

Sangh Sandesh

संघ संदेश

April – June 2012 – Yugaabd 5114



European Shibir, Page 12

UK Samachar

p7 North London Geet Pratiyogita



Balagokulam

p14 Mr Grudge

Published quarterly by
Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (UK).
Registered Charity No. 267309
For any contributions, comments and
correspondence please write to:
Sangh Sandesh,
46-48 Loughborough Road,
Leicester, LE4 5LD, UK

email: sanghsandesh@hssuk.org
website: www.hssuk.org

For private circulation only.

Editorial team: Poonam Davdra &
Amit Patel

The editors reserve the right to edit the
material submitted for publication. The
opinions expressed in this publication are
not necessarily those of HSS (UK).



Contents

April - June 2012 - Yugaabd 5114

Editorial	2
Sewa News	3
UK Samachar	4
Interview	8
Hindu Vishwa	9
Utsav	13
Balagokulam	14
SIP JAM	15
Noble Efforts	16
Sanket	17
Book Review	19

Editorial

Namaste readers,

There was much fanfare and celebration over the Queen's Diamond Jubilee weekend. Despite the typical wet British weather, hundreds of thousands of people gathered on the banks of the River Thames to watch the flotilla, held street parties and flew flags to be part of this memorable occasion.

Queen Elizabeth II is 86 years old and has been on the throne for 60 years. Regardless of whether people are pro or anti monarchy, it is difficult to deny that the Queen's reign has represented stability during otherwise turbulent times

Her external composure, hard work and energy in the face of adversity and criticism is admirable and character traits we can learn from. As an elderly Head of State, the continuity of her leadership means that she is a great ambassador for the UK.

We can find ourselves in very difficult or very successful situations in life or in Sangh. It is how we deal with these that define our character. Our behaviour can also act as a model or motivation for others. In this issue, we read about inspirational people such as Swami Vivekananda. We also read about the various activities that our Karyakartas have been involved with both in the UK and around the world, including the North London Geet Pratiyogita, the European Shibir and Vedic Mathematics in South Korea.

Poonam Davdra ■

“Charity through Adventure” - The Yorkshire 3-Peak Challenge

On the 5th May, I went on an adventurous trek in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales for charity. It was an amazing experience! Having left early on Saturday morning, and after a long journey, we stayed overnight in Lancaster and had a lovely dinner.

Sunday was the big day! It was freezing, but we later warmed up with Surya Namaskaars. The first peak was easy but coming down was the most difficult part! Because it had been raining the previous day, there were small streams coming down and the marsh land didn't help! I was cold and wet, but remembered it was for charity so I pushed myself to keep going...

It was difficult (being my first time), but I later got into quite a rhythm. Getting to the top of the second peak was really long! It took me and my Dad ages! As we were walking up we saw a lake, stream and a waterfall. The scenery was incredible! At the top of the second peak, it started snowing heavily.

And again, the hardest part was coming down! It was really steep and there were so many rocks and stones, I thought there was no way I could go down without falling.

That was it; 2 peaks only I'm afraid! It was all I could do as I was just so tired! It took me nine hours to complete both and I was knackered.

Some rest and relaxation in the evening restored me. And the pizza we had for dinner helped too! It was an amazing experience and I really enjoyed it. Bring on next year... I'll definitely complete all three peaks!



Some facts

The walk covers 24.5 miles over Pen-y-Ghent, Wharfedale and Ingleborough, a total climb of 5,000 feet.

- 543 people attended on the day, as well as a few visitors.
- 157 people completed all three peaks
- 126 people completed two peaks
- 120 people completed the longer one peak walk
- 114 people completed the shorter one peak walk
- 26 people volunteered to make the day a great success!

Over £6,000 has been raised so far for The Three R's Education Trust and will be used for Ekal Vidyalaya in Nepal.

Sanskrita Sambhashan Shibiram 2012

The Shibiram took place between 15th and 19th February 2012 and was my first experience of learning Sanskrita.

Everyone's passion for Sanskrita was clear, whether they were attending the Shibiram for the first or fourth time or as a Shikshak.

