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Most Hindus would say yes to the idea but the National Council of Educational Research and Training – an autonomous organization which advises the Central and State Governments on school education in India – seems to be divided over the issue.On November 22, several leading media outlets reported that the NCERT's Social Science Committee, led by Professor CI Isaac, has recommended the inclusion of the ancient Indian epics Ramayana and Mahabharata in school textbooks. [1] However, according to another report, the NCERT has refuted the claim, saying there is no such committee and "whatever Issac is saying is in his personal capacity." [2] Note that the second report has come via NDTV, a notoriously anti-Hindu outlet that has routinely peddled fake news. On the other hand, Professor Issac is a respected historian and member of the Indian Council of Historical Research.The conflicting reports are symbolic of the state of Indian history, which has been distorted and defiled by India's secular rulers, who have accepted the distorted history handed down by British colonial rulers. [3] Clearly, there is a tussle going on between the diehard seculars and reformists within the NCERT. It also indicates the challenges that face Hindus when it comes to correcting the distortions.Why is the Abrahamic-Leftist Nexis hell-bent on keeping Hindu 'Itihasa' out of school textbooks?The Ramayana, Mahabharata, and other ancient Indian texts like the Vedas, Puranas, and Upanishads are true records of Indian history, interwoven with strands of mythology, philosophy, and spirituality. Just because they talk about battles between gods and demons is no reason to dismiss their accounts of kings and other contemporary developments as mere storytelling. The Christian Bible mentions numerous incredible events like Jesus walking on water and instantaneously healing the sliced ears of a servant by his mere touch, and yet it is considered a history of Christians and Jews, while the ancient texts of the Hindus are relegated to the status of mythology.But what was the need for the Europeans to falsify Indian history? The primary motive was the missionary agenda. A vast majority of the Western Indologists were (and are) either Christian missionaries or strong believers who participated directly in missionary activity and saw their work as contributing to Christianity's triumph. In their iconic book 'The Nay Science: A History of German Indology.' Vishwa Adluri and Joydeep Bagchee say: "The purpose of uncovering and translating Hindu scriptures was to provide foundations for evangelism," says Adluri. [4]There is also a sub-agenda: To falsify Indian history so that it could be claimed that it all started after the creation of the world according to the childish Christian cosmology, which puts creation at 4000 BCE or 6,000 years ago. So they fixed the date of the Rig Veda – humanity's oldest book – as 1,200 BCE. Again, the Mahabharata is said to have been composed between 400 BCE and 400 CE.The nexus of European Indologists and Christian missionaries, which developed during the early years of the British period, has been supplemented by leftist Indian historians. These craving brown sahibs gleefully accept the verdict passed by their former white masters, who were not qualified to speak on the subject in the first place. This nexus, which now includes a substantial section of the media, has proved so powerful that those who dare to question this view of history are branded Hindu fundamentalists. In their view, because the British declared that Indian epics do not predate the Christian Bible, then it must necessarily be true.In her History of India, academician Romila Thapar describes the celebrated Rig-Veda as "primitive animism"; the Mahabharata as the glorification of a "local feud" between two Aryan tribes; the Ramayana as "a description of local conflicts between the agriculturists of the Ganges Valley and the more primitive hunting and food-gathering societies of the Vindhyan region" (sic). [5]Such falsified history has led to millions of Indian school children growing up without any sense of respect for their past – a recorded history of at least 10,000 years."Every year, thousands of students leave the country and seek citizenship in other countries because of the lack of patriotism among them. Therefore, it is important for them to understand their roots and develop a love for their country and their culture."Against this backdrop, Professor Issac comments: "The committee has insisted on teaching epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata in the social science syllabus to students. We think that students in their teenage years build their self-esteem, patriotism and pride for their nation. Every year, thousands of students leave the country and seek citizenship in other countries because of the lack of patriotism among them. Therefore, it is important for them to understand