

Readers' Comments

SEND US E-MAIL AT : INDIALINK@HOTMAIL.COM OR POST YOUR COMMENTS: TO
EDITOR 42 FARM AVENUE HARROW MIDDX. HA2 7LR OR TELEPHONE: 020 8866 8421

Dear Sir

As a student of history, the political controversy kicked up by the Indian National Congress demanding a religious minority status for the Shaivaites Lingayats of Karnataka, I am reminded of the Oxford Professor Arnold Toyanbee's Theory of History "The Theory of Challenge and Response" as propounded in his monumental work "A Note Book of History." According to him following the onslaught first of Islam and later the rise of Christian power in India, both iconoclastic and proselytizing religions, Hinduism was faced with twin existential crises. Responding to these threat perceptions several Reformist Movements within Hinduism cropped up to defend the ancient religion.

To name a few: Dayanand's Arya Samaj in North India, Guru Nanak Devji's Sikhism in the Punjab, Chaitannya Maha Prabhu's Vaishnavism in Bengal, Basava's Lingayatism in Karnataka, Raja Ram Mohan Roy's Bramho Samaj in Bengal and so on were some of the leading examples. Politics apart, these reformist movements were essentially off shoots of Hinduism. They imbibed some of the egalitarian tenets respectively of

Islam and Christianity like the abolition of the Caste System, endorsing the equality of all men in the eyes of God, eating together without segregation, congregational prayers, rejection of Idolatry, worship of one God, Lingayatism's abolition of cremation of the dead, burying them instead and so on. These Reformed Churches, while they essentially remained within the fold of Hinduism, accepted the imageless non-idolatrous ISHWAR as the paramount God with Vishnu, Shiva, Lord Krishna, Hari Om, Lord Bramha - as in the case of Bramho Samaj - to be the respective presiding deity or deities. Distorting such historical developments for narrow unquantifiable electoral gain should be discouraged both by scholarly opinion and popular debate

Yours truly
Sashanka Banerjee
(Retired Indian Diplomat)

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**Re: Article on
Caste by Krishan Tyagi**

Received yours recently published article on the caste phenomenon in India. It is a good article but could not touch the point that how

to eradicate the social evil. Only introduction of universal and equal education system may be the initial point for eradication of the age old caste system.

Prabhat

From: pramod sharma

As you pointed out the status quo is benefiting the vested interests and they will fight tooth and nail to preserve the caste system. The competitive politics will keep India divided. Politicians in India have never come together for the greater good of the country.

Dr Ambedkar saw movement of people into the cities will reduce the caste system as city folks are less bothered about the caste of their neighbors. Creating more cities will help Indian society to become less caste conscious apart from benefitting the better delivery of health and education.

From: Sushmita Mukherjee

Dear Tyagiji,

A very well researched and pertinent problem expressed succinctly.

I have forwarded it to friends.

Warm regards.

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Children Corner



Ann Chad, a senior resident of Ruislip, Middlesex comments, below, on the contributions by Zara & Alisha in the last issue of India Link:-

Dear Zara:

Thank you for sharing with us your exciting painting of Dom the Dinosaur. He is such a colourful and vibrant character! It raises so many questions about his ancestors! What are your next steps for Dom? Are you going to create some more of his Family for us?

Perhaps some of our young readers would like to send us their thoughts about Dinosaurs? When did they exist? Where did they live? What did they eat?

Would you like to draw a Dinosaur and give him/her a name and send it to us?

Dear Alisha:

Thank you for sending us your lovely painting. We enjoyed looking at all the different colours that you have painted.

Below is a short poem that I have written about the colours we see in your painting and all around us.

COLOURS:

Blue Skies: Slowly we raise our eyes. All around us beauty lies.

White for Purity: Purple for Sovereignty:

Red for Berries and for Cherries.

Golden Yellow for fields of Corn: A new day is born

Green is for a healing Peace: Solitude brings release.

Natures' true gifts from seeds are sown

Trees, plants and flowers with beauty are grown.

