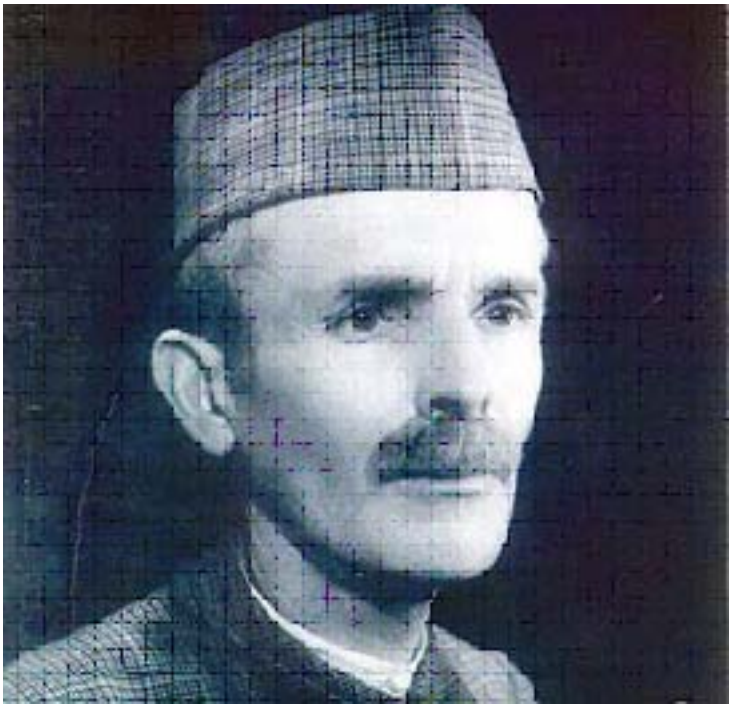
SANDESH BHARATI

Vol IX No. 4 **Oct/Nov/Dec 2006** **HongKong**



SATYANAND STOKES

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"The beef industry has contributed to more American deaths than all the wars of this century, all natural disasters and all automobile accidents combined. If beef is your idea of "real food for real people" you'd better live real close to a real good hospital."

NEAL D. BARNARD, Medical Doctor, author and president of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine

A tribute to DADA GEORGE HARILELA (1920 – 2006)

Shri George Harilela, patriarch of the Harilela clan, and a very well known and esteemed personality in Hong Kong, passed away peacefully in Hong Kong on December 8th, 2006. He was 86 years old

Shri George was born in Hyderabad, Sind (then a part of united India, now a part of Pakistan). The Harilela family had migrated to Canton (now known as Guangzhou) early in Shri George's childhood, and his father engaged in the gem trade.

Later, the family moved to Hong Kong, and Shri George, the eldest sibling, along with his brother Shri Hari were the backbone of the Harilela family in their early days in Hong Kong, as their father was in poor health. The two brothers experienced life the hard way as the burden of supporting their huge family fell on them – they even sold newspapers on the streets.

The strength of the Harilela family lay in their unity – the two older brothers George and Hari received wholehearted support in their business from brothers Peter, Bob, Gary and Mohan and their two sisters – Rani and Sandee always stood by them. The siblings always credited their mother's blessings for their great success.

Shri George was a great contributor to charitable causes, such as the Kanya Daan Trust in India. The trust engaged in extensive support for the needy in the Adipur / Gandhidham area of Kutch (Gujarat) and the villages in the vicinity. Mass marriages of young couples, mass janyas

of youth, donations of food, clothing and money to the poor, were and are periodically carried out by the Trust.

He was also the main pillar behind the Hindu Temple in Kowloon; as Chairman and Trustee, he nurtured, funded and supervised the temple's affairs.

He was the recipient of numerous awards, including the **Hindu Vibhushan** presented by HH Swami Chidanand Saraswati from the Vishwa Dharma Prasaar Yatra (Global Holy Peace Mission) in October, 2003. The award honours "those members of human society who believe in, follow or respect the eternal values of life, ethereal and spiritual, similar to those which have sprung up in India from ancient times and who inspire others and demonstrate extraordinary commitment in fostering a life of mutual respect and service to others and provide the Indian ideal of leadership"

He was also appointed **Royal Knight Commander** of the Ecumenical Royal Medical Humanitarian Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Knights of Malta, by Medicina Alternativa, Colombo, Sri Lanka in March, 1994.

Shri George is survived by his wife, Chandra, and his seven children, 16 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren

Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh is extremely fortunate to have shared a long association with the illustrious Harilela family, and we all would like to offer our respects and tributes to the great personality of Shri George Harilela.

Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti Om

HINDU SWAYAMSEVAK SANGH, HK (HSS) LOCAL NEWS:

HSS ORGANISES FAMILY CAMP

HSS Hong Kong organised its first ever FAMILY CAMP (Shivir) between October 7th – 8th, 2006. The venue was the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group at Sai Kung, Hong Kong. The Shivir site was very scenic and picturesque, surrounded as it was by the sea and mountains. This campsite was equipped with all the modern facilities, such as an in-house theatre, basketball court, lecture rooms, internet etc.

About 30 persons attended the camp. Emphasis was made on family values of Hindu households. Shri Ram Niwasji, the Pracharak (Full time volunteer) from Burma, specially flew to Hong Kong to conduct this shivir.

Many topics of Indian culture and history were discussed. An interesting method of discussion was that each person had to name their favourite character from the Ramayana and Mahabharat and explain what they had learnt from that personality and how much they had been influenced.

