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# HERITAGE EXPLORER

LET KNOWLEDGE COME FROM ALL THE SIDES

*A Monthly News Bulletin*

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*May this Rangali Bihu bring Peace & Prosperity in the Lives of All.*







1904-1967

One of the world's greatest physicists, known as 'the father of the Atomic bomb'. His achievements include the Born-Oppenheimer approximation, Electron-positron theory, the Oppenheimer-Phillips process and a first prediction of quantum tunneling. He also made important contributions to the modern theory of neutron stars and black holes, quantum mechanics, quantum field theory and the interactions of cosmic rays.

## Julius R Oppenheimer

What we shall find in **Modern Physics** is an exemplification, an encouragement and a refinement of old Hindu wisdom.

Source: *The Tao of Physics* - by Fritjof Capra

\* \* \*

The juxtaposition of Western civilization's most terrifying scientific achievement with the most dazzling description of the mystical experience given to us by the Bhagavad Gita, **India's greatest literary monument.**

Source: *The Eye of Shiva: Eastern Mysticism And Science* by Amaury de Riencourt

While witnessing the first Atomic bomb explosion at the Trinity Test in New Mexico on July 16, 1945 Oppenheimer emotionally exclaimed two couplets from the Bhagavad Gita: 'If the radiance of a thousand suns were to burst at once into the sky, that would be like the splendor of the mighty one... 'Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds.'



1887-1961

One of the greatest physicists of the twentieth century; awarded the Nobel Prize for his invention of Wave Mechanics, his 'Schrödinger Equation' has been regarded as one of the most important achievements of the twentieth century. He also wrote about 'The Basic view of Vedanta' by expounding Sankara's version of 'Advaita' and 'Non-dualism'.

## Erwin Schrödinger

Some blood transfusion from the East to the West is a must to save **Western science from spiritual anemia.**

Source: *Long Walk to Enlightenment* - by Dr. Thillayvel Naidoo

\* \* \*

In all world there is no kind of framework within which we can find consciousness in the plural; this is simply something we construct because of the temporal plurality of individuals, but it is a false construction.... The only solution to this conflict in so far as any is available to us at all lies in the **ancient wisdom of the Upanishads.**

Source: *My View of the World* - by Erwin Schrödinger

Schrödinger was deeply impressed by the philosophical wisdom of the East. He was particularly fascinated by the Vedanta.



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Along with the space voyage to Other Planets of the Solar Family (e.g. Chandrayan of India to Mars), there are two additions of importance to the human race living on this planet: one two-seater (now) flying-car, and aero plane on solar fuel.

A company of Slovakia named Aero Mobil has designed a prototype of a vehicle that can run on roads and when needed can take off to sky at a comfortable ease. A prototype of the vehicle ( still awaits a commercial name) was exhibited in a technology festival in Texas. According to the manufacturer, it will be available for purchase by 2017. But questions remains about rules and regulations while it is on roads and in air.

Two-seater vehicle runs on standard gasoline (petrol) and can operate on both the high way and in the air, taking off from a grass or pavement runway of 300 meters or less. It fits into a standard size parking space and auto lane, has a top flight speed of about 200 kmph and top road speed of about 160 kmph. It does not require an airport facility.

So far so good. Technology, in any form, advances so rapidly and convincingly that achievement expected for the amphibian (land and air) vehicle will not be a far off one.

The other miraculous (for the present time) event is the solar-powered plane. Named 'Solar Impulse 2' ,the plane made a voyage round-the-world trip. In its route, incidentally, Varanasi ( our PM's parliamentary Constituency)became a point to touch and go (out of 12 scheduled stop avers). The single-seated plane is designed and made by Swiss technocrats is piloted by Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg, both Swiss pilots. They taking turns are flying the aircraft with 17,000 Solar cells on its 72-meter wing span. The aircraft is followed by two other aero plans with 70 support staffs. These two planes carry 20,000 gallon of fuel needed for themselves. After halting at Mandalay International Airport in Myanmar, it takes its journey through Chongqing and Nanjing in China over Pacific Ocean to Hawaii and then over Atlantic Ocean to reach US mainland. To cover the flight over the two oceans time required is 5 days and 5 nights at a stretch. The pilots have prepared for the exhaustive long stretches; Borchlberg has been practicing yoga while Piccard uses self-hypnotics to calm himself.

While the world is thinking and experimenting high for the benefit of the mankind, there is, also at the bottom of thought the barbarism through ISIS ism in a subcontinent following a Faith means for Peace and within our country ( we don't know better of other countries) on all time pull-back, draw-down policy in open or in disguise when ever and wherever a scheme is contemplated for the benefit the people of the country.

Future will hail the present trend in technology development and will hate the happenings in the name of politics and power gaining tactics of some vested interest.

Editor

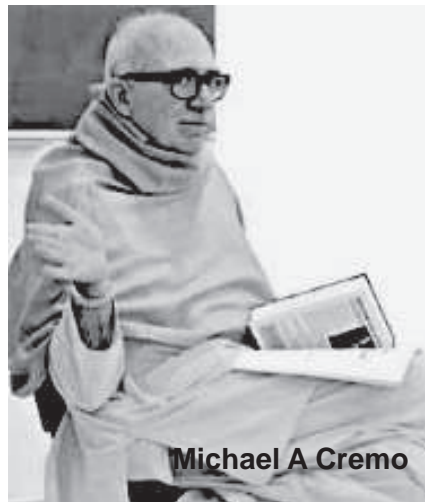
## A Vedic Alternative to Darwinism

Questioning the Darwinian theory of evolution, New York based freelancer's a new attempt to link his findings with Vedic perspective has sparked deliberations in academic community across the world.

Since time immemorial, the antiquity of the human race has been haunting the minds of the thinking men. In spite of several theories and concepts provided by different religions and through scientific research, the quest seeking answer to this fundamental question continues to ignite the curiosity of human mind. In India too, several Hindu texts have proclaimed that humans have existed on this planet for millions of years.

Michael A Cremo, New York based freelance researcher declares that he has unearthed archaeological evidence to prove that humans have existed on this planet for millions of years. Cremo's attempt to link his findings with the Vedic perspective on human origins has been instrumental for starting serious deliberations in the academic community all over the globe. In his path breaking book, *Forbidden Archeology; the Hidden History of human race*, questioning the Darwinian theory of evolution, Cremo expounds an alternative theory of evolution. He asserts that the crucial archaeological evidence was ignored by the so called scientific community simply because it contradicted the established 'Theory of Evolution'. To the question, if we did not evolve from apes, from where did

we come from, Cremo, supporting the ancient wisdom of the Vedic seers says, "We did not evolve from matter; instead we evolved, or came down, from the realm of pure consciousness, spirit." Basing his arguments on modern science and the world's great wisdom traditions, including the Vedic philosophy of ancient India, in his book 'Human Devolution,' written as a sequel to *Forbidden Archeology*, Cremo asserts that humans are a combination of matter, mind and consciousness (spirit). The book shows how a



subtle mind element and a conscious self that can exist apart from the body have been systematically eliminated from main stream science.

M. Cremo identifies himself as a Vedic creationist and an alternative archeologist and argues that humans have lived on the earth for billions of years. After attending George Washington University from 1966 to 1968, he served in the United States Navy. In 1973 on receiving a copy of *Bhagavad Gita*, Cremo decided to

devote his life to Krishna. Attracted by the teachings of the Gita, he became a member of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) and the Bhaktivedanta Institute. He has written several books and articles about Hindu spirituality under the name *Drutakarmā dāsa*. He has also been a contributing editor to the magazine *Back to Godhead* and a bhakti yoga teacher.

After his first visit in 1979, he has visited India several times. On many occasions, he has addressed at universities and scientific institutions, such as the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, IIT Chennai, IIT Mumbai, Benaras Hindu University, University of Kolkata, University of Kerala, etc.

Excerpts from an exclusive email interview with Kerala based senior journalist Pradeep Krishnan.

P.K: Tell us about your journey from Michael A Cremo to Drutakarmadasa?

M.C: I liked the 'Bhagavad Gita as it is'. After that I visited one of the ISKCON centers and was surprised to see American young people living on the teachings of the Gita. That really impressed me. After some time, I decided to live in an ISKCON centre, practicing *bhakti yoga*, the yoga of devotion to Lord Krishna. I had the chance to hear some lectures by Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada when he was visiting an ISKCON center in America and I became his initiated disciple in 1976 and received from him the name

Drutakarma Dasa.

P.K - What are your views on the Vedas, the ancient texts of India? It is often alleged that they only contain a bundle of rituals and superstitions?

M.C. - Veda means knowledge. There exist different kinds of knowledge, the highest being knowledge of the true nature of the self. Of course, there are several schools of Vedic thought. I confess to being a follower of the Vaishnava school of thought, which holds that the true nature of the self is eternal servant of the Supreme Self, God. The teachings are scientific, in the sense that they give procedures by which the truth of the teachings can be personally verified and experienced.

P.K. - Your book 'Forbidden Archeology' has attracted attention from some mainstream scholars as it touches the ancient wisdom of Vedic masters of India. However, some describe it as pseudoscience. What are your comments?

M.C. - Among the Vedic literatures are the historical writings, which are collectively called the Puranas. The Puranas present an account of human antiquity different from that currently accepted by most archeologists. Today, most archeologists believe that the first humans like us appeared less than 200,000 years ago, having evolved from more primitive apelike human ancestors. But the Puranas contain accounts of humans existing many millions of years ago, going back to the very beginnings of life on earth. All over India, one can find places where events in human history took place

in different yugas, millions of years ago. It is true that one will not find such archeological evidence in the current textbooks. I decided, however, to look beyond the textbooks. I spent eight years researching the original scientific reports by archeologists and geologists, from the time of Darwin to the present. When I did that I found many reports of discoveries of human bones, human footprints, and human artifacts millions of years old. These reports are not mentioned in the current textbooks, because of what I call a process of knowledge filtration that operates in the world of science. I collected these reports of archeological evidence for extreme human antiquity, consistent with the Vedic histories, in my book Forbidden Archeology, and its abridged edition The Hidden History of the Human Race. I have presented many papers about these things at major international scientific conferences. Some of these papers have been appeared in peer reviewed scientific publications. I have also spoken about this topic at scientific institutions and universities around the world. .

