

Cultural studies Hindu Art

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Indian studies

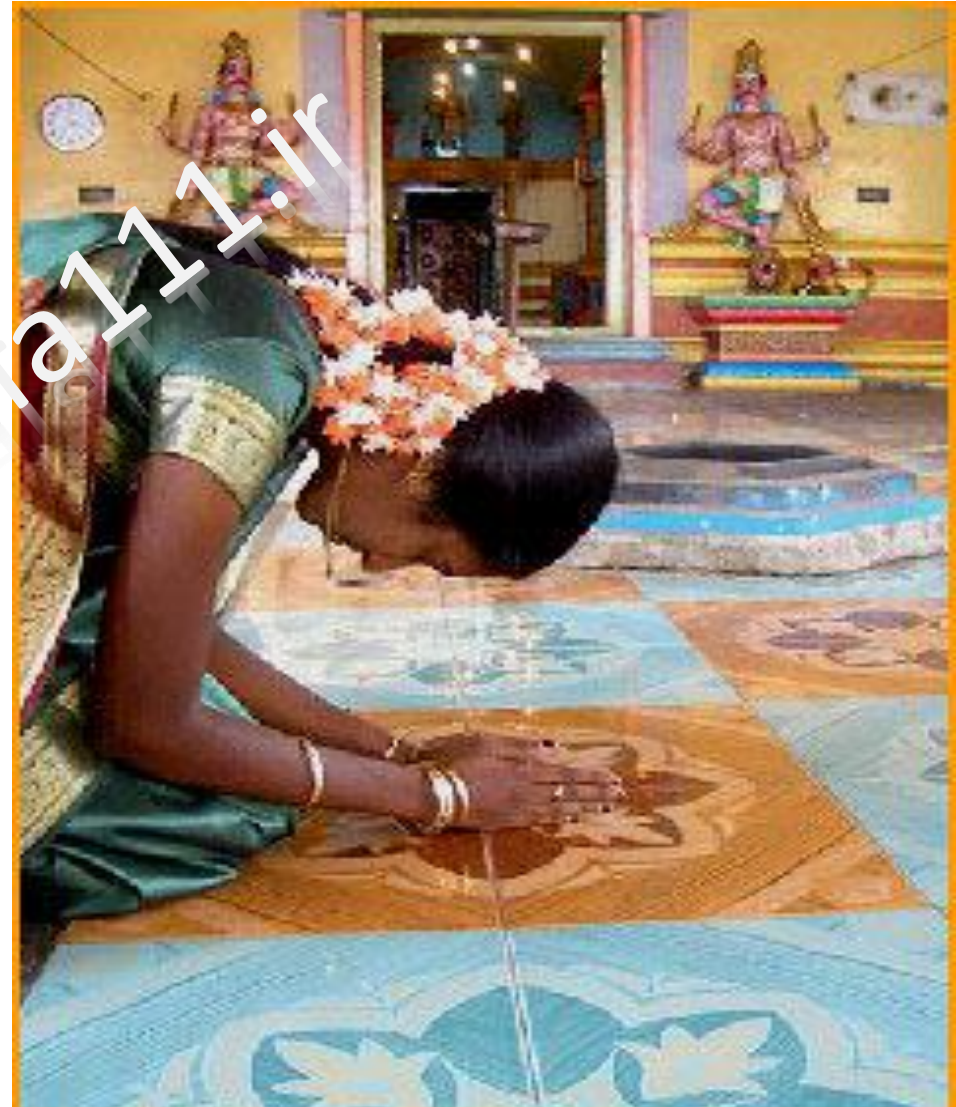
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Subject:

***Political
symbols in
contemporary
Hinduism***



Indian as religious people



Indian as religious people

- Religion in India has deep roots in people life; are the most religious people
- their world and humanity conception are the out come of their different religious believes.
- during long civilization history Indian tried to save or mention their thought and philosophy by a kind of artistic works like historic drama novels and sculptures which carving in stone or painting on the walls or papers.
- And most of them are related to their idea of hundreds millions of Hindu gods and goddess that estimate more than 300 millions that they had been worshiped for long time in different stage of Indian history.
- India can name as lands of gods;
- the gods that every one regard as symbol of something in the being of world. Bringing such vast amount of gods and goddess to realty is imposable hence they change them to symbols and make them visible.