their roots and develop a love for their country and their culture." [6]"Although some education boards presently teach Ramayana to students, they teach it as a myth. What is a myth? There is no purpose of the education system if the students are not taught these epics, and it will not be nation-serving," he added.Digging up the truthScientific advancements have a habit of shaking up the deepest foundations if they rest on a bed of lies. Catholic Christians – or, more accurately, their boss, the Pope – had to admit at long last in 2009 that the Earth was not the center of the universe, a discovery made by Galileo 400 years ago (and which the Hindus and Greeks knew thousands of years before that). Using archaeological, scriptural, literary and astronomical data, scholars and scientists are coming round to the view that Rama and Krishna were historical figures.Let's first take a look at the historicity of Krishna as he is of a more recent era than Rama, and there is vastly more evidence.Archaeological evidenceThe key to the Krishna story is Dwarka. The Mahabharata says the city was reclaimed from the sea. The strongest archaeological support for this comes from the structures discovered in the late 1980s under the seabed off the coast of modern Dwarka in Gujarat by a team of archaeologists and divers led by the late S.R. Rao. The diver teams discovered that the submerged city's walls were erected on a foundation of boulders, suggesting that land, indeed was reclaimed from the sea. [7]An emeritus scientist at the marine archaeology unit of the National Institute of Oceanography, Rao, excavated a large number of Harappan sites, including the port city of Lothal in Gujarat. In his book The Lost City of Dwarka, published in 1999, he writes about his undersea finds: "The discovery is an important landmark in the history of India. It has set to rest the doubts expressed by historians about the historicity of Mahabharata and the very existence of Dwarka city."The discovery of Dwarka is definitive proof of the historicity of the Mahabharata as well as Krishna.Conducting 12 expeditions during 1983-1990, Rao identified two underwater settlements, one near the present-day Dwarka and the other on the nearby island of Bet Dwarka. This tallies with the two Dwarkas mentioned in the epic. The underwater expeditions won Rao the first World Ship Trust Award for Individual Achievement.The discovery of Dwarka is definitive proof of the historicity of the Mahabharata as well as Krishna. Says Rao, "The Mahabharata mentions the city having 50 openings. We found about 25 or 30 bastions. There must be more because they must have protected the wall against currents. On the bastion, invariably, there are window openings. So that may be the reference." [8]Another important find by the divers was a seal that establishes the submerged township's connection with the Dwarka of the Mahabharata. The seal corroborates the reference made in the ancient text, the Harivamsa, that every citizen of Dwarka should carry such a seal for identification purposes. Krishna had ruled that none without the seal should enter it. A similar seal has been found onshore as well. [9]Literary evidenceThe Mausala Parva of the Mahabharata gives a vivid and heartbreaking account of the end of Dwarka as predicted by Krishna, who had asked the citizens to abandon the city: "The sea, which had been beating against the shores, suddenly broke the boundary that was imposed on it by nature. The sea rushed into the city. It coursed through the streets of the beautiful city. The sea covered up everything in the city. Arjuna saw the beautiful buildings becoming submerged one by one. He took a last look at the mansion of Krishna. In a matter of a few moments, it was all over. The sea had now become as placid as a lake. There was no trace of the beautiful city, which had been the favorite haunt of all the Pandavas. Dwarka was just a name, just a memory." [10]Does this account from the ancient Indian epic have a true historical core? Did Lord Krishna, indeed the favorite Indian deity, walk the streets of ancient Dwarka? Did Krishna, considered the Lord of the universe by a billion Hindus, rule the Yaduvanshi clan thousands of years ago? One cannot separate Dwarka from Krishna. If the city existed, then surely Krishna ruled over it.That Dwarka was ruled by Krishna is corroborated by the Bhagavad Purana, which says that Krishna led the Yadavs thousands of kilometers west to establish Dwarka so they could start a new life, safe from their many enemies in the Gangetic Valley. [11]AstronomicalThe late Narhari Achar, who was a professor of physics at the University of Memphis, Tennessee, dated the Mahabharata war using astronomy and regular planetarium software. According to his research conducted in 2004-05, the titanic clash between the Pandavas and the Kauravas took place in 3067 BC. Using the same software, Achar places the year of Krishna's birth at 3112 BC. [12]Dr Manish Pandit, a