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SUPERSTITIOUSNESS: THE SURVIVING, DEVASTATING AND EXAGGERATING ANCIENT DEMON

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ABSTRACT

During the Age of Enlightenment, in 17th century, every society throughout the world, was moving from ignorance to awakening, that channelized many social reforms in the then crisis-ridden Indian society and hence many social evils were wiped out to some extent, but one major evil that is still surviving and putting hindrances in the path of our social and national development is – “SUPERSTITIOUSNESS”. The origin or basis of superstitions are not proven scientifically, but it is generally accepted that most of them originated during the earliest days of civilizations, when man started practicing them in order to deal with the unknown fears; and after that they were carried forward or got transmitted from one generation to the next. Superstitions are spread worldwide and not limited to a particular class, caste, creed, community or society; region, state, country or island; and not to a specific religion. These centuries’ old superstitions are rooted so deeply that they are now considered as part and parcel of our daily routine life, tradition, and culture. In the present era science and technology (S&T) is playing an effective and instrumental role in revolutionizing the life of man on this earth, but superstitiousness is still placing hindrances in India’s Mission of getting positioned herself among the top five global scientific powers by 2020. Not only in the S&T sector, superstitiousness is also putting obstacles in the paths of all types of developments of the individual, society and nation. Even today, after such enormous advancement and development, the instances of deadly superstitions being practiced in India are common, that reflects the dark side of India’s progressive society and also explicit further that the intensity of these superstitions are magnifying day- by-day. Now a days the weapon ‘education’ is also not proving instrumental in curbing this menace, so it is dire need of the time, that India should take some substantial steps immediately in order to free and save her citizens from the grip of this devastating and exaggerating demon and eradicate it totally from the Indian society to accomplish her Mission 2020.