The day began at 9am with chai and finished with bhojan at 6:30pm. Throughout the day there were four sambhashanam sessions, where we did the bulk of our learning in the best way possible- conversation. There were also other sessions spread through the day where we could learn more on one chapter of the Bhagavad Gita or the art of Vedic chanting.

The Vedic chanting session was lead by Smt Vasantiben Pattalwar (sister of Shankarraoji Tatwawadi) and focused on two texts - the Purusha Sukta (a part of the Rig Veda) and the Taittiriya Upanishad. Sadly the Shibiram was too short to finish the Taittiriya Upanishad and we wished it could have gone on for another week. The other session which particularly interested me was "Understanding Subhashits" as the Subhashits and Shlokas were explained to us in Sanskrit. I felt that this was something that I could take back to my own Shakha and use in Bauddhiks.

Overall, I would say this Shibir was ati uttamam, in terms of food, company and the learning opportunity. Sanskrita Sambhashan Shibiram bhootavan bahu samichinam!

Hinesh Shah, Northhampton

Varsh Pratipada in Wembley

Everyone would like to see their halls full with endless lines in sampat. The question is, how? With the Varsh Pratipada Utsav approaching fast and the task of having Adhiktam Sankya (maximum number) what were Meerabai shakha to do?

To achieve this goal we had to work as a team and create awareness to attract new Sevikas. We began by creating an informative, eye-catching poster which was placed in different areas in Wembley including restaurants, temples, libraries and



even the local paan shop!

On the day of the Utsav we wanted to showcase different areas of Shareerik by having 3 stations of Yoga, Ni-Yuddh and Khel. The Shikshikas gave a presentation on the origins of Samiti, our objectives and the various activities we do. This gave the audience an overview of Shareerik, Bauddhik and the various community projects our Shakha had under taken, such as Sewa Day.

We were very fortunate to be joined by Kirtiben Vekriya from Pannabai Shakha (Woolwich) who delivered an interactive and enlightening Bauddhik on the Utsav. We were successful in achieving our aim with a record for our

shakha - 54 attendees. As a shakha we are extremely proud to have made a mark in the local area and we will take pride in continuing our Samiti work and achieving Sanghathan.

Rosie Dutt, Meerabai Shakha (Wembley)

Training with the UK National Kabaddi team

So we've watched movies like 'Bend it like Beckham' or 'Chak De India' and we feel moved as norms are challenged and women show their passion for what's known as male dominated sports! However, it's even better when you meet a real life example of this.

Recently, I've had the pleasure of meeting Mr Ashok Das, President of the European Kabaddi Federation. He also coaches the England Women's Kabaddi team. The England Kabaddi Association was formed by Ashokji in 2005 to promote the sport of Kabaddi and encourage more people to take up the game. Now the women's team wants to see Kabaddi included as an Olympic sport in 2020.

A few Sevikas were invited to join Ashokji and the England women's team at their recent training session in Hinckley, Leicestershire. It was amazing to see the

passion they all had for the sport and the success they've had since the team was formed just under two years ago.

Shobhaben Trivedi, Hemaliben Joshi, and I were fortunate to have had the chance to train with the team. I must say it was quite nerve racking as the ladies were fearless! We learnt how to play Circular Kabaddi which is a popular form of Kabaddi played in Northern India, and differs slightly from the Rectangular Kabaddi which we play. In this form there are usually only three stoppers and the rest of the team raid the opposite team one at a time, and instead of chanting 'Kabaddi', they have a 30 second rule to raid.

We were shown how they play Rectangular Kabaddi - the aim being to knock out players of the opposite team. I found it interesting that this game was mostly played using the legs, whilst in our competitions we generally use upper body strength. Definitely a tactic we can look to adopt.

Ashokji explained that when he thought about forming a national women's Kabaddi team, he approached members of the Indian community but was left disheartened when they claimed 'Kabaddi was not a women's game'. However, with his determination, he approached the British Army and the Royal Forces to form the team.

At this year's Khel Pratiyogita, Ashokji was impressed to see ladies/girls participating in Kabaddi and was delighted to see we did not share the same view as other Indian communities that he'd come across. As a matter of fact we love playing Kabaddi and we Sevikas definitely believe it's a women's game!

Falguni Bhatt, Ashton

North London Geet Pratiyogita

Credit goes to the organisers for making the experience for all 11 Shakhas, supporters and parents a memorable one.