Besides such discussions, there were Yogasans and prayers in the morning. Sangh sitting games were played. Quiz on Hinduism and General Knowledge topics about Bharat were conducted. A light-hearted classic comedy Hindi movie of the 1970s 'Golmaal' was shown. Vegetarian food was served for all the meals

Many families were interested in having similar shivirs with longer duration. Overall it was an educating and entertaining shivir. Our shivir adhikary (officer) was Shri Kishorilal Gupta who is the pillar of HSS Hong Kong and who has been vigorously carrying out Sangh activities in Hong Kong since 1979.

Aryabhatta, Varahamihira's mathematical science vindicated

URL: http://www.zeenews.com/articles.asp?aid=318058&sid=ENV&ssid=27

Indian astrologers today said the announcement about dropping Pluto as a planet had endorsed the mathematical and astrological treatises written by Aryabhatta and Varahamihira centuries ago.

"Indian astrology did not include Pluto as a planet and the latest announcement by leading global astronomers after a marathon week-long meeting at Prague yesterday only endorsed the Indian mathematical astrology of Aryabhatta and Varahamihira in the sixth century," eminent mathematical Astrologer Mangal Prasad told today.

"Western astrology uses Pluto as a planet while Pluto was always out of Indian astrology and we do not use it in our calculations. This is the practice from the days of Aryabhatta and Varahamihira," Prasad said.

"Indian astrology is mathematically concerned with the nine planets, two of which are Rahu and Ketu that are nothing but derivatives from the diameter of Earth, which is a circle having a value Pi (22/7) imbedded in the equator of Earth," he said.

"This was discovered and mathematically shown by Aryabhatta and Varahamihira in the sixth century during the golden period of the Guptas," said Prasad, the author of books based on the work of the two great sixth century scientists.

Indian astrology is concerned more with astronomy and the derivations are from the equator of the Earth, diameter of the moon, the solar year and how the planets are viewed in the northern latitudinal region during January and February, soon after the Sun has crossed the Tropic of Capricon and moved towards the northern part of the Hemisphere, he said.

Sardar Patel

Continued from the previous issue

INDEPENDENCE & INTEGRATION

Sardar Patel stepped down in favor of Nehru from the 1946 election for the Congress presidency, upon the request of Gandhi- as Gandhiji had declared Nehru to be his successor in 1942. Patel even had the support of 11 out of 15 Congress Party State Organizations, while Nehru had none. The importance of these elections was that whoever was elected, as Congress President would lead free India's first Government. So even though it was not fair to Patel who definitely commanded more respect in the party than Nehru, it was not a part of Patel's character to indulge in party politics. He was in politics as a means to win India's independence, he was not power hungry. Besides that, he considered Gandhiji as his leader, he would never dream of rebelling against Gandhij's decision. So, after the election, Patel began to oversee the Congress campaign for the elections to be held to elect the "Constituent Assembly of India" (Samvidhan Sabha)

Congress won a large majority of the elected seats, dominating the Hindu electorate. But the Muslim League led by Mohammad Ali Jinnah won a large majority of the Muslim electorate seats. The Muslim league had resolved in 1940 to demand Pakistan.

CABINET MISSION & PARTITION

The British Mission plan of 16th May, 1946, proposed a loose federation with wide provincial autonomy, and the grouping of provinces based on religious majority. Another plan of 16th June, 1946, proposed the partition of India on religious lines, with over

600 princely states free to choose between independence or accession to either India or Pakistan. The Muslim League approved both plans, the Congress flatly rejected the 16th June proposal. Patel realized that rejecting the proposal means that the League would be invited to form a government. He pushed the Congress Working Committee to accept the 16th May proposal. When the Muslim League retracted its approval of the 16th May Plan, Congress was invited to form the government. Patel took charge of the departments of home affairs and information and broadcasting.

Jinnah's "Direct Action Campaign" flared communal violence across India. When Patel tried to stop the violence he was stopped by the Viceroys' vetoes on ground of constitutionality. Patel severely criticized the viceroy's induction of League ministers in the government. Patel was aware of Jinnah's popular support amongst Muslims, and that an open conflict between him and the nationalists could easily slide into a Hindu –Muslim civil war which would be disastrous. A divided and weak central government in the Centre would result in the wider fragmentation of India by encouraging more than 600 princely states towards independence. Patel worked with civil servant V.P. Menon on the latter's suggestion for a separate dominion of Pakistan created out of Muslim majority provinces. Communal violence in Bengal and Punjab in January and March 1947 further convinced Patel of the inevitability of partition.

Patel did not give in to Jinnah's demand that the Hindu majority areas of Punjab & Bengal to be included in Pakistan. Patel pushed for the partition of these areas, thus blocking the possibility of their inclusion in Pakistan. Patel's insistence on the Partition of Punjab & Bengal had won him many supporters and admirers throughout India. When Mountbatten formally proposed the plan on 3rd June, Patel gave his approval and Nehru and other Congress leaders later gave their approval too. Patel was well aware of Gandhi's sadness over the plan of Partition, but he explained him in private meetings

over the impossibility of any Congress-Muslim League coalition and the prospect of civil war. At the All India Congress Committee meeting Patel said:

"I fully understand the fears of our brothers who are living in the Muslim majority areas. Nobody likes the division of India and my heart is heavy. But the choice is between one division and many divisions. We must face the facts. The communal veto given to the Muslim League in the Mission plan would have blocked India's progress at every stage. Whether we like it or not, de facto Pakistan already exists in Punjab and Bengal. Under the circumstances I would prefer a de jure Pakistan that may make the League more responsible. Freedom is coming. We have 75 to 80% of India, which we can make strong with our own genius.