nuclear medicine physician in the UK, after examining the astronomical, archaeological, and linguistic evidence, agrees with Dr Achar's conclusions. Dr Pandit, who is also a distinguished astrologer and has written several books on the subject, traced the route of Krishna's journeys to shoot the documentary "Krishna: History or Myth?" [13]Dr Pandit says there are more than 140 astronomy references in the Mahabharata. Simulations of the night sky have been combined with geographical descriptions to arrive at various dates. He says the chances of these references repeating are next to nothing.According to historian S.M. Ali, the author of Geography of Puranas, "The geographical matter contained in the Mahabharata is immense. It is perhaps the only great work which deals with geographic details and not incidentally, as other works." [14]Dating the RamayanaDid Rama exist? A billion Hindus believe he did, and an unbroken tradition of Rama worship has continued for thousands of years in India. Rama is also a hero in Indonesia (despite it being a Muslim country), Thailand, and several other Southeast Asian countries. Without the weight of the long historical tradition, the Ramayana would have been swept away by the tidal waves of conquests that India suffered over a period of 1,300 years.The wonderful thing about the Ramayana is that when Valmiki wrote the epic, he made it idiot-proof. (For fun, let's assume Valmiki, being a prescient sage, knew that secularists, communists, India haters, British invaders, and Macaulayites would exist in the future and try to run down his historical opus.) He packed so much information about the various planetary positions of those days, the geography of the areas mentioned in the epic, the seasonal events, and the genealogy of various kings that modern astronomers and scientists can have a crack at the dates on which those events occurred.Note that the cabal that labels Hindu epics as myth is led by discredited communist academicians, Nehru family carpetbaggers, and Western Indologists who have penetrated Indian cultural outfits and Indians who have slept with their Anglo-American Ph.D. guides to become, in Arun Shourie's words, "eminent historians." [15]On the other hand, most of those trying to prove the epics are history are scientists. For instance, at a global colloquium jointly organized by The Mythic Society, Bangalore, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, and Sir Babasaheb (Umakanth Keshav) Apte Smarak Samithi Trust on January 5 and 6, 2003, the late Raja Ramanna, the father of the Indian nuclear bomb, said the "best clock for dating was the sky itself and the position of stars." [16]These scientists are studying facts. They are looking back in time at precession or the position of stars. They are not regurgitating the discredited writings of Karl Marx or Max Muller, the racist Germans who both supported English rule over India. It's not too difficult to figure out who is speaking the truth.So, how is astronomical dating done? Historian P.V. Vartak says: "Sage Valmiki has recorded the dates of events in detail, albeit by describing the positions of stars and planets. To decipher the astronomical encodings has not been a trivial task, and not many have attempted to do so. It should be noted that the ancient Indians had a perfect method of time measurement. They recorded the 'tithis' (days) according to the nakshatra (star) on which the moon prevailed, the months, the seasons, and even the different solstices. By noting a particular arrangement of the astronomical bodies, which occurs once in many thousand years, the dates of the events can be calculated." [17]Vartak has taken hundreds of illustrated passages from the epic to establish dates. He writes: "Valmiki records the birth of Rama as Chaitra Shuddha Navami (9th), on Punarvasu Nakshatra and five planets were exalted then; Sun in Mesha up to 10 deg; Mars in Capricorn at 28 deg; Jupiter in Cancer at 5 deg; Venus in Pisces at 27 degrees and Saturn in Libra at 20 degrees. (Bala Kanda 18, Shloka 8.9). December 4, 7323 BCE, therefore, is the date of birth of Rama, when the four planets exalted. Ramayana occurred over 9,300 years ago."King Guha's descendantsIn 2015, an international team of researchers consisting of geneticists, anthropologists, archaeologists, and historians found that Ramayana is a chronicle of events and characters recorded by Sage Valmiki and not a work of fiction. [18]The team, led by Gyaneshwer Chaubey, a genetics scientist of the Estonian Biocentre in Estonia, included scientists from the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad; Delhi University; Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur; and the Institute of Scientific Research on Vedas. It found that the Bhils, Gonds, and the Kols communities are the true descendants of characters featured in Ramayana.The Kol tribe, found mainly in areas like Mirzapur, Varanasi, Banda, and Allahabad