The Geet Competition, held at Cannons High School, North London on 14th April 2012, provided a showcase of musical talents of all types and participants of all ages, encouraging unity, discipline and confidence building.

Before any great show or performance, practice and rehearsal is needed. Many Shakhas came up with ideas that could rival a West End Musical show and there was no doubt the performances would be incredible, especially due to the hard work and commitment of all participating Shakhas.



The venue was filled with a range of colours, costumes and instruments. You could sense nervousness in the air, with the audience waiting for the show to start and the participants eager to get on stage.

What followed mesmerised the judges. The selection of songs ranging from Sangh geets to Hindu Prarthanas and Shlokas with the addition of instruments and some acting, meant that the judges had a hard decision. I must give a special mention to the Stevenage Balagokulam who performed without any scripts and set the standards for rest of the day. Their performance of "Hum Honge Kamiyab" earned them 3rd spot in the competition.

Second place went to Edgware Samiti with their rendition of "Andhera kaisa jaaye" with amazing vocals and their coordinated dress sense.

With their unique version of the hit song 'Chale Chalo' from Lagaan, Pratap Shakha, Finchley took the stage by storm – using a chair. Not to sit on but to create a sound that caught the audience by surprise. With inspiration from 'Only Boys Aloud' they sent a message of unity and strength and won the audience over as they started to join in with singing the song.

With all performers putting in hard work, the day ended with a nice Bhojan together. It was a great day to meet new people, learn and improve our skills. I am sure if we continue to work together, then we will achieve Sangh's mission. So what are we waiting for? CHALE CHALO!

Nikunj Depala, Pratap Shakha, Finchley



Interview

Interview with Saumitraji Gokhale

Saumitraji visited the UK between 8th and 22nd April. We were privileged to spend some time talking to him about his life in Sangh, which began at the age of 6 and his experiences as a Pracharak.

Saumitraji spent his first five years as a pracharak in Thane and Jalgaon, where he immersed himself into rural life. On hearing he was to go as a pracharak to the Caribbean, he spoke to others and read a lot in the Delhi Karyalaya. We spoke about the different challenges he faced in Bharat, the Caribbean and America and also about what shakha in the Vishwa Vibhaag seeks to achieve.

He felt that wherever Hindus are, the aims of a Shakha should be character building and unity. Specifically, within Vishwa Vibhaag, the focus is to maintain our Hindu identity and to give back to our host community.

Saumitraji enjoyed his time in the UK learnt about the various Sangh projects we run here. He was happy to see Sangh and Samiti working well in parallel and new dimensions being introduced in addition to our grassroots work, such as Balagokulam. It was also a great opportunity for him to spread excitement for the 150th birth celebrations of Swami Vivekananda.

He told us about the work in India and America to remember Swamiji including programmes to empower women, youth and rural/tribal communities. A "Sankalp Divas" is being organised in India where people will come together on one day. They will each make a resolution to take a teaching of Swami Vivekananda and make it a part of their life in 2013. Is this something we could do too?

Saumitraji reminded us that currently, the conditions for Hindus are favourable. India is advancing economically in the eyes of the world. People are curious and more accepting of Eastern philosophies and spirituality. There are many who are in the mood to listen to us and, if we do our part, we have the potential to make a positive and lasting impact.



Gathering of the Elders of Ancient Traditions and Cultures

Haridwar, a holy city known for the Kumbh Mela where over 100 million devotees had gathered last year, saw a Kumbh with a difference this year.

Over 400 delegates belonging to 50 traditions from all over the world assembled from 4-7 March 2012 for the 4th International Conference and Gathering of the Elders of Ancient Traditions and Cultures at Dev Sanskriti Vishwa Vidyalaya. There were Maoris from New Zealand, Mayans and Navajos from the Americas, European Pagans, Balinese Hindus, Romuva from Lithuania and many others. These delegates discussed the ways and means of preserving the priceless ancient traditions and cultures inherited from their ancestors and share their experiences.

