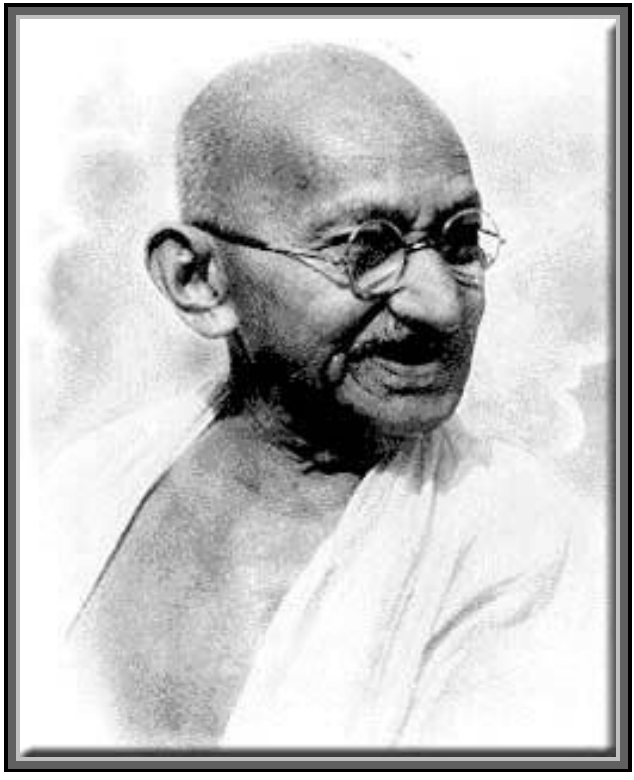
SANDESH BHARATI

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हजारों फुट की ऊंचाई पर मीलों तक पसरे पवित्र कैलाश-मानसरोवर के हिम मण्डित उत्तुंग शिखर दिलोदिमाग पर कैसी अमिट छाप छोड़ जाता है। यह भी रोचक है कि इस पर्वत पर बर्फ इस तरह जमा हुई है कि ॐ की आकृति बन गई। ह चित्र अनूप शाह ने कई महीनों उस क्षेत्र में रहने के दौरान अपने कैमरे में कैद किया। इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय कला केन्द्र में उदय सहाय, अनूप शाह और अशोक दिलवाली के ऐसे ९४ छायाचित्र प्रदर्शित किए गए हैं

OUR HOLY LAND - GURUVAYUR

Many attributes contribute to the popularity of India's prominent temples. Konark, the Sun temple in the state of Orissa, is famous for its unique architecture. Sri Rangam, situated on the Kaveri River in Tamil Nadu, is known for its antiquity besides being India's largest temple. Badrinath, high in the Himalayas, is popular on account of its unique geographical location, and Jagannath Puri, on the Bay of Bengal, is noted for its legendary festival of the chariots, held annually since over 2000 years. All these factors combine at Guruvayur, in the South Indian state of Kerala, making Guruvayur one of the most enchanting and glorious temples in all of India.

There are no movie theaters in the town of Guruvayur. No liquor stores. No night clubs. And no meat is eaten there. Guruvayur is a holy city where people come to make spiritual advancement. In fact, the atmosphere of devotion which pervades Guruvayur is so sublime and charming that one easily experiences transcendence when visiting this holy place. Appropriately so, Guruvayur is known as Bhuloka Vaikuntha: "where heaven meets Earth."

A visit to Guruvayur, though common to the people of India, is something very few Westerners have ever experienced. At the nucleus of the city lies a large wooden temple in the typical Kerala style--striking, elegant, and peaceful. However, upon closer scrutiny one can perceive a mysterious energy emanating from the temple that daily draws thousands of pilgrims through its doors. It is astounding to observe the overwhelming number of pilgrims who come to the shrine each day as if attracted by some irresistable force--a force unseen by the eyes and undetectable by scientific instruments, yet so powerful that millions are captivated by it. What is that force? "It is the supreme mysticism," says a brahman priest of the temple. "It is the power of divine love, or more precisely--beauty, charm, and sweetness."

Entering an enclosed sanctuary where only orthodox Hindus are allowed, one comes face to face with a majestic deity of Vishnu hewn out of black stone, decorated with valuable jewels, and positioned on a fabulous gold and silver throne. "Can stone emanate love, beauty and sweetness?"--a difficult question for any rational thinker, but evidently it can, since that is the remarkable force that one encounters here

According to the age-old traditions of India, Vishnu is considered to be the original person; whatever exists emanates from him. From the smallest atoms in the universe up to the unlimited planets and stars floating in space--including all animate and inanimate entities--everything is a manifestation of his energy. He is the origin of all beauty. 'The deity is not stone," says a temple brahman. "Stone is the media by which Vishnu reveals himself to the entities of this mundane world who have no vision of spiritual existence. Because he is the source of everything, he is all-attractive; his form is the abode of supreme beauty, his activities are most charming, and his existence is sweetness personified. As the all-attractive source, Vishnu is the supreme object of love and the supreme giver of love: indeed, he is divine love incarnate." Thus the pilgrims come to Guruvayur captivated by the all-attractive power of divine love.

The temple itself has existed for about 5,000 years, although it is said that the deity is much older. It is written in palm leaf scrolls which are kept in the sacred temple that the deity was first worshiped by Brahma at the beginning of the *padma kalpa*. In the *varaha kalpa*, Sutapa and Prishni, who had no children, prayed to Brahma for the gift of a son. Brahma gave them the deity of Vishnu to worship, and said that their desire for a child would soon be fulfilled. After worshiping the deity for some times, Vishnu offered them a benediction, and Sutapa and Prishni then requested Vishnu to personally become their son. Thus, in three separate *avatars* (incarnations), Vishnu as Prishnigarbha, Vamana, and Krishna, became their son.

In each of the incarnations the deity also reappeared and was worshiped by Sutapa and Prishni. During the Krishna *avatar*, the deity

was worshiped in a temple in Dwaraka for 100 years. When the time came for Krishna's ascent into the spiritual world, Krishna instructed the guru of the demigods, Brihaspati, and Vayudeva, the demigod of the wind, to take charge of the worship of the deity. When Brihaspati and Vayu arrived at Dwaraka, the city had already been inundated by the sea. Searching beneath the turbulent waves they were able to rescue the deity, and after raising it from the sea, they departed toward the south.

After travelling a long distance, Brihaspati and Vayu reached a secluded lake near the seashore. The two celestial entities sat down and began to meditate; subsequently, the Lord Shiva emerged from the depths of the lake. After some discussion, it was decided by those three divine beings that the side of the lake known as Rudratirtha would be the best location for a new temple to be constructed; since then, the place became known as Guruvayur--*guru* meaning Brihaspati and *vayur*Vayudeva.

Fifty centuries have passed since the founding of the temple, as have its many trials and tribulations: Guruvayur has risen to glory and fallen to brink of extinction several times during that span of time. There were periods of royal patronage when Hindu kings used to pay homage to the temple by donating vast amounts of wealth. In those days the temple owned many smaller farming villages around Guruvayur: argicultural fields, vast herds of cows, and even 1,000 elephants. Then there were times when the armies of the Sultan of Delhi ravaged all of South India, burning and destroying the sacred shrines. But whatever the difficulties, Guruvayur managed to survive and rise to glory again.

Since India's independence from British rule in 1947, Guruvayur has not enjoyed the patronage of Hindu royalty, yet the temple has prospered and is presently one of the most popular in the country. The temple opens its door at 3 A.M. to an already-anxiously awaiting crowd of several hundred pilgrims. The first event of the morning is called *darshan*, the waking of the deity. In the morning *darshan* the deity is bathed with scented waters, dressed in opulent clothing, and

served a variety of delicious vegetarian foods. Throughout the day, there are other elaborate functions which include the offering of 1,000 coconuts and the lighting of oil lamps. Not a moment of the day slips away without there being some spectacular activity.

A seemingly alien aspect of deity worship which many occidentals have a difficult time adjusting to is the intensity with which the worshipers regard the deity as a person. We are continuously reminded by the rituals that the deity is not stone, but a person; bathing, dressing, offering of food, singing, dancing, and even theatrical performances are performed for the satisfaction of the deity. When we asked about deity worship being considered idol worship, the brahmans replied, "God has form and transcendental attributes. If those attributes are present in a form of stone or wood or metal, then that is not idol worship."

