes such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

These cases suggest that massive data-mining is designed to help US military agencies influence the “cognitive behaviour” of “underdeveloped populations,” so that the governments that rule them may continue conforming to “US interests.”

In other words, the US military wants to mine the world’s social media footprint to suppress the risk of popular social movements undermining the status quo, at home and abroad.

The writer is an investigative journalist, bestselling author and international security scholar and author of “A User’s Guide to the Crisis of Civilization: And How to Save It” (2010) His work on the root causes and covert operations linked to international terrorism officially contributed to the 9/11 Commission and the 7/7 Coroner’s Inquest.



PEOPLE'S SONG (Janampátá)

The song was born and grew
 Lachchumamma's womb bore fruit
 and the people's song was born
 In the Malas' wada
 the Dalit song was born
 On the Madigas' dappu (drum)
 the song learnt rhythm
 To the tune of the coolies' anklets
 it learnt to dance
 With the Wadderas'*** hammer
 it learnt to sing together
 At the dhobi ghat
 it was taught to move faster
 The barbers' razor
 sang a refrain for the song
 The Kammari's*** kiln
 sang a beat for the song
 The Golla Kurma's+ gongadi++
 sang the chorus for the song
 Flying past the farms and fields
 past the factory gates
 The song became one with the wind
 and flew past the skies
 The exploiters who heard the song
 trembled in their hearts
 All the songs became spears
 and brought down the exploiters' fortress;
 To strangle the song's throat
 they started plotting:
 twilight hadn't passed
 the stars hadn't even appeared
 but the villains attacked
 and fired bullet after bullet
 Struck by the rulers' bullet
 the song collapsed
 Struck by the killers' bullet
 the song fainted
 Struck by bullet after bullet
 the dappu grew silent
 Struck by a bullet in the abdomen
 the song spurted blood
 Collapsing in a pool of blood
 the song bathed fully
 Mother Earth became pregnant
 and gave birth to the song again
 Even though the big life started leaving
 hanging onto the remaining life
 the song stood up
 and started walking
 Even though it was losing breath
 it rose hanging onto the remaining little



Guda Anjaiah

(November 1 1955 - June 21, 2016)

From the blood-filled abyss
 the song rose like the dawn
 Mother moonlight smiled
 because the song was reborn
 Village after village smiled
 as the Dalit jaatis' hearts were filled
 Lathis and bullets
 can't stop the people's song
 Bayonets and bullets
 can't stop the song's refrain
 Every hour, a song will be born
 and build graves for the exploiters
 Every hut will give birth to a song
 and bring down the exploiters' fortresses. // O Lachcha
 Gummadi //*

Notes:

* The original meaning (and origin) of the refrain 'O Lachcha Gummadi', which is repeated at the end of every line, is lost in time. It is taken from one of the many genres of work or chore related songs/ballads sung by Dalit women and refers to a worker. Lachchumamma is the mother of the worker.

** Wadderas: pronounced waDDera; refers to the community of stone-workers (vaddera, odde, oddilu, oddera, odra etc). Malas and Madigas are Dalit communities.

*** Kammari: refers to the community of smiths, metal-workers.

+ Golla Kurma: refers to the community of shepherds/goatherds (kuruma, kurma, kurumba etc).

++ gongadi: pronounced 'gongaDi'; also called gongali. Refers to the coarse blanket or rug (made of wool, mostly) used by shepherds etc.



- Shrii Shrii Ánandamúrti

Here we have come. Our coming is the effect of some cause. Because it is the effect, what is the cause? Why have we come here? The theory says that it is not non-causal. Then what is it for?

Wherever there is a movement, wherever there is a flow for a long time, if it does not [receive a fresh impetus], what happens? It loses the acceleration. And finally, what happens? Retardation starts. In our human society there was want of acceleration from the very start. And now the retardation has also started. Now humanity bleeds. The future is dark. So we have come here to do something. I have come here to do something, and you have also come here to do something. My coming is significant, and your coming is not less significant. We have come with a mission; and our lives, singularly and collectively, are a mission. Not missions – ours is a collective mission. Here we all are one. We have come to do something. And that is the causal factor.

