

Sep. 12, 2005. 01:00 AM

## **False portrayals of proud traditions**

---

### **Trial by water**

---

Deepa Mehta is adept at using the media and entertainment industry to promote misinformation about Hindus. In *Fire*, she projects the idea that Hindu traditions of abstinence drive neglected housewives into lesbian relationships. In her new film, *Water*, she links sexual exploitation of widows to the ancient Hindu traditions of abstinence involving widows. The events she describes are bizarre and virtually unheard of in India. In each case, she links ancient traditions of a 5,000-year-old civilization to obscure and negative results. This filmmaker is a one-trick pony, with little inclination to create anything that does not debase Hindus.

Indians worldwide are justifiably enraged at Mehta's false, derogatory portrayals of our proud traditions. Western audiences often know little about India and may very well believe these bizarre practices are widespread. Canadian entities like the Toronto International Film Festival and various media outlets are doing their part to assist her in debasing Hindus.

Ron Banerjee, Director, Hindu Conference of Canada, Toronto