Patel represented India on the Partition Council, where he oversaw the division of public assets and selected the ministers with Nehru. Neither he nor any other Indian leader had foreseen the intense violence and population transfer that would take place with partition. Patel took the lead in organizing relief and emergency supplies, established refugee camps and visited the border areas with Pakistani leaders to encourage peace. Despite these efforts, estimates on the death toll vary from around two hundred thousand to over a million people. The estimated number of refugees in both countries exceeded 15 million.

POLITICAL INTEGRATION OF INDIA

Patel was considered the best man for the task for Political Integration of India. Even Gandhi said to Patel " the problem of the States is so difficult that you alone can solve it". Patel was ready to stand up for national interest and enforce the word of the Government, yet possessed the tact and experience to negotiate successfully with the princes. V.P. Menon become his right hand as chief secretary of the States Ministry. On May 6, 1947, Patel began lobbying the princes. Patel used social meetings and

unofficial surroundings to engage most Kings and princes, inviting them to lunch and tea at his home in Delhi. Patel stated that there was no conflict between the Congress and the princely order. But he stressed that the princes would need to accede to India in good faith by August 15, 1947. Patel invoked the patriotism of India's' monarchs, asking them to join in the freedom of their nation and act as responsible rulers who cared about the future of their people. Patel did not rule out force, setting a deadline of 15th August, 1947 for them to sign the instrument of accession document. All except 3 states willingly merged in the Indian Union. Those 3 states were Jammu & Kashmir, Junagadh , Hyderabad.

JUNAGADH

The Nawab under the pressure from Shah Nawaz Bhutto acceded to Pakistan. Even though Junagadh was quite far from Pakistan and 80% of its population was Hindu. Patel combined diplomacy with force, demanding that Pakistan cancel the accession and Nawab should accede to India. He sent the Indian Army to Junagadh. Following widespread protests and the formation of civil government, both Bhutto and the Nawab fled to Karachi. A plebiscite later organized produced a 99.5% vote for merger with India.

HYDERABAD

Hyderabad was the largest of the princely states; it included parts of the present day Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka & Maharashtra. Its ruler, the Nizam was Muslim although over 80% of its people were Hindu. The Nizam sought independence or accession with Pakistan. Militant Muslims called the " Razakars" pressed the Nizam to fight and do not give to Patel's demand. They organized attacks with militant communists on the general population on Indian soil, spreading terror among the Hindus. While a Standstill agreement was signed due to efforts of Mountbatten to avoid a war, the Nizam rejected deals. In September, 1948 Patel made it clear

that India would take no more of Nizam's threats, he sent in the Indian Army to integrate Hyderabad. After operation Polo commenced, thousands of Razakar militants were killed, and Hyderabad was comfortably secured

LEADING INDEPENDENT INDIA

Governor General Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, Nehru and Patel formed a "Trimurti" which ruled India from 1948 to 1950. Patel enjoyed the loyalty and faith of Congressmen, State Leaders and civil servants. As Patel was a senior leader in the "Samvidhan Sabha" he was responsible largely for shaping India's constitution.

Besides this, Patel was the Chairman of the committees responsible for minorities, tribal areas, fundamental rights and provincial constitutions. Patel piloted a model constitution for the provinces in the assembly, which contained limited powers to the state Governor. He worked closely with Muslim leaders to end separate electorates Patel was instrumental in the founding of the IAS (Indian Administrative Service) and the IPS (Indian Police Service).

Later when a delegation of Gujarati farmers came to him complaining that they were unable to send their milk production to the markets without middlemen, Patel explained them they should take the initiative themselves, He guided them to create the "Kaira District Co-operative Milk Producers Union Limited, the forefather of the "Amul" milk products company.

KASHMIR: In Sept 1947 the Pakistani Army entered Kashmir, but they gave it a cover of tribal invasion. Patel immediately wanted to send troops into Kashmir. But he waited till Kashmir's King acceded to India. Patel then oversaw India's military operations to secure Srinagar, Baramulla Pass and the forces retrieved a lot of territory from the invaders. Patel, along with Defence Minister Baldev Singh administered the entire military

effort, arranging troops from different parts of India to be rushed to Kashmir, and for a major military road connecting Srinagar to Pathankot be built in 6 months.

Patel strongly advised Nehru against going to the United Nations, insisting that Pakistan had been wrong to support the invasion and accession to India was valid. He did not want foreign interference in a bilateral affair. Patel also opposed the release of Rs 55 Crore to the Government of Pakistan, as he was sure that the money would go to finance the war against India in Kashmir. The Cabinet had approved his point, but it was all reversed when Gandhi took his suicidal step of a fast unto death to obtain the release of the money.

GANDHI'S DEATH & RELATIONS WITH NEHRU

Patel & Nehru both were loyal to Gandhi. But amongst themselves they had many opposing views over national issues. For example, Nehru asserted his own control over Kashmir policy while Patel objected to Nehru sidelining his Home ministry's officials. Nehru felt offended by Patel's decision making regarding the states integration without consulting him. Relations between Patel & Nehru were not very cordial and eventually it led to Patel taking a decision to resign from the Government. Gandhi (on 30th Jan 1948) had a meeting with Patel and told him not to leave the Government, and to stay by Nehru's side in joint leadership.