During the mid-morning hours, there are martial arts demonstrations, and many wedding ceremonies also take place in front of the temple, one after another. Believing that being married at Guruvayur is a great blessing, devoted couples come here from all over South India.

The evening hours bring about the main event of the day: a deity procession led by jewel- and gold-bedecked elephants. In fact, the elephant processions held at Guruvayur are famous all over India. Before the procession begins, people gather outside the temple to watch the elephants who are guaranteed to put on a sensational show. Although a common sight in most parts of India, the elephant never loses his charisma. Everyone enjoys seeing the huge body of the elephant as he sways to and fro, swinging his trunk in perfect harmony with his powerful steps.

Before the procession, the three elephants chosen to be its feature attraction are first fed a quantity of sweets made from gur (resembling brown sugar and molasses) mixed with cooked rice and rolled into elephant-bite-sized portions the size of basketballs. Each of these hearty beasts consumes at least half a dozen of these delicacies before

having reached his fill. Afterwards the elephants are attired in brightly-colored silk headdresses decorated with gold and other ornaments

As the crowd begins to stir, a brahman steps forward and blows three blasts on a conchshell, thereby announcing the arrival of the deity. A priest emerges from the sanctuary bearing the *mahotsava-murti* (a gold miniature of the main deity) on his head and quickly climbs up on the back of the center elephant. Instantly, several other brahmans carrying festival umbrellas, peacock feather cans, banners, and festoons join him and mount the back of the othe two elephants. Drums, *shehnai* (a wind instrument), gongs, and cymbals begin to play. The procession begins.

The procession moves clockwise around the temple complex three times, but before proceeding past the first turn, 10,000 oil lamps arranged along the outer wall of the sanctuary are lit to illumine the way. This is quickly done by the hundreds of pilgrims taking part in the procession.

Because the elephant procession is held every night of the year--with additional processions held on special festival days--the Guruvayur temple owns an elephant ranch where 46 elephants are trained to perform ceremonial functions. Thus, Guruvayur is one of the most popular and sacred pilgrimage spots in India.

PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIWAS

The Bharatiya Government held the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (non-resident Indians/persons of Indian origin day) in New Delhi from January 9th, 2003 for three days. It brought together more than 2,000 Indians living in 66 nations under one roof from places as far away and as exotic as Martinique, Uzbekistan and Benin. This made it the largest gathering of non-resident and ethnic Indians ever. The conference was hugely successful with the Government, at the level of the prime minister and his deputy L.K.Advani, sending out a message to Indians

across the globe that India had decided to honour and remember the great Indian Diaspora. It also emphasised this was not a one-off thing. Both the conference and the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman awards had now become institutionalised and would be an annual feature.

Emotional bonds with the country of origin are easy to understand. The fact that many third and even fourth generation Indians thronged the meet put paid to the theory that these bonds fade with each passing generation. Events like these prove the clichéd adage that you can take an Indian out of India, but you cannot take India out of an Indian. This was best served by the example given by Lord Navnit Dholakia of UK who said that just as Hanuman, when asked to prove his loyalty to Ram, tore open his chest to reveal an image of Ram and Sita, so also overseas Indians, to prove their loyalty to India, could open their hearts to reveal a map of India.

The event was a grand success and the Government of Bharat deserves kudos for organizing this gathering.

The Pravasi Bharatiya awards instituted to recognise and reward the meritorious contributions made by NRIs and PIOs were given by the Prime Minister A.B.Vajpayee. The 10 outstanding Bharatiyas who received the awards on the opening day of the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas were:-

Sir Aneerood Jugnauth, PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS
Lord Navnit Dholakia, PRESIDENT, LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY,UK
Dr.Manu Chandaria, KENYA
Prof.Fatima Meer, SOUTH AFRICA
Dr.Hari N.Harilela, HONG KONG
Kanaksi Gokaldas Khimji, OMAN
Ujjal Dosanjh, CANADA
Rajat Gupta, USA
Sridath Ramphal, UK
H E Dato S Samy Vellu, MINISTER OF WORKS, MALAYSIA

THE TEAM OF SANDESH BHARATI WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE DR. HARI HARILELA FOR BEING ONE OF THE RECEIPIENTS OF THE "PRAVASI BHARATIYA AWARDS". DR. HARILELA'S CONTRIBUTIONS AMONG THE INDIAN COMMUNITY IN HONG KONG HAVE BEEN BEYOND COMPARISON.

READERS COLUMN

DOWRY HAS REFERENCES IN MANU SAMHITA

Hare Krishna.
I was reading your newsletter (JULY/AUG/SEPT'02). There are interesting things you present all the times but somethings can be challenged from shastric point of view. The issue of dowry is actually not irreligious or new thing. The way it is being forced by greedy families to exort wealth from girls family is not acceptable. Srila Prabhupada (the founder of ISKCON) writes as well as gives so much information regarding dowry and it is sanctioned by the Manu Samitha etc. I thought to write to you [Jai Bharat], with some extracts and let you know [Jai Bharat] about this.

best regards,
Ramachandra das,
International Society for Krishna Consciousness
HONG KONG

SANDESH BHARATI REPLIES:-

Dear Ramchandra Prabhu,

Thanks for your interest in our newsletter and the attached file, which was extremely informative.

I think that our article proved the point that what is presently practised is a perverted form of the ancient concept of "stridhan". In ancient times, whatever was given was never

demanded or asked by the bridegroom's family. And since in ancient times, girls did not inherit their father's property, "stridhan" was a perfect way for a father to give his daughter her rightful share. Yes, it is true, as your extracts have shown, that gifts were also at times made to the bridegroom's family BUT then again, that only depended upon the bride's father. Common people were under no obligation to give opulent gifts to the bridegroom; as your extracts have shown that in some cases, a symbolic flower would be given.

The most important part of the "stridhan" was what was given to the daughter by her father and that belonged to her only.

KNOW YOUR HINDI

This is our sixth article about Hindi language. In our previous issues, we had mentioned that the so-called Hindi language is not spoken and written at its entire purity by the masses but is a mixture of mainly Farsi(Persian), Arabic and Turkish words. In Hindi movies, over 80% dialogues spoken use Farsi and Arabic words. In this issue, we continue the series of listing 10 such foreign words very commonly used in Hindi and have mentioned the apt Hindi word for it. It is about time that we should make an attempt to speak and write our national language as purely as possible

WORD	ORIGIN	CORRECT HINDI WORD	MEANING IN ENGLISH
TALAASH	TURKISH	KHOJ	SEARCH
KISMAT	ARABIC	BHAGYA	FATE
TAQDEER	ARABIC	BHAGYA/PRARABDH	FATE/DESTINY
TASWEER	ARABIC	CHITRA	PICTURE
TAKLEEF	ARABIC	KASHT	INCONVENIENCE
TASALEE	ARABIC	AASHWASAN	ASSURANCE
TARAF	ARABIC	PAKSH	SIDE
TARAZU	FARSI	TULA	WEIGHING SCALE
TEZ	FARSI	TEEVRA	FAST
TEER	FARSI	VAARN	ARROW

Delhi Metro Rail flagged off

by Pramod Kumar

With the dedication of Metro Rail to public by Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, the most undisciplined public transport system of the national capital was redefined on December 24 and Delhiites developed a ray of hope that they will soon get rid of regular traffic jams and growing air and noise pollution. Although the complete 241-km Metro Rail project will be operational by 2021, the commencement of the first phase by 2005 will solve the traffic problems of Delhi to a great extent. Now just a section from Shahdara to Tis Hazari has become operational, in which six trains of four bogies will cater to the needs of about 20,000 commuters everyday. The section, which has been completed in a record time of four years, cost Rs.800 crore. Once the first phase of the project, which will connect Shahdara to Barwala, Delhi University to Centeral Secretariat and Barakhamba Road to Dwarka is completed in 2005, it is expected to carry about 2.2 million commuters

every day. Sanction to the second and third phases of the project has also been granted.

The dream of Delhi Metro has come true within only seven years. The ride in this world's best Metro rail is very comfortable without jerk during acceleration. According to DMRC officials it is fully air-conditioned, accelerates very fast and attains the speed of 40 km within 15 seconds. It generates minimum operational noise. The day the Metro Rail becomes fully operational there will be a new patron for bus services and auto-rickshaws along with the Metro stations. They will only cover short distance and feed the Metro, which will then take over and do the heavy stuff of transporting people in large numbers over long distances at high speed.

