

## [Letters](#)

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## Letters

### Where is the Action Plan?

Your journal is quite fantastic. An especially helpful addition would be action plans. Regarding the article Educating India, (Apr. 1999), what can we Vedic people do to help rectify this injustice? Who can we contact? Is there a database of important leaders that we can call, email, fax, etc. to lend our moral, spiritual, emotional and financial support? Insight without action leaves the soul unfulfilled.

Shraddha Mahaveer

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\* Shraddha, thank you for this excellent suggestion. We try when possible to provide access to action resources. For lists, contact:

a) American Hindus Against Defamation

--Ajay Shah ([integral](#)) [ahad@hindunet.org](mailto:ahad@hindunet.org)

b) Indian American Intellectuals Forum

--Prof. Romesh Diwan, ([integral](#))

[diwanr@rpi.edu](mailto:diwanr@rpi.edu)

c) Foundation for the Advancement of Arts and Sciences of India

--Prof. Ravi Kulkarni ([integral](#)) [aarsi@aol.com](mailto:aarsi@aol.com)

## Pejawar is in Karnataka

We eagerly wait Hinduism Today's arrival, with its brilliant articles. Your magazine is worth its weight in gold. Choodi Shivaram's Educating India (Apr. 1999) is well researched and succinctly reported. We found one error: "Sri Vishvesha Theertha Swamiji of Pejawar Monastery" is in Udupi, Karnataka State and not in Kerala as printed.

Sunanda and Uppunda V. Bhat

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## Wider Coverage is Better

I was very happy to see the March cover story giving so much prominence to ayurveda ( Rediscovering Ayurveda, Mar.

1999.) Unfortunately the article was on one institution rather than on ayurveda in general. Your correspondent could have done better justice to the intent to propagate ayurveda by contacting a larger number of institutions and individuals.

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## Root Cause of Animal Sacrifice

I tend to disagree with Maneka Gandhi when she states that "discussion of animal sacrifice

should be divorced from religion" (Animal Sacrifice, Apr. 1999.) The root cause of animal sacrifice is the misinterpretation of religion by Hindu priests, who deliberately or ignorantly misguide their clients. Animal sacrifice flies in the face of the basic tenet of Hinduism, ahimsa parmo dharmah ("Nonviolence is the supreme religion"). Even Manu Smriti, often cited to justify animal sacrifice, takes a very dim view of animal slaughter: "Meat can never be obtained without injury to living

creatures....shun the use of meat (5.48). He who permits the slaughter of an animal, he who cuts it up, he who kills it, he who buys or sells meat, he who cooks it, he who serves it up, and he who eats it, must all be considered as the slayer of the animals." (5.51)

Pradeep Srivastava  
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**More Than Relaxation!**

Readers need a counterweight to the hypothesis that hatha yoga was ever intended to serve the visible purpose of reducing "stress." Yogic postures and "diaphragmatic breathing" are meant for the realization of the Absolute by harnessing dormant powers within the human body and by accumulating tapas. The practice of hatha yoga must be restricted to

adherents to the Hindu philosophy that, by intense effort, the individual soul can merge into an impersonal "Ocean of Being." Otherwise we will convert the fabulous gifts of ancient India into a New Age faddish facade, like Chinese T'ai Ch'i Ch'-uan /Chi Kung has become in the absence of any true understanding of Taoist philosophy.

Arun Kapila

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## Beauty and Simplicity

I have seen so many magazines and newspapers of Hinduism but Hinduism Today is the greatest. You have



really mastered the  
balance between beauty  
and simplicity.

Bala Segaran

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Ayurveda, World  
Health System

"Ayurveda, India's  
Affordable Health  
System" (Mar., 1999),

prompts me to add that ayurveda can also be the world's health system. An important aspect of this is adapting the ayurvedic energetic model to local herbs and foods. Dr. Vasant Lad and David Frawley started this work years ago. By using local

herbs and foods, ayurveda will remain affordable in any country. My own five years experience practicing ayurveda in Europe shows that this local adaptation, in most cases, gives better results to the patient. This shows the greatness, the

universal nature and vision of the rishis who developed the methodology of ayurveda, which remains as valid today as ever.

Atreya Smith

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Hindu Temples

# Must Educate

During the last two decades, many Hindu temples have come up in America. But temples are custodians of Vedic heritage and have onerous duties, not

limited to ritual  
worship alone. Their  
real test lies in how  
far they are able to  
spread Vedic literacy  
among the youth.  
They need spiritual  
awakening and  
temples have to  
fulfill this obligation.  
Temple trustees

need to focus on  
Vedic literacy  
through Bal Vihar,  
Sunday schools, Gita  
classes. Living in a  
multi-racial and  
materialistic  
Western society, left  
to themselves, the  
youth are likely to  
pursue false

identities of life, not  
relevant to Vedic  
culture and Hindu  
ideology.

Ved Vyas

Gandotra

Maryland, USA

Siddeshvari

Devi Right On!



What a wonderful message to humanity. I am distributing it to all the Southern Christian people who work with me. That Car Won't Bring You Happiness, Minister's Message, (Mar. 1999) They enjoy

receiving your  
Minister's Message  
whenever I come  
across such a  
powerful one. Many  
acharyas taught  
"Happiness is in  
you." But they don't  
explain what it  
means. Sushri  
Siddeshvari Devi

correctly identified  
that Happiness.  
Devi's simple  
message to young  
and old alike is an  
eye-opener. That  
part of soul  
identified with the  
Brahman is endless  
bliss which is  
residing in you. Seek

that happiness. My children understood this message and its truth as explained to them in their desire for the materialistic things. I cannot believe a 39-year-old young saint can give such a powerful message

that touched our  
hearts deep inside. I  
believe it's a God's  
message through  
this saint.

Bala

Subramanian

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[Nayatola@aol.com](mailto:Nayatola@aol.com)

# Corrections

\* Maneka Gandhi's husband, Sanjay, died in an airplane accident. He was not assassinated as stated on page

34 of our April  
issue article,  
Animal Sacrifice.

\* The scholar in the  
white shirt of the  
second photo of  
page 33, Om

Muruga! (May,  
1999 was not  
Patrick Harrigan,  
but Alexander  
Dubianski of  
Moscow State  
University.



Letters, with  
writer's name,  
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daytime phone  
number, should be  
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