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Hinduism as most populate religion

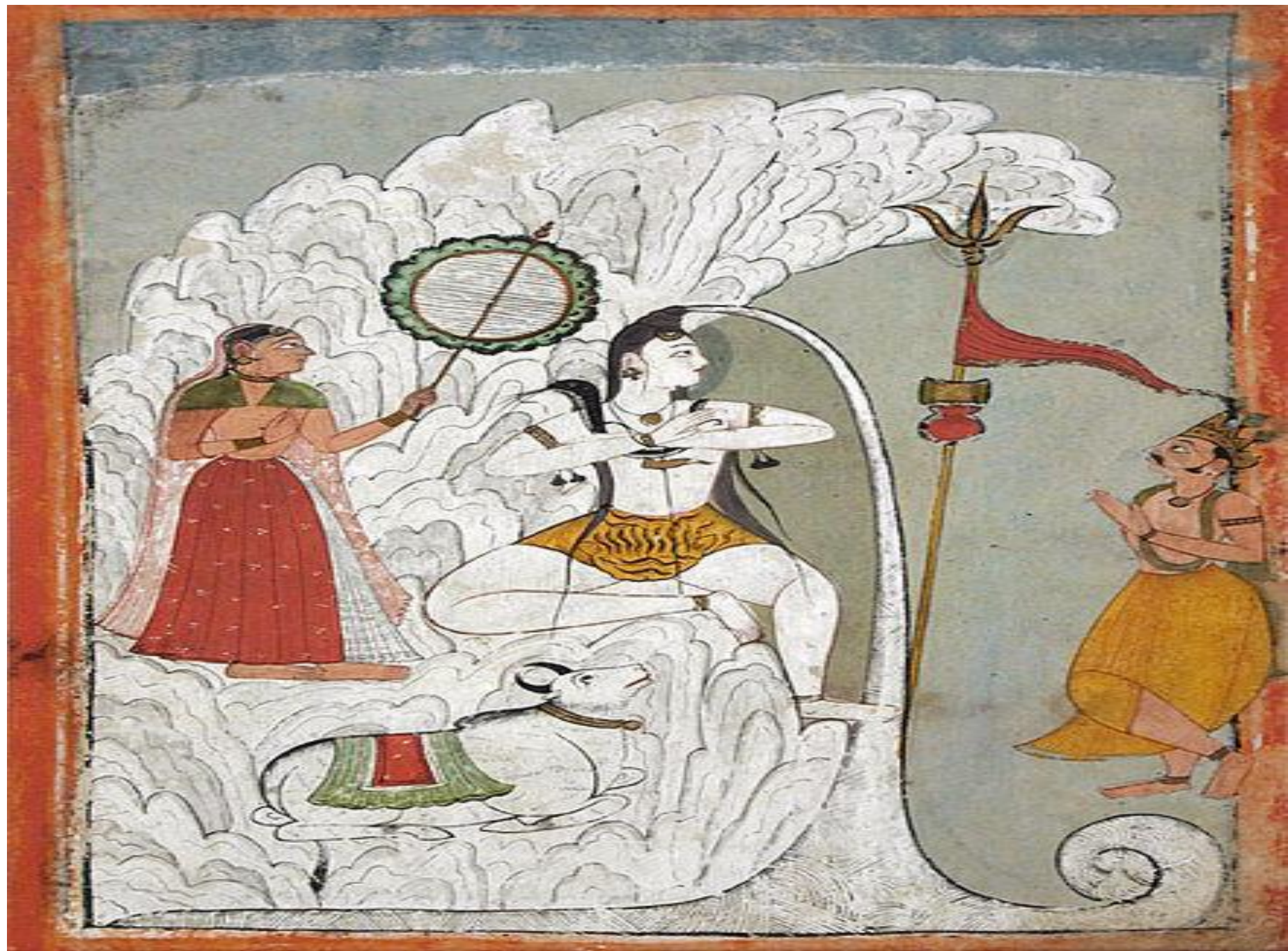


India is a dominate Hindu religion, the official statistics announce Hindu population more than 80% of Indian

Religion art the most powerful one

Visualizing deep religion concepts like truth, values, Gods and Goddesses, world construct, creation of world... put arts side by side of religion and during history these two accompanied and developed and flourished.

as a result today vast variety of arts are available in Indian subcontinent and especially India. The common character of most Indian religious art and writing is, such valuable masterpieces were made by nameless artists; and they didn't try to leave a name in the history of art and philosophy; consequently there are many fantastic books and artistic stone carving... that their writer or artistes are not known.