Delhi Metro is one of the largest projects of its kind in the urban transport sector in India. But this dream took almost 50 years to come true. Though, the Metro project was first conceptualised for Delhi in 1950, all efforts proved useless due to lack of consensus and will power. "It became possible only in 1995 when the then Central Government and the BJP Government of Delhi after the deep study and with equal equity participation finally took the decision to have Metro Rail for Delhi and formally got the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) registered as an autonomous body. As a first step, the Government gave clearance for taking up the first phase of the Metro system in August 1996, which now covers three lines. We also made a provision of Rs 1500 crore in the budget and formally laid the foundation stone in 1998," recalls Prof. Jagdish Mukhi who was then the Finance Minister in the Government of Delhi.

Formally flagging off the first Metro Rail, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, who first travelled in the Rail from Kashmiri

Gate to Seelampur, described it as a historical moment in the history of Indian transport. “This advanced mode of mass transport has put Delhi among the world’s best capitals in terms of infrastructures. This is the tacit example of international cooperation between India and Japan, which has symbolised the growing friendship between the two old-civilised countries in the past 50 years,” he said while thanking the Japan and Korea governments for their cooperation in the project.

Sports Day Event - HSS Hong Kong

Reported by Gordhan Gurnani, Chandragupta Shakha

The Hindu Swyamsevak Sangh (HSS) Hong Kong held its 4th annual Sports Day at Kowloon Tsai Park near La Salle road. The aim of the sports day was to mark the occasion of Makar Sankranti and Swami Vivekanand Jayanti (the birth date of Swami Vivekanand)

A total of 31 swayamsevaks, including adhikaries, attended the event. Upon arrival four teams were formed and named as Agni and Trishul led by Hitesh Hirandani and Prashant Goel respectively (for the elder kids) and Vayu and Aakash led by Vaibhav Dhadda and Vaibhav Daga (for the younger kids). The chosen team names represented the names of missiles belonging to the Indian Army

Various Sports such as Kho-Kho, Kabbadi, Lathi Relay Race and Ring-O-Stick were played. All four teams played very well and showed their full participation in the event. After lunch swyamsevaks were briefed on the life of Swami Vivekanand and the significance of Makar Sankranti. Pranit Shah sang a lovely patriotic geet (song). Sweets made of sesame and Jaggery were distributed to aptly celebrate Makar Sankranti. Thereafter more team Sports were played and a 50-meter individual race was held.

Before dispersing, trophies were given to the best teams, which were Agni and Aakash. Utkarsh Patel won the prize for ideal sportsman and medals were given out to the winners of the 50-meters race.

This sports day was something different; it was all coordinated and planned by junior swayamsevaks like myself. It was a great chance for me to experience the responsibilities as a Shikshak (teacher).

On the whole, it was a bright sunny day and everyone enjoyed the event tremendously.

India's Harvard produces a new world elite

Rows of chanting school children learning by rote is a fair image of Indian education. But in this sea of mediocrity, blazing like an oil flare is one exception - the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), described by American television news programme 60 Minutes last week as "the most famous university you've never heard of".

India's equivalent of Harvard or the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is celebrating its golden jubilee and the reason 60 Minutes covered the event is that scores of IIT alumni occupy top posts in American business.

Microsoft chairman Bill Gates was the keynote speaker at the ritzy Silicon Valley celebration. He has reason to call it, as he did, "an incredible institution that has changed the world" - two of his vice-presidents and many other Microsoft staff are from the IIT. The key aide of Warren Buffett, one of the richest men in the world, is also an IIT product.

It is diabolically difficult to get into the IIT. It selects from among the top one per cent of Indian students (as compared with the top 11 per cent of US students from which Harvard draws its intake) and moulds them into the kind of people blue-chip companies die for - engineers, academics, corporate executives, consultants and entrepreneurs. Recruitment managers descend on IIT campuses every year knowing they might as well blindfold themselves and just grab the first student who comes along.

Some examples of IIT alumni are Rajat Gupta of McKinsey and Company, Narayana Murthy of Infosys, Victor Menezes of Citigroup, Vinod Khosla of Sun Microsystems, Rono Dutta of

United Airlines, Rakesh Gangwal, former CEO of US Airways and Arun Sarin of Vodaphone. But by what strange alchemy does this university produce such high achievers?

Professor R. S. Agrawal, who teaches at the New Delhi branch, said: "We get the very best students to begin with, the best brains in the country. "Then we have good faculties who continually update their skills. And finally, our environment is stimulating and collegial. That helps us shape the students in the best way." Furthermore, the teaching is geared to problem-solving and analysis rather than rote learning.

"We can actually feel and smell the real change that technology can bring about in people's lives," said Sharad Saxena, an electrical engineering student at the Mumbai IIT. "It's a life-altering experience." The IIT brand is recognised in technical, political and economic circles around the world, partly because so many graduates leave India to seek their fame and fortune abroad. In recent years, as much as 40 per cent of IIT graduates have headed for the US.

US Ambassador to India Robert Blackwill was at the party, and paid tribute to the institute. He called IIT graduates "the hottest export India has ever produced". Jeff Bezos of Amazon.com called the IIT a "world treasure" and John Chambers of Cisco extolled it as "world class". Separately, Salon magazine raved that "per capita, IIT has probably produced more millionaires than any other undergraduate institution".

There are now seven institutes throughout India. The first IIT was set up in 1951 by Jawarharlal Nehru to provide top-quality technical education, under a strict meritocracy, to build a pool of skilled manpower for what he thought was India's nascent industrial revolution. In 50 years, it has grown from a body of 200 students to 3,000, and 450 teachers, living in a township spread over 800 hectares. Of course, the golden jubilee is being

celebrated in India too. Each IIT has its own plans. One is organising a series of special lectures. Another is setting up an ambitious Cisco-powered network linking every hostel room, laboratory, classroom and tutorial in a comprehensive e-learning platform.

(SCMP,HONG KONG,30/1/03)

Cover Story

ATTEMPTS BY CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES TO CONVERT HINDUS, BY HOOK OR CROOK

It is impossible to miss them. You could find them standing on a busy street with a Bible in hand. Or, they might have paid a visit to your house, trying to explain to you the merits of believing "only" in Jesus. At convent schools, they might have cajoled you to accept the "true path of Christ". In short, Christian missionaries are everywhere. Growing up in Hong Kong, I have had many encounters with missionaries, who have overtly or covertly tried to convert me. And these things are common throughout the world.

But why are Hindus special targets? For several reasons. On Diwali Day, 1998 in New Delhi, the Pope gave a call for "the grand harvesting of souls in Asia" and said only Christ offered the way to ultimate salvation. The venue chosen for this call was very significant. India has become the most important country in this grand plan of "harvesting souls" in Asia. Unlike other countries in Asia, where the laws are quite tough as far as conversion activities are concerned, in India they are very liberal.

Secondly, Hindus are very tolerant by nature. An average Hindu will love to say "All religions are equal". This makes them an easy target for the missionaries, who will make friendship with them, win their confidence and then progress to the real aim of conversion. And thirdly, Hindu parents, especially those residing in overseas countries, do not have enough time for their children and do not bother teaching much about Hindu culture to them. I have come across so many children who do not know anything about Ramayan. And when asked about Hinduism, all they can say is that

Hinduism is a religion that teaches people to love each other and be tolerant. That's all they know. The defination of one of the world's greatest religions has been "simplified" to just that. The lack of knowledge of their religion make Hindu children, especially of the present generation, the easiest preys for Christian missionaries, as they are ready made material for brainwashing.

"The humanitarian aspect of medicine and education is just an incidental by-product of means which have for their primary objective the conversion of men" *Harold Lindsell, well-known missionary*

Within India, the most common methods of conversion are:-

a. through fraudulent means:- By offering monetary aid and other direct assistance, if they converted. In remote tribal areas, where people are extremely poor, a "soul" is traded for a certain amount of money/clothes. This has been proved by the Niyogi Commission Report of 1956 which said that missionaries were taking advantage of their educational and health centers to induce innocent people to convert, even offering money.
b. by targetting children in their educational institutions:- children are brainwashed on the "superiority" of Jesus Christ. They are an easy target as many parents do not explain much about their culture. Additionally, it is a well-known fact, that Christian students get a lot of priorities in missionary-run institutions. For example, a Christian student can get "special grace marks" if he/she does not get the passing mark.
c. Through force:- This happens mostly in North-East India. In Tripura the Baptist Church backed secessionists have forced Hindu tribals to convert at gunpoint. This has been well-documented.

d. Through So-called "Healing":- This is one of the most common ways of conversion. A huge gathering is organized. It is claimed that people who are sick will be cured by the missionaries present. Then, a "show" is arranged. A person claiming to have stomach pains will be brought in front of the crowd and there the missionary will just touch that person and he will become "okay". The missionary will then claim that this is all because of Jesus. A couple of years back, a similar drama was conducted in Kolkata. But at that time, the drama failed as the crowd saw through this "sham" and the missionaries were beaten up by them.