Patel was the last man to privately talk with Gandhi, who was assassinated jut minutes after Patel's departure. Gandhi's death deeply hurt Patel, as Gandhi had suggested earlier, Nehru & Patel embraced each other and addressed the nation together. Patel also gave emotional support to many associates and friends and immediately moved to stop any violence occurring due to Gandhi's assassination.

Within 2 months of Gandhi's death, Patel suffered a major heart attack, only the timely action of his daughter, his secretary, and nurse saved his life.

Patel dispelled any notion that he would like to be Prime Minister. As per his vow given to Gandhi he remained in the Government. But Patel & Nehru criticized each other in matters of policy, and they also clashed on the issue of Hyderabad's integration & UN mediation in Kashmir. Nehru also declined Patel's suggestion on sending assistance to Tibet in 1950, when China had invaded Tibet. Nehru did not endorse Patel's suggestion of ejecting Portuguese from Goa using military force, though later in 1961, he had to.

PASSING

On 29th March 1949, authorities lost radio contact with a plane, which was carrying Patel, his daughter Manibehn and the Maharaja of Patiala. One of the Plane's engines had failed, and the Pilot had to make an emergency landing in Rajasthan. Patel and all other passengers were safe. Patel had an emotional reunion with V. P. Menon, who had rushed to Rajasthan. Later when they all returned to Delhi, Members of Parliament, thousands of Congressmen and the general public gave them a grand welcome. Patel was honored by members of Parliament, and was awarded doctorates by the Universities of Punjab, Nagpur & Osmania,

Until his last few days, Patel was constantly at work in Delhi. But his personal staff became alarmed as they noticed Patel had begun failing to remember important meetings and people. Patel's health was deteriorating and sometimes blood was found in his cough. His condition worsened after 2nd November, and he was flown to Mumbai on Dec 12- his condition deemed critical, Nehru and Rajagopalachari came to the airport to see him off.

After suffering a massive heart attack- his second, Patel breathed his last on Dec 15, 1950.

In an unprecedented gesture, on the day after his death more than 1,500 officers of IAS & IPS gathered at Patel's residence in Delhi, there, they pledged "complete loyalty and unremitting zeal" in India's service. Large crowds, Nehru, Rajagopalachari, President Rajendra Prasad and thousands of Congressmen and freedom fighters attended his cremation in Sonapur, Mumbai.

Commemoration, what India lost by Sardar Patel not becoming the 1st PM?

His peers and historians, his opponents in the freedom struggle-such a Wavell, Cripps, Mountbatten, and even future British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan hailed his skills of leadership and practical judgment. Admirers of Patel such as Rajendra Prasad and industrialist J.R.D. Tata expressed opinions that Patel would have made a better and more successful Prime minister than Nehru.

About this, there is absolutely no doubt. Jawaharlal Nehru was a disaster as India's first Prime Minister. If he had wanted to, what could he not have achieved? He commanded a big majority, the unwavering support and support of the people and respect of opponents. His only real rival in the Congress at that time, Sardar Patel would never go against Nehru because Gandhiji had chosen him. The country was looking forward to Nehru showing the country the correct direction.

Instead, Nehru was more engrossed in projecting himself as a world leader; he thought that his bright ideas would change the world and make him popular. What did they achieve? Perhaps the most "successful" achievement of his "understanding" world diplomacy was that when India invaded China in 1962, Nehru didn't have an inkling of what was going on. And Nehru claimed to have very friendly relations with China.

Also ideologically, Nehru was a communist, he was full of admiration for the Soviets, and followed all their five – year plans. All the steps that he took did not take India forward, but put it completely back, whether economically, militarily or even diplomatically

Nehru was apologetic about his Hindu heritage, and never lost any time to belittle his own religion and culture, while going out of his way to appease minorities

On the other hand, if Patel had been India's first Prime Minister, things would have been very different. Had Kashmir been directly handled by Patel, things would have been completely different. Patel was a hard-core patriotic, he didn't carry any ideological baggage, his only philosophy and thinking was Indian, it was Hindu

But nobody can change history. What had to happen, happened. But, everyone must take inspiration from Patel's life and learn from him his outstanding qualities.

His birthplace in Karamsad (Gujarat) is still preserved in his memory. The "Sardar Patel University" and the "Sardar Patel College of Engineering" are among India's premier institutions. The Sardar Patel National Memorial was established in 1980 in Ahmedabad.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was official awarded the "Bharat Ratna" posthumously in 1991. Patel's birthday, 31st Oct is celebrated every year as "Sardar Jayanti".

(In 1993 a full-length movie "Sardar" was produced on the life and achievements of Sardar Patel. This movie won the National award for the best movie in that year).

2 Indians among the richest Americans

AGENCIES [SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2006 01:19:24 AM]

WASHINGTON: Indian-Americans are not only climbing the corporate ladder but also taking the elevator to the richie rich club, leaving behind many US corporate moguls, including those from Starbucks, eBay and Motorola. Google Inc founder-director Kavitark Ram Shriram and Bose Corporation chairman Amar Gopal Bose have moved up the rankings in the Forbes list of 400 richest Americans.

Google Inc founder-director Kavitark Ram Shriram and Bose Corporation chairman Amar Gopal Bose have moved up the rankings in the Forbes list of 400 richest Americans.

