which is only 60 meters across and her horseshoe orbit around earth brings her close to this planet every 95 years. Now to the centre of earth, the molten iron core which at times erupts onto the surface through volcanic eruptions is in fact 7,500° C hotter than the surface of Sun and creates a magnetic field known as magnetosphere which in effect protects this planet from Sun's detrimental solar wind by channeling the later around the earth. Talk about fighting fire with fire! And the oceans, that flamboyantly cover 70 per cent of the planet's surface, hold great mysteries of earth which is also responsible for her nickname, "The Blue Planet" and the source of 80per cent of all life on earth. The fact that 90per cent of all volcanic activities occur alone in the oceans is inspirational for scientists on the understanding of the idea of survival of life in the harshest of conditions that led to the assumption of possibility of life on other planets!



The earth sure has come a long way and been home to millions of species and other life forms. But what is the future of this planet? To be precise, it is scientifically expected that the world will continue supporting life for another 1.5 billion years. But as the survival of this planet is crucially dependent on Sun, within 3.5 billion years the rising luminosity of the later will eventually eliminate earth's biosphere, destroy the vegetations which will lead to the loss of oxygen and gradual drying up of the oceans and all the water bodies, hence the extinction of all life. Scientists explain by that time earth will look like today's enigmatic Saturnian moon, Titan, the ultimate desert planet with her giant dunes and ocean less surface.

But these are the courses of billions of years and phenomena that are beyond man's control however the brutal reality is that the biggest threat to human race is, well, humans themselves. The disappointing way the affairs of the world that are concerned with people's well being are in motion, many fear we might not even make it to the next century. Sir Isaac Newton out of his exemplary science and mathematical wit and knowledge acquired from old relevant texts surmised that the end of the world would happen sometime around 2060. The great ancient Maya civilisation's Mesoamerican Long Count Calendar even managed put a date on the earth's day of reckoning, which is precisely December 21st, 2012! This is as much mythical as factual since scientists of today believe that the then Mayan arthromeres even at that ancient of times were aware of the rare alignment of the earth, sun and the centre of the Milky Way that will accurately take place on the December solstice in the year 2012. Now if that's a bad news or goods news only future would unfold that; however Einstein once said that at that point of time earth could experience an abrupt reorientation of her axis of rotation (Shift of Polar regions) which could direly alter earths existing geographical settings.

The truth is the future of earth is as much uncertain as each of ours. It is widely believed that this planet has reached her tipping point and if crucial concerns like Climate Change and sustainable Ecosystems are not righteously prioritised then the future of mankind will be brutally jeopardized. There is an old Native Cree Indian saying which goes, "Only when the last tree has died and the last river have been poisoned and the last fish been caught will we realize that we cannot eat money." The thing is there is nothing wrong with money however a lot of things are not going right with this planet either. The time to act is now and if truth be told each day is The Earth Day for all earthlings concerned. ■