

Stop praising them

Sir, - In his letter "Relics of the Raj" (Sept, 14), Mr S.H. Krishnaswamy has shown preconceived notions about the British rule in India. He says that the British rulers in India whom we hated in the pre-Independence period were actually great personalities. Lord Dalhousie, Curzon and William Jones were no doubt stalwarts of British rule in India. But these persons didn't have any care for original inhabitants of this land.

It was natural for the British to bring the latest inventions of industrial revolution such as the railways and telecommunications as India was a major trading center under the British colonial rule and a strong residential base for the British citizens. After the British came to know very well that they had established complete control over India and could settle permanently here, only then did they opt to build modern cities and monuments of their choice. Whatever the development activities the British took up were only for the well-being of the British in India and not the natives.

Even after 44 years of the freedom, we have been preserving the numerous buildings built by the British and Moghuls as monuments in the Indian capital as a token of respect for the invaders who ruled us (pushing us into slavery) for hundreds of years. The very parliament house in which all elected representatives decide the future of the country is a gift of the British.

The writer has said that our country has a precious and priceless cultural heritage. But, is there a single independent monument in the capital which reflects this priceless cultural heritage of our great nation which built on secular values? It is a disheartening to note that even today some people are against the renaming of some famous roads and removal of British statues in India let alone the other big monuments. It is high time these people stopped praising the British and develop nationalism and patriotism which is much needed under the present circumstances.

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