P.K. - Your book 'Human Devolution' seeks to offer Vedic alternative to Darwin's theory. Tell us briefly about the book.

M.C. - The archeological evidence shown in my book Forbidden Archeology contradicts the Darwinian theory of human origins. So my readers naturally asked, "What are you proposing as an alternative?" To answer that question I wrote Human Devolution: a Vedic Alternative to Darwin's Theory. Most of the Darwinist scientists believe that we

are machines made of matter, machines made of molecules. They believe that our consciousness is produced by chemicals in the brain. But according to the Vedas we are not just machines made of matter. The Vedas say "*aham brahmasmi*," I am spirit, pure consciousness. This consciousness is not produced by matter. It exists independently from matter. In my book I review the scientific evidence for this. But although consciousness is by nature independent from matter, it can come into association with matter. That is our current condition. So as conscious beings, we do not evolve from matter, as many scientists now believe. Instead, we devolve, or come down, from the level of pure consciousness. But the process can be reversed, and consciousness can be restored to its original pure state, free from its contact with matter. That is the actual purpose of human life.

P.K. - What are your views on Bhagavad Gita?

M.C. - I see the Bhagavad Gita as summarising the essential spiritual teachings of the Vedas. I find it significant that it is presented as a dialogue between Arjuna and Lord Krishna. In the course of the dialogue, Arjuna presents many questions and doubts, to which Lord Krishna replies. Many philosophical positions are examined before the final conclusion is reached. So I liked it very much that the teachings of the Gita were presented in the text not as some dogmas, but as some conclusions reached after thorough intellectual discussion.

P.K. - Your views on  
**Contd. to Page 19**



## Uniform Civil Code : Bridging Divide

- Hitesh Rangra

The debate emerges around Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the Apex Court of the country while hearing the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Clarence Pais, a former President of the Catholic Association of Dakshina Kannada in Karnataka. However court rejected the PIL seeking recognition for Christian courts. This not the first time that the Apex Court rejected PIL regarding personal laws based upon religious lines.

In its landmark judgment Supreme Court bench headed by Justice CK Prasad and Pinaki Chandra Ghose said Sharia courts run by clerics have no legality and that their fatwas are not obligatory on anyone. Recently, Justice Markandey Katju wrote—

"I am fully in support of UCC" and "one of the reasons for the backwardness of Muslims is the lack of modernization of their personal law".

Justice Vikramjit Sen remarked during the hearing on a PIL filed by Pais seeking recognition for Christian courts set up under its personal law, he said, "It is a secular country but I don't know how long it will remain so." The Indian Express reports: "The bench was hearing a PIL by advocate Clarence Pais, who wanted the apex court to put its stamp of approval on the decrees of divorce and other such decrees issued by an ecclesiastical court or tribunal. An ecclesiastical court, set up under

the Canon Law, is an institution for Catholic Christians."

The Apex Court rejected the argument and recommended that religion shouldn't be allowed to deal with civil issues. The bench said that "This cannot be accepted; otherwise every religion will say it has a right to decide various issues as a matter of its personal law. We don't agree with this at all. It has to be done though a decree of a court". However it

**While policy makers are working hard to revive Indian economy in order to fulfill the promise of egalitarian development; civil society must look into one of the age old issue of "Uniform Civil Code" to build democratic society. The need of the hour is Uniform Civil Code without which we can't achieve the goal of development for all and appeasement for none.**

should be noted that petitioner had filed the PIL on the pretext that if marriages can be dissolved by Muslims in accordance to the Mohammedan law, Christians should be allowed to do the same.

Although the PIL had been reject but we must inquire that why Christians seeking the recognition of Christian courts under personal law that too citing the example of Muslim Personal law. Can we allow personal law for every religious body in the country? Can setting up courts for personal laws are in the accordance with the true Secular nature of the constitution? Are we not setting the wrong precedence in the country where everyone wanted to created separate

courts for dealing with civic affairs?

Even today the Goa Civil Code, also known as Goa Family Law which is a set of civil laws governs the entire population including Muslims of this Indian State. Let us not forget the fact that according to the 2001 census, out of a total population of 1, 343, 998 people of Goa, 65.7 per cent were Hindus, 26.6 per cent were Christians, 6.8 per cent were Muslims, 0.07 per cent were Sikhs, 0.05 per cent were Buddhists, 0.06 per cent were Jains and 0.026 per cent belonged to other religious communities.

Our liberal friends cite multiple examples why India needs to be a secular country; yes indeed I agree to the core idea that India should be secular country in the accordance with our ancient ethos rather than European thought process. In the ancient time king observed *Raj Dharma* and consider each and every living soul equal. In today's context political leaders should follow *Raj Dharma*; but more than our political leaders our intellectuals need to follow the "*Sastrath*". Though Dharma is very vast topic but somehow I brought its mention here because *Sastrath* (discussion) is the central point in our Philosophy. Our ancient sages created humogenous knowledge system by *Sastrath*.

So let us come back to the



debate on “Uniform Civil Code”. The biggest road blocks of UCC are Muslim ghettos, Political Vote Bank and intellectuals who shape up Minority (*it must be noted that Indian minority definition don’t even close to UNO minority definition*) mindset. Empirical data suggests that at least the thought process of Muslim leadership is against the UCC which is constantly reinforced by intellectual backing of other two groups (Political Vote bank and Intellectuals).

We must create an environment to debate the validity of personal laws and subsequently move towards UCC. Let us not forget that father of constitution was in favour of Uniform Civil Code. Dr BR Ambedkar said, “I personally do not understand why religion should be given this vast, expansive jurisdiction, so as to cover the whole of life and to prevent the legislature from encroaching upon that field. After all, what are we having this liberty for? We are having this liberty in order to reform our social system, which is so full of inequality, discrimination and other things, which conflict with our fundamental rights”

Ramashray Upadhyaya wrote after his

long speech in favour of the Uniform Civil Code, the motion that, “Article 35, stand part of the Constitution” was adopted and added to the Constitution as Article 44. Giving final shape to this Article, Dr Ambedkar maintained that Directive Principles were binding for the functioning of the democracy. The sense of the argument was to achieve social democracy for a long lasting political democracy.

When the Fundamental Rights Sub Committee decided to make the Uniform Civil Code a Directive Principle, Amrit Kaur along with two other members wrote, “One of the factors that have kept India back from advancing to nationhood has been the existence of personal laws based on religion which keep the nation divided into watertight compartments in many aspects of life.”(Shiva Rao, The Framing of India’s Constitution: Select Documents II).

Gora wrote in his article “UNIFORM CIVIL CODE IN INDIA: Situation of 2013” and the plight of Muslim women. He wrote, “Let us take a look into the case of Imrana – 28 years old woman and the

mother of five children. On June 6 2005, Imrana was raped by her 69 year old father-in-law Ali Mohammad. Soon after she was raped, a local Muslim Panchayat (council of elders) asked her to treat her husband Nur Ilahi as her son and declared their marriage null and void! Can any law of the land justify this?”

In the end I must say that even Muslim countries have reformed their Muslim laws more than India then time had come when we need to work upon UCC. Even though we witnessed to a stupendous growth of the country in the context of world economy, our social growth has been crippled by interference of religion in the matter of customary and personal laws. We are growing economically but our social growth halted due to rising demands for personal laws based upon religious association. We can’t afford to grant personal laws to every religious community in a secular country. Laws should be subjective in application rather than selective. Article 25 of The Constitution of India gives us right to profess our religion; we must not confuse it with personal issues

like marriage, inheritance etc. UCC will enforce the sense of oneness and help in the national integration which is underdeveloped still in India.

*(The writer is a political commentator and social media analyst)*

*(Organiser February 22, 2015)*

**Gora also mentioned some important facts about the personal laws of various countries. He notes-**

**Many Islamic countries have codified and reformed Muslim personal law to check its misuse. Muslim countries like Egypt, Turkey and even Pakistan have reformed their laws.**

**By 1961 Pakistan, a Muslim country had actually reformed its Muslim Law more than India had and this remains true today. There is no reason why India should continue with vastly discriminatory personal laws.**

**In fact, the reforms meted out in Tunisia and Turkey helped abolish Polygamy. Polygamy has also been either banned or severely restricted in Syria, Egypt, Turkey, Morocco, Iran and even in Pakistan.**



## Chinese provocation: Is India prepared ?

- Gen (Retd.) Deepak Kapoor

The Chinese intrusion into Depsang Bulge in East Ladakh, approximately 19 km inside our perception of the Line of Actual Control (LAC), very recently has raised temperatures both militarily and politically on either side. A series of border personnel meetings between the militaries of the two sides have not been able to resolve the issue so far and till date the standoff continues. It would not be incorrect to presume that this latest provocation from the Chinese side has been undertaken with the tacit approval of the highest levels in the Chinese hierarchy. As we grapple with the current situation, it has reignited introspection as to our level of preparedness should things go from bad to worse.

Fifty years have elapsed since the Chinese aggression took place in 1962. A number of articles have appeared in the media covering that period as well as the events preceding it. While there are many reasons for the Indian Army's debacle and these have been discussed threadbare in the past 50 years, there is no doubt about the valour, courage and heroism of the Indian soldier even in the most adverse circumstances which obtained then. Given the right training, equipment and battlefield support, he is better than the best in the world. With that as the take-away, we need to ensure that such a setback is never ever repeated. For a realistic assessment, first and foremost, there is need for clarity on some basic issues.