Since its inception at Nagpur in 1994 the International Center for Cultural Studies (ICCS) has been active in reaching out to all the ancient traditions of the world, exploring the commonalities in them and bringing them together to foster the sense of oneness in humanity. It promotes the preservation of these traditions and cultures and engages in academic research. Since 2003, it has organized an international gathering every three years which is now established as a platform for all such traditions to exhibit their heritage, find similarities existing in other parts of the world and resolve for efforts to sustain these traditions.

The first international conference was held at Mumbai in 2003 with the theme "Mitakuye Oyasin – We are all related". It was attended by delegates from more than 30 countries. Since then, conferences have been held in Jaipur and Nagpur with representation from over 40 countries. The theme of this 4th Conference was 'Nourishing the Balance in the Universe'. The event was jointly organized by the International Center for Cultural Studies (ICCS), Dev Samskruti Vishwa Vidyalaya (DSVV) and co-sponsored by the Council of Elders Mayas, Xincas and Garifunas, European Congress of Ethnic Religions (ECER) and Children of Mother Earth.

A total of 458 delegates from 33 countries including 178 from overseas participated in the conference. The conference was inaugurated by Pujya Dayanand Saraswati (Arsh Vidya Gurukulam) and Dr Pranav Pandya ji (Gayatri Pariwar) and concluded in the presence of Pujaneeya Sarsanghachalak Shri. Mohan ji Bhagwat.



Setting a new precedent, the University of World Ancient Traditions and Cultural Heritage, USA (UWATCH) awarded Honorary Ph. D. degrees to five eminent personalities for their knowledge, distinguished leadership and outstanding social service to their respective traditions. The five eminent personalities were Kenneth Kennedy of New Zealand – a Kaumatua (Elder) of the Te Arawa tribe and an acknowledged expert in Maori Language and culture, Alejandro Cirilo Perez Oxlaaj of Guatemala – a Grand Elder of the National Council of Elders of Mayas, Xincas and Garifunas of Guatemala, Jonas Trinkunas of Lithuania – a father figure in the



revival and popularization of the ancient Baltic faiths of the Lithuanians and chairman of the European Congress of Ethnic Religions (ECER), Grand Chief Stan Beardy of Canada – Grand Chief of Nishnawbe Aski Nation and Shri Jagdeo

Ram Uraon – President of Akhil Bharatiya Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram.

The 4-day event had transformed the delegates who arrived as strangers but returned as relatives. They felt empowered with the new connections and network. They could communicate with each other not with the help of a language but by their love, warmth, respect and affection for each other. The delegates returned with a renewed vigor and a greater clarity as to why the revitalization of their traditions is the need of the hour for the welfare of the world through a balanced and holistic approach

Like Inra Jaka, who represents the small community of native Cham Hindus of Vietnam, convincingly stated that his struggle to retain everything that he finds closer to nature including arts, clothing, and philosophy is strengthened through this conference. His conviction for preservation of his tradition has grown thousand



fold now.

Watch the Report of the 4th International Conference & Gathering of the Elders of Ancient Traditions and Cultures on YouTube - www.youtube.com/watch?v=zD48QyJC5mA

Vedic Mathematics in South Korea

Shri Ravi Kumar (Joint General Coordinator) on his tour to South East Asia visited Seoul from 26 to 30th April. Three Workshops on Vedic Mathematics and Vedic Sciences were held at Seoul National University's main campus and Sung Kyun Kwan University, Suwon. These were attended by the Head of the Mathematics Department, Dean of the Mathematics Faculty, Professors from different areas of study, Research and Post Graduate students. In every workshop Professors and students showed a keen interest and unanimously requested the duration to be increased in order to learn more. Three of these students conducted classes on Vedic Maths in two temples the next day to the great amazement of the devotees. Ravi Kumar also explained the Hindu influence in South East Asia and around the world at two Radha Krishna Mandirs in and around Seoul.

In all his speeches Ravi Kumar highlighted the strong historical, cultural and linguistic connections between Koreans and Indians for the past 2000 years. Ravi Kumar gave several examples of common words in Tamil and Korean languages to the great amazement of the audience, many of whom were made aware of this for the first time. He also showed the closeness of cultural traits between Indians and Koreans like using only the right hand for giving accepting money and valuables from others, respect for teachers, respecting elders in families and society. Ravi Kumar narrated the story (that most Koreans believe true) that an Indian Princess of divine birth (Mata Laxmi) sailed from Bharat in 48 AD to marry Korean King Kim Suro, also considered as of divine birth (Lord Vishnu). Several Presidents, Prime Ministers and ministers of Korea claim today that they are the descendants of the Divine Princess from Bharat. Narrating this episode Ravi Kumar urged the Indians in Korea to work for a meaningful interaction with Koreans so that the Koreans too start owning the Universal Vedic Values as their own.