Symbolic meaning of India National flag



Symbolic meaning of India National flag

The India national Flag (tiranga) as the national symbol of India, has three equal size horizontal colors with dark green in the bottom and white at its center and deep saffron (इडडप्रघग्र or ध्रप्रघ्र) on its top side. It has a navy-blue color wheel (chakra or charkha) that have access to the Sarnath lion Capital of Ashoka the great at the center of white band it is related to dharma.

Symbolic meaning of India flag-saffron



The Saffron as one of the holiest colour is strongly associated with Hinduism; it is colour of fire as the symbol of purity as fire burnt impurities; and also symbol of Supreme Being. Fire worship is backed to Vedic era when the Aryans worship it as holly being even now fire has main symbolic meaning in Hindu prayer. This colour is used by holly men and they wear this colour is a symbol of questing for light. The Rajput as warrior caste in Hindu hierarchy uses this colour in war.

Symbolic meaning of India flag-white



The white colour also represents purity, cleanliness; peace and knowledge, as the goddess of knowledge Sarasvati also wear white colour and position of white lotus. This colour associate to the highest Hindu caste, Brahmans and they use it. It also related to spiritual reincarnation and the philosophy of covering face with white ashes by religion leaders refer to this symbolizing. At the mourning time also Hindu families wear white cloth. So white also has deep meaning in Hinduism

Symbolic meaning of India flag-Green

The green colour is the symbol of peace and happiness, and represents nature that is very important respected in Hinduism.



Symbolic meaning of India flag-Chakra



It has a navy-blue colour wheel (chakra or charkha) that have access to the Sarnath lion Capital of Ashoka the great, at the centre of white band. It is related to dharma. Chakra has 24 spokes. On 22 July 1947 just 24 days prior to independent's day (15 august) in the constituent assembly

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan described the Flag meaning

“Bhagwa or the saffron colour denotes renunciation of disinterestedness. Our leaders must be indifferent to material gains and dedicate themselves to their work. The white in the centre is light, the path of truth to guide our conduct. The green shows our relation to soil, our relation to the plant life here on which all other life depends. The Ashoka Wheel in the centre of the white is the wheel of the law of dharma. Truth or satya, dharma or virtue ought to be the controlling principles of those who work under this flag. Again, the wheel denotes motion. There is death in stagnation. There is life in movement. India should no more resist change, it must move and go forward. The wheel represents the dynamism of a peaceful change.”

Sarnath Ashoka Lion Symbolic meaning



Lion Capital of Ashoka the great is the symbol of all government branch. They use it On the top of all formal letters, on the money note, flags... it is the emblem of India from 1950; four lions that standing back to back. It is belong to ancient India time that Lion, Chakra, bull, Horse as most symbolic factor in the mind of Aryan was collected in this historic object. Chakra as symbol of dharma and other symbols that rooted in long history of the people who made Indian civilization. Especially a upside down louts which this symbol are standing on. The Ashoka symbol which rooted to about 250BCE now is shifted to modern India government and they use it as their

सत्यमेव जयते

Hindu common Symbol meaning



Hindu common Symbol meaning



OM or AUM is the most important symbol for Hindu as the Cross is Impotent for Christian. OM is the combination of three Sanskrit letters A, U, M and it is related to Brahman or the absolute as the sources of existences and consider as sound of creation time. So most of Hindu prayer are start with this narration.

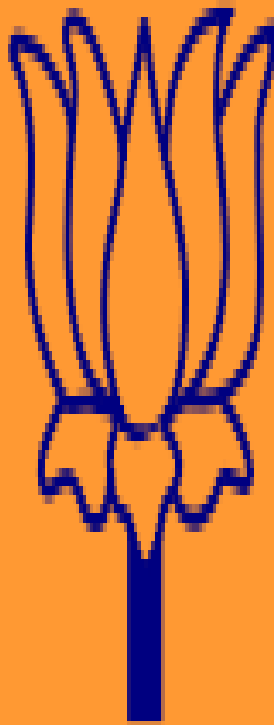
- OM as a religious Hindu symbol is add to flag of political Hindu outfits and show there is a relation to this religion. It is the holiest sign among them.