To conduct all of these activities, enormous funds are required. In this respect, according to the Government of India, Christian missionaries have always been the largest recipients of foreign funds. For example, during April – June, 1999, they received 75.69% of the total foreign funds received in India, with USA and Germany being the largest donor countries.

In overseas countries, more subtle and polished means are used but the ulterior motive is always conversion. There have been two cases which have recently come to light. A Hindu child used to be sent to a Christian childcare center; both parents were working. The parents were given the impression that all the kids did in the Center was to play and enjoy and that too, free of charge. So, with good intentions, they left their child to the care center. But they were greatly mistaken. Because this Center used their brainwashing powers over the young child and made him a committed Christian. The parents didn't find out about this for years.

In a second case, a child was injured in an accident and was visited by a missionary institution in the hospital. This child was an introvert by nature and didn't have many friends. This institution introduced this child to many other kids of his age and he became very friendly with them. The missionary institution thus managed to win his confidence and ultimately turned him into a Christian.

These two incidents above show the methods which missionaries can use in their attempts at Christianizing the world, with special emphasis on Hindus. So, this article has been written as an appeal to all parents to be more alert about this. If we do not want our kids to forsake their ancestral faith, customs and culture, then, we must act today – we must give more time to our kids and teach them about our religion and culture. We must make all the efforts because after all, what could be more important than this? Let us not think that this will never happen to our kids – YES, they will never convert if they understood the beauty and greatness of Hinduism and that can only be possible if we bring them up as good Hindus,visit temples with them and give them true knowledge about Hindu Dharma.

It is not the intention of this article to be against "genuine conversions". That is OK. If there is a person who has had a genuine change of heart, then surely there is no objection of him becoming a Christian. There are so many instances of Christians becoming Hindus all over the world, due to a "genuine change of heart". In most of these cases, no Hindu group ever asked them to convert. They did it on their own account. Therefore, if there is a "genuine conversion" by a Hindu to the Christian religion, we are not against it. But that has almost never been the case – the opposite, as has been mentioned above, is always true and correct. It is also quite

true that many Christian missions are not interested in any conversion activities and are doing selfless good work for the society – well this article is definitely not directed towards them.

We also request our readers to read on about a British Pastor's views on how to convert Hindus and Mahatma Gandhi's views on Christian missionaries, continued in this article….

a. **British Pastor's Six Steps for converting Hindus to Christianity**

Juge Ram, a Christian convert from Hinduism and pastor of Emmanuel Church in Birmingham, England writes on how to reach to Hindus with the Bible. After giving a detailed background of Hindu beliefs and culture, he suggests his methods (our readers can read the full text at :- www.cmf.org.uk/nucleus/nucju100 /hindu.htm) The main reason why we are publishing this is because it is relevant to methods applied by the missionaries all over the world. We suggest all our readers to read what the pastor has to write and compare with missionaries in their own area to find the similarities. Extracts from the article of the pastor:-

"Firstly, Hindus arriving from India generally feel isolated or have difficulties knowing how things operate. Christians can use these opportunities to offer them assistance, establish friendships and win their trust. Christians can befriend and help the Hindu wife who is often at home all day alone with the children and may need friendship and assistance adjusting to a new culture. It may be a long process, but it is one of the most successful ways of bringing Hindus to Christianity

Secondly, the local churches need to demonstrate a concern for the Hindus in their communities. If there is a large Asian community and many members cannot speak English, they need to hear the religious teachings in their language which can be done by having Christian literature in appropriate languages.

Thirdly, Christians must be aware of cultural differences when approaching Hindus or risk offending them. For example, a woman who wants to be a witness to her Asian friends should not wear miniskirts or other revealing clothing.

Fourtly, Christians should not attack Hinduism or risk alienating the Hindus. Rather, it is suggested that Christians ask questions about their religion and let Hindus see the folly of it themselves

Fifthly, Hindus are very polite and may give the impression that they are listening and interested. Many Hindus will say they believe in Christ and they may even speak of repentance, but they will continue to worship Hindu Gods. Therefore, Christians must tell Hindus clearly to make a clean break from Hinduism.

Lastly, Christians should use the Bible when witnessing. They can read the Bible with Hindus and point out how relevant it is to their lives. "

The pastor concludes by saying that Hindus are lost, spiritually blind and without hope in this world and in the next. He says that only Christ can release them and exhorts Christians to share the gospel with them with humility and confidence.

b. **Mahatma Gandhi's views on Christian missionaries**
Mahatma Gandhi was totally opposed to the activities of the missionaries. One of the reasons why, during the British rule, the missionaries regarded him as their chief enemy.

At page 110 of Volume 46 of the Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi, Gandhiji is reported to have said "If I had the power and could legislate, I should certainly stop all proselytizing". He went on to exhort the missionaries to stop conversions, adjudging that "It is the deadliest poison that ever sapped the truth".

Further in the same above mentioned book, pages 47-48 of Volume 65, a missionary asked Gandhiji why he should not share with others his experience of Jesus Christ which had given him such ineffable peace. To this Gandhiji had replied "Because you cannot possibly say that what is best for you is best for all. And again is it not super-arrogance to assume that you alone possess the key to spiritual joy and peace and that an adherent of a different faith cannot get the same in equal measure from a study of his scriptures. I enjoy a peace and equanimity of spirit which I have got principally through the Gita. Your difficulty lies in your considering the other faiths as false and you shut your eyes to the truth that shines in other faiths".

Anyone reading this book can see how Gandhiji was so much against the designs of the missionaries to convert. Once when asked by the missionaries what should be done, Gandhiji gave them a fivefold advise. Firstly, he asked them to "give up conversion altogether", secondly "if you must, direct your efforts to those who are in a position to assess these matters, do not make the poor and illiterate and desperate the targets

of your campaign", thirdly,"it would be better for non - Indian missionaries to return to their countries and attend to problems there" fourthly, Gandhiji counselled the missionaries to compliment the faith of the people and do not de-nationalize them. And finally, "instead of the life of the Church, live the life of Jesus. Let that life, for example, persuade people to embrace Christianity if they will, not these vending machines".

COMMON QUESTIONS POSED TO YOU, HOW DO YOU ANSWER?

1. I want to do something for my country or try to benefit society in general; but you see I am too busy, I don't even have time to eat.

ANSWER:- First of all, "not having time to eat" is at most times, just a figure of speech. Because despite having been "too" busy, besides *finding* time to eat, we also found time to play football, to go to the club / discotheque, to watch a movie in the house and of course, to skip waking up on Sunday morning (waking up on late Sunday afternoon instead – it is another point that many of us didn't even sleep on Saturday night).

The point over here is that like anything else, we need to make an effort to devote some time from our schedule for the sake of the welfare of our country/society. Just like, the World Cup Football or other important sporting events. There are many people who will even re-schedule their working hours to watch the football match. So, the key element is that everyone has time, it only depends on how you utilize it. Of

course, nobody is suggesting that we should do this social service during office hours but we should definately use some of our ample spare time/leisure time for this cause.

We can make a start by giving 2 hours a week and even this modest beginning is a good start and can make all the difference.

2. But anyway, nobody does anything. Why should I be the only person bothered of doing something for my country or religion?