in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, are the descendants of the Kol mentioned in the Ramayana, the study says. Guha, the Nishad king, who helped Rama cross the Ganga during his journey to the forests, is the ancestor of the present-day Kol tribe. "These groups of people carry the basic indigenous genetic traits of India… they are the true descendants of Rama and his contemporaries," Chaubey said.Who knows, further research could come up with more surprises. For, unlike the liberals and Marxists who are unanimous that Rama never existed, the scientists are not tied to any particular position. They are not adamant that the date of the Ramayana is fixed. Like good scientists, they just want to continue looking in the hope that one day they'll nail the truth.EndgameOf course, none of the evidence is good enough for the ossified historians that lord over India's academia, regurgitating the lies written by British colonial scholars, who were, in reality, Christian missionaries.Of course, none of the evidence is good enough for the ossified historians that lord over India's academia, regurgitating the lies written by British colonial scholars, who were, in reality, Christian missionaries. According to Marxist historian R.S. Sharma, "Although Lord Krishna plays an important role in the Mahabharata, the earliest inscriptions and sculpture pieces found in Mathura between 200 BC and 300 AD do not attest to his presence." [19]What a brilliant deduction! Going by Sharma's logic, any fool can dig at a random site and, upon failing to discover an artifact, declare Krishna never existed. Sadly, millions of Indian schoolchildren are being taught such lies.Unfortunately for the leftists like Sharma, their destiny is the dustbin of history. Their biggest nightmare is the new scientific evidence that keeps emerging with clockwork regularity. Whether it's the Ram Temple discovered by archaeologists under the site of the erstwhile Babri Mosque in Ayodhya or the Hindu dharma icons found inside the Gyanvapi Mosque in Varanasi, the digging is exposing the lies spun over decades by the cabal of liberals and Marxists. [20]Rao, the archaeologist who discovered Dwarka, believes that further digging and diving, in tandem with India's vast treasure trove of historical facts, will further corroborate key dates of our eventful and glorious past.The inclusion of the Ramayana and Mahabharata in the school curriculum would be a step in the right direction. It will inculcate pride in Indian children and inspire them to undertake research on these epics in a more scientific way. It would also create interest in history and the search for truth, and who knows what else they might find. Perhaps that's what really worries the liberals and Marxists.Citations[1] Ramayana In Ncert Syllabus: Teach Ramayana as part of history: NCERT panel | India News – Times of India; Ramayana, Mahabharata In School Textbooks? NCERT Denies Report (ndtv.com); 3] 'Indian history was distorted by the British' | Kolkata – Hindustan Times; 4] The Pseudoscience of Indology: An Interview with Joydeep Bagchee – Indic Today; 5] Romila Thapar, A History of India, Vol 1, Penguin Books, 1990[6] NCERT panel recommends inclusion of Ramayana, Mahabharata in school textbooks | Latest News India – Hindustan Times; 7] The lost city of Dwarka (mahabharata-research.com); 20the%20epic/the%20lost%20city%20of%20dwarka.html[8] The Hindu: Unearthing historical vestiges (archive.org); //www.hinduonnet.com/thehindu/mp/2002/11/20/stories/2002112000450200.htm[9] Dvaraka – History re-incarnated (swarajyamag.com); 10] The Submerged city of Dwaraka (hinduismnet.com); 11] Dwarka: The Home of Krishna is a Gateway to Heaven and an Underwater City | Ancient Origins (ancient-origins.net); 12] Sri Krsna avatara July 27 3112 BCE Rohini naksatra vrsabha rasi sravana month Sri Jayanti Janmastami | Srinivasan Kalyanaraman – Academia.edu; 13] Krishna's City. Re-discovery the Sunked Dwaraka | Horacio Francisco Arganisd Ph D – Academia.edu; 15] Eminent Historians Arun Shourie : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive; 16] Best clock for Dating the Kurukshetra War is the sky itself –Raja Ramanna, MP, Nuclear scientist | Srinivasan Kalyanaraman – Academia.edu; 17] hindunet.org/hindu_history/ancient/ramayan/rama_vartak.html; 18] Ramayana not a work of fiction (dailypioneer.com); 19] True legends? – Times of India (indiatimes.com); 20] I Feel Vindicated: KK Muhammed On Supreme Court Verdict On Ayodhya (outlookindia.com); Pic for representation purpose only. Pic credit - Pixabay The Ramayana and the Mahabharata are not just books that narrate stories of the past era but epics that impart knowledge and teach the fundamental principles of life to humankind. But did the characters of these epics exit in real? Did they take birth on this planet, or are they fictional characters? According to Sadhguru, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata are not religious texts but documented versions of the