Hindu common Symbol meaning



- The swastika is another symbol for Hindu and from religious side is transferred to politic. It is like the Nazi emblem; as a broken Cross. It is a pictorial symbol of eternal nature of the Brahman. All its directions coverage shows absoluteness concepts. Swastika is a Sanskrit word with SU means good and Astati that mean to exist.

BJP Flag meaning



BJP as second India party has three symbols in its flag; two vertical bands with green and Saffron and also a blue lotus flower in saffron color part. So all the symbols in this flag related to Hinduism. It is one of the different between INC and BJB which that Hindu symbol has more preference in their flag. This fact show that how much they are careful about Hinduism. Lotus had been associated with gods and goddesses. The Hindu gods have been used lotus to take position on it. So lotus is related to godly world and purity, wealth, rebirth and enlightens.

Political symbolism of Weapons in hand of Hindu gods



Arms of Maa (Divine Qualities)

“Devi Sampad Vimoksaye” Divine Qualities -- Moksha

“Her Blessings will be showered on us, once we practice Her teaching”

Political symbolism of Weapons in hand of Hindu gods

The objects (as symbolic things) that artists or religious philosophers - who created them - put them in the hands of religious Icons, shows the role which they consider for them or, the expectations that the creators of such an artistic Icon had from them. This kind of symbolizing made some Hindu gods and goddesses as political characters that have especial political mission to change power direction among human players or political icons.

Political symbolism of Weapons in hand of Hindu gods



Political symbolism of Weapons in hand of Hindu gods

This kind of symbolizing made some Hindu gods and goddesses as political characters that have especial political mission to change power direction among human players or political icons. Political symbolism is show itself more clearly when mythological epics or other kind of religious gods performances are come to exist, represent of several weapons - as tool of every political force - or various types of item like military wearing or armour etc that were used by Hindu Gods, shows their political aspects; and it is some example of mixture of religious mission as well as political mission for them. In the following line we will consider some important examples of weapons which used by Hindu gods and goddesses, the weapons that always used by political forces that seeking power or they want to restore a applicative situation

Hindu Gods and Goddesses weapons-**Narayanastra**



The Narayanastra (ष्वध्रग्र् d) is a deadliest and powerful weapon in the hand of Vishnu when he descended in his Narayan avatar shape. This weapon throws millions of missiles all together. Aswathama used this weapon against the Pandavas in Mahabharata.

Hindu Gods and Goddesses weapons- Varunastra



The Varunastra (वज्रुद्र d) is the water weapon used by Varuna (as the master of the oceans and rivers). The most surprising fact of this weapon is that, this weapon can be carved in any shape just like flowing water. Many great warriors have made use of this weapon against their enemies like Arjun, Dronacharya, Dhrishtadhuymna or Satyaki and many more. This weapon could be obtained by full mental concentration and meditation on Varuna or Shiva. This weapon must be used with great care and skills as one single mistake of the user or inexperienced warrior can prove to be fatal to him.

Hindu Gods and Goddesses weapons- **Chakhrem**



Hindu Gods and Goddesses weapons- Chakhrem

The Chakhrem (चक्र) or Chakra is the circular weapon that has sharp cuts at the outer edge. The enemy is attacked by throwing the weapon at him. It is also known as circles or chalikar. The Chakra has a very important position in mythology as it is upheld by Krishna. Now Sikhs are associated with this as they wear it on their arms, around necks and sometimes on their turbans too. It is made of steel, brass or gold. This weapon is used against the enemy by twirling it in the index finger and thrown out with spin to add more power and force. Krishna used to hold this every time in his index finger.

Hindu Gods and Goddesses weapons- Dhanush



Shiva Dhanush (शिवदण्ड) is the divine bow which upheld by Shiva. This weapon possessed mysterious energy and used against the enemy for its full devastation.

Hindu Gods and Goddesses weapons- **Brahmastra**



Hindu Gods and Goddesses weapons- **Brahmastra**

- **Brahmastra (ब्रह्मस्त्र)** is the death defying weapon created and held by Brahma. It is said that when Brahma is upset he used it to destroy his enemy to maintain his Dharma and Satya. The weapon not only destroy the one for whom it was used but also annihilate the environment and the land where it was used became barren. Sometimes it also becomes the foremost reason for the cracks in the land. According to Sanskrit mythology it is believed that invocation to this Brahmastra can be made through the key phrase and it can be used only once in a life time. It can be achieved through the eminent amount of concentration. It is used by Vishvamitra against Vasishth, Ram against Ravana, and Arjun against Ashwatthama etc.