Mr Bose and Mr Shriram, who are now US citizens and worth $1.5 billion each, have beaten Rober William Galvin of Motorola, Robert Drayton McLane Jr of Wal-Mart and Roy Edward Disney of Walt Disney.

The net worth of Mr Shriram and Mr Bose have grown to $1.5 billion each from $1.3 billion and $1.2 billion, respectively, last year.

Accoustics pioneer Mr Bose and tech wizard Mr Shriram are tied at the 242nd position in the list,

ahead of Margaret C Whitman, president and CEO of eBay Inc; Howard S Schultz, chairman of Starbucks and Hilton Hotel chairman William Barron Hilton. Mr Bose and Mr Shriram, who are now US citizens and worth $1.5 billion each, have beaten Rober William Galvin of Motorola, Robert Drayton McLane Jr of Wal-Mart and Roy Edward Disney of Walt Disney.

While Mr Shriram had entered the list at 258 in 2005, for Mr Bose (ranked 283 in 2005) it is the fifth year in a row on the Forbes 400 list. The net worth of Mr Shriram and Mr Bose have grown to $1.5 billion each from $1.3 billion and $1.2 billion, respectively, last year.

The feat achieved by Mr Bose and Mr Shriram comes close on the heels of four Indian expats — Murli Kewalram Chanrai, Mustaq Ahmad, Sudhir Gupta and Kartar Singh Thakral — making to the Singapore's richest 40 list compiled by the same magazine.

Forbes said that billions of dollars accumulated by Mr Shriram, a founding board member of Google, are either self-made or are from technology business. Mr Shriram, 50, was born and did schooling in Madras, now Chennai, and currently lives in California. He grabbed the limelight first with creation of shopping software solution Junglee, which he later sold to Amazon in 1998.

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/2019154.cms

INDIA'S APPLE MAN – SATYANAND STOKES

Here is a quick riddle for all. Who was the only non-Indian to sign the Congress manifesto in 1921 calling upon Indians to quit government service? Stumped? OK, here is a clue. That man was a Quaker and the only American to be jailed for actively participating in India's freedom struggle. He had earned the ire of the British colonial rulers for his articles in The Tribune, which were deemed to "spread sedition".

Another clue: he almost single-handedly turned Himachal Pradesh into the apple state of India.

Still no answers. Really a pity because he is little known outside his home state. He is Satyanand Stokes, born as Samuel Evan Stokes.

Satyanand Stokes contributed so much to the Indian nation. He was an idealist, rebel, visionary, social reformer, ascetic and political worker — a heady mix indeed. At a time when the golden jubilee of our Constitution is being celebrated and the names of many great Indians are being recollected, Satyanand Stokes has been ignored. He was the only American and one among the few westerners to serve the Indian cause with a great sense of dedication.

Samuel Evans Stokes set out for India from Philadelphia on January 9, 1904, much against his parents' wishes. He had not completed his education, nor acquired any professional skill. He also let go of the

opportunity to run the Stokes and Parish Machine Company set up by his father and a reputed manufacturer of elevators.

The 21-year-old lad had no idea about the duration of his stay in India but his aim was clear: to serve in the leprosy home run by Dr Marcus Carleton at Subathu and through that to convert people to Christianity. Christian missionaries often used the shield of social work to convert innocent people to Christianity all over the world.

Little did he realise then that his life was about to be transformed beyond his wildest imagination. At Subathu he showed that serving the sick was his forte. He put in much time and effort learning the local language. Though he had visited the leprosy homes run by Christian missionaries at Taran Tarn and Kotgarh, he felt happy leading a simple life amongst the villagers at Subathu. He was much enchanted by the "wondrous splendour" of the Himalayas.

Soon he decided to stay permanently in India. Despite his Christian upbringing and earlier belief in proselytizing activities, Samuel developed an aversion for the way missionaries were belittling Hinduism and trying to convert the people to Christianity. Even though he himself was a missionary, he started to shun their company. Refusing to be enticed by the trappings of a white man’s sojourn in the colonised India, Stokes consciously tried to befriend the locals who, while greeting him warmly, preferred to keep a deferential distance.

He decided to lead a spartan life and in his quest for relationship on equal terms with the Indians, he

changed his food habits as well as his "bada sahib" habiliment. The 1905 earthquake in Kangra saw Stokes at his best as a genuine servant of humanity.

Though appointed by the government to distribute money and other assistance among the quake affected, Stokes refused to use the government funds. Instead he used his own savings for the purpose. Though he learnt what a thankless job it was, he did not regret completing it. The rigours of his work took their toll. He became severely ill.

After recovering, ignoring his well wishers' advice, he stayed on in India. A small village near Kotgarh became his "karma bhoomi". He gave away all his belongings to lead as ascetic life. This astonished the locals. Soon the story of a sahib living like a sadhu spread far and wide attracting visitors who paid homage to his courage and fortitude. A wealthy orthodox Brahmin remarked, "Now, you are one of us."

When plague hit the region in 1907 Stokes worked among the affected and earned their respect. By this time he had overcome all his earlier Christian prejudices against Indians and started discovering many virtues in the way of life of the locals. His interaction with the Arya Samaj gave him first hand experience of the running of gurukuls at Hardwar.
True to his rebel genes, he formally left the "Brotherhood of Imitation of Jesus" and settled down as an ordinary householder after marrying a Rajput Christian girl. By this time, he had not yet formally embraced Hinduism and still remained a nominal Christian, but his love for Indian culture was getting stronger by the day. He declared, "I shall as far as in me lies become an Indian, marry an Indian girl and, if God

gives me sons and daughters, bring them up absolutely as Indians in the matter of life, language, dress and education. I shall try to make my home life, in all aspects, a gospel of what Indian home life should be..."

