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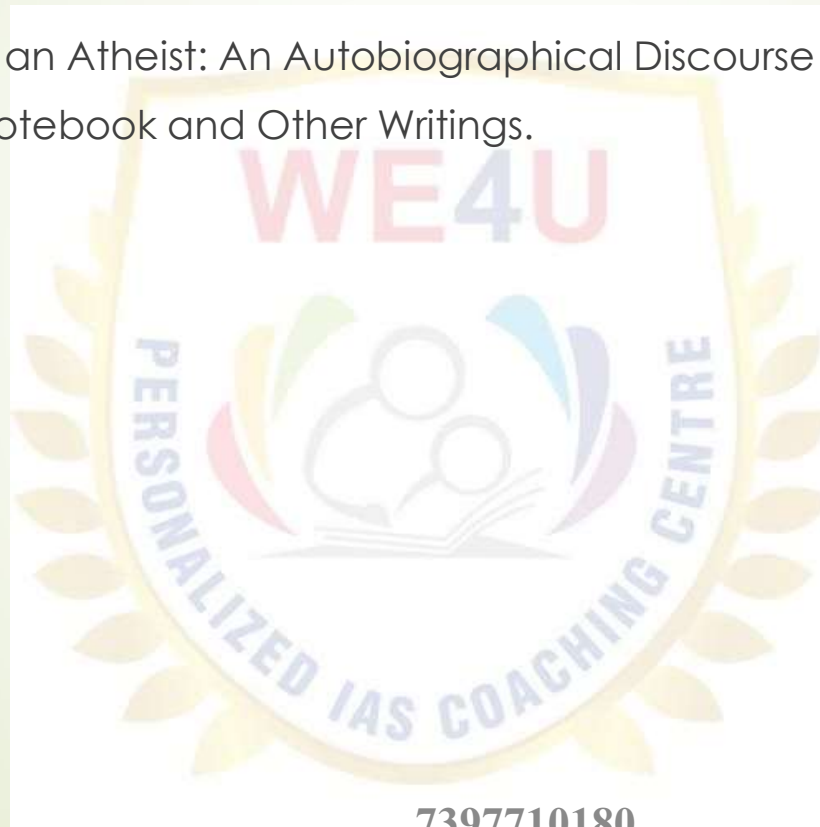
Getting it right: a historian's effort to document the life of Bhagat Singh

- Born as Bhaganwala on the 26th September 1907, Bhagat Singh grew up in a petty-bourgeois family of Sandhu Jats settled in the Jullundur Doab district of Punjab.
- He belonged to a generation that was to intervene between two decisive phases of the Indian national movement - the phase of the 'Extremism' of Lal-Bal-Pal and the Gandhian phase of nonviolent mass action.
- In 1925 he and his colleagues started a militant youth organisation called the Naujawan Bharat Sabha.
- In April 1926, Bhagat Singh established contact with Sohan Singh Josh and through him the 'Workers and Peasants Party' which brought out the monthly magazine Kirti in Punjabi.
- For the next year Bhagat Singh worked with Josh and joined the editorial board of Kirti.
- In 1927, he was first arrested on charges of association with the Kakori Case, accused for an article written under the pseudonym Vidrohi (Rebel).
- In 1928, Bhagat Singh changed the name of the Hindustan Republican Association to the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA).

- Naujawan Bharat Sabha replaced HSRA in Punjab.
- To take revenge for the death of Lala Lajpat Rai, Bhagat Singh and his associates plotted the assassination of James A. Scott, the Superintendent of Police. However, the revolutionaries mistakenly killed J.P. Saunders. The incident is famously known as Lahore Conspiracy case (1929).
- Bhagat Singh and B.K. Dutt threw a bomb on 8th April, 1929 in the Central Legislative Assembly, in protest against the passing of two repressive bills, the Public Safety Bill and the Trade Dispute Bill.
- However, Bhagat Singh was re-arrested for the murder of J.P. Saunders and bomb manufacturing in the Lahore Conspiracy case. He was found guilty in this case and was hanged on 23rd March, 1931 in Lahore along with Sukhdev and Rajguru.
- Every year, 23rd March is observed as Martyrs' Day as a tribute to freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru.

Publications:

1. Why I Am an Atheist: An Autobiographical Discourse
2. The Jail Notebook and Other Writings.



Govt. will attempt to open corridor to Sharda Peeth in PoK for devotees: Shah

It could be on the lines of the Kartarpur corridor in Punjab, says Union Home Minister after inaugurating the Maa Sharda Devi temple near the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said the government would move forward to open a corridor to the Sharda Peeth in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK) on the lines of the Kartarpur corridor.

