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From leaders to cities, how India owes a lot to the secret order of Freemasons

Swami Vivekananda, Pandit Motilal Nehru, Rajendra Prasad and Fakhrudin Ali Ahmed are some among many of the prominent

Indian leaders who are

freemasonry.

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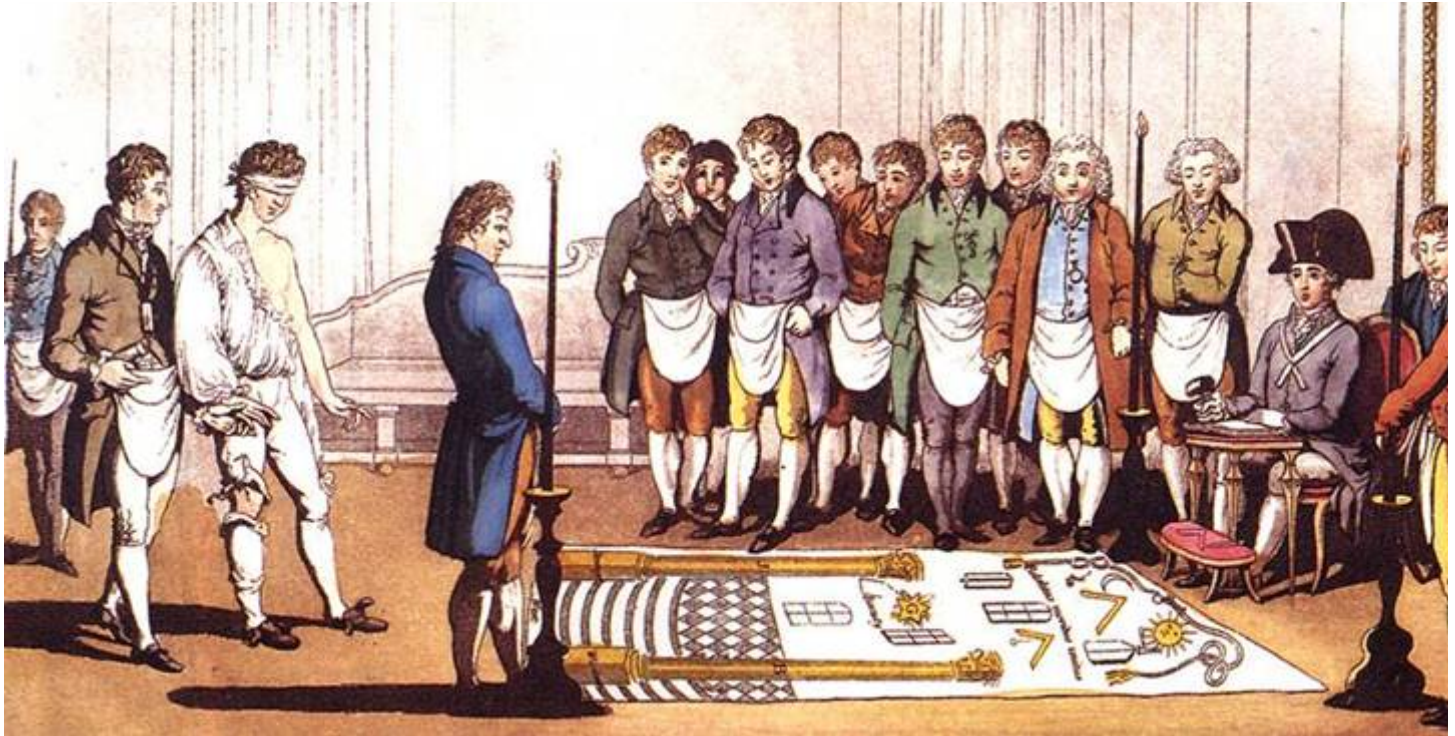
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On February 19, 1884, a young Narendranath Datta joined the Anchor and Hope Lodge and became a Freemason. Within three months, 21-year-old Datta was raised to the degree of ‘master mason’. After nine years, the world came to identify this young boy as one of the greatest spiritual leaders ever born in India and the first to have brought Hindu philosophy to the west. Narendranath, who was by then known as Swami Vivekananda, surprised everyone as he spoke on Hindu culture and religion at World Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893.

It is believed that the freemasons helped Swami Vivekananda during his time in Chicago. But who are Freemasons and why is it that we know so less about them?

The history of Freemasonry might date back hundreds of years, but the credit for introducing India to the cult goes to writers like Dan Brown and Ashwin Sanghi.

The Freemasons, to many, are part of a secret society which is sometimes even compared or linked with the ‘infamous’ Illuminati believed to be trying to take over the world.



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The precise origin of freemasonry is debatable but the central theory claims that the practice evolved from ‘medieval guilds of stonemasons’. These stonemasons were the architects of great cathedrals of Europe and protected their crafts from outside influence by maintaining an oath of secrecy. Jay Kinney, a freemason and author of the book *Masonic Myth*, iterates that these groups or societies of stonemasons were later taken over by elite or intellectual classes retaining the old rituals but evolving into a more sophisticated fraternity.

The many mysteries

Swami Shantanmananda of Ramakrishna Mission in Delhi, when contacted, told IndianExpress.com that literary evidence of Swami Vivekananda as a member of the society is limited to one of his biographies written by his followers.

to have joined Freemasonry in the past. Pandit Motilal Nehru, [Rajendra Prasad](#) and Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed are just a few names among many. Any documentary proof regarding their stint with Freemasonry is however hard to find.