Many an analyst have discounted the very possibility of a future Sino-Indian conflict on the grounds that both countries stand to gain from a co-operative engagement, that trade between the two countries is increasing exponentially over time, that there is enough space for both to grow simultaneously and that both are speaking in the same voice at global forums on issues like global warming, climate change, global economy, trade barriers etc. It is further suggested that China already being at the global level, has more important issues like Taiwan, South China Sea and finally Pacific Ocean dominance to worry about in consonance with its stature, therefore it would not like to get involved in a skirmish with India. While it is good to be optimistic, we should not veer too far away from pragmatism and reality especially where issues of national security are concerned. The possibility of a standoff like the present one on the LAC flaring up into a bigger confrontation can never be ruled out.

There is no getting away from the fact that China has assiduously tried to create an impression that India does not figure in its scheme of things and that India's rise and growth over the past decade has little significance which in no way threatens China.

In an analysis carried out by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in January 2013 titled "Crux of Asia: China, India and the Emerging Global

Order", Ashley J. Tellis and Sean Mirski highlight that "Differences in the Chinese and Indian positions sometimes arise from the two countries' competing visions but more often from their underlying geopolitical rivalry, which appears to be sufficiently deep-rooted so as to prevent the two states from realising any natural accommodation. To be sure, both sides bend over backward to conceal their differences in public, and both have often struggled to reach some accommodation that might permit occasional practical cooperation. But the differences in national power and performance between the two countries, the seeming disdain with which China treats India, and the deep fears that India harbors about China's policies and intentions lead to a never-ending contest for securing strategic advantages." While cooperation and healthy competition is welcome and desirable, the seeds of confrontation are inherent between the two nations engaged in competition, both at the regional and global level.

Considering the fact that India is one of the few countries with which China has not resolved its long-standing boundary issue and that it has had a prolonged mutually beneficial ongoing relationship with Pakistan, the possibility of a confrontation between the two can never be ruled out. From a national security perspective, it would, therefore, be prudent to be prepared for a

threat to our territorial integrity. The last thing that India would want is a repeat of 1962!

A second issue that needs clarity is whether we expect to be subjected to an all out, full-fledged war or a limited border war. Development of massive infrastructure in Tibet, modernisation of PLA Army, Navy and Air force, growth of Second Artillery and a fourfold increase in Chinese defence budget since 2000 gives it the option of indulging in an all out war. However, given the regional and global realities, Chinese consciousness of its image as an emerging global power and the likely Chinese rationale of going to war being the Sino-Indian boundary issue, the possibility of a limited war appears much stronger.

Thirdly, we need to introspect that while we may from time to time upgrade our operational readiness to meet the Chinese challenge, the Chinese continue to remain far ahead and we are invariably struggling to catch up. This is inevitable considering the kind of military spending China is indulging in. For the Financial year 2012 -13, the official Chinese military budget was \$106.4 billion, second highest in the world. As per Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) estimates, the actual expenditure is likely to be approximately one and a half times this figure.

As opposed to this, the Indian defence budget stood at a meagre \$38 billion approximately.

In the current financial year, the official Chinese military budget is \$115 billion approximately. In the span of last two decades, we

have seen the PLA grow from an obsolete force which was given a bloody nose by the Vietnamese into a formidable, modernised and well equipped military backed by an array of force multipliers. In the same period, the Indian military has been strenuously fighting counter insurgency battles both in J&K and the northeast and its equipment profile is nearing obsolescence. The danger is that this gap between the two is likely to keep increasing with passage of time, if past trends are any indication. Some major corrective steps are, therefore, necessary by us before it gets too late.

To begin with, it is crucial that we spend at least three per cent of our GDP on defence.

Yearly shortfalls on this account can never be made up by onetime infusion at the time of a crisis. Even during the Kargil conflict, General VP Malik, the then Army Chief was constrained to say 'we will fight with what we have' in the light of the shortages existing. We need to have a military which is consistently ready to face challenges to the country. National security, to ensure unhindered growth, is crucial.

With the limited resources available, we need to prioritise our spending in such a manner that immediate threats are taken care of before we move on to other larger goals. It must also be appreciated that in the ultimate analysis, victory or defeat is measured in terms of real estate gained or lost. Thus, in case of a limited war with China, it is important that the Army and the Air force who have to fight that war are allocated larger resources to

begin with.

The infrastructure on our side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between China and India has yet to be developed fully, despite our best efforts so far. This is likely to prove a handicap in fighting a successful defensive battle. Our own environmental restrictions and prolonged land acquisition procedures need to be fine-tuned to hasten infrastructural development. Sixty five years after independence, we are still dependent on one single, tenuous road axis in a number of crucial sectors.

Secondly, Border Roads Organisation, which is the prime agency responsible for creating infrastructure in areas close to the LAC, is neither well equipped and staffed nor well organised and funded to deliver the desired results. Its functioning needs to be thoroughly reviewed and adequate funding provided to it to complete important infrastructure projects in a time bound manner.

The possibility that in case of a conflict with China, Pakistan will not hesitate to fish in troubled waters and start something of its own on our Western border also cannot be ruled out. Therefore, India has to be prepared to defend itself on both fronts and must accordingly develop its capabilities.

With a regime change in China having taken place, it would be worth India's while to work for a mutually acceptable settlement of the vexatious boundary issue. A resolution of this crucial issue would reduce the possibility of hostilities between the two countries. Further, it would avoid

*Contd. to Page 12*



## Vaidic Sammelan hammers for spread and expansion of Veda

SILCHAR, Feb 1: The three day National Vaidic Seminar organized by Vaidic Samiti Silchar in collaboration with Maharishi Sandipani Rashtriya Vedavidya Pratisthan (MSRVP), Ujjain under the Ministry of HRD, Government of India, raised in unison for spread and expansion of Sanskrit and Veda-knowledge. Delivering the key-note address at the inaugural session of the seminar beginning from today in the auditorium of Gandhi Bhawan, Roop Kishore Shastri, secretary of the MSRVP, said Sanskrit has to be spread not only in our country but also abroad. The concept of '*Basudaivak Kutumbakam*' has given India the status of a spiritual power and leadership.

Among all the north-eastern states, Assam, he pointed out, has its own importance in respect of culture, history, knowledge, art and architecture and the impact has been felt on the country as a whole. Though 25 states in the country have Veda Vidyalayas, Assam has the maximum, an index of the people's mind to keep alive the great tradition and heritage of the past, Shastri noted.

It is regrettable that in the valley of Barak, there is not a single Veda Vidyalaya. He called upon people to establish as many Vaidic Vidyalayas as they like here. It is because of our Vaidic knowledge that "We Indians are morally on the front". The problem however is how to spread Veda. The only way to overcome the hurdle is to go for establishment of Veda Vidyalayas. There is no constraint of funds. Any

organization or group willing to set up such classic school can get on the spot sanction, he assured.

Roop Kishore Shastri in his encouraging message said with firm determination and decisiveness, 'We have to proceed further and students for study of Veda have to be drawn from all classes'. He made it clear everyone has the right to study Veda. There is no question of class distinction. This has been

**'We have to proceed further and students for study of Veda have to be drawn from all classes'. He made it clear everyone has the right to study Veda. There is no question of class distinction. This has been clearly mentioned in the Rig Veda. He also described as myth that women have no right to study Veda as it was in the past. Today, things have changed. Women are on the forefront in all fields.**

clearly mentioned in the Rig Veda. He also described as myth that women have no right to study Veda as it was in the past. Today, things have changed. Women are on the forefront in all fields.

Kishore Shastri said presently there are six *Kanya Veda Vidyalayas* in the country. One cannot but be impressed by the *Veda-patha* of children. He revealed the Government of India is ready to provide all sorts of incentives for Veda Vidyalayas. In order to create the right ambience for Veda Vidyalayas, the message

of Veda has to be taken down deep among the common people.

The inaugural session begun with introduction of scholars, saints and sages by Prof. Swapna Devi, preceded by the reception of the dignitaries on the dais. It was quite refreshing to ennoble the event by lighting of lamp, *Veda-mantras* and recitations as well as *Manglacharanam* and *Swadeshamantrah* by Dr. Sukhamay Bhattacharya, president Vaidic Samiti, that concluded with welcome speech of Sushil Ranjan Das, president reception committee. Dr. Brindaban Bihari Das Kathiyababa, president, *World Nimbarka Parishad*, laid stress on the spread of the message and ideals of Swami Vivekananda, *Vaidic-chintan* and *Vaidic-charcha*.

The state government has to take initiative for Veda studies. How ancient India was rich in culture and tradition could well be understood from the fact that the state library of Germany has in its treasure trove of books many manuscripts of Vaidic Age. The main thrust of the three day seminar is to focus on the theme 'Veda is the root of all Dharmas'. Others who took part in the deliberations included *Swami Tattwavidananda Maharaj*, *Swami Satyasthananda Maharaj*, *Swami Mrinmayanandaji Maharaj* among others who spoke about the imperative need of Vedic culture in the country to bring back the lost glory and honour.

(The Sentinel 02.02.2015)

## In the Budget, a R100 cr plan to tap Chinese market

As part of its strategy to tap the large but difficult China market, the government is planning to set up a company to acquire land in CLMV (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam) countries and create an ecosystem for investment by Indian enterprises in these countries.

“The company will essentially be a project development Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). The finance ministry is likely to set aside a grant of up to Rs 100 crore in Union Budget 2015-16,” a senior government official told *The Indian Express*.

“Suppose, for instance, Myanmar is inviting proposals to set up Special Economic Zones (SEZs). The SPV will invest money to buy land and develop it into an SEZ. It will then allocate plots to Indian producers and thereby recover costs. The idea is to facilitate manufacturing so that Indian firms create their own value chains,” the official said.

“The SPV will be in the nature of a PPP (public private partnership) initiative. A few large, private sector companies have

evinced interest in contributing to the paid up capital of the SPV. EXIM Bank and IL&FS too have agreed to partner,” the official said.

Similarly, Vietnam offers great advantages for India, especially in catering to demand from China. Vietnam enjoys a free trade agreement with China. “It is part of the TPP (Trans-Pacific Partnership), a 21st century trade agreement, being negotiated by 12 countries including China, US, Australia, Japan and Vietnam. Vietnam has separate trade agreements with Australia and New Zealand too. If we create a manufacturing ecosystem for Indian companies in Vietnam, they can tap China and other TPP countries as well,” the official said.