Hindu Gods and Goddesses weapons- Vajra

- The Vajra (वज्र) is a metal weapon symbolizing spiritual power and strength. It was used by Indra for killing and destroying all sinners. It is generally considered as Diamond which can cut any substance but not itself and thunderbolt which has irresistible power and force. This weapon was made by divine instrument maker Tvashta for Indra. He used this against Vritra to kill him as he took the form of a serpent. Vritra was so powerful that no weapon till that date could destroy him so he Indra went to Vishnu for seeking help to recover his kingdom. Vishnu revealed him that this Asura would be killed only with the weapon made of bones of sage. And so after obtaining this weapon Vishnu successfully recovered his kingdom.



Hindu Gods and Goddesses weapons- **Gada**



The Gada (गदा) or Gadha is a weapon holds an important position in the history of Hindu religion. It was carried by Hanuman, Bhim, and others who were symbols of power and strength. The Gada also moves around the user's body to gather life force. It is the shape of a ball which symbolizes the earth rotating on its axis, the handle. It is a symbol of great power, spirit, bravery and strength.

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Hindu Gods and Goddesses weapons- Sudarshana Chakra



- The Sudarshana Chakra (सुदर्शण चक्र) is a circular disk like weapon which has 108 serrated edges, Vishnu used to hold it in one of his four hands. Chakra also symbolizes that Vishnu also used to own celestial bodies and the heavens. It is used for the ultimate devastation of enemy of law and order. Sudarshana is composed of two words Su which means divine and Darshana which means vision and Chakra alone signifies mobility. It is the mobile weapon used to shield the negative powers and devils from our body. Vishnu used to hold it in his index finger of the rear right hand and continue using to revolve around this finger.

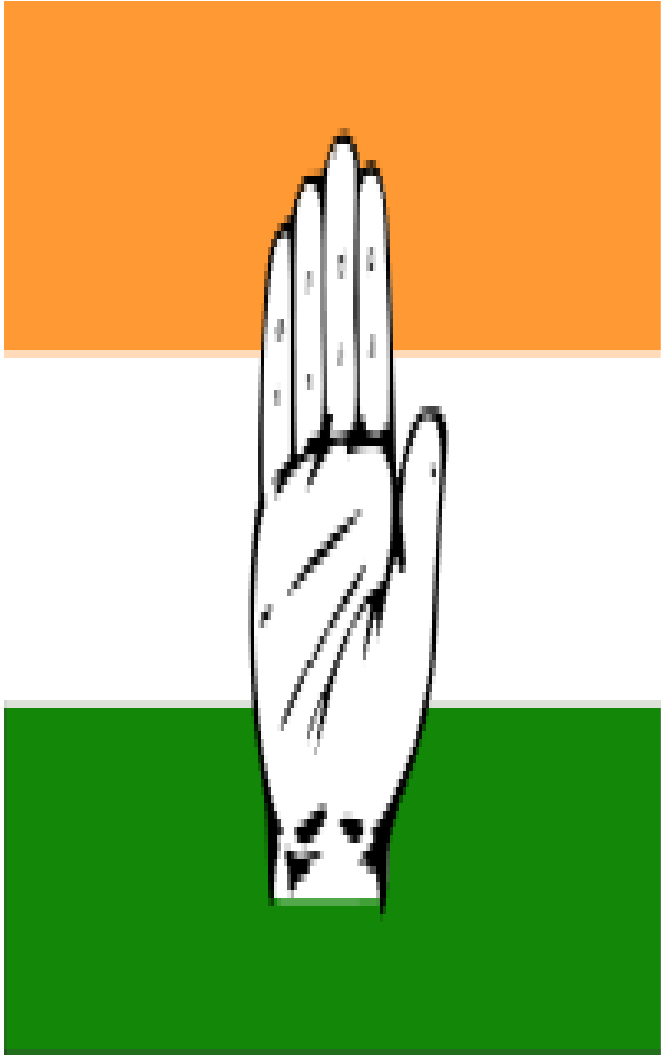
Hindu Gods and Goddesses weapons- **Trishula**



