

NEW STANDARD BRITISH VISA

The British Government has introduced a new type visa called Standard British Visa from 2nd October 2000. The standard British visa will cost the same as the current single entry visa, but it will allow for unlimited travel in and out of the UK during its validity. The visa will usually be valid for 6 months from the date of issue. In the past the decision to allow a visitor to enter the UK was given by an immigration officer at the port of entry, but the entry clearance officer issuing the new type visa abroad will grant leave to enter the United Kingdom. The immigration officer at the port of entry will only have to verify that the visa is valid and in a genuine passport. The business visitors can still apply for multiple entry visas, valid for up to five years, but the maximum stay during each visit should not be more than a maximum of six months.

ANTI-TERRORISM EXPERTS FROM ISRAEL

The anti-terrorism experts from Israel are currently touring Jammu and Kashmir to study and offer assistance to New Delhi in tackling the terrorist activities. The Home Minister L K Advani invited them during his visit to Israel. The Israeli assistance to India would be limited to instruction in operational methods and the sale of equipment. India is Israel's third largest customer for the military hardware.

BASMATI PATENT CLAIM

RiceTec Inc, a Texas-based US company, which had secured the patent for basmati rice lines has dropped its claim for US Patent. The Indian government filed a reexamination application, contesting some of the claims. RiceTec. claimed that the rice grains it produced had special characteristics. India claimed that the basmati rice from India has all the characteristics which were being claimed to be unique by RiceTec Inc.

NARASIMHA RAO BRIBERY CASE

The former Prime Minister P.V.Narasimha Rao has been convicted for criminal conspiracy and corruption. The CBI court has found him guilty in a bribery case and will be sentenced on 11th October.

Indian Spirituality:- An audience with Prof.Vishnu Narayanan Namboori

In a meeting held at Leavesden Green Community Centre, Watford organised by Kala for its members and guests Prof Vishnu Narayan Namboori enthralled the listeners with snapshots of History of India which is traced back to 10,000 BC through Vedic literature. He was addressing the discussion forum in Historians have declared with evidence that the only continuous and unbroken civilisation in the world is that in India and Prof Namboori endorsed this view with his in depth knowledge of Vedic literature quoting relevant verses from Rig Veda and Yajur Veda. Customs and traditions from the Vedic period continue even now in spite of the very many natural changes throughout India's history. The Vedas spoke of spiritualism, he emphasised, and the religions came much later, even in India. Agnostics and atheists are not condemned but reach their salvation through their deeds. In answer to question he expanded on the developments of gothras which much later got adulterated to caste system.

Vedas also recorded history in detail and astronomical calculations confirm its statements. His comments confirmed recent evidence from the West dating Egyptian civilisation to before 10,500 BC and linking it to the remnants of great civilisations of Cambodia and South America.

Fear is to be conquered, he said in answer to a question, fear lets us down. Human spirituality needs to be nurtured. It is the spiritual and mental strength that empowers an individual. In that he was not unlike the German philosopher Nietzsche, who saw the seeds of existentialism in Europe and whom the Professor quoted. He touched upon the upanishads, puranas, mythology and much more. Three hours of continuous session was not enough to cover the many topics raised by the group mesmerised by the in depth knowledge of Professor Namboori and time was the only limitation to us. The afternoon was spiritually uplifting, emotionally rewarding and most of all it made us feel proud of our ancestry and proud to be called INDIANS