ANSWER:- If everyone thought in the same way, then nobody would do anything. If Swami Vivekanand had thought like this and not worked to propogate the glory of Hinduism/India, then nobody at that time in the Western countries would have taken notice of India's greatness; There would have been no Mahatma Gandhi; Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar had a grand goal of bringing together all the Hindus but everyone dissuaded him, yet he remained firm in his mission of organizing and uniting Hindus – he founded the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and today the RSS along with its affiliate organizations have millions of committed members worldwide. So, even though Dr.Hedgewar was alone, he still proved a great success. The message is:- One person can make *all* the difference

To the claim of "nobody does anything", why look at others? We should know what is good and bad. Also, it is our assumption that nobody does anything. This claim could be true for our close circle of friends and relatives but there are so many countless number of people whom we don't know, residing here or in other countries who are doing what they can. They are giving charity to the poor and needy in India,

they are also running schools and orphanages. There are many people who are giving their precious time to work in the villages in India, this includes doctors and engineers employed abroad who visit India not to meet relatives but of being in free service to people who need them. Then, there are people who help build temples in their adopted countries, or run Indian associations. So, in whichever way, either by time or money, they are proving useful for their country and society.

None of us should avoid our responsibilities towards our motherland and in whichever way we can, within our capabilities, we should prove useful. We can learn from the example of overseas Chinese.

3. Why should I go to the function on time, when everyone comes late? If that person will come at 1 pm, I must go at least half an hour later.

ANSWER:- People arrive late for functions and then jokingly say that this is "Indian Standard Time". This is regretful considering that the ancient Hindus were very particular about being punctual, about doing things at the precise time. As we know, since times immemorial, our nation has been in the forefront of astrology. And in astrology, the time factor is very important. Even a second here and there could make all the difference. The ancient Hindus were very organized and disciplined as well as being punctual in their habits.

A complete contrast to modern India, where we indulge in one-upmanship of arriving late for almost everything, though the South Indians generally are more punctual. We think that the person who arrives the latest will be considered as the most important. It is really absurd. And because of this,

nothing begins on time. I have heard of instances where a 7 pm function starts at 9 pm. I have also heard that host say that in order to get people to arrive by 9pm, he had to write the time as 7pm. That means, so confident was he of everyone arriving late, that even the time printed on the card was not correct. What's more, he himself, that is the host, nicely arrived around 8:45pm!!!

How much time is wasted by this approach. Everything begins late, everything ends late. There is no control or an appreciation of time. What about the saying "Time is money", well surely it does not apply to this case.

Let us look at the world around us. I don't think there is any community today which can compete with our habit of not being on time. This problem is not restricted just to functions, it extends to every sphere of our life.

Think about it. Why do you want to be a follower? Be a leader. If you arrive on time, others may follow you. We can become a trend-setter. If we come at all functions "on time", it may embarrass the host to come "on time" as well and begin the function earlier. Others may gain inspiration from your approach.

In *shakhas* run by Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS) worldwide, utmost importance is given to time. Things start punctually. In camps which are conducted for children in Hong Kong each Easter, the 1st event of the day starts at sharp 5:30 am in the morning. Children are taught the virtues of punctuality.

4. Life is meant to enjoy; why should I not spend lavishly on designer clothes, latest models of cars and on weddings, when I can afford it?

ANSWER:- Of course, money earned is meant for spending, but definately NOT FOR WASTING. The motto should be to spend money wisely, not THROW money. Money comes and goes; it will not stay forever with one person. Today, you are earning money and can afford luxurious items, so you want to enjoy it. What about tomorrow? Would you be able to earn that much money to cope up with your high expenses? It is easy to say that in an adverse situation, you could cut down your expenses but the truth is that spending lavishly and living a "super – comfortable life" is also an addiction which does not go away easily. People, who become over-dependent on such a lifestyle face a lot of psychological problems when they pass through a bad time.

Of course, even if one can afford to spend lavishly, we should not forget what the goal of human life should be. Is human life only meant to earn money and spend it on our luxuries? As Hindus, we believe that we are not this body, only the spirit soul. We also believe in re-incarnation. As such, we believe in karma and the fact that whatever actions we do in this life will have a consequence for us in this and future lives. Good actions lead to good karma, bad actions lead to bad karma. We should share a certain portion of our good fortune with others who are not so lucky. We should support organizations and groups which work for the needy, for the poor, for the homeless, orphans in India and elsewhere. We should do our religious obligations by helping build temples or contributing to cultural associations. We will be remembered after we depart in this life for the good work that we did for society, for our culture and for our religion,

not for the grand parties that we hosted or for the luxurious style that we lived in.

KNOW YOUR HINDUISM

KARMA AND RE-INCARNATION

"As the embodied soul continuously passes, in this body, from boyhood to youth to old age, so at death the same soul passes into another body" (Bhagwad Geeta 2.13)

The science of karma and re-incarnation is an integral part of Hindu culture. Karma is one of the natural laws of the mind, just as gravity is a law of matter. Karma simply means " cause and effect", just like the famous Newtonian principle that every action produces an equal and opposite reaction. Every time we think or do something, we create a cause, which in time will bear its corresponding effects.

Every person is responsible for his or her acts and thoughts, so each person's karma is entirely his or her own. According to Hindu philosophy, the doctrine is that if the Karma of an individual is good enough, the next birth will be rewarding, and if not, the person will be born in a lower form of life, or will suffer greatly in the next birth. The Vedas say that if we sow goodness, we will reap goodness: if we sow evil, we will reap evil. In order to achieve good karma it is important to live life according to Dharma. Thus the topics of karma and re-incarnation are closely interlinked.

According to the ways of life chosen by a person, his Karma can be classified into three kinds. The SATVIK KARMA, which is selfless and for the benefit of others; the RAJASIK KARMA, which is selfish and where the focus is on gains for oneself; and the TAMASIK KARMA, which is undertaken without heed to consequences, and is supremely selfish and savage.

The soul's journey is instigated by subtle desires and facilitated by prior actions, whether earlier in this life or in previous existences. It is for this reason that the various species are created – each type of body is equipped with a particular sensual forte. Individuals inhabit bodies according to tastes and desires. It should be noted here that there is no guarantee that a soul will return in a human's body. If his actions are impious or more to the temperament of a lowly species of life, he could take birth as an animal or even in the hellish planets in the next life. There are more than 8 million species of life, including humans, mentioned in our Vedic scriptures.

At the same time in the words of Swami Shivananda, Karma is classified into three kinds on the basis of action and reaction: Prarabdha Karma (so much of past actions as has given rise to the present birth), Sanchita Karma (the balance of past actions that will give rise to future births—the storehouse of accumulated actions) and Agami Karma (acts being done in the present life).

As per the scriptures, the discipline of unattached action (NISHKAMA Karma) can lead to salvation of the soul. So they recommend that one should remain detached while carrying out his duties in life. The soul can escape re-birth by developing consciousness of GOD. Lord Krishna makes it clear in the Bhagwad Geeta that after attaining HIM, the souls do not need to be born again. This privilege of escaping the cycle of birth and death by developing consciousness of GOD is only possible in the human form of life, which is why it is said that one should use this opportunity to divert one's attention more towards GOD rather than becoming more and more entangled in the affairs of the material world.

As we all know that according to Hinduism, the body alone dies, the soul never dies. But the path the soul takes is decided upon by the past actions or Karmas. Past actions are attached to the soul and they decide the path of the soul's travel. So if you are born with a disease or a handicap, it is the result of your past actions done in

past lives. If you live a good moral pious life, then you will be born in better situation and ideal life.

Further in the Geeta, it is explained that the soul continues this journey with a heavy load of Karmas (good or bad) until it exhausts all Karmas by undergoing pain or pleasure sensations in the body. The ultimate aim is to escape the endless cycle of birth and death. God does not punish us. Karma is a very just law, too, as it is equal in repayment. Karma, like gravity treats everyone the same. Karma is a rational explanation for inequalities among human being, which are to be seen in everyday life.

More on Re-incarnation….

"Worn-out garments are shed by the body; Worn-out bodies are shed by the dweller." (Bhagavad Geeta, 2.2)

Ths process by which an individual Jiva (soul) passes through a sequence of bodies is known as reincarnation or transmigration of the soul. Successive lives afford the requisite scope in which the law of Karma operates. It is the natural way the soul evolves from immaturity to spiritual illumination. The materially conditioned soul transmigrates through different bodies according to his desires and past activities.

The following are some quotes from well know philosophers and writers from the Western world who agreed to the concept of Reincarnation.

