

India may face communal disturbance: Singh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

India is hailed as world largest democracy and fair election is its life and breath, however, as Lok Sabha election are around-the-corner, India, may face communal disturbance, said social scientist Amit Singh, who hails from Varanasi. Citing a US report, Amit expressed concern that communal violence may occurs in some parts of India thus we need to be vigilant about such social elements who could disturb our social harmony. However, in such time of crisis, our culture of religious harmony plays a crucial role in preventing communal violence, he said.

Telling about the relevance of Varanasi culture of Ganga-Jamuni Tehzib or Tana-bana, in



Social scientist Amit Singh

the context of intense religious polarisation during the election time, Amit told that extreme religious polarisation is a kind of national security threat which have potential to weaken our cultural harmony and religious pluralism, however,

Varanasi is a unique model for the peace and cultural harmony where in time of conflict people chose love over hatred, friendliness over enmity. Even in tough times, people of Varanasi stayed together, they have rejected the politics of hate and violence, Amit stressed.

Amit Singh has conducted research in Varanasi on the issues of communal harmony and religious fundamentalism. Currently he is a doctoral researcher at the University of Coimbra, Portugal. He said, Varanasi is a spiritual soul of Asia, offers solace and spiritual guidance to the millions of the people. Along with its spiritual heritage, harmonious culture of Varanasi could be the role model of the world especially to the western nations

where dealing with the diversity and religious pluralism is an upheaval task. Thus, Varanasi is not just the spiritual centre but also a multicultural ethnic model for the world.

Amit, recently have completed a project with Commission on Human Rights in Philippines and has invited to present his paper at the Leiden University, Netherland. He is author of a book, titled, 'The conflict between freedom of expression and religion in India'.

In past, Amit was invited at the University of Oxford and Lund University, Sweden, to present his research papers. He is a graduate of Banaras Hindu University and has studied in Norway, China, Thailand and Portugal.

has been set up here. The plant at Bharat Kala Bhavan, a leading museum of the city, which attracted huge number of visitors daily, was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor Prof Rakesh Bhatnagar here on Thursday.

In the beginning, Director, Bharat Kala Bhavan, Prof AK Singh and Joint Registrar (Development), Sanjay Kumar welcomed the V-C. According to information, the plant will cater complete power need of museum as well supply excess power to the university. It will save electricity bill more than Rs. 1 lakh per month.

At a brief function held at the Bharat Kala Bhavan several other senior officers were present. The V-C expressed his happiness over the same. It may be mentioned that some time ago a big solar plant was installed in Indian Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University (IIT-BHU) and a big solar plant is being established at BHU's Rajiv Gandhi South Campus (RGSC) at Barkachha (Mirzapur). On the occasion, Director Prof. AK Singh apprised the V-C of various achievements of this museum which has a rich treasures of art and other rare artefacts.

Mohan Prakash blames P ID

LOT
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.