Anil Vartak



European shibir 2012

The European Shibir was held in April in Amsterdam. The theme of the Shibir was the "Life of Swami Vivekananda". Around 90 People from different countries including Denmark, Germany, Finland, Norway, France, Netherlands and the UK attended.

The Shibir started with a Ganesh Pujan. This was followed by a parichay with a quiz and games. Different ganas were formed according to age and boudhiks on topics such as Swami Vivekananda and the Sangh Prarthana were taken for these different ganas. We had sessions of Vishesh Abhyas - how to study better - where topics such as Ayurveda, Sanskrit and a question-answer session were covered.

A new song "Apane ghar ko ham hi banaye gokulsa jan man bhavan" was introduced and it was an all time favourite for everybody.

The concept of "Ghar-Shakha" was also introduced in this Shibir. Those who feel that monthly or weekly shakhas are not enough or where distance can be a barrier to attending, Ghar Shakha is an alternative option. Whatever the time, occassion, sankhya and place, Ghar Shakha can be held in our own homes

This shibir was a geat success with new khels, knowledge and parichay with Sevakas and Sevikas from different countries. We were reminded to attend the next shibir and each of us went back taking the important message of Swami Vivekananda with us.

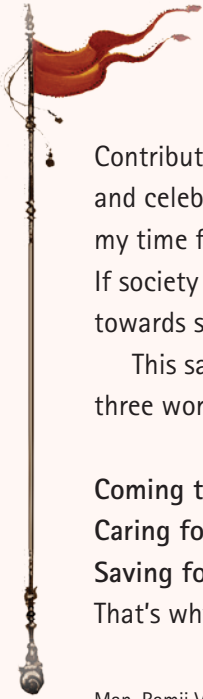
Deepa Tade

GuruPoornima

Gangajali

We are celebrating Guru Poornima utsav in all shakhas and hope that the following notes on Gangajali shall motivate each Swayamsevak/Sevika to participate and every Karyawaha and Mukhya Shikshak to take the initiative to introduce this system in their shakhas.

- Gangajali. – saving, drop by drop, the water of our Mother Ganga.
- A system of self financing with Hindu Sanskar
- A shift from spend, spend, spend to save, save, save
- To save daily for something special is a Sanskaar everyone should nurture within themselves from childhood; whether this special company, a special event, or a special opportunity to live as a Hindu.
- Every organisation requires finance. Fees, funding and donations are the current available methods for educational bodies and charities. Can we give a touch of Sanskar to finance or money collection?



We have inherited a unique system through generations, Contribution. In my family I contribute for bills, shopping, various festivals and celebrations because I have affection towards my family. I contribute my time for my family. There is no selfish motive towards this contribution. If society can be seen as an extension of my family, can I have affection towards society and contribute towards its progress?

This sanskaar can be given from childhood. Our ancestors have coined three words for service to society-Tana-Mana-Dhan.

Coming to Shakha is Tana

Caring for a Sangh is Mana

Saving for Dharma is Dhana

That's why we introduced the Gangajali system in the Shakha.

Man. Ramji Vaidya



Think of a Nara/Mantra by looking at these pictures



1. Vande Mataram
2. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam
3. Asato maa sad gamaya
4. Satyameva Jayate
5. Ram Lakshman Janaki Jai Bolo
6. Hanuman ki Sanghtan mei Shakti Hai

One of our readers, Khushi Arora from Basingstoke Balagokulam has sent us a moral story. Can you think about what lessons we might learn from this story?

We have made small edits to this story for design purposes

I'm Khushi and this is a moral story written by me:

Mr Grudge

Mr Grudge was a wood cutter and had a few servants to cut the wood. However, he only paid them half. He also tricked his customers and gave them bad wood.