" There is no death. How can there be death if everything is part of the Godhead? The soul never dies and the body is never really alive."—Issac Bashevis Singer (Nobel Laureate)

" Has it occurred to you that transmigration of souls is at once an explanation and a justification of the evil of the world? If the evils we suffer are the result of sins committed in our past lives, we can bear them with resignation and hope that if in this one we strive

toward virtue our future lives will be less afflicted" (W. Somerset Maugham)

"I am no Hindu, but I hold the doctrine of the Hindus concerning a future state of reincarnation to be incomparably more rational, more pious and more likely to deter man from vice than the horrid opinions inculcated by Christians on punishments without end". (Sir William Jones)

The world these days are full of disparities and blatant inequalities that often provoke questions: "How could God be so unfair? What did someone do that his or her child is born blind. They were good people, God is so unkind" etc etc.

But with the principles of reincarnation we can view life with a much broader perspective—from the standpoint of eternity. From this point of view, one brief lifetime is seen not as the beginning of our existence, but as nothing more than a flash in time, and we can understand that an apparently pious person who may be suffering greatly is reaping the effects of impious activities performed in this or previous lives. With this broader vision of universal justice we can see how each individual soul is alone responsible for its own Karma.

Just as a person selects an automobile based on personal driving needs and purchasing power, we ourselves determine, by our own desires and actions, what kind of body material nature will arrange for us next.

According to the doctrine of reincarnation, God recognizes and preserves even a small amount of good done by an otherwise evil person. If a living being makes some slight degree of spiritual progress in his present life, then in his next life he is allowed to continue from that point. The soul may thus develop its inherent spiritual qualities through many lives until it no longer has to reincarnate in a material body, until it returns to its original home in the spiritual world.

This is the special favor on human life- even if one is destined to suffer terribly from impious acts performed in this and previous live, one can by taking up the right actions, living his life according to Dharma, and submitting to Nishkama Karma, can change his destiny.

The soul in a human body stands at the evolutionary midpoint. From here the living being can choose either degradation, or liberation from reincarnation.

Some examples of re-incarnation….

Once the soul has transmigrated to another body, he is not supposed to remember his past life. However, in the Bhagwat Purana, we read the story of a great king named Bharat, who renounced the world to go to the forest to meditate on the name of GOD. There, after having renounced everything – his mighty kingdom, family, friends, etc, he became attached to a deer. And when he died, it was this deer that he was thinking of, not of GOD. In the Bhagwad Geeta, Lord Krishna says "Whatever state of being one remembers when he quits his body, that state he will attain without fail". Therefore, in his next life, Bharat became a deer. The mighty king Bharat, the great king Bharat who went to the forest to remember GOD and to achieve the ultimate spiritual goal, BECAME a deer in his next life!!! But because of the great deeds that he had committed in his previous lives, he could remember all the events of his past life and realized the folly he had committed by becoming attached to a deer. In the next life, Bharat again got a human life and finally achieved the ultimate goal and did not need to take a birth again. This story shows how one should be careful in this life, so as to avoid the mistake done by Bharat.

There have also been many reported cases of re-incarnation in the past 200 years. Some of the most famous cases have been:-

1. One of the most famous authenticated cases of reincarnation was of little Shanti Devi who was born in 1926 in New Delhi. When she started to speak, the little girl told of how she had lived one time before. She told of the city – Mathura – where she was born and she gave a lot of information about her previous life. When Professor Bishanchand, one of the leading Indian experts for reincarnation, brought Shanti to the city and places that she spoke of, the little girl showed him the place where she had danced before, the house where she lived, and she also pointed out the man who had been her husband in that life when she was Lugdi Bai.

2. In 1824, a nine year old Japanese boy named Katsugoro, told his sister that be believed he had a past life. According to his story, the boy clearly recalled that he had been the son of another farmer in another village and had died from the effects of smallpox in 1810. Katsugoro could remember dozens of specific events about his past life, including details about his family, the village and the place where he lived, even though Katusogoro had never been there. He even remembered the time of his death, his burial and the time he spent before being reborn. The facts he related were subsequently verified by an investigation.

3. Born in Sri Lanka, Sujith was very young when he told his family of a previous life where he was Sammy. In that life, he had lived in the village of Gorakana. Once Sammy, while drunk, was walking along the highway and got killed by a speeding truck. Young Sujith often demanded to be taken to Gorkana. Sujith's family had never been to Gorakana and they had never heard of any Sammy there. But being a Buddhist family, they believed in reincarnation and they were not surprised to hear all this from Sujith. Investigations, including one conducted by a professor of psychiatry from the University of Virginia, confirmed as many as 60 of the details of the life of Sammy Fernando who indeed had lived and died (six month before Sujith's birth) just they way Sujith had told them. When Sujith as introduced to Sammy's family he surprised them with his familiarity with them and his knowledge of

their pet names. This is one of the strongest cases of reincarnation on record.

4. In 1958, a woman who was identified as T.E, underwent hypnosis by her husband, a medical doctor and experimenter with past life regression. Once in a trance state, T.E.'s voice deepened to one that was distinctly male and she declared in broken English that she was a farmer named Jensen Jacoby who lived in the 17th century. T.E 's speech was peppered with Swedish words, a language which she never knew. After six hypnotic sessions, T.E was talking fluently in Swedish, even conversing with several Swedish persons that her husband had brought in to witness the phenomenon. These native Swedes confirmed that she was speaking an archaic form of Swedish that would have been spoken at the time Jensen said he lived.

There are hundreds of other examples of proof of reincarnation throughout the world. These confirmed cases prove 2 points. Firstly that reincarnation is a fact and secondly since it is occurring throughout the world, it shows the laws of karma and reincarnation apply to every individual regardless of the religion they follow.

Forex reserves at record high of $70.75 b

Mumbai, Jan 11. The foreign exchange (Forex) reserves of the country rose further by US $461 million to a new record high of $70,752 million during the week ended January 3, 2003. The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) weekly statistical supplement showed that the increase in foreign currency assets by USD 320 million to USD 67,301 million and gold reserve by USD 141 million to USD 3,444 million during the week lifted the FOREX reserve up, while the Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) remained unchanged at USD seven million.

RBI's intervention in the FOREX market to check the rupee's appreciation for better export competitiveness, coupled with sharp appreciation of the non-US currencies like euro and pound sterling held in the reserve, were the factors that drove the FOREX reserve up, market experts said. The sharp rise in gold prices, amid the West Asia tension and weakening US Dollar pushed up the gold reserve, they added.

This is to note that the reserves were US$48,102 million in December 2001, US$39,807 million in December 2000, US$34,839 million in December 1999, US$30,458 million in December 1998. In last few year a remarkable growth has been acheived.

Astro-biology -MYSTERY OF ORIGIN OF LIFE ON EARTH - *by J.S.Doulat*

EVERY matter in universe and earth itself is made of tiny particles of atoms accelerated from huge explosions in the space, consisting billions of tiny sparks of light, stardust and gases, having same effect as bursts of fireballs from huge powerful sparkler that occurred around 15-20 billion years ago in deep space.

During early stage of earth formation, the hot rolling fireball contained magma, the molten lava of moisturized stardust (soil) and abundant labour of various life sustaining gases such as oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, carbon monoxide, sodium chloride, methane, helium, ammonia which formed huge icebergs and glaciers, deeper and higher than Everest, all over the earth, turning it into huge iceball, as it cooled down gradually in extreme freezing Cold weather while hurling into space for millions of year, having same effect and position as comets covered with ice water hurling into space at present time. Oxygen and hydrogen were trapped by tiny particles of water

molecules. Rest of the life sustaining gases were trapped deep in the interior core of earth.

A wide variety of space marine micro organisms such as thermophiles, polyols, chemotophic, archasa, amoeba, cyanobacteria, anthracene, guinones etc, genesis of life, evolved during this pre-date iceage in space (heaven) beneath iceberg and glaciers emerging underwater active hydrotal sulfide rock chemical vents and cracks around 5-6 billion years ago when the earth was still hurling into space. Geomicrobiological process was active.

Stream of charged particles transformed chemical energy of dark reaction into simple biological molecules and protein, a natural occurring white crystalline solid substance glycine amino acid that contains carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen. Protein directs and speeds life processes and form body's structural material. Molecules are living organisms made of tiny particles of atoms. Heat energy from sulfide rock chemicals makes Molecules vibrate continuously. All -micro organisms were non-photosynthesis but chemosynthesis, unicellular and having asexual reproduction and replication of cells consisting ribonucleic acid (RNA) and ATP, energy compound essential to life process.