Indian companies in agriculture, pharmaceutical and textiles sectors were keen to exploit the value chain advantage using Vietnam as a base, officials said. “They can export semi-finished products from their Indian units to their factories in Vietnam and complete the manufacturing.

Vietnam opens the doors to the world,” they added.

India suffers a large trade deficit with China. In 2013-14, the trade deficit topped \$40 billion and is projected to only increase in the coming years. Despite sustained engagement with various Chinese authorities to gain access to markets in sectors including textiles, agriculture and pharmaceuticals, India has not been able to make any significant headway.

Recently, the department of commerce took a delegation of big textiles manufacturers such as Welspun to Vietnam to explore investment opportunities. “Some of these countries, wary of China, are also keen to see investment from emerging markets like India. Like Vietnam, Myanmar is keen to get Indian companies. But Indian companies are keen on building scale and want to cater to the global market. So, the government will facilitate this,” an official said.

*(<http://indianexpress.com/article/business/budget/in-the-budget-a-r100-cr-plan-to-tap-chinese-market/>)*

*Contd. from Page 10*

### Chinese provocation: Is India prepared ?

the threat of a two front war, improve bilateral relations with China and enhance cooperation between the two countries on regional and global issues.

Finally, India has been consistent in following an independent foreign policy which suits our interests best. We have consciously stayed away from being part of any alignments. However, in the event of a continuously bellicose and confrontationist Chinese attitude, India should keep its options open for alignments both at the regional and global levels to meet the challenges of a hostile environment. Diplomatic alignments would be an additional hedge against avoiding a repeat of 1962.

The author is former Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army.

*([http://www.indiastrategic.in/topstories1899\\_Chinese\\_provocation\\_Is\\_India\\_prepared.htm](http://www.indiastrategic.in/topstories1899_Chinese_provocation_Is_India_prepared.htm))*



## Government to promote Northeast Study Center in JNU

**Delhi March 3, 2015:** Government of India has decided to promote Northeast Study Centre in Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) as a part of its initiative to obtain a better understanding of the peculiar characteristics of the region through institutionalized research based on evidence and data. Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of Northeastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh said here today, during an interactive seminar held at JNU focusing on the areas and concerns of students from Northeast. Vice Chancellor JNU Prof. S.K. Sopory and other senior faculty members were also present on the occasion.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the picture is not as pessimistic as it is sometimes made out to be. In this context he referred to the figures and stated that many people are not aware of the fact that out of a total strength of over 8000 students in JNU, around 500

belong to Northeast, which accounts for nearly around 6% of the total student population in the campus. On an average, there could be 60 students each from each of the eight Northeastern States studying in JNU. This number is quite remarkable when compared to the students in JNU from other peripheral States like Jammu & Kashmir or Himachal Pradesh.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the students had an advantage of serving as active ambassadors of Northeast in India because at this age, they are endowed with energy, activism and urge to perform. He advised them that after having completed their studies in JNU, they should prefer to go back to Northeast and enrich their native State with the knowledge and academic empowerment obtained from here.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, it is for the young members of the community, and particularly students, to make an extra effort to highlight all the good work and good contribution being made by the Northeast community living in

the Union Capital, so that the media is compelled to project Northeast only for good reasons and never otherwise.

Referring to Prime Minister's special focus at Northeast, Dr. Jitendra Singh mentioned, the allocation of Rs.2,362 Cr. made in the current budget presented in the Parliament on February 28, 2015 and the announcement to setup a Film Production Institute and an AIIMS both of which will go a long way in providing employment as well as better vocational avenues for youngsters in the Northeast without having to move out to other cities in the country.

Dr. Jitendra Singh called upon the student community from Northeast to feel free to communicate with him and said that after setting-up two hostels in the JNU and the Delhi University South Campus respectively, DoNER Ministry will work on identifying other places also for similar hostels.

*([http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/government-to-promote-northeast-study-center-in-jnu-115030300940\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/government-to-promote-northeast-study-center-in-jnu-115030300940_1.html))*

## ONGC organises cultural heritage festival in Tripura

Agartala, Mar. 3, 2015: The Oil and Natural Gas Company has organised a two-day cultural heritage festival in Tripura to promote the tribal culture of the state. All 19 tribes of the state participated in the festivities.

Various traditional dances of indigenous tribes like the Reang, Chakma, Garo, Jamatia, Kaloi, Lusai and Kuki are performed during the festival

"We want to bring the rich culture which is prevailing in the village of Tripura and spread it among the new generation of the urban class so that it can be preserved and inculcated among them," said ONGC Tripura asset manager VP Mahawar.

"This programme will help to save our cultural heritage and the mother tongue of the indigenous people. Moreover the indigenous

dress and ornaments also play a vital role in our customs and culture," said Bishwadev Kaloi, a visitor.

A fashion show of traditional costume was also organised to show the indigenous dresses of the tribal community.

*(<https://in.news.yahoo.com/ongc-organises-cultural-heritage-festival-tripura-151645053.html>)*

## PM salutes Arunachal's patriotism

Itanagar Feb 21, 2015: The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi on Friday heaped praises on the people of Arunachal Pradesh for guarding the easternmost frontier of the country with sincerity and zeal.

"Arunachal is the only state in the country where people greet each other with 'Jai Hind'. This speaks of their patriotic nature. The tradition created by the people here is an inspiration for the entire country," the PM said, while addressing the 29th statehood day celebrations at the Indira Gandhi Park here.

Clad in a traditional Nyishi attire, comprising byopa (head gear), poma (jacket) and zilang (Apatani shawl), Modi exhorted the people to keep the tradition alive.

I salute the people of this state for exhibiting their patriotic nature," he said. He added that India would shine only if Arunachal grows. "Arunachal will be a growth engine for the entire country with its immense natural resources. Bright days are not far away for the state," he said.

Wishing the people on the occasion, the PM said, "People will witness more progress of the state in the next five years than they could have perceived in the

last 28 years."

Praising the climate and pristine environment of the state, the PM said people here worship nature and don't tolerate her exploitation for Arunachal still remains a virgin place.

"Yesterday (Thursday), I was in Rajasthan, the westernmost part of the country and today (Friday), I am in the easternmost state.... I feel proud to inform you that yesterday I gave away the Krishi Karman Commendation Award to Arunachal Pradesh for record food grain production, which is very encouraging for the farming community," he added.

Promising to create opportunities for the poorer sections, he said, "Delhi is ready to serve you every moment."

The Centre was contemplating to convert the northeast into the 'Organic Hub' of the country to boost agriculture and horticulture productions, considering its suitable agro-climatic conditions. It has proposed to establish six new agriculture universities in the region, the PM said.

"My government is planning to launch 18 new FM channels for the region for which auction will be conducted soon... Besides, proposals have been made to

improve 2G, 3G and 4G connectivity in the region, which has been neglected for many years," the PM said to a thunderous applause. "There is no dearth of funds, but the respective state governments of the region should ensure judicious utilization of central funds," he said.

He added that he has directed all his ministers to visit the NE states twice a month to oversee the development initiatives undertaken by the government and look into the problems faced the people of the region.

"The Centre is pro-active towards the northeast and will initiate all measures to bring the region's development on a par with other developed parts of the country," he said. He added that the NDA government at the Centre has proposed special scholarships for 1,200 NE students so that they can contribute towards the development of the nation.

Terming connectivity as the major bottleneck for development, Modi said several infrastructure projects are in the pipeline which would change the face of the region soon.

*(<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/PM-salutes-Arunachals-patriotism/articleshow/46317118.cms>)*

## Rajnath Singh Stresses on Security for North-Easterners in Delhi

New Delhi February 16, 2015 : Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said the people belonging to the north-eastern region of the country and living in Delhi should be provided full security.

Speaking at Delhi Police' 68th Raising Day function here, the minister said "the people of the north-eastern region living in the city and elsewhere in the country should be provided security".

"The people from the north-eastern region should not feel alienated in the national capital," he added.

*([http://zeenews.india.com/news/delhi/rajnath-stresses-on-security-for-north-easterners-in-delhi\\_1547455.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/delhi/rajnath-stresses-on-security-for-north-easterners-in-delhi_1547455.html))*



## Modi assures full freedom of faith; meets Christian leaders



New Delhi, Feb 17 : Coming out unequivocally for the first time against recent attacks on churches and controversial utterances by right-wing fringe elements, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday said his government will ensure complete freedom of faith and will not allow any religious group to incite hatred against others “overtly or covertly”.

Addressing Christian leaders at a function here, the prime minister reached out to them, saying he strongly condemned violence against any religion.

“My government will ensure that there is complete freedom of faith and that everyone has the undeniable right to retain or adopt the religion of his or her choice without coercion or undue influence. My government will not allow any religious group, belonging to the majority or the minority, to incite hatred against others, overtly or covertly,” he said.

“Mine will be a government that gives equal respect to all religions,” Modi said, breaking his long silence on the subject.

“We cannot accept violence against any religion on any pretext and I strongly condemn such violence. My government will act

strongly in this regard,” he added.

Modi has been facing flak for not speaking out strongly against saffron fringe elements of his Bharatiya Janata Party-led government who have kicked up a controversy by peddling the Hindutva agenda and by their comments on “ghar wapsi”, or return to the Hindu faith.

Addressing a function to mark the ‘National Celebration of the Elevation to Sainthood of Kuriakose Elias Chavara and

**“My government will ensure that there is complete freedom of faith and that everyone has the undeniable right to retain or adopt the religion of his or her choice without coercion or undue influence. My government will not allow any religious group, belonging to the majority or the minority, to incite hatred against others, overtly or covertly,” he said.**

Mother Euphrasia’, he said his government stands by “every word” of the Universal Declaration and of freedom of religion or belief.