Stokes and his wife set up their home in Kotgarh, Himachal Pradesh, where the people lived in poverty and many were bonded labourers. After experimenting with wheat and barley, Stokes carefully studied the land and found that it was best for apple cultivation. He obtained seedlings of golden apples from USA in 1919 and planted them in 200 acres of land. They bore fruit in 1925. He encouraged farmers for apple cultivation and persisted to popularize apple cultivation. In due course of time, apple orchards began to come up in Kotgarh and soon the culture spread all over Shimla and beyond. It is solely due to the efforts of Stokes and his wife that Himachal Pradesh became an apple producing state and Kotgarh is still the heart of the apple industry there.

Soon Stokes also got involved in India's freedom struggle — as he was inspired by the Gandhi-led freedom movement. Stokes was convinced that India would not only become a free nation but also a world power in due course. After the Congress special session in 1920 at Calcutta, Stokes wrote a series of articles in the Bombay Chronicle entittled "A Study in Non-cooperation". He declared, " (our) Ultimate goal must be absolute swaraj..." Stokes became a full-fledged delegate from Kotgarh to the All India Congress Committee which met at Nagpur in 1920.

He identified totally with the Indian aspirations. On July 31, 1921, when foreigners were warned to keep away from the public burning of imported clothes,

Stokes along with an English nurse attended a bonfire. Two whites in an ocean of brown humanity must have been a scene to watch! But one must admire their courage of conviction for standing up against the unjust regime that was culturally supposed to be their own. Stokes started wearing *khadi* after that event.

Stokes opposed the attempts of the moderate Indian leaders — who had split from the Congress — to accord a welcome to the Prince of Wales on his visit in November, 1921. He considered it foolish and unmanly for Indians to treat the Prince as their own. The British government was particularly wary of the Punjab city of Lahore where the Congress committee and various Sikh organisations had united in holding anti-government demonstrations to protest against the Prince's visit there in February. Stokes was the first PPCC member to be detained on December 3 under Section 108 of the CrPC.

Stokes' trial was covered in great detail by The Tribune. He was eventually sentenced to six months in jail. The Tribune denounced the sentence on Stokes as a "grievous failure of justice".

This is what Gandhi had to say in an article in Young India on Stokes' arrest, "This is a unique move on the part of the government. Mr Stokes is an American who has made India his home in a manner in which perhaps no other American or Englishman has... But that he should feel with and like an Indian, share his sorrows and throw himself into the struggle, has proved too much for the government. To leave him free to criticise the government was intolerable, so his white skin has proved no protection for him..."

Inspired by the Arya Samajist assertion that "the soul attains *mukti* through *karma* and not by grace", he studied Swami Dayanand Saraswati's Satyarth Prakash. He considered this philosophy valid. Disillusioned by Christianity, he grew closer and closer to Hindu philosophy. In Hinduism, he found the validation of his rejection of the Christian idea of eternal punishment. His belief in universal salvation, transmigration of the soul and the non-existence of sin as a power in opposition to holiness moved him closer to Vedanta. In the Hindu scriptures, he was "especially motivated not so much in the actual solutions arrived at, as in the general tendency of thought and method of approach, the key to much that the Christian religion, has never attempted to explain, or about which its teachings have been frankly agnostic."

So, taking his love for Hinduism to its logical conclusion, Samuel Evan Stokes formally converted to Hinduism in 1932, under the aegis of the Arya Samaj and became Satyanand Stokes. His wife, who was actually a Rajput convert to Christianity when he had married her, re-converted to Hinduism and became Priya Stokes

We can learn from the life of Satyanand Stokes how a person, born American and a missionary at that, came to India to convert, but instead converted. The shallow monotheistic theologies of the West proved no match to the superior eternal Sanatan Dharma. Stokes, though born in another country and to another culture, strove to make India and Indian culture as his very own.

He worked among the people and gave his immense contribution to the Indian people, especially to the state of Himachal Pradesh. In fact, an old Himachali villager,

a contemporary of Stokes, had this to say about Kotgarh, the heart of the apple industry in the country, "Apple changed the minds of the villages of Kotgarh and neighbouring places of Thanedar to a great extent. There was a time when all these people were in abject poverty and depended for foodgrains on the people of the lower valleys, but the position reversed thanks to apple and thanks to Satyanand Stokes".

This shows how Stokes by his actions won the hearts of Indians and thus became an Indian. There are some foreigners who think that just because they marry an Indian person, they automatically gain a right to became an Indian and even to rule over the country, no matter if their hearts and loyalties were still firmly tied with the Vatican. But in the case of Stokes, his conversion to Hinduism out of his own heart and choice was the final seal of confirmation that all his earlier identities were false – he was no more Samuel Stokes, the missionary, he was Satyanand Stokes – India's own son, India's own APPLE MAN

Ali Akbar's son claims to be Hindu

Priyanka Dasgupta
[1 Sep, 2006 0048hrs IST TIMES NEWS NETWORK]

KOLKATA: Aasish Khan, the son of sarod maestro Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, has embraced Hinduism, sparking off a raging debate and heartache to the 84-year-old father who has told TOI his son was besmirching his illustrious family's name.