This is where the soul of cells RNA DNA originate and life begins on space earth while earth was still hurling into interstellar journey in deep space around 5-6 billion years ago. Bio-synthesis and sexual process of nature was not necessary when origin of life evolved on space earth. Due to this reason, biosynthesis of amino acid and other organisms is relatively complicated so as of enzymes, complex protein molecules that went on to proliferate upto present modern age.

Origin of life evolved as a result of a sexual and dark reaction (non-photosynthesis) on space earth and millions of years later, as a result of light reaction (photosynthesis) when earth came into contact of bright star sun. Subsequently, around d 4.6 billion years ago, spectacular avalanche occurred all over the earth as

soon as huge Icebergs and glaciers, deeper and higher than Everest, melted into water when the earth was captured and taken Into grip by the magnetic field of the sun and put it into its rotation and spinning with the same effect as a gyroscope and top starts its spinning and rotation thru kinetic energy generated by pull of a string. A well balanced natural forces will continue the object to spinning and rotation for indefinite period of time. Such natural phenomenon was common in space terms when solar system was being formed 5-6 billion years ago.

The highest mountain peak on earth was covered with water. 70% water formed oceans, rivers and lakes while 30% water was absorbed by the earth crust, flooding all over violently and vigorously making, breaking and forcing its way thru underground caves and channels and stored maximum share of 30% water it could hold indepth over thousand of years and gradually appearing metamorphic and igneous rock mountain range, canyons, cliffs, drifting land, islands and continents, all found on a huge supercontinent called pangasa. Only visible thing on earth initially was the highest mountain peak. Continents drifting continued for thousands of years until water settled down in underground channels forming atmosphere of serenity and tranquility. This is how the water appeared on earth and evolution of origin of life emerged.

Evaporation started which formed clouds and subsequently brought rain, oxygen released from evaporation indicated breath of life. All other life sustaining gases emerged from earth's core and started appearing in atmosphere. Kinetic energy generated by rotating speed of earth did not allow gases to spread far in space, a whirlpool of gaseous belt surrounded the earth. A common natural phenomenon in space terms when solar system was being formed 5-6 billion years ago.

As soon as huge icebergs and glaciers melted into water, the space marine micro-organisms, the seeds of life and the common ancesters of all forms of life on earth, were dissolved, scattered and distributed equally all over in the depth of oceans and around the shores of all continents where they thrived and

proliferated in sunlight and gave rise to photosynthesis diatoms, a variety of unicellular blue green algae, cyano-bacteria, euglenas, archae, stromatolites, mollusos, eukaryotrs etc. Photosynthesis and respiratory process of nature started to sustain life on earth. The only group that is clearly related to the bacteria are blue -green algae bacteria that are found almost everywhere on earth, being abundant in soil, plants, water and the alimentary tracts of animals. More complexed multi-cellular and sexual procees of reproduction started on earth reflected by life giving sunlight. The sun and water brought life on earth.

Water is used in sun-cult as a mark of dedication to sungod by various orient believers in a gesture of contribution to evaporation that subsequently released oxygen from water, brought rain and life to various living beings and humanbeings. Distribution of plantlife on earth is the basis component of bio-geography as this theory suggests and proves its process. Distribution of human population on earth bears a close relationship to the distribution of natural plant and animal life.

This theory clearly indicates that evolution of of human beings on earth emerged almost at the same pattern of distribution as plant life and animal life , seeded on earth billions of years ago.

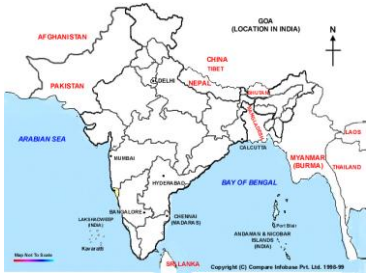
Charles Darwin's theory failed to explain as to how apes and their ancestors were able to distribute human-life with same pattern of distribution of plant life and animal life on earth. His theory of human evolution would have been widely accepted if he could have proved as to how apes and their ancestors invaded all the continents on earth. His theory of evolution of human beings from apes possibly apply to African continent only.

The earth was already carrying oceans of icewater and seeds of life, cryo-preserved chemosynthesis living organisms such as thermophiles, anthracenes,.quinones etc., when it was approaching sun around 5 billion years ago, along with icewater covered comets.

Most of the natural elements, gold and diamonds with cosmic connections with human beings were furnaced on space earth, capturing and magnetising its fate and fortune with human beings billions of years later on earth.

This theory gives direct indication that extra-terresterial life is possible but advanced life as on earth, is doubtful. It is all the creation of Brahma, the supreme divine power, the creator of universe and all forms of life on earth.

(The views expressed in this article are the writer's own and he alone is responsible for them)



The states of BHARAT

ORISSA

Area:- 155,861 sq.km, Population:- About 35 million
State capital:-Bhubaneswar Main language:- Oriya
Famous pilgrimage centers:- Puri, Bhubaneswar, Remuna, Huma, Jajpur
Famous touristic places:- Konark, Chilika Lake, Simlipal Wildlife Sanctuary, Ratnagiri, Lalitagiri, Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary, Ushakothi Wildlife Sanctuary, Chandipur

ORISSA IS LOCATED IN EAST BHARAT. IT BORDERS JHARKHAND AND WEST BENGAL IN THE NORTH, CHHATISGARH IN THE WEST AND ANDHRA PRADESH IN THE SOUTH. THE AREA INLAND OF BHUBANESWAR (THE CAPITAL),

IS MADE UP OF THE ANCIENT ROCKS OF PENINSULAR BHARAT, AMONG THEM BHARAT'S RICHEST MINERAL RESOURCES. COAL, BUAXITE, OTHER MINERALS ARE MINED. THE LAKES TO THE SOUTH OF KORAPUT, IN HILLS WHICH AT 3,000 MILLION YEARS OLD ARE AMONG THE EARTH'S OLDEST, ARE PARTICULARLY STRIKING IN BEAUTY. IN FACT, ORISSA IS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL STATES IN THE COUNTRY. VERY SCENIC, THE STATE IS ALSO WORLD FAMOUS FOR ITS ART & ARCHITECTURE. IT IS THE STATE WHERE THE GREAT SUN TEMPLE OF KONARK IS LOCATED. IT IS ALSO THE STATE WHERE SOME OF THE MOST MAGNIFICIENT WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES A RE LOCATED. PURI, LOCATED ON THE COAST, IS ONE OF THE HOLIEST CITIES IN THE COUNTRY, BEING ONE OF THE FOUR "CHAR DHAMS" (MEANING THE 4 HOLY PLACES). THE MOST FAMOUS TEMPLE IN PURI IS THE JAGANNATH TEMPLE, WHICH IS EXTREMELY SACRED. PURI IS ALSO WELL KNOWN FOR ITS GREAT "RATH YATRA" FESTIVAL . TODAY, RATH YATRA FESTIVALS ARE HELD ALL OVER THE WORLD BUT PURI IS THE PLACE FROM WHERE THEY BEGAN. THE CAPITAL CITY, BHUBANESWAR IS ALSO POPULAR FOR THE NEARLY 500 TEMPLES THAT EXIST, MANY OF THEM VERY OLD AND CULTURAL MASTERPIECES. CHILIKA LAKE, IN THE HEART OF COASTAL ORISSA, IS THE LARGEST INLAND LAKE IN THE COUNTRY, COVERING AN AREA OF 1,100 SQ.KMS. THE LAKE HAS A NUMBER OF LUSH GREEN ISLANDS AND IS THE WINTER HOME OF MIGRATORY BIRDS. ORISSA IS ALSO THE HOME OF ORISSI DANCE, WHICH IS ONE OF THE 5 CLASSICAL DANCE FORMS IN THE COUNTRY.

Mrityunjayee Mahatma Chamanlal

The veteran Sangh Pracharak Chamanlalji, who played an instrumental role in forging the global network of RSS, passed away at Bhakti Vedant Hospital in Mumbai on February 10. He was 83. He was admitted to the hospital on February 8th following some breathing disorder, where he died of cardiac arrest on February 10. His body was flown into Delhi from Mumbai on February 11 and was kept at Keshav Kunj, the RSS Delhi headquarter, where thousands of swayamsevaks from Delhi and adjoining States including Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh paid their tributes to the departed soul. The funeral procession that began from Keshav Kunj was joined by thousands of mourners. He was cremated at the Nigambodh Ghat on the banks of the Yamuna. The younger brother of Chamanlalji, Shri Gurudyal Grover performed the last rites. Sarsanghchalak, Shri K.S. Sudarshan, Prime Minister, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, Deputy Prime Minister, Shri L.K. Advani, Union HRD Minister, Dr Murli Manohar Joshi and many other Cabinet Ministers, politicians, representatives of social organistsions were among the prominent persons who visited the Keshav Kunj to pay their tributes to Chamanlalji. Vice President, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat paid floral tributes at Nigambodh Ghat before the cremation.