Dear Sir

Reading your editorial is always a learning experience and the way you write both about India and England in a balanced manner is a fine art that I wish I could learn from you. Learning some thing about the East India Company and right from then to now, the manner of British to manipulate its erstwhile slave states is very well exposed in your editorial. Words, I find inadequate to praise your writing and the patriotism that is reflected in it. I will have to read the editorial a couple of times to really imbibe its content adequately. Your interview with the Maharana of Udaypur gave insight of the history and the present state of affairs. Then the film review by Vijayji of Padmavat was excellent. I have not seen the movie but after reading her review, it felt as if I had seen it and also saw the strong and weak points in the movie. I wish Vijayji could find some more time in watching a couple of more movies and write their reviews. She has the flair which could be compared with the best in the business. I liked the article by Dr. Mohan Raj Jain, mainly because he has listed some of the good work done by NAMO and also brought one of the important aspect to be looked into. I wonder whether Ms Maria Wirth was a Hindu in her last birth! Her knowledge of Hindu way of life is mind blowing.

In this editorial, not only you have given a brief history of the East India Company, the mean trump card Britain played before leaving by dividing the country on flimsy basis of religion, and Panditji's reluctance to break relations with the British Raj by agreeing to be part of the Common Wealth, the Monarch of Britain being it head. How very beautifully you have advised us! The "Cambridge Analytica" has been exposed. It is said that 800 Crores were paid to them to help win the Gujarat Elections by dividing the voters on caste and religious grounds. However, the last minute efforts by NAMO averted the loss for BJP. I wish NAMO does invite you to be one of his advisers. India will hugely benefit with your knowledge and foresight. Lastly your idea of Indostan was great. Here I am not sure that the terrorist nation Pakistan will join. NAMO has gone out of the way to woo them but they continue to stab us in the back. Till they remain the foremost terror state, I do not see any hope of their improvement. Thank you very much for letting us read such a fantastic editorial.

Best regards

Sincerely,

Chandrashekhar Mumbai

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Dear Editor

You published my letter to PM Modi so beautifully that I received 17 responses congratulating me for my elaborate views.

On a very important topic, AYUSHMAN BHARAT which is going to be biggest and most challenging project of Shri Modi, I am sending you short writeup.

Your sincerely



No: ASM/2018-2019 33

The Palace
Udaipur - 313001
Rajasthan
India

25th April 2018

Dear

Mr Ralleigh,

I was delighted that Aline Dobbie introduced us. It was a pleasure to meet you and Mrs. Ralleigh during your visit to Udaipur on the 23rd February 2018 and exchange thoughts and ideas on the fast changing events in the world.

Thank you very much for sending us your article that subsequently appeared in India Link. We have today itself received the hard copy of the magazine. Thank you very much.

with best wishes

your's sincerely,

Arvind Singh Mewar

Mr. Krishan D. Ralleigh, M.A.,
M.Phil(London)
Chief Editor
India Link International
Head Office: 42 Farm Avenue, North Harrow
Middlesex - HA2 7LR,
U.K.
Email: indialink@hotmail.com
editor@indialink-online.com



Dr M R Jain.

PROF. DR M. R. JAIN FICS, FAMS

Medical Director

JAIN EYE CLINIC & HOSPITAL

K4A, FATEHTIBA, M.D. ROAD

JAIPUR 302004

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Dear Editor

The Karnaaka Saga has three great positives for the future. First, the Supreme Court has shown that it is alive and kicking and is still there as a great umpire between all the parties who only differ in their level of corruption and disregard for the constitution,

Second, the opposition now knows without doubt that united we stand and divided we fall and pre-poll alliances are crucial.

Third, after Akhilesh and Mayawati, Congress has learnt the lesson of humility

and from here on will consider playing second fiddle in the interest of the larger goal. The election in 2019 just got much tougher for the BJP. The icing on the cake would be if Rahul Gandhi would declare that he is not a candidate of the PM post and depending on the final outcome, a United Front will choose an able candidate which will not be him. That would be the killer punch, although I doubt that it will happen. Anyway, the next year will not be a cake walk for Modiji and Amit Shah. "Ab to kaam karna padega Boss." Also, if the others do come to power in 2019 they will certainly be less corrupt and will also have to deliver. They will be scared, 'Kaam karo, chori kum karo nahi to Modi phir aa sssakte hain. So either way this watershed moment can be good for the country in the long run. Bharat Mata ki Jai. SatayeMaeve Jayate.

Ajay and Mona Chadha
London