“India is the land of Buddha and Gandhi. Equal respect for all religions must be in the DNA of every Indian. We cannot accept violence against any religion on any pretext and I strongly condemn such violence. My government will act strongly in this regard,” Modi said.

He also appealed to all religious groups “to act with restraint, mutual respect, and

tolerance in the true spirit of this ancient nation which is manifest in our Constitution and is in line with the Hague Declaration”.

Christian leaders immediately welcomed Modi’s remarks and hoped they would translate into action.

Father Savarimuthu Sankar, of the Catholic Church, told IANS: “The general feeling is that everyone is happy that finally he has spoken. Although it’s late because we wanted him to speak before Christmas last year. We hope his words are translated into action.”

In the most recent attack, the Holy Child Auxilium school in south Delhi was ransacked by unidentified people Feb 13. It was the sixth incident of attack on churches and a school in Delhi over a period of two months.

Modi had summoned Police Commissioner B.S. Bassi asking him to speed up investigation in the incidents of vandalism and bring the guilty to book.

Following the attacks, Christian leaders claimed that their community was being subjected to intentional attacks and attempts were being made to instil fear among them.

The BJP also faced its first electoral debacle after its winning spree in the general elections last year when it fared miserably in the Feb 7 Delhi assembly elections, despite Modi being one of the main campaigners.

*(<http://www.newkerala.com/news/2015/fullnews-20643.html>)*

## Cabinet approves Compulsory Registration of Marriage Act

Shillong, March 3, 2015 : Meghalaya cabinet today approved the amendments of the Meghalaya Compulsory Registration of Marriage Act, 2012 and its rules for introduction in the forthcoming Assembly session slated for next week.

The decision came a day after a social activist Michael Syiem threatened to launch an indefinite hunger strike to protest against government's delay in framing the rules for the implementation of the marriage Act in the state.

"We have approved the proposed amendments of the Meghalaya Compulsory Registration of Marriage Act 2012 and amendment and also the

Meghalaya Compulsory Registration of Marriage Rules 2015," Chief Minister Mukul Sangma told reporters.

"The same will be introduced in the floor of House during the upcoming budget session of the State Assembly," he said.

According to the chief minister, the rules of the Act will be subsequently notified post assent of the proposed amendment of the Act by the Governor.

Stating that there are certain minor amendments that were proposed by the department concerned, he said that these amendments related to certain things on the nomenclature of the principal act adding in addition it

is also related to corroborate the people who are required to be captured in the Act with complete clarity.

The Act envisages compulsory registration of all marriages between people belonging to any caste, tribe or religion contracted as per the customs, practices or traditions in the state.

A 55 year-old Syiem yesterday announced his decision to stage an indefinite hunger strike after the cabinet did not take up the matter.

*([http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/cabinet-approves-compulsory-registration-of-marriage-act-115030301357\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/cabinet-approves-compulsory-registration-of-marriage-act-115030301357_1.html))*

## PM bats to transform NE into an 'Organic Hub'

Itanagar, 20 Feb. Reiterating his government's commitment for development of North East, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today announced several projects for the region saying that the DoNER ministry has already mooted a prospective plan for region specific 'Make in NE' in accordance to his 'Make in India' initiative.

Addressing a mammoth gathering on the occasion of 29th Statehood Day celebration at Indira Gandhi Park here, Modi said that the Centre was contemplating to convert North East into an 'Organic Hub' of the country to boost agri and horti production keeping in view its suitable agro-climatic condition and has proposed for

establishment of six new agriculture universities in the region.

"My government is planning to launch 18 new FM channels for the region for which auction will be conducted soon... Besides, proposals have been made to improve the 2G, 3G and 4G connectivity in the region which remained neglected for many years," the PM said to the thunderous applause of the people.

"There is no dearth of fund... but the respective state governments of the region should ensure judicious utilization of all central funds," he said and added that he had directed all his ministers to visit the north east states twice in a month to

oversee the development initiatives undertaken besides to study the problems of the region.

"The Centre is pro-active to North East and will initiate all measures to bring the region's development at par with other developed parts of the country," he said adding, the NDA government at the Centre has proposed special scholarship for 1200 students from the region so that they could contribute to development of the nation.

Terming connectivity as the major bottleneck for development, the Prime Minister said that several infrastructure projects are in the pipeline which would change the face of the region soon. *(The Sentinel 21.02.2015)*



## Missionaries and their 'Holy' Mission

- Er. Rajesh Pathak

Last year the scholars from University of Montreal and Ottawa (Canada) did a research work on the life of Mother Teresa and presented a report, which debunked the myth so far held regarding her personality. The report was flashed in mass media. According to the report the ways of Mother Teresa of helping the destitute and distressed were dubious; she was glorified through media campaign. Seeing the churches getting empty, Vatican intended to glorify her, so that the people could be attracted back to the religion. It also says that it was the miracle of medicine, and not that of Mother Teresa, that cured the diseases. This report and the facts given below are needed to be considered to understand the tenor of what RSS Sarsanghachalak Mohan Bhagwat had said regarding Mother Teresa.

With the advent of British rule in India, Missionaries entered India through education and spread all over the places through so-called service among poor and backwards in particular. They hobnobbed with the then British govt. and had entire tribal belt of north-east India to be declared prohibited for everybody other than they themselves, only so that the evangelisation of local Hindu vanvasis could freely be carried out with no hint to anybody. It is because of this we see the region overwhelmingly populated with Christians today.

In rest of India they did the same by spreading the network of schools and colleges. These institutions emerged as a hub of anti-Hindu preaching in favor of

Christianity. So optimistic Macaulay, founder of English education in India, could not resist himself from saying that —"With the little western education Bengal will no longer have idol-worshippers." The foundation of English education was laid around 1813 AD with the colleges like Bishop College and Dough College of Calcutta, and Wilson College and S.P.G. college of Trichinapalli.

**"More than one billion people in India are in misery....they need help...and they are getting attracted in great numbers towards Christ. This nation of sub-nationalities provides an opportunity to bring good news to these millions of people who have remained inaccessible so far."**

Initiated with the arrival of British the mission has now assumed too wide a dimension. Taking conversion for a war, they started the 'Project Joshua' in 2002, with the purpose of carving out such regions inside the country where the writ of Church prevails. A deep study about which caste resides in which part of the country; what its weaknesses are; and, most of all, how the weaknesses could be exploited in the interest of Christianity has been a vital part of this Project. From whose inspiration this is initiated is none other than Jim Towey, who was once the legal advisor of mother Teresa. Church-planting movement', 'Mission India' and many such other organisations are there which are doing the same work under pseudo names; people

know not of them that's a different matter.

Operated from America, 'Mission India' collects the donations and sends it for 'holy' mission in India. But, how holy is the mission could be understood just by looking into what is written in its booklet—"More than one billion people in India are in misery....they need help...and they are getting attracted in great numbers towards Christ. This nation of sub-nationalities provides an opportunity to bring good news to these millions of people who have remained inaccessible so far."

Unethical acts such as these of missionaries could not escape from the eyes of Gandhiji. And, despite being a supporter of secularism freedom of preaching, he had to say "The way the Christian missionaries are indulged in their activities of religious conversion these days, they will be given no chance of doing so in free India. They are inflicting harm to entire India. This is a tragedy for the mankind to have the thing like missionary preaching. So long as you missionary people consider non-Christians and Indians as the people lost in the darkness of ignorance, there will be no place for you in free India." (Mahatma Gandhi-Christian Missions, Their Place in India, page 151 and 220).

(The writer is a senior columnist)

(<http://organiser.org//Encyc/2015/2/28/Missionaries-and-their%E2%80%98Holy%E2%80%99-Mission-%EF%BB%BF.aspx>)

## Mother Teresa – An Aggressive Catholic Missionary

- Jagdamba Mall

Mother Teresa was at the top among first few high-ranking Christian missionaries who expressed their anguish in the long letters addressed to Morarji Desai – then Prime Minister and to the President of Bharatvarsh against Freedom of Religion Bill introduced in Parliament by Om Prakash Tyagi in 1978. She also wrote letters against Freedom of Religion Bill 1978 introduced in Arunachal Assembly by Shri Gegong Apang – then Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh. Because of this bill, no Christian missionary was allowed to enter into Arunachal Pradesh. With a view to defy this rule and display the rabid missionary might, Mother Teresa accompanied with Bishop of Dibrugarh and a host of other lady and gent missionaries tried to sneak into the state but she was stopped by the police as per the State Government's order. She felt insulted and humiliated. She was furious and rushed to Delhi to complain to Prime Minister Morarji Desai against State Government of Arunachal Pradesh. She was vomiting fire against those responsible for the introduction of Freedom of Religion Bill and against those who blocked her entry into Arunachal Pradesh. Morarji Desai reportedly asked the purpose of her visit to sensitive state - Arunachal Pradesh which China wants to swallow. She was offended further because she did not expect Prime Minister to question the integrity of a missionary of her fame who had "sacrificed" her life in the service of Biblical sheep – the victims whom the missionaries hanker to harvest, whom the missionaries

yearn to trap. On hearing Mother Teresa for long, Morarji Desai said – "When Arunachal Pradesh does not want your services, why are you insisting?" To this, the so called Mother said – "People of Arunachal Pradesh cannot be left orphan, they cannot be deprived of God's message (Christianity). They cannot be deprived off our services." To this, Morarji Desai said – "Service and Conversion cannot go together. If people of Arunachal Pradesh do not want your services you should not insist". The "annoyed" Mother left PMO in disgust and wrote an open letter to Morarji Desai which reads – "No man, no law, no Government has the right to prevent me nor force me nor anyone if I choose to embrace the religion that gives me peace, joy, love." She had mentioned in that letter that she was told that Gandhiji had said – "If Christians would live their lives according to the teachings of Jesus Christ there would be no Hindu left in India". She ridiculed Hindu Dharma and said – "You cannot give what you do not have".