And what will be the effect? The effect will be that the world will realize that humanity is one and indivisible, and no power in heaven or on earth can destroy this glorious humanity. We have come here to save humanity, and we will save humanity.

Another thing. We have come. Our coming is not non-causal, it is causal. And you see, nobody amongst us, A, B, C, X, Y, Z, is – what did I say? Insignificant. Each and every entity has got many a thing to do, and he or she will do it, and you see, our fates have been very closely associated with one another. This shows that in the past there has been some unity amongst us, some closeness, some proximity amongst us. That is why we have come together. It is not meaningless.

We must always remember this thing. When a group of good people – that group may be of a thousand, that group may be of a million, that group may also be of many billions – but when that group comes, it comes to do something concrete. And that group is known as Hari parimaṇḍala goṣṭhi(1), because that group moves around [Author gestures making a circle] the Cosmic ideology. So you have come here to form a strong, well-knit Hari parimaṇḍala for the coming generation.

Footnote

(1) Hari parimaṇḍala: “sweet spiritual environment created by a circle of devotees around the Lord”. Goṣṭhi: “group”. –Eds.

Mumbai University will Study Shri Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar

On 28th June 2016, a meeting was held in Sanskrit Department of Mumbai University, Kalina, Mumbai to discuss the induction of Shri Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar's literature in the syllabus in the form of value-added courses for the students of M. Phil. The meeting was attended by Dr. Madhavi Narsaley, Dr. Karunashankar Upadhyaya, Dr. Bhagyashree Verma, Acarya Divyachetananda Avadhuta and Shubhendu Prabhu.

The following points were discussed:

1. The study of Shri Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar's literature in the form of a value added course and making it an option in the syllabus of M.Phil.
2. Introduction of short-term courses of 3 months and certificate courses.
3. Bilingual short-term courses to be introduced in the greater interest of the students.
4. Library / Reading room for researchers to be maintained in the premises of Sanskrit Dept of Mumbai University.
5. Dissertation of topics from the accessible library.
6. M.A. Sanskrit–Yoga studies – one module of Anandamurtijii's Yoga to be introduced.

A team as mentioned below, which is indicative but not exhaustive, to be formed to prepare a road map:

1. Dr. Madhavi Narsaley
2. Prof. Karunashankar Upadhyaya
3. Dr. Bhagyashree Verma – Convener
4. Prof. Shefali Pandya
5. Prof. Dolly Sunny
6. Dr. Minal Katarnikar
7. Avinash Phadke
8. Prof. V. N. Jha (Advisor)
9. Dr. Maneesha Kulkarni
10. Acarya Divyachetananda Avadhuta
11. Shri Vijay Agrawal
12. Shri Pradip Anand
13. Shri Anup Anand
14. Shri Basant Sarangi
15. Shri Shubhendu Prabhu
16. Dr. Nagesh Sandu
17. Dr. Smt. Ashvini Sandu

PBI Sit-in at Ghatanji Tehsil Office

A large number of farmers, labourers, students and unemployed youths of Ghatanji block of Yavatmal District in Maharashtra organised a sit-in at Ghatanji Tehsil office under the leadership of PBI leader Madhukar Nistane. The agitators shouted revolutionary slogans in support of the following demands:

1. The farmers must be freed from all their debts. All their outstanding bank loans including all the interest and





penalties should be done away with at the earliest so as to prevent them from committing suicide.

2. The price of cotton should be raised to Rs. 7000 per quintal in order to make it profitable for the farmers.

3. The unemployed youths should be given unemployment allowance, which may help reduce their despair to some extent.

4. Common people have to face a lot of problems in getting Old age pension, ration cards etc. Steps should be taken urgently to facilitate the official procedures.

A memorandum of demands was handed over to Tehsildar A.B. Vir, who assured the agitators that it would be sent to chief minister Devendra Fadnavis for his consideration.

Madhukar Nistane told this PROUT correspondent that PBI will continue to voice the concerns of the exploited masses and lead their struggle to the victory.