nation's history. The spiritual leader, while interacting with the students of the IIM Ahmedabad, explained why these epics musn't be treated as myths. Elaborating on the belief that the epics mentioned above are documented pieces of history, the Sadhguru said that Lord Rama is worshipped for doing things none would have imagined a King to do. He said that Lord Rama is hailed for his virtues and for being a man who walked miles to free his wife from the clutches of her abductor. He is someone who put the interests of his subjects above his personal relationships, and he chose not to marry anyone else after sending Sita away from the kingdom. The Sadhguru goes on to explain in the video why people worship Shri Rama even today. Apart from explaining why Lord Rama is hailed in the country, the Sadhguru asks the students not to take things mentioned in the epics in the literal sense. He says that one must understand the message it intends to convey and take lessons from it. Moreover, instead of debating on what the facts are, one must know the truth associated with it, asserts Sadhguru. He says that instead of discussing whether or not Shri Rama existed, people must take a look at the lessons one can learn by reading about his life. Thus, the spiritual guru hailed Rama for being the person, who maintained calm even in times of adversities, and who chose duty towards his kingdom and not personal sentiments. Track Spiritual monthly Calendar for all Festivals, Vrats and Muhurat on Times Now. Welcome to our FAQs page, where you can find answers to the most commonly asked questions. We've compiled a list of questions and answers to help you get the information you need quickly and easily. If you don't find the answer to your question here, please don't hesitate to contact us.Bookstore Q: What products/services do you offer? A: We sell physical books on our website, ebooks on kindle and provide live online classes. Q: Are your products available on Amazon? A: Currently, we are only selling physical books through our online store on our website to maintain a personalized experience and ensure the best possible customer experience. However, you can get our e-books on Kindle. Q: Where can I buy your ebooks? A: You can get our ebooks on Kindle for a seamless reading experience across multiple devices. Q: I am not based in USA, can I still buy your ebooks? A: Yes our e-books are available to buy globally. Q: What languages do you offer resources in? A: Our current offerings have resources mostly in Hindi, Gujarati, English and Marathi. However we have additional resources in languages such as Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam as well and we are working to have everything available on our website soon. Shipping Q: Do you offer international shipping? A: We do not currently offer international shipping, but you can reach out to us at contact@ourswadeshiroots.com with your order and we can see if we are able to provide you a quote. Online Classes Q: Can I attend your online classes from anywhere in the world? A: Yes, our online classes are accessible from anywhere in the world as long as you have an internet connection. Q: Who teaches your online courses? A: We have a team of veterans teachers who help us design the curriculum and create our content, and one of our experienced teachers will be assigned to your class. You will receive all the details about your teacher once you sign up and before the sessions begin. Q: Weekends do not work for me. Do you have options for weekday classes? A: We offer flexible scheduling options to accommodate your needs. If you prefer a weekday class, we can work with your schedule. Additionally, if you have a group of 3-5 kids, we can arrange a private group class for you at the regular class price, provided we have a minimum of 4 enrolled students. Q: What are your private or semi private class options? A: We provide various private class options tailored to your preferences. These options include 1) PRIVATE: one-on-one sessions 2) SEMI-PRIVATE: two-on-one sessions, and three-on-one sessions (ideal for siblings or close groups of friends) 3) PRIVATE GROUP: for four or more participants The pricing varies based on the group size, but any batch with four or more participants will be priced the same as our regular class. In our private and private group classes, we prioritize customization and tailor the timing and curriculum to suit the specific needs and requirements of the individual or group. This ensures a personalized learning experience that caters to your unique circumstances and goals. Q: What if I miss a class? A: We understand that sometimes unexpected events happen and you may miss a class. In such cases, we will record the session and share it with you, so that you can review it at your convenience. This ensures that you don't miss out on any important content or discussions covered during the live session. Q: Why are your classes non-refundable? A: Our classes are