Aasish, who has already changed his surname to Debsharma through affidavit on August 19, claims his family was never really Muslim. "We were originally Brahmins and used the surname Debsharma. My great-grandfather Sadananda Debsharma took the title of Khan, which is not a surname and is used by Hindus and Christians... due to compulsions. We never converted to Islam."

Aasish claims that his ancestors were Hindus. He claims his family even prayed to goddesses Kali and Saraswati. He said he was never asked to follow Islamic rituals or offer namaz and his grandfather had given Hindu names to him and his siblings — Dhyanesh, Pranesh and Amaresh.

"Staunch Muslims have opposed my decision," he said. "They did not realise we were never converted to Islam. I would like to make it clear that the only religion our family believes in is music," said the 60-something Aasish.

Ali Akbar Khan, who juggles his classes at Ali Akbar College of Music and three dialysis sessions a week with his rare concerts across the world, is hurt and the music fraternity stunned by Aasish’s claim.

The Ali Akbar family is not an ordinary family — his father Allaudin Khan is the founder of the Maihar gharana and his disciples, including Ravi Shankar, Nikhil Banerjee and Ali Akbar, have dominated the Hindustani classical music world for years.

KNOW YOUR HINDI

This is our twentieth 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
KHUSHAL	FARSI	SUKHI/SAMPAN	WELL BEING
KHUSH	FARSI	PRASANN	HAPPY
KHUSHAMAD	FARSI	JHOOTHI PRASHANSA	FLATTERY
KHULASA	ARABIC	SPASHT	CLARIFY
KHUSHBOO	FARSI	SUGANDH	FRAGRANCE
BADBOO	FARSI	DURGANDH	FOUL SMELL
KHOOB	FARSI	UTTAM	WELL
KHUBI	FARSI	ACHCHAI	GOODNESS
BAS	FARSI	PARYAPT / THEEKH	ENOUGH / OKAY
KHOON	FARSI	RAKT	BLOOD

As a thumb rule any word which begins with letters like 'Gh' [called as big G in Hindi] as in Ghadi (Watch), [but do not get confused with 'Gh' as in Ghulam which is Arabic word, this 'Gh' sound is in different then that of 'Gh' in Hindi]. 'Chh' as in Chhatri (Umbrella), 'Jh' as in Jhanda (Flag), 'Th' as in Thali (Plate), 'Dh' as in Dharm (Religion), 'T' as in Taal

(beats), 'Th' as in Thug (Cheat), 'D' as in Danda (Stick), 'Dh' as in Dhol (Drums), 'Ph' as in Phal (Fruit), 'Bh' as in Bhav (Value), 'Shh' as in Shhadyantra (Plot) are unmistakably Hindi words. Also vowel sounds mixed with 'R' like 'Hr' as in Hrishi (Sage), and other 'R' sounds like 'Rn', 'Dr' and 'DHr' sounds where 'D' is pronounced as a sound mixed with r + n or d+r, like as in Rarn (Battle), Ladka (Boy), Padhna (Study) are undoubtedly Hindi words.

Similarly any word which begins in English with letter 'F' (there is no sound in Hindi starting with letter 'F' but it only sounds as 'Ph'), like Fatah (Victory), letter 'Q', like Qayamat (Judgement Day) and letter 'Z' like Zahar (Poison) are unmistakably non Hindi words.

Hindi language is directly derived from Sanskrit. Hindi words written and spoken with same pronunciation as in Sanskrit are called as 'Tatsam' words (meaning unchanged form) and Hindi words which have distorted spelling and pronunciation like word 'Gaay' (meaning cow) is Hindi word distorted from original Sanskrit word of 'Gau' are called as 'Tadbhav' words (meaning changed form).

This article is written so that we can practice correct Hindi in our daily life. We welcome our readers to email us their queries or doubts related to any Hindi or Non Hindi words, its origin and meaning. SB will make every effort to reply to your queries.

UNSUNG AND FORGOTTEN CRICKETING HEROES OF BHARAT

Today in cricket, everybody in Bharat follows Sachin Tendulkar like God even though he has hardly won any matches for Bharat. But we have completely forgotten the earlier greats whose contribution to Bharat is invaluable. One such unsung hero is Eknath Solkar. Affectionately he was called by his fellow cricketers as Ekki. Solkar was the son of a poor grounds man, who rose from humble roots to the height of test cricket by sheer talent. Solkar was the most versatile all-rounder test cricket has ever seen. He could bat at any number, bowl both spin and medium pace and field at any position. So much so that he was capable of acting as a wicketkeeper for Bharat. He was a contemporary of the legendary Sunil Gavaskar. In those days Gavaskar could not find any able opening partner, so often Solkar was sent as his opening partner to fill up that role. He batted at middle order as well as tail ender. During those times there was a dearth of fast bowlers in Bharat so often Solkar had to fulfil that role too.

It was not just his batting or bowling that made Solkar great but his fielding too. In fact he was selected to play tests mainly for his fielding skills. He played just 27 tests and took 55 catches (2 as substitute player) giving an average of 2 catches per match, in fact this record is still unbroken. Most of the leading fielders had their catches taken at slip cordon but Solkar took most improbable and breathtaking catches at forward short leg position and helped Bharat's famous spin quartet to get many of their wickets. Mind it, forward short leg is considered as a suicidal position to field, especially in those days when players did not wear any helmets and shin guards. It required great courage to field at that position. While Solkar was fielding at that position, he could make the greatest of batsmen nervous. Had Solkar not fielded there, Bharat's spinners would not have won that legendary fame. In the 70s, every boy tried to emulate Solkar as a forward short leg fielder.

