

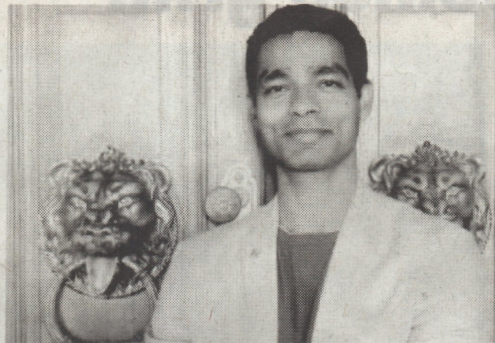
Amit Singh makes city proud with his achievements in social science & yoga

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Amit Singh has made the city proud with his achievements in the fields of social science and yoga. As a yoga master, he has served the United Nations and numerous yoga centres globally. Amit was invited to China, Thailand, and Philippines to conduct yoga workshops. He also demonstrated yoga in the pre-Olympic ceremony in China. Amit is driven by a philosophy which considers the world to be a global family. He employs theory and practice of yoga and human rights to eliminate human suffering from the global family.

Recently, he was in Varanasi for his latest book launch named, 'The Conflicts of freedom of expression and religion: A Case Study from India'. His book was launched by Gujarat MLA, Jignesh Mevani last month. "This book is an attempt to explore the tussle between freedom of expression and religion in India. This book has explored perception of Hindu and Muslim graduate students in three universities, located in Varanasi, particularly on the conflict between freedom of expression and religious intolerance in India," he said, while talking to 'The Pioneer' here on Tuesday. In July, his long-awaited book, 'Ahmadiyya Refugees in Thailand' was published in Europe. This book examined insecure lives of Pakistani Ahmadi Muslim refugees in relation to the freedom of movement and freedom from arbitrary arrest in Thailand.

He regularly has been invited as a speaker on human rights issues in India. He has contributed more than 100 articles on human rights issue in national and international online news magazine. Amit's human rights activities have



Social scientist and yoga trainer Amit Singh

Pioneer

been covered by local, national and international media. 'My current research project is related to religious fundamentalism,' he said.

Portuguese media refers, social scientist Amit Singh as, 'The Sindbad the Sailor,' whereas in China Amit was known as famous Indian yogi; having lived in more than 20 countries and worked as yoga master and human rights experts, Amit came a long way from Varanasi-against all odds. Amit was born in Saraigoberdhan (Chetgan) area in this holy city in 1975 and he studied in India, China, Thailand, Norway and Portugal. Inspired by the ideals of his mother, Vijay Laxmi-Singh, a retired school headmaster, Amit aspired to bring change to the lives of people through the philosophy of human rights and yoga.

Amit is a doctoral researcher at the Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra, Portugal. It is to be noted, University of Coimbra was founded in 1290 is one of the oldest university in the World. Amit holds MSc. in Human rights and multiculturalism from University of Southeast Norway; MA in Human rights from Mahidol

University, Thailand and MA in World History from Pondicherry University, India. He was a Frittord scholar, in Norway. He is Editor-At-Large (Human rights) at the Different truths webzine, writes columns in The Oslo Times, The Citizen and South Asia Journal.

Amit has also worked with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Bangkok, Thailand) the United Nations Development Programme (New Delhi, India), the National Human Rights Commission of India and as a project coordinator of Universal Tolerance Organisation, Norway. He has also coordinated Global Tolerance Forum in 2015, on issue of Religious Extremism and fundamentalism. Amit has been invited to present his research paper in various national and international forums, including University of Massachusetts (USA), York University (Canada), the International Association on the Study of Forced Migration (India), Oslo University (Norway).

His particular areas of interest are religious conflict, multiculturalism, refugees, torture, Caste discrimination, reli-

gious extremism, and freedom of expression. Amit was president of the International Students' Union at the University College of Southeast Norway, and Mr Brand Ambassador at Mahidol University, Thailand. In November 2014, as a president of the International Students' Union at the University College of Southeast Norway, Amit led a campaign to support Right to Free Education in Norway- to protest the Norwegian government's attempt to charge education fees from non-EU students in India, he has worked with Dr Lenin Raghuvanshi, a grassroot Dalit activist, and advocated for Neo-Dalit Movement when in Norway, Amit worked with Mohammad Mostafaei, Iranian human rights law and a political refugee working against religious extremism and juvenile death penalty in Iran. For his human rights activism, Amit was awarded REX global fellowship Jan Mitra Human Rights award, Human Rights Year of the Crusader (2016) award. His article, 'How Tribals In Bastar Are Threatened By Police' was selected a top stories in 2017 by an Indian youth online magazine. He has done translation work for NGOs and documentary film makers working on human rights issues in India and Denmark. In 2018, Amit was invited by Professor Catarina Kinnvall, to work as a visiting researcher at Lund University. In 2012, Amit was invited to work as a research assistant by Dr Barbara Harrell-Bond, Emerita Professor, Refugee Research Centre, University of Oxford. Amit hold membership of European Integration & the Global Political Economy Research Network, Columbia University, and Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network, Thailand.