UPLF Protest Against Land Mafia

New Delhi: UPLF organised a day long sit-in at Municipal Corporation of Delhi office to protest against the closure of Bal Vikas School, block no. 8, Trilok Puri.

The school had been running for about 35 years under the management of Bal Vikas Committee, which had been granted the school land at a nominal price by the government. But now the school appears to have fallen prey to the nefarious designs of land mafia. The teachers and parents are



Activities

extremely concerned about the education and the future of the students.

UPLF demands that the school should be re-opened at the earliest. Speaking on this occasion UPLF secretary general Y.B. Singh said if the school committee finds itself unable to manage the school, the teachers and parents should be allowed to run it. PBI has also extended its support to UPLF on this issue. Representing the party Acharya Santoshanand Avadhuta and Baljeet Aditya assured the students and the parents that the party will fight for them in every possible way till they get justice.

Other respectable residents of the locality also spoke on the occasion and expressed their gratitude to UPLF and PBI for their wholehearted support in the struggle of the students, teachers and parents, who were present at the sit-in in large numbers.



PBI Candidate in Amravati

अमरावती विभाग पदविधर मतदार संघ निवडणुक २०१६
P.B.I व V.V.S.S.चे अधिकृत उमेदवार
श्री. दिलीप यादवराव सुरोशे (M.A.)
Mo. 8806477619
यांना क्र.१ (एक) चे मतदान देवून विजयी करा.
Our Target Develop To Graduate Youth

Amravati (Vidarbha, Maharashtra) : PBI has fielded Dilip Yadav Rao Suroshe as its candidate for Legislative Council election from the Greater Amravati region. Suroshe has appealed to all the voters of the region to vote for him paving his way for the council. He expressed his serious concern over the prevailing crises in the region. He told this PROUT correspondent that he will try and fulfill all his promises and endeavour to make politics clean. He said PBI is here to usher in a new era of corruption-free India.

Upcoming PBI Convention

This year the national convention of PBI is going to be held on 24-25 September in the historical city of Patna. The venue of the programme is Shiva Parvati Community Hall, Indira Nagar, Road no. 4, Ramvilas Chowk, Near Mithapur bus stand. It is just a kilometer in the south of Patna junction railway station.

Ravindra Singh, the public relations secretary of PBI, told our correspondent that the preparations to make the programme vibrant are already underway. He said that the standard of today's politics has become abysmal. PBI is here to present an alternative. He said when the party comes in power, it will implement a law to keep the immoralists out of politics.

:: For any inquiry, please call ::

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08409696335, 09572449735

Sita Ramji Dev
Office Secretary, PBI(Bihar)
09973904282



DENOUNCING AND DEFEATING DEMONS

TOMÁRE BHÁLOBESECHI NIRDVIDHÁY
KANTÁK MUKUT PARI
PATH SE JEMAN HOK DRIDHA PADE CALE JÁBO 2
TOMÁ PÁNE UPAL PARI,
KANTÁK MUKUT PARI

ÁJ KONO KÁJ NAY TAVA KÁJE PATH CALÁ
ÁJ KONO KATHÁ NAY SHUDHU TAVA KATHÁ BOLÁ
PRABAL PRATÁP DHÁRI KŚAMATÁR ADHIKÁRI
DÁ-NAVE TU-CCHA KARI
KANTÁK MUKUT PARI

HATÁSHÁR KUÁSHÁY YADI MORE DHEKE NEY
ÁMÁR PATH CALÁ THEME NÁHI JÁBE TÁY
TOMÁR NÁMTÍ NIYE TOMÁRE REKHE HRIDAYE
CALE JÁBO KÁRO NÁ DÁRI
KANTÁK MUKUT PARI

I love You without wavering
Wearing a crown of thorns.
However the path may be
I'll move onward with firm steps
Over rocks, heading towards You.

Today I have no duty other than
Moving on the path for Your work.
Today I have nothing to say at all,
Only Your stories are to be told.
I shall possess might and majesty
Mastering power and dexterity
Denouncing and defeating demons.

If mists of despair envelop me,
Still my march ahead won't pause.
With Your Name
Keeping You in my heart,
I shall move onward fearing no one.

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