She said, "This new move that is being brought in Parliament under the cover of Freedom of Religion Bill is false. There is no freedom if a person is not free to choose according to his or her conscience. Our people of Arunachal Pradesh are so much disturbed. All these years our people have lived together in peace. Now religion is used as a deadly weapon to destroy the love they had for each other, just because some are Christians, some are Hindus and some are Tribals. Are you not afraid of God? Who are we to prevent our people

to find this God who made them – who loves them to whom they have to return?" The so called Mother did not stop here. She was not humble in her submission. Rather, she was commanding Prime Minister. She wrote – "Mr. Desai, you are so close to meeting God face to face. (It means you have become old). I wonder what answer you will give for allowing the destruction of life of innocent unborn child and destroying the freedom to serve God (means winning over the vulnerable poor people to Christianity) according to one's choice and belief. After the hour of death I believe we will be judged according to the words of Jesus". She said further – "Turning to another sad point I wish to inform you that I have been trying to get into Arunachal Pradesh for some time now but so far I have not succeeded and yet RamKrishna Mission members are entering freely. We are in 87 places in India. Why are we not with our poor in Arunachal?" Morarji Bhai wrote back – "If Charity and Philanthropy are not connected with any ulterior motive, they are beneficial. But Charity and Conversion cannot go together. Religion prospers only when Charity and philanthropy are undertaken without any motive". Morarji Bhai wrote further – "The bill you have mentioned does not affect adversely the propagation of religion. In fact, the bill is an attempt to see that the poor and illiterate may enjoy religious freedom without fear. We have to be particularly vigilant about the Scheduled Tribes whose protection is not only guaranteed by the laws of the land but is also



enshrined in the constitution. It is our duty to preserve every aspect of their way of life along with their religion and ways of worship. No group belonging to any creed should interfere with their religion and rituals. Other organisations are also engaged in the philanthropic work which you claim. But the work can be helpful only when it is done without any ulterior motive. It is my opinion that you should revise your attitude to O.P. Tyagi's Bill in the light of what I have stated". The Bishop of Dibrugarh reportedly stated, "We need not enter into Arunachal Pradesh to serve our sheep. We shall serve our people in Arunachal Pradesh by working in bordering areas in Assam." Thereafter, Church concentrated their activity in the Assam areas bordering Arunachal Pradesh. Today two Bishops – one at Miao in extreme east and the

other at Itanagar, are all out for high yield of harvest. The Changlong and Tirap districts of the state adjoining Nagaland have become harbour and harbinger of NSCN--IM and NSCN-K – the two Christian terrorist organisations from Nagaland and the conversion is undertaken at gun point.

In fact there was nothing noble about the Nobel awarded to Mother Teresa. It was awarded to her with a sole aim of pushing conversion crusade spearheaded by the so called "Mother". During early 1978 till 1980, Mother Teresa moved freely even in Nagaland and Mizoram where the Church sponsored terrorism was at its peak. The Christian Missionaries and their masked supporters in and outside Parliament and state assemblies of Nagaland and Mizoram are required to be unclothed and exposed. They are a potent promoter of danger to

peace, prosperity, unity, integrity and sovereignty of the country. RSS Chief Shri Mohan Bhagwatiji has rendered a valuable service to the nation by exposing Mother Teresa who acted as an umbrella to conspiracies hatched by the Church. The service projects, hospitals and missionary schools are conversion carriers and breeding centres of Church sponsored Christian terrorism. Not only that, the Church acts as shelter place to terrorists in the places like Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and other Christian dominated packets of North-East Bharat. The Church also acts as a Coordinating Agency between various terrorist groups and subversive organisations. Let there be a high level Enquiry Committee to report about anti-national activities of Church at national level. Sooner the better.

*Contd. from Page 6*

## **Vedic Alternative to Darwinism**

vegetarianism?

M.C. - I follow a spiritual vegetarian diet. When I accepted initiation from my guru, I promised never to eat meat, fish, or eggs (and also no onions and no garlic). In this way, one avoids the karmic reactions that come from killing animals. But there is some karmic reaction even for those who consume only vegetarian things. So from Bhagavad Gita, I learned that a truly spiritual person eats only food that has been offered first to God. That is called prasada, the mercy of God, and it is free of karma. I have been following this diet for forty years now. I think it is good from the point of view of spirituality, health, ethics, and the environment.

World over Hindu philosophy is gaining wider acceptance. However, in India, teaching/ studying Hindu philosophy and its sacred texts are considered anti-secular.

The secular states all over the world have not been able to stop crime, political corruption, unemployment, recessions, depressions, war, social conflict, environmental degradation and so many other problems. And of course there are the larger problems of birth, death, old age, and disease that confront everyone, even in the secular state. A true understanding of the Vedic teachings offers us not only the chance to elevate consciousness beyond the cycle of birth and death but also the chance to live in this world in the best way possible, even from the secular point of view.

P.K. - We have been continuously destroying our planet earth by our actions? What is the solution?

M.C. - I addressed questions like this in a book that I wrote with Mukunda Goswani, titled Divine Nature: A Spiritual Perspective on the Environmental Crisis. The key is to understand that nature is God's energy. In Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna says, he is the source of everything and that matter, in its various forms, is one of his divine energies. So we should take care of them.

*(Organiser March 1, 2015)*

## Lord Shiva, First Messenger of Islam —Mufti Muhammad Ilyas Qasmi

Mufti Muhammad Ilyas of the newly-formed Muslim body Jamaat Ulama-e-Hind on February 19 said Lord Shiva was the “first prophet of Islam” and Muslims are “followers of Sanatan Dharma (Hinduism)”.

Ilyas was in Ajodhya on February 19 to invite the local Sadhus and Mahants to a communal harmony seminar-National Qaumi Ekta Conference, which was held in Balrampur on February 27 .

He said that Muslims should have no reservation in accepting that Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati are their creators. “We are all Indians and children of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati and there should be no reservations in accepting the truth,” he said.

Ilyas also said, “He is not

opposed to the RSS idea of declaring India a Hindu nation. All religion are preaching the same message. We are Indians first and our message is to spread peace, harmony and brotherhood. The citizens of China are called Chinese and in Japan are called Japanese, similarly we are called Hindustani”. We are not against declaring India a Hindu Nation, he added.

Meanwhile, the VHP has welcomed the approach and said it is in the interest of nation. “Although we disagree with Ilyasi’s statement that Lord Shiva was a prophet as he is a God, but we welcome the cleric’s statements. Rising above religions, he has tried to unite people and take them away from

self-centredness. Why a hue and cry is being raised when he (the cleric) is talking about all Indians are Hindus. The arguments he has given to establish his points are extremely logical, Those who oppose ‘Vande Matram’, hoist Pakistani flags in India, disrespect Amar Jawan Jyoti (a war memorial dedicated to soldiers) in Mumbai and raise voice against Batla House encounter and the execution of Afzal Guru have no right to question Ilyasi,” VHP spokesperson Vinod Bansal told Firstpost.

While Muslim intellectuals rubbished Ilyasi’s statements as his personal views, however Bharatiya Janata Party has termed it his personal comments.

(Organiser March 1, 2015)

## Ali-Aye Ligang celebrated

- NilaKanta Kardong

Ali-Aye Ligang, the main and only festival of Mising tribe, celebrated by the people of the community living in Itanagar with much funfare and traditional gaiety with a two day programme at Solung Mopin ground, Itanagar . Ali-Aye Ligang is an agriculture-based festival of the Mising celebrated on the first Wednesday of ‘Fagun’ (between January and February) month every year. The literary meaning of Ali-Aye Ligang stands for first sowing of roots and fruits in which ‘Ali’ stands for seeds, ‘Aye’ for fruits and ‘Ligang’ for sowing. Various cultural programmes, songs and dance competitions, including “*Oinitom A:nunitom, Kaban, Gumragsonam, AterSonam,*

*MibuDaknam,* etc. were organized to mark the occasion. Former, Chairman of Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commissioner, Ex-President, AVP, Ex-President, IFCSAP Ex-Vice President Janajati Faith and Cultural Protection Forum Shri NabamAtum attended the festival as a Chief Guest, advised the people of the community, who are also descendants of Abo Tani, to preserve their rich culture and tradition saying that festivals provide opportunities to learn from each other about their culture, traditions in a better way and help to create a sense of oneness among various communities for keeping their culture alive. Secretary, Rural



Devopment and Panchayat Raj Shri TahangTaggu also attended the festival as a Guest of Honour and wished the people a grand and meaningful Ali-Aye Ligang celebration. The grand festival also graced by IGP Shri NabinPayengand galaxy of the senior dignitaries.



## A SHORT HISTORY OF HUNDRED DRUMS WANGALA FESTIVAL

- Dr. M. S. Sangma

After creation of Meghalaya State, few enlightened and culture conscious people of Tura became quite concerned about the fast changes that were taking place in the cultural aspects of Garo life due to outside influences. They felt that if changes continue at such a rapid pace, the Garo indigenous culture including dances, songs, music, etc., will completely vanish in no time. It was under this atmosphere of fear and apprehension that brought them together to devise ways and means of preserving and promoting their original culture. A small committee was formed consisting of intellectuals and culture-loving people who decided to form "The Hundred Drums Wangala Festival" on modern lines. Thus was born the Hundred Drums Wangala Festival in 1976 with its headquarters at Asanang. Its main objectives are to preserve and promote Garo traditional songs, music, dances and games by holding annual festivals and by organizing seminars and imparting training in Garo folk culture and other cultures and by having a museum and a Library. It was with these aims and objects that the Hundred Drums Wangala Festival was registered in 1990 under the Meghalaya Societies Act, 1990, Vide Regn. No. SRJWFO/365/90 of 1990.