One day his servants quit because they did not get paid what they really deserved. Mr Grudge was worried and thought, "Oh no! Now I have to do the work!" Instead of doing the work himself, Mr Grudge went to find another worker. Before he joined, he had a condition. He said to Mr Grudge, "You will have to pay me £5 for my day's work"

"That's too expensive," said Mr Grudge, "you will have to work very hard to get that much." The man agreed and worked very hard during the day. He cut more trees than he needed to. At the end of the day, Mr Grudge only paid the worker £2.50. The worker was very disappointed and did not come back the next day. Instead, he was able to get a good job as a fire fighter.

Mr Grudge needed another worker. He asked a woman to come and work for him and she worked very hard too. Mr Grudge only gave her £2.50. She never came back either and instead, was able to get a job as a child carer.

Mr Grudge was furious about all these workers who only worked for a day and left him. In his anger, Mr Grudge left the iron on and it set fire to his house! He quickly called the fire brigade and the fire fighter who came to rescue him was the same person who had worked for him before. The fire fighter rescued Mr Grudge from the house but only put out the fire on half of the building.

"What are you doing?!" exclaimed Mr Grudge. "Splash the other half too!"

"You only paid me half even though I worked very hard for you. Now I'm only going to give you half of my help". explained the fire fighter. The house was all ruined and Mr Grudge learned from his mistake

Khushi Arora



hssuk-sip.blogspot.co.uk

SIP Jam :: 5 | Transforming (y)ourselves

22.05.2012 | 21.00 GMT | Skype | 3

Personal transformation

is a precursor to

Social change

Maitreyi Gurukulam: Reviving a lost Vedic tradition

A woman is the nucleus of our Indian culture. She plays various roles such as mother, daughter, sister, wife, etc and in each role she plays, she has great influence. The mother is regarded as the first Guru of the child. She raises the child to make



him or her a responsible citizen.

Maitreyi Gurukulam has revived the tradition of Vedic education for women that was lost in the passage of time.

The Gurukulam for women was started to encourage girls to be service oriented and to help them to understand their influence in shaping both society and future generations. The project

is run under the aegis of a local Trust that is a part of Hindu Sewa Pratisthan, Karnataka.

The Gurukulam is situated in a serene atmosphere in Moorukaje village, in Karnataka. As Hindu tradition does not promote the commercialization of education, medicine and food; the three essentials in life, Maitreyi Gurukulam also does not charge fees to its students. Education, including lodging and boarding, is provided, the costs being supported by a local philanthropic society. The local community has recognized this endeavour and the Gurukulam is now so successful that only those who pass the entrance test are admitted.

As you may have seen in pictures, Gurus sit on platforms and the shishyas sit on the floor, right beneath the huge 'cool' green trees. In contrast to a world of education through visual aids, there are no blackboards, chalk pieces or dusters at Maitreyi Gurukulam. Instead,

Gurus pass on teachings through word of mouth. Most of the girls come from rural areas. The school is open to all Hindu girls above 10 years of age without any consideration for caste and class and there are only 20 students per batch. The first phase consists of six-year course and the admission to the higher course is given on

the successful completion of the first phase.

Two decades ago, an old couple, the owner of over 100 acres of land used to live happily on that land with some 200 dogs. However, after her husband passed away, the old lady wished to donate this land to a voluntary organization working for the welfare of women. The noble lady had a clear idea of what she was looking to achieve and one day just handed her papers to a Sangh Karyakarta. Unfortunately she passed away a week later but a team of Karyakartas started working day and night to turn her dream into reality - "Maitreyi Gurukulam".



Salient features of the Gurukulam:

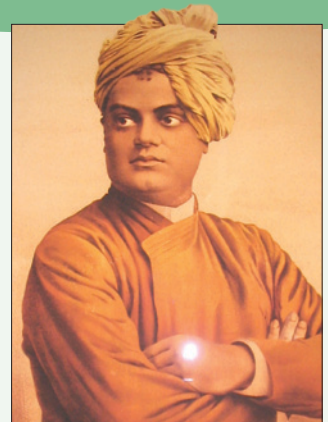
- Learning through the medium of the mother tongue-Kannada.
- A working knowledge of conversational Sanskrit.
- A perfect blend of traditional knowledge and modern information. Hence Vedas, Yoga, agriculture, native medicines and modern science form the core subjects of this multidimensional curriculum. Revival of the tradition of women learning Vedas is also an important aspect of the Gurukulam.
- The girls receive the motherly care of the responsible matrons.