Born on March 25, 1920, in Salli village of Sialkot (now in Pakistan), Chamanlalji was the eldest of eight children of his parents belonging to a rich affluent family. He secured gold medal in MSc (Botany) in 1942 and renouncing all comforts and lucrative career, he became a Sangh Pracharak at Kullu in 1942. He was among the first batch of 58 Pracharaks that came out from Lahore in 1942. The batch included 10 post-graduates while 14 others passed the Shastri examination. In 1945 Thakur Ram Singhji, the then Pracharak who was looking after the Sangh work of Kangra region, sent him to Lahore. Thereafter, he became Karyalaya Pramukh at Jullundhar in 1947.

At that time, under the guidance of Shri Madhavrao Mulye, the then Punjab Prant Pracharak, the global network of the Sangh activities was initiated and Shri Chamanlal was given the charge of maintaining the contacts with the swayamsevaks spread around the globe. Now he was one of the senior Pracharaks of the Sangh who was solely responsible to

keep close contact with the swayamsevaks going abroad. Later, Delhi turned to be the main center of Vishwa Vibhag and Chamanlalji shifted to Delhi. Since 1948 he remained in Delhi and was quite instrumental in setting up and expanding the Keshav Kunj, where a library, an archive and guest rooms were established. He was so much involved in building and expanding Keshav Kunj that he almost became synonymous with Keshav Kunj. It was because of his organisational skills and hard work that such books on Sangh work as Sri Guruji Samagra Darshan, Aapatkalin Sangharsh Gatha, Pratham Agnipriksha,

Jyoti Jala Nij Pran Ki, etc., which present the Sangh swayamsevaks' contribution, hard work, sacrifice and dedication during the ban on RSS as well as during the infamous Emergency of 1975, were published.

His efforts resulted in creating great awareness among the Hindus abroad. He visited abroad mainly on three occasions including the one in 1997 accompanying the former Sarsanghchalak, Prof. Rajendra Singh. The visit covered several countries such as Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa, UK, France, Netherlands, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

The persons who would meet Chamanlalji were surprised to see his simplicity and modesty-despite the fact that he was discharging the different and vital responsibilities. With simplest of the simple clothes, he was a great soul walking around Delhi, loved equally by poor, rich and the powerful. He surpassed all records in establishing human bondage by writing hundreds of letters to people in India and abroad. Everybody who met him was bound to be influenced by his affectionate approach and by his wits and smile. People who met him once carried the memories of that meeting for lifetime.

In his early teens and school days he was a different kind of boy. "Whatever money he was sent in the hostel by the father, he would spend very few and send most of the amount back. Right from the school days, he was attracted to the service of the nation. He had clearly told his parents and other family members that he would work for the country throughout his life. We are proud of being his family member," says Ashok Grover, the younger brother of Chamanlalji. "He honoured the name of

our family. Chamanlalji was eldest in the family. He is survived by four brothers and two sisters. His one sister had passed away a few years back.

Ajatshatru

-K.S. Sudarshan, Sarsanghchalak

Matrimandir ka samarpit deep mein Chah meri yeh ki mein jalata rahun, jalata rahun

And this lamp illuminated, and illuminated for long. Not only did it continue to illuminate for 60 years but it also radiated its rays to the swayam-sevaks living in different corners of the world. The feeling of oneness (atmi-yata) that reflected in his letters and articles written with selected words moved everyone. One who once came into his contact was caught with his affection like a black wasp that is caught in the lotus at the time of sunset.

Since the day in 1950 Shri Chamanlal Grover came to Keshav Kunj, he became an integral and inevitable part of it. For quite some time to come, it would be difficult to adjust to the harsh reality that Chamanlalji is no longer there at Keshav Kunj. An idol of humbleness, Chamanlalji was never seen by anyone getting angry. He was an Ajatshatru (having no enemy). Whenever anyone approached him for any help at the time of difficulty he would spare no stone unturned to solve his problem and would not take rest until that person returned with a feeling of satisfaction on his face. The biggest thing is that while collecting the events and occurrences and memories of the Partition days he became the convener of the RSS history. If the books, leaflets or resolutions related to the RSS were not found anywhere, they were certainly found with Chamanlalji. He was the single archive of the RSS. It was because of his efforts that the concealed history of valour, gallantry, heroism and sacrifices made by the swayamsevaks along with other people of the society during the 1946-47 could come out. And finally collecting the whole history, he himself has become history. My humble tribute to his memories.

Chamanlalji hamesha rahenge

-Atal Behari Vajpayee

"It is difficult to believe that Chamanlalji is no more. It is hard to think of Jhandewala Karyalaya without him. Collecting information about the swayamsevaks world over and passing them to the persons going abroad was his favorite work. He had dedicated himself to the cause of his work. Though, we all say that we should dedicate every moment of life and every part of the body to the nation, there are very few blessed ones who really do it. Chamanlalji was one among those blessed ones. Today the death anniversary of Pt. Deen Dayalji is also observed. The similarity between the personality of Pt. Deen Dayalji and Chamanlalji sometime surprises one. Chamanlalji has set the tradition of dedication, allegiance and selfless service, which will continue to show the way to the coming generations. Chamanlalji hamesha rehenge (Chamanlalji shall remain alive forever).

Dedicated to the task and mission

-L.K. Advani

I became a swayamsevak of the RSS in 1942 and was in Sindh at that time. The individual who had the maximum influence on my thinking and life was Shri Rajpal Puri, who was at that time Prant Pracharak of Sindh but originally hailed from Sialkot. Because of his Sialkot origin I came to know Chamanlalji very well when after 1947 I came to this part of the country. There is hardly any doubt that one cannot think of Jhandewala without Chamanlalji. For years he had been stationed in the Delhi office of the RSS, from where he remained in constant touch with swayamsevaks spread all over the world. These contacts were made easily available to those in politics and other areas of activities. He was a person dedicated to his task and mission and spared no effort right to his last moments. Everyone used to advise him that now his age and health did not permit this much activity, yet that would not deter him from exerting his utmost for the cause to which his entire life was dedicated. Emulating his virtues, qualities, attributes, values and above all his sense of dedication to the cause will be the best homage to Chamanlalji.

Children corner

JOKES

A middle-aged woman had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital. While on the operating table, she had a near death experience.
Seeing God, she asked "Is my time up?"
God said, "No, you have another 43 years, 2 months, and 8 days to live."
Upon recovery, the woman decided to stay in the hospital and have a facelift, liposuction, and a tummy tuck. She even had someone come in and change her hair color.
Since she had so much more time to live, she figured she might as well make the most of it.
After her last operation, she was released from the hospital. While crossing the street on her way home, she was killed by an ambulance.
Arriving in front of God, she demanded, "I thought you said I had another 40 years? Why didn't you pull me from out of the path of the ambulance?"
God replied, "Sorry, I didn't recognize you!"

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Once there was a big conference of atheists held in Germany. Atheists from all over the world came to attend this conference. There was an elderly gentleman from Japan who attended the conference and gave a very powerful speech on why he didn't believe in GOD. Everyone present was very impressed by this speaker. After the conference got over, the organizers approached this gentleman and invited him to also speak in their next year's conference. Delighted, the man answered "If by the GRACE OF GOD, I am still alive next year, I will surely attend your next conference"!!!!!

DID YOU KNOW???

DIAMONDS WERE FIRST MINED IN INDIA

Knowledge of diamonds started in India, where it was first mined. The word most generally used for diamond in Sanskrit is transliterated as "vajra", which means thunderbolt, and "indrayudha" which means Indra's weapon. Because Indra is the warrior god from Vedic scriptures, the foundation of Hinduism, the thunderbolt symbol indicates much about the Indian conception of diamond.

Early descriptions of diamond date to the 4th century BC. By then, diamond was a valued material. The earliest known reference to diamond is a Sanskrit manuscript by a minister in a northern Indian dynasty. The work is dated from 320-296 BCE.

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