The Sharda Peeth, a revered site for the Hindu community, is located in the Neelum Valley in PoK across Teetwal village along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr. Shah was responding to a suggestion made by the convener of the Save Sharda Committee Kashmir, Ravindra Pandita, who requested that the Sharda Peeth corridor should be made operational on the lines of the Kartarpur corridor, which was opened in 2019.

The corridor links two important Sikh shrines — Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district of Punjab and Gurudwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, Pakistan



The Maa Sharda Devi temple in Kupwara, which was inaugurated by Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday. ANI

— and allows pilgrims to travel visa-free. The Minister said the Peeth was a historical centre of India's cultural, religious and educational heritage and the government — under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi — would definitely move forward to open it for devotees on the lines of the Kartarpur corridor.

Mr. Shah also virtually inaugurated the Maa Sharda Devi temple at Kupwara on Wednesday. He said the architecture and construction of the temple was

done according to the Hindu scriptures under the aegis of Sharda Peeth. The idol of Sharda Maa, donated by the Sringeri Math on January 24, was installed in the temple, he added.

Important step

“The reconstruction of Maa Sharda's temple in Kupwara is a necessary and important step in the direction of discovery of Sharda-civilisation and promotion of Sharda-script. Once upon a time, Sharda Peeth was considered the centre of know-

ledge in the Indian subcontinent, scholars from all over the country used to come here in search of scriptures and spiritual knowledge. Sharda script is the original script of our Kashmir, which has been named after Maa Sharda,” he said.

Mr. Shah said that since the reading down of Article 370, the Kashmir Valley and Jammu were once again returning to their old traditions, civilisation and “Ganga-Jamuni *tehzeeb*”. The government had taken efforts for cultural rejuvenation of the region, he added.

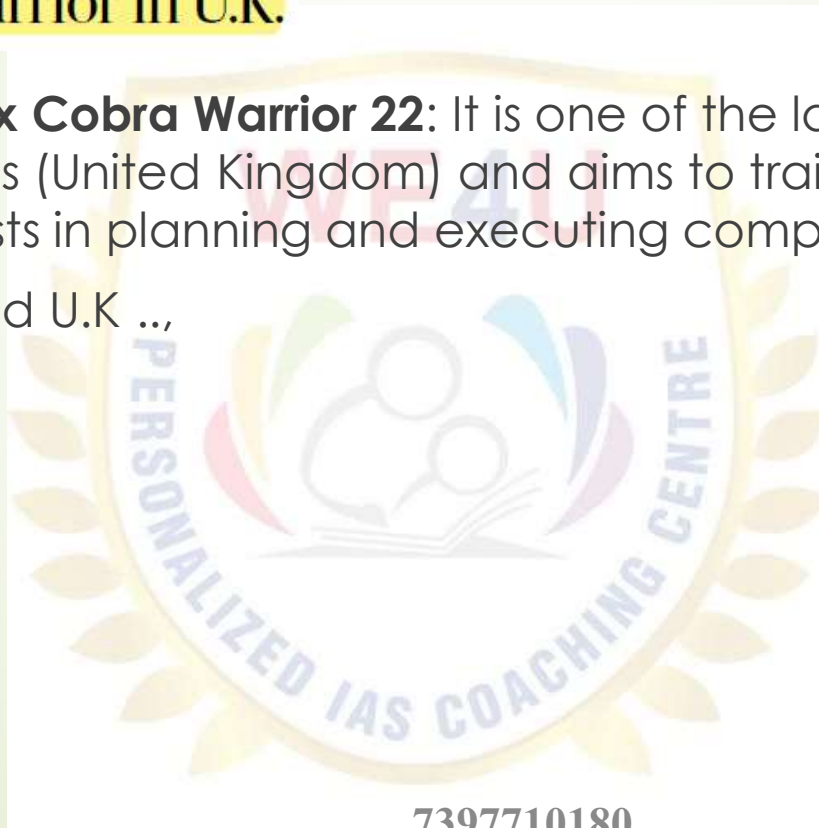
The Minister said systematic restoration and repair work was going on at 123 places, including many temples and Sufi places. In the first phase, 35 places were being renovated at the cost of ₹65 crore.

Mr. Shah said 31 mega cultural programmes were organised by identifying 75 religious places and Sufi shrines.

Twenty cultural festivals were also organised in the districts to help revive old heritage, he said.

IAF pilots sharpen their skills at Exercise Cobra Warrior in U.K.

- **About Ex Cobra Warrior 22:** It is one of the largest annual Royal Air Force exercises (United Kingdom) and aims to train both pilots and other air specialists in planning and executing complex airborne missions.
- India and U.K ...



THANK YOU