The first Hundred Drums Wangala Festival was organised on the 6th and 7th, Dec. 1976 at Asanang with Shri B.K. Nehru, the then Governor of Meghalaya as the Chief Guest and Capt. W.A. Sangma as the Guest of Honour, along with other state Ministers and dignitaries. The public from all over

the hills and the plains gathered by thousands to witness the first ever thrilling Wangala Festival. The first prize was bagged by Tosekgre village for its best performance in the dance competition. The second festival was held in 1977 in which SM E. Barch, Minister of Agriculture, Meghalaya, was the Chief Guest and was attended by a host of other Ministers and dignitaries. First prize was won once a gain by Tosekgre village for its over-all best performances in dance competition. The festival was organized for the third time in 1978 with Shri S.K. Marak, Education Minister, Meghalaya as the Chief Guest and the first prize was bagged by Miapara village. In 1979, the function was graced as the Chief Guest, by the then Governor of Meghalaya, SM M. Dighe and the first prize for the best dance performances was won by Baghmara and by Rengsangre village in the following year. The greatest number of first prizes were won by Sadolpara village winning sometimes for three consecutive years. Cash prizes of Rs. 1000/-, Rs. 800/- and Rs. 600/- only were given to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> positions respectively.

In a span of 25 years, that is, from 1976 to 2001, the festival was organized every year except in 1998 with utmost rejoicing and gaiety. All these functions were graced, as the Chief Guests by the Governors of the State, Chief Ministers like Shri S.C. Marak. Central Minister and Speaker of Lok Sabha. Shri. P.A. Sangma, the last in 2000 A.D. being Shri M.M. Jacob, the Governor of Meghalava. It was also attended by other Ministers,

MLAs. MDCs and other dignitaries. The function used to attract not only the tourists from within the country but even from outside. Besides, people of all walks of life, far and near used to throng to witness and enjoy the most spectacular cultural show of Garo Hills. Except one each at Williamnagar, Chandmari and Tura Stadium, all the other functions were held at Asanang. Out of M.P. scheme, Shri P.A. Sangma donated Rs. 10,00,000/- only towards the building of one permanent building. Thus a new building has come up though not complete to accommodate the participants.

The first Chairman of the Hundred Drums Wangala Festival was Shri Sandford K Marak, then Education Minister of Meghalaya who held whelm of affairs till 1982. He was succeeded by Shri Helsingforce A. Marak, who continued as the Chairman till 1993. Thereafter, the post was held by Slid Leander K. Marak who continues till date, with the full support of the Executive Committee members and the General Body. The first Vice-Chairman was Shri Emithson W. Marak who served in the same capacity from 1976 to 1993. The next Vice-Chairman was his own son-law, Shri K.K. Sangma who continues till today.

The first Secretary of the Festival was Shri Hubert K, Sangma who very ably continued till when it was taken over by Shri Prabhir Raksam. BDO, in 1979. He 'was followed by Shri Kitker K. Sangma, Special Education Officer in 1980 and then by Shri Vicent

**Contd. to Page 23**

## Religious conversions: Seeking equal standards in good faith

Of late, the issue of religious conversions has taken centre-stage, with emotions running high. Christians argue that had their efforts at harvesting souls through conversions been strong and widespread, they would not be just 2.3% of the population. Muslims claim they do not indulge in organized conversion efforts and the growth in their proportion of the Indian population, from under 10% in 1951 to nearly 14%, has been through a higher birth rate. Hindus, reduced in proportion from over 84% in 1951 to 80%, state that their non-proselytizing culture works to their disadvantage, so they have every right to ghar-wapsi programmes. Perhaps it's time to dump the emotions and take a rational look at the issue.

In all honesty, while there may be material gains from religious conversions, spiritually, it is almost always negative. Why? Because true spiritual growth happens with internal focus, when you attempt to seek truth within yourself. Not when you try to prove the "other religion" as false. But this is a complex topic, one that has been explored by the spiritually adept for millennia. It's not something that can be explained in a brief newspaper article.

So let's move away from the spiritual aspect of conversions and turn to material benefits. Undoubtedly, from this perspective, there can be both positive and negative results.

Besides the obvious efforts of faith-based groups in education and health, what are the other material positives? Subject any group to competition, where they

lose their own flock to others, and what do you think will happen? Obviously, reforms! Efforts will be made to make themselves more attractive to their own followers, perhaps even to others. Let's elucidate this through the biggest present-day social problems in three religious groups: the caste-system among Hindus, the child sex-abuse scandal among Western Catholics, and extreme violence among Arab Muslims. The victims of these social problems are primarily their own members. Those being oppressed by the present Hindu caste system — a corruption of ancient Vedic thought — are also Hindu. The tens of thousands of Western children (maybe hundreds of thousands, as some reports suggest) raped by Catholic priests, were Christian. Studies prove that a vast majority dying from violence committed by Islamists & Jihadists in the Arab world are Muslim.

Genetic research suggests that the rigid, birthbased caste system emerged about 2,000 years ago. It appeared very difficult to get rid of. But in the last 60 years, Hindus have made dramatic improvements in this sphere, though I admit that there is still a long way to go. What is the reason for this? There could be many, but it cannot be denied that one of the key factors driving current reforms is the fear of losing oppressed Hindus to other faiths. So competition has forced positive change.

The Roman Catholic Church, for many decades, simply denied the sex-abuse epidemic. But as

the church started losing followers in record numbers in Europe and the US (primarily to Atheists & Unaffiliated, but also to other faiths), they were forced to confront this problem. No less than Pope Francis admitted that there were many paedophiles among the clergy. The first step towards solving a problem is accepting that there is one. I'm sure the church will work towards resolving this burning issue.

In most of the Arab world, conversion out of Islam is legally banned and punishable by death. So it is not possible for other faiths to offer competition. But if the Arabs would open their hearts and minds to Islamic interpretations from liberal Muslims of India and Indonesia, I'm sure they'd be able to significantly control their problem of horrific violence.

Materially then, it appears religious conversions could offer some benefits. But there are problems as well. Often, conversions also lead to resentment, social chaos and violence. We have seen this, particularly in the Middle Ages, where Europeans, Arabs, Mongols and Turks killed millions in the names of their faiths. How do we control this?

Like in any industry (and let's be honest, religious conversion is an industry now), there should be rules. First, funding for religious conversions should be scrutinized as per legal parameters and all organizations must file accounts in India. Second, there should be parity i.e. either every religious group should be legally allowed to



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## Religious conversions

proselytise without any opposition from the state/media/elite voices, or nobody should be allowed to proselytise. Third, some troubling agencies should be proscribed in India. For example, no rational people would want Saudi Arabs to spread their version of Islam; most intelligence reports suggest that the Saudis fund and encourage religious violence, most of which is directed against those they believe are 'impure Muslims'. I think Indian Muslims, who are among the most liberal and pluralistic Muslims anywhere, should be encouraged to spread their syncretic interpretations

throughout the world. Groups like the American Evangelists should also be proscribed in India. Their version of Christianity is hate-filled, nothing like the peaceful version we know from Indian Christians. You only have to visit [www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net) to see the pernicious beliefs of these American Evangelists e.g. the 10/40 Window countries (Between 10°N and 40°N; India is included) are called the 'Strongholds of Satan'. I can't imagine Indian Christians agreeing with this description of India. Lastly, obviously, any violence or calls to violence have to be strictly banned.

Once we place these controls, we should encourage all faiths to solicit conversions openly. We may benefit from it, at least materially.

Having said that, in my heart, I still feel that it's spiritually better to celebrate our own faith and also seek to reform, from within, any corruptions that have crept in; rather than wasting time trying to prove other religions wrong, for that leads one away from spiritual growth.

(<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/sunday-times/all-that-matters/Religious-conversions-Seeking-equal-standards-in-good-faith/articleshow/46570017.cms>)

## Loktak among Earth's 14 amazing waterbodies

IMPHAL, March 12 – Manipur's Loktak lake is the sole waterbody in India that has been listed among 14 most amazing waterbodies on Earth in BBC's Strange and Beautiful list in its website.

The amazing waterbodies on the earth include a spring that bubbles like champagne to a lake that changes colour.

Loktak Lake in India "is speckled by phumdis: large,

circular masses of intertwined vegetation, soil and other organic matter. The largest phumdi covers over 40 sq km."

"Rich in biodiversity, the lake is home to threatened animals like Indian pythons and hoolock gibbons," says the BBC site. "It also supplies water to a hydropower project."

The other most beautiful waterbodies in this planet Earth include multi-coloured Grand

Sobhapati Samom Prismatic Spring of USA, Canada's Lake Manicougan which covers an area of 2,000 sq km and Spotted Lake, Plitvice Lakes of Croatia, Pamukkale Travertine Terraces of Turkey, Boiling Lake of Dominica, Blood Falls of Antarctica, Lake Retba of Senegal, Kelimutu Crater Lakes of Indonesia, Champagne Pool of New Zealand, Cano Cristales of Colombia and Salar de Uyuni of Bolivia.

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## A SHORT HISTORY OF HUNDRED ...

Sangma, MCS, and then Shri B.P. Dhar, EDO, He was succeeded by Ms. Lutherine R. Sangma, MCS, who very ably steered the organisational meetings and the Festivals from 1989 to 1992, when it was taken over by Shri Hubert B. Marak, MCS, from 1993 to 1995, and then by Shri B. P. Dhar again in 1996. The last and the present incumbent is Shri Prabhat Ch. Sangma who piloted the organisation under the guidance of

its able Chairman and the enthusiastic members of the Executive Committee.

Looking back at the last twenty five years of its existence, we may vouch that the Hundred Drums Wangala Festival has done some justice in fulfilling few of its Objectives, at least in encouraging the dancers to learn to dance in great technical skill and rhythm to the tune of drums accompanied by

indigenous musical instruments and led by a leader called "Grikgipa" shouting shouts of pride and challenge. For all these encouraging successes, the organisers wish to thank the Government of Meghalaya, M.P. MLAs, MDCs and others who supported the Organisations either in cash or in kind.

Long live Hundred Drums Wangala Festival

## Muslim Women Must Press for Their Rights

- Firoz Bakht Ahmed

When her parents asked her to wear a “burqa” (veil) while attending classes at the Jamia Millia Islamia in Delhi, Rubina refused to comply with the demand. She was barred from going to the university and sat at home washing dishes.