non-refundable because we need to maintain a minimum headcount in order to conduct a class. Our batch sizes are typically kept very small (generally under 6). When you register for a class, we reserve a spot for you and turn away other prospective participants. Refunds would make it difficult for us to maintain this minimum headcount, potentially leading to canceling the class. However, we do understand that unforeseeable circumstances can arise, and we make exceptions for health or other major life events. In such cases, you can reach out to us at contact@ourswadeshiroots.com, and we will do our best to accommodate you. Q: Would I be refunded if you cancel the class? A: While we do our best to avoid cancelling classes, we understand that unforeseen circumstances can arise. In the event that we have to cancel a class, we will refund the full amount that you paid. Freebies Q: Do you offer any free resources? A: Yes, we offer free resources on our YouTube channel, which includes content to help you learn Hindi and Gujarati, and we will be adding more videos there soon. Additionally, we are working on developing more free resources, and we encourage you to sign up for our mailing list on our website to stay informed about our latest updates and offerings. Contact Q: Can I contact your customer service if I have any questions? A: Yes, you can contact our customer service through our website or by emailing us at contact@ourswadeshiroots.com. We are happy to help with any questions or concerns you may have. Discover the best of Asia with Asia Highlights. We are experts in creating personalized, unforgettable travel experiences, backed by our best-rated reputation and our broad network of company-managed local services. With over 10,000 five-star reviews, we excel in stress-free travel planning and delivery. Whether you're marking a milestone or dreaming of a relaxing getaway, we're here to guide you across the finest Asian destinations including Japan, China, Southeast Asia, India, and Central Asia. Let's co-create your timeless memories across Asia! We present our most popular tours according to customers' choices over recent years. You can treat them as inspiration for your private travel and tailor them according to your requirements. Tokyo - Hakone - Kyoto - Osaka Private tour from: US$4,319 View More Bangkok - Chiang Mai - Phuket Private tour from: US$3,099 View More Hanoi - Halong Bay - Ho Chi Minh - Siem Reap - Bangkok - Chiang Mai Private tour from: US$3,439 View More Seoul- Beijing - Tokyo Private tour from: US$4,839 View More Seoul - Gyeongju - Busan - Osaka - Kyoto - Hakone - Tokyo Private tour from: US$7,999 View More Delhi - Agra - Jaipur - Mumbai - Varanasi - Kathmandu - Paro - Thimphu - Punakha Private tour from: On request View More Discover real reviews of Highlights Travel Family's best-rated service across trusted platforms. Chiang Mai Tour Ms Sirin is so much fun to be around, very knowledgeable about Thai history and takes amazing pictures of your experiences that she shares with you. More Diane, Apr 2025 Asia Highlights make any trip a VACATION! I had the pleasure of booking my Southeast Asia trip through Asia Highlights, and I cannot speak highly enough about the outstanding service I received from Kaya. From the very beginning, Kaya demonstrated professionalism, attention to detail, and a deep understanding of what makes a trip truly memorable. More Mark Rogers, Apr 2025 Amazing service - Thailand trip We had a lovely experience with the service received from all the team of Asia Highlights (travel specialist/coordinator, guides, drivers). In particular, the representative that organized our trip, Jimmy, was amazing. He was able to prepare our trip in a very short notice and customize it to satisfy all our requests. He was knowledgeable and always replied very fast. We were very pleased with his service and we highly recommend the agency. More Yanelis, Mar 2025 Contact a Travel Advisor To Customize Your Dream Trip 1-to-1 service / Reply within 24hrs / Expert's Advice Albee Travel Advisor AlisaTravel Advisor ClaireTravel Advisor For over 20 years, we have been committed to providing you with quality private tours that offer unique experiences in Japan, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Singapore, Indonesia (Bali), India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, China, Mongolia, the Caucasus and Central Asia, whether it's for family fun, romantic couples, milestone celebrations, or checking off a bucket list. Caucasus and Central Asia Articles That Interest Our Clients Most Our editors' team is dedicated to providing you with the most useful and up-to-date travel articles. The new chairman of ICHR argues that faith and reason can go hand in hand in the writing of history. OUTLOOK INTERVIEWS YELLAPRAGADA SUDERSHAN RAO The media describes him as an RSS man and the author of the Mahabharata Project, but very little is known about the mild-mannered historian from