Hindu Gods and Goddesses weapons- Trishula

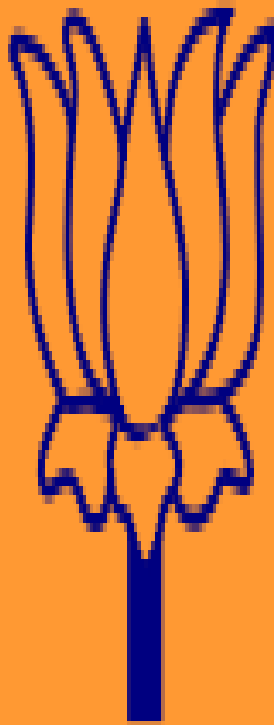
- The Trishula (शुद्धास्त्र) symbolizes the 'rich' and polyvalent. It is the weapon of Hindu god Mahadeva and is said to have been used to sever the original head of Ganesha. Many other gods and goddesses also hold Trishula as their weapon, including Goddess Durga. The three points of the Trishula symbolize various meanings in various regard, commonly the trinities (creation, maintenance and destruction); the three Gunas (the past, present and future). Shiva's Trishula is said to have devastated the three worlds: the physical world, the forefather's world and the world of mind. Trishula also symbolizes the Triratna of Buddha; but it is obviously as war symbols recognized by the Hindu outfit and they use it as symbol of war against their enemy; Bajrang Dal is one them that we will see in follow lines.

INC Flag meaning



India National Congress party (INC) flag is the same as India national flag with this difference that instead of the Ashoka Wheel, they put an open right hand in its white band; it also noticeable that the Republic of India's flag, was INC flag before independent that changed to National flag.

BJP Flag meaning



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Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)



The RSS is one of the important radical Hindu organization that is consider as mother of other Hindu nationalist organizations. The symbol of this organization is plain saffron flag. The RSS is funded in 1925 and announce itself as a social movement rather than a political party. No it is a socio-political organizations. RSS members have gathering in all corner of India made them proper for activities and involving in local civilian development.

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)



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Bajrang Dal



गर्वसे कहो हम हिंदु है

<http://www.BajrangDal.org>

The Bajrang Dal is founded in 1984 with "Service, safety, and culture" slogan. Actually is the armed wing of one of the main Sangh Parivar organization with the name of Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP). It founded on the base of Hindutva Ideology. It is an Uttar Pradesh (UP) group that now vast itself all around India. Stopping cow slaughter and building Ram temple in Ayodhya (Fizabad in UP), Krishna temple in Mathura and Kashi Vishwanath temple in Varanasi (UP) are their goal. It is noticeable that all this temple now are some masterpiece mosques that the Babri mosque in Ayodhya were demolished in 1990s by them and Mathura and Varanasi mosques are available and till now they could not destroyed them. They (same as other Sangh Parivar's group) involved in so many sectarian and communal riots against minority all around India.

Bajrang Dal



Bajrang Dal



Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP)



विश्व
हिन्दु
परिषद

Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP)

The Vishva Hindu Parishad (*विश्व हिन्दू परिषद*) or “World Hindu Council” is one of the important one among Hindu nationalist organizations that founded in 1964. Its youth wing is Bajrang Dal and women’s wing is Durga Vahini. The VHP volunteers are known for their hard work to promote and restore Hinduism, to expand unity and pride among all Hindus by its social service projects, encourage the construction and restoration of Hindu temples, confrontation with orthodox practices in Hinduism like the caste system, conflicting to cow (as holly being in Hinduism) slaughter or confrontation with conversion of Hindus to other religions and taking up issues in the interest of Hindus such as resolving the Ayodhya dispute. Its symbol is the banyan (*درخت انجیر معابد*) tree and a Saffron colored flag with OM, Swastika and sward sign on it. VHP considers Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs as part of the greater Hindu family. Their aims are strengthen the Hindu Society, protect, promote and propagate Hindu values.

Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha

The Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha (अखिल भारतीय हिन्दू महासभा) or “All-India Hindu Assembly” is a political party founded in 1914 in Amritsar to represent Hindus as religious majority of India. Its red flag (Dhavja) is the flag that is used on most of Hindu temples and festivals, which means victory, and it has a sun, a Swastika sign, and a sardar. RSS was its competitor. It believed in the superiority of Hindu culture, religion and heritage. The Mahasabha advocates that Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists are also Hindu in terms of national and political identity. It believes that Islam and Christianity are foreign religions and their holy places are located in Arabia, Palestine and Rome, and that Indian Muslims and Christians are simply descendants of Hindus who were converted by force, coercion and bribery. At various points in its history, the party called for the re-conversion of Muslims and Christians to Hinduism. The Mahasabha opposed socialism and communism as decadent foreign ideologies that do not represent India's indigenous needs and conditions.