Barely 16, Safia, a brilliant Class 10 student, was on the warpath against her parents who had fixed her marriage with a man almost triple her age. Safia, who aspired to be a doctor, had no option but to discontinue her studies despite being a topper in her school.

Fauzia, a graduate from Delhi University's upmarket Lady Shri Ram College, joined a computer programming course. Her parents asked her to marry not the boy of her choice and she committed suicide.

These three examples are just the tip of the iceberg as abject illiteracy for various reasons among Muslim women lies at the root of the endemic backwardness of the community at large. After the debilitating trauma of the sub-continent's vivisection, Muslims struck to the traditional forms of education in a futile bid to retain the very vitals of their religion, drawing flak from religion as well as secular world. That's why we don't have many Fatima Biwis, Najma Heptullahs, Shabana Azmis and - well, the

list is too small!

Even in the new millennium, the haplessness of Indian Muslim women continues at the same rate. In most of the rustic areas and even in the urban settlements the rate of literacy among Muslim women is as low as 90 per cent.

Muslim women in India are also handicapped owing to the dictates of Muslim Personal Law that is not scriptural in nature and the conservative ulema have further complicated the issues by interpreting them in a very orthodox manner.

The inherent weakness of neglecting one half of the community has, over the years, taken its toll on the Muslim community. Today, there are only a few girls in the community who are educated ones. Muslim girls' lot is reduced to that of a prisoner without parole according to Fehmida Riyaz, a globally acclaimed Pakistani poetess.

One has heard Muslim men casting the decree of talaq on matters like the favourite dish, the colour of the suit worn by women or simply sharing the responsibility to look after a small child. Talaq-e-Bidat is the one that is ordained in one sitting. Talaq-e-Sharia is the one that aims at spacing the entire process over a period of three months so that frayed tempers on both the sides are cooled

down resulting in the rejuvenation of matrimonial link again. It is Talaq-e-Bidat that has been the real culprit behind breaking of many families.

Prophet Mohammed abhorred divorce. Even a Muslim woman can seek divorce from her husband, but nevertheless, such cases are far and few. If her husband refuses to grant her divorce, she can go to a law court and obtain a decree in her favour. This may seem to place her at a disadvantage in comparison to her husband, and it may be asserted that this implies the inequality of rights, as between husband and wife.

The bane of Muslim women is that time and again, they are dragged in one controversy or another. Be it the debate of Muslim women to be allowed to pray inside the mosques or the Shah Bano imbroglio or the case of the young Ameenas being “exported” to the Arab Sheikhs, the politicians as well as the clerics try to eke out political mileage out of it. No one is worried about their dwindling literacy figures and the problem of their uplift. The Muslim fundamentalists throughout the world and more prominently in Muslim dominated states are trying to make Muslim women faceless and nameless.

Quite interestingly, rights of



women in Islam are umpteen as we see in the notable reforms effected out by Prophet Mohammed, who restricted unlimited plurality in the matter of wives, discouraged divorce, forbade female infanticide and disposal of widows as part of the deceased man's possessions. Moreover, he established a law of inheritance for women, secured to wives the right to mehr (dower), enjoined

kind treatment towards female slaves and at the same time promised religious favours as a reward to those who helped to support widows and orphans. The Prophet abhorred the announcement of divorce. It is the Muslim men who are not following their prophet's dictates.

It is high time that Islamic laws were interpreted and

understood in the right perspective and progressive order to do away with discrimination based on distinction by the present day ulema. Prophet Mohammed made no distinction between men and women when it came to their rights.

*([http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/muslim-women-must-press-for-their-rights-comment-special-to-ians-march-8-is-international-women-s-day-115030800058\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/muslim-women-must-press-for-their-rights-comment-special-to-ians-march-8-is-international-women-s-day-115030800058_1.html))*

### Three Indian Americans win Intel Science Talent Search medals

Washington March 12, 2015: Three Indian-Americans who won medals in the Intel Science Talent Search 2015, America's oldest and most prestigious pre-college science and math competition, met President Barack Obama at the White House with other finalists.

They were among the 40 high school seniors, 13 of them of Indian origin, who were in Washington for the finals of the contest to find the most promising young US innovators creating the technologies and solutions that will make people's lives better.

The finalists took home awards totalling more than \$1 million with Noah Golowich, Andrew Jin and Michael Hofmann Winer each receiving first-place awards of \$150,000 in the competition run by Society for Science and the Public.

In addition to the top awards, three second-place winners received awards of \$75,000 and three third-place winners

received awards of \$35,000.

Indian-American Saranesh (Saran) Thanika Prembabu, 17, of San Ramon, California, won the Second Place Medal of Distinction for Innovation.

Saran studied how varying the layers of lead titanate and strontium ruthenate in nanocrystal superlattices can affect their electrical and magnetic properties, which could be harnessed for a variety of electrical and computing applications.

Shashwat Kishore, 18, of West Chester, Pennsylvania, won the Third Place Medal of Distinction for Basic Research.

Kishore's math project focused on representing abstract algebras using matrices. His work developed a new relationship between these matrices and topology.

Anvita Gupta, 17, of Scottsdale, Arizona, also won the Third Place Medal of Distinction for Global Good.

Gupta used machine learning

to "teach" a computer to identify potential drugs for cancer, tuberculosis and Ebola. Preclinical trials are already underway in China on the tuberculosis drugs that she identified.

"A solid foundation in science, technology, engineering and math creates the critical talent corporations and startups need to drive their business and contribute to economic development," said Renee James, president of Intel Corporation.

"These students serve as shining examples of the incredible work being accomplished in STEM fields by young people, and we are proud to recognize and reward these stellar young researchers," said Maya Ajmera, president and CEO of Society for Science and the Public and alumna of the Science Talent Search.

*([http://zeenews.india.com/news/sci-tech/three-indian-americans-win-intel-science-talent-search-medals\\_1560229.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/sci-tech/three-indian-americans-win-intel-science-talent-search-medals_1560229.html))*

## The Cobra and the Crows



There was a big banyan tree, where two crows - husband and wife, had prepared a nice nest and made it their home. In the hollow of the same tree, lived a black cobra.

The crows had a problem because the black cobra would climb up the tree and eat the newborns, whenever the female crow hatched her eggs. They could do nothing to save them.

The crows went to a jackal, who lived in a nearby banyan tree, to seek his advice. They narrated everything to him and requested his advice for them to get rid of their problem.

They said, "O Friend, It has become dangerous to live here. Please tell us how we can protect our children from being eaten up by the wicked black cobra."

The jackal replied, "Please don't give up. Even powerful enemies can be overcome with the use of wit."



On hearing this, the crows requested, "O Friend, please tell us how we can overcome and destroy this wicked cobra."

The jackal told them a plan, "Fly into the capital of the kingdom, not far from here. Visit the house of someone who is wealthy and careless at the same time. Notice if something of value is lying around. If you find so, pick it up when the servants are watching you."

He continued, "You will need to fly slowly so that the servants can follow you. Return back to your tree and drop it in the hollow of the tree where the cobra lives. When the servants reach, they will kill the cobra when they see it."

The crows decided to follow the jackal's advice and flew off immediately according to his plan.

As they flew above the capital, the female crow noticed wealthy women swimming in a lake. They had left gold and pearl necklaces on the banks of the lake, which were guarded by royal servants.

At once the female crow swooped down, and picked up a big necklace in her beak, and started flying slowly.

When the royal servants noticed her, they picked up sticks and stones, and started throwing at her, and ran to chase her.



As planned, she dropped the necklace in front of the hollow of the tree, where the black cobra was asleep. She sat on one of the branches for the royal servants to notice.

When the royal servants arrived, the black cobra came out of the hollow of the tree to see what all the noise was about. The black cobra confronted the king's servants with swelling hood, but the servants attacked the cobra with sticks and stones to recover the necklace.



They killed the wicked cobra, and returned with the necklace. And the crows, having gotten rid of the cobra, lived happily.

### The wise indeed say:

Even a very powerful enemy can be destroyed through deceit.

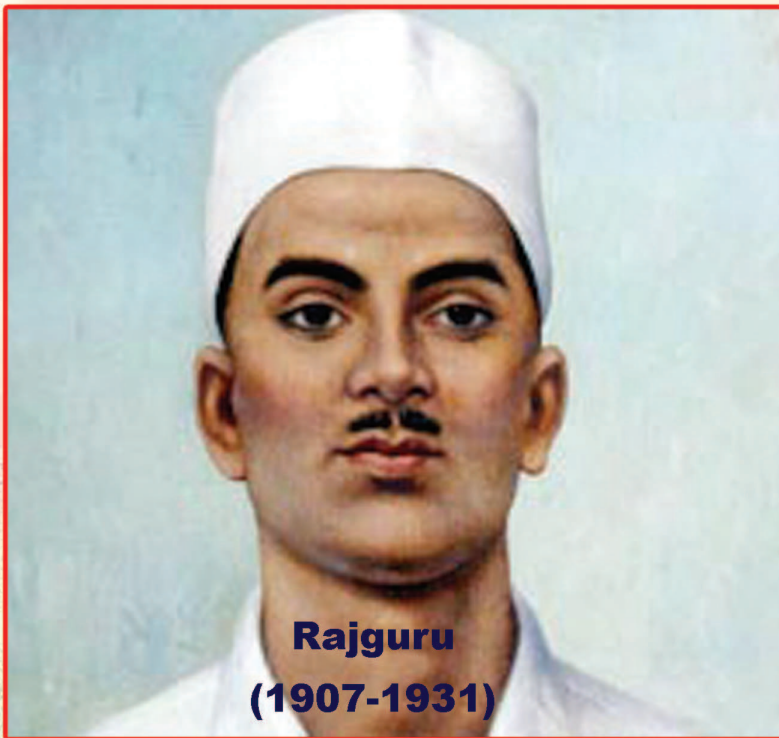




Ali-Aye Ligang, the main and only festival of Mising tribe, celebrated by the people of the community living in Itanagar







**Remembering  
LEGEND'S**

**23rd March**

**SHAHEED DIWAS**