Telangana in academic circles.Yellapragada Sudershan Rao, the new chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), describes himself as a colonial historian and argues that faith and reason can go hand in hand in the writing of history. You have lashed out against Marxist historians and their interpretation of history. Why is the writing of history a Right vs Left debate? I think it is time to think about India's history from an Indian perspective. For the last 60 years, our writing and understanding of history has been influenced by the West. Indian research has been far too dependent on the West to write its own history. We are dependent on their translations and interpretation. And, these are my personal views, history writing in India is Euro-centric and imperialistic. The ICHR, I understand, is in the process of acquiring digital records from centres of history in the US and Europe. This will not only give us access to our own records but will also aid us in writing history from our perspective. You have been appointed by the BJP government. Don't you think institutions such as the ICHR should be free of politics? The MoU (memorandum of understanding) prepared by the founding fathers of ICHR gave the powers to the government to appoint heads of social and historical institutes. I have no qualms in admitting that these appointments are political. Have previous heads of social institutes been questioned about their appointments? Why are these questions asked only about me? The government has been formed by a democratic process. It has been elected by the people. To question that is to question democracy itself. Unlike other social institutes, the ICHR attracts a lot of attention because history is an important subject. But history belongs to the people. We have not shown or written a comprehensive history of India to the people of India. History is by the people, for the people and of the people. You are the author of the Mahabharata project? What is the project about? There is a certain view that the Mahabharata or the Ramayana are myths. I don't see them as myths because they were written at a certain point of time in history. They are important sources of information in the way we write history. What we write today may become an important source of information for the future in the future. When analysed, of course, they could be declared to be true or false. History is not static. It belongs to the people, it's made by the people. Similarly, the Ramayana is true for people…it's in the collective memory of generations of Indians. We can't say the Ramayana or the Mahabharata are myths. Myths are from a western perspective. What does that mean? For us, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata are true accounts of the periods in which they were written. But shouldn't the writing of history be rooted in historical evidence and research? Western schools of thought look at material evidence of history. We can't produce material evidence for everything. India is a continuing civilisation. To look for evidence would mean digging right though the hearts of villages and displacing people. We only have to look at the people to figure out the similarities in their lives and the depiction in the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. For instance, the Ramayana mentions that Rama had travelled to Bhad-rachalam (in Andhra Pradesh). A look at the people and the fact that his having lived there for a while is in the collective memory of the people cannot be discounted in the search for material evidence. In continuing civilisations such as ours, the writing of history cannot depend only on archaeological evidence. We have to depend on folklore too. Are you for correcting the writing of history? I won't put it that way. But real history has to come through. I am a follower of truth. The ICHR should encourage research about India and Greater India—from Southeast Asia all the way to Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran. There is enough archaeological evidence to show the connect of our civilisation there. What is your view on Ayodhya? Is it not a fact that mosques as structures came to be in India in 1000 AD? Is it not a fact that the mosque was built by a lieutenant of Babur? A historian can only enlighten people on the facts of history. Historians can at best say evidence of earlier remains of a Hindu structure are there. Conflicting views are created by political leaders. If Ayodhya is not the place of Ram, where did he live? Looking at the present structures in Ayodhya, we can see people still living the way that finds a mention in the Ramayana. Historians can only give their opinion to enlighten people. Doesn't correcting history pose a problem? Why only cast it in the context of two communities? How about Dalits and untouchability? The question of untouchability is relatively recent, as recent as 3,000 years. And it has its basis in the economy. It was not based on