Pandit Motilal Nehru was part of freemasonry in India

In his autobiography, Harivansh Rai Bachchan writes this about Pandit Motilal Nehru:

“Babu Rajaram was a friend of Motilal Nehru; I saw a photograph of him and Motilal in freemasons’ garb; there was, I recall, a freemasons’ lodge somewhere in town. Motilal Nehru was keen on institutions of this kind, and was later attracted to the Theosophical Society”.

In the west, great leaders like Franklin D Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, George Washington among others are also believed to have joined Freemasonry. It is said

movements around the world including the French and American Revolution and the Indian Independence movement.

If the Freemasons actually played a role in these, then why is it that their contribution is seldom talked about?

Freemasonry, Geometry and Architecture

“The whole of Delhi was planned using two specific geometric shapes: the triangle and the hexagram. The fact that the Imperial city of Delhi was planned using triangles and hexagrams is not surprising given that most English royalty had masonic links and Edwin Lutyens himself had masonic links,” said Ashwin Sanghi, author of *Rozabal Line* and other books.

“Similarly, the shape of Connaught Place is designed by Robert Russel who was also a Free Mason. The inspiration for Connaught Place was the Royal Crescent building (in Bath, England). Why were both the Royal Crescent and Connaught Place designed in these specific shapes? The crescent (Connaught Circus) represents the moon while the central portion (the circular park area) represents the sun. Again, both sun and moon figure prominently among masonic symbols,” he adds.



The Royal Crescent building in Bath (Wikimedia Commons)

It is said that the stonemasons designed the architectural wonders of the ancient world including the Temple of Solomon. As per the traditional theory of their origin, which was propounded just six years after establishment of first Grand Lodge in London in 1717, the practice is closely related to geometry which originated with Adam. The story goes that it's knowledge was 'implanted in Adam's heart' by God, who then passed it on to his sons Cain and Seth. It is then said to have been preserved by Noah at the time of great flood.

Thus, many signs and symbols that adorn the Masonic temples and uniforms resemble the geometrical shapes. The Star of David is most popular among them all. This, along with the long tradition of secrecy, led to a belief that it was a Jewish conspiracy inviting backlash from Church and Islamic fundamentalists. In 1983, the practice was banned in Pakistan and their buildings were taken under

target masonic center in Milwaukee by one Sully Mohamed Hanzel.



Thus, many signs and symbols that adorn the Masonic temples and uniforms resemble the geometrical shapes. The Star of David is popular among them all.

Freemasonry in India

The Freemasons' fraternity in India is thriving. There have been no reports of any major opposition to their existence in the past. Brought to India by the British, there are now 380 lodges spread across the country controlled by Grand Lodge of India (New Delhi). According to Grand Secretary V K Gupta, there are around 30,000 registered Freemasons in India out of which 30 per cent are youth "More and more people are showing interest in the fraternity," he says.



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([Facebook](#) photo)

The current head or ‘grand master’ is Harcharan Singh Ranauta. The Freemasons do not believe in practicing any religion, but do not put any restrictions on anyone at the same time. “Our rituals and practices are maintained as a secret just to ensure that Freemasons can identify each other easily. A Freemason in India can go to any other country and he will be treated as part of the fraternity and helped by them,” says a Freemason who did not wish to be named.

The Grand Lodge of India runs a polyclinic inside its complex in Janpath in New Delhi and it is also involved in many developmental and philanthropic activities.

Believers in one God or ‘Father of Universe’, they go by the motto of ‘brotherly love, relief and truth’.



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great information o Freemassons. tnx

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"The history of Freemasonry might date back hundreds of years, but the credit for introducing India to cult goes to writers like Dan Brown and Ashwin Sanghi."

For one thing, the use of the word "cult" is highly offensive, as Freemasonry is not a religion into its Membership requires the belief of a divine power, and in my lodge Christians, Muslims and Hindus have together in friendship and peace, and welcomed Sikh's and others from around the world to join us & later to break bread together.

To avoid picking one divine name over another, and to maintain the peace and harmony of the lodge, use a universal name when invoking his/her/they're (depending on your own religion) protection, everyone can pray for inspiration without people arguing over which religion is "right".

Secondly, Rudyard Kipling would have brought much more public knowledge on Masonry than that terrible trashy writer, Dan Brown, in Kipling's beautiful poetry including "The Mother-Lodge".

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With very untenable or no evidence, author is falling prey to western conspiracy to show that all things great in India were influenced somehow by the West- be it in this case FreeMasons. They want to rope in Swami Vivekananda. Off course, Swamiji was helped by many people when in the US and some of them may have been FreeMason- and so what, but that does not make him a FreeMason. The Article talks about geometry as if it is religion by itself- what a preposterous a notion. If one is looking for geometrical shapes- one should look into Hindu Yantras, Vedic altar geometry, which came thousands of years before British showed up in India.

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Geometry does have importance as it expands our horizon of perception to explore the inner truth that connects and makes us realize that there is nothing as dual.... But those who really realized were not part of any system, institutions, caste, religion, or any ideology as such it is their dedicated curiosity to explore and find the truth...having fed up (Vishada yoga... sufferings of fellow beings) with life full of manipulations.. geometry helps to tune your frequency (Mind) with universal frequency but..... Lodge ???Mason ???' these things were true then the whole world would have been a paradise... ;) :) so let us conclude by saying that the king is naked and those who want to be a part of those intelligent elite need to praise the king to the roof.... Ameen ! Halleluya !!!Praise the lord !!! ;)



Pratip Chowdhury

Worth reading..

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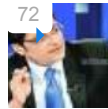
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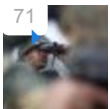
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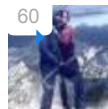
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