Shiv Sena

शिवसेना



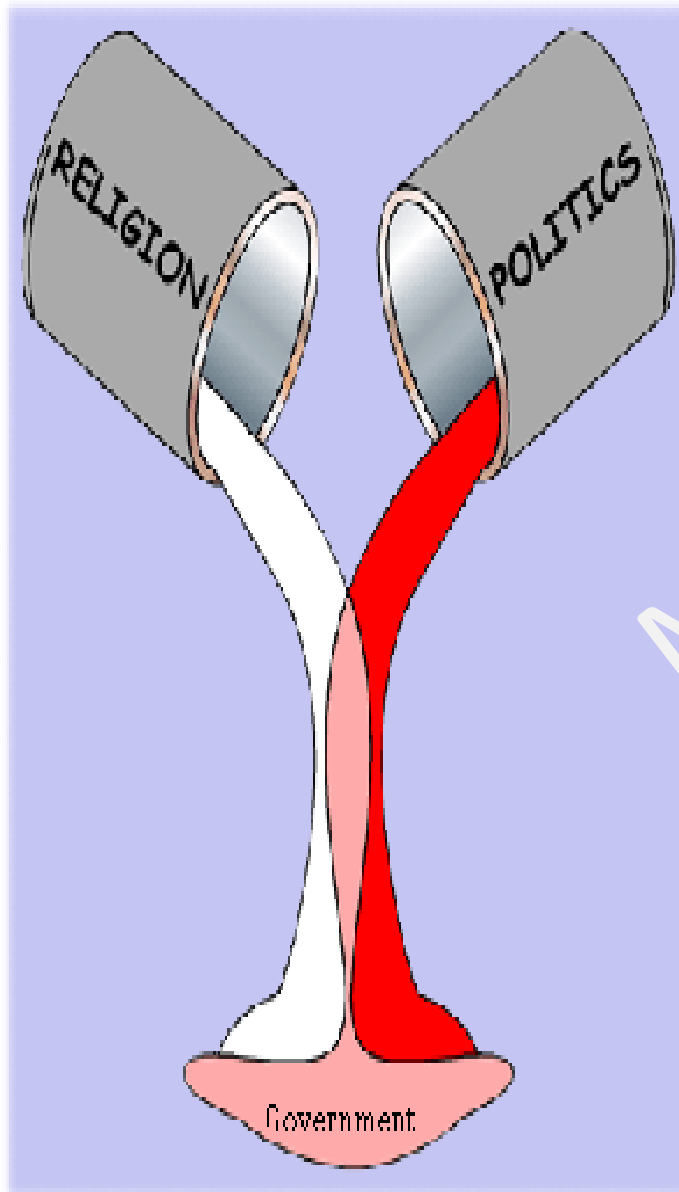
ShivSena



Shiv Sena

The Shiv Sena (Army of Shiva) is another Hindu outfit that mostly is active in Maharashtra. An orange tiger in a plain saffron field is its flag. The tiger is symbol of Shiva one the important Hindu god. It was founded in 1966 and we can say it was a Marathi movement and against migrant who were coming to Bombay but it Hindu religion factor also made them as extremist nationalist in this regard also and they participate in numerous riot against minority especially against Muslim there. They were successful to gain power so many times in local state election and in nationwide size also allied by BJP.

Conclusion



Combination of politics and religion put majority (the Hindus) in front of minority; and affected constitutional Secularism factor which recognized by the founder of new India in constitution. So from the eve of independent till now, Indian minority faced with cruel mascaras that the three last ones was Gujarat riots in 2002 that Muslim families were killed and burnt and also the Orissa riot that the Christian Missionary were attacked, and the Muzaffarnagar riots that Muslim families were attacked and leaves so many lives. Sectarian and communal riot under flag of political parties who mix politics and religion lead communities with religious base to clash with each other systemically. It is the dangers full confrontation; because in these clashes the two sides feel himself as representative of God and so they will became crueller to do their duty from God. So the parties which shaped on religious nationalism borrowed their symbols from religion to following power in the name of religions.