Sanket

Sangh as a continuation of Swami Vivekanand's vision

Vishwa Vibhag Samyojak Shri. Saumitra ji Gokhale highlighted the following points in his bauddhiks during his visit to the UK in April 2012.

These quotations are extracted from Swami Vivekananda's speeches and literature. I hope these points will be very useful for our readers to ponder upon.



Underlying Oneness

"The infinite oneness of the Soul is the eternal sanction of all morality, that you and I are not only brothers – every literature voicing man's struggle towards freedom has preached that for you – but that you and I are really one. This is the dictate of Indian philosophy. This oneness is the rationale of all ethics and all spirituality."

Youth Power

"My faith is in the younger generation, the modern generation, out of them will come my workers. They will work out the whole problem, like lions. I have formulated the idea and have given my life to it. If I do not achieve success, some better one will come after me to work it out, and I shall be content to struggle"

We are Hindus

"Upon us depends whether the name Hindu will stand for everything that is glorious, everything that is spiritual, or whether it will remain a name of opprobrium, one designating the downtrodden, the worthless, the heathen."

Hindu unity

"All of us have to be taught that we Hindus – dualists, qualified monists, or monists, Shaivas, Vaishnavas, or Pâshupatas – to whatever denomination we may belong, have certain common ideas behind us, and that the time has come when for the well-being of ourselves, for the well-being of our race, we must give up all our little quarrels and differences."

Organisation

"From my travels in various countries I have come to the conclusion that without organisation nothing great and permanent can be done." "An organisation that will teach the Hindus mutual help and appreciation is absolutely necessary."

Building Sanskars

"Great enterprise, boundless courage, tremendous energy, and, above all, perfect obedience – these are the only traits that lead to individual and national regeneration."

BookReview

Footfalls of Indian History, Bhagini Nivedita

Nivedita writes, "the character of a people is their history" and she has carefully studied an aspect of Indian history "from the point of view of their impact on the Indian mind". Footfalls of Indian history is not merely a book describing events that took place many years ago, but a deeper study of the impact that changes in society made to the landscape and the minds of the people.

Nivedita cleverly writes in the past and present and at times fluctuates between the two. This shows her trying to comprehend the present through the past and the past through the present. Nivedita shows a remarkable insight into India's past. She shows how important it is to understand India and she uses the landscape to help the reader to try to appreciate it. She uses long complex sentences to build up an image in the reader's mind and is very descriptive about the setting. Nivedita looks at the history of the culture through the change in landscape and architecture and threads through underlying aspects of politics and lifestyle. "Civilizations, like religions, are a web" she states.

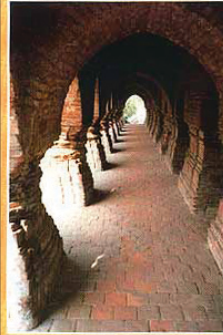
Nivedita pursues further with anecdotes of religious references. Footfalls from the angle of Bengalis has a strong link to Buddhism and she writes that, "Buddhism might well be divided historically into the Rajgir period".

The reader will discover the rich cultural heritage of India through the architecture and the book is a fascinating historical journey, from the ancient seats of Buddhism to the caves of Ajanta.

I thought this was an excellent read - not only can the reader learn about the history of India, but experience it too, as did Bhagini Nivedita.

Anisha Trivedi, Leicester

FOOTFALLS OF INDIAN HISTORY



*We bear them, O Mother!
Thy footfalls,
Soft, soft, through the ages
Touching earth here
and there,
And the lotuses left on
Thy footprints
Are cities, historic,
Ancient scriptures and
poems and temples,
Noble strivings, stern
struggles for Right.*

SISTER NIVEDITA

SanghSandesh

संघ संदेश



Published by:
Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (UK)
46-48 Loughborough Road, Leicester, LE4 5LD, UK
sanghsandesh@hssuk.org • www.hssuk.org  hssuk



Printed on
Recycled paper