In 1971, he equaled the world record of taking 6 catches in a test match. (Later this record was broken by Bharat's Yajuvendra Singh). Most of Solkar's catches were half chances. His catches enabled Bharat to record its first ever test victories against its major opponents after playing 40 years of test cricket. His 6 catches helped Bharat to achieve its first test win in West Indies. He also played a vital role in scoring Bharat's first ever test victory over England in England in 1971. In 1974, Bharat were bowled out by England for its lowest test score of 42, in that miserable total Solkar was the only lone person who held fort by scoring 18 not out (with 1 six and 2 fours). Had Solkar not contributed those vital 18 runs then Bharat's total would have been more humiliating. If Solkar missed some catches, it used to become a big headline, similar to Bradman scoring zero in his last test.

According to Tony Greig, "Ekki was the best forward short leg I have ever seen." Just like money should not be used as the only yardstick for success, so also in cricket it is not just the record breaking runs and wickets. Any cricketers' contribution should be adjudged by their ability to win matches for their country rather than donning themselves with their personal records. Solkar was indeed one such great cricketer who in everyway contributed for the nation, all his remarkable efforts did bring about most of the rarest of victories for Bharat during those days. As a batsman, he scored just one century and averaged at 25 runs per test. As a bowler he just took 18 wickets (because he was used only as a spare bowler) but often he was instrumental in taking breakthrough wickets that helped Bharat to fight out losing matches. But as a fielder he is still unparalleled. Solkar was born in 1948 and died in 2005. It is a pity that he is now completely forgotten. In fact Solkar's feats are worthy of getting a Bharat Ratna. In the true sense, he was really a gem of Bharat. Bharat should be proud of such sons.



The Union Territory of BHARAT

DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI

Area:- 491 sq.km Population:- 220,000
UT Capital:- Silvassa Main Language: Marathi and Hindi
Famous touristic places: Tadkeshwara Shiv Mandir, Vanganga Lake / Island Garden

DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI IS LOCATED ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE FOOTHILLS OF THE WESTERN GHATS AND HAS UNDULATING TERRAIN. 40% OF THE TOTAL GEOGRAPHICAL AREA IS COVERED WITH FORESTS AND THUS OFFERS IT A LOOK OF WOODLAND. THE MAJOR RIVER DAMANGANGA AND ITS TRIBUTARIES CRISS – CROSS THIS UNION TERRITORY AND DRAIN INTO THE ARABIAN SEA AT DAMAN. THE UT CAPITAL, SILVASSA, CONTAINS MANY PRETTY GARDENS, THE MOST FAMOUS BEING THE VANGANGA LAKE GARDEN. IT'S AREA IS 7.58 HECTARES, AND IS VERY POPULAR WITH FILMMAKERS. IT IS SAID THAT UPTO 40 POPULAR HINDI FILM SONGS HAVE BEEN PICTURIZED OVER HERE. MORE THAN 60% OF DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI'S POPULATION IS TRIBAL, AND FROM THIS TRIBAL POPULATION, 62% ARE OF THE VARLI TRIBE. THE TRIBALS HAVE GREAT DANCING RITUALS LIKE THE TARPA, DHOL, BHAVADA AND GHERRIA. THE PERFORMERS OF THESE FOOT TAPPING DANCES ARE EQUALLY GOOD IN OTHER ARTS AND ART FORMS. MUMBAI IS JUST 180 KILMOTERS FROM DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI, THE NEAREST RAILHEAD BEING VAPI (17 KM AWAY)

Children corner

Jokes

An elderly man, 82 years of age, just found that he didn't have long to live. So he summoned the three most important people in his life, his doctor, his priest, and his lawyer and told them that he was giving them each an envelope containing US$50,000.00 and he trusted them that when he died, they would each throw this money on his grave. After a few days, the old man died

The doctor said, "I have to admit that I kept $10,000.00 of his money, it is because he owed me lots of medical bills. But I did throw $40,000.00 in"

The priest said, "I also have to admit that I kept $25,000.00 in cash for the church. But it will be for a good cause, won't it? And then I threw the rest of the money on the man's grave"

Well, the lawyer couldn't believe what he was hearing. "I am surprised at you two. You know what I did. I just wrote a cheque for the whole amount and threw it on the grave, the cash I kept it for myself!!!!!!"

A young executive was leaving the office late one evening when he found the CEO standing in front of a SHREDDER with a piece of paper in his hand

"Listen," said the CEO, "this is a very confidential and sensitive document here, and my secretary has already left. I just don't know how to use this stupid machine. Can you make this thing work?"

"Certainly," said the young executive. He turned the machine on, inserted the paper, and pressed the start button

"Excellent, excellent!" said the CEO as his paper disappeared inside the machine. "I just need two photocopies!!!!!!"

With Compliments from:-

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A Member of Professional Insurance Brokers Association Limited
T.R. Registration No.: PIBA-0141-000300

SANDESH BHARATI

Published quarterly by Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh, Hong Kong
For private circulation only

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Sandesh Bharati is distributed free of charge, however, contributions in support of future publications are welcome.