

# **Spiritualism, Social Integration and Caves. A Case Study of Madhya Pradesh, India**

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## **Abstract**

This paper suggests that in the present international situation, there is a great need for concentration on the higher human needs, which will lead to the attainment of the goal of “being human”, rather than just “being a person”. The science of speleology has a role to play here. This hypothesis was tested in a study of the Rangir Cave Temple, 40 km from the city of Sagar, which is the site of an annual religious fair. This presentation highlights the participation of people of many ethnic and social backgrounds, religious faiths, and economic status who participate in this fair. The fair provides an opportunity to reveal regional resources and their relevance for the worship of the goddess Durgaji. Religious faith adds to sustainability. Social participation provides a mandate to preserve and conserve caves. The role of caves in social integration calls for similar studies and provides the grounds for the development of a new branch of “spiritual spelology” in the spectrum of the science of speleology in the new millenium.