

The Singing Sun – 2

Random thoughts by Sunil Singhania

August 22, 2023

July 12, 2023 marked the return of international spy, Ethan Hunt on another impossible mission. I am sure this beginning of my blog must have got you thinking about what I am writing about. This Hollywood movie was the 7th edition of the popular franchise, Mission Impossible. It opened to a thunderous response and though opinions are divided about the success of the film, this 7th edition of MI has garnered gross collections of over half a billion at the box office, starring the very popular and charming, Tom Cruise, it was surely a treat for all MI fans.

The first movie in the MI franchise released in 1996 with a young 34-year-old Cruise playing the dashing and daring Ethan Hunt. 27 years later in the 7th edition of the franchise, Tom Cruise continues to play the character with an even more aplomb and dare. In fact, the commitment from Cruise seems to have gone to an altogether different level. Known to pull off his own stunts, he reportedly trained over years while performing 500 skydives and more than 13,000 motocross jumps to get the perfect shot. All this at a very young, 61 years of age, epitomizing clearly that hard work and determination along with commitment can easily overcome any obstacle including youth.



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Back home in India, we have been witnessing a similar phenomenon. Gadar 2, the sequel to the 2001 box office blockbuster, has been breaking all collection records and is in line to become the highest grossing Bollywood movie of all time. The first show of the day starts at 6am in some cities in India and the movie has been witnessing hysteria like never before. The hero, Sunny Deol, is touching 67 years of age and has been living as a semi-retired actor for over a decade now. At an age where it is unthinkable to be cast as an action hero, Sunny Deol's Gadar 2 will generate in box office receipts, an amount almost equal to all his previous movies over 4 decades of his acting career put together. Isn't that amazing and inspiring? Clearly perseverance pays and goodwill earned in life will eventually pay and pay real big.



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The ageless superstar, Rajnikanth at 72 years, continues to dominate the South India box office with his latest release Jailer. His fans treat him as a demi-God and the scenes at the film opening are to be seen to be believed. Rajnikanth continues to give what his fans want from him consistently, while coming across as a lovable and simple person.

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Also in the news is the 15th edition of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati', India's version of 'Who wants to be a millionaire', on which the Oscar winning, 'Slumdog Millionaire' was based. The anchor of KBC is Bollywood Shehanshah (Emperor), Amitabh Bachchan, who at 80 years, continues to be as popular as ever. Termed as the greatest Indian actor to have been born ever, he went through a mid-life financial crisis and almost went bankrupt. 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' resurrected his career with the first part launched in 2000. It brought Amitabh Bachchan, then 58 years, back in the limelight and added millions to his already



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burgeoning list of fans all over the world. It also brought him out of a difficult financial condition to now being among the most successful actors. He is back at the young age of 80, proving that good scotch and good wine only gets better with time. Also, Mr. Bachchan teaches us to hang on when the chips are down, and miracles will happen. All we need is to continue to make efforts and continue to give our best.



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Over the last month or so, Indian politics and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have also been in the news. His recent visit to the US in June 2023 highlighted the growing importance of India and its relations with the US. The reception that Mr. Modi received from Indian diaspora as well as the US leadership was unparalleled and his meetings with leading US entrepreneurs may have hastened and acted as a catalyst for the US companies to announce their intention to invest in India. At 73 years, Mr. Modi has already been the Indian PM for a good 9 years. With elections due in 2024, popular opinion remains

that Mr. Modi will lead India till at least 2029, by when he will be 79 years young. Full of energy and a workaholic who would put most young folks to shame, PM Modi has been assuring billions of Indians that India will be the third largest economy in the world over the next five years. Determination and well-set targets give direction and make the goals achievable. Belief in oneself and confidence to achieve, does lead to achievements fructifying.

I would also like to bring forth something that I have written earlier... my maiden visit to Berkshire Hathaway annual meeting to witness Oracle of Omaha, Warren Buffet and Charlie Munger in May 2023.

To summarise:

Buffet is almost touching 93 and Munger is 99. The energy and enthusiasm they exude are magnetic. Just watching and hearing them for one day can easily extend one's professional life by at least ten years.



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Being successful in life is not doing too many extraordinary things but doing things consistently well.

Love for one's work is much greater satisfaction than all the luxuries in the world.

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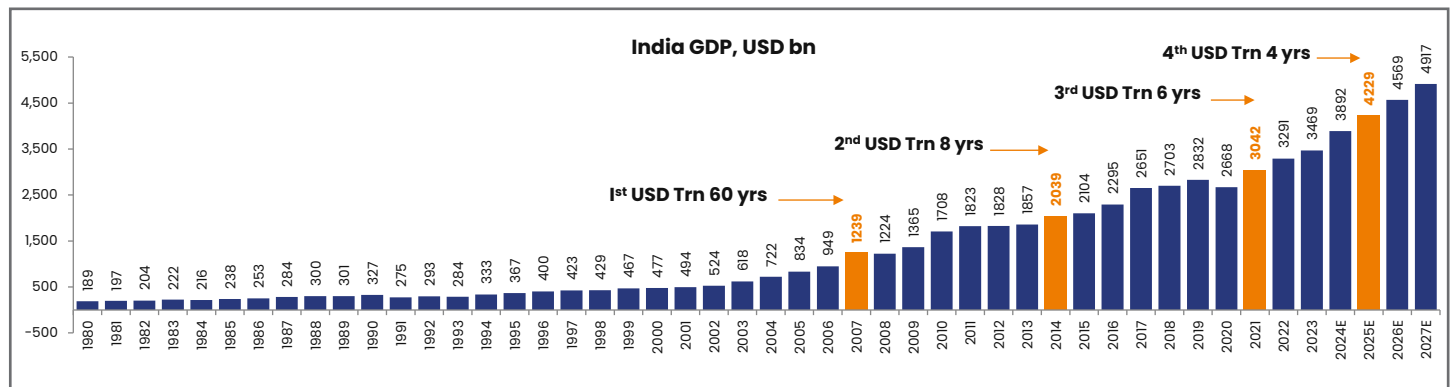
The best time and place to retire is in one's grave.

Honesty, simplicity and modesty will not only make one a likeable person but will also make one super successful.

There is learning every day. Keep on reading and interacting with people smarter than you.

The detailed note from my May 2023 visit to US can be accessed [here](#).

It is a great coincidence that all the above stories have been dominating the headlines around the same time over the last couple of months. Maybe trying to emphasize something. I now bring someone who has just celebrated its 77th birthday. The past has been getting better with every passing year and the future holds immense promise. What was achieved in the first 60 years of existence as a free country, got replicated in the next 8 years and then another 6 years. What has been achieved in the total 76 years of its existence now has the potential to be achieved over the next 7/8 years. The fastest growing largest economy of the world in 2022 and likely to remain so over the next decade; all factors seem to have converged in its favour.



Source: MOSI, Bloomberg

Like Ethan Hunt, the country and its people have been working hard, putting in all their efforts to keep on excelling.

Like Tara Singh, the country believes in love and peace, but is not afraid to do everything to protect its people and the country.

Like Amitabh Bachchan, the country bounced back from its near bankrupt situation in 1991. Having learnt its lessons, it opened up its economy and marched onwards, towards an era of liberalization, economic growth and prosperity.

With a dynamic leader and stable growth-oriented policies, the future looks visibly bright. The 4 'D's, Democracy, Demographics, Digital dividend and Domestic economy; should ensure that this vibrant economy continues to emit energy and surges ahead in its quest to transform into a "developed" economy by 2047, when it is 100 years young.

Welcome INDIA... a nation whose time has come!

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